



# COMESA-USA Trade Relations

## 1. INTRODUCTION

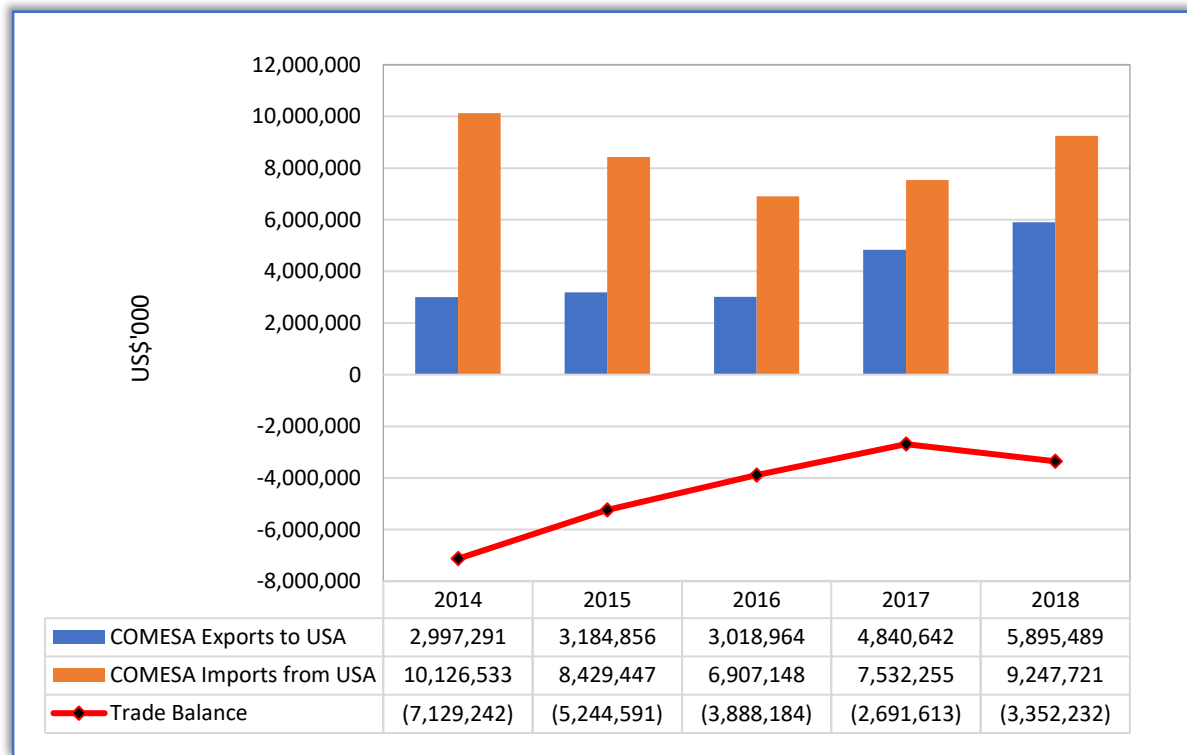
The United States and COMESA signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) in 2001 and have held several TIFA Council meetings.

## 2. COMESA-USA TRADE TREND

COMESA had a \$15 billion in total (two ways) goods trade with the United States during 2018. Goods exports totaled \$6 billion; goods imports totaled \$9 billion. COMESA goods trade surplus with The U.S. was \$3.3 billion in 2018.

The chart below highlights the bilateral trade trend between COMESA and the United States of America.

