

# China and Africa's Critical Minerals. Geopolitics, Debt and Just Transition

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# China and Africa's Critical Minerals. Geopolitics, Debt and Just Transition

- This article examines the complex causal relationship between China's growing demand for critical minerals and the rise of external debt across African countries.
- This dynamic is driven by the continent's integration into the global economic cycle as a supplier of strategic goods essential to both the energy transition and the digital economy.
- Within this framework, the study analyzes how the thirst for critical minerals impacts the evolution of external indebtedness, specifically highlighting the structural weakness of economies where exports rely overwhelmingly—nearly 80 percent—on commodities.

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- The study hypothesizes that strategies of external borrowing, alongside Chinese investment in energy infrastructure designed to secure mineral access, intensify the economic dependence of African nations.
- Ultimately, this cycle of indebtedness and extractive dependence undermines governments' capacity to finance social welfare.
- This calls into question the feasibility of a Just Transition (JT) on the continent, raising doubts regarding whether the shift toward clean energy will genuinely benefit local populations or instead deepen the structural asymmetries of the New World Economic Order (NWEO).

# China and Africa's Critical Minerals. Geopolitics, Debt and Just Transition

- “Despite immense energy resources, Africa remains energy poor. Today, around 600 million Africans still lack access to electricity and more than 1 billion still cook their meals over open fires and traditional stoves using wood, charcoal, kerosene, coal and animal waste. The consequences are dire in terms of health, education, climate, and economic and social development, with many of these impacts disproportionately affecting women and children.”
- International Energy Association, 2024.

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- One example of this is Zambia, a country whose rich reserves of copper and cobalt are strategic. “China has poured billions into Zambian mines. In September a Chinese state firm agreed to invest \$1.4 bn in an upgrade to the 1,860 km Tazara railway between Zambia and the Indian Ocean port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. The project, originally built by China in the 1970s, was the focus of a trip to Zambia this month by China’s prime minister, Li Qiang. He was the highest-ranking Chinese visitor in more than 18 years” (The Economist, 2025a).
- On the other hand, China, which is the world’s fourth-largest buyer of iron ore, has promoted in Guinea, a country located in West Africa, the Simandou mining project, led by the Chinese company Chinalco, the Chinese–Singaporean consortium (WCS), and Rio Tinto. “Mining of the 3bn-tonne deposit, which would be worth some \$315bn at current prices, has been on hold for nearly 30 years. Some analysts expect the boost to supply from Simandou to make iron-ore prices drop from around \$100 a tonne now to as low as \$70 over the next couple of years.” (The Economist, 2025b).

# China Strategic Redefinition

Five-Year Plans: Priority on searching for energy alternatives given the lack of oil.

Result: China is a world leader in non-renewable and renewable energy projects (IEA)

Geopolitics: Control of minerals in Africa which are vital for the digital economy and climate change

China is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Investor in Africa and hold 1/5 of all loans.

# China's Financial Footprint in Africa

Commitment of 150 billion USD in loans (200-2018).

$\frac{1}{4}$  of these loans allocated in the energy sector.

China became the main trading partner in 2009.

Consequence: The financial cost restricts the monetary sovereignty of African countries.

Increased risk of default and interest rates post-pandemic.

# Case Study: Zambia (East Africa)

Strategic resources: Rich reserves of Copper and Cobalt.

Recent investment: Chinese state-owned company invests 1.4 billion USD to modernize the Tazara railway (1,860km).

Logistic connection: Zambia – Dar es Salaam Port (Tanzania).

Political relevance: Visit by Premier Li Qiang (highest-ranking visit in 18 years).

# Case Study: Guinea in West Africa

Simandou Mine Project: Iron ore deposit of 3 billion tons.

Approximate value: 315 billion USD.

Actors: Chinalco (China), Chinese-Singaporean Consortium and Rio Tinto. Market impact: Iron ore price is expected to drop from 100 USD to 70 USD per ton.

China secures supply as the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest iron ore buyer.

