

# Rwanda

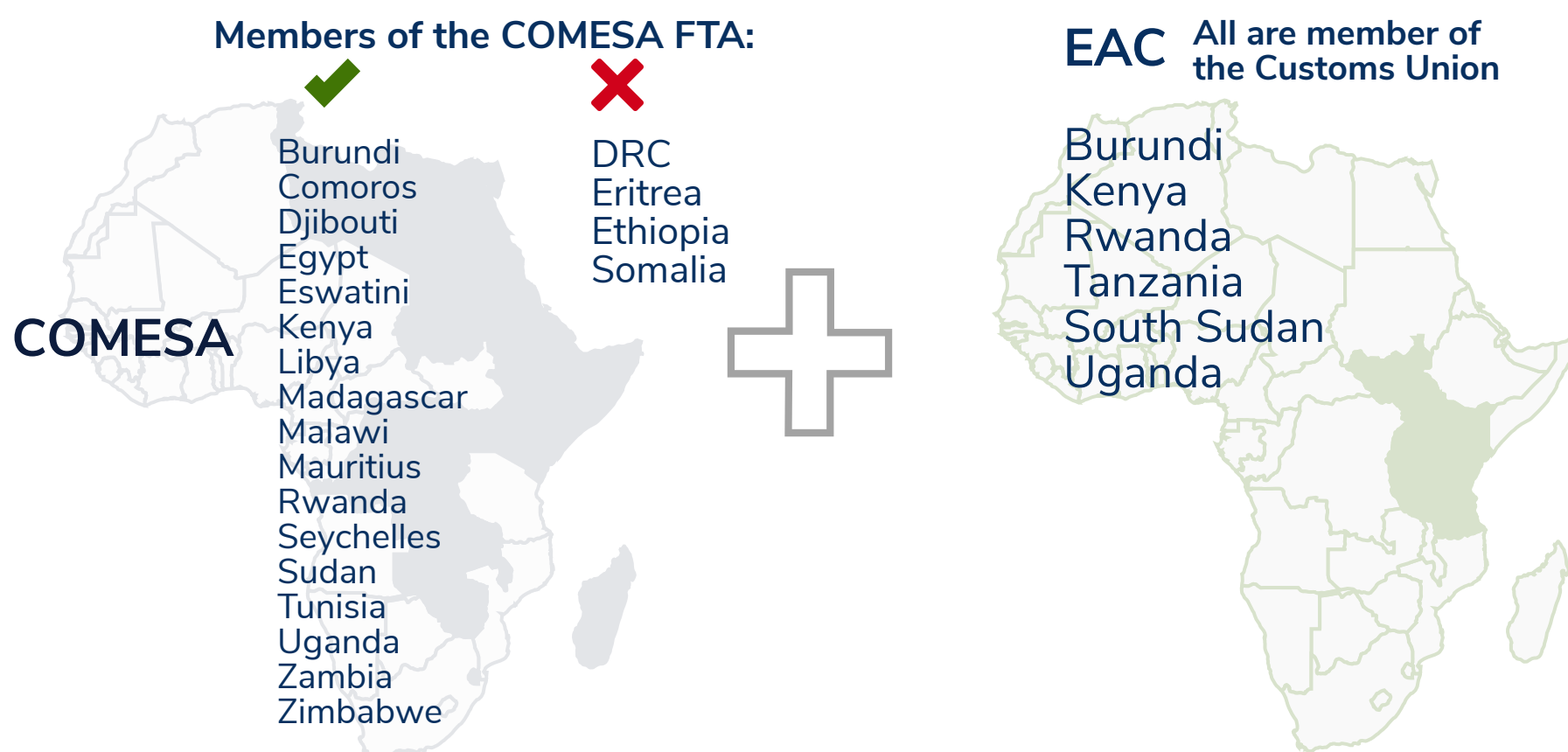
# intra-Africa trade & tariff profile 2019



## 1. Introduction

Rwanda is a member of the East African Community (EAC), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

- EAC is a customs union with duty-free trade among the six member states and a common external tariff (CET)
- COMESA has 21 member states, 17 of which are part of the COMESA Free Trade Area – the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia are all in the process of accession. Eswatini has preferential access to the rest of the COMESA FTA under derogations, but does not reciprocate preferential market access to it being a SACU member.



