BOTSWANA ECONOMY · FIRST QUARTER 2026

Botswana Growth Snapshot: where the opportunities are

Which parts of the economy are growing, which are under pressure, and what it means if you are starting or growing a business.

+3.5%
Real GDP growth, Q1 2026 (year on year), after −5.4% in Q4 2025

+2.7%
Growth of the non-mining economy, up from +2.3% a year earlier

P73.1bn
Nominal GDP in the quarter, up from P67.5bn in Q1 2025

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

The economy is growing again, but not evenly

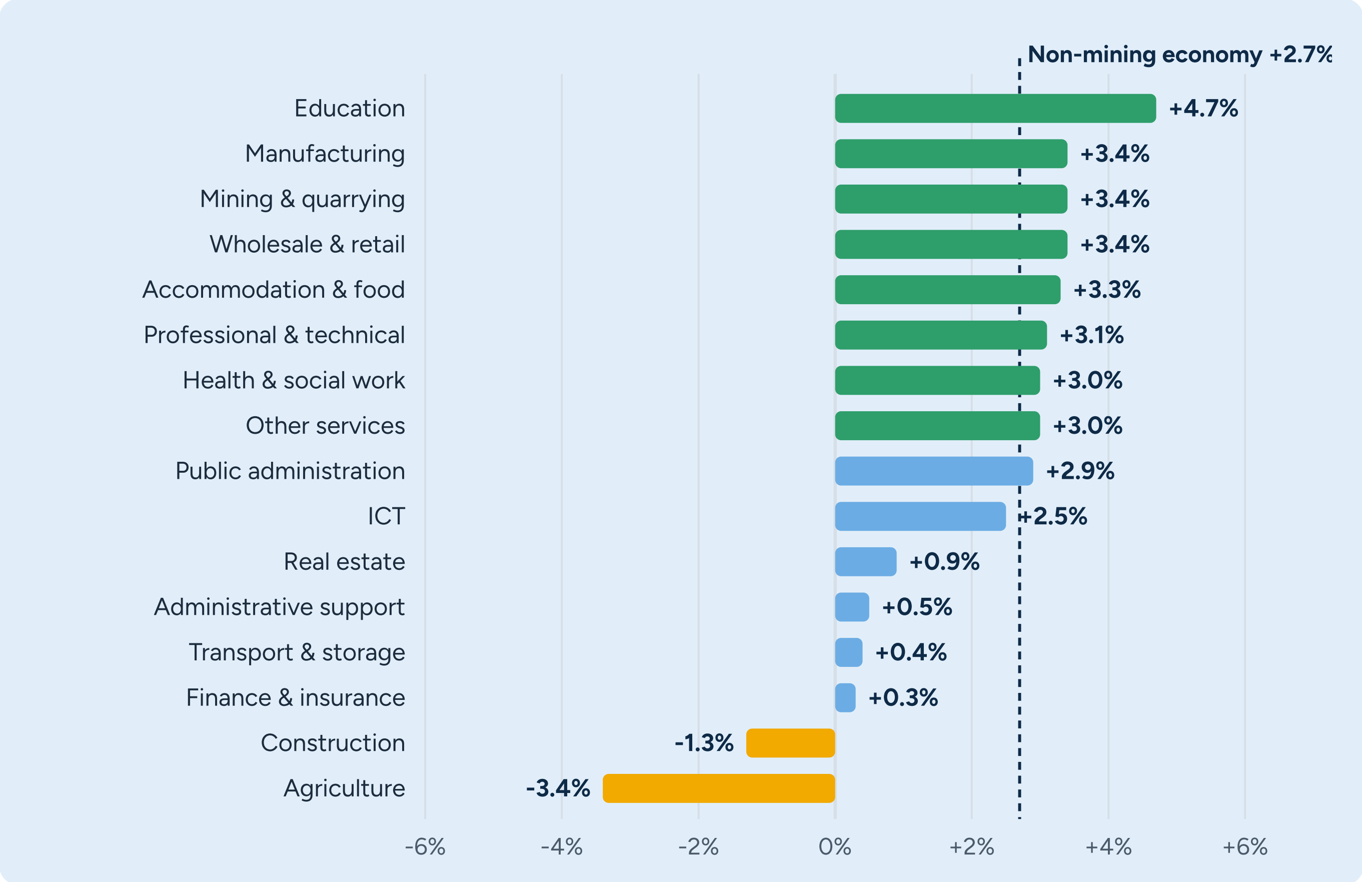
1. **Growth is back.** The economy grew 3.5% in the first quarter of 2026, after shrinking 5.4% in the last quarter of 2025.
2. **Education grew fastest** among the steady sectors, at 4.7%. Manufacturing, mining and wholesale & retail each grew 3.4%.
3. **Big rebounds, not trends.** Water & electricity (+87.4%) and diamond traders (+60.5%) bounced back from sharp falls a year earlier (−50.0% and −35.4%).
4. **Farming is under pressure.** Agriculture fell 3.4%, as foot-and-mouth disease restrictions on livestock movement cut cattle sales by 51.2%.
5. **Spending is still weak.** Final consumption fell 1.4% and investment fell 10.4%, so demand needs checking before you invest.

