

Mauritania

intra-Africa trade & tariff profile 2019



1. Introduction

Mauritania is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).

- AMU members include Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. There is not yet a free trade agreement (FTA) in AMU.
- CEN-SAD currently has 24 member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia) aspiring to the establishment of an Economic Union which includes the free movement of goods, services and commodities. In 2013 a revised CEN-SAD Treaty was approved, aimed at revitalising the region. However, the Revised Treaty is yet to be ratified by the prerequisite quorum required for entry into force, consequently there is currently no free trade agreement in place.
- In 2017 Mauritania and the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) signed an Association Agreement for the re-admission of Mauritania to the REC by 2019 after the country's departure from ECOWAS in 2000.

CEN-SAD



AMU



2. Intra-Africa trade

For 2019, 7% of Mauritania's world exports & 9% of world imports were to and from the rest of Africa. Intra-Africa exports amounted to US\$209 million (11% decline compared to 2018 exports).

Intra-Africa imports amounted to US\$303 million (6% increase compared to 2018 imports). 91% of Mauritania's intra-Africa exports are frozen fish, 3% is preserved sardines, and 2% is flours. Main intra-Africa imports include cake oil, petroleum oils, fresh or chilled vegetables & rice.

Mauritania mainly trades with CEN-SAD and AMU member states like Morocco, Ivory Coast, Mali, Algeria, Nigeria, Togo and Senegal, accounting for 78% of Mauritania's intra-Africa trade. Outside AMU and CEN-SAD, Mauritania mainly trades with South Africa, Egypt and Cameroon.

Main destination markets

Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Mali, Cameroon & Ghana



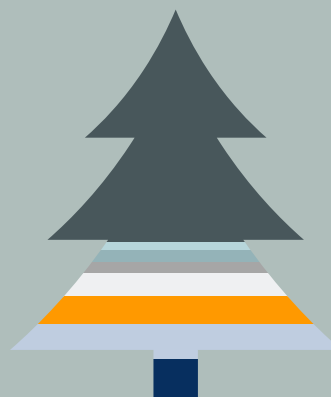
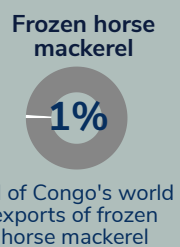
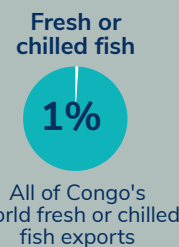
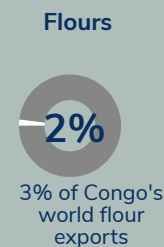
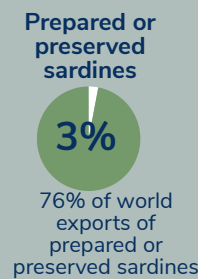
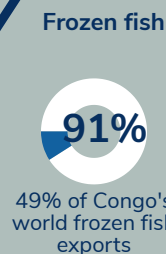
Exports