# Africa's Extractivist Matrix

Economy concentrated on metal and energy exports

Commodities Boom: Growth driven by high prices (Super-cycle)

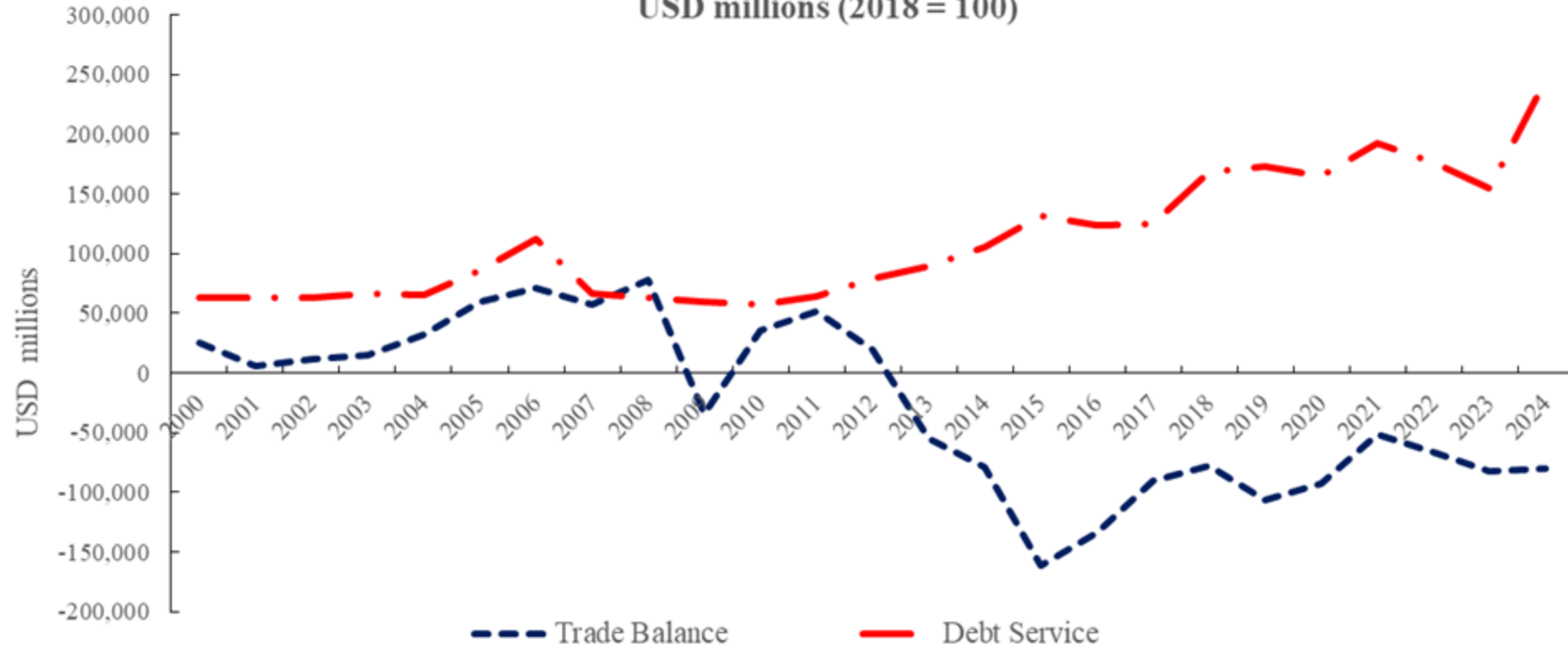
Increased dependency: Basic products went from 57% (90s) to 76% (2010-2014) of exports.

Vulnerability: IMF notes that almost half of sub-Saharan countries are vulnerable to price drops.

# China's Role in the Super-Cycle

- Chinese stimulus policies drove intensive investment in raw materials.
- This accelerated recovery after the 2008 Financial Crisis.
- New Actors: USA (Power Africa), EU, India, and Gulf States also seek influence.
- Africa as a stage for geopolitical controversy and global power recalibration.

### African Countries. Total External Debt Service and Trade Balance USD millions (2018 = 100)



Source: Own elaboration with data from UNCTAD (s.f.), *Data Hub*, (<https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/>); The World Bank Group (s.f.), *World Development Indicators*, (<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/>), and the Bank of International Settlements (s.f.), *Global statistics Data Portal*, (<https://data.bis.org/>).

# Indebtedness and Vulnerability: Phase 1&2

Unprecedented crisis: Simultaneous supply and demand shock.

