

Information note on trade in intermediate goods: Africa

- In 2021, Africa's exports of intermediate goods (IGs) represented three-quarters of total merchandise exports from the continent and was worth US\$ 265 billion. The exports mostly comprised primary commodities, in raw or semi-processed form, destined for global production chains, and whose value largely depended on the evolution of prices on global commodity markets.
- More than 50 per cent of IG exports are concentrated among four countries, led by South Africa (30.9 per cent of Africa's total IG exports in 2021). The relatively narrow range of products means that the top 15 IG exports accounted for 54 per cent of Africa's total IG exports in 2021. The imported product portfolio is much more diversified, with the top 15 IG imports accounting for 21 per cent of total IG imports. The category "Other industrial supplies" accounted for 62 per cent of all imported inputs.
- Intra-African IG exports as a share of total IG exports was estimated at 13 per cent in 2021. The corresponding share of IG imports was 11 per cent. This indicates a lack of integration of regional supply chains, which could be due to factors such as poor infrastructures, limited product diversification and low levels of investment and financing. The exclusion or partial inclusion of informal cross-border trade in foreign trade statistics, often significant in Africa and which takes place between neighbouring countries, is another reason for underestimates in regional trade.
- African countries predominantly trade with industrial partners in Asia and Europe. In 2021, the two regions together accounted for 61 and 68 per cent of Africa's IG exports and imports, respectively.
- The bilateral exchanges of industrial inputs between China and Africa grew at high pace between 2010 and 2021, at an average annual growth of 10 per cent. China was both the top IG supplier to African industries and their main export partner in 2021, with nearly 25 per cent of Africa's total trade in IGs.

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A note on the statistics used here

Compared to other regions, data on reported merchandise trade for Africa are limited. Missing values were estimated with mirrored ones (using partner data when an economy does not report its trade). Despite this, intra-regional trade in Africa is particularly underestimated because mirror estimates are not reliable when the level of reported data is low.

This note covers the period 2010-2021. The data sources used are the United Nations Comtrade database and the Trade Data Monitor database.

The IG categories shown in the report are defined according to the Broad Economic Categories (BEC Rev.4) classification. Harmonized System (HS)-based product details are based on a BEC-HS correspondence table. Fuels (BEC 3) are excluded from the calculations.

Definition and coverage of IG categories

IGs are inputs used to produce a final product. They include crops used in food production, metals, textiles, components and parts needed to manufacture goods. Trade in IGs is an indicator of the activity in supply chains.

This note examines the following IG categories (excluding fuels):

- IG food and beverages (BEC 111 and 121) includes primary and processed agricultural inputs (e.g. cereals, meat, cocoa, vegetable oils) used by industry.
- IG ores, precious stones and rare earths (part of BEC 21 and 22) includes metals (e.g. iron, copper), minerals (e.g. sodium) and (semi-)precious stones and metals (e.g. diamonds, gold, palladium, rhodium) in raw forms, as concentrate, worked or semi-manufactured.
- IG other industrial supplies (excluding “ores, precious stones and rare earths”) includes a wide range of inputs used in manufacturing, such as chemicals (e.g. phosphates), textiles and fabrics, metal/wood/plastic articles and technical components.
- IG parts and accessories excluding transport equipment (BEC code 42) includes components used to produce manufactured products (e.g. machinery parts, tools, electrical apparatus).
- IG parts and accessories for transport equipment (BEC code 53) includes components used to produce vehicles or any other equipment for air, land or sea transport (e.g. rubber pneumatics, turbines, gear boxes).

1. Africa's total trade in IGs, 2010-2021

The trade value of Africa's IG exports and imports grew at similar pace from 2010 to 2019 before the COVID-19 crisis (annual average growth of 3 and 2 per cent, respectively). At 74 per cent, the share of IGs in Africa's total merchandise exports in 2021 (excluding fuels) was the highest in the world. Exports were worth US\$ 265 billion in 2021 and recovered faster than imports (worth US\$ 284 billion) since the pandemic (see Figure 1). From 2019 to 2021, IG export value increased at an average rate exceeding 15 per cent per year (in contrast to 5 per cent for IG import value). This growth led to a strong reduction in the IG trade deficit in Africa, which fell to US\$ 19 billion in 2021 – an historic low since 2010. South Africa, the region's main trader, played a disproportionately large role in changing Africa's trade balance. Its trade surplus in IGs more than doubled from 2019, rising to US\$ 44 billion in 2021.

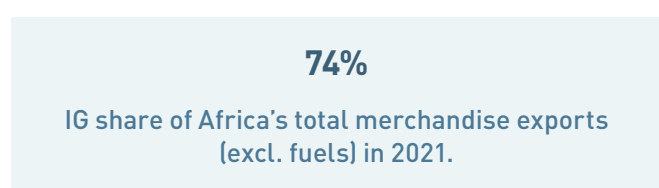
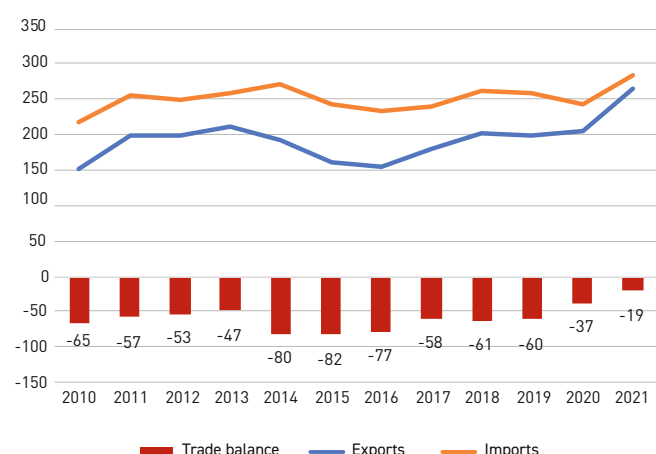


Figure 1. Africa's total trade in IGs and trade balance, 2010-2021

(In US\$ billion)



Source: WTO estimates based on data from UN Comtrade database.

