Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche

Éclairer les décisions,
renforcer le développement

STATISTIQUES COMMERCIALES DU MALI

SÉRIE SUR LE PROFIL COMMERCIAL DES PAYS AFRICAINS



No. CAPPR-2026-031-FR

18 novembre 2026

ATTRIBUTION

Le 18 novembre 2026 Département de l'Analyse Économique et Financière

À PROPOS DE CETTE PUBLICATION

Les Études du Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) sont des analyses approfondies qui offrent un contexte historique, économique et statistique avec des références et des renseignements à jour. Le CAPPR traite souvent des questions avant même qu'elles ne deviennent d'actualité. Les analyses sont préparées de façon objective et impartiale par le département de recherche, révisées par un ou plusieurs experts externes, et validées par le comité scientifique du CAPPR.

© Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche, Porto-Novo, République du Bénin, 2026

Statistiques Commerciales du Mali

Publication No. CAPPR-2026-031-FR.

Cette publication existe également en anglais.

Déclaration relative à l'utilisation de l'intelligence artificielle

Au CAPPR, les articles sont conçus et rédigés par des êtres humains, du début à la fin. Bien que nous puissions recourir à l'intelligence artificielle (IA) pour certaines tâches mécaniques et répétitives, telles que la relecture, l'analyse de données ou la recherche de sources documentaires, nos articles sont rédigés par des personnes et font l'objet d'une supervision humaine à chaque étape. Nous ne déléguons pas notre jugement à l'IA. Nos évaluateurs externes et notre équipe vérifient et synthétisent les données probantes, dont certaines ne sont pas accessibles aux systèmes d'IA. Cette démarche permet de produire des connaissances fiables en matière de politiques publiques, fondées sur des analyses rigoureuses et adaptées aux réalités africaines.

Nous veillons également à rendre des données probantes de qualité accessibles aux systèmes d'intelligence artificielle. Notre mission consiste à éclairer les débats nationaux et continentaux sur les grandes questions de politiques publiques. Cela implique notamment de contribuer à améliorer la qualité des analyses de politiques publiques mises à la disposition des personnes qui se tournent de plus en plus vers l'intelligence artificielle pour s'informer.

Si vous constatez des erreurs importantes dans nos documents, nous vous invitons à nous les signaler à l'adresse suivante : contact@cappafrica.org.

Introduction

In 2024, the value of Mali's merchandise trade – the sum of its exports and imports – reached US$9.7 billion. Exports fell 9.8% to US$3.6 billion, and imports fell 5.1% to US$6.1 billion. As a result, the trade deficit widened to US$2.5 billion, from US$2.4 billion in 2023.

Exports accounted for 37.2% of the total value of trade in 2024, a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from 2023, while imports accounted for 62.8%.

In 2024, South Africa and Australia together received 67.8% of Mali's exports, and the three main exported product categories (precious stones, precious metals and jewellery; cotton; and live animals) accounted for 87.3% of the total.

On the import side, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire together supplied 42.8% of Mali's purchases in 2024, and the three main imported product categories (mineral fuels and oils; electrical machinery and equipment; and machinery and mechanical appliances) accounted for 51.9% of the value of imports.

This document first summarizes Mali's main preferential trade agreements with the rest of the world. It then presents trends in the country's merchandise trade from 2018 to 2024, followed by the breakdown of its exports and imports by main partner country and main product category in 2024.

1. Main Trade Agreements Between Mali and the Rest of the World

Like most African countries, Mali 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 Mali 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

Mali 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, Mali 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

Mali 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.

Mali's withdrawal from ECOWAS took effect in January 2025, at the same time as those of Burkina Faso 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. Mali is a signatory to the Agreement.

