

# MAURITANIA: Intra-Africa trade and tariff profile 2020

## Regional Economic Communities

Mauritania is a member of two African Regional Economic Community – the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the Arab Magreb Union (AMU).

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) entered into force on 30 May 2019.

Mauritania ratified the AfCFTA in February 2019.

It has submitted its tariff offer together with ECOWAS and verified by the AfCFTA to start trading

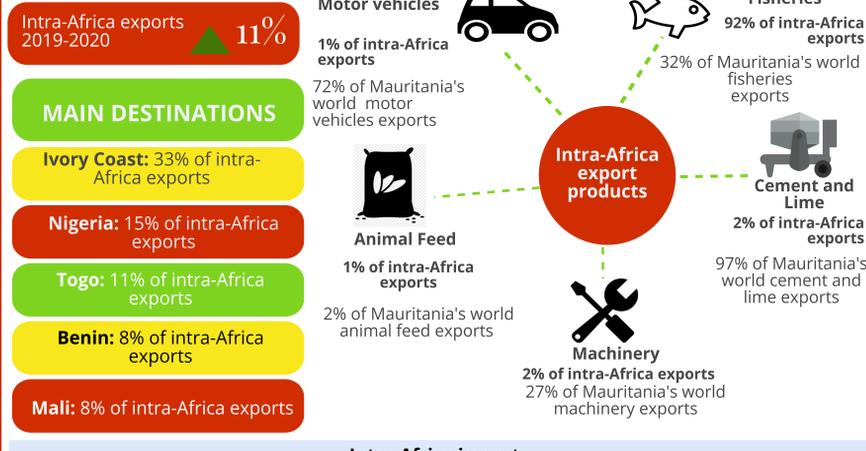


CEN-SAD currently has 24 member states aspiring to establish an Economic Union for the free movement of goods, services and commodities. There is currently no free trade agreement in place.



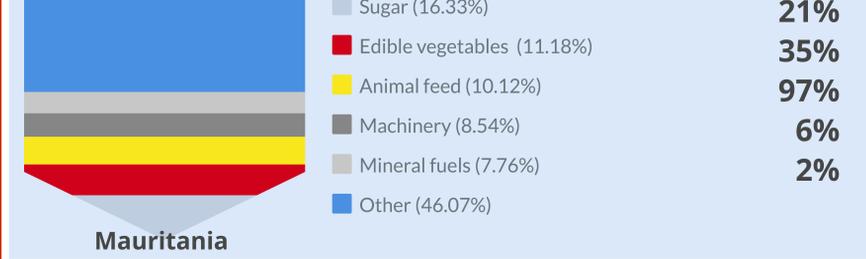
## Intra-Africa exports

For 2020, 8% of Mauritania's world exports were to the rest of Africa. Mauritania's main African destination markets are neighbouring states, the bulk of which were destined to the Ivory Coast (33%). Other destinations were Nigeria, Togo, Benin and Mali. The value of 2020 intra-Africa exports was about US\$232 million. The main export products were fisheries, accounting for 92% of total intra-Africa exports.



## Intra-Africa imports

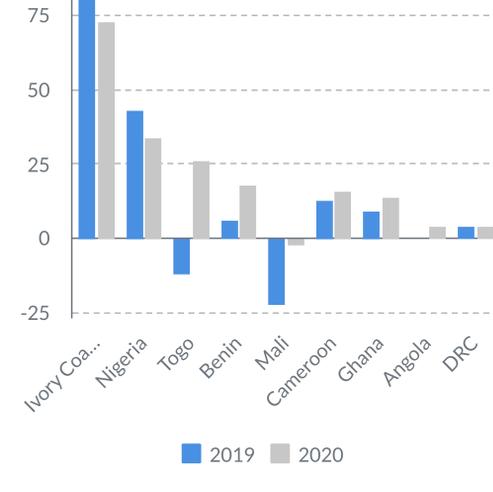
For 2020, 8% of Mauritania's world imports were intra-Africa imports. 83% of Mauritania's intra-Africa imports were sourced from Morocco, Algeria, South Africa, Mali and Senegal. Between 2019 and 2020, Mauritania's intra-Africa imports declined by 27%. Sugar, edible vegetables and animal feed were the main import products.



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

Country	Exports Change	Imports Change
Ivory Coast	Exports: 11% decline	Imports: 16% decline
Nigeria	Exports: 22% decline	Imports: 0% no change
Togo	Exports: 303% increase	Imports: 100% decline
Benin	Exports: 224% increase	Imports: 395% increase
Mali	Exports: 27% increase	Imports: 44% decline
Cameroon	Exports: 21% increase	Imports: 89% decline