The recent surge in Africa's IG exports was linked to the composition of goods sent to foreign industries, mostly raw or semi-processed ores, minerals, metals and agricultural products, whose value rose together with rising prices for commodities (see Section 3).

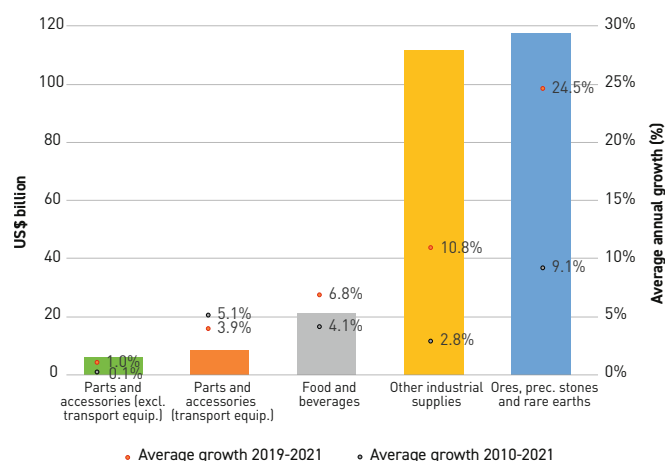
2. Africa's trade in IGs by category and top 15 products, 2010-2021

IG exports

Africa is a major supplier of primary commodities in global production chains. In 2021, 86 per cent of its exports of industrial inputs came from the two main IG categories "Ores, precious stones and rare earths" (44 per cent) and "Other industrial supplies" (42 per cent) (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Africa's IG export value in 2021, by category

(2021 values in US\$ billion and average annual growth in per cent)



Source: WTO estimates based on data from UN Comtrade database.

Africa's exports of ores, precious stones and rare earths grew the most, by an annual average of 24.5 per cent between 2019 and 2021. Unwrought platinum group metals (PGMs), which includes iridium, osmium, palladium, platinum, rhodium and ruthenium, accounted for more than 10 per cent of Africa's IG exports in 2021. PGMs are strategic inputs used in metal alloys by many industries for the production of automotive and IT products and telephones and in the fields of medicine and dentistry, jewellery and glass/fibre optics. South Africa, the world's top rhodium exporter, increased its exports sixfold between 2019 and 2021, which were worth US\$ 8.9 billion in 2021.

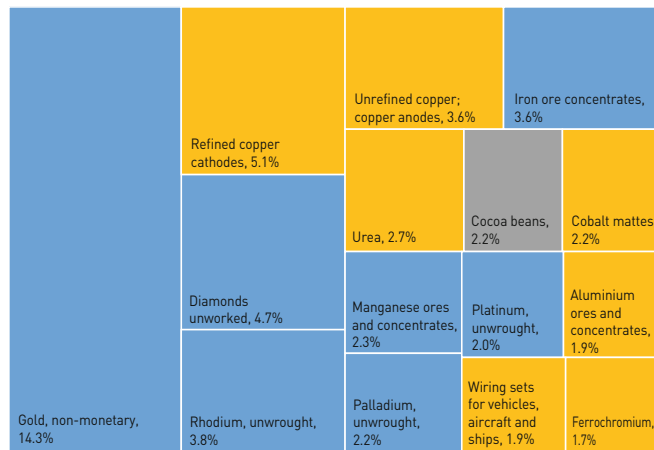
Africa exports of other industrial supplies also increased significantly, by 10.8 per cent from 2019 to 2021. The highest rate was for catalytic converters (84 per cent average growth), which are made from PGMs to treat exhaust emissions and primarily produced by South African manufacturers. Exports of urea materials, primarily from Egypt and Nigeria, and generally used by fertilizer, plastics and pharmaceutical industries, surged by 50 per cent on average between 2019 and 2021.

The top 15 IG exports (at the HS six-digit level) represented 54 per cent of total IG exports in 2021 (see Figure 3). Comprised mainly of primary commodities, the share was high compared to other regions. It was below the level of export concentration in South and Central America (66 per cent), but it was much higher than in Asia (37 per cent), North America (23 per cent) and Europe (17 per cent), where IG export diversification is greater.



Figure 3. Africa's top 15 IG exports, 2021

(As a share of Africa's total IG exports)



Source: Trade Data Monitor database (importer data).

Note: HS six-digit classification. Colours correspond to the broad IG categories in Figure 2.

