Intra-Africa trade by REC 2021 update

The African Union (AU) recognises 8 regional economic communities (RECs) which are at different levels of integration. The REC FTAs are the building blocks of the AfCFTA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REC</th>
<th>AMU</th>
<th>CEN-SAD</th>
<th>COMESA</th>
<th>ECCAS</th>
<th>ECOWAS</th>
<th>IGAD</th>
<th>EAC</th>
<th>SADC</th>
<th>COMESA-COMESA-CEN-SAD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMU</td>
<td>5.44%</td>
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<td>CEN-SAD</td>
<td>16.59%</td>
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<td>COMESA</td>
<td>20.32%</td>
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<td>ECCAS</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
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<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>10.18%</td>
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<td>IGAD</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
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<td>EAC</td>
<td>4.76%</td>
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<td>SADC</td>
<td>32.12%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Intra-Africa trade (2021)

US$71 billion

7%

Trade performance by REC (2011 - 2020)

Comoros* - belongs to 3 RECs (SADC; COMESA & CEN-SAD). It is represented twice in figure (COMESA-CEN-SAD & SADC-COMESA)
### The Arab Magreb Union (AMU)

#### AMU Intra-Africa Trade (2021)

![Bar chart showing imports and exports for various AMU countries in 2021.]

- **Imports**
  - Morocco: $2k
  - Algeria: $1.5k
  - Libya: $0.5k
  - Tunisia: $2k
  - Mauritania: $0.5k

- **Exports**
  - Morocco: $2k
  - Algeria: $2.5k
  - Libya: $0.5k
  - Tunisia: $2k
  - Mauritania: $0.5k

#### AMU Intra-Africa Top Import Products (2021)
- Mineral Fuels (25%)
- Plastic products (5%)
- Animal or vegetable oils (5%)
- Electrical machinery (4%)
- Cement (4%)

#### AMU Intra-Africa Top Export Products (2021)
- Mineral Fuels (22%)
- Fertilisers (11%)
- Fisheries (6%)
- Electrical machinery (6%)
- Cement (5%)

#### AMU Intra-Africa Import Sources

![Line chart showing import sources by country in 2021.]

- **Imports**
  - Egypt: $1k
  - Algeria: $2.5k
  - Tunisia: $2k
  - Morocco: $1.5k
  - South Africa: $0.5k
  - Libya: $0.5k
  - Senegal: $2k
  - Togo: $0.5k
  - Ivory Coast: $1k
  - Nigeria: $2k
  - Rest of Africa: $1k

#### AMU Intra-Africa Export Destinations

![Bar chart showing export destinations by country in 2021.]

- **Exports**
  - Tunisia: $2k
  - Morocco: $1.5k
  - Libya: $0.5k
  - Ivory Coast: $1k
  - Senegal: $0.5k
  - Mauritania: $0.5k
  - Algeria: $1k
  - Egypt: $1k
  - Dijbouti: $0.5k
  - Ghana: $0.5k
  - Rest of Africa: $1k

#### AMU Intra-REC Trade - Imports and Exports (2020)

- **Imports**
  - Morocco: $1k
  - Tunisia: $1k
  - Libya: $0.5k
  - Mauritania: $0.5k
- **Exports**
  - Morocco: $1k
  - Tunisia: $1k
  - Libya: $0.5k
  - Mauritania: $0.5k

- **Note**
  - 26% of AMU Intra-REC trade accounts for its intra-Africa trade
  - Mauritania dominates exports and is the least intra-AMU importer
  - Tunisia is the top importer from the REC
  - Libya barely exports to other AMU members
  - AMU does not have a free trade agreement (FTA)

#### AMU share of intra-Africa trade by REC (2021)

![Pie chart showing share of trade by REC.]