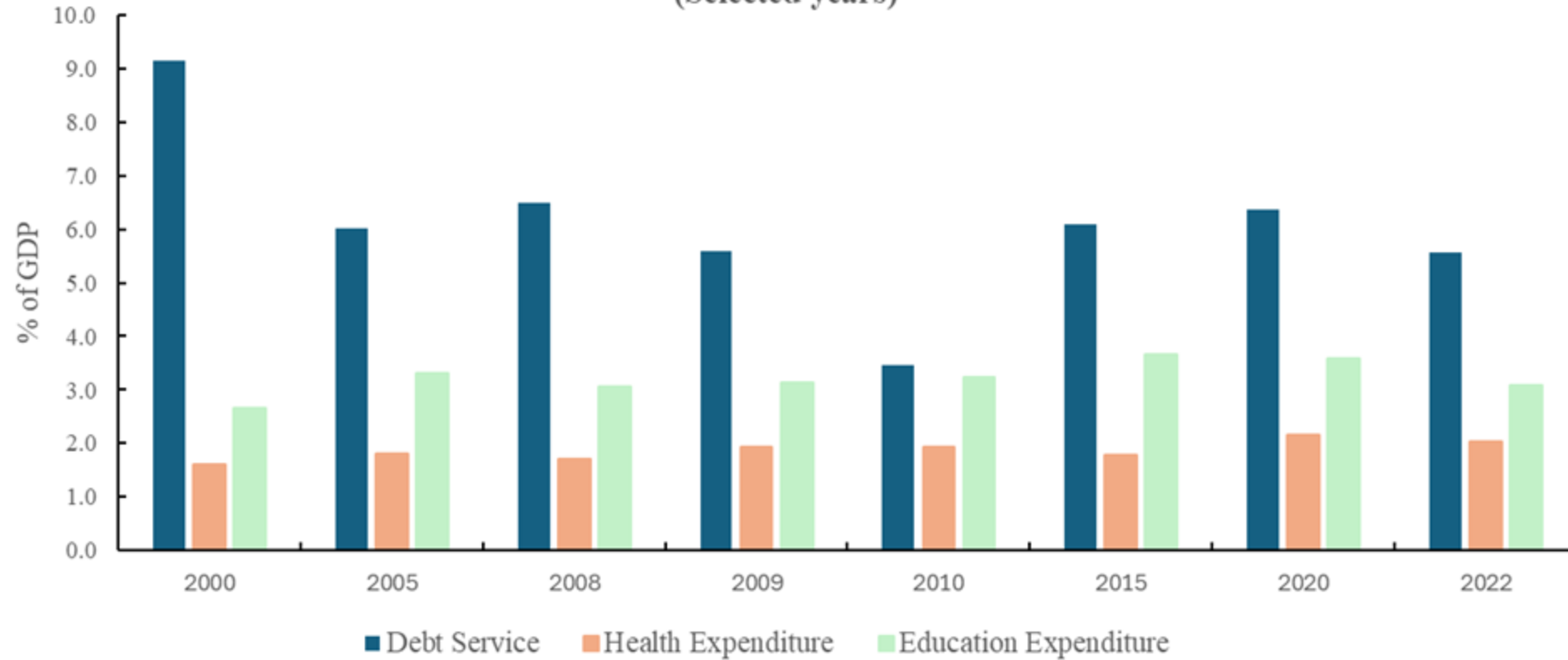
IMF Advice: 'Spend whatever you can, but keep the receipts'.

Consequence: Massive entry of institutional investors.

October 2025: Indebtedness continues to rise while international aid decreases.

Risk of serious disruptions in public services

### Sub-Saharan Africa. Government Expenditure as % GDP (Selected years)



Source: Own elaboration with data from World Bank Group (s.f.), *World Development Indicators*, (<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/>) and International Monetary Fund. (October, 2025), *World Economic Outlook Database*, (<https://www.imf.org/en/publications/weo/weo-database>). Retrieved December, 2025.

# The Social Cost of Debt

Causal Relationship: Trade deficit + Debt cost = Less Social Spending.

Restricted sovereignty. Governments prioritize paying creditors over health and education.