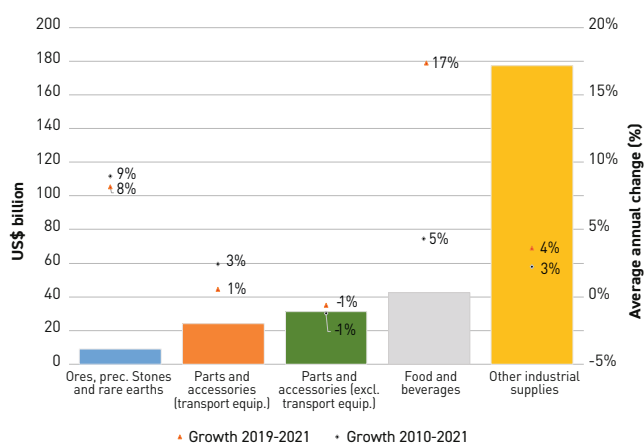
Non-monetary gold was the main exported commodity. In 2021, gold accounted for over 14.3 per cent of Africa's total IG exports and mainly originated from South Africa, Ghana and Zimbabwe. Cocoa beans, in raw and roasted forms, were the only food ingredient in Africa's top 15 exports in 2021. They were worth nearly US\$ 10 billion (2.2 per cent of Africa's IG exports) and were mainly produced in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the top two world producers.

IG imports

At 62 per cent, other industrial supplies accounted for the majority of Africa's IG imports in 2021, followed by food and beverages at 15 per cent (see Figure 4). The food and beverages IG category grew by 17 per cent on average between 2019 and 2021, much more than during 2010-2021 (5 per cent). This was mainly due to disruptions in food supply chains and price increases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 4. Africa's IG imports by category, 2010-2021

(2021 values in US\$ billion and average annual growth in per cent)



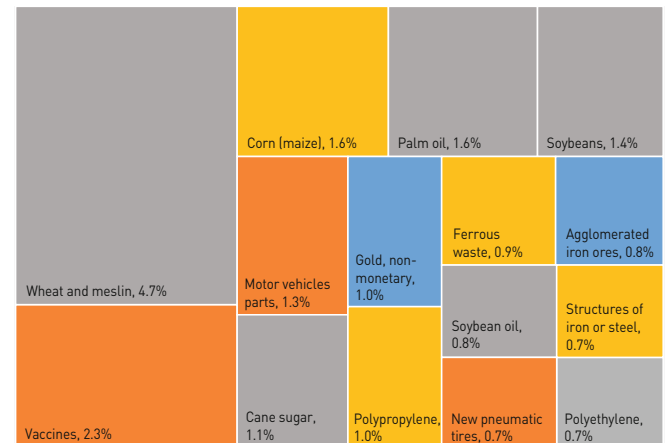
Source: WTO estimates based on data from UN Comtrade database.

1 Following the BEC-HS correspondence tables classified under "Other industrial supplies".

The top 15 IG imports accounted for 21 per cent of Africa's total IG imports in 2021, which was much lower than the 54 per cent share for the top 15 exported IGs. It thus indicated a much wider product diversification than for IG exports and reflected the low level of industrialization in the region and the need for foreign inputs to produce goods for consumer markets (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Africa's top 15 IG imports, 2021

(As a share of Africa's total IG imports)



Source: Trade Data Monitor database (exporter data)

Note: HS six-digit classification. Colour schemes correspond to the respective broad IG categories shown in Figure 4.

Wheat and meslin were the top imported IGs in 2021, accounting for 4.7 per cent of Africa's total IG imports, valued at US\$ 13 billion and with around 40 per cent sourced from the Russian Federation and Ukraine. A dependency and food security issue that turned out to be a proven risk in the following years due to supply shortages and soaring prices caused by the war in Ukraine.

Palm oil (primarily from Indonesia and Malaysia), corn¹ (from Argentina and Brazil), soybeans (from Brazil and the United States) and cane sugar (mainly from Brazil) were among the other most imported food products by African agro-industries and had a combined share of 6.5 per cent of total IG imports.

The most imported IGs by African manufacturers were polypropylene, used in the plastic industry, as well as ferrous wastes and iron and steel in various forms. During the COVID-19 peak period between 2020 and 2021, the imports of vaccines and diagnostic reagents increased fourfold to reach a value of US\$ 7.5 billion.

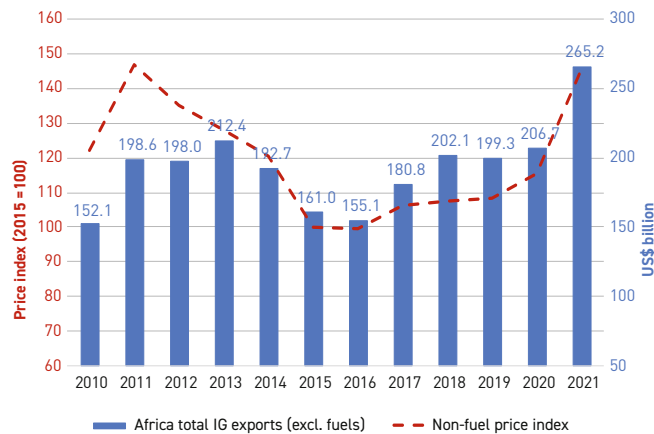
3. The impact of commodity prices on Africa's IG exports

The trade value of raw or semi-processed ores, metals and agricultural products is linked to the evolution of prices on global commodity markets. The decline of Africa's IG exports in 2014-2015 was due to a general drop in prices, which fell sharply during that period (see Figure 6).

More recently, the strong post-COVID rise of commodity prices largely contributed to the rise in the value of Africa's IG exports, which mostly comprise primary products. The price hike was due, for example, to increased demand, such as for iron ores and rhodium from China's steel and automotive industries, and shortages of PGMs due to plant outages in South Africa.

Figure 6. Africa's IG exports and commodity price index, 2010-2021

(Price index 2015 = 100 and in US\$ billion)



Source: WTO estimates based on data from the UN Comtrade database and the International Monetary Fund.

Note: The IMF price index covers precious metals, food and beverages and industrial inputs.

