

# Benin: Intra-Africa trade and tariff profile 2020



## Regional Economic Communities

Benin is part of two Regional Economic Communities (RECs) - the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD). Benin has signed the AfCFTA but has not deposited its instrument of ratification. However, its schedule of tariff concessions, will be similar to other ECOWAS member states.



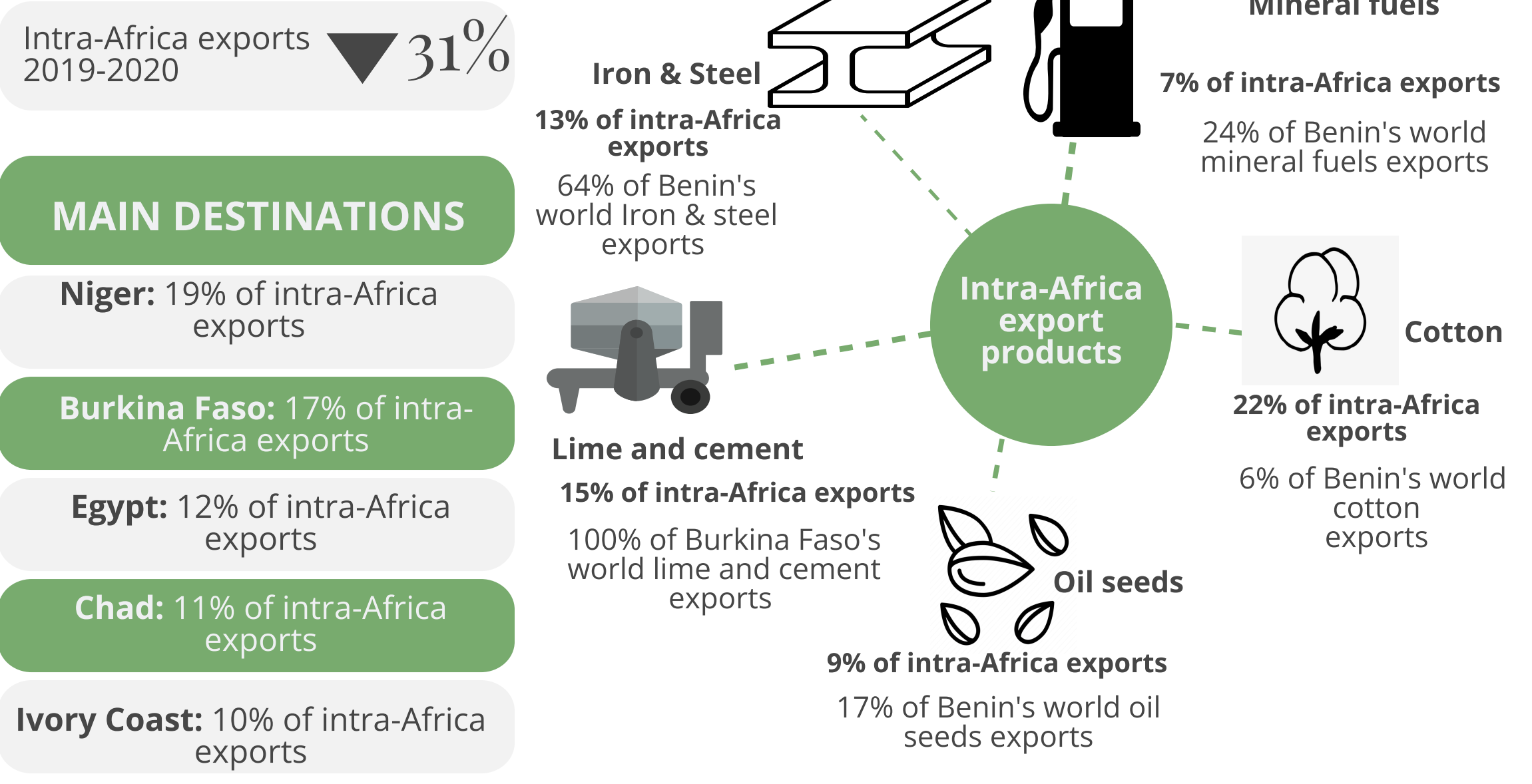
CEN-SAD currently has 24 member states aspiring to establish an Economic Union for the free movement of goods, services and commodities. There is currently no free trade agreement in place.



