

EU trade policy and Africa's exports

The EU is the most open market for African exports. Most African countries have fully free access to the EU market. Other partners offer less favourable conditions for African exports.

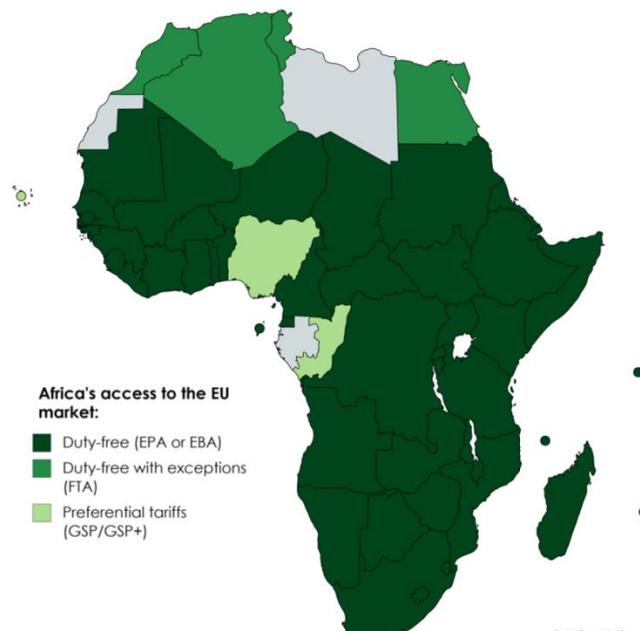
Europe is by far Africa's largest export market and its main customer. Thanks to EU trade openness, exports of food and manufactured products from Africa to the EU keep increasing.

Most African countries are exporting to the EU duty-free

Most African countries enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market. This is either thanks to the **Economic Partnership Agreements** (EPAs) or the **Everything-But-Arms** (EBA) scheme.

The EBA is a one-way EU measure to support trade-driven development of least developed countries, while the Economic Partnership Agreements establish a long-term stable free access to EU market. They are independent of future development status of participating countries, support their regional integration ambitions and facilitate import of goods necessary for industrial development while maintaining protection for sensitive African sectors.

Trade agreements with North African countries also offer duty-free and quota-free access for most goods. A few other countries benefit from preferential tariffs for a majority of products. Through its **Aid for Trade**, the EU is also supporting the emergence of regional value chains and the reinforcement of the capacity of African producers to meet market standards.



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How the EU encourages African exports					
	Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)	Trade agreements with North Africa	Everything But Arms (EBA)	Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+)	Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP)
Access to EU market	Duty- and quota-free access for everything except arms	Duty- and quota-free access (with some exceptions for agri-food & fish)	Duty- and quota-free access for everything except arms	Duty-free access for over 66% of products	Lower EU tariffs on 66% of products
Beneficiaries	12 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa (+15 signatories awaiting regional adoption)	4 North African countries	32 Least-developed countries (LDCs)	1 country (Cabo Verde), as a vulnerable developing country committed to sustainable development	2 other African developing countries (Nigeria and Congo-Brazzaville)

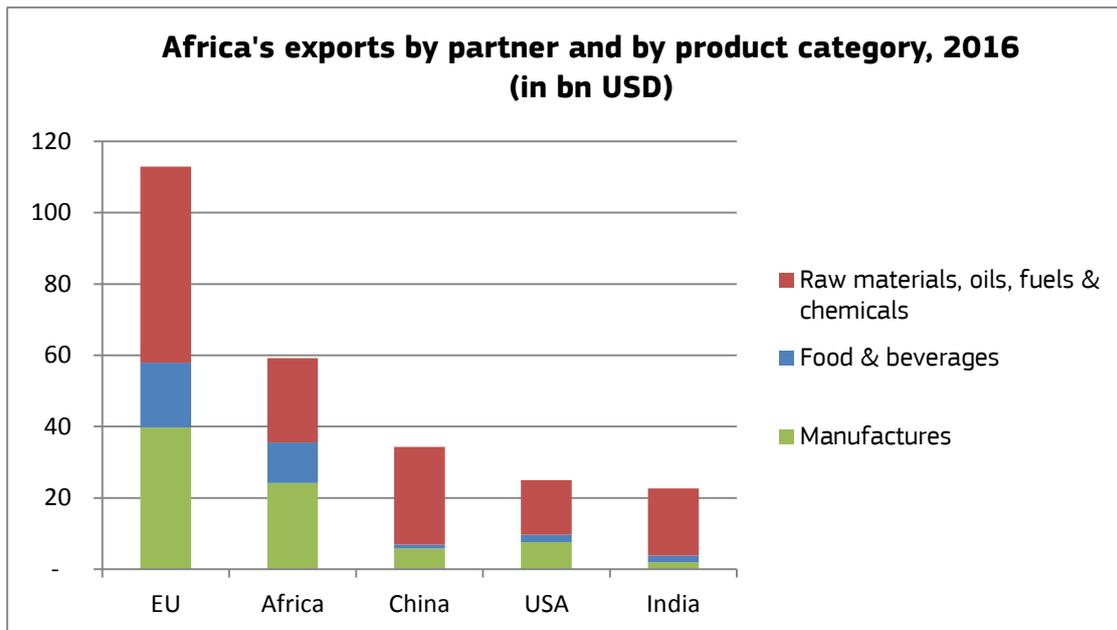
The EU is the world's most open market for African exporters

% of African products (tariff lines) that can be imported duty-free				
	EU	USA	China	India
Schemes for least-developed countries	100% except arms	82%	97%	94%
Schemes for developing countries (GSP)	57% (+reduced rates for most other products)	68%	No schemes	
Other unilateral schemes: GSP+ (EU), African Growth and Opportunity Act (USA)	89%	84%		
Bilateral agreements (EPA/FTA)	100% except arms + few exceptions for South Africa & North African countries	Almost no agreements in place (only US-Morocco)		

Source: WTO database on [preferential trade arrangements](#) and [regional trade agreements](#), November 2017

The EU is Africa's main customer for food and manufactured products

Africa's exports to the European Union amounted to more than €116 billion in 2016. Europe is by far **Africa's largest export market (35% of Africa's exports)**, followed by Africa itself (18%), China (11%), the USA (8%) and India (7%).



Source: UNCTAD [Data Center](#), November 2017

Food and manufactured products account for **51% of Africa's exports to the EU** in 2016 (16% food and beverages and 35% manufactures) whereas raw materials accounted for 49%.

Exports of food and manufactured products from Africa to the EU **increased constantly since 2013**, respectively by **+23%** and **+17%**.

Africa's exports of raw materials to the EU decreased in recent years, due in particular to decrease in oil prices.

35%

The share of total African exports which the EU accounts for.

€116 bn

The value of Africa's exports to the EU in 2016.

+23%

Increase in African food and beverages exports to the EU, 2013-2016

+17%

Increase in African manufactures exports to the EU, 2013-2016