

MAURITIUS TRADE & TARIFF UPDATE (2021)

Regional Economic Communities

- Mauritius is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
- Mauritius ratified the AfCFTA in October 2019 and has submitted its tariff schedule of concessions

COMESA

- COMESA has 21 member states, 17 of which are part of the COMESA Free Trade Area.
- DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia are all in the process of acceding to the COMESA FTA

Members of the COMESA FTA:

- Burundi
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Eswatini
- Kenya
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

SADC

- SADC is a Regional Economic Community with 16 member states - all the SACU countries, Angola, DRC, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mauritius, Mozambique and Malawi.
- 13 SADC member states are members of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA).
- Comoros and DRC are yet to join the FTA.
- Angola has submitted its tariff offer to join the SADC FTA.

- Botswana
- Eswatini
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Seychelles
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Intra-Africa total trade (imports & exports) 2021

16%

Mauritius's intra-Africa trade as share of its Global trade

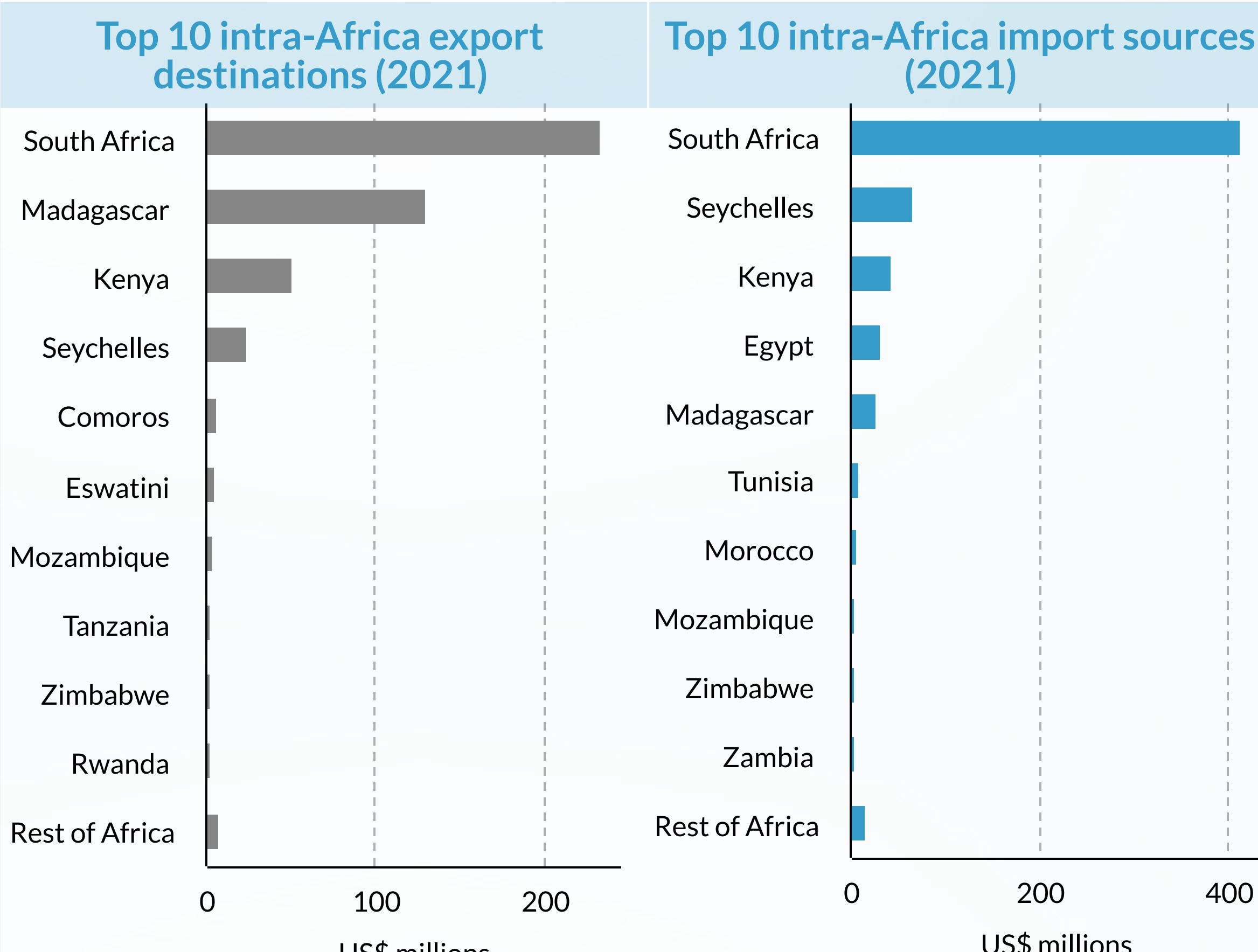
US\$1.1 bn

Mauritius's intra-Africa trade in 2021

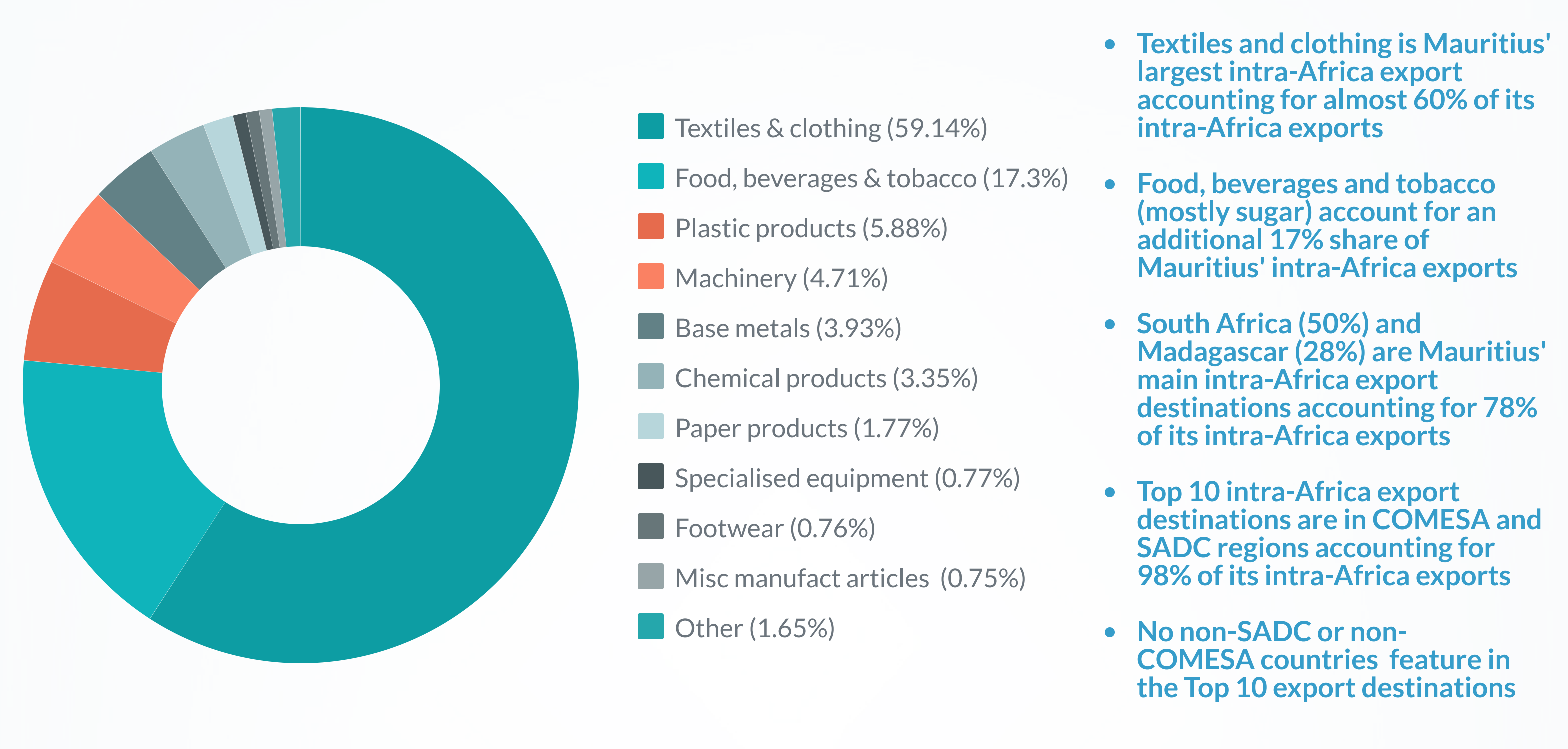
Mauritius is a net importer with Africa

Exports accounted for only 43% (US\$468 million) of its intra-Africa trade in 2021