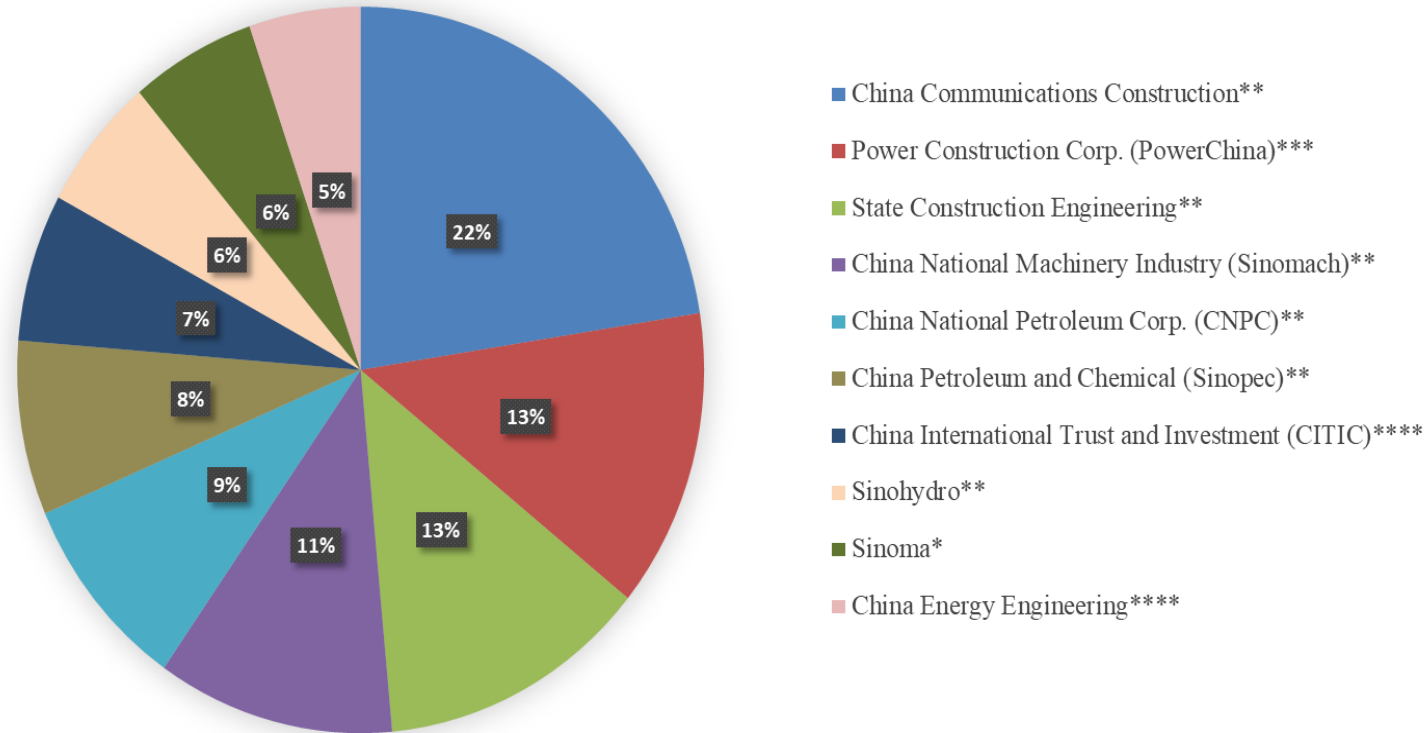
Comparison of debt service vs. health/education spending.

Oil-dependent countries suffered the sharpest debt increase (2012-2018).

Chinese Corporations Investments in African Countries					
Investor/Contractor	Total Investor (Millions \$US)	Total share	Sector	Subsector	Country
China Communications Construction	\$45,670	22.49%	Transport, Logistics, Agriculture, Energy, Real estate, Other, Entertainment	Autos, Shipping, Rail, Aviation, Construction, Alternative, Gas, Oil, Industry	Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
Power Construction Corp. (PowerChina)	\$27,050	13.32%	Energy, Utilities, Entertainment, Transport, Metals, Agriculture, Real estate, Health, Technology	Gas, Hydro, Oil, Coal, Alternative, Autos, Steel, Construction, Aviation, Telecom, Rail, Aluminum, Copper	Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
State Construction Engineering	\$25,820	12.72%	Transport, Tourism, Real estate, Health, Other, Energy, Entertainment, Finance, Logistics, Chemicals	Aviation, Autos, Construction, Shipping, Education, Hydro, Coal, Alternative	Algeria, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
China National Machinery Industry (Sinomach)	\$22,680	11.17%	Utilities, Agriculture, Transport, Energy, Entertainment, Real estate, Technology, Other, Metals, Health, Chemicals	Autos, Hydro, Construction, Aviation, Gas, Telecom, Education, Steel, Alternative	Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC)	\$17,940	8.84%	Energy, Chemicals	Oil, Gas	Algeria, Benin, Chad, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
China Petroleum and Chemical (Sinopec)	\$15,750	7.76%	Energy, Utilities, Technology, Other, Real estate, Transport, Chemicals	Oil, Gas, Telecom, Industry, Construction, Autos, Hydro	Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome, Uganda
China International Trust and Investment (CITIC)	\$13,370	6.59%	Real estate, Tourism, Agriculture, Utilities, Transport, Metals	Construction, Property, Autos, Aluminum	Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa
Sinohydro	\$12,120	5.97%	Agriculture, Transport, Energy, Metals, Entertainment, Health, Utilities	Autos, Hydro, Shipping	Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Sinoma	\$11,990	5.91%	Real estate	Construction	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia
China Energy Engineering	\$10,647	5.24%	Energy, Transport, Utilities	Hydro, Rail, Oil, Gas, Alternative, Shipping, Autos	Angola, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
Total	\$203,037	100.00%			