## 2. Intra-Africa trade

For 2019, 47% of Rwanda's world exports & 29% of world imports were to and from the rest of Africa. Intra-Africa exports amounted to US\$540 million (20% more than in 2018) & intra-Africa imports to US\$921.5 million (25%

increase compared to 2018). Main export products include non-crude petroleum oils, yeasts, rice, wheat oil and palm oil. 69% of Rwanda's intra-Africa exports go to the DRC, and 11% to Uganda. Gold is the main product imported by Rwanda from Africa.

Other products imported by Rwanda from Africa include cement, refined sugar and maize/corn. Rwanda mainly trades with fellow EAC/COMESA FTA countries - 30% of Rwanda's intra-Africa imports are sourced from Kenya and 29% from Uganda.

## Main destination markets

DRC, Uganda, Burundi & South Sudan

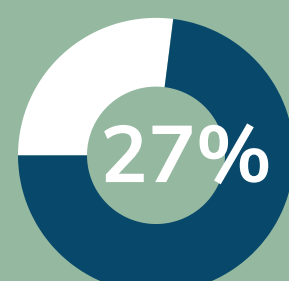


## Rwanda's intra-Africa trade 2019

Exports

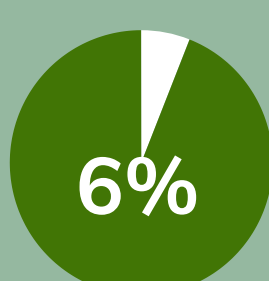
Imports

Petroleum oils



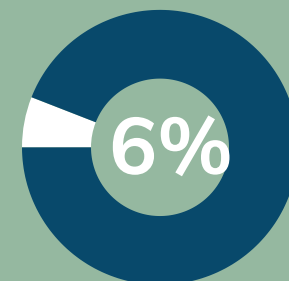
96% of Rwanda's world petroleum oil exports