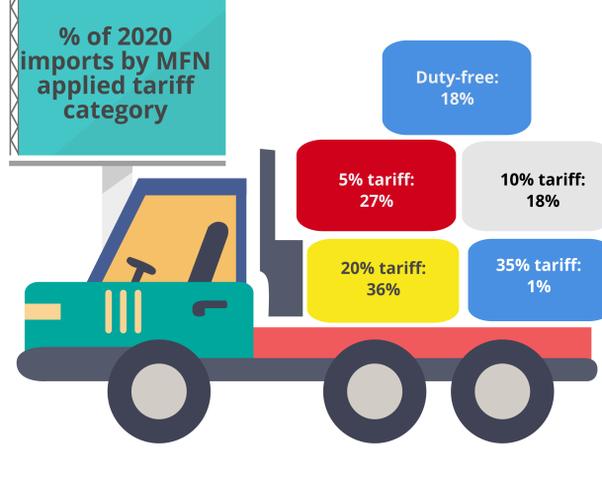
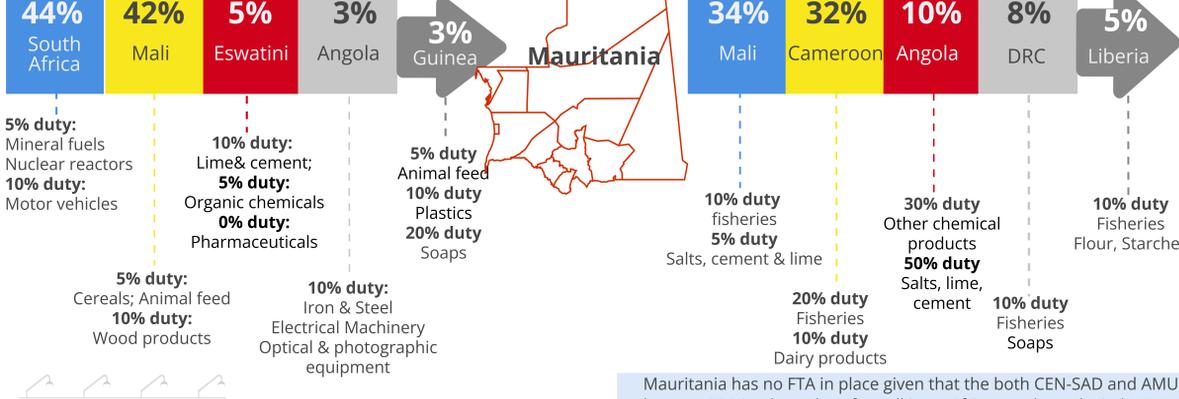
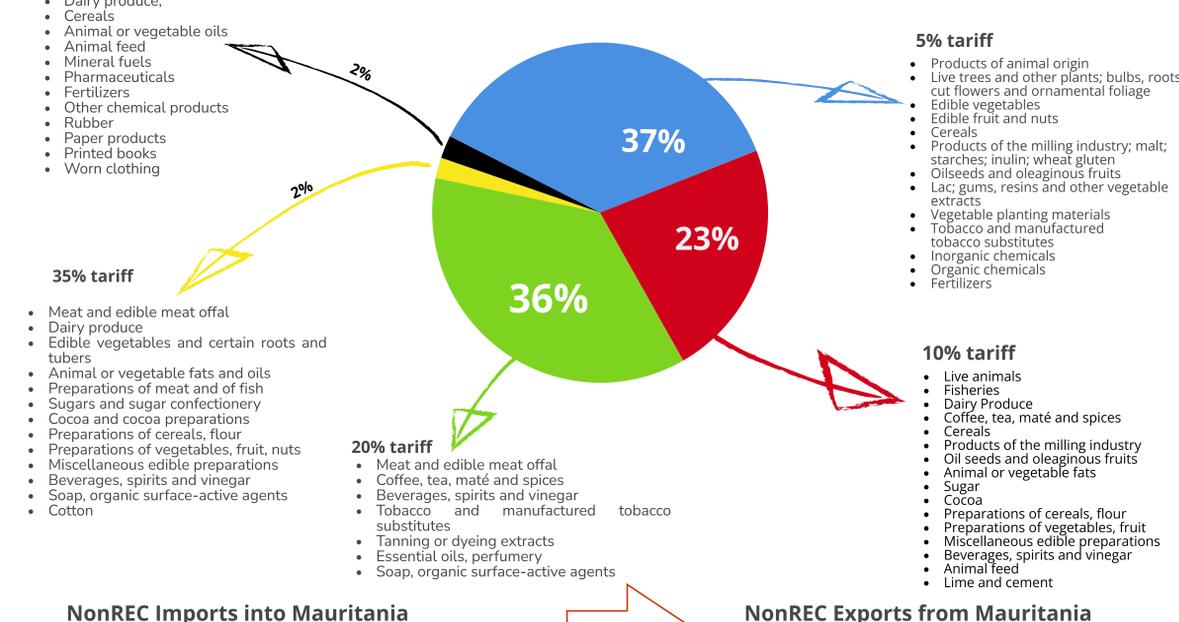
## Trade balance with designated countries (US\$m)



