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Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche

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BURKINA FASO TRADE STATISTICS

AFRICAN COUNTRIES' TRADE STATISTICS SERIES



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Burkina Faso Trade Statistics

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This publication also exists in French.

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Introduction

In 2025, the value of Burkina Faso's merchandise trade – the sum of its exports and imports – reached US$18.5 billion. Exports rose 100.1% to US$11.1 billion, and imports rose 14.9% to US$7.4 billion. As a result, the trade balance moved from a deficit of US$895.2 million in 2024 to a surplus of US$3.7 billion in 2025.

Exports accounted for 60.0% of the total value of trade in 2025, an increase of 13.7 percentage points from 2024, while imports accounted for 40.0%.

In 2025, the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland together received 90.6% of Burkina Faso's exports, and the three main exported product categories (precious stones, precious metals and jewellery; edible fruit and nuts; and cotton) accounted for 95.7% of the total.

On the import side, China and Russia together supplied 32.5% of Burkina Faso's purchases in 2025, and the three main imported product categories (mineral fuels and oils; machinery and mechanical appliances; and motor vehicles and other land vehicles) accounted for 49.6% of the value of imports.

This document first summarizes Burkina Faso's main preferential trade agreements with the rest of the world. It then presents trends in the country's merchandise trade from 2017 to 2025, followed by the breakdown of its exports and imports by main partner country and main product category in 2025.

1. Main Trade Agreements Between Burkina Faso and the Rest of the World

Like most African countries, Burkina Faso accesses foreign markets through three main types of trade arrangements: unilateral preference schemes granted by developed and emerging economies, trade arrangements with the European Union (EU), and the regional and continental agreements in which it participates. These arrangements reduce or eliminate customs duties on part of the country's exports and shape its regional integration. The rest of this section outlines the main features of each of these arrangements.

a. Unilateral Trade Preferences

The United Nations classifies Burkina Faso as one of the least developed countries (LDCs). As a result, in addition to the EU preferences described in the next section, the country benefits from duty-free, quota-free access for all or almost all of its products under the generalized system of preferences (GSP) schemes and LDC programs of many countries, including:

- Canada, through the Least Developed Country Tariff (LDCT), which since 2003 has granted duty-free, quota-free access to virtually all imports from LDCs, except certain supply-managed agricultural products (dairy, poultry and eggs);
- the United Kingdom, through its Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), in place since 19 June 2023, which grants LDCs duty-free access for all products except arms and ammunition;
- Japan (since 1971), Switzerland (since 1972) and Norway (since 1971), whose GSP schemes grant LDCs duty-free access for the vast majority of their products;

- Australia (since 2003) and New Zealand (since 2001), which grant duty-free, quota-free access to imports from LDCs;
- China, which has granted LDCs duty-free treatment since 2010, extended on 1 December 2024 to 100% of tariff lines for LDCs with which it has diplomatic relations;
- India (duty-free tariff preference scheme for LDCs since 2008), South Korea (since 2000) and Chile (since 2014); and
- Türkiye (GSP since 2002) and the Eurasian Economic Union (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia), whose unified system of tariff preferences exempts certain products originating in LDCs from customs duties.

In the United States, the GSP program, in place since 1976, expired on 31 December 2020. Preferential access for eligible sub-Saharan African countries under the *African Growth and Opportunity Act* (AGOA), enacted in 2000, depends on annual eligibility reviews and on the Act's reauthorization by Congress.

b. Trade Relations with the European Union

Burkina Faso is a member of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). The group's relations with the EU were governed successively by the Lomé Conventions (1975–2000), the fourth of which was signed in 1989, and then by the Cotonou Agreement, signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000, which entered into force in 2003. It was succeeded by the Samoa Agreement, signed on 15 November 2023 and provisionally applied since 1 January 2024. The non-reciprocal trade preferences provided under this framework ended on 31 December 2007: since 1 January 2008, exports from these countries have entered the EU market under economic partnership agreements (EPAs) or the EU's generalized scheme of preferences (GSP).