Yeasts



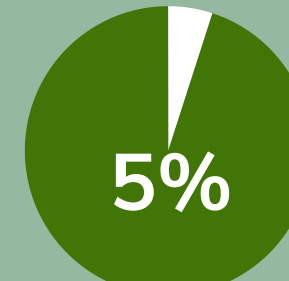
All of Rwanda's world yeasts exports

Rice



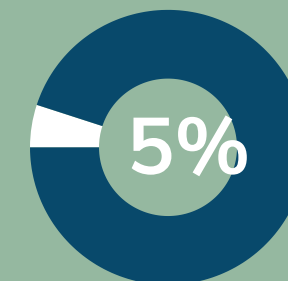
All of Rwanda's world rice exports

Wheat flour



All of Rwanda's world wheat flour exports

Palm oil

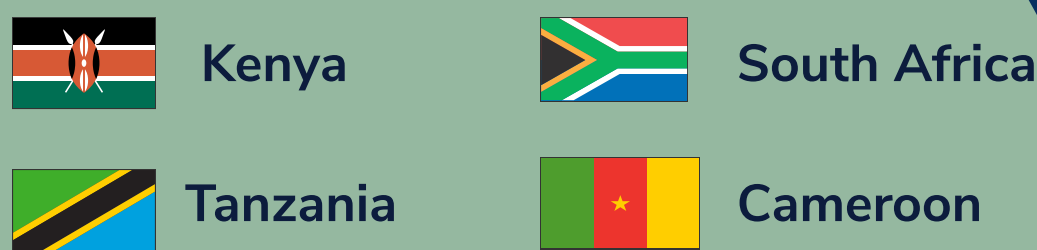


All of Rwanda's world palm oil exports

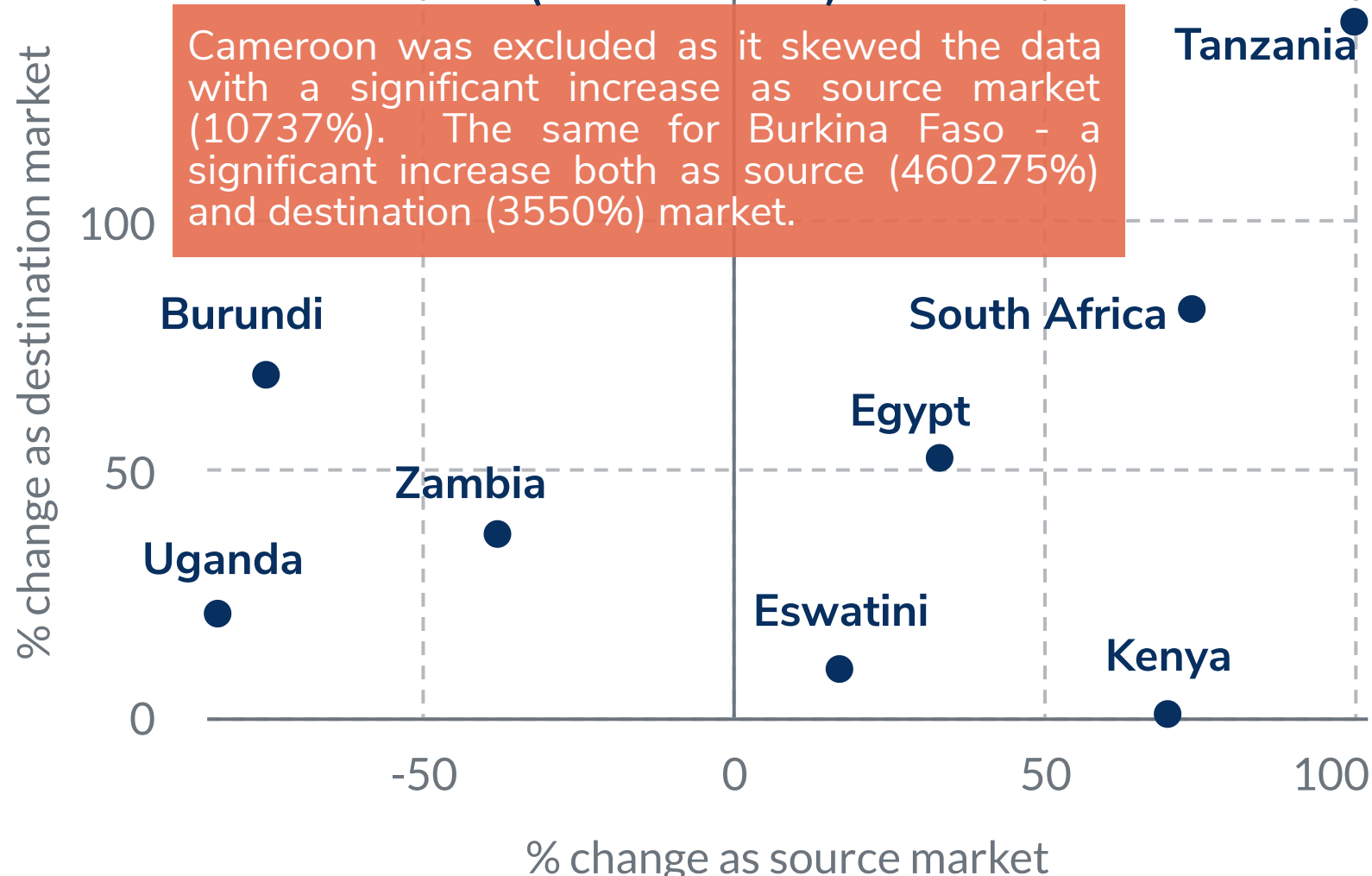
intra-Africa imports as % of world imports of designated products

Gold (25.74%)	100%
Cement (5.94%)	100%
Refined sugar (3.96%)	48%
Maize (2.97%)	100%
Soap (1.98%)	94%
Bricks (1.98%)	99%
Maioc roots & tubers (1.98%)	69%
Tubes & pipes (1.98%)	100%
Others (53.47%)	78%

