

Tariffs on intra-Africa trade

Many African countries trade under the preferential trading arrangements of their regional economic communities (RECs) which offer tariff preferences on intra-REC trade for those countries which are members of the REC's Free Trade Agreements (FTA) or Customs Union. Intra-Africa imports from outside the territories of these FTAs or Customs Unions are levied the general applied tariff (those countries not members of the World Trade Organization) or the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) applied tariff of the destination market.

The FTAs applicable to trade among the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) member states; the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) member states; the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) member states and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member states are not yet in force.

Extra-REC imports

MFN/general applied tariffs

Intra-REC imports DRC, Somalia & Tunisia: MFN/general applied tariffs

Intra-REC imports Eritrea and Ethiopia: Marginal preferential access

Intra-REC imports 13 COMESA FTA members

Preferential tariffs

Intra-REC imports

MFN/general applied tariffs

Extra-REC imports

MFN/general applied tariffs

Of the 21 member states of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) only 16 are part of the COMESA FTA. eSwatini has preferential access under a derogation, but is exempt from reciprocating preferences due to its membership of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has 16 member states, 13 of which are part of the SADC FTA. Comoros, DRC and Angola are yet to join the SADC FTA.

Intra-REC imports 13 SADC FTA members

Preferential tariffs

Intra-REC imports Comoros, DRC and Angola: MFN applied tariffs

Extra-REC imports

MFN/general applied tariffs

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) all have common external tariffs (CETs) in place. Preferential tariffs are granted for intra-REC imports, while the CETs are the MFN applied tariffs levied on extra-REC imports. In ECOWAS, Cape Verde is the only exception. As a member of ECOWAS intra-ECOWAS imports from Cape Verde are granted preferential access, but it is still in the process of implementing the ECOWAS CET for extra-REC imports.

ECOWAS

Intra-REC imports

Preferential tariffs

Extra-REC imports into 14 ECOWAS member states

Common External Tariff

Extra-REC imports into Cape Verde

MFN applied tariffs

SACU, EAC & CEMAC

Intra-REC imports

Preferential tariffs

Extra-REC imports









Common External Tariffs

Common External Tariffs of CEMAC, the EAC, ECOWAS and SACU

Applicable tariff regime	% of tariff lines in each tariff grouping							Total number of tariff lines
	Duty-free	>0%-10%	>10%-20%	>20%-40%	>40%-60%	>60%	Specific or combined tariffs	
SACU CET	55%	13%	16%	10%	2%	0.01%	4%	7906 (@HS8)
EAC CET	37%	20%	0.02%	41%	1%	0%	1%	5684 (@HS8)
ECOWAS CET	2%	60%	36%	2%	0%	0%	0%	6129 (@HS10)
CEMAC CET	1%	51%	12%	37%	0%	0%	0%	5634 (@HS8)









SACU has the highest proportion of duty-free tariff lines, followed by the EAC. Only 1% and 2% of the tariff lines of CEMAC and ECOWAS, respectively are duty-free. Out of the four RECs SACU is the only one with advalorem tariffs higher than 60%, which is one tariff line pertaining to frozen chicken imports. The highest proportion of ECOWAS's tariff lines are 10% import duties, while 51% of the tariff lines of CEMAC are either 5% or 10% import duties. Apart from ad valorem duties the SACU CET also include combined and specific duties and the EAC CET combined tariffs.