ECOWAS has 15 member states. All member states are part of the ECOWAS Free Trade Area (FTA), 14 of which are in the process of implementing the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET). Qualifying imports from approved ECOWAS producers are imported into Nigeria duty-free, and Nigeria applies the ECOWAS CET on imports from outside the REC.

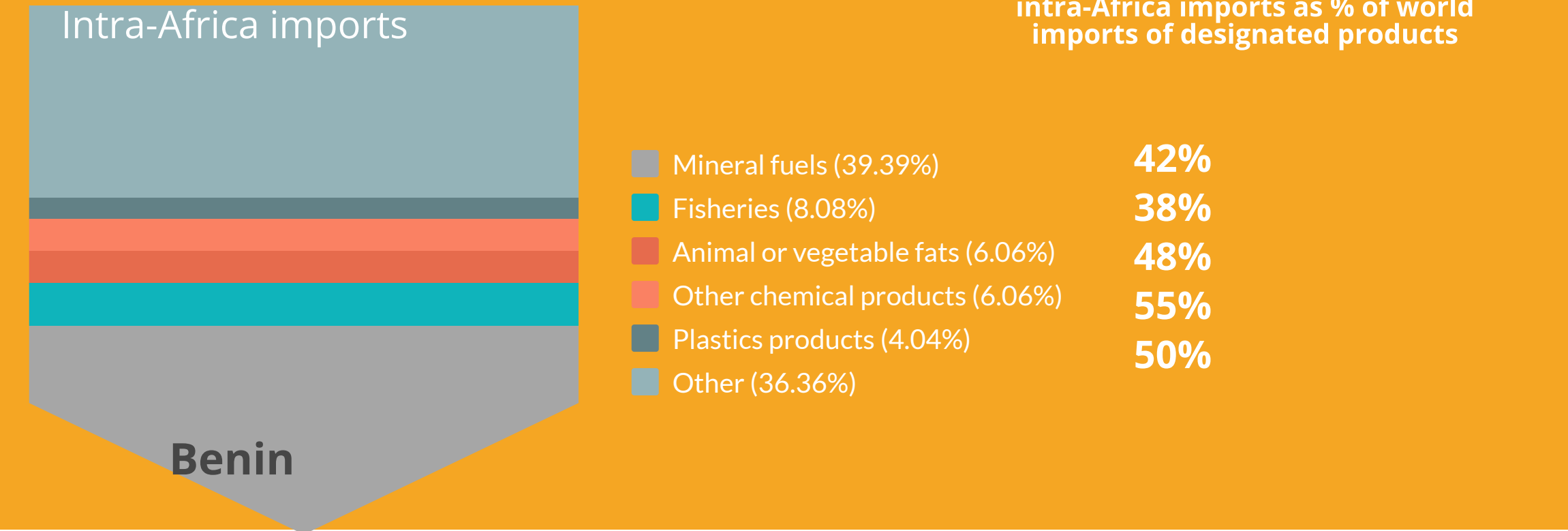
## Intra-Africa exports

In 2020, 15% of Benin's world exports were to the rest of Africa. Apart from South Africa, the main African destination markets were other CEN-SAD and ECOWAS countries. The value for 2020 intra-Africa exports was US\$123 million. The main export products were cotton, lime and cement, iron & steel and oils seeds