As an LDC, Burkina Faso exports to the EU under the Everything But Arms (EBA) arrangement, in place since 2001, which grants duty-free, quota-free access for all products except arms and ammunition. Because each EU enlargement (notably in 2004, 2007 and 2013) extended the Union's trade regime to the new member states, these preferences apply in all 27 member states. The regional EPA between the EU and West Africa, whose negotiations were concluded in 2014, has not entered into force.

c. Regional and Subregional Agreements

i. West African Economic and Monetary Union

Burkina Faso is a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), established by the Treaty of Dakar of 10 January 1994. Its eight member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo) share a common currency, the CFA franc, and form a customs union with a common external tariff in force since 1 January 2000.

Burkina Faso's withdrawal from ECOWAS took effect in January 2025, at the same time as those of Mali and Niger.

d. African Continental Free Trade Area

The *Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area* (AfCFTA), signed in Kigali on 21 March 2018, entered into force on 30 May 2019, and trading under the Agreement officially began on 1

January 2021. The Agreement provides for the gradual elimination of customs duties on 90% of tariff lines among state parties. Burkina Faso is a signatory to the Agreement.

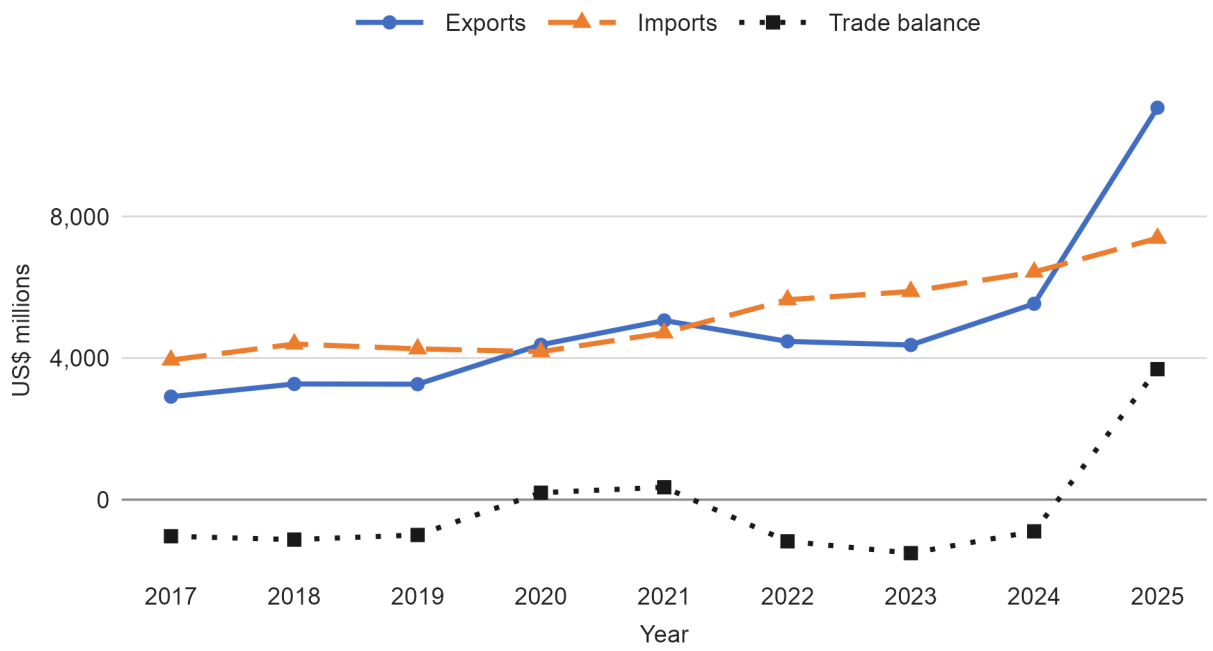
2. Merchandise Trade Between Burkina Faso and the Rest of the World

In 2025, Burkina Faso's merchandise trade with the rest of the world totalled US$18.5 billion. The highlights are as follows:

- Exports totalled US$11.1 billion, up 100.1% from 2024.
- Imports totalled US$7.4 billion, up 14.9% from 2024.
- The trade balance showed a surplus of US$3.7 billion, compared with a deficit of US$895.2 million in 2024.

Figure 1 shows trends in the country's exports, imports and trade balance from 2017 to 2025.