- **EAC (0.95%)**
- **CEN-SAD (49.19%)**
- **COMESA (42.43%)**
- **ECCAS (0.74%)**
- **ECOWAS (2.62%)**
- **IGAD (0.88%)**
- **SADC (3.2%)**

- **Note**
  - Intra-Africa total trade growth (2020-2021) 19%
  - Intra-Africa total trade (2021) $13 bn
  - Intra-REC trade (2021) $3.4 bn
The Community of Sahel Saharan States (CEN-SAD)

CEN-SAD Intra-Africa Trade (2021)

CEN-SAD Intra-Africa top import products (2021)
- Mineral Fuels (29%)
- Salt, Sulphur, cement (5%)
- Fertilisers (4%)
- Plastic products (4%)
- Edible vegetables (3%)

CEN-SAD Intra-Africa top export products (2021)
- Mineral Fuels (29%)
- Ships, boats, floating vessels (6%)
- Fertilisers (4%)
- Salt, Sulphur, cement (4%)
- Plastic products (3%)

CEN-SAD Intra-Africa import sources

CEN-SAD Intra-REC trade - imports and exports (2021)

33% CEN-SAD Intra-REC trade accounts for its intra-Africa trade
Nigeria dominates exports while imports from Rest of CEN-SAD account for 50% of intra-REC imports
Top 5 CEN-SAD intra-REC exporters account for 75% of exports
Egypt, the second largest exporter barely imports from CEN-SAD
CEN-SAD has not yet established an FTA but its members belong to other REC FTAs

CEN-SAD share of intra-Africa trade by REC (2021)
- AMU (22.61%)
- EAC (2.29%)
- COMESA (23.74%)
- ECCAS (2.36%)
- ECOWAS (34.14%)
- IGAD (4.14%)
- SADC (10.71%)

Note that, these shares are indicative and based entirely on REC total trade and do not factor multiple membership

3% Intra-Africa total trade growth (2020-2021)

US$42 bn Intra-Africa total trade (2021)

US$14.3 bn Intra-REC trade (2021)

CEN-SAD Intra-Africa export destinations
- Ivory Coast
- South Africa
- Mali
- Libya
- Senegal
- Burkina Faso
- Morocco
- Ghana
- Algeria
- Cameroon
- Rest of Africa

USD (millions)

0 2.5k 5k
The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

**COMESA Intra-Africa Trade (2021)**

- **Imports**
  - South Africa
  - Egypt
  - Kenya
  - Tanzania
  - Zambia
  - Morocco
  - Mauritius
  - Zimbabwe
  - Uganda
  - Mozambique
  - Rest of COMESA

- **Exports**
  - South Africa
  - Egypt
  - Kenya
  - Tanzania
  - Zambia
  - Morocco
  - Mauritius
  - Zimbabwe
  - Uganda
  - Mozambique
  - Rest of COMESA

**COMESA Intra-Africa top import products (2021)**
- Mineral fuels (11%)
- Machinery (7%)
- Fertilisers (7%)
- Plastic products (5%)
- Cement (4%)

**COMESA Intra-Africa top export products (2021)**
- Ores, slag and ash (6%)
- Nickel (6%)
- Cement (5%)
- Sugar (4%)
- Essential oils (4%)

**COMESA Intra-Africa import sources**

**COMESA Intra-Africa export destinations**

**COMESA Intra-REC trade - imports and exports (2021)**

- **Imports**
  - Libya
  - DRC
  - Kenya
  - Uganda
  - Egypt
  - Zambia
  - Zimbabwe

- **Exports**
  - Libya
  - DRC
  - Kenya
  - Uganda
  - Egypt
  - Zambia

**Intra-Africa total trade growth (2020-2021)**

6%

**US$44.2 bn**

**Intra-Africa total trade (2021)**

**US$9.2 bn**

**Intra-REC trade (2021)**

21% of COMESA Intra-REC trade accounts for its intra-Africa trade

Kenya, Egypt, Zambia and Uganda are the top exporters in terms of intra-REC exports

Intra-REC top importers Libya, DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Egypt, and Zambia.

Top 6 intra-REC importers account for 73% of intra-REC imports

Note that, these shares are indicative and based entirely on REC total trade and do not factor multiple membership.
**The East African Community (EAC)**

**EAC Intra-Africa Trade (2021)**

- **Exports**
  - Kenya
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda
- **Imports**
  - Burundi
  - Rwanda

**EAC Intra-Africa top import products (2021)**

- Cereal (9%)
- Iron & Steel (7%)
- Mineral fuels (6%)
- Sugar (6%)
- Cement (5%)

**EAC Intra-Africa top export products (2021)**

- Precious stones (15%)
- Coffee and or tea (7%)
- Cereals (7%)
- Cement (5%)
- Iron & Steel (5%)

**EAC Intra-Africa import sources**

- Uganda
- South Africa
- Kenya

**EAC Intra-REC trade - imports and exports (2020)**

- **Exports**
  - Kenya
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda
  - Burundi
  - Rwanda
  - South Sudan
- **Imports**
  - Burundi
  - Rwanda

