

# Tunisia

## intra-Africa trade & tariff profile 2019



### 1. Introduction

Tunisia is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD), Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA), the Arab-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (AGADIR) & the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

- COMESA has 21 member states, 17 of which are part of the COMESA Free Trade Area – the DRC and Somalia are yet to join and Eritrea & Ethiopia are in the process of accession.
- CENSAD currently has 24 member states aspiring to establish an Economic Union which includes the free movement of goods, services and commodities. There is currently no free trade agreement in place.
- PAFTA is an FTA between 18 Arab countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen).
- AGADIR provides for trade liberalisation among Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.
- Although the AMU Treaty calls for a gradual move towards the free circulation of goods. No progress has been made and there is no free trade agreement in place.

#### CENSAD

There is no trade agreement in place

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
CAR  
Chad  
Comoros  
Ivory Coast  
Djibouti  
Egypt  
Eritrea  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Tunisia

Niger  
Nigeria  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
Guinea-Bissau  
Libya  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Morocco  
Sudan  
Togo

#### AGADIR

All members of the FTA  
Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia & Jordan

#### PAFTA

All members of the FTA

Algeria  
Bahrain  
Egypt  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Saudi Arabia  
Tunisia  
UAE  
Yemen  
Sudan  
Syria  
Morocco  
Oman  
Qatar

#### COMESA

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

### 2. Intra-Africa trade

For 2019, 11% of Tunisia's world exports & 10% of world imports were to and from the rest of Africa. Intra-Africa exports amounted to US\$1.6 billion (2% less than in 2018). Intra-Africa imports were US\$2.1 billion (34% increase from 2018).

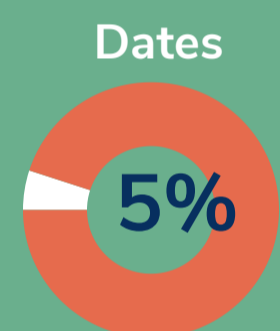
Tunisia's intra-Africa exports are mainly to countries which are also members of PAFTA/AGADIR - 77% of intra-Africa exports were destined for Libya, Algeria, Morocco & Egypt. Export products varies - from dates, margarine and pasta to cement, steel structures, trailers and sanitary products.

Tunisia also sources imports mainly from fellow AGADIR/PAFTA countries including Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya and Sudan. 77% of imports are petroleum products - petroleum gas and non-crude petroleum oils. Other imports include sugar, soaps, cocoa beans and frozen fish.