The value of Africa's exports of copper cathodes, the second most important IG export (see Figure 3), increased by 60 per cent in 2021, largely owing to a 50 per cent rise in the price of copper over the same period. However, export trends also reflected traded volumes. For instance, the 19 per

cent increase in Africa's exports of cocoa beans in 2021, the main food product exported by the region (see Figure 3), was primarily due to greater trade volumes, since market prices remained stable (+2%).

+60%

Value of Africa's exports of copper cathodes in 2021.

+50%

Copper price evolution in 2021.

4. Intra- and extra-regional trade in IGs, 2021

Intra-regional trade in Africa's IGs²

Intra-regional trade in Africa was led by South Africa and largely comprised of neighbouring countries trading. Although under-recorded due to a paucity of reported data, intra-African IG exports – a proxy of trade in regional value chains – were low in 2021 at an estimated share of 13 per cent of total IG exports (see Table 1). Thus, outlining the low integration of production chains in the region, such as in South and Central America and partly due to poor transport infrastructures and a lack of investment in technology and financing on the contrary to Asia and Europe, where intra-regional flows reach over two-thirds of total IG exports. The exclusion or partial inclusion of informal cross-border trade in foreign trade statistics is another reason for underestimates in regional trade (see Box 1).

13%

Share of intra-African IG exports of total IG exports.

Box 1. Informal cross-border trade in Africa: A continental methodology for data collection

Informal cross-border trade (ICBT) takes place between neighbour countries where traders cross the border to sell their goods and services. ICBT is an important source of income for African populations, and its evaluation is key for policymakers to monitor intra-African trade – particularly in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). An under-representation of informal transactions in IG trade statistics can lead to a missing part of the story in African supply chains.

The latest estimates from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) highlight that ICBT can be worth between 7 and 16 per cent of all formal intra-African trade flows and between 30 and 72 per cent of formal trade between neighbouring countries.*

Statistical methodologies have been established to define and organize ICBT data collection. Surveys are being carried out by many African national statistical institutions to understand the nature and extent of ICBT. However, ICBT data collection is a challenge, and any resulting data should match statistical standards to ensure cross-country comparison. To achieve this, the Continental Methodology for ICBT Data Collection was adopted in June 2023 by 29 members of the African Union in order to further improve informal trade data timeliness and accuracy.

* United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) (2021), *Towards an Estimate of Informal Cross-border Trade in Africa*, Addis Ababa: UNECA.

² Intra-Africa exports statistically correspond to intra-Africa imports, except for the free on board (FOB)/cost insurance and freight (CIF) valuation difference, which does not affect the analysis.

Table 1. Africa's IG exports by region and category, 2021

(As a share of Africa's total IG exports in per cent)

	Destinations						Total
	Africa	Asia	Europe	North America	South and Central America	Other regions	
Africa exports							
IG food and beverages	1.3%	1.7%	3.3%	0.8%	0.1%	0.7%	8.0%
IG parts and accessories (excl. transport equipment)	0.8%	0.2%	1.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	2.3%
IG parts and accessories (transport equipment)	0.4%	0.1%	2.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	3.2%
IG other industrial supplies	8.1%	13.2%	13.3%	2.6%	1.9%	2.8%	42.1%
IG ores, precious stones and rare earths	2.5%	14.6%	10.9%	3.5%	0.0%	12.9%	44.4%
Total	13.2%	29.8%	30.9%	7.2%	2.2%	16.7%	100.0%

Source: WTO estimates based on data from UN Comtrade database.**Note:** Blue cells highlight major trade links while red cells show minor links.

South Africa exported industrial inputs for US\$ 12.6 billion to African partners in 2021; of which almost 70 per cent took place, often via rail routes, with neighbouring economies that are also members of the South African Development Community (SADC) or the South African Customs Union (SACU).³ Exports include a wide range of inputs from raw minerals to industrial parts and accessories and food ingredients. Mozambique was South Africa's main regional destination, primarily for the transit of iron and chromium via the local port of Maputo and destined for Asian industries. The two metals are usually alloyed to produce stainless steel, and they represented two-thirds of South Africa's IG exports to Mozambique in 2021.

After South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Egypt are among the most active exporters to regional supply chains.

In recent years, Ghana, which is Africa's largest gold producer, has increasingly exported gold in semi-manufactured form to South African gold refineries. In 2021, gold accounted for nearly half of Ghana's exports to African countries. While 58 per cent of Zimbabwe's IG exports were taking place in Africa in 2021, all destined to neighbor countries due to being landlocked and also its membership to the SADC.

Egypt exported IGs worth US\$ 3 billion to African countries in 2021, amounting to 17 per cent of Egypt's total IG exports. They were primarily shipped to neighbouring countries Libya, Sudan and other countries in North Africa. The diverse range of products included construction materials (e.g. cement), chemical and fertilizer products (e.g. urea) and food ingredients (e.g. wheat flour, soybean oil).

Together with regional institutions such as the SACU and the SADC, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will create opportunities for the development and better inclusiveness of regional value chains by addressing some of the barriers and challenges that hinder the expansion of intra-African trade and the integration

³ SADC members: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. SACU members: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.

into global value chains. Limited product diversification, weak infrastructures, high tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade as well as low levels of investment and financing are among the main challenges to be addressed.

IG exports

In 2021, the destinations of more than 60 per cent of the IGs exported by African countries were evenly split between Asia (29.8 per cent of total IG exports) and Europe (30.9 per cent) (see Table 1). They mainly comprised PGMs and precious stones and metals (diamonds, gold, silver). Much less was exported to North America (7.2 per cent) and South and Central America (2.2 per cent). A major destination in the Middle East (included in "Other regions" in Table 1) was the United Arab Emirates – primarily diamonds and gold.