## Intra-Africa imports

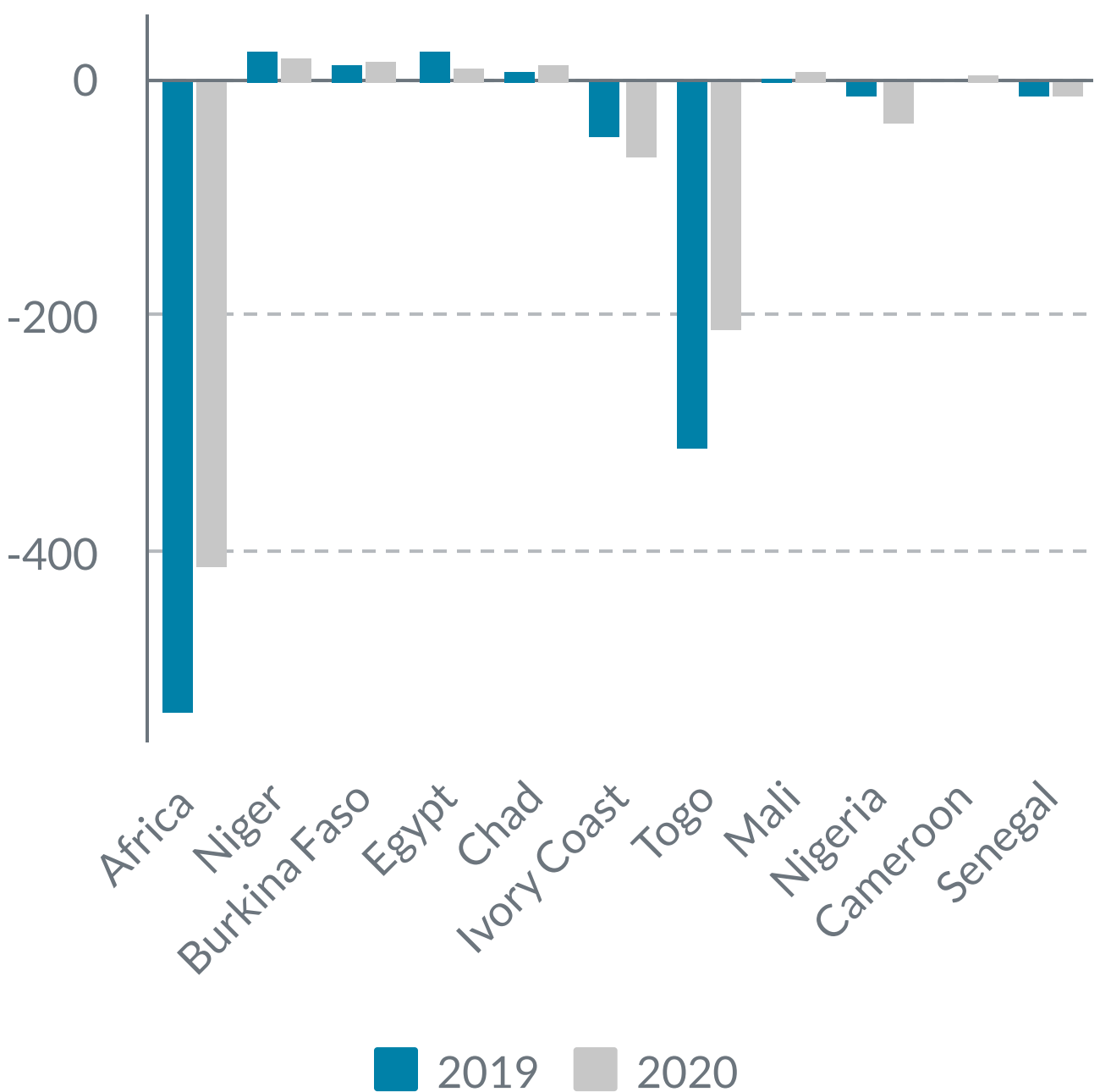
In 2020, 21% of Benin's world imports were intra-Africa imports. Benin's intra-Africa imports were mainly from Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria. Between 2019 and 2020, intra-Africa imports decreased by 25%. Mineral fuels, fisheries and animal or vegetable fats were the main import products.



