

# Mauritius

# intra-Africa trade & tariff profile 2019



## 1. Introduction

Mauritius is 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 (recently made an offer) and DRC are yet to join

### Members of the COMESA FTA:

✓  
Burundi  
Comoros  
Djibouti  
Egypt  
Eswatini  
Kenya  
Libya  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mauritius  
Rwanda  
Seychelles  
Sudan  
Tunisia  
Uganda  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

✗  
DRC  
Eritrea,  
Ethiopia  
Somalia

COMESA

### Members of the SADC FTA:

✗  
Comoros  
DRC  
Angola  
(recently made an offer)

✓  
Botswana  
Eswatini  
Lesotho  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mauritius  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Seychelles  
South Africa  
Tanzania  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

SADC



## 2. Intra-Africa trade

For 2019, 24% of Mauritius' world exports & 13% of world imports were to and from the rest of Africa. Intra-Africa exports amounted to US\$445 million (4% decline compared to 2018 exports).

Intra-Africa imports amounted to US\$714 million (6% decline compared to 2018 imports). The main export products are male trousers, cotton t-shirts, raw sugar cane, dyed cotton fabrics, cane or beet sugar, male cotton shirts & female trousers

The main products imported into Mauritius from other African countries included petroleum oils, coal, cigarettes, cotton, frozen skipjack, frozen yellowfin tunas, vanilla, goods motor vehicles, food preparations n.e.s, live cattle & television reception apparatus

## Main destination markets

South Africa, Madagascar, Kenya, Seychelles & Eswatini

Exports

Imports

## Mauritius' intra-Africa trade 2019

Men's cotton trousers



50% of world male trousers exports

Cotton t-shirts



30% of world cotton t-shirts exports

Other cane sugar



27% of world raw sugar cane exports

Dyed cotton fabrics



All of world dyed cotton fabrics exports

White sugar



20% of world white sugar exports



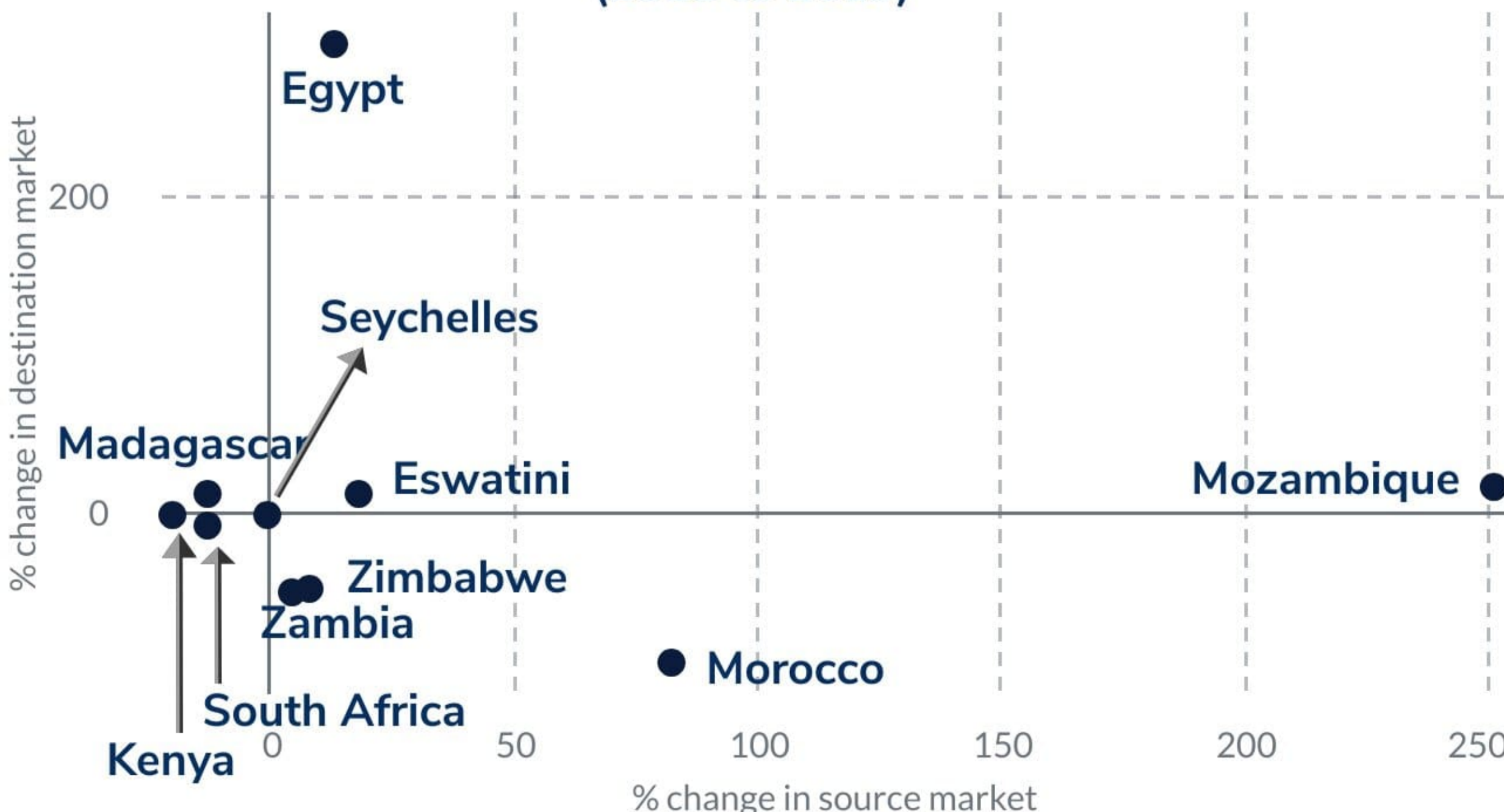
intra-Africa imports as % of world imports of designated products