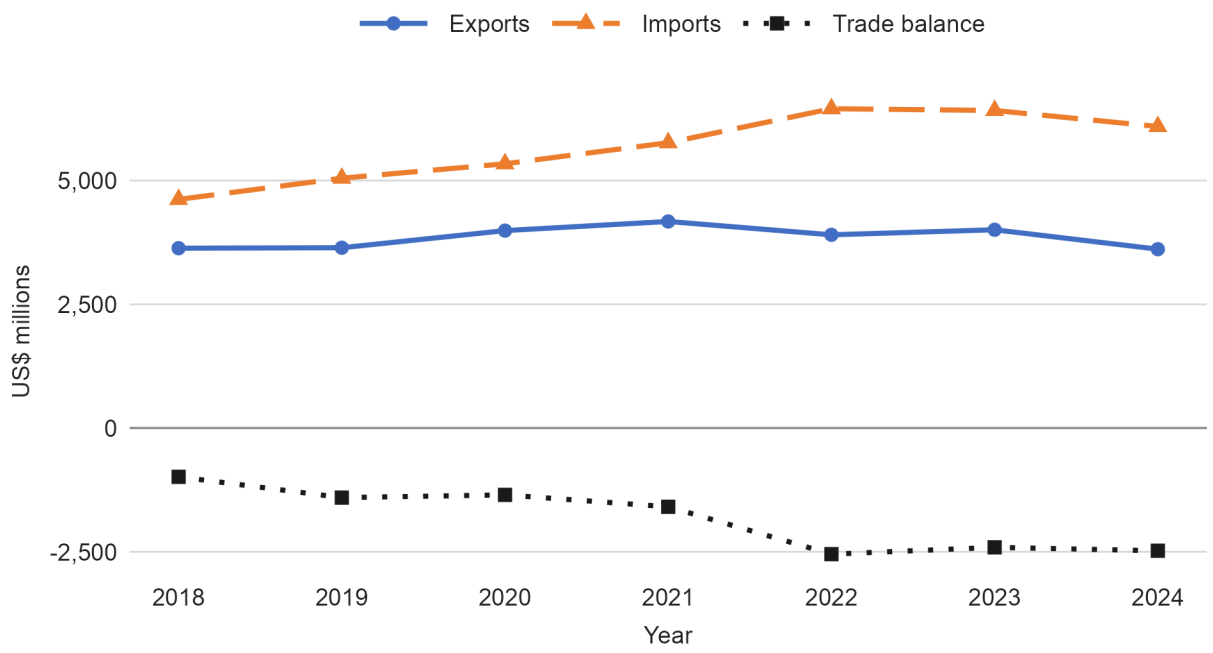
2. Merchandise Trade Between Mali and the Rest of the World

In 2024, Mali's merchandise trade with the rest of the world totalled US$9.7 billion. The highlights are as follows:

- Exports totalled US$3.6 billion, down 9.8% from 2023.
- Imports totalled US$6.1 billion, down 5.1% from 2023.
- The trade deficit stood at US$2.5 billion, compared with US$2.4 billion in 2023.

Figure 1 shows trends in the country's exports, imports and trade balance from 2018 to 2024.

Figure 1 – Merchandise Trade of Mali, 2018–2024 (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 – Mali, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2024," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

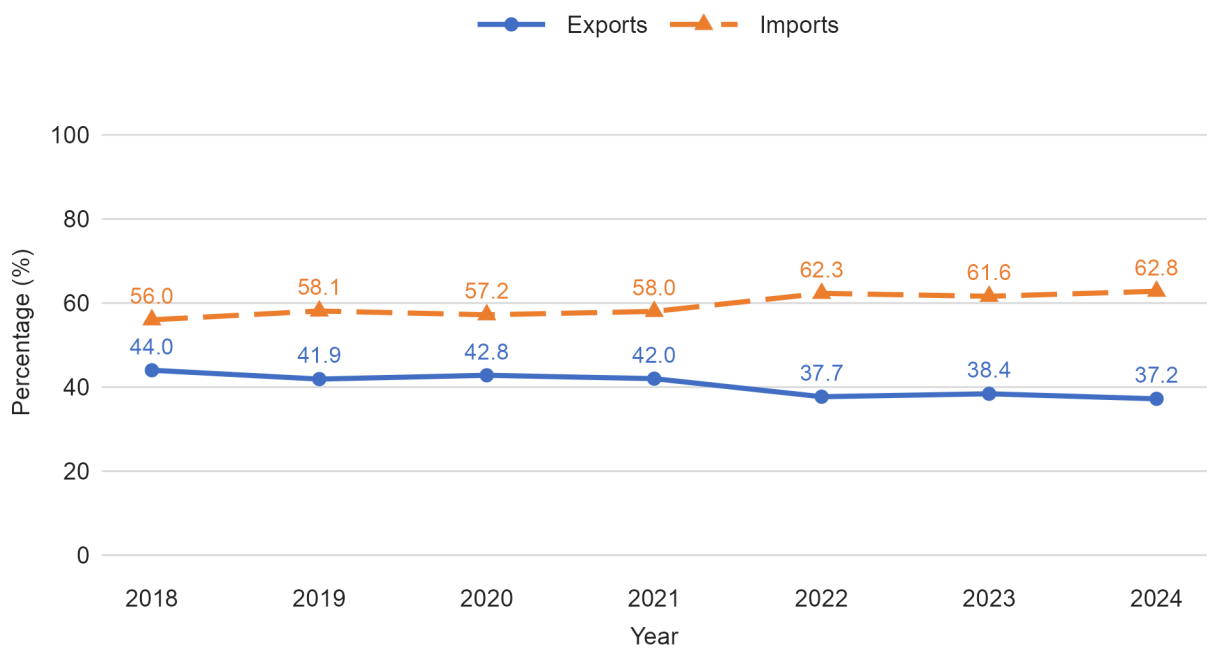
3. Shares of the Total Value of Mali's Trade