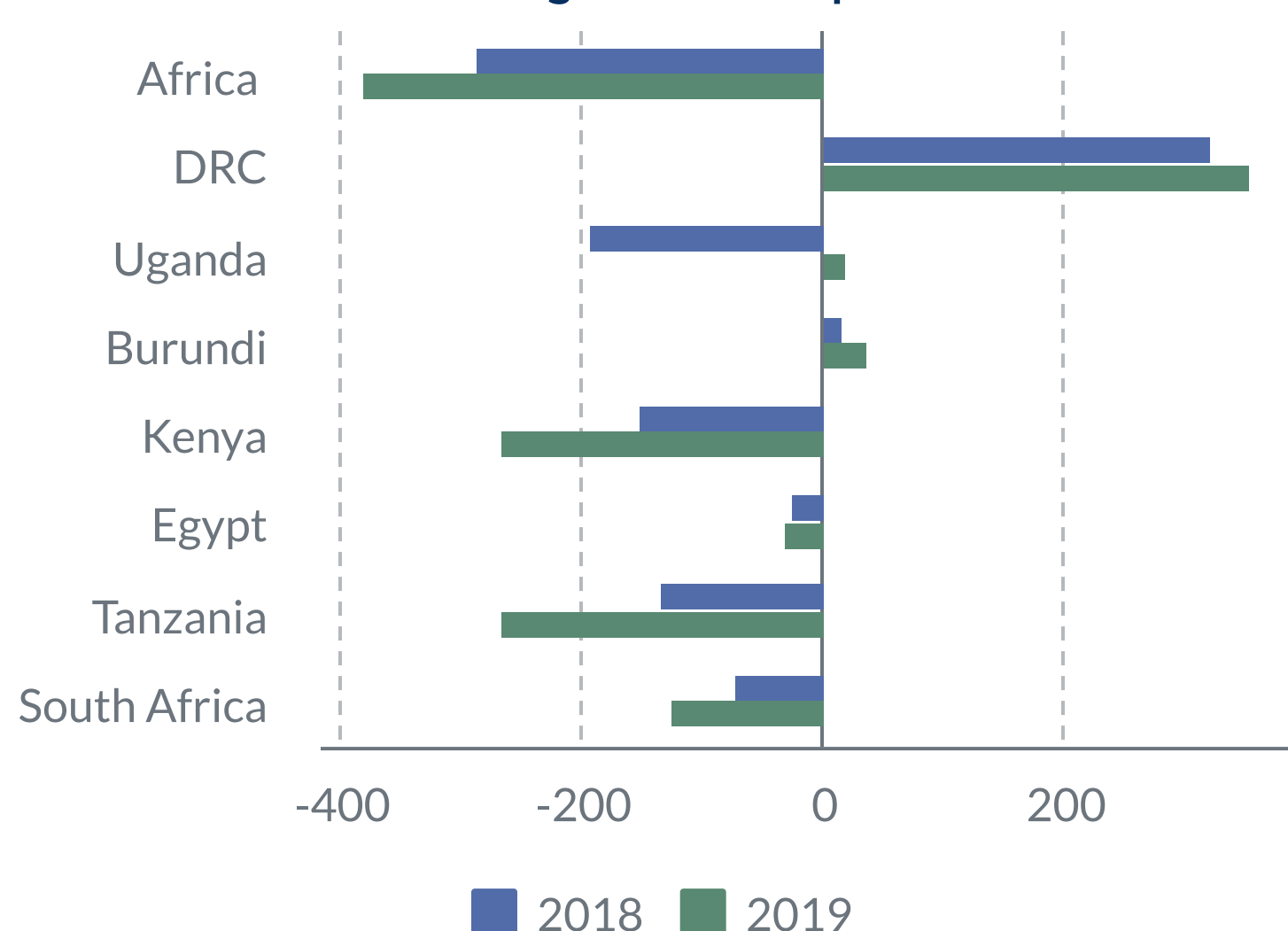
## Main source markets



## % 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

Goods imported into Rwanda from other EAC countries and the majority of COMESA member states enter duty-free. In COMESA the exceptions are goods imported from DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. African imports from outside the EAC and COMESA, DRC & Somalia are levied the MFN applied duty which is the EAC CET which has 7 tariff bands - duty-free, 10%, 25%, 35%, 50%, 60% and specific or combined duties.

1% of Rwanda's world exports and 1% of intra-Africa exports are to African countries outside EAC and COMESA. The main products export to outside EAC & COMESA include light and medium oils, telephone sets and insecticides. Outside EAC & COMESA, Rwanda mainly exports to Congo, South Africa, Niger, Ghana and Mozambique - accounting for 40%, 17%, 17%, 9% & 8% of the non-EAC & COMESA exports, respectively.

1% of Rwanda's world imports and 25% of intra-Africa imports are sourced from African countries outside EAC and COMESA. Rwanda mainly sources gold from African countries outside EAC and COMESA. Other imports include refined sugar, and diammonium phosphate. 82% of these imports are sourced from South Africa and Cameroon. Rwanda mainly import gold, iron and steel products, wood and passenger vehicles from South Africa; and gold from Cameroon.