Petroleum oils (12%)	12%
Coal (9%)	93%
Cigarettes (7%)	88%
Cotton (7%)	96%
Frozen skipjack (5%)	34%
Frozen yellowfin tunas (3%)	45%
Vanilla (3%)	99%
Goods vehicles (2%)	28%
Food preparations n.e.s (2%)	42%
Live cattle (2%)	100%
Others (48%)	

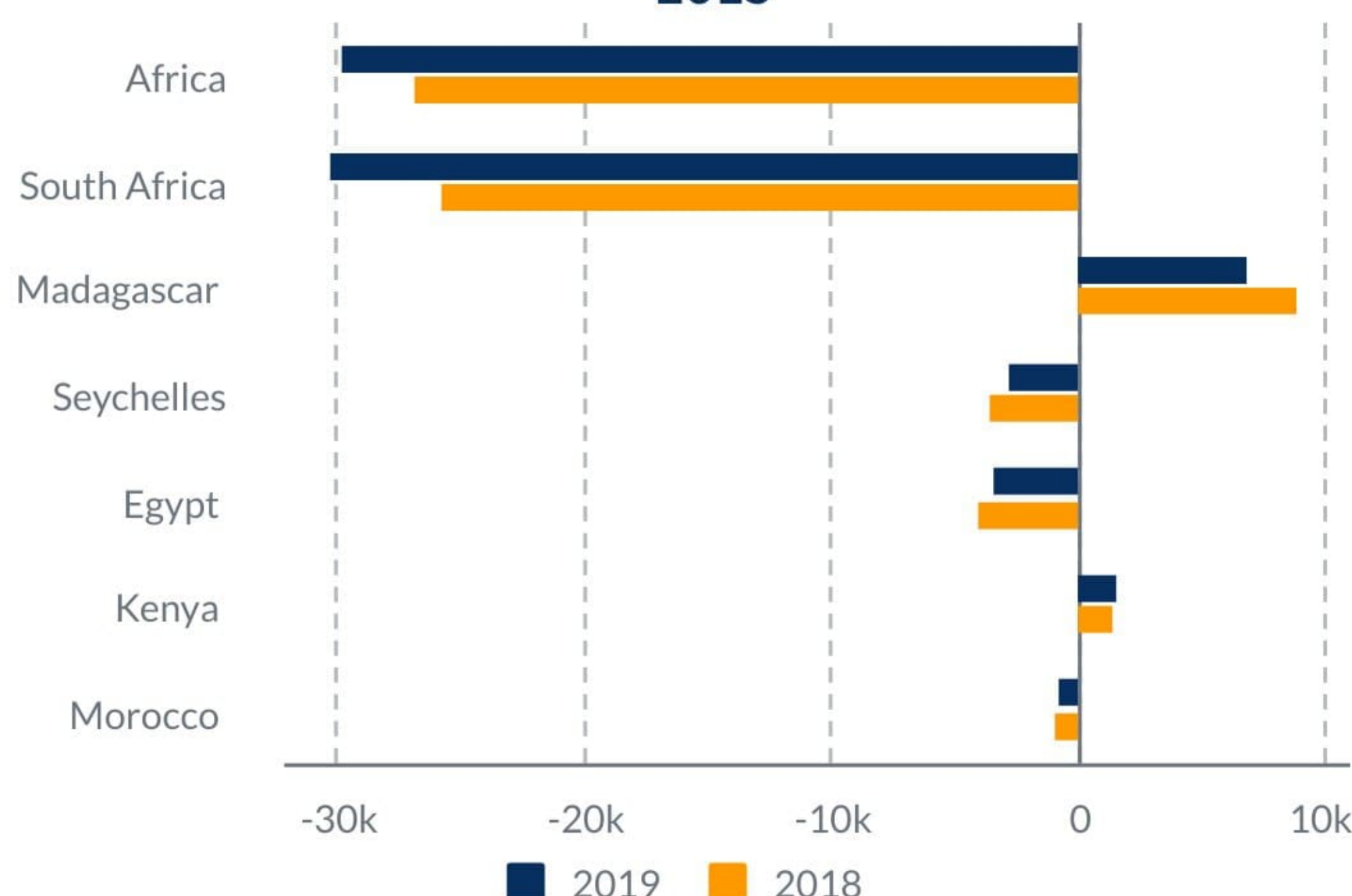
## Main source markets

South Africa, Madagascar, Seychelles, Kenya

## % 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**  
Most of the products from COMESA and SADC countries enter Mauritius duty free. Imports from countries outside COMESA and SADC countries face MFN applied duties with many tariff bands. In 2019, 1% of Zimbabwe's intra-Africa exports are to countries which are not COMESA or SADC member states.

Export products include bottles or flasks, office furniture, frozen chicken cuts and edible offals, sports foot wear & laboratory equipment mainly exported to Cameroon, Ivory Coast & Ghana. 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, 3% of intra-Africa imports are sourced from outside COMESA and SADC. The imports included cotton, prepared or preserved sardines, liquefied butanes, drilling machinery & mobile cranes. 44% of Mauritius' imports from outside SADC and COMESA are from Morocco, 20% from Cameroon, and 11% from Ivory Coast