IG imports

Similar to exports, the main sources of Africa's IG imports in 2021 were Europe (34.9 per cent of total IG imports) and Asia (32.5 per cent) (see Table 2). France, Germany, Spain and Turkey together accounted for more than half of total supplies from Europe.

Table 2. Africa's IG imports by region and category, 2021

(As a share of Africa's total IG imports in per cent)

	Region of origins						Total
	Africa	Asia	Europe	North America	South and Central America	Other regions	
Africa imports							
IG food and beverages	1.3%	3.3%	4.9%	1.8%	2.0%	1.7%	14.9%
IG parts and accessories (excl. transport equipment)	0.8%	4.7%	4.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.5%	11.0%
IG parts and accessories (transport equipment)	0.4%	3.0%	3.5%	1.1%	0.0%	0.5%	8.5%
IG other industrial supplies	7.7%	21.3%	21.4%	2.8%	1.9%	7.2%	62.4%
IG ores, precious stones, rare earths	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%	0.2%	0.3%	0.9%	3.1%
Total	11.0%	32.5%	34.9%	6.6%	4.2%	10.8%	100.0%

Source: WTO estimates based on data from UN Comtrade database.**Note:** Blue cells highlight major trade links, while red cells show minor links.

In Asia, China is the leading supplier of IGs to Africa, covering a wide range of products.

24%

**Share of Africa's total IG imports in 2021 from China.
Top input supplier to African industries.**

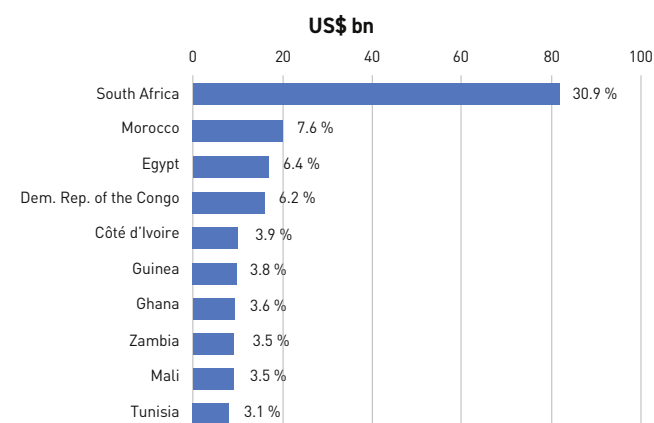
Imports from Saudi Arabia (included in "Other regions" in Table 2) more than doubled between 2010 and 2021, rising from US\$ 3 billion to US\$ 7 billion. Polypropylene was the main imported product and represented over half of Saudi Arabia's shipments to Africa. Polypropylene is one of the most used thermoplastics in the manufacturing industry, utilized in the production of plastic packaging and parts and fibres and textiles. Egypt received nearly half of these imports.

5. Africa's trade in IGs by country and major bilateral trade flow, 2021

IG exports

South Africa is the main exporter to regional and global value chains, with a share of 30.9 per cent in 2021 (US\$ 81.9 billion) (see Figure 7). The other major contributors to Africa's IG exports are Morocco (7.6 per cent, US\$ 20.2 billion), Egypt (6.4 per cent, US\$ 16.9 billion) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (6.2 per cent, US\$ 16.4 billion).

Figure 7. Top economy shares of total African IG exports, 2021
(In US\$ billion and as a share of Africa's total IG exports in per cent)



Source: WTO estimates based on data from UN Comtrade database.

Economies with the lowest IG exports shares are landlocked developing countries. Their relative distance to seaports as well as inherent difficulties in setting up proper telecommunication, transport and trade infrastructures inhibit the flow of IGs and integration to regional supply chains.

A large share of Africa's IG exports was focusing on few countries in 2021, a high concentration presuming that a majority of African economies participate only by a limited degree in international supply chains.

50%

The top four exporters accounted for more than half of Africa's IG exports in 2021.

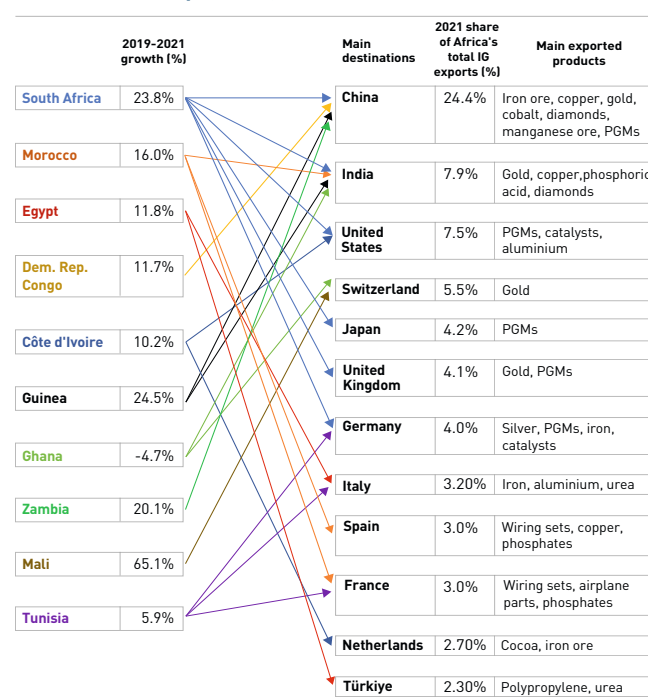
North African economies such as Morocco and Tunisia, benefit from their geographical proximity and historical relationships with Europe to join EU supply chains. They specialized in the production of technical components such as ignition wiring sets and other electrical equipment as well as parts for transport industries that are shipped to France and Spain for the production of cars, airplanes, helicopters and ships. Wiring sets accounted for 20 per cent of Tunisian exports of industrial inputs in 2021. In addition to manufacturing equipment, Morocco was also a major global supplier of phosphates and derived products used by a wide range of manufacturing industries (e.g. fertilizer, food, construction) and which represented more than 40 per cent of its IG exports in 2021.