**Chart 1: COMESA-USA Trade Trend: 2014 – 2018**

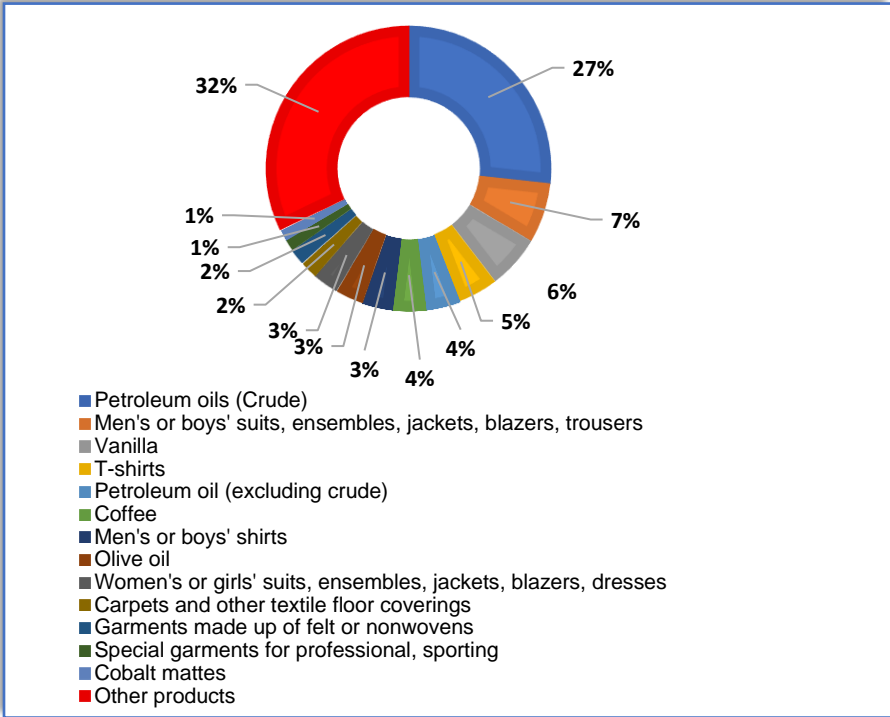


Source: UNCOMTRADE, ITC Trademap

## 3. COMESA TOP EXPORT PRODUCTS

The top export categories (4-digit HS) in 2018 were: petroleum oils (crude), men's clothes, vanilla and t-shirts among others. Chart 2 below shows the top COMESA export products to USA.

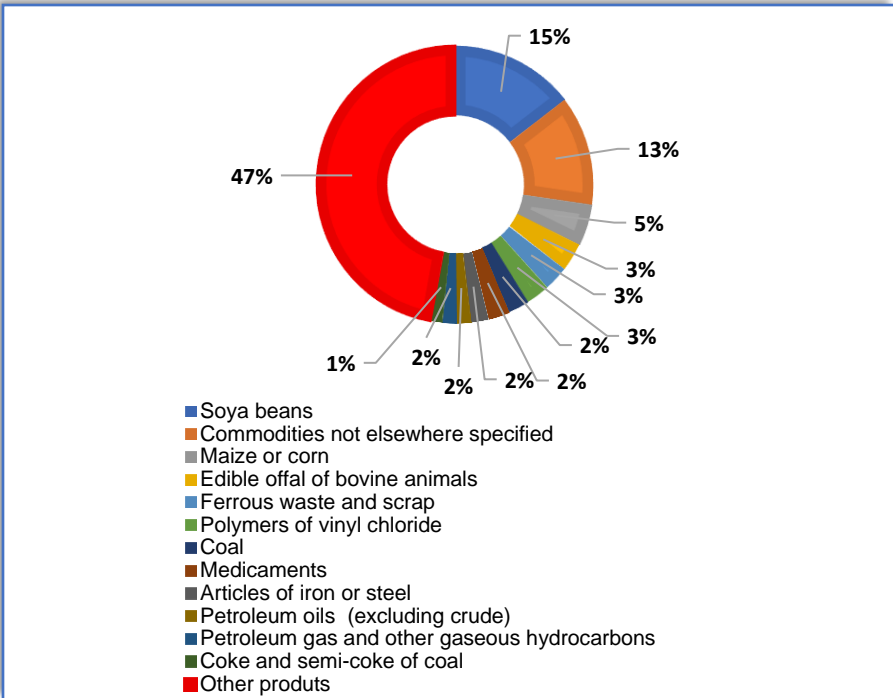
**Chart 2: COMESA top export products – 2018**



Source: UNCOMTRADE, ITC Trademap

**4. COMESA TOP IMPORT PRODUCTS**

**Chart 3: COMESA Top import products – 2018**



Source: UNCOMTRADE, ITC Trademap

Chart 3 above, shows the top import products (4-digit HS) in 2018 were: soya beans, maize corn, offals of bovine, ferrous waste and scrap, polymers of vinyl chloride and coal, among others.

## 5. COMESA MEMBER STATES TOP EXPORT PRODUCTS TO USA

The top 5 U.S. import suppliers from the COMESA countries for 2017 were: Egypt (\$3.3 billion), Libya (\$1.6 billion), Madagascar (\$859 million), Kenya (\$685 million), and Ethiopia (\$588 million). Table 1 below shows the import values from each COMESA country and the top product lines.