## % change in exports and imports (2019 to 2020)

Niger	Exports: 13% decline Imports: 206% increase
Burkina Faso	Exports: 6% increase Imports: 0% no change
Egypt	Exports: 50% decline Imports: 16% decline
Chad	Exports: 141% increase Imports: 4500% increase
Ivory Coast	Exports: 14% increase Imports: 37% increase
Togo	Exports: 32% increase Imports: 31% decline

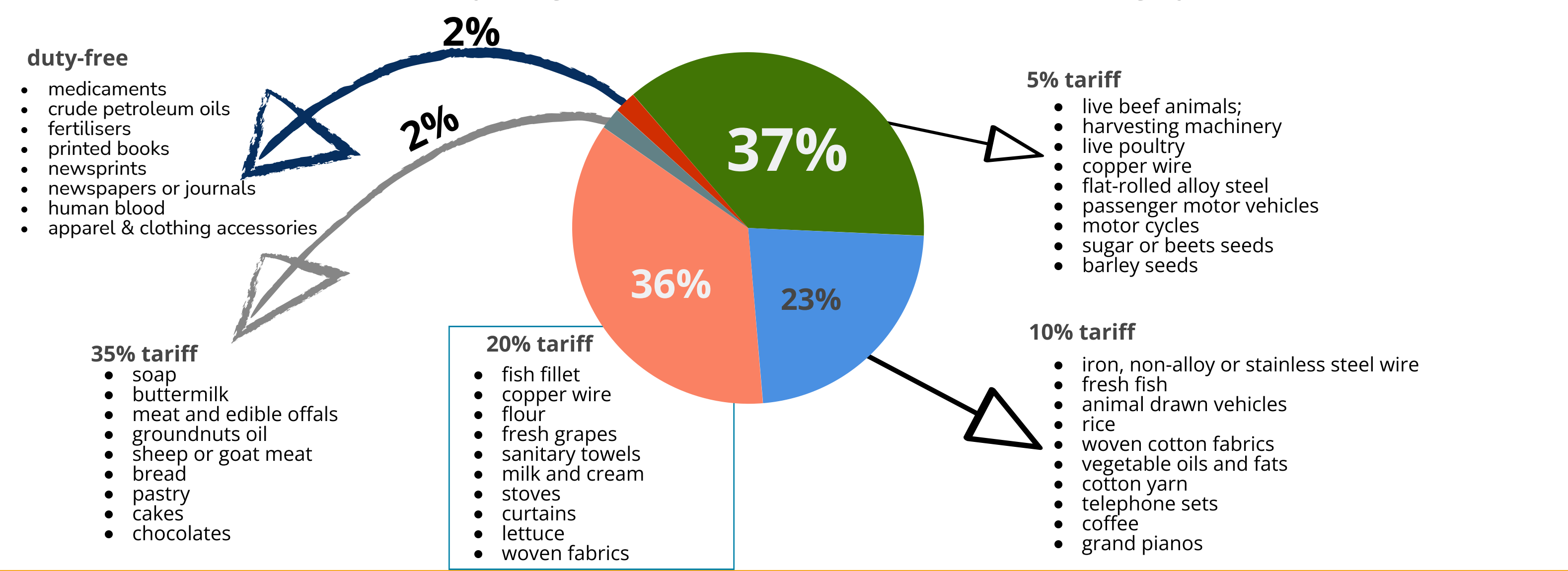
## Trade balance with designated countries (US\$m)