Côte d'Ivoire is the top exporter of cocoa beans in the world, which was worth US\$ 4.3 billion and 40 per cent of its total IG exports in 2021.

Since its accession to the WTO in 2001, China's imports of inputs from Africa grew at a high annual rate of 19 per cent. This momentum persisted from 2010 to 2021 with an average rise of 10 per cent. Chinese manufacturers invested and developed backward supply chain connections in Africa, with a strong focus on ores (e.g. iron, copper, cobalt, manganese) and precious minerals and metals (e.g. gold, diamonds, PGMs).

India is another growing industrial partner for Africa, whose IG exports to India grew on average by 8.7 per cent per year between 2010 and 2021, and was the second highest export destination in 2021 (see Figure 8). Gold exports accounted for more than 45 per cent, estimated at US\$ 9.5 billion, of which US\$ 4.1 billion was shipped by South Africa.

Figure 8. Main destinations and products from the top 10 African IG exporters, 2021



Note: The main destinations account for at least 5 per cent of the reporter's total IG exports in 2021 with flows valued at more than US\$ 1 billion. The main exported products cover both raw and semi-processed forms.

Source: WTO estimates based on data from Trade Data Monitor (importer data).

IG imports

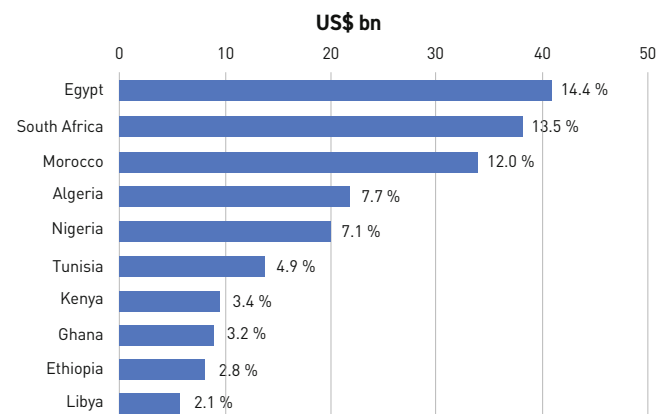
African countries have diversified import product portfolios largely sourced from developed economies, with South Africa as the main regional supplier. In a different order, the top three African IG importers were also the main IG exporters in 2021, accounting for 40 per cent of Africa's total IG imports (see Figure 9): Egypt (14.4 per cent of Africa's total IG imports), South Africa (13.5 per cent) and Morocco (12 per cent).

Centrally positioned and landlocked countries, such as the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and South Sudan, purchase relatively few foreign inputs in line with their low domestic consumption and participation in supply chains. France, their main historical supplier, was recently supplanted by China and the United States. While imports from France stagnated, shipments from Chinese and US industries rose an average of 30 and 36 per cent, respectively, since 2017. China overtook France as their main supplier since 2017, accounting

for 28 per cent of their total IG imports in 2021. Apart from the COVID-related exceptional boost of vaccines imports in 2021, the four economies mostly import basic products like food ingredients (palm oil, malt, wheat) for their local food production and consumption as well as cement and textile fabrics.

Figure 9. Top economy shares of total African IG imports, 2021

(In US\$ billion and as a share of Africa's total IG imports in per cent)



Source: WTO estimates based on data from UN Comtrade database.

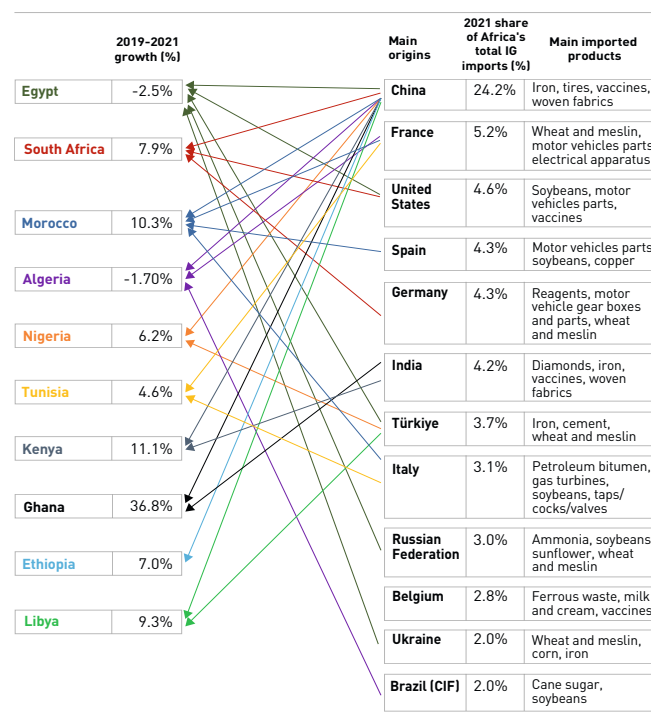
Egypt imports food products, including wheat, corn and palm oil (17 per cent of total IG imports in 2021), as well as semi-manufactured metals made of ferrous metal, iron, gold and copper (11 per cent). In 2021, the top three industrial suppliers to Egypt were China, which accounted for 17 per cent of total IG imports (mainly textile fabrics and parts for electrical devices and telephone sets), the Russian Federation (7 per cent, of which more than two-thirds were of wheat) and the United States (6 per cent, wide range of manufacturing inputs).