Source: American Enterprise Institute & The Heritage Foundation. (s.f.). China Global Investment Tracker. <https://www.aei.org/china-global-investment-tracker>

## Chinese Corporations Investments in African Countries



Source: American Enterprise Institute & The Heritage Foundation. (s.f.). China Global Investment Tracker. <https://www.aei.org/china-global-investment-tracker>

# Conclusions: The Transition Dilemma

Causal Relationship: Trade deficit + Debt cost = Less Social Spending.

Restricted sovereignty. Governments prioritize paying creditors over health and education.

Comparison of debt service vs. health/education spending.

Oil-dependent countries suffered the sharpest debt increase (2012-2018).

# Reconsiderations and Future

Short Term: Accumulation of reserves and fiscal adjustments.

Long Term: Real economic diversification to reduce the weight of raw materials (Bourguignon, 2012).

Objective: Recover fiscal sovereignty to meet Agenda 2030 and 2063.

Final question: Will the shift to clean energy benefit locals or deepen asymmetries?

### South Africa Top 10 Exports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	% Total Exports
Gold	25,913	18%
Platinum	13,813	10%
Coal Briquettes	9,008	6%
Cars	7,792	5%
Iron Ore	7,038	5%
Delivery Trucks	6,675	5%
Ferrous Alloys	5,331	4%
Diamonds	4,729	3%
Chromium Ore	4,142	3%
Manganese Ore	2,706	2%
Total Top 10 Exports by product	87,147	60%
Total Exports	144,667	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/export/dza/all/show/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/export/dza/all/show/2023)

### South Africa Top 10 Exports by Destination 2023

Country	Trade Value*	% Total Exports
China	26,778	19%
India	10,634	7%
United States	9,719	7%
Germany	8,759	6%
United Kingdom	7,918	5%
Japan	6,448	4%
Mozambique	6,144	4%
Botswana	4,319	3%
Switzerland	4,261	3%
Netherlands	4,175	3%
Total Top 10 Exports by c	89,155	62%
Total Exports	144,667	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023. [https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/export/dza/all/show/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/export/dza/all/show/2023)

### South Africa Top 10 Imports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	% Total Imports
Refined Petroleum	15,563.60	15%
Crude Petroleum	4,709.58	4%
Gold	4,550.56	4%
Cars	4,334.44	4%
Telephones	3,194.70	3%
Motor Vehicles; parts & accessories	2,614.28	2%
Electric Batteries	2,085.46	2%
Computers	1,911.15	2%
Packaged Medicaments	1,693.69	2%
Delivery Trucks	1,291.58	1%
Total Top 10 Imports by product	41,949.03	39%
Total Imports	106,872.53	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

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### South Africa Top 10 Imports by Destination 2023

Country	Trade Value*	% Total Imports
China	22,272.30	21%
Germany	8,207.49	8%
India	7,638.05	7%
United States	6,853.21	6%
United Arab Emirates	4,261.86	4%
Saudi Arabia	3,129.25	3%
Oman	2,562.00	2%
Italy	2,440.83	2%
Nigeria	2,371.39	2%
Thailand	2,221.36	2%
Total Top 10 Imports by Destination	61,957.75	58%
Total Imports	106,872.53	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/export/dza/show/all/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/export/dza/show/all/2023)

### Egypt Top 10 Exports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	% Total Exports
Refined Petroleum	4,215.76	8.2%
Petroleum Gas	3,339.47	6.5%
Nitrogenous Fertilizers	2,556.67	5.0%
Crude Petroleum	2,402.33	4.7%
Gold	1,991.68	3.9%
Insulated Wire	1,228.24	2.4%
Citrus	1,149.32	2.2%
Video Displays	989.24	1.9%
Hot-Rolled Iron	910.43	1.8%
Cement	851.69	1.7%
Total Top 10 Exports by product	19,634.83	38.4%
Total Exports	51,137	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