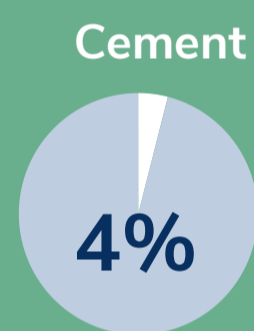
#### Main destination markets

Libya, Algeria, Morocco & Egypt

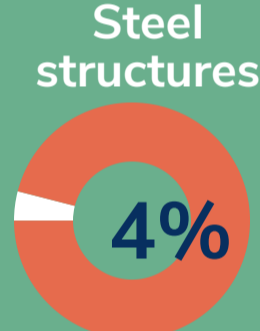
### Tunisia's intra-Africa trade 2019



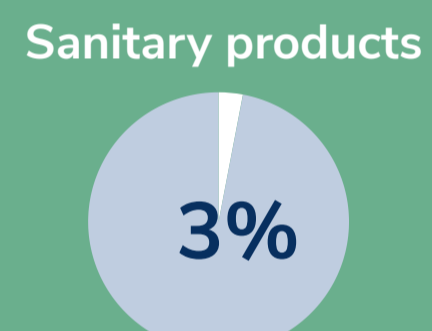
27% of Tunisia's world date exports



76% of Tunisia's world cement exports



60% of Tunisia's world exports of steel structures



90% of Tunisia's world exports of sanitary products



90% of Tunisia's world trailer exports

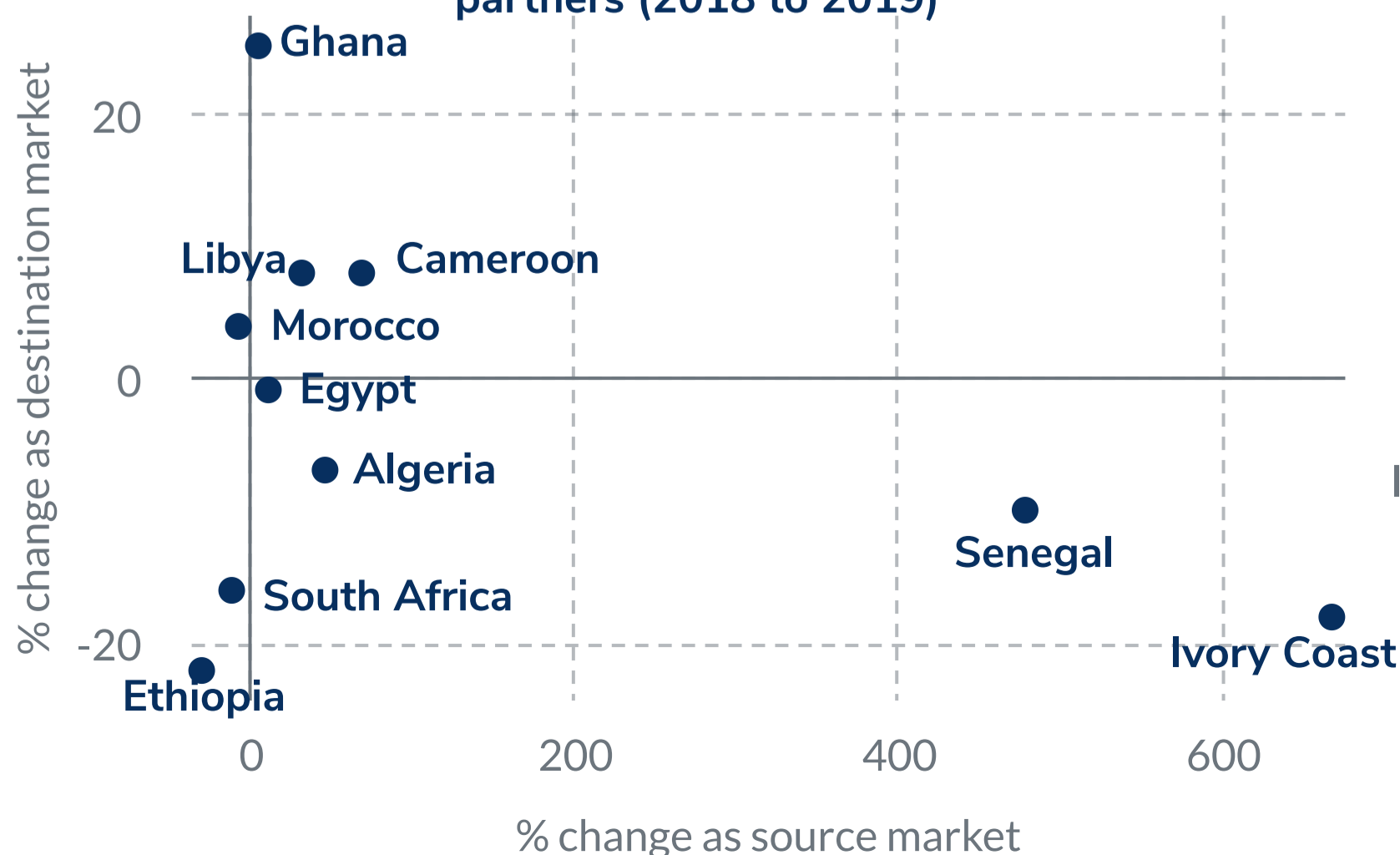
intra-Africa imports as % of world imports of designated products

Petroleum gas (63%)	91%
Petroleum oils (14%)	16%
Sugar in solid form (2%)	32%
Cotton woven fabrics (2%)	11%
Frozen fish (1%)	31%
Other oil seeds (1%)	94%
Other (17%)	