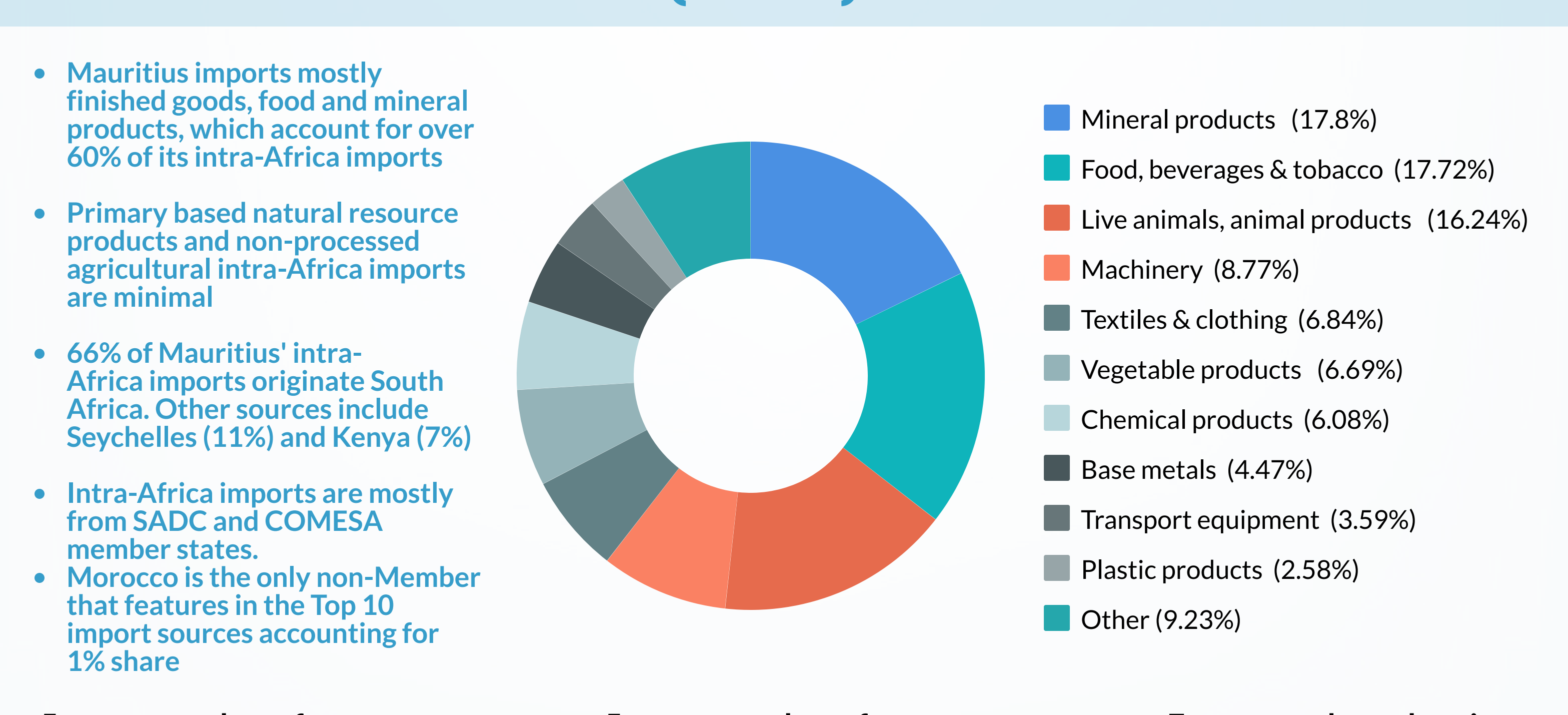
- Double digit intra-Africa trade growth recorded over the 2020 and 2021 period
- Intra-Africa exports were affected by Covid-19 disruptions since in 2020
- Intra-Africa exports have exceeded the 2019 levels by over US\$23 million in 2021 having declined by about US\$56 million in 2020
- Intra-Africa imports were affected by Covid-19 and have recovered after a decline in 2020, however have not reached the 2019 levels



Mauritius' intra-Africa exports by product group (2021)



Mauritius' intra-Africa imports by product group (2021)



5 year growth performance (exports)

Mauritius' intra-Africa exports have remained relatively stagnant increasing by only 1% (CAGR) over review period 2017 - 2021

Exports to top destinations South Africa and Madagascar grew by 1% and 6% (CAGR) respectively over review period 2017 - 2021

Base metals, Specialised equipment and raw hides recorded the highest growth rates of 39%, 18% & 15% (CAGR) respectively over review period 2017 - 2021

5 year growth performance (imports)

Mauritius intra-Africa imports have been declining by 2% (CAGR) over review period 2017 - 2021.

