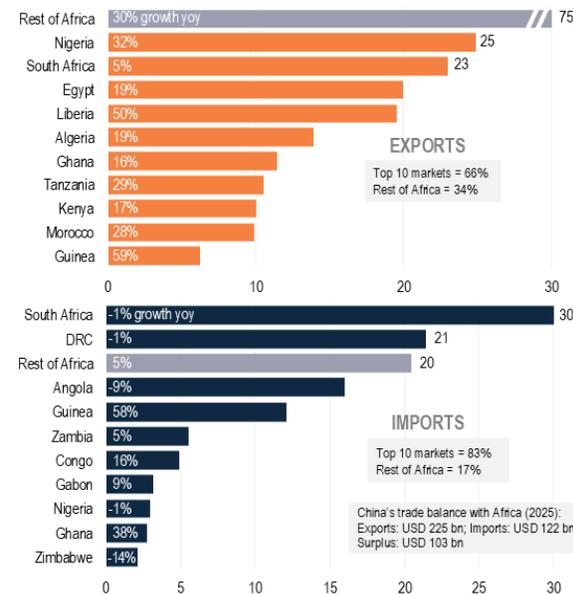


## China's Trade With Africa Accelerates as Industrial Exports Surge and Surplus Widens

*China's exports to Africa grew 26% in 2025, led by machinery, vehicles and light manufacturing, while imports expanded only modestly and remain concentrated in minerals & fuels, leaving exports nearly twice the size of imports.*

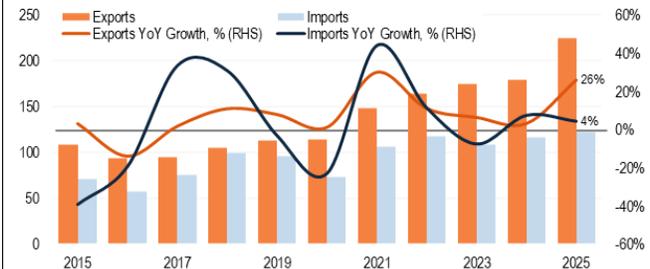
**China 2025 Top Africa Trade Partners (USD bn), YoY Growth (%)**



**China 2025 Trade with Africa by Sector (USD bn), YoY Growth (%)**

Sector	Imports (2025)			Exports (2025)		
	USD bn	Share, %	YoY Growth, %	USD bn	Share, %	YoY Growth, %
Agriculture & Forestry	3.9	3.0%	-14.0%	4	1.8%	26.5%
Automotive & Transport	0.04	0.04%	-13.0%	43	19.1%	71.8%
Food Products	1.3	1.0%	1.0%	2	1.0%	14.4%
Industrial Chemicals	0.3	0.2%	49.0%	5	2.3%	21.0%
Industrial Inputs	27.4	22.0%	-5.0%	34	14.9%	20.0%
Light Manufacturing	1.7	1.0%	22.0%	57	25.2%	11.0%
Machinery & Electronics	0.5	0.4%	-33.0%	68	30.0%	25.8%
Metals	14.1	12.0%	5.0%	4	2.0%	6.5%
Minerals & Fuels	72.3	59.0%	10.0%	3	1.4%	13.0%
Others	0.3	0.3%	9.0%	3	1.1%	18.7%
Textiles, Hides & Skins	0.1	0.1%	-12.0%	2	0.9%	7.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25.7%</b>

**China 2015-2025 Total Trade with Africa (LHS, USD bn), YoY Growth (%), (RHS)**



Note: Exports denote China's exports to Africa; imports denote China's imports from Africa. DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo. Source: China Customs, TradeMap, UN Comtrade, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

Trade between China and Africa accelerated sharply in 2025, driven primarily by a surge in Chinese exports of industrial goods. China's exports to the continent grew 26% year-on-year to around USD 225 billion, while imports rose only modestly (4%) to roughly USD 122 billion. The result is a widening Chinese trade surplus of more than USD 100 billion, with exports now nearly twice the size of imports. The data underline how the China–Africa trade relationship continues to expand in scale while maintaining a clear structural asymmetry.

The composition of trade highlights the underlying drivers. Chinese exports to Africa are dominated by manufactured and industrial products, particularly machinery & electronics, vehicles, and light-manufactured goods. Together, these sectors account for almost 75% of China's exports to the continent and have been a major engine of the 2025 growth surge. Rapid expansion in automotive and transport equipment exports in particular reflects China's rising competitiveness in vehicles and industrial equipment across emerging markets.

By contrast, China's imports from Africa remain heavily concentrated in natural resources. Minerals & fuels alone account for nearly 60% of Chinese imports from the continent, followed

by industrial inputs (22%) and metals (12%). This reflects Africa's continued role as a key supplier of energy and raw materials within China's global supply chains.

Geographically, China's exports are broadly diversified across African markets, with Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt among the largest destinations. Imports, however, are far more concentrated in a small group of resource-rich economies, led by South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola.

Overall, the data illustrate a deepening economic relationship built on complementary structures: Africa as a supplier of resources and China as a supplier of industrial goods. As China's manufacturing sectors continue expanding into global markets, Africa is likely to remain an increasingly important destination for Chinese industrial exports. The scale of China's demand also points to significant potential for African economies to expand and diversify their exports to the Chinese market over time.



*Also by ANDAMAN PARTNERS:*

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