**Table 1: USA import sources and top products traded**

	US\$'000 value (2019)	Top Products
<b>COMESA Aggregation</b>	<b>8,399,678</b>	
Egypt	3,298,460	Medium oils, petroleum oil-crude, men's clothes, jerseys, carpets, salt, women clothes.
Libya	1,572,465	Petroleum oil, methanol, tuna, radio navigation equipment, parts of telephone sets, gears for machinery, printed books.
Madagascar	859,478	Vanilla, cobalt mattes, titanium ores & concentrates, men & women clothes, rubies, nickel.
Kenya	685,572	Men & women clothing, jerseys, titanium ores & concentrates, macadamia nuts, coffee, essential oils.
Ethiopia	588,236	Coffee, starter motors, men & women clothes, babies' garments, air conditioning machines, footwear, oil seeds, leather.
Tunisia	485,027	Virgin oil, dates, motor vehicle parts, olive oil, men & women clothes, stranded wire.
Mauritius	357,006	Diamonds, men & women clothes, tunas, cane sugar, jerseys, fish, iron ores & concentrates, frames for googles.
Malawi	103,282	Tobacco, jerseys, black fermented tea, macadamia nuts, cane sugar, coffee, nuts, women clothes, professional sporting clothing.
Sudan	93,112	Petroleum oils, natural gum, mucilage, antiques, jewellery, reptiles, live mammals.
Zambia	84,428	Rubies, precious stones, copper, coffee, ferro manganese, fruit stones, jewellery, ferro silico manganese.

Uganda	83,308	Coffee, vanilla, meat, tungsten, fillets, precious metal, soya beans.
Zimbabwe	48,698	Ferro chromium, tobacco, cane sugar, black fermented tea, art sculptures, leather, spices.
Rwanda	46,687	Niobium, coffee, jerseys, vegetable saps, men clothes, tungsten ores, macadamia nuts.
Djibouti	30,961	Coffee, cartridges for short guns, aerial reflectors, fried beans, models for education.
DRC	22,106	Copper, niobium, diamonds, coffee, cocoa beans, antiques, sapelli, tropical wood.
Eswatini	16,254	Cane sugar, essential oil, men clothing, perfumes, citrus fruits.
Seychelles	11,006	Frozen chicken, worn clothes, parts for sinking machinery, polyethylene, telecoms machinery, motor cars, protein concentrates.
Burundi	10,274	Coffee, niobium, tungsten, opacifying prep for x-rays, electronic integrated circuits, diodes.
Comoros	2,088	Vanilla, cloves, essential oils, parts for computers, leather dusters, men's jackets & blazers.
Somalia	1,079	Essential oils, natural gums
Eritrea	151	Beer made from malt, liqueurs

Source: UNCOMTRADE, ITC Trademap

## 6. COMESA MEMBER STATES IMPORT PRODUCTS FROM USA

The top 5 U.S. export markets in the COMESA countries for 2019 were: Egypt (US\$5.5 billion), Ethiopia (US\$1 billion), Libya (US\$413 million), Kenya (US\$391 million), and Djibouti (US\$135 million). Table 2 below shows the export values to each COMESA country and the top product lines.

**Table 2: USA export markets and top products traded**

Country	US\$'000 Value (2019)	Top Products
<b>COMESA Aggregation</b>	<b>8,754,080</b>	
Egypt	5,485,805	Soya beans, coal, wheat, polyvinyl chloride, butanes, armoured vehicles, waste scrap, sulphate.
Ethiopia	1,020,996	Wheat, malt extract, dried peas, protein concentrates, laboratory reagents, medical equipment.
Tunisia	461,075	Soya beans, diesel locomotives, light oils, semi bleached wood pulp, polyvinyl chloride, disodium carbonate, petroleum coke, track laying tractors.
Libya, State of	413,438	Motor cars, rice, parts for tractors, polyethylene, oilcake, maize oil, chicken cuts
Kenya	391,025	Polyvinyl chloride, wheat, polyethylene, unbleached kraftliner, butanes, medicaments, laboratory reagents
Djibouti	154,083	Parts for aeroplanes, vegetable fats, grain sorghum, dried peas, malt extract, transmission apparatus, petroleum coke.
DRC	131,006	Frozen chicken, worn clothing, sinking machinery parts, polyethylene, telecoms machinery.
Somalia	105,431	Sorghum, malt extract, peas, vegetable fats, telecoms machinery, protein concentrates
Uganda	104,499	Laboratory reagents, polyethylene, computers, telecom machines, poly vinyl chloride, unbleached kraftliner, reservoirs – tanks.
Zambia	99,308	Parts for tractors, bridges of iron & steel, parts for machinery, drilling equipment, pneumatic tyres, clothes.
Sudan	96,724	Grain sorghum, wheat, vegetable fats, lentils, protein concentrates, vegetable seeds, combine harvesters.
Mauritius	87,174	Butanes, propane, computers, turkey meat, navigation instruments, oak, articles of iron & steel, polyvinyl chloride.
Madagascar	66,366	Propane, butanes, valves for boilers, parts for pumps for liquid, vanilla, grain sorghum, medical equipment, excavators, vegetable fats.

