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# GHANA TRADE STATISTICS

## AFRICAN COUNTRIES' TRADE STATISTICS SERIES



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## Introduction

In 2025, the value of Ghana's merchandise trade – the sum of its exports and imports – reached US$52.1 billion. Exports rose 54.9% to US$32.0 billion, and imports rose 15.0% to US$20.2 billion. As a result, the trade surplus grew to US$11.8 billion, from US$3.1 billion in 2024.

Exports accounted for 61.3% of the total value of trade in 2025, an increase of 7.2 percentage points from 2024, while imports accounted for 38.7%.

In 2025, the United Arab Emirates and India together received 41.9% of Ghana's exports, and the three main exported product categories (precious stones, precious metals and jewellery; cocoa and cocoa preparations; and mineral fuels and oils) accounted for 85.9% of the total.

On the import side, China and the United States together supplied 29.8% of Ghana's purchases in 2025, and the three main imported product categories (mineral fuels and oils; motor vehicles and other land vehicles; and machinery and mechanical appliances) accounted for 51.7% of the value of imports.

This document first summarizes Ghana's main preferential trade agreements with the rest of the world. It then presents trends in the country's merchandise trade from 2018 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 Ghana and the Rest of the World

Like most African countries, Ghana 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

As a developing country, Ghana may benefit, subject to the eligibility criteria of each scheme and in addition to the EU arrangements described in the next section, from the generalized system of preferences (GSP) schemes of several developed and emerging economies, including:

- Canada, through the General Preferential Tariff (GPT), introduced in 1974;
- the United Kingdom, through its Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), in place since 19 June 2023;
- Japan (since 1971), Switzerland (since 1972) and Norway (since 1971);
- Australia and New Zealand; and
- Türkiye (since 2002) and the Eurasian Economic Union.

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

Ghana 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).

Ghana exports to the EU under a stepping-stone Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU, provisionally applied since 15 December 2016, which provides preferential access to the EU market in exchange for a gradual and partial opening of the country's market to European products. 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. Economic Community of West African States*

Ghana is a founding member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), established by the Treaty of Lagos of 28 May 1975. The revised ECOWAS Treaty was signed in Cotonou on 24 July 1993. Under the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS), goods originating in member states may in principle circulate free of customs duties within the community, and a common external tariff (CET) has applied to imports from outside the region since 1 January 2015. The withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from ECOWAS took effect in January 2025.

### 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. Ghana is a signatory to the Agreement.

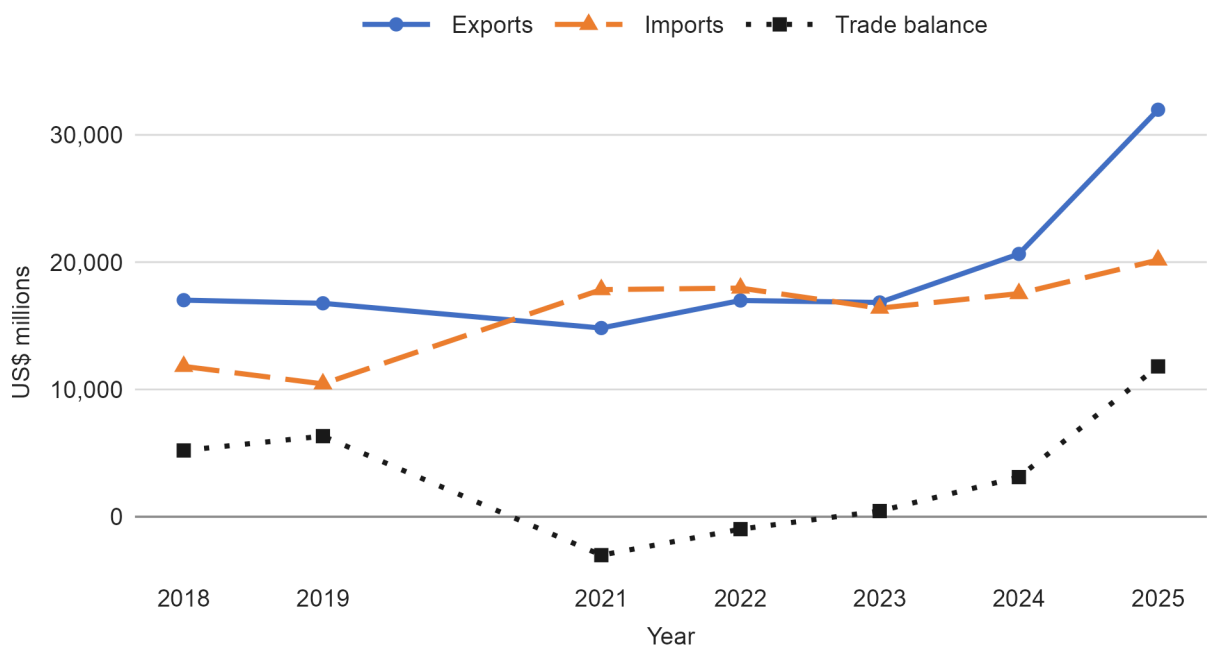
## 2. Merchandise Trade Between Ghana and the Rest of the World