High ad valorem duties


CEMAC	EAC	ECOWAS	SACU	
 <p>Motorcycles, clothing items, paper products and fruit juices (30% import duties)</p>	 <p>Milk, cream and cheeses (60% import duties)</p>	 <p>Bed linen, track suits and wheat flour (50% import duties)</p>	 <p>Soaps, woven fabrics, waters and prepared/preserved tomatoes (35% import duties)</p>	 <p>Other whole frozen chicken (85% import duties)</p>
			 <p>Prepared/preserved pineapple (55% import duties)</p>	
			 <p>Clothing items (45% import duties)</p>	
			 <p>Retreaded tyres (43% import duties)</p>	

High combined duties

High combined duties

EAC	
 <p>Sugar (100% or US\$460/MT whichever is highest)</p>	 <p>Iron/steel products (25% or US\$250/MT whichever is highest)</p>
 <p>Rice (75% or US\$345/MT whichever is highest)</p>	 <p>Iron/steel shapes (25% or US\$200/MT whichever is highest)</p>
SACU	
 <p>Milk & cream (450c/kg; max 96%)</p>	 <p>Unstemmed tobacco (860c/kg less 85%; max 44%)</p>
 <p>Cheese (500c/kg; max 37%)</p>	 <p>Secondhand clothes (60% or 2500c/kg whichever is highest)</p>

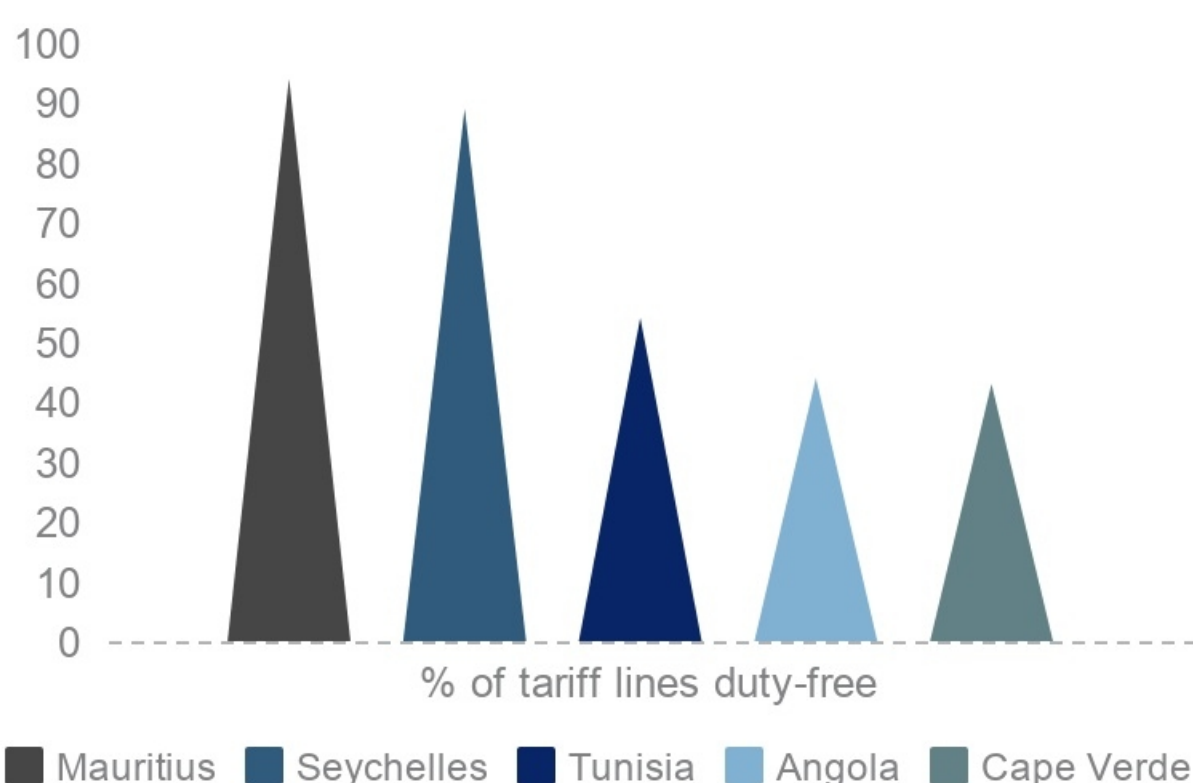
High specific duties

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400c/kg	Black fermented tea
317c/litre	Undenatured ethyl alcohol
220c/kg	Other chicken offal
213.1c/kg	Raw/refined sugar