The highlights are as follows:

- In 2024, exports accounted for 37.2% of the total value of Mali's merchandise trade, down 1.2 percentage points from 2023 (38.4%).
- Imports accounted for 62.8%, up 1.2 percentage points from 2023 (61.6%).

Figure 2 shows how these shares changed from 2018 to 2024.

Figure 2 – Share of Exports and Imports in the Total Value of Mali's Merchandise Trade, 2018–2024 (%)



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

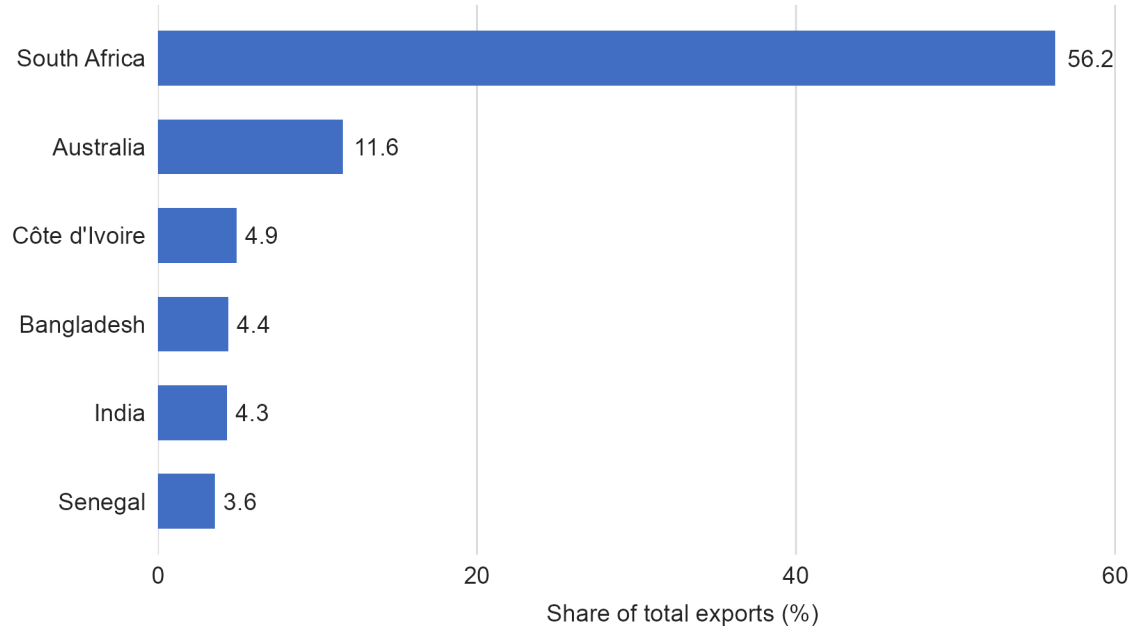
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Mali, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2024," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

4. Merchandise Export Destinations by Country

In 2024, the six main destinations of Mali's merchandise exports together received 85.1% of the country's total exports (Figure 3). These destinations were:

- South Africa: US$2.0 billion (56.2% of total exports);
- Australia: US$418.7 million (11.6%);
- Côte d'Ivoire: US$178.0 million (4.9%);
- Bangladesh: US$159.2 million (4.4%);
- India: US$156.4 million (4.3%); and
- Senegal: US$128.9 million (3.6%).

Figure 3 – Six Main Destinations of Mali's Merchandise Exports, 2024 (% of total exports)



