

# Benin

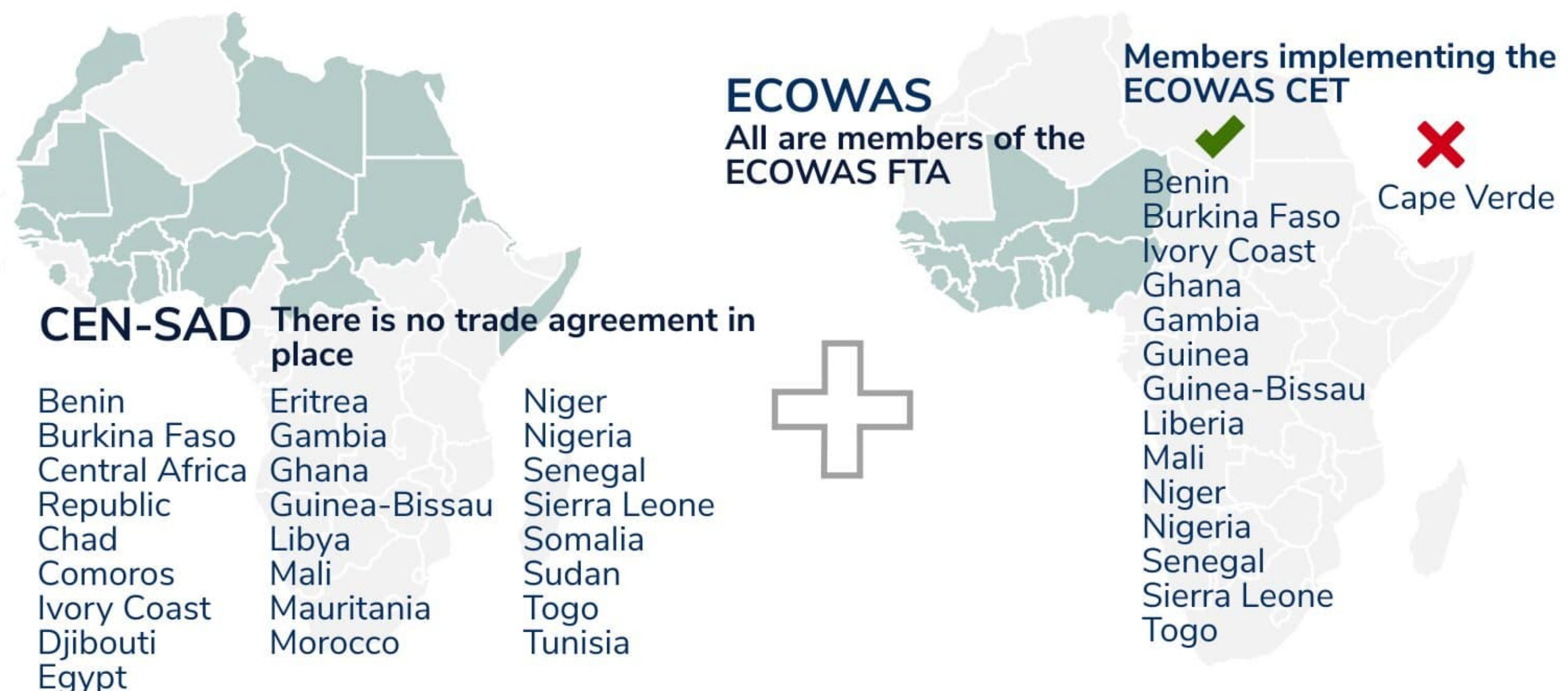
# intra-Africa trade & tariff profile 2019



## 1. Introduction

Benin is part of two Regional Economic Communities (RECs) - the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).

- ECOWAS has 15 member states. All member states are part of the ECOWAS Free Trade Area (FTA), 14 of which are in the process of implementing the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET). Qualifying imports from approved ECOWAS producers are imported into Benin duty-free, and Benin does apply the ECOWAS CET on imports from outside the REC.
- CEN-SAD currently has 24 member states aspiring to establish an Economic Union which includes the free movement of goods, services and commodities. There is currently no free trade agreement in place.