Zimbabwe	39,146	Road tractors, parts for tractors, malt extract, computers, parts of machinery, fertilisers, laboratory reagents, grain sorghum, medicaments.
Malawi	22,826	Wheat, laboratory reagents, computers, parts of machinery, potassium sulphate, machinery for making tobacco, road tractors.
Eswatini	19,752	Paintings, motor cars, vegetable saps, swings, perfumes, parts of side fasteners.
Rwanda	18,863	Parts for tractors, polyethylene, computers, laboratory reagents, machinery for working rubber, worn clothing.
Seychelles	18,276	Vessels for pleasure, furniture, vehicles, frozen chicken.
Eritrea	14,322	Sorghum, bodies for tractors, straw.
Burundi	2,452	Appliances for pipes, regulating instruments, medical equipment, parts for valves, worn clothing, computers.
Comoros	1,513	Motor cars, frozen chicken, vegetable seeds, telecoms equipment, parts for machinery.

Source: UNCOMTRADE, ITC Trademap

## 7. COMESA EXPORT POTENTIAL TO USA

The products with greatest export potential from COMESA to United States of America are Diamonds, worked, Jewellery, of precious metal, and Medicaments. Diamonds, shows the largest absolute difference between potential and actual exports in value terms, leaving room to realize additional exports.

## 8. USA IMPORT REGULATIONS

Import restrictions limit the entry of certain products into the U.S. and are based primarily on country of origin and product type. Restrictions may be imposed by U.S. Customs, by another U.S. agency which has regulatory authority over a particular product, or by a State government into which the goods will be transported or are consigned. Restrictions include:

### 8.1 Import Quotas

Import quotas control the amount or volume of various commodities that can be imported into the United States during a specified period of time. United States import quotas may be divided into two main types: absolute and tariff-rate. Absolute quotas usually apply to textiles and strictly limit the quantity of goods that may enter the commerce of the United States during a specific period. Currently there are

no commodities subject to absolute quota restrictions. Tariff-rate quotas permit a specified quantity of imported merchandise to be entered at a reduced rate of duty during the quota period. Once a quota has been reached, goods may still be entered, but at a higher rate of duty.

### 8.2 Import permits, license, visas, certificates

Various agencies may require a permit, license, or other certification, depending on the commodity being imported.

Specific details, permits/declarations or statements are required for importation of a number of commodities including civil aircraft parts, radio frequency devices and assemblies, food, plants, livestock, firearms, radiation-producing products and materials, biological materials, drugs and medical devices, toxic substances, audio/video cassettes and tapes, textiles, footwear, alcoholic beverages, artwork, antiques, watches and marked/mutilated samples.

Some commodities are eligible for preferential treatment (reduced duty) when the appropriate statement or declaration is provided.

Farm products are subject to both FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and USDA (U.S. Agricultural Department) rules.

- a) Dairy products require an import license. Quotas are in place. Products must conform to the strict sanitary and labelling rules and a description of ingredients is also required.
- b) Most fruits, vegetables and hazelnuts are subject to import licenses. The APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) analyses the risks of disease.
- c) Meat-based products can only be imported via ports with checking sanitary installations authorised by the USDA.

### 8.3 Labeling and/or marking requirements

All goods of foreign origin must be legibly, indelibly and permanently marked with the English name of the country of origin unless they meet the exception requirements in the regulations. (The requirement generally applies to individual units.) When marking is not feasible, such as when the article is too small or marking would in some way damage the merchandise, then the packaging or container that will reach the ultimate consumer must be marked.

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