

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



Intra-Africa trade and tariff profile



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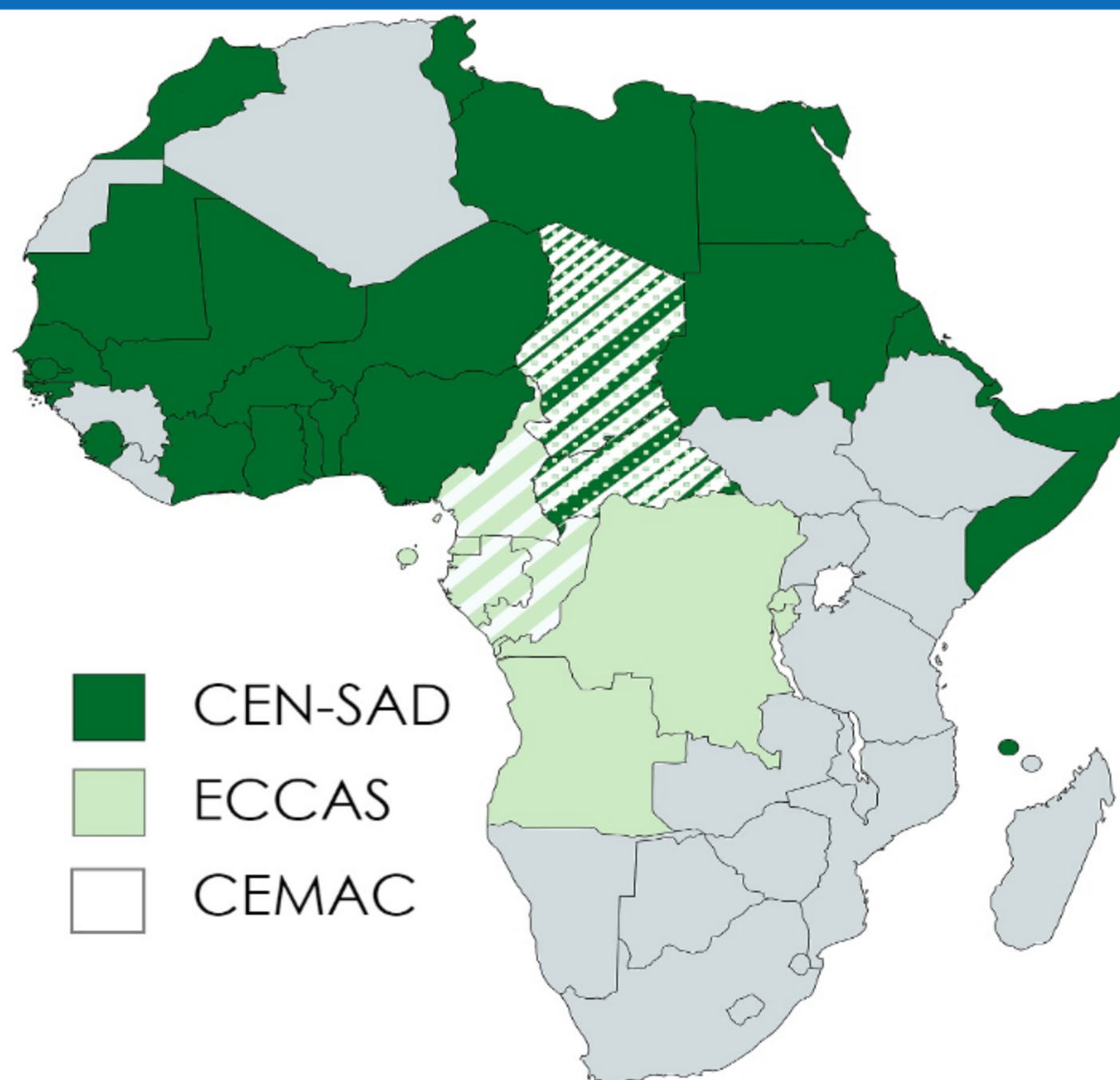
Regional Economic Communities

The Central African Republic (CAR) is part of The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

CEMAC has six member states (Gabon, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo and Equatorial Guinea) which are all part of the CEMAC free trade area with a common external tariff (CET) applied to trade from outside CEMAC and a zero-rated generalised preferential tariff applicable to intra-CEMAC trade.

CEN-SAD currently has 24 member states aspiring to establish 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 free trade agreement in place.

ECCAS has 11 member states and the legal instruments of the ECCAS FTA were signed in 2004. However, the FTA is not yet in force as only Cameroon, Congo and Gabon have adopted the ECCAS Preferential Tariff for intra-ECCAS trade.



EXPORTS

15%

of CAR's total exports are intra-Africa



Trailers and semi-trailers (19%)



Generators (17%)



Goods vehicles (16%)



Containers (16%)

IMPORTS

19%

of CAR's total imports are intra-Africa



Cement (7%)



Tarpaulins and awnings (6%)



Manufactured tobacco (5%)