## 2. Intra-Africa trade

For 2019, 21% of Benin's world exports & 25% of world imports were to and from the rest of Africa. Intra-Africa exports amounted to US\$180 million (1% less than in 2018) & intra-Africa imports to US\$711 million (8% more than in 2018).

The main export products are cotton, frozen chicken cuts and edible offal, cotton seed, cement clinkers & woven cotton fabrics. The main import products are electrical energy, petroleum oils, fertilisers, palm oil & frozen jack and mackerel. Apart from South Africa & Cameroon, Benin mainly trades with fellow CEN-SAD & ECOWAS member states.

Intra-Africa exports to countries outside ECOWAS are levied duties in the respective destination markets. Of the top 10 import products from outside ECOWAS only liquefied urea is imported into Benin duty-free.

## Main destination markets

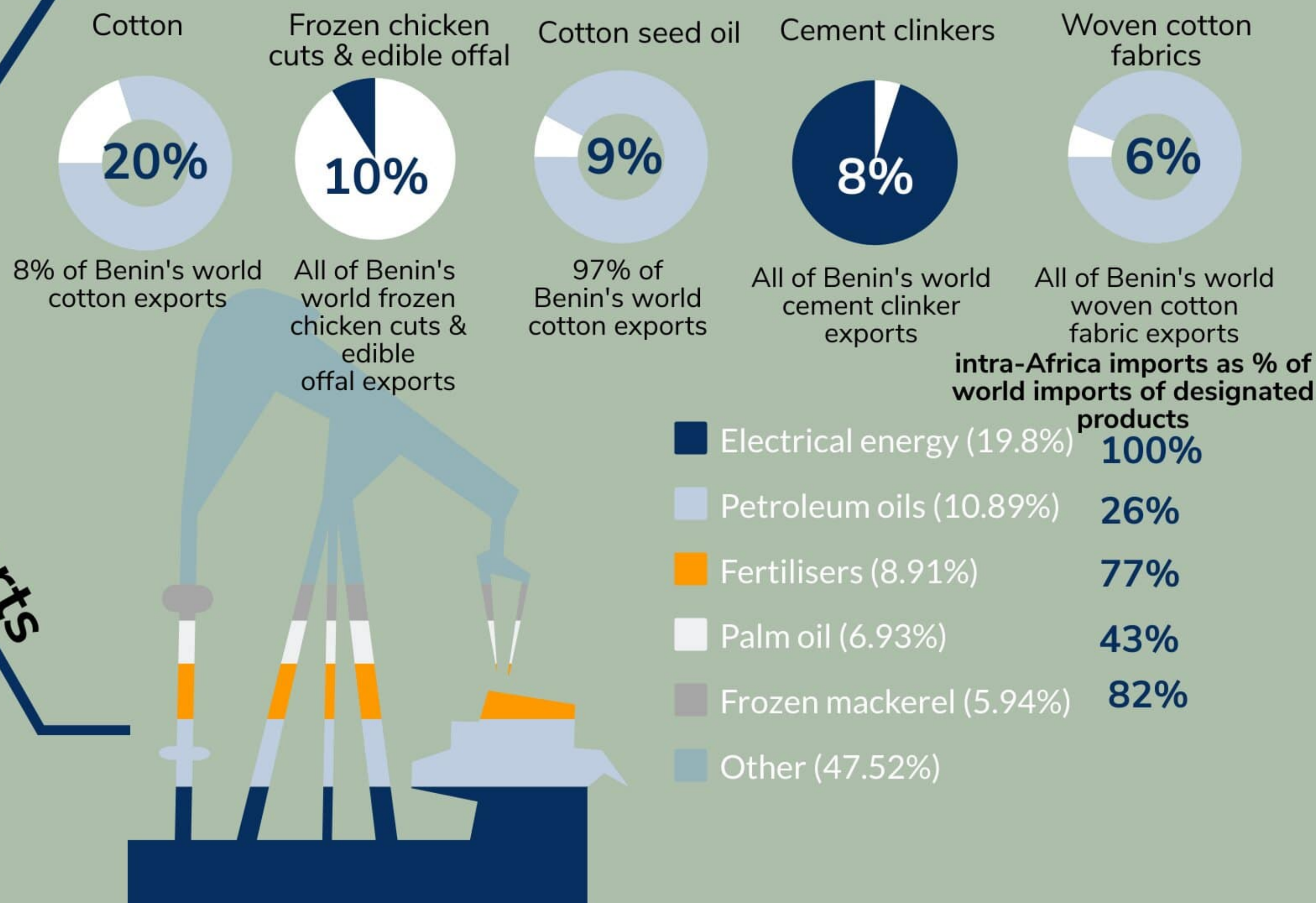
Nigeria, Egypt, Niger, Burkina Faso & Ivory Coast