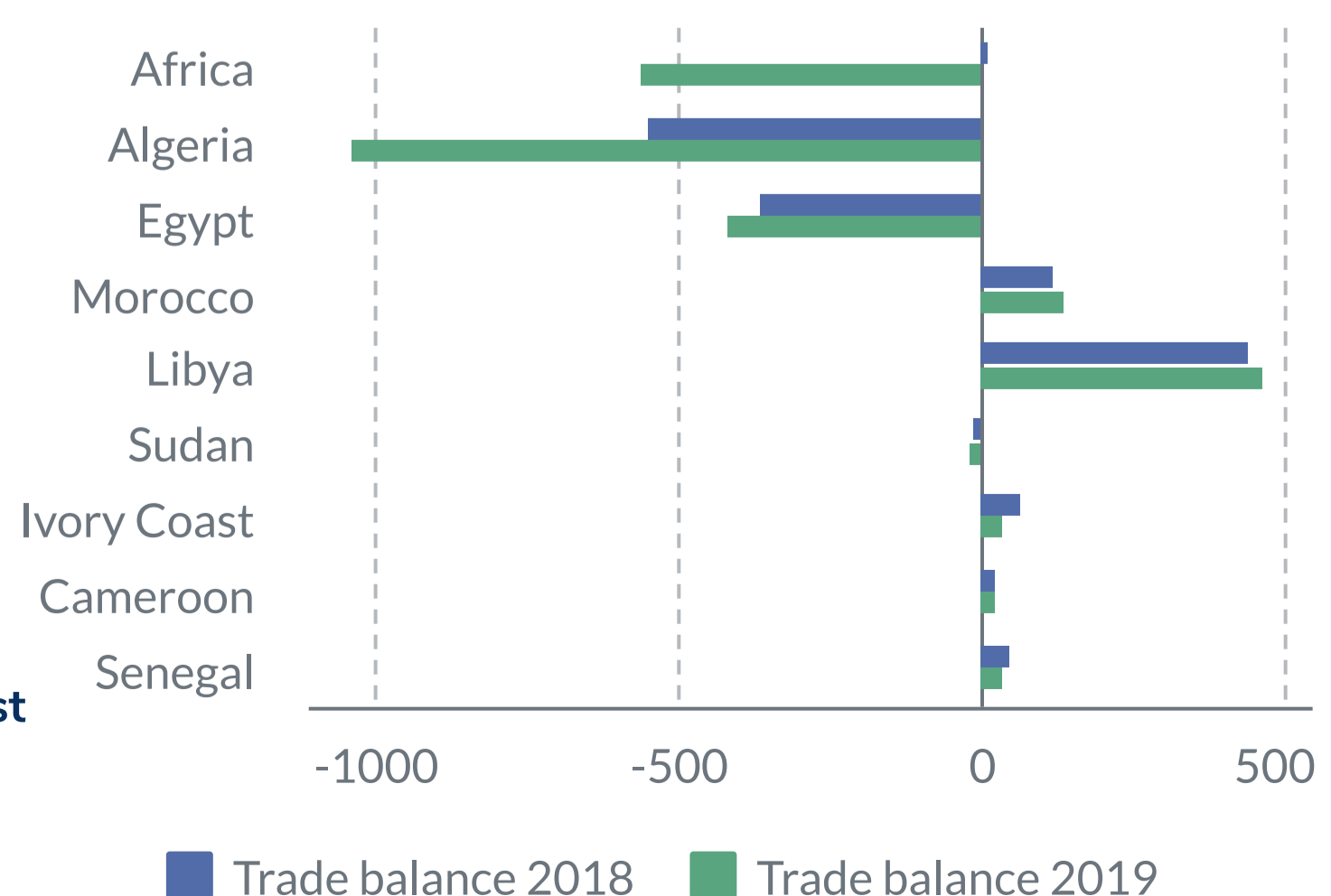
#### Main source markets



#### % 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 & non-tariff cost of trade**  
Most of the product imported into Tunisia from AGADIR, PAFTA and COMESA FTA member states enter the Tunisian market duty-free. Imports from African countries which are not members of these FTAs are levied the MFN applied tariff of Tunisia. The MFN applied tariff of Tunisia have seven tariff bands - duty-free, 7% duties, 10% duties, 15% duties, 27% duties, 30% duties and 36% duties.

For 2019, 2% of world exports and 20% of intra-Africa exports were to African countries outside AGADIR, PAFTA & COMESA. These exports were mainly to countries which are members of CENSAD (and ECOWAS) including Ivory Coast, Senegal and Ghana. 8% of exports were also to Cameroon. The main export products include gypsum plasters, margarine, cement clinkers, electric conductors and trailers and semi-trailers for goods transport.

Only 0.2% of world imports and 2% of intra-Africa imports were sourced from African countries outside AGADIR, PAFTA and COMESA. 56% of imports were from the ECOWAS (and CENSAD) countries of Ivory Coast and Senegal and 13% from South Africa. Imports are mainly cocoa beans and frozen fish; however, Tunisia does import quite a bit of tropical wood from central African countries like Cameroon.