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

**Duty-free 37%**  
seeds for sowing; crude seed oils; cocoa paste & butter; ores & concentrates; rough wood, wool & cotton; ferro-chromium; stainless steel products; construction & agricultural machinery; electric motors & generators; tractors & unassembled motor vehicles

**10% duties 20%**  
almonds & hazelnuts; malt & starches; refined seed oils; cocoa beans; oilcake; rubber tubes, fittings & conveyor belts; yarn; glass products; most flat-rolled iron products and vehicle & machinery parts

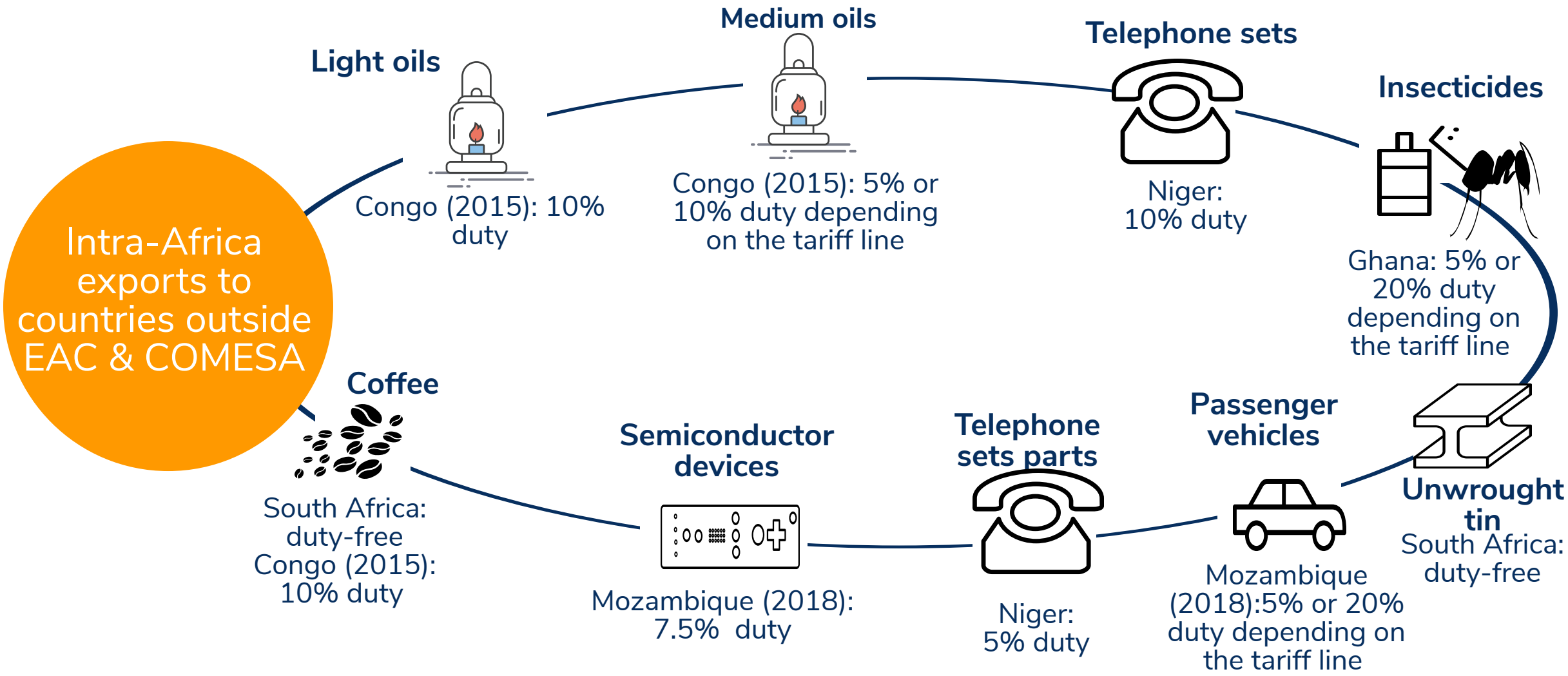
**25% duties 40%**  
most live animals; beef, pork, lamb & chicken; fish fillets; most fresh & dried vegetables & fruits; coffee, tea & spices; chocolate, pasta & pastries; Portland cement; beauty products & soaps; fabrics & clothing items and assembled vehicles

**35% duties 0.3%**  
hard wheat; cigarettes; water pipe tobacco; second-hand clothes, footwear and other items and primary cells & batteries