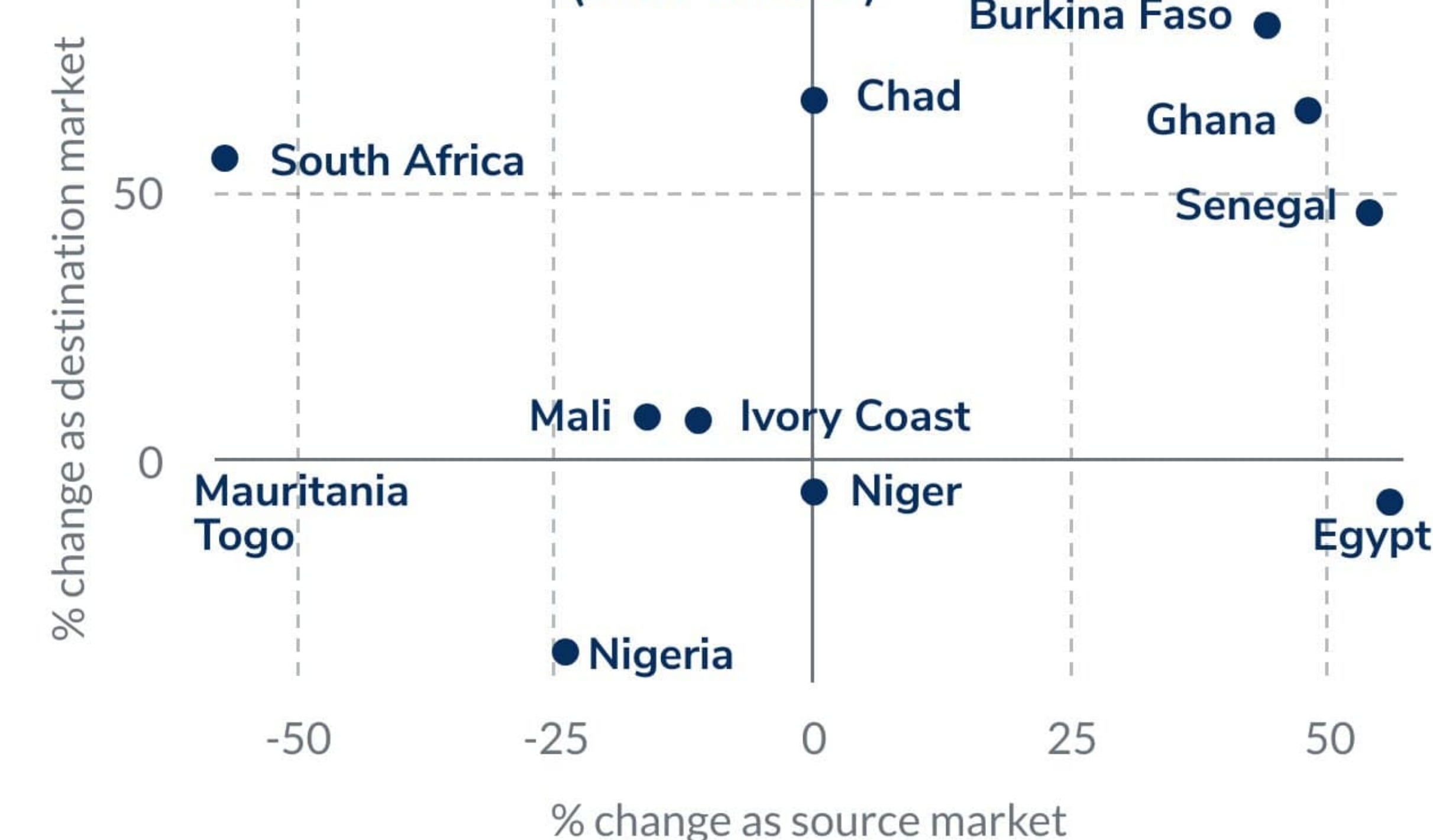
## Main source markets



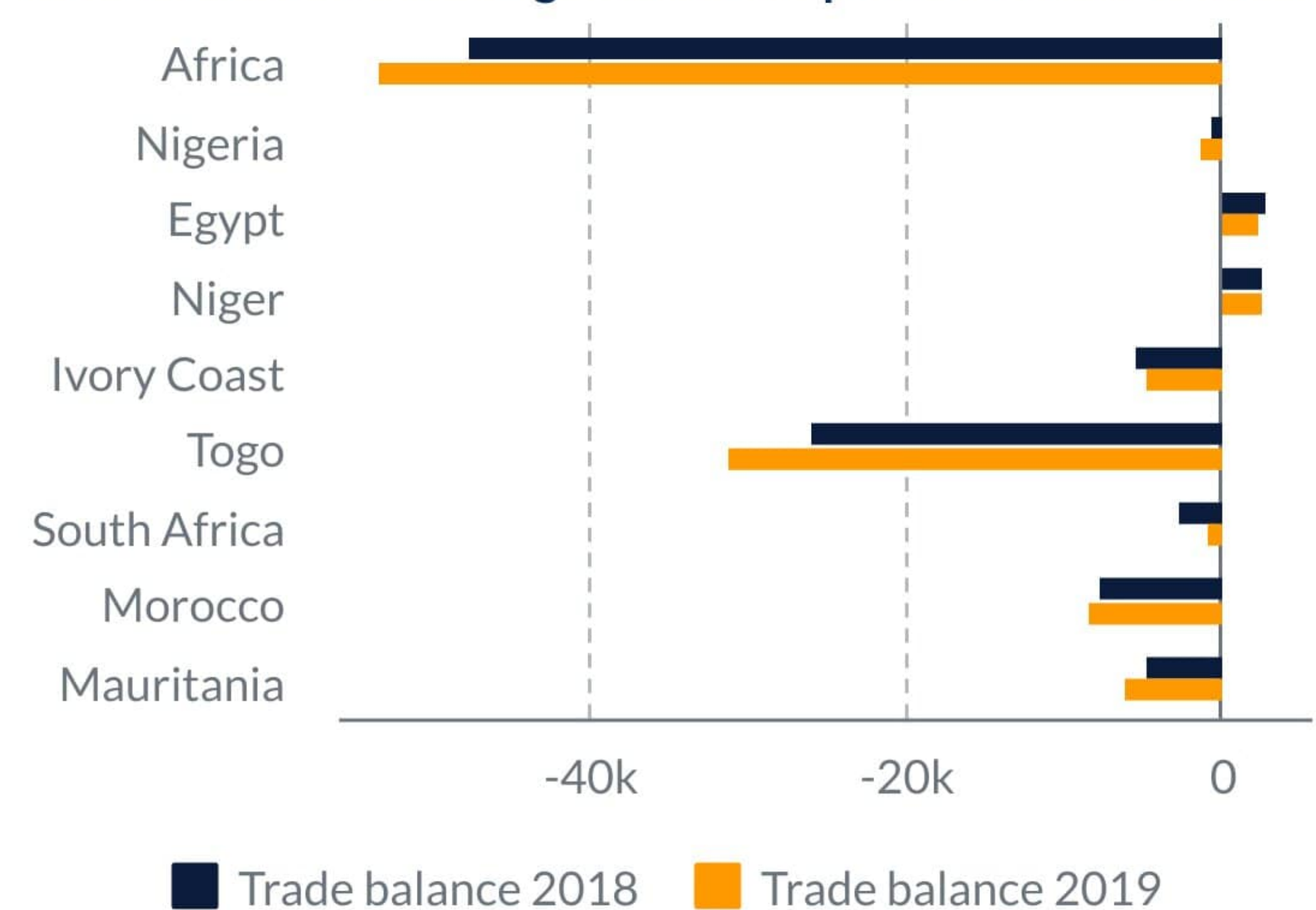
## Benin's intra-Africa trade 2019



## % change in exports to & imports from main African trade partners (2018 to 2019)



## Trade balance with designated trade partners 2018 & 2019





**3. Intra-Africa tariffs & non-tariff cost of trade**  
Qualifying goods from ECOWAS member states enter Benin duty-free, while imports from CEN-SAD countries, which are