Zimbabwe is a member of both the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

- COMESA has 21 member states, 17 of which are part of the COMESA Free Trade Area – the DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia are all in the process of accession.
- SADC is a Regional Economic Community (REC) which includes 16 member states - all the SACU countries, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mauritius, Mozambique and Malawi. 13 SADC member states are in a Free Trade Arrangement (FTA); Comoros, Angola and DRC are yet to join.

2. Intra-Africa trade
For 2019, 62% of Zimbabwe’s world exports & 48% of world imports were to and from the rest of Africa. Intra-Africa exports amounted to US$2.6 billion (1% more than in 2018) & intra-Africa imports to US$2.3 million (27% decline compared to 2018 imports). The main export products are tobacco, nickel ores, gold, ferro-chromium, nickel mattes, platinum, raw sugar cane, cotton & chromium ores.

Electrical energy, crude soya-bean oil, fertilisers, maize, animal feed preparations and threaded steel screws and bolts are almost entirely imported from other African countries.

Main destination markets
South Africa, Mauritius, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana & Malawi

Zimbabwe’s intra-Africa trade 2019
- Tobacco: 29%
- Nickel ores: 20%
- Semi-manufactured gold: 16%
- Ferro-chromium: 8%

Intra-Africa imports as % of world imports of designated products
- Electrical energy: 93%
- Medium oils: 9%
- Crude soya-bean oil: 81%
- Medicaments: 40%
- Road tractors: 49%
- Ammonium fertiliser: 74%
- Urea: 77%
- Maize: 100%
- Other: 83%

Trade balance with designated trade partners 2018 & 2019
Intra-Africa tariffs & non-tariff cost of trade

Most of the products from COMESA and SADC countries enter Zimbabwe duty free. Imports from countries outside the COMESA and SADC FTAs face MFN applied duties with many tariff lines subject to minimum tariffs. In 2019, 0.002% of Zimbabwe’s intra-Africa exports are to countries which are not COMESA or SADC member states. Export products include dried peas, self-propelled graders, maize seed, brakes for assembly industry & bicycles mainly exported to Morocco, Gambia, Ghana, and Burkina Faso. 30% of dried peas are exported to African countries outside COMESA & SADC. Most of the exports face import duties in their destination countries.

In 2019, only 0.5% of intra-Africa imports are sourced from outside COMESA and SADC. The most important trading partner outside of COMESA & SADC is Morocco. 30% of all exports go to Morocco and 65% of all imports stem from Morocco (followed by Gabon with 23%).

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

- **Duty-free** 9%
  - breeding animals, fresh, chilled, frozen or dried fish, bulbs, tubers, medicaments, human blood, immunological products, newspapers, printed books, self-propelled graders and levellers, tractors, drilling and milling machines, circular knitting machines, textile doubling or twisting machines
- **0%-20% duties** 67%
  - live cattle, live chicken, frozen meat, fillets, milk and cream, dried shredded beans, fresh or dried brazil nuts, fresh or dried almonds, dried grapes, dried apricots, dried apples, dried prunes, dried peaches, pears, papaws, seeds of barley, maize, millet, sorghum and oats.
- **20%-40% duties** 16%
  - fresh or chilled beef, lamb, sheep, meat and edible offal of rabbits or hares or primates, mussels, buttermilk, cheese, prepared or preserved salmon or shrimps and prawns, chocolate, uncooked pasta, prepared or preserved citrus fruit, pears, cherries, cranberries, tea, ammonium nitrate & fertiliser
- **40% duties** 1%
  - mineral waters, non-alcoholic beverages, unmanufactured tobacco, tobacco refuse, tableware and kitchenware, articles of leather, household and toilet articles, appliances for baking, frying, grilling and cooking and plate warmers, for sale and for use, boxes, heaters, grates, fires, wash boilers
- **Specific and/or combined** 8%
  - fresh or chilled edible offal of bovine animals, frozen edible bovine tongues, frozen edible bovine livers, frozen domestic ducks, turkeys and geese, frozen tilapia, frozen jack and horse mackerel, butter, pastes, sweet biscuits, waffles and wafers, bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits and other bakers’ wares, wine of fresh grapes, ethyl alcohol and spirits

**Zimbabwe’s imports from outside COMESA & SADC and corresponding import duties**

20% of Zimbabwe’s world imports of maize are sourced from outside COMESA & SADC; also 21% of refined copper. 15% of smart cards, 4% of ammonium and 6% of self-propelled earth moving equipment.

**Categories of average ad valorem duties & % of 2019 imports in each category**

- **Duty-free (29.5%)**
- **5% (19.3%)**
- **>5%-10% (21.43%)**
- **>10%-15% (10.2%)**
- **>15%-20% (10.2%)**
- **>40% (9.18%)**

Of the top 20 import products, the highest tariffs (40%) are applicable to imports of petroleum oils and human hair. 20% import duty is applicable to smart cards, and 10% import duty is applicable to imports of maize and gaskets. A 5% import duty is levied on ammonium, parts for tractors and passenger vehicles (+10 persons), goods vehicles roller bearings, first-aid boxes and kits, engine oil, boring or sinking machinery. Imports of photosensitive semiconductor devices, static converters, self-propelled earth-moving machinery, n.e.s., self-propelled graders and levellers, printing machines & crushing or grinding machines are imported into Zimbabwe duty free.

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

The ESCAP-World Bank trade cost database includes 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 trade between Zimbabwe and north & west Africa is more costly than trade with south and east Africa and non-African countries like Brazil, France, China, Russian & UK. Zimbabwe’s agricultural trade with southern Africa countries is less costly than with Egypt, Tanzania & non-African countries like Brazil, China, France, Germany & UK. However, Zimbabwe’s manufacturing trade with Tanzania is higher than with the UK.