**50% duties 0.3%**  
maize; wheat & maize flour; traditional cotton woven fabrics and garments of these fabrics (Khanga, Kikoi & Kitenge) and cotton bed & table linen

**60% duties 0.3%**  
milk; milk powder; yogurt; buttermilk, kefir & other fermented milk products; fresh cheese & curd; grated, processed, blue-veined & other cheeses

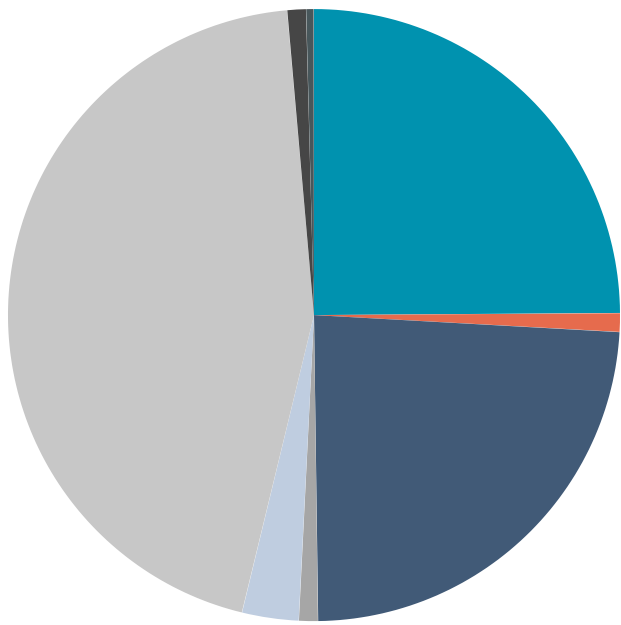
**specific/combined 0.9%**  
steel cladding; sugar; iron bars, rods, angles, shapes & sections; flat-rolled (hot or cold) iron or non-alloy steel products, angles, shapes & sections; plated flat-rolled iron products and rice



Rwanda's imports from outside EAC & COMESA

Products of which Rwanda's world imports are mainly sourced from the rest of Africa include coniferous wood, chewing tobacco, flat-rolled iron or non-alloy steel products, cigarett paper, frozen hake and fillets, ferro-manganese and chromium, orange oils, turkey meat or offals, frozen toothfish, non-alloy sheets, hoopwood, dried mushroom, roasted coffee, unspecified cadmium articles, unwrought nickel.

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



- duty-free (24.9%)
- duty-free to 5% duties (1%)
- >5%-10% duties (23.9%)
- >10%-15% duties (1%)
- >15%-20% duties (2.99%)
- >20%-25% duties (44.82%)
- >35%-50% duties (1%)
- >50% duties (0.4%)

- South Africa (54%)**
  - Gold (25% duty)
  - Flat-rolled iron or non-alloy steel products (in coils) (10% duty)
  - Coniferous wood (duty-free)
- Cameroon (29%)**
  - Gold & beauty products (25% duty)
  - Newspapers (duty-free)
- Burkina Faso (8%)**
  - Gold & wooden furniture (25% duty)
  - Printed books (duty-free)
- Morocco (5%)**
  - Diammonium phosphate(duty-free)
  - Prepared or preserved sardines & veterinary vaccines (25% duty-free)
- Mozambique (4%)**
  - Refined and raw sugar (25% duty)
- Nigeria (1%)**
  - Liquefied butanes (duty-free)
  - Soups & beauty products (25% duty)

Of the top 20 import products, 9 products are imported duty-free into Rwanda. These products include diammonium phosphate (input for the manufacturing of fertiliser), flat-rolled iron & non-alloy steel products, coniferous wood, rough wood, semi-finished iron or non-alloy steel products, liquefied butanes, veterinary vaccines, hot-rolled iron or non-alloy bars && rods, and semiconductor devices. The highest tariffs (25%) were applied to imports of gold, refined sugar, prepared or preserved sardines, and wooden furniture. A 10% duty was applied on imports of iron or non-alloy steel wire, tractor parts, flat-rolled iron or non-alloy steel products (in coils). Specific duties of 25% or US\$250/MT whichever is higher was applied on imports of flat-rolled (hot or cold) iron or non-alloy steel products. Imports of medium oils were imported duty-free or levied 10% or 25% duty depending on the tariff line. Passenger vehicles were imported duty-free (unassembled) or levied a 25% duty (assembled).