not ECOWAS member states (including Egypt, Morocco, Somalia & Tunisia) and the rest of Africa are levied the MFN applied duty, which is the ECOWAS CET. The ECOWAS CET has five tariff bands - duty-free, 5%, 10%, 20% and 35%.

**MFN duty categories & % of national tariff lines in each category**

**Duty-free 2%**  
medicaments; crude petroleum oils; mineral and chemical fertilisers; printed books; newsprint in roll or sheets; newspapers or journals; human blood; articles of apparel and clothing accessories

**5% duties 37%**  
live beef animals; harvesting machinery; live poultry; copper wire; flat-rolled alloy steel; passenger motor vehicles; motor cycles; sugar or beets seeds; barley seeds

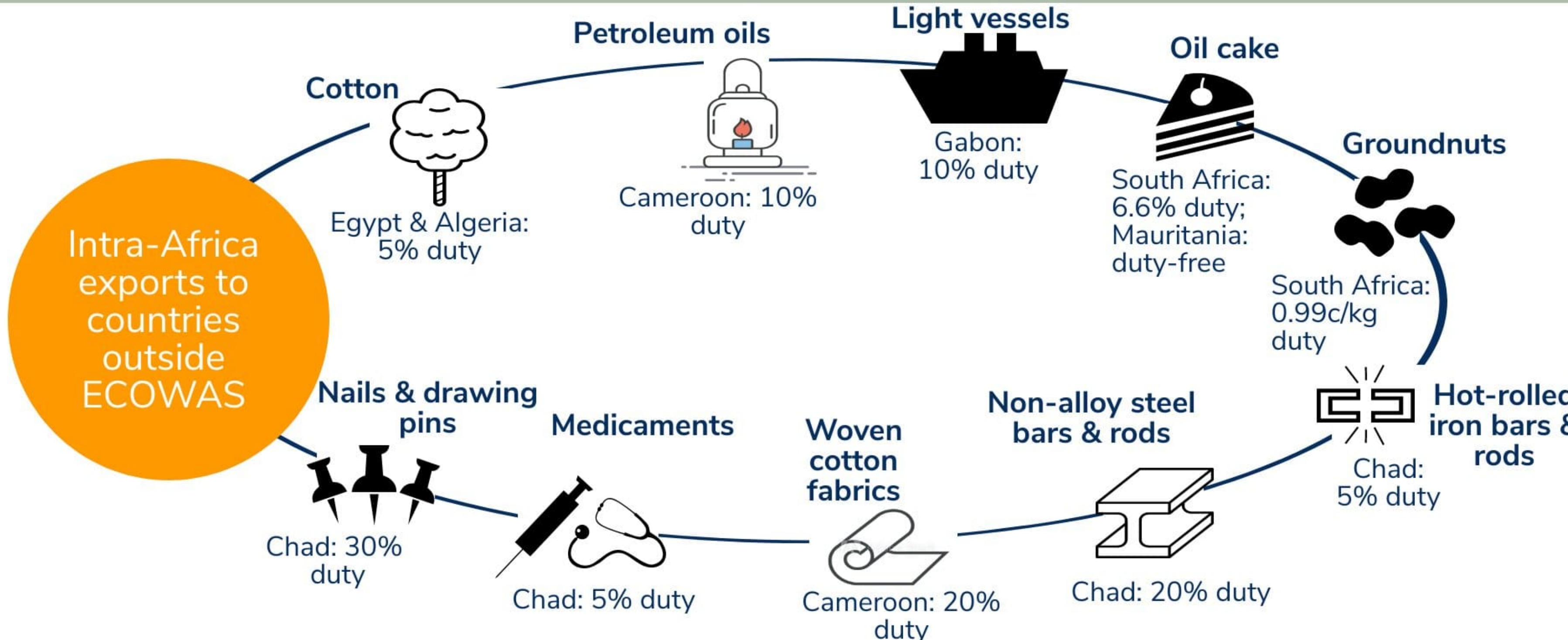
**10% duties 23%**  
iron, non-alloy or stainless steel wire; fresh fish; animal drawn vehicles; rice; woven cotton fabrics; vegetable oils and fats; cotton yarn; telephone sets; coffee; grand pianos