In 2021, South Africa sourced around 40 per cent of its imports of industrial inputs from China (20 per cent), Germany (11 per cent) and the United States (7 per cent). The main devices imported from China were telephone parts and photosensitive semiconductors, mostly used in the production and maintenance of smartphones, imaging devices and digital cameras. Imports of lithium-ion batteries grew by 75 per cent annually between 2016 and 2021, which reflects China's leading market position in lithium-ion manufacturing (around two-thirds) and perhaps also in response to the critical power shortages in South Africa. Lithium-ion batteries are used as energy storage components in a variety of industrial and consumer products (e.g. machinery equipment, medical devices, toys, smartphones, electrical cars, solar panels).

Morocco imports a diversified portfolio of industrial inputs. Wheat, the top imported product, accounted for just 4 per cent of the economy's total IG imports in 2021. On the contrary, the foreign origins of Morocco's imports focus on a few countries – France and Spain (each accounting for 37 per cent of total IG imports) and China (11 per cent).

China was the main supplier to African industries in 2021, contributing to almost a quarter of Africa's total IG imports with a great diversity of manufacturing products and destination countries. The scale of imports from China surged from US\$ 24 billion in 2010 to a record US\$ 68 billion in 2021, with an average annual growth of 10 per cent. Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa were the top three destinations for Chinese

Figure 10. Main origins and products of the top 10 African IG importers, 2021



Note: The main origins accounted for at least 5 per cent of the reporter's total IG imports in 2021 with flows valued at more than US\$ 1 billion (except for Libya US\$ 0.8 billion). The main imported products cover both raw and semi-processed states.

Source: WTO estimates based on data from Trade Data Monitor (exporter data).

industries, with woven fabrics (US\$ 3.7 billion) and vaccines (US\$ 2 billion) as the top imported products in 2021. China's Belt and Road Initiative and its focus on the development of infrastructure in Africa have played a role in strengthening Sino-African trade ties.

+10%

Annual growth of Africa's IG imports from China 2010-2021.

In 2021, France supplied the second largest share of IGs, contributing 5.2 per cent. France was a leading supplier of agricultural products such as wheat and meslin, and also played a major role in the supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

Spain and Germany accounted both for 4.3 per cent of Africa's total IG imports in 2021. Spain mainly exported to its Mediterranean neighbours in North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia), in particular parts and accessories for motor vehicles, refined copper wire and petroleum bitumen. Exports from German industries were primarily destined for the African automotive and transport industry (gearboxes, cars, airplanes) as well as diagnostic or laboratory reagents during the COVID-19 peak years.

Imports from the United States accounted for 4.6 per cent of Africa's total IG imports in 2021. US companies mainly exported soybeans and wheat to African food manufacturers (more than 22 per cent of US exports to Africa) and also polyvinyl chloride (PVC) thermoplastic and car parts and accessories.

6. Africa's trade in IGs, 2010-2021, by country

Table 3. Africa's IG exports, 2010-2021
(in US\$ million and per cent)

	2010	2021	2021 share of Africa's total IG exports (%)	Annual average growth rate (%)	
				2010-2021	2019-2021
Africa	152107	265194	100.0%	5.2%	15.4%
Algeria	1200	3946	1.5%	11.4%	39.2%
Angola	1795	1903	0.7%	0.5%	9.0%
Benin	241	874	0.3%	12.4%	12.6%
Botswana	4192	7258	2.7%	5.1%	19.7%
Burkina Faso	1254	4804	1.8%	13.0%	25.8%
Burundi	96	66	0.0%	-3.4%	-30.8%
Cabo Verde	6	21	0.0%	11.7%	186.5%
Cameroon	1683	2193	0.8%	2.4%	-6.1%
Central African Rep.	87	122	0.0%	3.1%	91.5%
Chad	353	923	0.3%	9.1%	71.1%
Comoros	3	9	0.0%	11.1%	-20.9%
Congo	243	533	0.2%	7.4%	1.3%
Côte d'Ivoire	6009	10313	3.9%	5.0%	10.2%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	4893	16392	6.2%	11.6%	11.7%
Djibouti	99	312	0.1%	11.0%	51.8%
Egypt	11562	16893	6.4%	3.5%	11.8%
Equatorial Guinea	336	505	0.2%	3.8%	-3.6%
Eritrea	12	662	0.2%	44.5%	16.2%
Eswatini	1095	1577	0.6%	3.4%	1.1%
Ethiopia	1051	1798	0.7%	5.0%	11.0%
Gabon	1611	2357	0.9%	3.5%	2.8%
The Gambia	44	8	0.0%	-14.0%	13.8%
Ghana	5025	9514	3.6%	6.0%	-4.7%
Guinea	1192	9964	3.8%	21.3%	24.5%
Guinea-Bissau	17	6	0.0%	-8.3%	-72.5%
Kenya	1751	2124	0.8%	1.8%	12.6%
Lesotho	136	331	0.1%	8.4%	25.0%
Liberia	389	1203	0.5%	10.8%	21.8%
Libya	831	1343	0.5%	4.5%	-7.8%
Madagascar	301	1197	0.5%	13.4%	2.7%
Malawi	920	753	0.3%	-1.8%	2.3%
Mali	1905	9337	3.5%	15.5%	65.1%
Mauritania	897	2545	1.0%	9.9%	39.9%
Mauritius	565	599	0.2%	0.5%	1.9%
Morocco	10148	20172	7.6%	6.4%	16.0%
Mozambique	1536	2429	0.9%	4.3%	2.3%
Namibia	4056	3096	1.2%	-2.4%	-19.4%
Niger	397	242	0.1%	-4.4%	-31.8%
Nigeria	9411	3148	1.2%	-9.5%	-24.9%
Rwanda	178	911	0.3%	16.0%	15.2%
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	6	18	0.0%	11.0%	48.7%
Senegal	1026	2894	1.1%	9.9%	17.9%
Seychelles	85	32	0.0%	-8.6%	13.4%
Sierra Leone	309	923	0.3%	10.4%	18.3%
Somalia	303	447	0.2%	3.6%	-8.7%
South Africa	51250	81851	30.9%	4.3%	23.8%
South Sudan	n.a.	19	0.0%	n.a.	-55.3%
Sudan	1738	4766	1.8%	9.6%	23.2%
Tanzania	3111	4852	1.8%	4.1%	13.5%
Togo	534	618	0.2%	1.3%	6.6%
Tunisia	6548	8136	3.1%	2.0%	5.9%
Uganda	939	3118	1.2%	11.5%	9.1%
Zambia	6324	9403	3.5%	3.7%	20.1%
Zimbabwe	2410	5734	2.2%	8.2%	22.1%