Intra-Africa tariffs

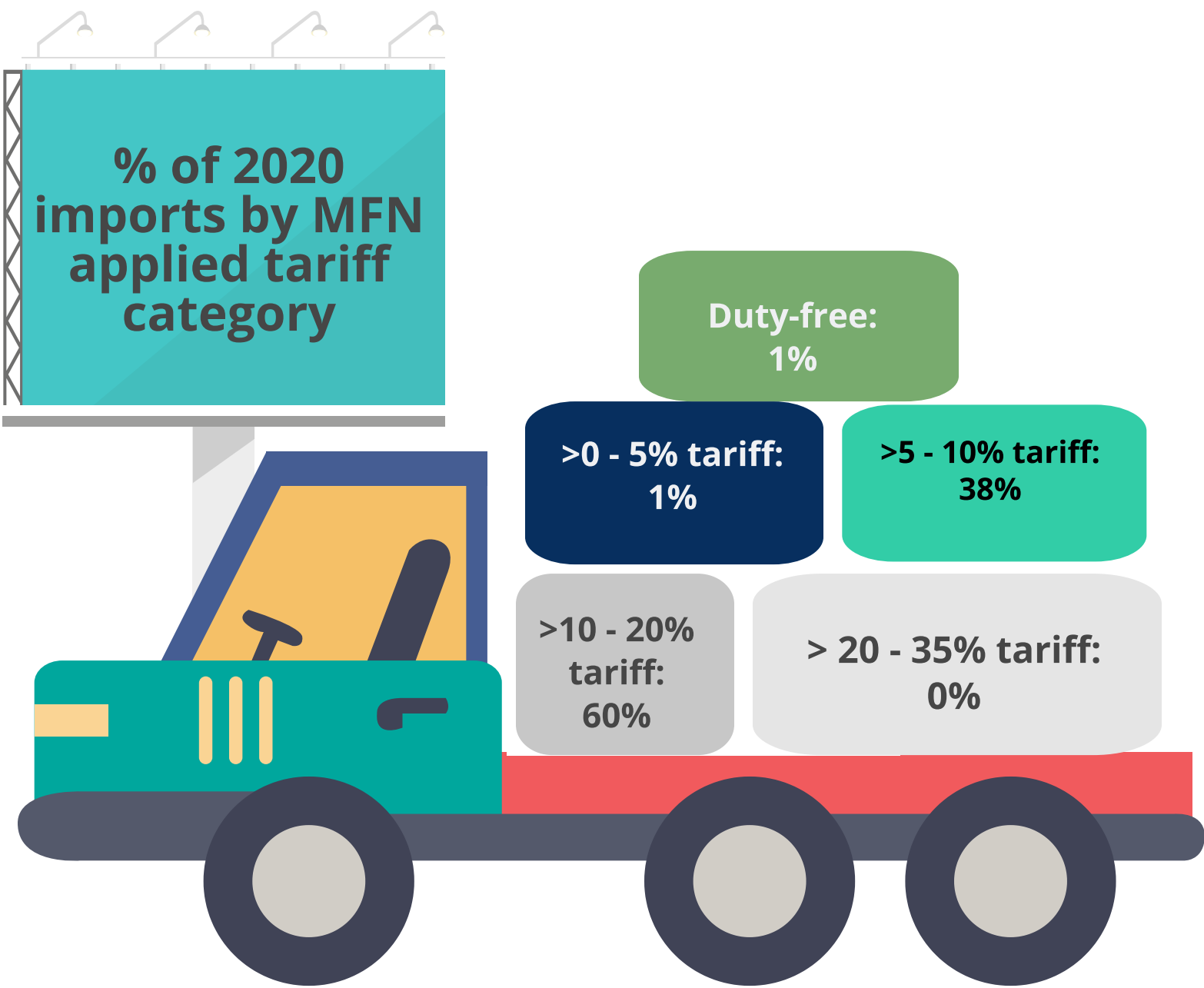
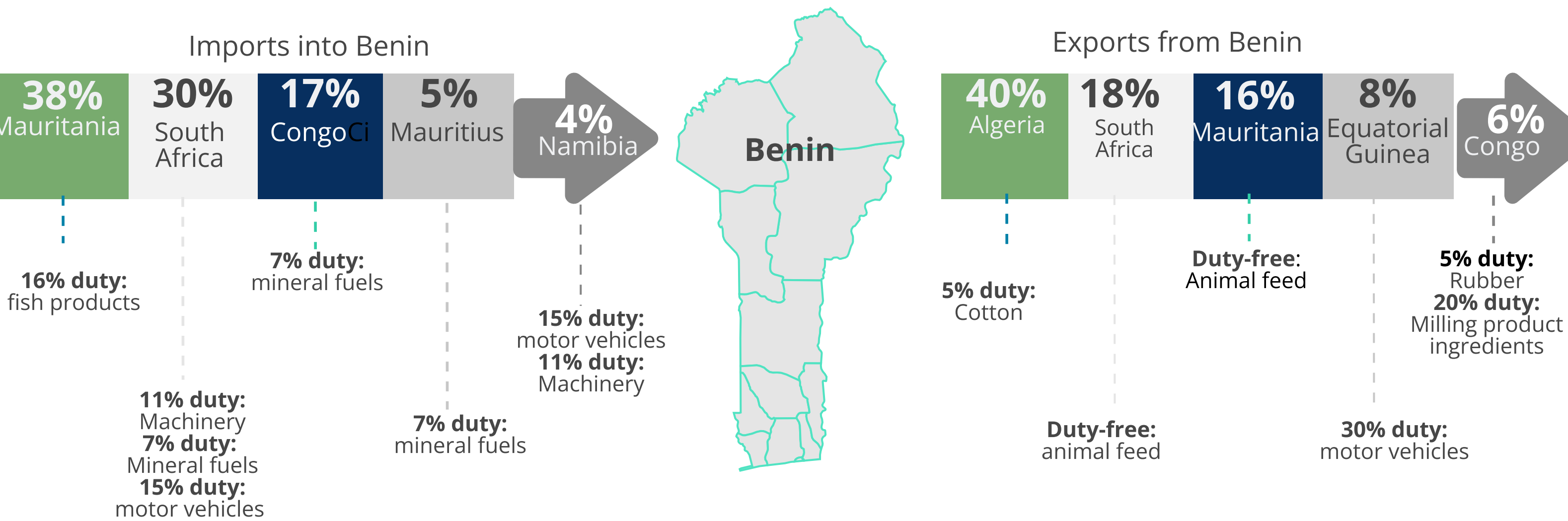
Qualifying goods from ECOWAS member states enter into Benin duty-free, while imports from CEN-SAD countries, which are not ECOWAS member states (including Egypt, Morocco, Somalia & Tunisia) and the rest of Africa are levied the MFN applied duty, which is the ECOWAS CET. The ECOWAS CET has five tariff bands - duty-free, 5%, 10%, 20% and 35%.