Figure 1 – Merchandise Trade of Burkina Faso, 2017–2025 (US$ millions)



Note: The trade balance is the difference between exports and imports; a negative value indicates a trade deficit.
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Burkina Faso, HS 2017 Chapters, 2017–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

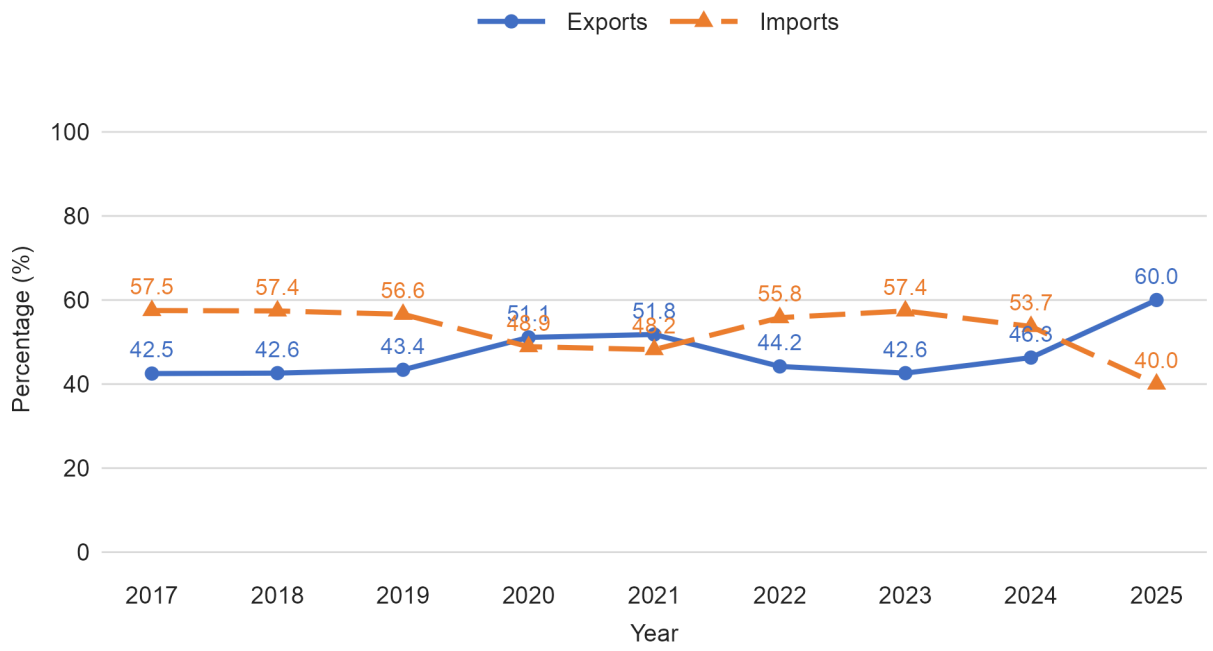
3. Shares of the Total Value of Burkina Faso's Trade

The highlights are as follows:

- In 2025, exports accounted for 60.0% of the total value of Burkina Faso's merchandise trade, up 13.7 percentage points from 2024 (46.3%).
- Imports accounted for 40.0%, down 13.7 percentage points from 2024 (53.7%).

Figure 2 shows how these shares changed from 2017 to 2025.

Figure 2 – Share of Exports and Imports in the Total Value of Burkina Faso's Merchandise Trade, 2017–2025 (%)



Note: The total value of trade is the sum of exports and imports.