Imports

Main source markets

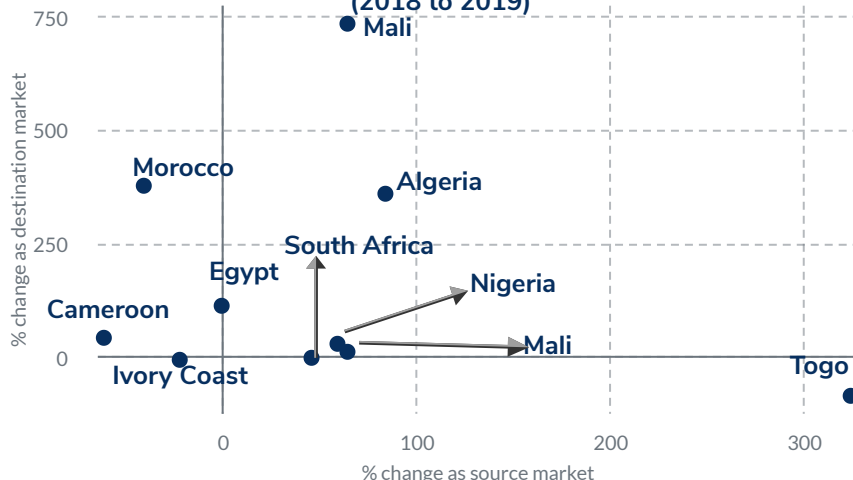


Mauritania's intra-Africa trade 2019

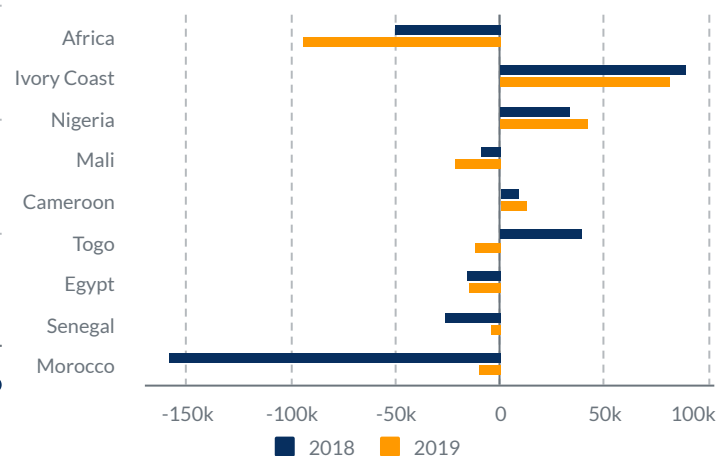


- Cakes (10%)
- Fresh/chilled vegetables (9%)
- Broken rice (7%)
- Diesel (6%)
- Lubricating oils (3%)
- Fertilisers (3%)
- Diesel vehicles (2%)
- Other (60%)

% 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
 Although Mauritania is part of two RECS, AMU and CEN-SAD, neither of these RECs currently have free trade arrangements in place. Consequently, all goods imported from other African countries are levied the MFN applied tariff. The MFN applied tariff has four tariff bands – duty-free, 5%, 13% and 20%.

In 2019, the main export products include frozen fish, preserved sardines, flours, fresh or chilled fish, frozen horse mackerel, mackerel & gypsum. Most of these exports face tariffs in their respective main destinations. Exports of the frozen mackerel face the highest tariffs (20%) in Cameroon.

All of Congo's world exports of fresh or chilled fish, frozen mackerel & mackerel are exported to African countries. 76% of Congo's world exports of prepared sardines, 73% of gypsum, and 62% of frozen fish are exported to African countries.

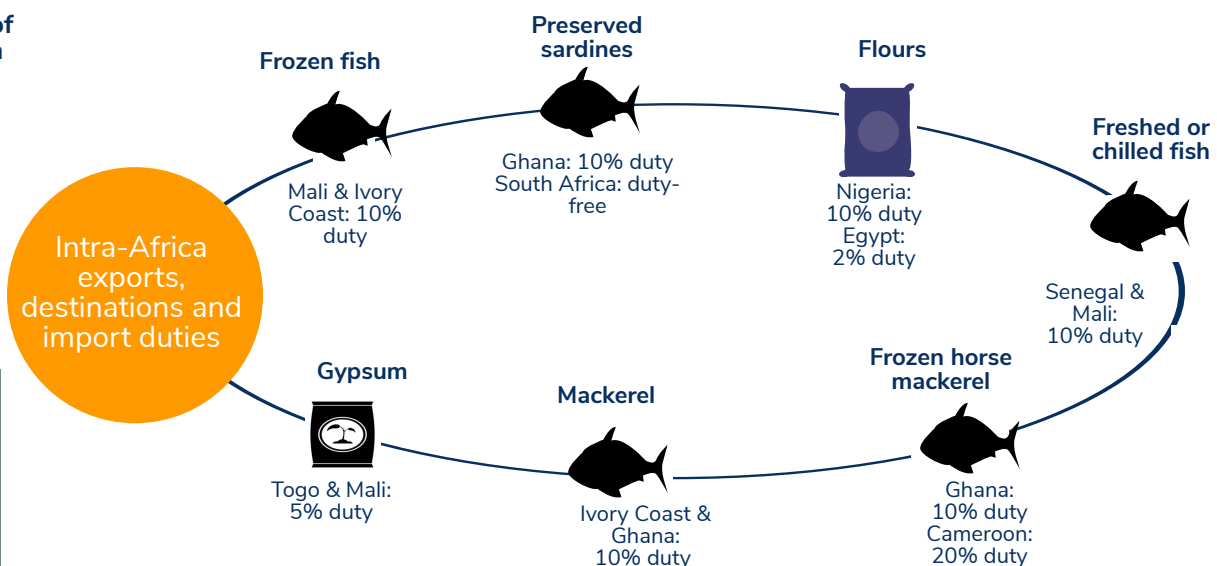
MFN duty categories & % of national tariff lines in each category