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



Trade with African countries outside ECOWAS

Less than 1% of the world and only 3% of intra-Africa exports were to African countries not members of ECOWAS and CEN-SAD in 2020. 40% of this was cotton exports. Other top exports included animal feed, motor vehicles and animal or vegetable fats. In terms of imports, 3% of the world and 15% of intra-Africa imports were sourced from countries outside ECOWAS and CEN-SAD. Imports were concentrated and included mineral fuels, iron & steel and machinery.



Outside of ECOWAS and CEN-SAD, Benin has limited trade with other non-member African countries. Intra-Africa trade exports (imports) remain very low at 15% which is less than the continental average of 18%

None of the top 20 imported products enters duty-free into Burkina Faso. The highest tariffs (35% duty) apply to imports of used vehicles with a petrol engine.

A 20% duty is levied on imports of fresh apples, non-wovens, and parts imported by motor vehicle assemblers and manufacturers.

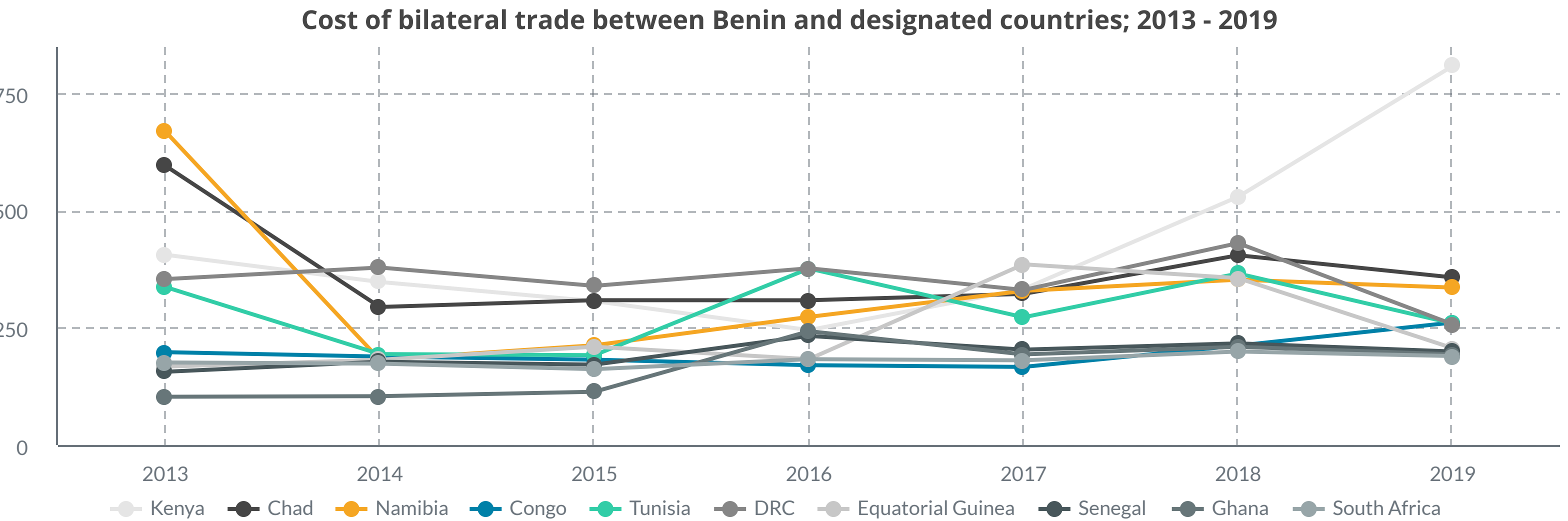
Imports of chemical products, plasters, drink industry extracts, mackerel, crown corks and frozen horse mackerel face a 10% duty.


A 5% duty is applicable to imports of:

- substances used in the food or drink industries
- black fermented tea
- hides and skins
- polyvinyl chloride




**Non-tariff trade costs**  
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. Benin's trade with some African countries (including Kenya, Chad, Namibia, Congo and Tunisia ) is more costly than trade with Malaysia, India, Brazil, and China. The cost of Benin's trade with South Africa is less than with Equatorial Guinea, DRC, Chad, Kenya and Senegal.






Most costly export to South Africa via road transportation is gin (US\$10.62 per unit)




Road transport of light oils:

- Namibia US\$43.52 per unit
- South Africa (US\$0.06 per unit)
- Ivory Coast (US\$0.02 per unit)




Yams exports:

- Cameroon (US\$0.88 per unit)
- Mali (US\$1.20 per unit)
- South Africa (US\$0.19 per unit)




Per unit cost of transporting apple juice:

