

BENIN



Intra-Africa trade and tariff profile



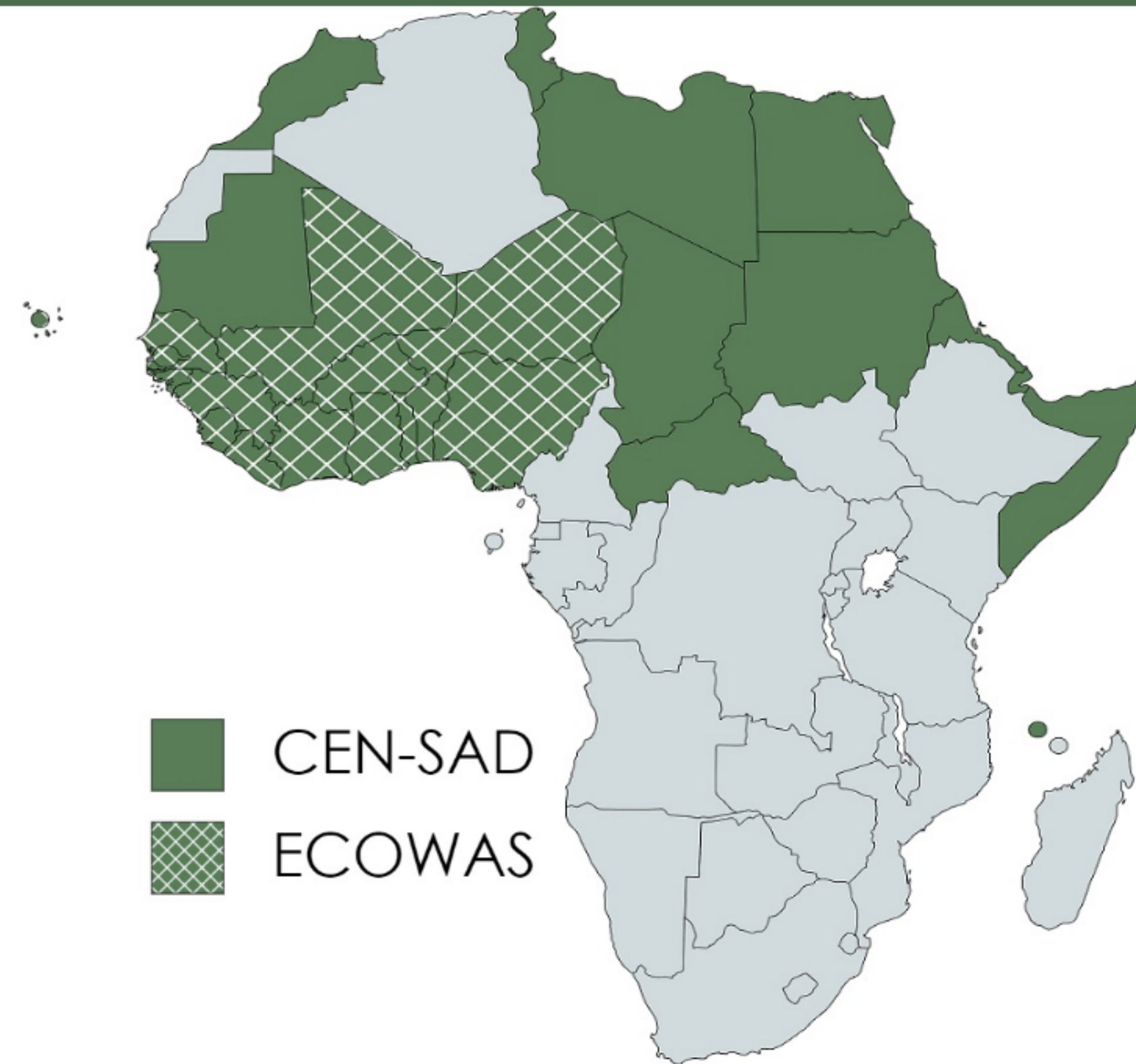
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Regional Economic Communities

Benin is part of both the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)

All 15 ECOWAS countries are part of the ECOWAS Free Trade Area and all, but Cape Verde, are in the process of implementing the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET). In 2017 Mauritania and ECOWAS signed an Association Agreement for the re-admission of Mauritania to the REC by 2019; Morocco's application to join ECOWAS has been granted 'in principle', but is awaiting final approval and Tunisia has recently obtained ECOWAS observer status.

CEN-SAD currently has 24 member states aspiring to the establishment of an Economic Union which includes the free movement of goods. Although CEN-SAD was revived in 2013 with a revision of the CEN-SAD Treaty there is still no progress and free trade agreement in place.



EXPORTS

25%

of Benin's total exports are intra-Africa



Seed oil (13%)



Fowl meat and offal (12%)



Cotton (12%)



Cement (11%)

IMPORTS

15%

of Benin's total imports are intra-Africa



Electric energy (27%)



Petroleum oils (13%)



Fish (fresh and frozen) (12%)