**20% duties 36%**  
fish fillets; fruit juices; male suits and shirts; copper wire; flour; fresh grapes; sanitary towels; milk and cream; stoves; curtains; lettuce; woven fabrics

**35% duties 2%**  
soap; buttermilk; meat and edible offals; groundnuts; oil; sheep or goat meat; bread; pastry; cakes; chocolates

7% of Benin's world exports (33% of intra-Africa exports) are to African countries not ECOWAS member states. Export products include cotton, petroleum oils, light vessels, oil cake, groundnuts & hot-rolled iron bars and rods mainly exported to Egypt, Cameroon & Algeria. All of the top 10 products exported to countries outside ECOWAS face import duties in the respective destinations.

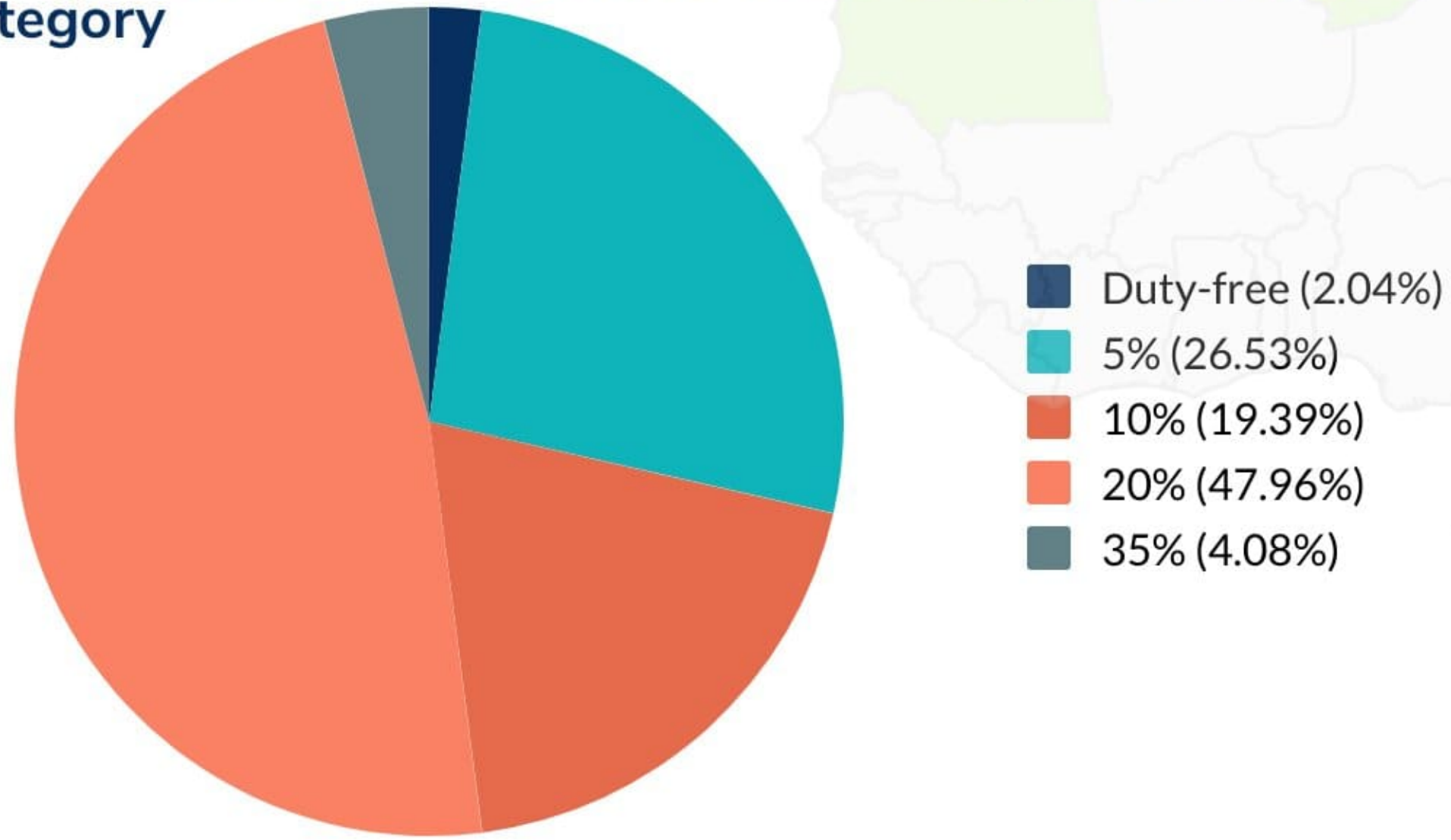
29% of intra-Africa imports (7% of world imports) are sourced from outside ECOWAS. Benin mainly imports fertilisers, frozen jack & petroleum oils from non-ECOWAS countries. Of the top 20 products imported into Benin from outside ECOWAS only liquefied butanes & ammonium are imported duty-free.