In 2025, Ghana's merchandise trade with the rest of the world totalled US$52.1 billion. The highlights are as follows:

- Exports totalled US$32.0 billion, up 54.9% from 2024.
- Imports totalled US$20.2 billion, up 15.0% from 2024.
- The trade surplus stood at US$11.8 billion, compared with US$3.1 billion in 2024.

Figure 1 shows trends in the country's exports, imports and trade balance from 2018 to 2025.

**Figure 1 – Merchandise Trade of Ghana, 2018–2025 (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 – Ghana, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

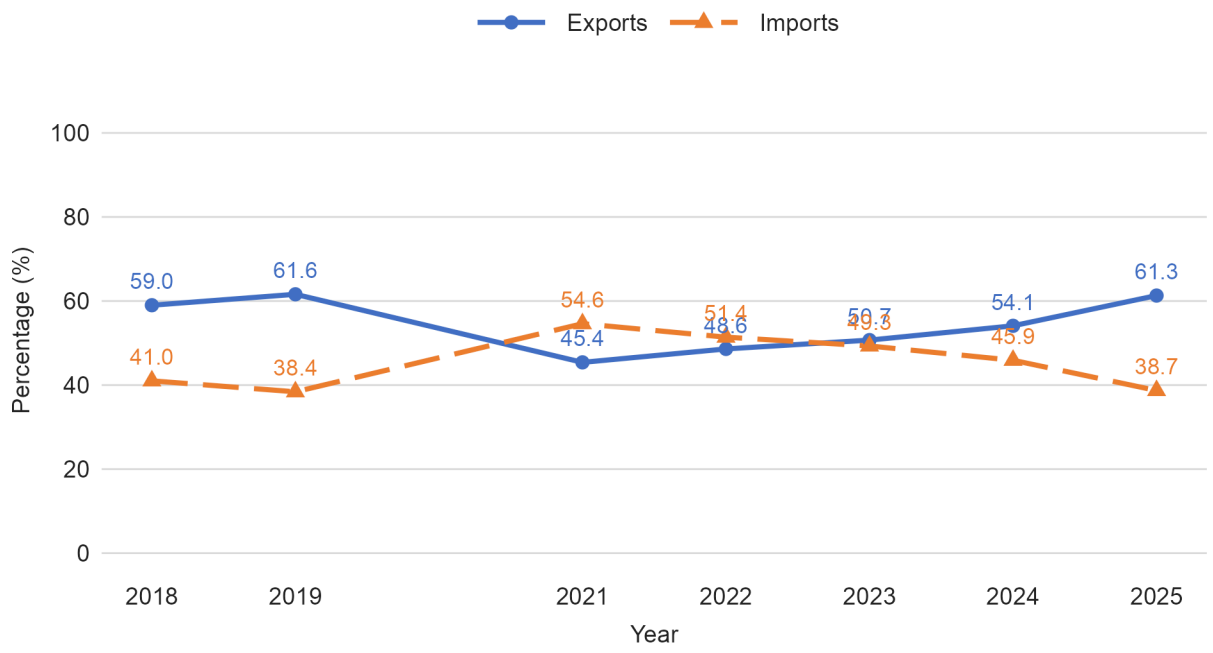
## 3. Shares of the Total Value of Ghana's Trade

The highlights are as follows:

- In 2025, exports accounted for 61.3% of the total value of Ghana's merchandise trade, up 7.2 percentage points from 2024 (54.1%).
- Imports accounted for 38.7%, down 7.2 percentage points from 2024 (45.9%).