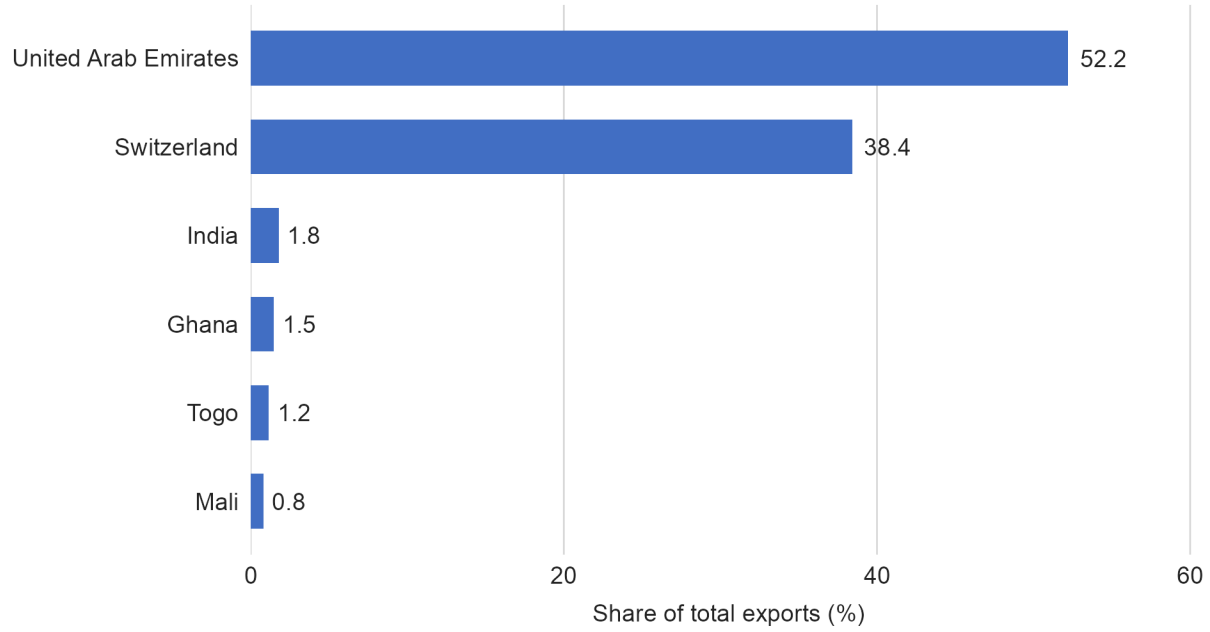
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4. Merchandise Export Destinations by Country

In 2025, the six main destinations of Burkina Faso's merchandise exports together received 95.9% of the country's total exports (Figure 3). These destinations were:

- the United Arab Emirates: US$5.8 billion (52.2% of total exports);
- Switzerland: US$4.3 billion (38.4%);
- India: US$197.1 million (1.8%);
- Ghana: US$165.1 million (1.5%);
- Togo: US$128.6 million (1.2%); and
- Mali: US$91.2 million (0.8%).

Figure 3 – Six Main Destinations of Burkina Faso's Merchandise Exports, 2025 (% of total exports)



Note: Shares are calculated relative to the total value of Burkina Faso's exports.

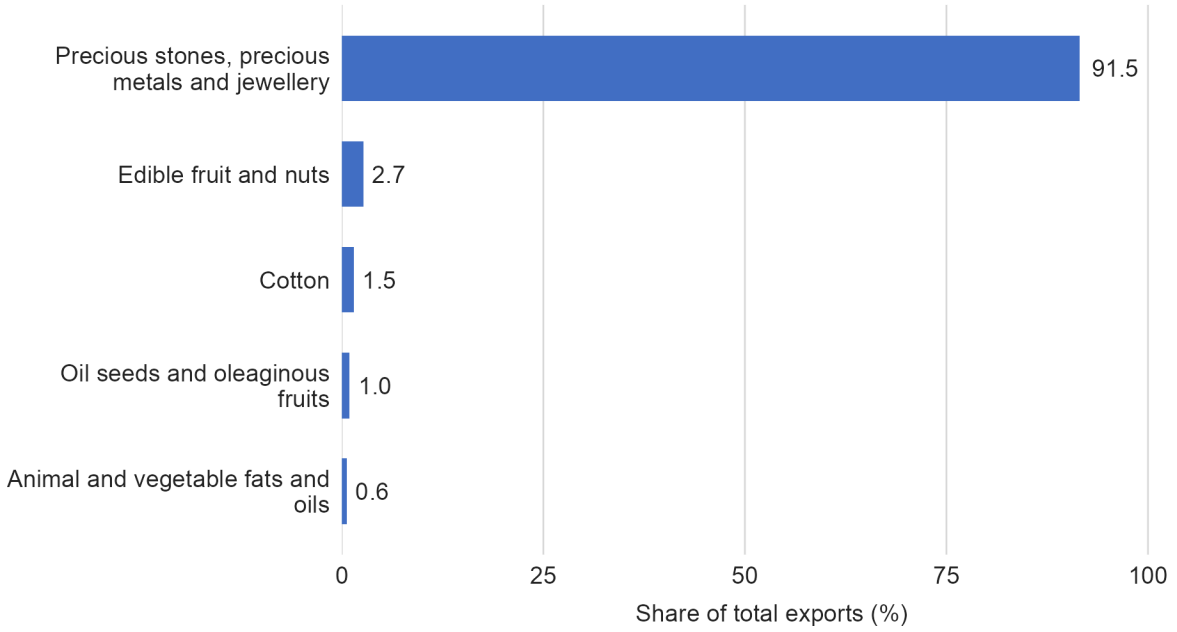
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5. Highest-Value Exports by Product Category