Duty-free 4%
 milk powder, wheat and wheat groats and meal; crude palm oil; glucose, yeast and baking powder; medicines and vitamins; organic dyes; books and printed paper materials; sacks and bags from synthetic materials.

5% duties 39%
 fresh flowers, fruit and vegetables; coconuts and nuts; cocoa beans and waste; mineral ores and concentrates; products of stainless steel; aluminium and products made from aluminium; most machinery, sea vessels and passenger vehicles

13% duties 17%
 fresh and frozen chicken; unfermented green tea and fermented black tea; rolled or flaked grains; soya beans for planting and soya bean flour and oil; prepared or preserved tomatoes; essential oils; yarn, thread, cables and fibres, cast iron tubes and pipes and automatic data-processing machines.

20% duties 40%
 live animals, meat and fish; milk, cream and yoghurt; coffee, tea and spices; rice and cereal flours; margarine; meat and fish preparations; some refined sugars and chocolate; fruit juice; tobacco, cigarettes and cigars; Portland cement; photographic film and paper



Mauritania's imports from Africa and corresponding import duties

All of Mauritania's world imports of cakes & fresh or chilled vegetables are sourced from Africa. 46% of world imports, 3% of world imports of broken rice, and 3% of diesel imports, 29% of lubricating oils imports, and 36% of fertiliser imports are sourced from Africa.

Morocco (31%)
 Fresh or chilled vegetables (5% duty)
 Fertilisers (5% duty)
 Medium oils (5% duty)

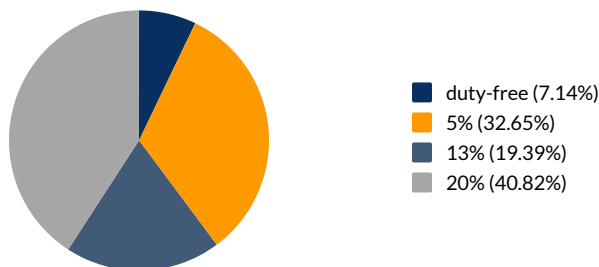
Algeria (16%)
 Cement clinkers (5% duty)
 Cane or beet sugar (5% duty)
 War weapons (20% duty)

Senegal (14%)
 Broken rice (20% duty)
 Medium oils (13% duty)
 Regular auto gasoline (20% duty)

Mali (12%)
 Cakes (duty-free)
 Rough oak (5% duty)
 Soya-bean oil (13% duty)

Togo (6%)
 Diesel (20% duty)
 Buttermilk (20% duty)
 Lactoserum (5% duty)

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



4 of the top 20 import products are imported into Mauritania duty-free. These products include cakes, medicaments, wheat bran & powdered milk. The highest tariffs (20%) are applicable to imports of broken rice, diesel, milk & cream, war weapons and auto-fuel. A 13% duty is levied on imports of lubricating oils. A 5% duty is applied on imports of fresh or chilled vegetables, fertilisers, diesel vehicles, parts of moving machines, drilling machine parts, cement clinkers, cane or beet sugar, sorting machine parts, and dried or fresh dates.

The non-tariff cost of bilateral trade between Mauritania & 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 the costs of trade between Mauritania and African countries like Algeria, Egypt & Morocco is more than Mauritania's trade with non-African countries like France and China. The cost of trade in agricultural trade between Mauritania and Ivory Coast is the lowest, while the cost of agricultural trade between Mauritania and Egypt is the highest.