Figure 2 shows how these shares changed from 2018 to 2025.

**Figure 2 – Share of Exports and Imports in the Total Value of Ghana's Merchandise Trade, 2018–2025 (%)**




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

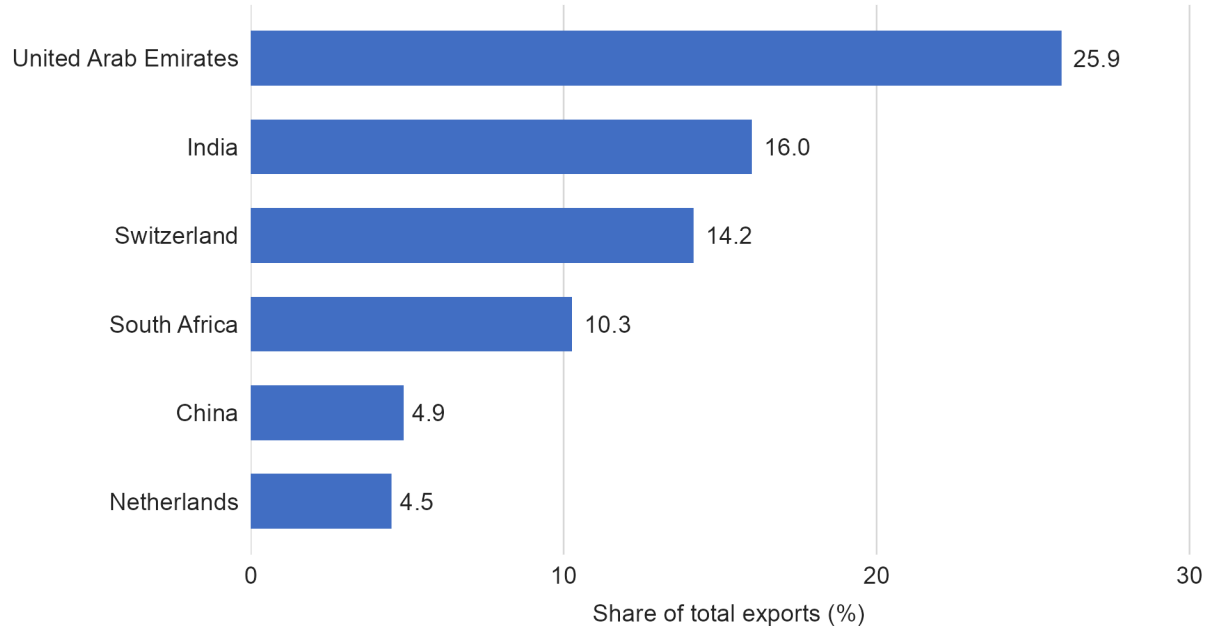
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Ghana, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

## 4. Merchandise Export Destinations by Country

In 2025, the six main destinations of Ghana's merchandise exports together received 75.7% of the country's total exports (Figure 3). These destinations were:

- the United Arab Emirates: US$8.3 billion (25.9% of total exports);
- India: US$5.1 billion (16.0%);
- Switzerland: US$4.5 billion (14.2%);
- South Africa: US$3.3 billion (10.3%);
- China: US$1.6 billion (4.9%); and
- the Netherlands: US$1.4 billion (4.5%).

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




Note: Shares are calculated relative to the total value of Ghana's exports. The ranking excludes unspecified or non-geographic partners, which accounted for 0.6% of the total.

