Entrepreneurship in Africa: 
New stylized facts from medium and large 
manufacturing firms

Nicolas Lippolis*  
University of Oxford  
CSAE

Daniela Scur†  
MIT  
Sloan School of Management

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Abstract Much of the research in African manufacturing focuses on small and micro enterprises. In this paper, we focus on medium and large manufacturing firms and present a series of new stylized facts on patterns of ownership, management practices, and organizational structures of these firms. We use new data from the Ownership Survey, the World Management Survey and the World Bank’s enterprise survey. As the largest share of firms are still controlled by their founders, we document the most salient founder characteristics as well as the differences between founder-run firms and other types of ownership structures. We characterize the patterns we present in the stylized facts by placing them in the context of industrial development over decades in Africa.¹

*Email: nicolas.lippolis@economics.ox.ac.uk
†Email: dscur@mit.edu
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