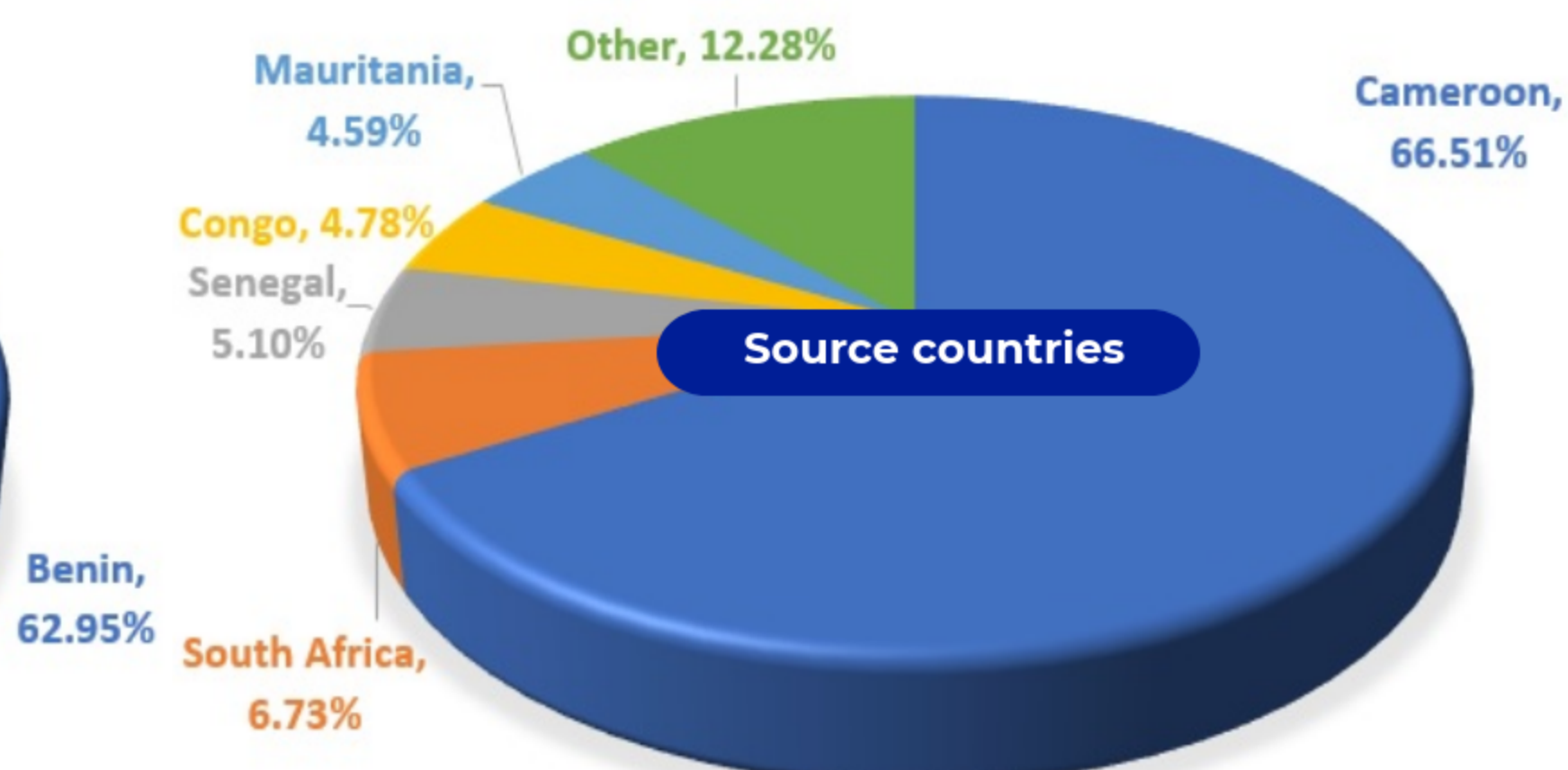
Soups and broths (4%)

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Intra-Africa trade

Destination markets



Source countries



CAR is part of three RECs; however, the free-trade agreements of CEN-SAD and ECCAS are not yet in place. In terms of CEMAC, CAR levies the intra-CEMAC generalised preferential tariff on imports from other CEMAC members (duty-free) and the CEMAC CET on imports from outside the CEMAC region. The CEMAC CET has six tariff bands – 0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20% and 30%.

African imports from outside CEMAC are levied the CEMAC CET

High average applied duties include

Clothing and apparel (30%)
Headgear (30%)
Meat and fish preparations (30%)
Clocks and watches (30%)
Cocoa and cocoa preparations (30%)

Duty free imports include

Air transportation equipment (HS 12)
Printed paper materials (unused postage, newspaper, books, music manuscripts, maps and children's drawings)
Fur skin clothing and apparel (HS 430310)
Wheat flour (HS 11010010)

30% ad valorem import duties



Women's/girls' suits



Men's/boys' suits



Rough and sawn wood



Fish fillets



Fruit juices



Passenger vehicles



Seafood (crustaceans, molluscs etc.)

20% ad valorem import duties



Fresh/frozen/dried fish



Cotton woven fabrics



Products of flat-rolled stainless steel



Water heaters



Parts of motor vehicles



Edible offal



Lamps and light fittings

Imports from Africa excluding CEMAC countries

HS Code	Product descriptions	US\$m 2017	Applicable tariff
240319	Smoking tobacco	3.47	10% or 30% depending on the national tariff line
630622	Tents of synthetic fibres	3.47	30%
847989	Machines and mechanical appliances, not elsewhere specified	3.03	10%
610990	T-shirts	1.13	30%
271320	Petroleum bitumen	1.03	10%
030371	Frozen sardines	0.75	20%
930690	Bombs and other ammunition and projectiles	0.71	30%
630619	Tarpaulins, awnings and sunblinds	0.70	30%
481920	Folding cartons, boxes and cases, of non-corrugated paper or paperboard	0.56	10%
730890	Structures and parts of structures, of iron or steel, not elsewhere specified	0.50	20%

Of the top 20 products imported into CAR, only herbicides are imported at the low tariff of 5%. A third of the imports face 30% import duties and 5 tariff lines (frozen sardines, tuna and other fresh and saltwater fish; steel/iron structures; and sorting machinery) 20% import duties.

The high import duties on goods traded between CAR and African countries outside CEMAC can be a contributing factor to the low levels of trade.

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