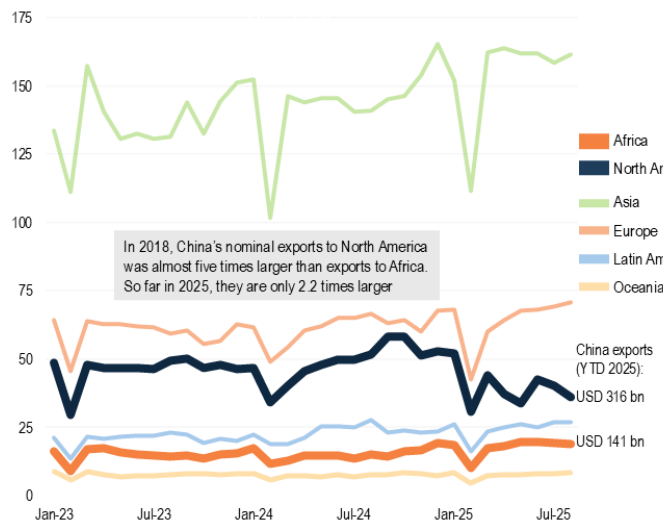


China's Exports: Africa Surging, North America Stalling

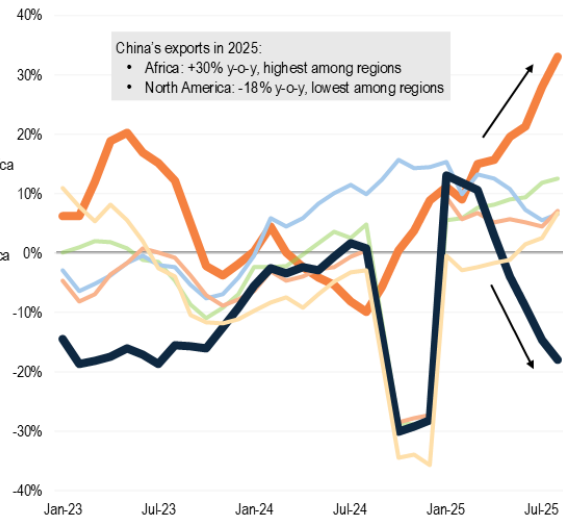
Africa is China's fastest-growing export market in 2024-2025, and North America is the slowest. Given current growth trends, China's exports to Africa are destined to eclipse those to North America.

China Exports by Region, USD bn (2023-Aug. 2025)



Source: UN Comtrade, TradeMap, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

China Exports by Region, Year-on-Year Growth, 6-Month Moving Average, % (2023-Aug. 2025)



China's export map is undergoing a fundamental shift in geography. Since early 2024, Africa has emerged as China's fastest-growing export region, with a sustained six-month moving-average growth rate accelerating to 33% year-on-year by August 2025. By contrast, North America stands out as the only region with persistent negative growth, reaching -18% year-on-year over the same period.

In value terms, North America remains the larger market, but the gap has narrowed dramatically. In 2018, Chinese exports to North America were almost five times larger than to Africa. By January-August 2025, that multiple has fallen to just over 2.2 times.

Several structural forces are driving this divergence. Africa's demand for Chinese goods is being lifted by rapid infrastructure build-out, urbanisation, energy and transport investment, and growing consumer markets. Chinese firms have maintained a strong presence in African construction, telecoms, vehicle assembly and manufactured goods, while Africa-Asia supply-chain integration continues to accelerate.

North America, by contrast, is showing the impact of strategic decoupling, tariffs and supply-chain reshoring. U.S. demand for Chinese goods has weakened across electronics, machinery and consumer products, driving a sustained contraction in export flows through 2025.

The largest African importers of Chinese goods in 2025 have been Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt. The fastest-growing markets include Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Tanzania, reflecting both investment inflows and expanding domestic demand. Export composition remains centred on machinery and equipment, complemented by rapid growth in vehicles, ships, plastics and iron & steel products.

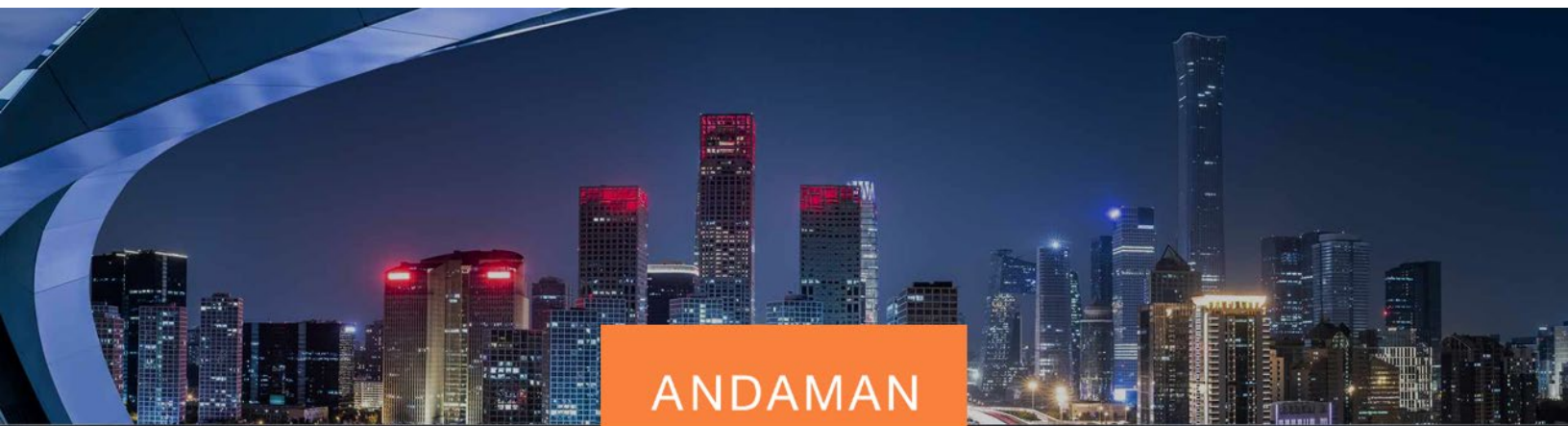
If current trends persist, China's exports to Africa are on track to eclipse those to North America within 3 to 5 years—a symbolic yet strategically significant shift. Africa is not only China's fastest-growing export destination; it is becoming a core pillar of China's global trade geography, while North America seems to be receding as a growth engine.

-----///-----

Also by ANDAMAN PARTNERS:

- [Engine of Global Trade: The Rise and Global Impact of China's Exports](#)
- [China-Africa Trade at a Glance: Demand Hubs and Supply Corridors](#)
- [High-Tech Exports: China Leading, Asia Rising](#)

ANDAMAN PARTNERS supports international business ventures and growth. We help launch global initiatives and accelerate successful expansion across borders. If your business, operations or project requires cross-border support, contact connect@andamanpartners.com.

**ANDAMAN
PARTNERS**

Global Cross-Border Business Solutions

Investment  **Advisory**  **Trade**

Shanghai | Hong Kong | Singapore | Perth | Bangkok | Cape Town

www.andamanpartners.com