**EAC Intra-Africa import destinations**

- Kenya
- Tanzania
- South Africa
- Egypt
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Eswatini

**EAC Intra-Africa export destinations**

- Kenya
- Tanzania
- South Africa
- Egypt
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Eswatini

33% of EAC Intra-REC trade accounts for its intra-Africa trade

- Kenya dominates exports while Uganda imports the most in terms of intra-REC imports
- Intra-REC exports from Rwanda and Burundi are negligible

**Note:** these shares are indicative and based entirely on REC total trade and do not factor multiple membership

**EAC share of intra-Africa trade by REC (2021)**

- AMU (0.77%)
- COMESA (36.65%)
- CEN-SAD (7.89%)
- ECCAS (1.04%)
- ECOWAS (0.21%)
- IGAD (22.48%)
- SADC (30.96%)

Intra-Africa total trade growth (2020-2021): -6%

**US$11.6 bn** Intra-Africa total trade (2021)

**US$3.8 bn** Intra-REC trade (2021)

- The EAC is a customs union with a common external tariff (CET)
The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

**ECCAS Intra-Africa Trade (2021)**

- **Exports**
- **Imports**

**ECCAS Intra-Africa top import products (2021)**
- Mineral fuels (35%)
- Ships, boats, floating vessels (9%)
- Machinery (6%)
- Cement (4%)
- Plastic products (4%)

**ECCAS Intra-Africa top export products (2021)**
- Mineral fuels (41%)
- Ships, boats, floating vessels (15%)
- Ores, slag and ash (8%)
- Motor Vehicles (5%)
- Copper (4%)

**ECCAS Intra-Africa import sources**

- South Africa
- Zambia
- DRC
- Ivory Coast
- Togo
- Congo
- Cameroon
- Gabon
- Kenya
- Angola
- Rest of Africa

**ECCAS Intra-Africa export destinations**

- South Africa
- Zambia
- Nigeria
- Togo
- Tanzania
- Kenya
- Angola
- Congo
- Morocco
- Egypt
- Rest of Africa

- **8% of ECCAS Intra-REC trade accounts for its intra-Africa trade**
- Congo accounts for the bulk of intra-REC exports
- In terms of intra-REC imports, the DRC is the major recipient
- Chad and Rwanda barely import from ECCAS.
- ECCAS has not established an FTA

**ECCAS share of intra-Africa trade by REC (2021)**

- AMU (3.03%)
- CEN-SAD (17.36%)
- COMESA (18.47%)
- EAC (10.23%)
- ECOWAS (12.87%)
- IGAD (5.2%)
- SADC (32.84%)

**Note**

- These shares are indicative and based entirely on REC total trade and do not factor multiple membership

**Intra-Africa total trade growth (2020-2021)**: -19%

**Intra-Africa total trade (2021)**: US$10 bn

**Intra-REC trade (2021)**: US$816 mn
The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

**ECOWAS Intra-Africa Trade (2021)**

- **Nigeria**
- **Senegal**
- **Ghana**
- **Ivory Coast**
- **Togo**
- **Burkina Faso**
- **Niger**
- **Benin**
- **Rest of ECOWAS**

**ECOWAS Intra-Africa top import products (2021)**
- Mineral Fuels (32%)
- Cement (7%)
- Motor vehicles (5%)
- Fisheries (5%)
- Plastic products (4%)

**ECOWAS Intra-Africa top export products (2021)**
- Mineral Fuels (50%)
- Ships, boats, floating vessels (11%)
- Cement (3%)
- Other edible products (2%)
- Iron & Steel (2%)

**ECOWAS Intra-Africa import sources**

- South Africa
- Ivory Coast
- Morocco
- Togo
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Burkina Faso
- Niger
- Rest of Africa

**ECOWAS Intra-Africa export destinations**

- South Africa
- Ivory Coast
- Mali
- Burkina Faso
- Senegal
- Togo
- Namibia
- Cameroon
- Ghana
- Niger
- Rest of Africa

**ECOWAS Intra-REC trade - imports and exports (2021)**

- **Nigeria**
- **Senegal**
- **Côte d’Ivoire**
- **Togo**
- **Ghana**
- **Burkina Faso**
- **Niger**
- **Benin**
- **Rest of ECOWAS**

33% of ECOWAS Intra-REC trade accounts for its intra-Africa trade.