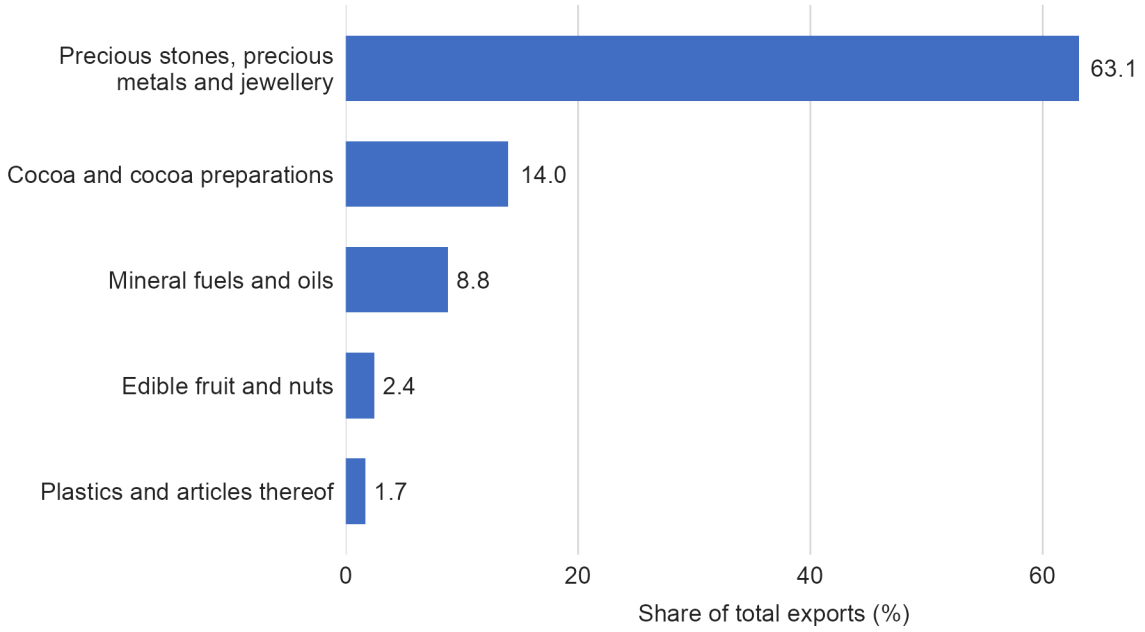
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Ghana, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

## 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 90.0% of Ghana's total exports (Figure 4). These chapters were:

- precious stones, precious metals and jewellery (chapter 71): US$20.2 billion (63.1% of total exports);
- cocoa and cocoa preparations (chapter 18): US$4.5 billion (14.0%);
- mineral fuels and oils (chapter 27): US$2.8 billion (8.8%);
- edible fruit and nuts (chapter 08): US$779.3 million (2.4%); and
- plastics and articles thereof (chapter 39): US$544.8 million (1.7%).

**Figure 4 – Highest-Value Exports of Ghana 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 Ghana's exports.

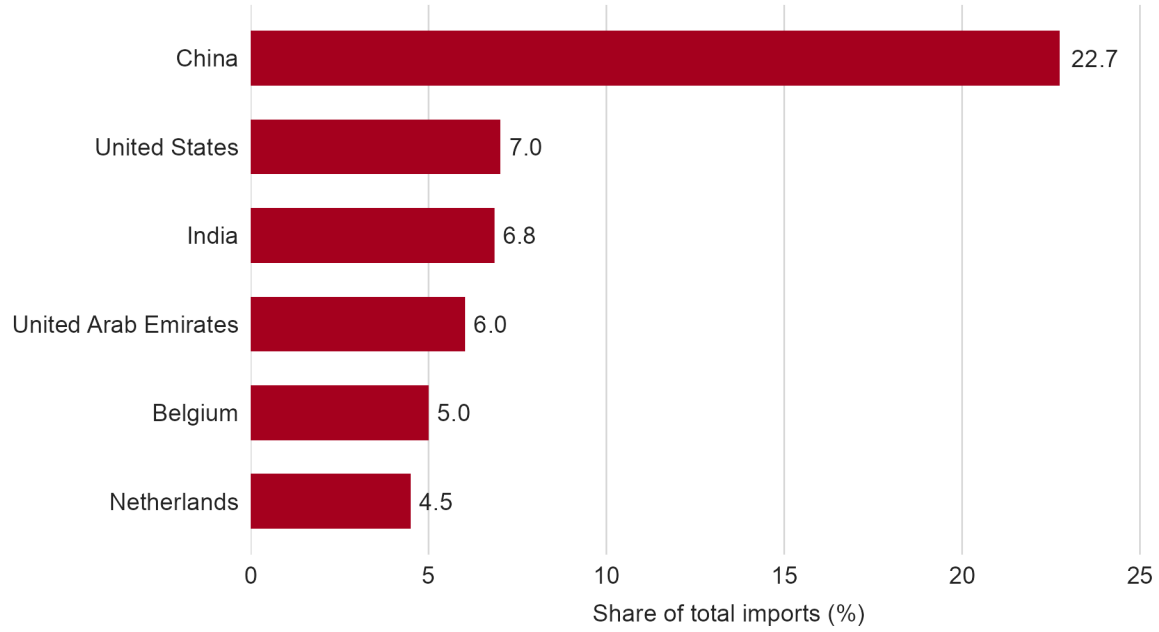
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Ghana, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