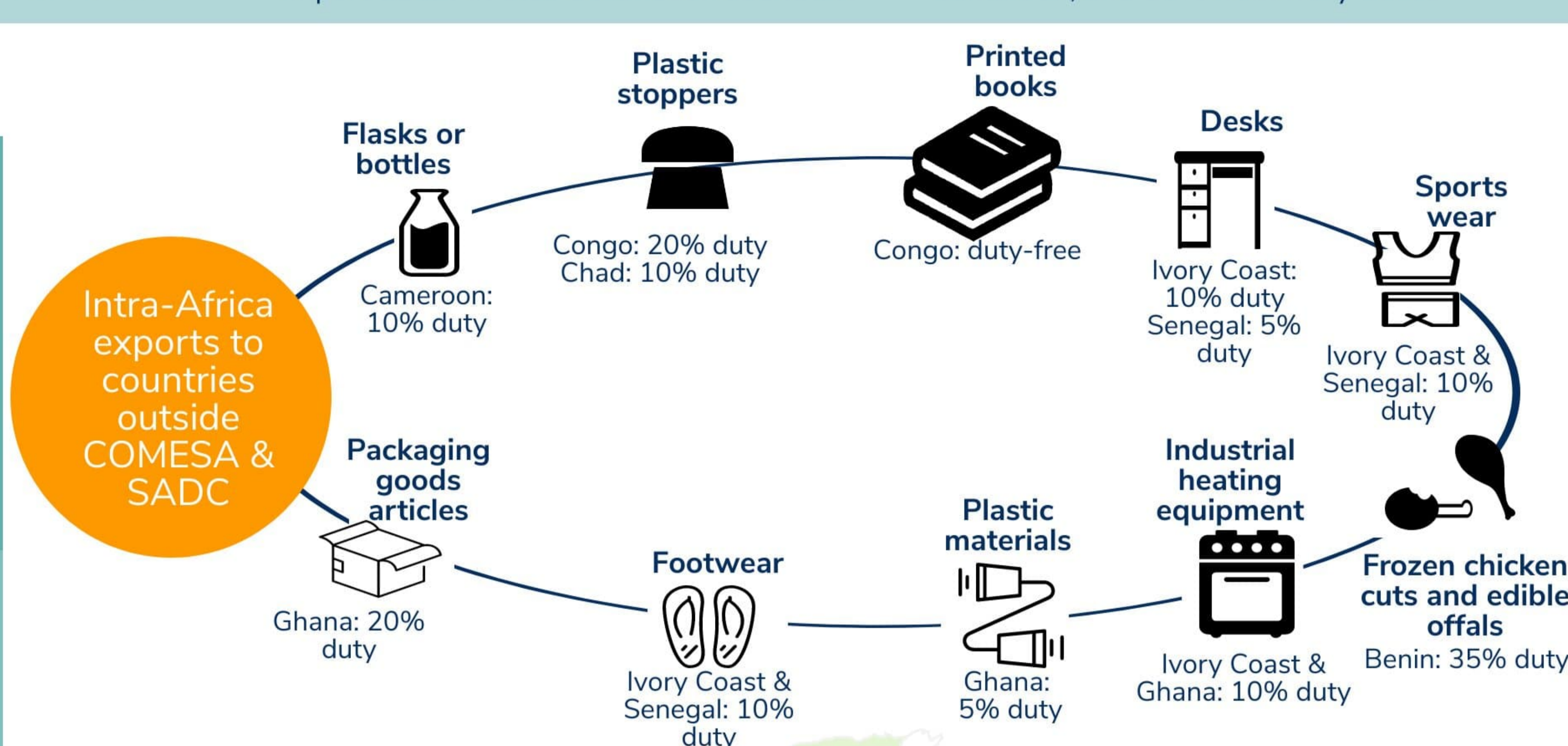
## MFN duty categories & % of national tariff lines in each category

**Duty-free 95%**  
Live animals, frozen or chilled bovine meat, frozen edible offals, fish, milk and cream, dairy products, potatoes seeds, fresh vegetables, fresh or dried nuts or fruits, coffee, tea, mate, oats, cinnamon, barley, millet, oats or rye seed, wheat, maize, wheat & potato

**>0-10% duties 2%**  
Passenger vehicles, seats n.e.s, metal furniture, household furniture, electric table, lamps and lighting fittings, parts of lamps and lighting fittings, iron or non-alloy steel angles, shapes and sections,

**>10%-20% duties 2%**  
table line of cotton, bedlinen umbrellas, building blocks and cement brick, tiles, tubes, pipes and hollow profiles, window and door frames, bodies for tractors or vehicles of 10 or passengers, car seats, office metal furniture, wooden furniture, furniture of plastics, bamboo or rattan, mattresses, non-refillable gas fueled pocket lighters, smoking pipes