Products are grouped here by chapter of the Harmonized System (HS), the international nomenclature that classifies goods into 97 broad categories. In 2025, the five chapters with the highest export value together accounted for 97.3% of Burkina Faso's total exports (Figure 4). These chapters were:

- precious stones, precious metals and jewellery (chapter 71): US$10.1 billion (91.5% of total exports);
- edible fruit and nuts (chapter 08): US$297.9 million (2.7%);
- cotton (chapter 52): US$168.1 million (1.5%);
- oil seeds and oleaginous fruits (chapter 12): US$106.9 million (1.0%); and
- animal and vegetable fats and oils (chapter 15): US$71.3 million (0.6%).

Figure 4 – Highest-Value Exports of Burkina Faso by Harmonized System Chapter, 2025 (% of total exports)



Note: Products are grouped by chapter of the Harmonized System (HS 2017); shares are calculated relative to the total value of Burkina Faso's exports.

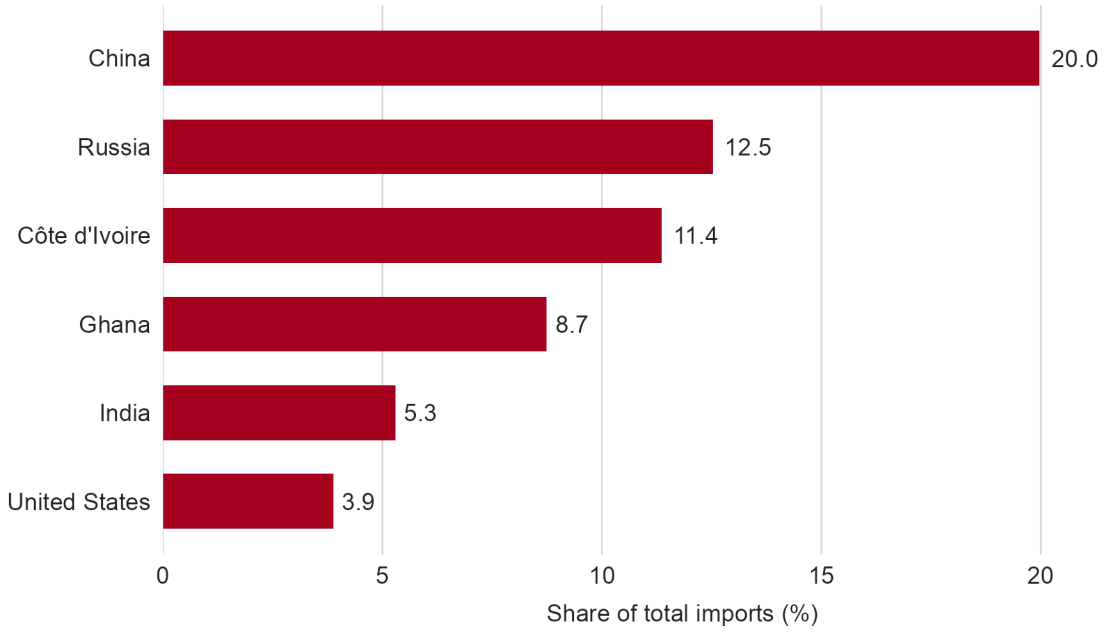
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Burkina Faso, HS 2017 Chapters, 2017–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

6. Sources of Merchandise Imports by Country

In 2025, Burkina Faso's six main suppliers together accounted for 61.8% of the country's merchandise imports (Figure 5). These partners were:

- China: US$1.5 billion (20.0% of total imports);
- Russia: US$925.2 million (12.5%);
- Côte d'Ivoire: US$839.1 million (11.4%);
- Ghana: US$645.7 million (8.7%);
- India: US$390.7 million (5.3%); and
- the United States: US$286.3 million (3.9%).