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### Egypt Top 10 exports Destinations 2023

Country	Trade Value*	% Total Exports
Saudi Arabia	5,350.69	10.5%
Turkey	4,578.56	9.0%
Italy	2,914.26	5.7%
United States	2,692.20	5.3%
United Arab Emirates	2,464.45	4.8%
Libya	1,785.60	3.5%
Spain	1,747.67	3.4%
United Kingdom	1,718.38	3.4%
Germany	1,498.27	2.9%
Greece	1,496.33	2.9%
Total Top 10 Exports by Destination	26,246.42	51.3%
Total Exports	51,137	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

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### Egypt Top 10 Imports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value*	% Total Imports
Refined Petroleum	8,559.68	9%
Wheat	3,911.60	4%
Petroleum Gas	2,688.07	3%
Cars	2,605.75	3%
Packaged Medicaments	2,552.28	3%
Corn	1,967.63	2%
Crude Petroleum	1,918.48	2%
Telephones	1,596.61	2%
Scrap Iron	1,459.25	2%
Iron Ore	1,414.86	2%
Total Top 10 Imports by product	28,674.21	32%
Total Imports	90,754	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

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### Egypt Top 10 Imports by Destination 2023

Country	Trade Value*	% Total Imports
China	15,103.00	17%
Saudi Arabia	5,629.20	6%
Russia	4,957.67	5%
Germany	4,781.29	5%
United States	4,720.50	5%
India	4,132.00	5%
Italy	3,486.00	4%
Turkey	3,473.07	4%
United Arab Emirates	3,004.44	3%
Kuwait	2,787.71	3%
Total Top 10 Imports by Destination	52,074.88	57%
Total Imports	90,754	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023. <https://oec.world>

### Nigeria Top 4 Exports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	%Total Exports
Crude Petroleum	45,568.42	72%
Petroleum Gas	8,255.23	13%
Gold	1,535.83	2%
Total Top 4 Exports by product	55,359.48	88%
Total Exports	63,089.00	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/export/dza/all/show/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/export/dza/all/show/2023)

### Nigeria Top 10 exports Destinations 2023

Country	Trade Value*	%Total Exports
United States	6,140.96	9.7%
Spain	5,885.91	9.3%
Netherlands	5,261.59	8.3%
France	4,740.77	7.5%
India	3,882.48	6.2%
Indonesia	3,578.15	5.7%
Cote d'Ivoire	2,514.05	4.0%
China	2,424.93	3.8%
United Kingdom	2,388.61	3.8%
South Africa	2,371.39	3.8%
Total Top 10 Exports by Destination	39,188.84	62.1%
Total Exports	63,089.00	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/export/dza/show/all/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/export/dza/show/all/2023)

### Nigeria Top 10 Imports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	%Total Imports
Refined Petroleum	17,602.17	25%
Tanks and Armored vehicles	9,174.79	13%
Wheat	2,973.26	4%
Telephones	1,287.21	2%
Cars	1,194.48	2%
Raw Sugar	851.18	1%
Motor Vehicles; parts & accessories	714.77	1%
Non-fillet Frozen Fish	696.23	1%
Packaged Medicaments	692.45	1%
Ethylene Polymers	539.11	1%
Total Top 10 Imports by Product	35,725.65	51%
Total Imports	69,797	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

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### Nigeria Top 10 Imports by Destination 2023

Country	Trade Value*	%Total Imports
China	19,855.75	28%
Singapore	9,343.61	13%
Belgium	5,132.49	7%
India	4,021.70	6%
United States	2,759.53	4%
Netherlands	2,581.52	4%
Malta	2,263.17	3%
United Kingdom	1,921.63	3%
South Korea	1,699.61	2%
Russia	1,508.22	2%
Total Top 10 Imports by Destination	51,087.23	73%
Total Imports	69,797	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/export/dza/show/all/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/export/dza/show/all/2023)

### Algeria Top 3 Exports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	% Total Exports
Petroleum Gas	27,221.70	52%
Crude Petroleum	14,141.57	27%
Refined Petroleum	5,702.14	11%
Total Top 3 Exports by Product	47,065.42	90%
Total Exports	52,358	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