Top import supplier South Africa's, exports to Mauritius declined by 2% (CAGR) over the review period (2017-2021)

Machinery, Base Metals and Wood products recorded the highest growth rates of 12%, 11% and 7% (CAGR) respectively for period (2017-2021)

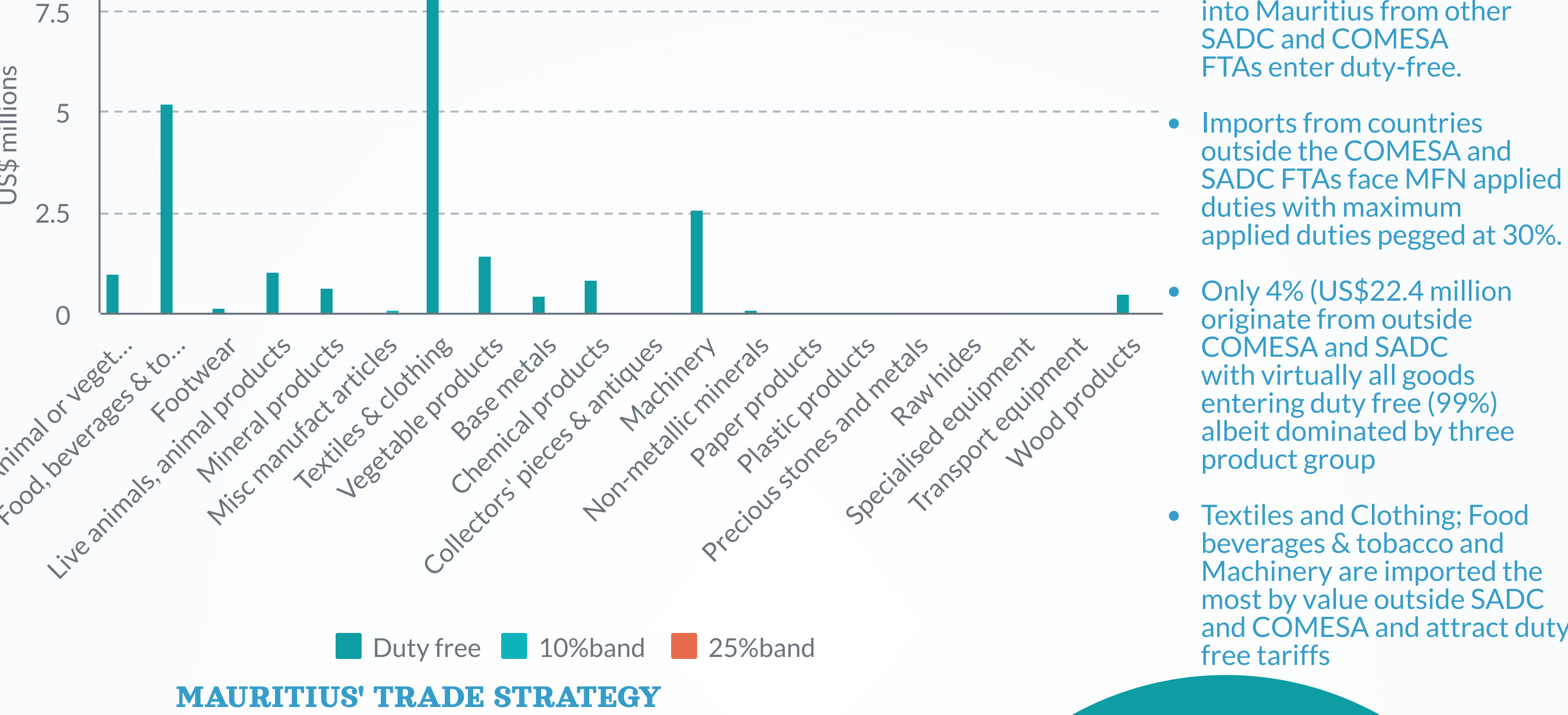
Export markets showing significant growth

Mauritius is yet to harness its full potential.

Half of Mauritius' exports are destined to South Africa and there is need for the country to expand beyond SADC and COMESA

Mauritius should prioritise development of strategic sectors such as pharmaceuticals, clothing and textiles, food, education, and financial services under AfCFTA in order to drive economic transformation.

MARKET ACCESS - Mauritius' tariff regime (intra-Africa)



MAURITIUS' TRADE STRATEGY

- Mauritius has a liberal economic and trade policy.
- The elimination of trade barriers at all levels is a key objective for Mauritius to enhance its export competitiveness and to expanding sourcing options.
- In 2021, Mauritius signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with India. The Agreement provides that exports of more than 615 products from Mauritius will benefit from tariff liberalisation;
 - 376 products will benefit from duty-free access,
 - 127 products (sugar, rum, fruit, wine, among others) will face reduced tariffs, and
 - 112 products will benefit from reduced tariffs under a system of Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs)
- The Mauritian Strategy to Leverage the Opportunities in the AfCFTA is a key element of the country's broader Africa Strategy that governs the country's relationship with the continent (UNECA)

Tariff Rate	Share (%)
Duty free	99.07%
10%band	0.75%
25%band	0.19%

Mauritius' average intra-Africa non-tariff trade costs for manufactured & agricultural goods (2015-2019)

