Nigeria is part of two regional economic communities (RECs) – the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).

CEN-SAD has 24 member states. In 2013 a revised CEN-SAD Treaty was approved but is not yet in force. Accordingly, there is currently no free trade agreement in place.

ECOWAS currently has 15 member states. All 15 are part of the ECOWAS Free Trade Area and all, but Cape Verde, are in the process of implementing the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET).

9% of total trade is intra-Africa

Intra-Africa exports: 13% of world exports
- South Africa (48%)
- Ivory Coast (16%)
- Togo (13%)
- Senegal (9%)

Intra-Africa imports: 4% of world imports
- South Africa (34%)
- Morocco (10%)
- Egypt (9%)
- eSwatini (7%)

Main intra-Africa import products
- Mixtures of odoriferous substances
- Frozen fish
- Polymers of propylene in primary forms
- Mineral or chemical fertilisers
- Petroleum oils (excluding crude)

55% of intra-Africa exports are to countries outside ECOWAS

Main destination markets
- South Africa (88%)
- Cameroon (8%)
- Egypt (2%)
- Namibia (1%)
- Mozambique (1%)
- Other (1%)

Main export products
- Crude petroleum oils (94%)
- Floating structures for breaking up (2%)
- Natural gas, liquefied (2%)
- Tugs and pusher craft (0.3%)
- Butanes, liquefied (0.3%)
- Other (2%)
Nigeria subscribes to the ECOWAS ETLS enabling all qualifying goods sourced from approved producers in the other ECOWAS member states to be imported into Nigeria duty-free. The highest average ad valorem applied tariff is 35% and there are no specific import duties. The 35% tariff is applicable to numerous tariff lines, including meat and edible offal of bovine, swine and poultry; sausages; sugar confectionery not containing cocoa; cocoa powder and chocolate, yoghurt and waters.

83% of intra-Africa imports are from countries outside ECOWAS.

**Main source markets**

- South Africa (40%)  
- Morocco (12%)  
- Egypt (11%)  
- eSwatini (9%)  
- Tunisia (7%)  
- Other (20%)

**Main import products**

- Polypropylene, in primary forms (8%)  
- Medium oils (8%)  
- Light oils (8%)  
- Mineral or chemical fertilisers (7%)  
- Mixtures of odoriferous substances (3%)  
- Other (66%)

African imports from outside ECOWAS are levied MFN applied duties (ECOWAS CET).

Of the top 20 products Nigeria imports from non-ECOWAS countries the majority of imports are levied 5% import duties (including polypropylene in primary form, fertilisers, mixtures of odoriferous substances and light vessels). Five products are levied 10% import duties (motor spirit and gas oil, frozen mackerel meat and crude salt) and two products face 20% import duties (apples and non-woven fabrics). Liquefied butanes, solar cells and diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate are the only products imported duty-free.

**High MFN applied duties**

- Goods vehicles (35%)  
- Chewing gum (35%)  
- Trailers for agricultural use (35%)  
- Used diesel vehicles (35%)  
- Apples (20%)  
- Non-woven fabrics (20%)  
- Undenatured ethyl alcohol (20%)  
- Seasoning powder (20%)  
- Cabbage (20%)

**Low MFN applied duties**

- Liquefied butanes (Duty-free)  
- Solar cells (Duty-free)  
- Diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate (Duty-free)  
- Rolled coils of iron or steel (Duty-free)  
- Polypropylene in primary form (5%)  
- Light vessels (5%)  
- Fertilisers (5%)  
- Zinc 99.99% pure (5%)  
- Kerosene (5%)

Sources: ITC TradeMap (2019); ITC MacMap (2019); WTO Tariff Database (2019) and tralac calculations.