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### Algeria Top 10 Exports by Destinations 2023

Country	Trade Value*	% Total Exports
Italy	15,222.13	29%
France	7,293.09	14%
Spain	6,733.75	13%
United States	3,139.91	6%
Netherlands	2,041.14	4%
United Kingdom	1,932.17	4%
Brazil	1,918.43	4%
Tunisia	1,810.92	3%
Germany	1,617.89	3%
Turkey	1,452.40	3%
Total Top 10 Exports by Destination	43,161.85	82%
Total Exports	52,358	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

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### Algeria Top 10 Imports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	% Total Imports
Wheat	1,834.93	5%
Cars	1,582.49	4%
Concentrated Milk	1,311.72	3%
Corn	1,073.76	3%
Raw Sugar	931.80	2%
Iron Ore	816.84	2%
Packaged Medicaments	794.86	2%
Delivery Trucks	784.58	2%
Soybeans	769.93	2%
Telephones	613.01	2%
Total Top 10 Imports by Product	10,513.93	26%
Total Imports	39,917	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

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### Algeria Imports by Country 2023

Country	Trade Value*	% Total Imports
China	9,453.85	24%
France	4,626.50	12%
Italy	3,028.75	8%
Turkey	2,748.00	7%
Brazil	2,373.91	6%
Germany	2,132.55	5%
United States	1,183.08	3%
Canada	964.37	2%
United Arab Emirates	962.19	2%
Argentina	862.72	2%
Total Top 10 Imports by Desti	28,335.92	71%
Total Imports	39,917	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/import/dza/show/all/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/import/dza/show/all/2023)

### Morocco Top 10 Exports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	% Total Exports
Cars	6,530.04	13%
Mixed Mineral or Chemical Fertilizers	5,707.81	12%
Insulated Wire	5,305.86	11%
Non-Knit Women's Suits	1,962.13	4%
Tomatoes	1,534.87	3%
Motor Vehicles; parts & accessories	1,408.39	3%
Phosphoric Acid	1,406.37	3%
Aircraft parts (gliders, balloons, and powered aircraft)	1,241.18	3%
Molluscs	1,130.26	2%
Other Fruits	978.06	2%
Total Top 10 Exports by Product	27,204.98	55%
Total Exports	49,153	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/export/mar/all/show/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/export/mar/all/show/2023)

### Morocco Top 10 Exports Destination 2023

Country	Trade Value *	% Total Exports
Spain	9,814.62	20%
France	8,115.44	17%
Germany	2,851.38	6%
United Kingdom	2,479.28	5%
Italy	2,195.47	4%
United States	1,632.37	3%
Turkey	1,579.75	3%
Brazil	1,458.58	3%
India	1,415.51	3%
Poland	992.35	2%
Total Top 10 Exports by Destination	32,534.74	66%
Total Exports	49,153	100%

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/export/mar/all/show/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/export/mar/all/show/2023)

### Morocco Top 10 Imports by Product 2023

HS4*	Trade Value**	% Total Imports
Refined Petroleum	7,287.17	10%
Motor Vehicles; parts & accessories	2,420.10	3%
Cars	2,419.80	3%
Petroleum Gas	2,148.23	3%
Coal Briquettes	2,120.42	3%
Wheat	1,784.51	3%
Insulated Wire	1,291.27	2%
Spark-Ignition Engines	1,017.94	1%
Telephones	973.48	1%
Copper Wire	862.91	1%
Total Top 10 Imports by Product	22,325.82	31%
Suma Total de las Exportaciones	71,154	100%

\*HS4: World Customs Organization classification from multipurpose international product nomenclature.

\*\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/import/mar/all/show/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/import/mar/all/show/2023)

### Morocco Top 10 Imports by Destination 2023

Country	Trade Value*	% Total Imports
Spain	12,210.67	17%
China	7,442.32	10%
France	7,203.49	10%
United States	5,414.14	8%
Germany	3,667.32	5%
Turkey	3,403.20	5%
Italy	3,218.66	5%
Saudi Arabia	2,405.20	3%
Portugal	1,573.86	2%
India	1,451.31	2%
Total Top 10 Imports by Destination	47,990.16	67%
Suma Total de las Exportaciones	71,154	100%

\*Elaborated using data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, USD millions, 2023.

[https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs17/import/mar/show/all/2023](https://oec.world/en/visualize/tree_map/hs17/import/mar/show/all/2023)