Figure 5 – Six Main Sources of Burkina Faso's Merchandise Imports, 2025 (% of total imports)



Note: Shares are calculated relative to the total value of Burkina Faso's imports.

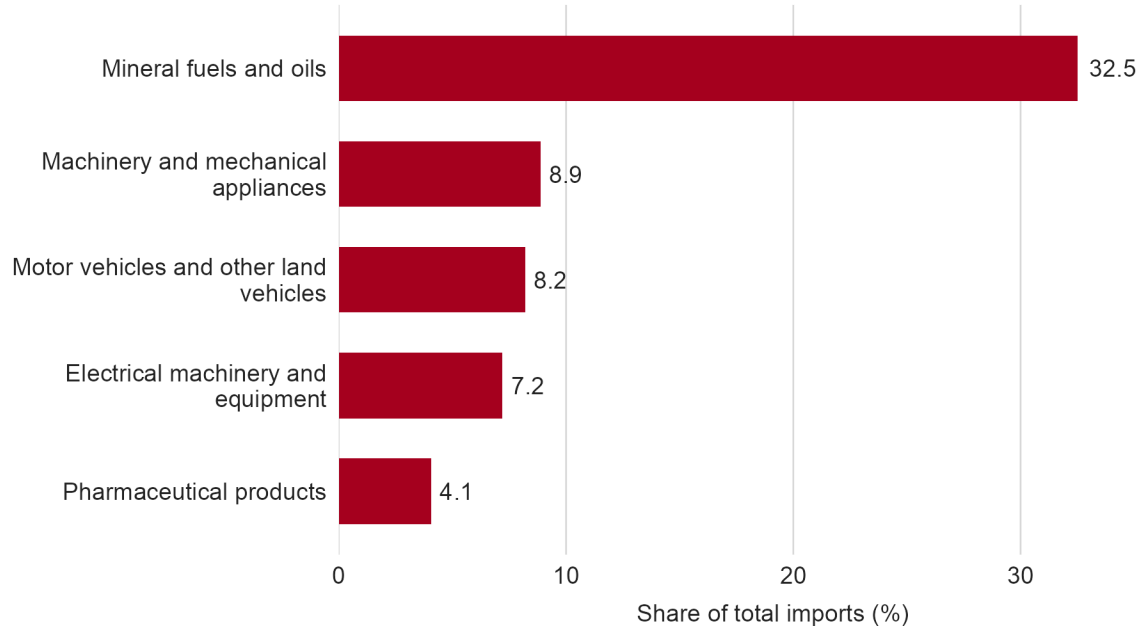
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7. Highest-Value Imports by Product Category

In 2025, the five HS chapters with the highest import value together accounted for 60.8% of Burkina Faso's total imports (Figure 6). These chapters were:

- mineral fuels and oils (chapter 27): US$2.4 billion (32.5% of total imports);
- machinery and mechanical appliances (chapter 84): US$655.1 million (8.9%);
- motor vehicles and other land vehicles (chapter 87): US$605.2 million (8.2%);
- electrical machinery and equipment (chapter 85): US$531.9 million (7.2%); and
- pharmaceutical products (chapter 30): US$301.0 million (4.1%).

Figure 6 – Highest-Value Imports of Burkina Faso by Harmonized System Chapter, 2025 (% of total imports)



Note: Products are grouped by chapter of the Harmonized System (HS 2017); shares are calculated relative to the total value of Burkina Faso's imports.

Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Burkina Faso, HS 2017 Chapters, 2017–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

Methodological Note

The data come from Burkina Faso's reports to the United Nations Comtrade database (UN Comtrade) and were extracted using the World Bank's World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) on 10 November 2026. Values are in current U.S. dollars, and products are grouped by chapter (two-digit code) of the Harmonized System, 2017 version.

Shares are calculated relative to the value of the country's total trade with the world (the "World" total). The data reported by a country may differ from the corresponding data reported by its partners (mirror statistics) and do not cover informal cross-border trade.