## Intra-Africa tariffs

Goods imported into Mauritania from other African countries are levied the MFN applied duty. Mauritania's MFN is similar to ECOWAS and has 5 tariff bands - duty-free, 5%, 10%, 20% and 35%. The 5th tariff band is meant for sensitive products

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



Mauritania has no FTA in place given that the both CEN-SAD and AMU have no FTA in place, therefore all intra-Africa goods are levied MFN tariff rates. Important to note that Mauritania's tariff book follows the ECOWAS CET tariff bands and therefore goods classified under five tariff bands:

- Duty Free:** Essential social goods
- 5% duty:** Goods of primary necessity, raw goods and Capital Goods.
- 10% duty:** Intermediate goods and inputs
- 20% duty:** Final Consumption goods or finished goods
- 35% duty:** Specific Goods for Economic Development

The bulk of intra-Africa trade however occurs with CEN-SAD member states (78%).

Non-REC intra-Africa trade accounts of about 22% of Mauritania's total intra-Africa trade

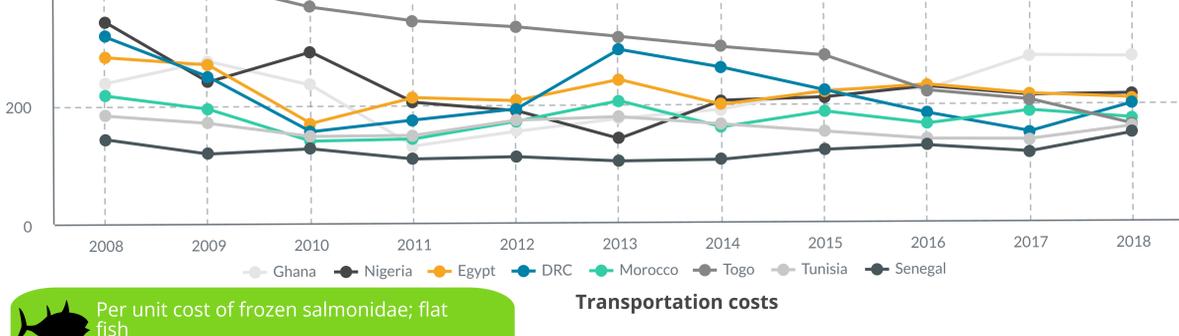
Non-REC intra-Africa imports include animal feed; machinery; mineral fuels and motor vehicles

Non-REC intra-Africa exports include mostly fisheries (85%); salts, sulphur, lime & cement (6%); other chemicals (3%) and machinery (2%)

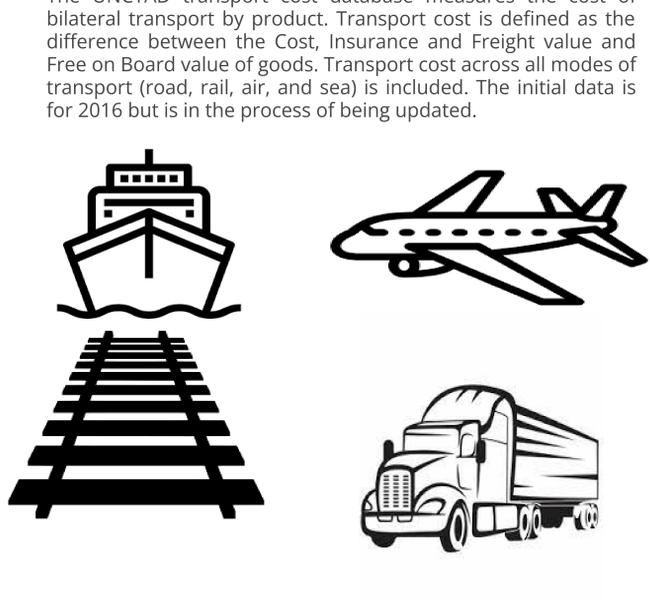
## Non-tariff trade costs

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. Mauritania's trade with many African countries (including Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Benin and Zimbabwe) is more expensive than trade with non-African countries such as Russia, Switzerland, the UK, Brazil, India, France, Germany, Italy and China.

## Cost of bilateral trade between Mauritania and designated countries; 2010-2018



- Per unit cost of frozen salmonidae; flat fish: Togo (US\$ 0.03)
- Per unit cost of Motor vehicles: Togo (US\$2,712)
- Fresh or chilled jack and horse mackerel: Angola (US\$6.41 per unit)
- Per unit cost of Perfumes and toilet waters: Angola (US\$ 24.13)
- Per unit cost of Buckets, shovels, grabs and grips for machinery: Angola (US\$2.52)
- Wrist-watches: Angola (US\$19.55 per unit)
- Wheat or meslin flour - kilograms: Angola (US\$4.52 per unit)



## 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, over 200 reporters and partners, and 12 EBOPS 2010 categories in addition to total services.

## Total Services Trade Exports and Imports (2016 - 2019)



Sources: ITC TradeMap for trade in goods, ITC Market Access Map for tariffs; World Bank for non-ITC trade costs; UNCTAD for transportation costs; and WTO for trade in services