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

**Duty-free 27%**  
fresh flowers, cassava roots, sugar, raw cocoa beans, pasta, natural sand and stone, cement, petroleum products, medicines, wool, cotton, stainless steel products & passenger vehicles

**7% duty 0.2%**  
green and black fermented tea, whole locust beans, oilcake, grape marc, horse chestnuts, vegetable plant waste and beet pulp molasses

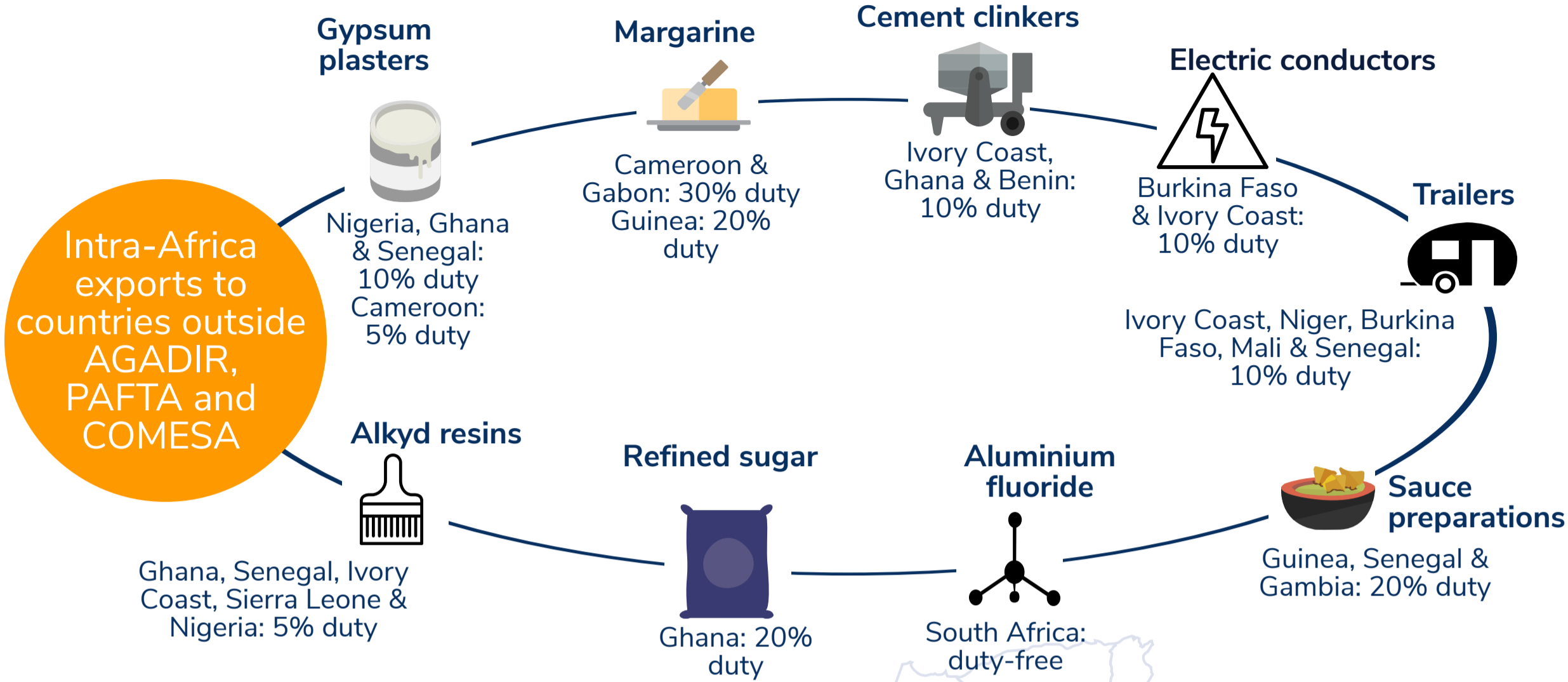
**10% duty 16%**  
fish, chemical sugars, roasted cocoa beans, wood and wooden products, paper and paper products, precious stones, steel forms and profiles and tractors

**15% duty 12%**  
live poultry, crustaceans, coffee, tea, spices, rice, malt, undenatured ethyl alcohol, animal feed preparations, woven fabrics, ambulances and motorcycle parts, tobacco & cigarettes

**27% duty 7%**  
eggs, cocoa paste and butter, ethylene tubes and pipes, pneumatic tyres, skins and hides, tropical wood, second-hand clothes and vehicle parts

**30% duties 20%**  
perfumes, soaps and organic surface agents, plastic bags, leather, briefcases and luggage, carpets, clothing, yachts, fibre optics and video game consoles