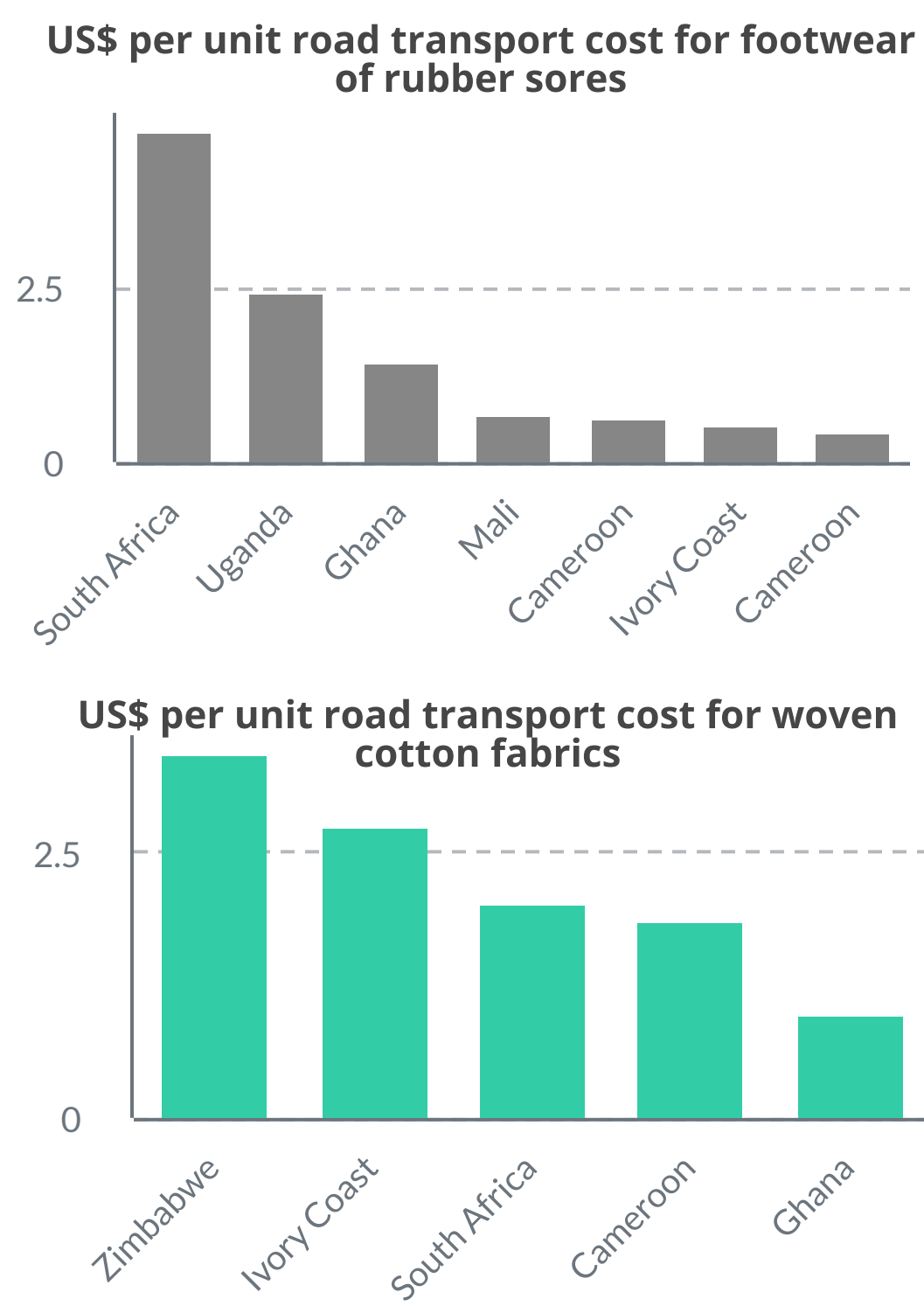
- Cameroon (US\$1.24)
- Mali (US\$0.35)
- South Africa (US\$0.59)



The most costly products to export to Ghana: transmission belts, non-alcoholic beverages, acrylic acid and framed glass mirrors



The per unit cost of transporting mineral waters (US\$8.55) to Uganda, is higher than the cost of transporting gaskets (US\$5.59).



**Transportation costs**  
The UNCTAD transport cost database measures the cost of bilateral transport by product. Transport cost is defined as the difference between the Cost, Insurance and Freight value and Free on Board value of goods. Transport cost across all modes of transport (road, rail, air, and sea) is included. The initial data is for 2016, but is in the process of being updated.

**DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT DATA REPORTED FOR BENIN, DATA PRESENTED AS REPORTED BY NIGERIA IS USED AND SHOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS INDICATIVE OF REGIONAL COSTS DUE TO THE PROXIMITY OF BENIN TO NIGERIA**

**Trade in services**  
The WTO-OECD Balanced Trade in Services Dataset (BaTiS) is an experimental dataset which contains a complete, consistent and balanced matrix of international trade in services. Statistics cover the period 2005-2019, for over 200 reporters and partners, and 12 EBOPS 2010 categories in addition to total services.