97% of intra-REC exports are accounted for by the top 7 ECOWAS member states.

The bulk of intra-REC imports, are accounted by the top 7 member states (67%).

Sierra Leone and Cape Verde record the lowest intra-REC trade for both imports and exports.
The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

**IGAD Intra-Africa Trade (2021)**

- Kenya: $2k in exports, $0 in imports
- Uganda: $1.5k in exports, $1k in imports
- Ethiopia: $1k in exports, $0 in imports
- Somalia: $0 in exports, $0 in imports
- Djibouti: $0 in exports, $0 in imports
- Eritrea: $0 in exports, $0 in imports

**IGAD Intra-Africa top import products (2021)**
- Fertilisers (14%)
- Edible vegetables (9%)
- Cereals (8%)
- Animal or vegetable fats, oils (6%)
- Mineral fuels (5%)

**IGAD Intra-Africa top export products (2021)**
- Edible vegetables (12%)
- Animal or vegetable fats, oils (10%)
- Coffee, tea (9%)
- Iron and steel (5%)
- Pharmaceuticals (4%)

**IGAD share of intra-Africa trade by REC (2021)**

- AMU (4.55%)
- CEN-SAD (23.88%)
- COMESA (27.58%)
- EAC (18.34%)
- ECCAS (0.77%)
- ECOWAS (2.89%)
- SADC (21.99%)

**Intra-Africa total trade growth (2020-2021)**

- -10%

**US$9.7 bn**

**Intra-Africa total trade (2021)**

**US$2 bn**

**Intra-REC trade (2021)**

**IGAD Intra-Africa export destinations**

- Uganda: $1k in exports
- Tanzania: $500 in exports
- Somalia: $500 in exports
- Kenya: $500 in exports
- Ethiopia: $500 in exports
- Rwanda: $500 in exports
- DRC: $500 in exports
- Egypt: $500 in exports
- South Sudan: $500 in exports
- Burundi: $500 in exports
- Rest of Africa: $500 in exports

**IGAD Intra-Africa trade - imports and exports (2020)**

21% of IGAD Intra-REC trade accounts for its intra-Africa trade.

- Kenya dominates intra-REC trade followed by Ethiopia and Uganda.
- Uganda and Somalia are the major intra-REC import recipients.

All IGAD member states belong to another REC.

IGAD has not yet established an FTA.

Note that, these shares are indicative and based entirely on REC total trade and do not factor multiple membership.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC)

**SADC Intra-Africa Trade (2021)**

- South Africa
- Zimbabwe
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Eswatini
- Namibia
- Mozambique
- Angola
- Rest of SADC

**Exports**

- **Imports**

**SADC Intra-Africa top import products (2021)**
- Mineral Fuels (21%)
- Machinery (7%)
- Motor Vehicles (5%)
- Electrical Machinery (4%)
- Plastic products (4%)

**SADC Intra-Africa top export products (2021)**
- Mineral fuels (12%)
- Machinery (8%)
- Ores, slag and ash (7%)
- Precious stones Copper (7%)
- Motor vehicles (7%)

**SADC Intra-Africa import sources**

- South Africa
- Nigeria
- Zambia
- Eswatini
- Namibia
- Mozambique
- Kenya
- Mauritius
- Togo
- Angola
- Rest of Africa

**SADC Intra-Africa export destinations**

- South Africa
- Mozambique
- Botswana
- Namibia
- Zimbabwe
- Zambia
- Congo, D...
- Eswatini
- Lesotho
- Kenya
- Rest of Africa

**SADC share of intra-Africa trade by REC (2021)**

- AMU (1.55%)
- CEN-SAD (25.14%)
- COMESA (36.33%)
- EAC (7.7%)
- ECCAS (2.45%)
- ECOWAS (21.52%)
- IGAD (5.3%)

Note that, these shares are indicative and based entirely on REC total trade and do not factor multiple membership.

- **18%**
  - Intra-Africa total trade growth (2020-2021)

- **US$68.9 bn**
  - Intra-Africa total trade (2021)

- **US$37.3 bn**
  - Intra-REC trade (2021)

- **54%** of SADC Intra-REC trade accounts for its intra-Africa trade
- South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia are major players for both intra-REC exports and imports
- South Africa alone accounts for over 50% of intra-REC exports.
- The SACU member states rely on SADC as a destination and source market in Africa.