Table 4. Africa's IG imports, 2010-2021
(in US\$ million and per cent)

	2010	2021	2021 share of Africa's total IG imports (%)	Annual average growth rate (%)	
				2010-2021	2019-2021
Africa	217511	284021	100%	2%	5%
Algeria	23663	21933	7.7%	-0.7%	-1.7%
Angola	6855	4700	1.7%	-3.4%	-4.1%
Benin	636	1037	0.4%	4.5%	11.7%
Botswana	2703	4985	1.8%	5.7%	18.9%
Burkina Faso	911	1788	0.6%	6.3%	8.3%
Burundi	209	483	0.2%	7.9%	8.2%
Cabo Verde	253	253	0.1%	0.0%	-2.9%
Cameroon	1850	3146	1.1%	4.9%	6.5%
Central African Rep.	99	95	0.0%	-0.3%	-17.4%
Chad	552	419	0.1%	-2.5%	-1.1%
Comoros	69	95	0.0%	2.9%	14.8%
Congo	791	908	0.3%	1.3%	2.0%
Côte d'Ivoire	2366	5809	2.0%	8.5%	20.9%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2179	4313	1.5%	6.4%	-13.6%
Djibouti	1100	3289	1.2%	10.5%	13.3%
Egypt	30854	41021	14.4%	2.6%	-2.5%
Equatorial Guinea	1158	301	0.1%	-11.5%	-20.9%
Eritrea	220	174	0.1%	-2.1%	-8.4%
Eswatini	774	935	0.3%	1.7%	9.1%
Ethiopia	3793	8071	2.8%	7.1%	7.0%
Gabon	1020	826	0.3%	-1.9%	-5.8%
The Gambia	100	200	0.1%	6.4%	-2.2%
Ghana	3695	9039	3.2%	8.5%	36.8%
Guinea	806	2175	0.8%	9.4%	11.0%
Guinea-Bissau	71	128	0.0%	5.5%	9.4%
Kenya	4990	9560	3.4%	6.1%	11.1%
Lesotho	610	799	0.3%	2.5%	15.7%
Liberia	545	1176	0.4%	7.2%	13.7%
Libya	9172	5826	2.1%	-4.0%	9.3%
Madagascar	1303	2177	0.8%	4.8%	7.6%
Malawi	1210	862	0.3%	-3.0%	-26.4%
Mali	1873	1803	0.6%	-0.3%	-4.0%
Mauritania	663	1465	0.5%	7.5%	8.0%
Mauritius	1641	1862	0.7%	1.2%	0.6%
Morocco	17051	34025	12.0%	6.5%	10.3%
Mozambique	1113	4212	1.5%	12.9%	11.0%
Namibia	2341	2245	0.8%	-0.4%	-28.6%
Niger	1069	911	0.3%	-1.4%	-16.8%
Nigeria	22712	20115	7.1%	-1.1%	6.2%
Rwanda	577	1876	0.7%	11.3%	10.1%
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	35	51	0.0%	3.4%	10.6%
Senegal	1558	3876	1.4%	8.6%	12.7%
Seychelles	1082	539	0.2%	-6.1%	28.9%
Sierra Leone	318	622	0.2%	6.3%	11.6%
Somalia	384	1699	0.6%	14.5%	13.5%
South Africa	29949	38228	13.5%	2.2%	7.9%
South Sudan	n.a.	249	0.1%	23.3%	-22.9%
Sudan	6628	3810	1.3%	-5.0%	0.0%
Tanzania	3317	5136	1.8%	4.1%	11.1%
Togo	620	1272	0.4%	6.7%	22.4%
Tunisia	12804	13810	4.9%	0.7%	4.6%
Uganda	1977	2440	0.9%	1.9%	-23.3%
Zambia	3176	3548	1.2%	1.0%	1.2%
Zimbabwe	1939	3704	1.3%	6.1%	39.9%