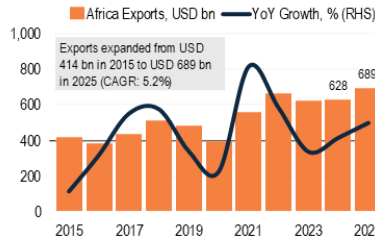


Africa's Export Growth Remains Commodity-Led, with Scale Concentrated in a Handful of Economies

Exports have grown steadily since 2015, but minerals, fuels and metals still dominate, while South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria account for nearly half of the total.

Africa Exports USD bn, YoY Growth % (RHS) (2015-2025)

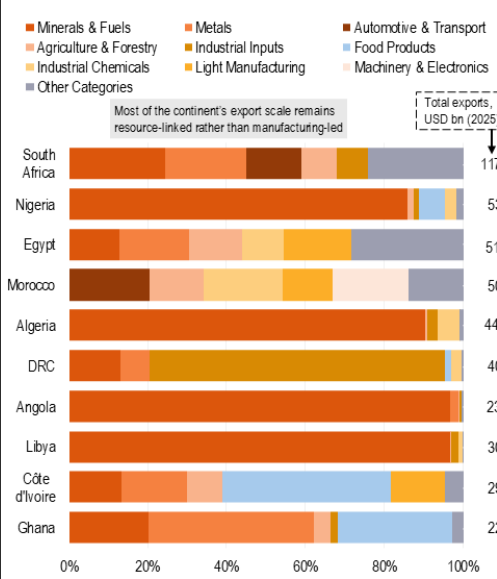


Top 10 African Exporters USD bn, Share of Africa Exports % (RHS) (2025)

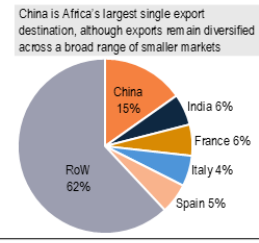


Source: WTO, UN Comtrade, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

Top 10 African Exporters by Category, USD bn (2025)



Africa Top 5 Export Destinations % Share (2025)



Africa's Export Structure in 2025-2026:

- High commodity exposure leaves export earnings highly sensitive to prices, currencies and external demand
- Manufacturing exports remain concentrated in a few economies, especially South Africa and Morocco
- African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) can deepen intra-African trade, but current export structures still show limited regional value-chain integration
- Logistics, port and border costs constrain competitiveness
- Export growth is rising, but value addition remains the central strategic gap

Africa's exports continued to expand in 2025, reaching nearly USD 689 billion, up from USD 414 billion in 2015, reflecting a 5.2% CAGR over the period. However, the structure of exports remains heavily concentrated in commodities, with minerals, fuels and metals continuing to dominate the continent's trade mix. Export performance also remains concentrated in a limited number of economies, with South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria together generating nearly half of Africa's total exports.

South Africa remained the continent's largest exporter in 2025 at USD 117 billion, supported by a more diversified export structure spanning mining, manufacturing and automotive production. Nigeria, Algeria, Angola and Libya continued to rely heavily on hydrocarbons, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo's export profile remained overwhelmingly concentrated in minerals and industrial inputs linked to global battery and metals supply chains. Morocco stood out as one of Africa's most manufacturing-oriented exporters, supported by automotive, industrial and light manufacturing exports.

Export destinations also continue to reflect Africa's integration into global commodity demand networks. China remained Africa's largest single export market, while Europe continued to absorb a significant share of manufactured and resource exports.

Overall, Africa's export base is growing steadily, but the continent still faces a structural challenge in moving beyond commodity dependence toward broader value-added manufacturing and deeper regional industrial integration.

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- [China's Trade With Africa Accelerates as Industrial Exports Surge and Surplus Widens](#)
- [Engine of Global Trade: The Rise and Global Impact of China's Exports](#)

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