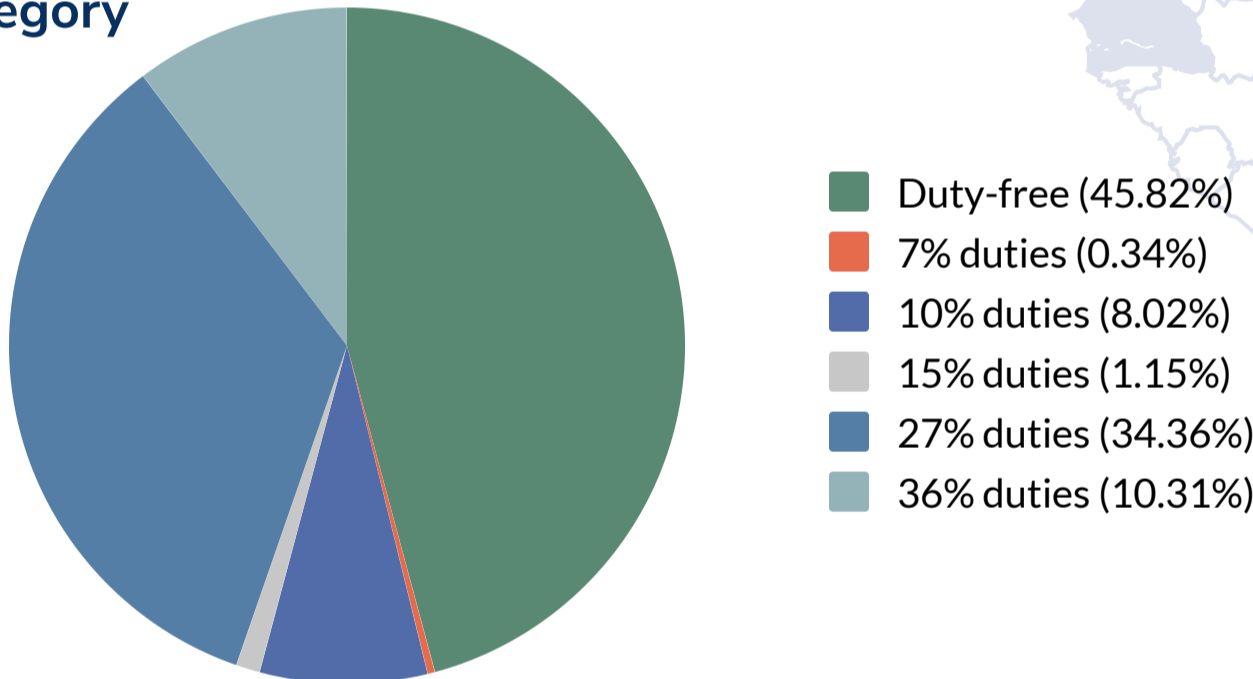
**36% duties 7%**  
most live animals and animal products, fish fillets, milk and cream, yoghurt and cheese, fruit and vegetables, wheat and flour, sugar confectionery, chocolate and fruit marmalade and purees



**Tunisia's imports from outside AGIDIR, COMESA & PAFTA and corresponding import duties**

Some of the only products of which significant portions of world imports are sourced from African countries outside AGADIR, PAFTA & COMESA include cocoa beans, primary cell waste, Sapelli wood & goat hides. Only 8%, 3% and 6% of respective world imports of coffee, goods vehicles and bananas are sourced from these African countries.

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



Of the top 20 import products only four products are imported duty-free. Cocoa beans, the main import product is imported either duty-free or at an import duty of 10% depending on whether the beans are raw or roasted. 15% duties are levied on imports of coffee, fish flour and goat hides; 27% duties on imports of goods vehicles, most frozen fish and sheets for veneering and 30% duties on imports of primary cell battery scrap and waste. 36% duties are levied on unspecified frozen fish and frozen sardines.

- Ivory Coast (34%)**
  - Cocoa beans (duty-free (raw) or 10% duty (roasted))
  - Coffee (15% duty)
  - Bananas (fresh 10% duty; dried 36% duty)
- Ghana (22%)**
  - Cocoa beans (duty-free or 10% duty)
  - Frozen fish (27 duty)
- South Africa (13%)**
  - Goods vehicles (27% duty)
  - Passenger vehicles & carbonised wool (duty-free)
- Senegal (11%)**
  - Frozen fish (27% duty)
- Cameroon (4%)**
  - Sapelli wood (10% duty)
  - Coffee (15% duty)

**The non-tariff cost of bilateral trade between Tunisia & 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 the cost of agricultural goods trade with all trade partners (except Kenya) are higher than the cost of trading manufactured goods. Agricultural goods trade with most African countries is more costly than trading with France, Germany, Russia, UK and Brazil. The cost of manufactured goods trade with Kenya is more than double the cost of trading with any other country.

