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.

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). 

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 tuna, vanilla, goods motor vehicles, food preparations n.e.s, live cattle & television reception apparatus.

**Main destination markets**
- South Africa, Madagascar, Kenya, Seychelles & Eswatini

**Main source markets**
- South Africa, Madagascar, Seychelles, Kenya

Mauritius' intra-Africa trade 2019

- Men’s cotton trousers (10%)
- Cotton t-shirts (6%)
- Other cane sugar (5%)
- Dyed cotton fabrics (5%)
- White sugar (5%)

Intra-Africa imports as % of world imports of designated products:
- Petroleum oils (12%)
- Coal (9%)
- Cigarettes (7%)
- Cotton (7%)
- Frozen skipjack (5%)
- Frozen yellowfin tuna (3%)
- Vanilla (3%)
- Goods vehicles (2%)
- Food preparations n.e.s (2%)
- Live cattle (2%)
- Others (48%)

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

Trade balance with designated trade partners 2018 & 2019

Africa
South Africa
Madagascar
Seychelles
Egypt
Kenya
Morocco
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.

**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, bedden 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 fuelled pocket lighters, smoking pipes

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

**Intra-Africa exports to countries outside COMESA & SADC**

- Flasks or bottles
  - Cameroon: 10% duty
  - Congo: 20% duty Chadian: 10% duty

- Plastic stoppers
  - Chinese: 5% duty

- Packaging goods articles
  - Ghana: 20% duty

- Footwear
  - Ivory Coast & Senegal: 10% duty
  - Ghana: 5% duty

- Printed books
  - Cameroon: 5% duty

- Desks
  - Ivory Coast: 10% duty
  - Senegal: 5% duty

- Sports wear
  - Benin: 35% duty

- Frozen chicken cuts and edible offals
  - Cameroon: 10% duty

- Industrial heating equipment
  - China: 5% duty

**Mauritius’ imports from outside COMESA & SADC**

- Prepared/preserved sardines (duty-free)
- Liquefied butanes (duty-free)
- Medicaments (duty-free)

**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.

**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 outside SADC and COMESA is from Morocco, 20% from Cameroon, and 11% from Ivory Coast.