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

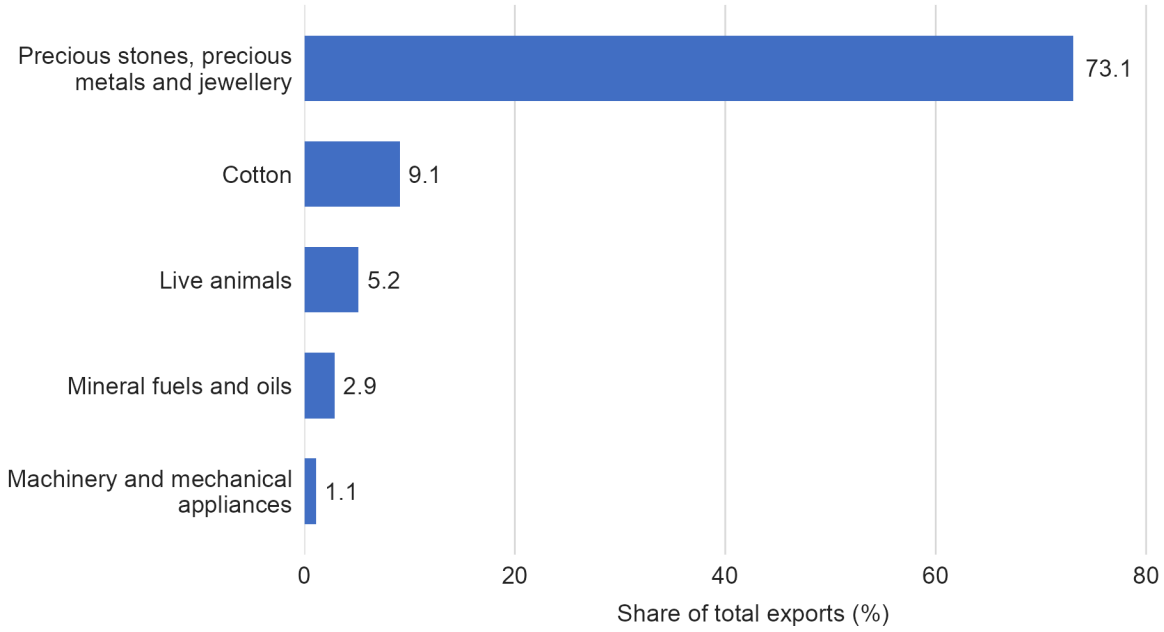
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Mali, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2024," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

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 2024, the five chapters with the highest export value together accounted for 91.3% of Mali's total exports (Figure 4). These chapters were:

- precious stones, precious metals and jewellery (chapter 71): US$2.6 billion (73.1% of total exports);
- cotton (chapter 52): US$327.5 million (9.1%);
- live animals (chapter 01): US$186.5 million (5.2%);
- mineral fuels and oils (chapter 27): US$103.5 million (2.9%); and
- machinery and mechanical appliances (chapter 84): US$40.2 million (1.1%).

Figure 4 – Highest-Value Exports of Mali by Harmonized System Chapter, 2024 (% of total exports)



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

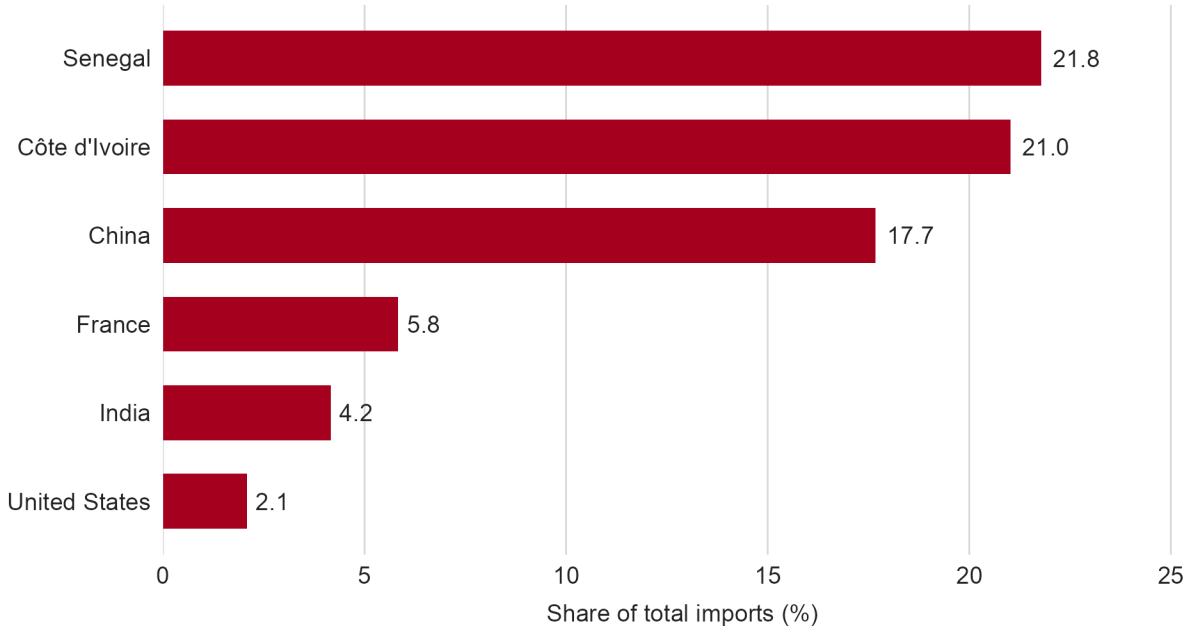
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Mali, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2024," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