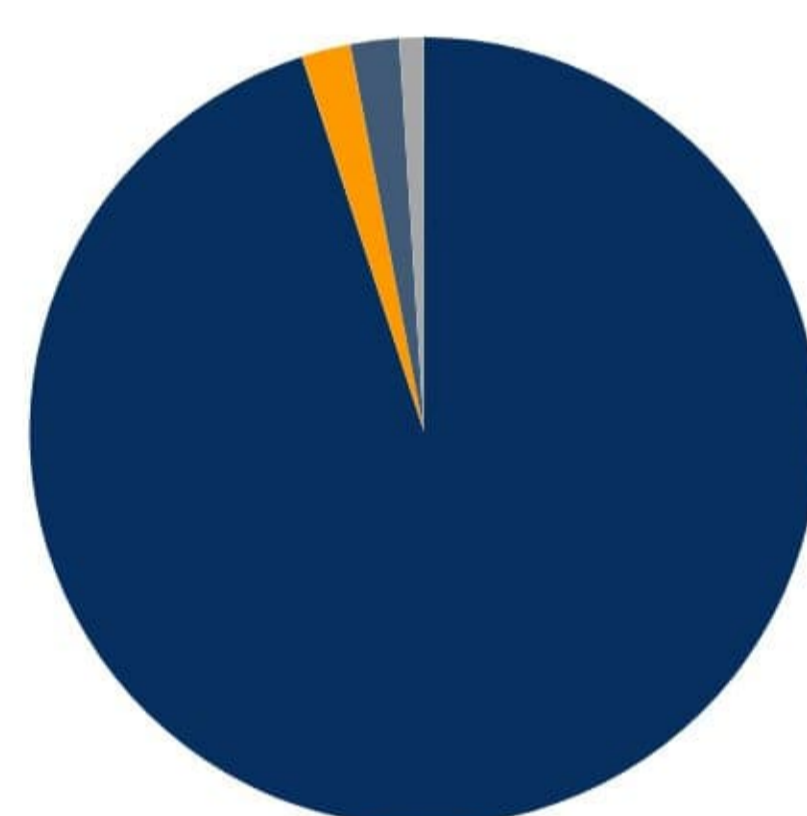
**>20% duties 1%**  
black fermented tea, spirits, raw beet sugar, raw sugar cane, ethyl alcohol, trunks, suitcases, handbags, travelling bags, toilet paper, wallets, pouches, trays, dishes, plates, cups, seat of bamboo or rattan, office, bedroom & kitchen wooden furniture



## Mauritius' imports from outside COMESA & SADC and corresponding import duties

10% of Mauritius' world imports of cotton are sourced from outside COMESA & SADC; also 93% of prepared or preserved sardines, 2% of liquefied butanes, 61% of drilling machines, and 83% of mobile cranes are from outside COMESA & SADC.

### Categories of duties & % of 2019 imports in each category



■ Duty-free (95%)  
■ >0%-10% (2%)  
■ >10%-20% (2%)  
■ >20% (1%)

Of the **top 20 import products**, the highest tariffs (80%) are applicable to imports of cane sugar. A 12% import duty is applicable to mineral water, and a 10% duty to imports of soya-bean oil. Petroleum oils, coal, cigarettes, cotton,frozen skipjack, frozen yellowfin tuna, vanilla, passenger motor vehicles (10 or more persons), food preparations n.e.s., live cattle, television reception apparatus, medicaments, fresh apples, hot-rolled bars and rods, prepared or preserved sardines, fresh grapes & dried or fresh oranges are all some of the products imported into Mauritius free of duties.

**Morocco (44%)**  
Prepared/preserved sardines (duty-free)  
Liquefied butanes (duty-free)  
Medicaments (duty-free)

**Cameroon (20%)**  
Cotton (duty-free)  
Tropical wood (duty-free)

**Ivory Coast (11%)**  
Cotton (duty-free)  
Fish fats & oils (duty-free)  
Storage units for automatic data-processing machines (duty-free)

**Guinea (7%)**  
Drilling machines (duty-free)  
Machinery parts (duty-free)  
Self-propelled mechanical shovel (duty-free)

**Gabon (5%)**  
Mobile cranes (duty-free)  
Electric self-propelled forklifts (duty-free)  
Iroko wood (duty-free)

## The non-tariff cost of bilateral trade between Mauritius & 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 Mauritius and African countries like Tanzania and Uganda is more costly than trade with non-African countries like Brazil, France, China & the UK. Mauritius' agricultural trade with the UK and France is less costly than with Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Mauritius' manufacturing trade with Brazil and China is less costly than with Uganda and Tanzania.