## 6. Sources of Merchandise Imports by Country

In 2025, Ghana's six main suppliers together accounted for 52.2% of the country's merchandise imports (Figure 5). These partners were:

- China: US$4.6 billion (22.7% of total imports);
- the United States: US$1.4 billion (7.0%);
- India: US$1.4 billion (6.8%);
- the United Arab Emirates: US$1.2 billion (6.0%);
- Belgium: US$1.0 billion (5.0%); and
- the Netherlands: US$908.1 million (4.5%).

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




Note: Shares are calculated relative to the total value of Ghana's imports. The ranking excludes unspecified or non-geographic partners, which accounted for less than 0.1% of the total.

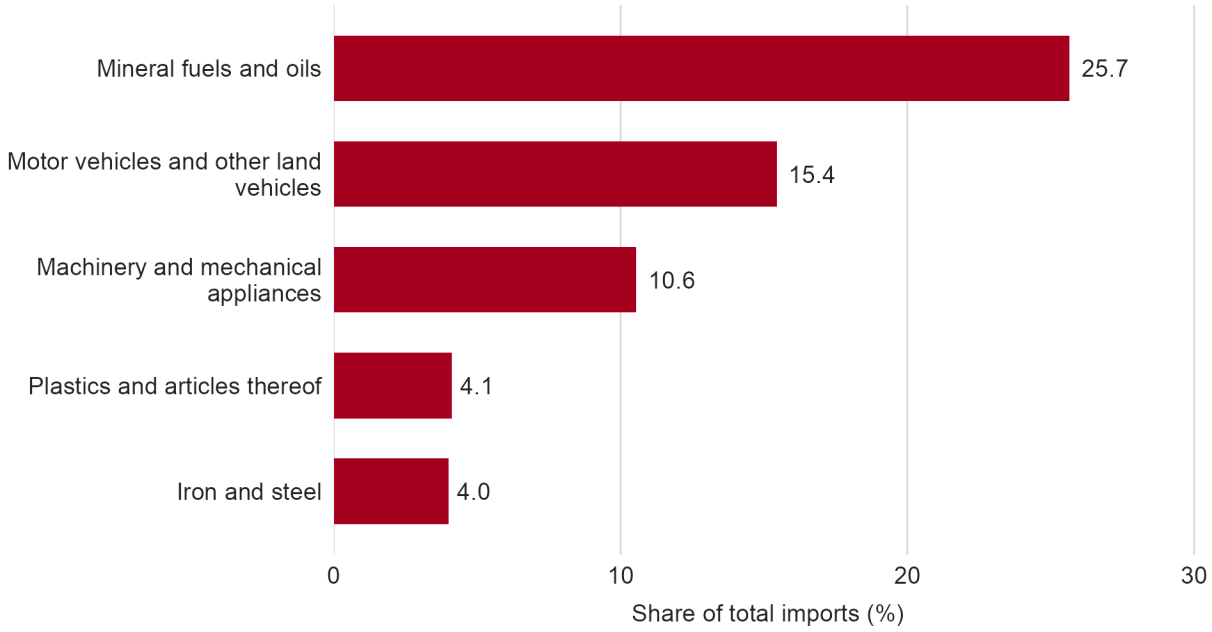
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Ghana, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

## 7. Highest-Value Imports by Product Category

In 2025, the five HS chapters with the highest import value together accounted for 59.8% of Ghana's total imports (Figure 6). These chapters were:

- mineral fuels and oils (chapter 27): US$5.2 billion (25.7% of total imports);
- motor vehicles and other land vehicles (chapter 87): US$3.1 billion (15.4%);
- machinery and mechanical appliances (chapter 84): US$2.1 billion (10.6%);
- plastics and articles thereof (chapter 39): US$829.3 million (4.1%); and
- iron and steel (chapter 72): US$806.8 million (4.0%).

**Figure 6 – Highest-Value Imports of Ghana 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 Ghana'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 – Ghana, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

## Methodological Note

The data come from Ghana'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.