6. Sources of Merchandise Imports by Country

In 2024, Mali's six main suppliers together accounted for 72.6% of the country's merchandise imports (Figure 5). These partners were:

- Senegal: US$1.3 billion (21.8% of total imports);
- Côte d'Ivoire: US$1.3 billion (21.0%);
- China: US$1.1 billion (17.7%);
- France: US$355.6 million (5.8%);
- India: US$253.8 million (4.2%); and
- the United States: US$126.9 million (2.1%).

Figure 5 – Six Main Sources of Mali's Merchandise Imports, 2024 (% of total imports)



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

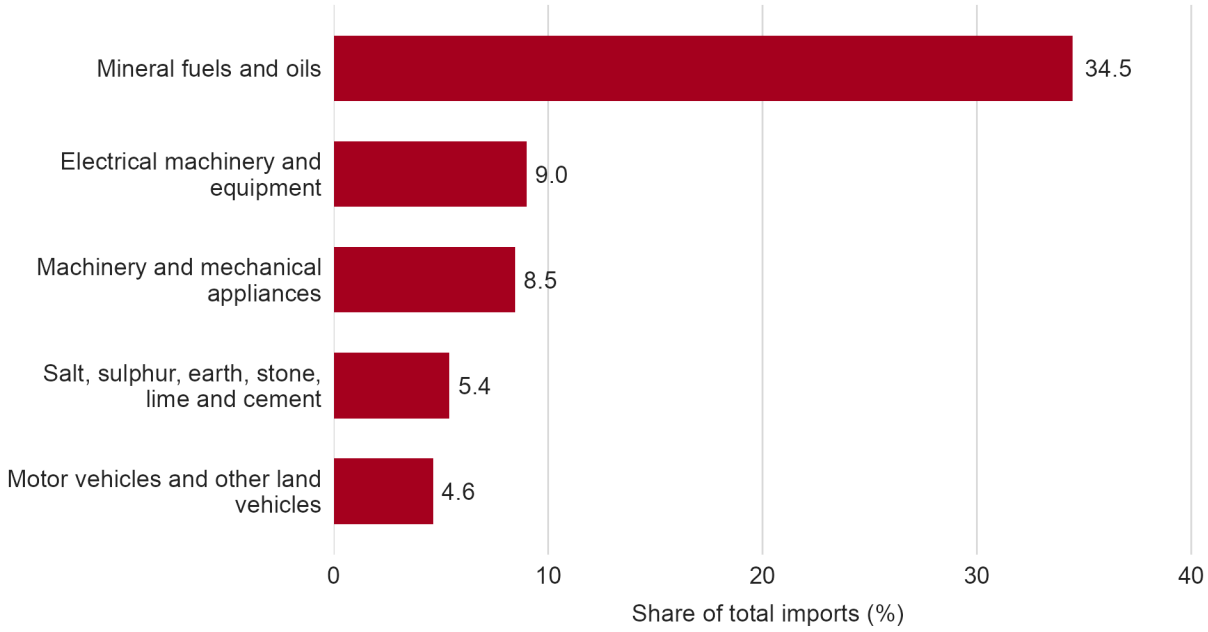
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Mali, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2024," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

7. Highest-Value Imports by Product Category

In 2024, the five HS chapters with the highest import value together accounted for 62.0% of Mali's total imports (Figure 6). These chapters were:

- mineral fuels and oils (chapter 27): US$2.1 billion (34.5% of total imports);
- electrical machinery and equipment (chapter 85): US$547.6 million (9.0%);
- machinery and mechanical appliances (chapter 84): US$515.3 million (8.5%);
- salt, sulphur, earth, stone, lime and cement (chapter 25): US$328.9 million (5.4%); and
- motor vehicles and other land vehicles (chapter 87): US$282.2 million (4.6%).

Figure 6 – Highest-Value Imports of Mali by Harmonized System Chapter, 2024 (% of total imports)



Note: Products are grouped by chapter of the Harmonized System (HS 2017); shares are calculated relative to the total value of Mali'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 – Mali, HS 2017 Chapters, 2018–2024," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 10 November 2026.

Methodological Note

The data come from Mali'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.