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%)

Source countries:
- Benin, 62.95%
- South Africa, 6.73%
- Chad, 28.85%
- Mauritania, 4.59%
- Congo, 4.78%
- Senegal, 5.10%
- Other, 12.28%
- Cameroon, 66.51%
- Other, 0.82%
- Senegal, 0.78%
- Cameroon, 4.61%
- Congo, 1.99%
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%.

### 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

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


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.