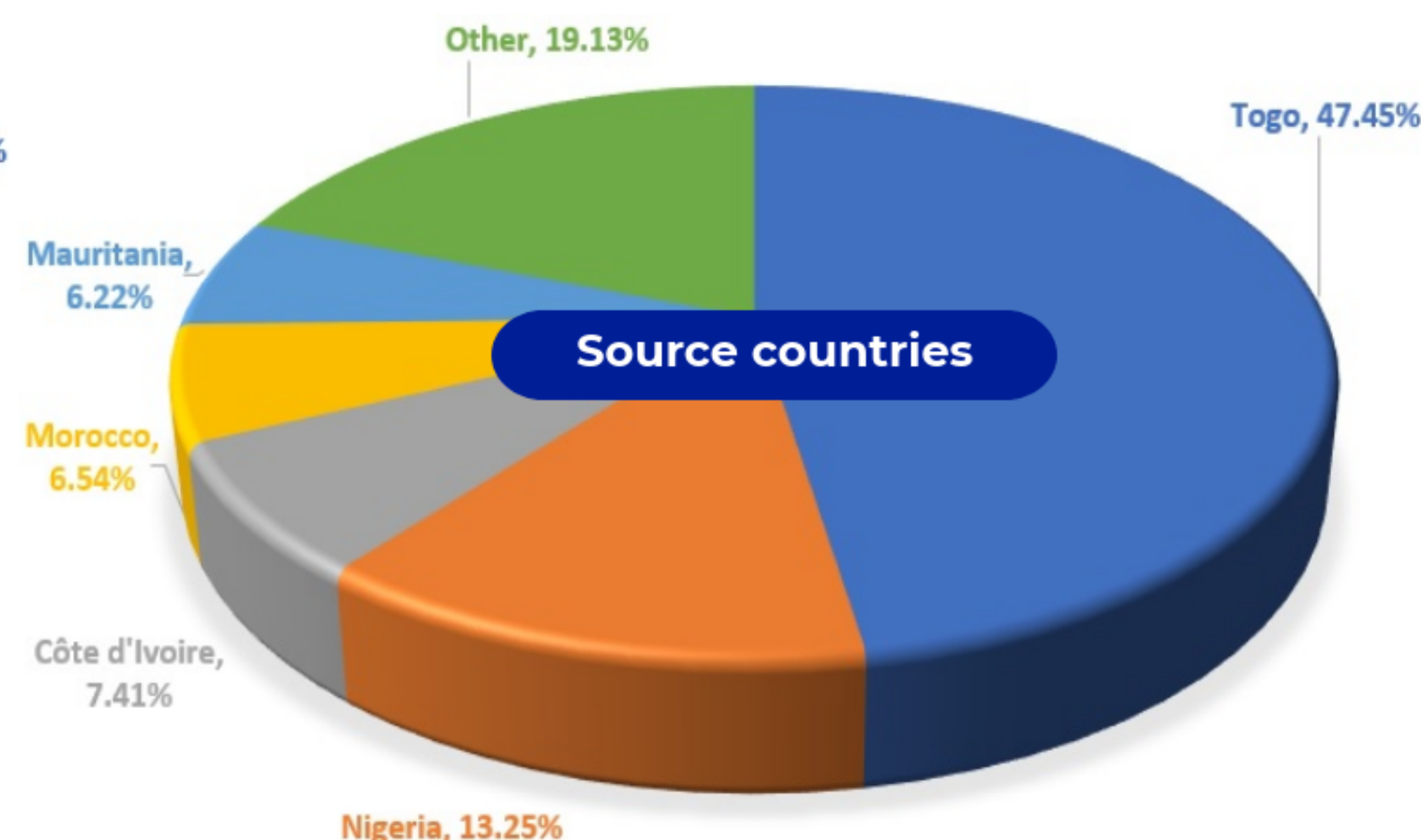


Palm oil (4%)

Destination markets




Source countries



2 Intra-Africa trade

The ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS) allows for the duty-free, quota-free access of unprocessed, traditional handicraft and industrial products of ECOWAS origin traded by approved ECOWAS producers. Benin prescribes to the ETLS; all qualifying goods sourced from approved producers are imported into Benin duty-free. Goods imported from CEN-SAD countries, which are not ECOWAS member states (including Egypt, Morocco, Somalia and Tunisia) and the rest of Africa are levied the ECOWAS CET (MFN applied duty). The ECOWAS CET has five tariff bands - 0%, 5%, 10%, 20% and 35%.



African imports from outside ECOWAS are levied the ECOWAS CET





High average applied duties include

- Meat and edible offal of bovine, swine and poultry (35%)**
- Sausages (35%)**
- Sugar confectionery not containing cocoa (35%)**
- Cocoa powder and chocolate (35%)**

Duty free imports include

- Medicaments (HS 30)**
- Orthopaedic appliances (HS 9021)**
- Printed paper materials (unused postage, newspaper, books, music manuscripts, maps and children's drawings)**
- Petroleum oils (HS 2709)**

35% ad valorem import duties

-  Yoghurt
-  Oils (groundnut, cotton-seed and coconut)
-  Soaps
-  Meat
-  Eggs
-  Potatoes
-  Woven fabrics

20% ad valorem import duties

-  Paints and varnishes
-  Electrical appliances
-  Sound-recording equipment
-  Sports and military weapons
-  Plastic furniture
-  Fish and seafood
-  Fresh flowers

Imports from Africa excluding ECOWAS countries			
HS code	Product descriptions	US\$m 2017	Applicable tariffs
030219	Fresh or chilled salmonidae	32.53	10%
030389	Frozen fish, not elsewhere specified	12.11	10%
030369	Frozen fish	9.03	10%
270119	Coal	7.16	5%
481930	Sacks and bags	4.66	20%
271019	Medium oils and preparations	4.36	5-10% depending on the tariff line
330210	Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures	3.09	10%
853720	Apparatus for electric control or distribution	2.79	5%
721391	Hot-rolled iron and steel bars and rods in irregularly wound coils	2.33	5%
730820	Towers and lattice masts, of iron or steel	2.24	5%

23% of Benin's intra-Africa imports are from countries outside ECOWAS, mainly Morocco, Mauritania and South Africa. Benin mainly imports fish from outside ECOWAS at a 10% tariff, followed by coal (5% tariff), sacks and bags (20% tariff), medium oils and preparations (5%-10% depending on the tariff line) and mixtures of odoriferous substances (beverage additive) (10% tariff).

Source: ITC TradeMap (2018) and WTO Tariff Database (2018)