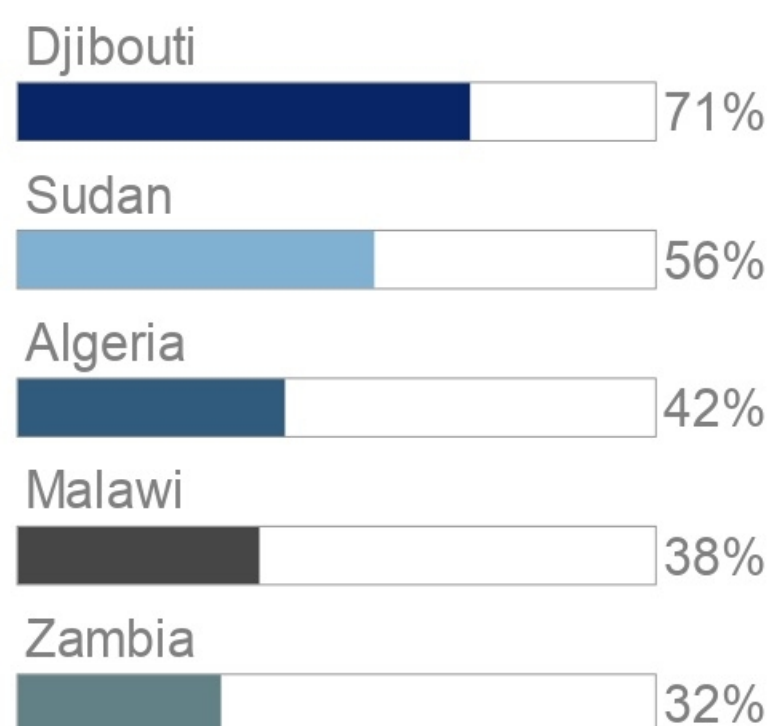
General and MFN applied tariffs of individual African countries

Of the 54 African countries 31 countries are members of CEMAC, the EAC, ECOWAS and SACU. This leaves 23 African countries; however there is no reliable tariff data available for either Somalia or Libya. Accordingly, the MFN or general tariffs for the remaining 21 African countries are included. Mauritius and Seychelles have the highest proportion of duty-free tariff lines. 71% of Djibouti's tariff lines have import duties of 26%, while the majority of Sudan's duties are 40%. 44% of Angola's tariff lines are duty-free and 6% higher than 40%; the highest being 70% duties on imports of waters. Egypt has excessive duties on imports of alcohol (between 1200% and 300%) and motor vehicles (135%).

Countries with the highest % of duty-free tariff lines



Countries with the highest % of tariff lines ranging between >20%-40%



Of the 21 countries Seychelles and Zimbabwe are the only countries with combined tariff rates. Seychelles' combined tariffs are 15%+SCR5/kg on whole frozen chicken and chicken cuts and offal. Zimbabwe's combined tariffs include: 40%+US\$3/kg on clothing items; 40%+US\$1 per pair on footwear and 40%+US\$0.25/litre on buttermilk.

High ad valorem duties

 = **3000%** Alcohol + **1800%** Other unsparkling wine + **1200%** Beer

 = **200%** (tyre imports by Seychelles)  = **100%** (pastry imports by Seychelles)

 Tobacco imports into:  **200%**  **100%**

95% duties on wine and Vermouth imports into Zimbabwe


 = **70%** duties on imports of waters + **60%** duties on imports of fruit juices


60% duties on imports of batteries, beer & jams into Algeria

50% duties on imports of vehicles, waters & cocoa powder into Cape Verde

High specific duties

 £150/net kg on cigars
£100/net kg on cigarettes
£9/net kg on tobacco

 US\$5/kg on milk & cream
US\$5/kg on secondhand clothes
US\$2.5/kg on retreaded tyres

 SCR120/L on vodka & liqueurs
SCR60/L on spirits from grapes
SCR25.93/L on beer