Sources: Statistics Botswana, GDP First Quarter 2026 (June 2026); spending figures as reported by The Botswana Gazette (July 2026).

GROWTH BY SECTOR

Nine sectors grew faster than the non-mining economy

Education, manufacturing, retail, hospitality and professional services are all growing at 3% or more. Construction and agriculture are shrinking.



3% or more · 0 to 3% · Shrinking

Not shown: two rebound sectors. Water & electricity grew 87.4%, driven by higher local electricity production, and diamond traders grew 60.5%. Both are recoveries from deep falls in Q1 2025, so they are left off the chart to keep the scale readable.

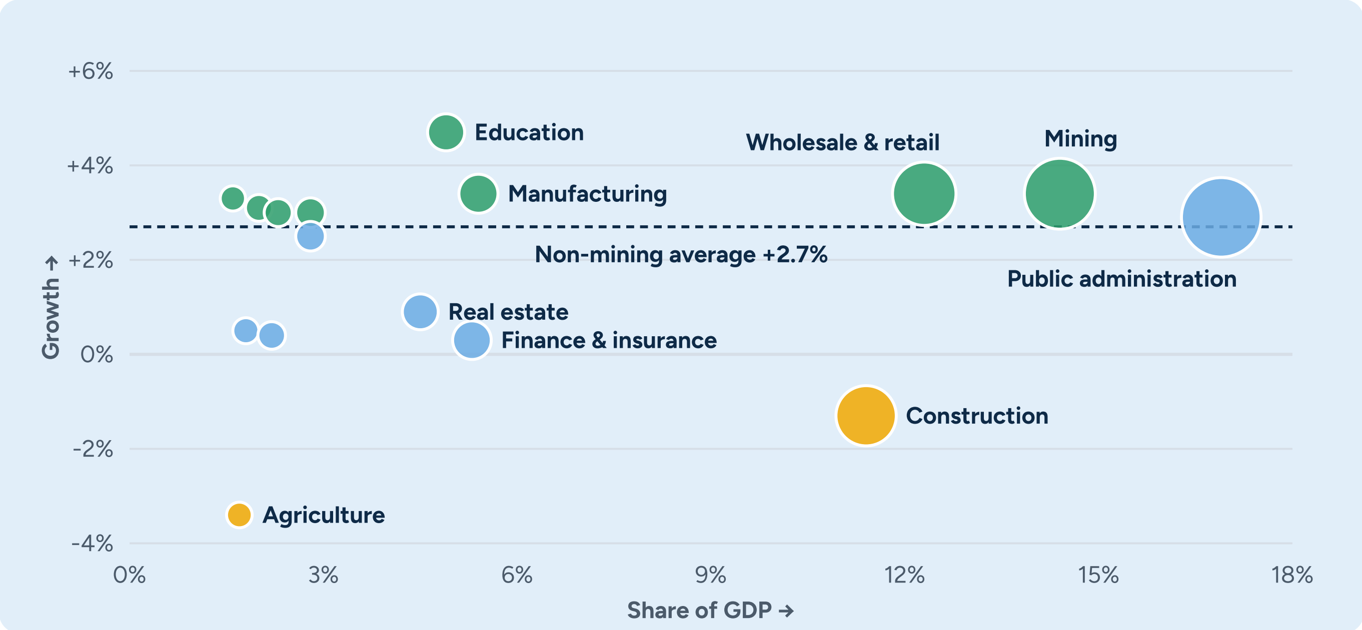
Under pressure. Agriculture (−3.4%) was hit by foot-and-mouth disease restrictions. Construction (−1.3%) shrank, while finance and insurance grew only 0.3%.

Source: Statistics Botswana, Gross Domestic Product First Quarter 2026 (June 2026). Growth is real, year on year.

SIZE AND SPEED

Where the big and growing markets are

Further right means a bigger part of the economy; higher up means faster growth. Retail and mining are large and growing above average; education and manufacturing are smaller but fast.



Unlabelled: smaller service sectors (1.6–2.8% of GDP each). Source: Statistics Botswana, Q1 2026.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Three places to look, one thing to check

+4.7%

Education and skills

The fastest-growing steady sector. Tutoring, vocational training and education services have room to grow.

+3.4%

Retail and local production

Wholesale & retail is 12.3% of GDP and manufacturing is growing. Local products and distribution are worth testing.

+3.3%

Hospitality and services

Accommodation & food, professional services and health are all growing at 3% or more.

Check demand first. With household and government spending down 1.4% and investment down 10.4%, a growing sector is not a guarantee. Test your market before you commit capital.

Planning a new venture or an expansion?

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