**Benin's imports from outside ECOWAS and corresponding import duties**

77% of Benin's world imports of fertilisers are sourced from non-ECOWAS African countries; also 81% of frozen jack, 5% of petroleum oils, 75% of frozen mackerel, 85% of frozen fish (n.e.s), 62% of frozen sardines, and 32% of motor vehicles for the transport of goods.

**Categories of MFN duties & % of 2019 imports in each category**



Of the top 20 import products, the highest tariffs (20%) are applicable to imports of carton bags, wheat or meslin flour. cane or beet sugar & military weapons. 10% duty is levied on imports of electric conductors, petroleum oils, frozen jack & horse mackerel, frozen mackerel, frozen fish n.e.s. frozen sardines, frozen hack, cement, odoriferous mixtures and iron or steel structures. 5% duty is imposed on imports of fertilisers, magnetic or optical readers & self-propelled tamping machines. Liquefied butanes and ammonium are imported into Benin duty-free.

- Morocco (40%)**  
Fertilisers (5% duty)  
Carton bags (20% duty)  
Wheat or meslin flour (20% duty)
- Mauritania (29%)**  
Frozen jack and horse mackerel (10% duty)  
Frozen mackerel (10% duty)  
Frozen fish, n.e.s. (10% duty)
- South Africa (6%)**  
Goods motor vehicles (10% duty)  
Petroleum oils (5% duty)  
Iron or steel structures or parts n.e.s (5% duty)
- Angola (5%)**  
Frozen jack and horse mackerel (10% duty)  
Frozen fish, n.e.s. (10% duty)  
Frozen mackerel (10% duty)
- Tunisia (4%)**  
Cement clinkers (10% duty)  
Stranded wires, cables (20% duty)  
Electric conductors (20% duty)

**The non-tariff cost of bilateral trade between Benin & designated African trade partners**

The ESCAP-World Bank trade cost database include the cost of transportation and the time to complete import procedures and obtain necessary information as non-tariff costs affecting bilateral trade between trade partners. The data shows that Benin's bilateral trade with some west African countries like Cameroon, Senegal & Burkina Faso is more costly than trade between Benin and non-African countries like France and China. Benin's manufacturing trade with Egypt, Cameroon & Senegal is higher than with China, France and South Africa. Benin's agricultural trade with non African countries like China and France is less costly than trade with African trade partners like Morocco, Cameroon, Togo, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana & Ivory Coast.

