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Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche

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NIGERIA TRADE STATISTICS

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Introduction

In 2025, the value of Nigeria's merchandise trade – the sum of its exports and imports – reached US$100.4 billion. Exports rose 7.1% to US$56.1 billion, and imports rose 8.3% to US$44.4 billion. As a result, the trade surplus grew to US$11.7 billion, from US$11.4 billion in 2024.

Exports accounted for 55.8% of the total value of trade in 2025, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points from 2024, while imports accounted for 44.2%.

In 2025, India and Spain together received 19.2% of Nigeria's exports, and the three main exported product categories (mineral fuels and oils; cocoa and cocoa preparations; and fertilizers) accounted for 94.0% of the total.

On the import side, China and the United States together supplied 42.0% of Nigeria'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 52.0% of the value of imports.

This document first summarizes Nigeria's main preferential trade agreements with the rest of the world. It then presents trends in the country's merchandise trade from 2022 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 Nigeria and the Rest of the World

Like most African countries, Nigeria 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, Nigeria 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

Nigeria 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).

Nigeria benefits from the tariff reductions granted under the standard arrangement of the EU generalized scheme of preferences. 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

Nigeria 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. Nigeria signed the Agreement on 7 July 2019.

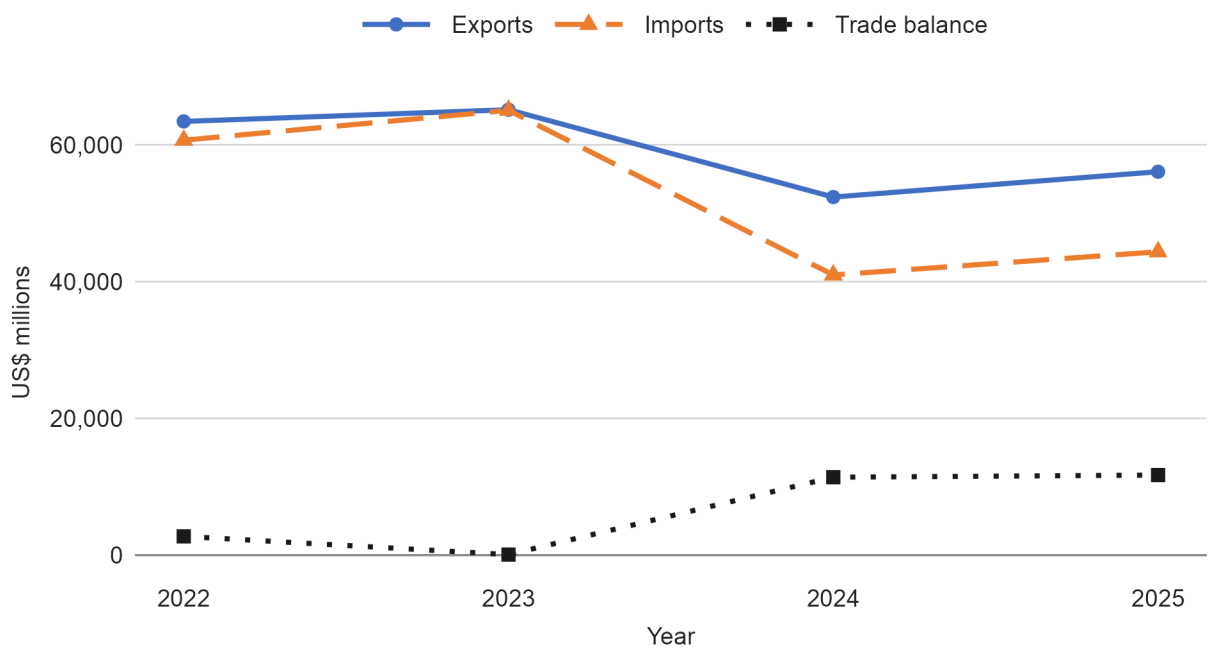
2. Merchandise Trade Between Nigeria and the Rest of the World

In 2025, Nigeria's merchandise trade with the rest of the world totalled US$100.4 billion. The highlights are as follows:

- Exports totalled US$56.1 billion, up 7.1% from 2024.
- Imports totalled US$44.4 billion, up 8.3% from 2024.
- The trade surplus stood at US$11.7 billion, compared with US$11.4 billion in 2024.

Figure 1 shows trends in the country's exports, imports and trade balance from 2022 to 2025.

Figure 1 – Merchandise Trade of Nigeria, 2022–2025 (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 – Nigeria, HS 2017 Chapters, 2022–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 13 November 2026.

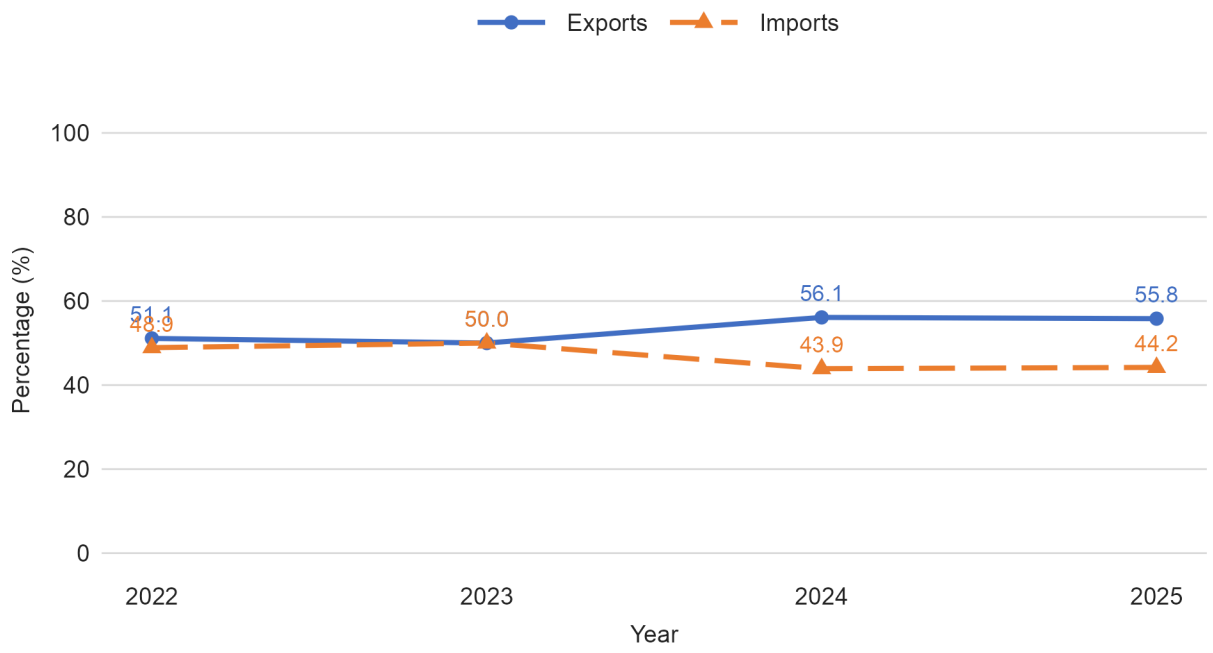
3. Shares of the Total Value of Nigeria's Trade

The highlights are as follows:

- In 2025, exports accounted for 55.8% of the total value of Nigeria's merchandise trade, down 0.3 percentage points from 2024 (56.1%).
- Imports accounted for 44.2%, up 0.3 percentage points from 2024 (43.9%).

Figure 2 shows how these shares changed from 2022 to 2025.

Figure 2 – Share of Exports and Imports in the Total Value of Nigeria's Merchandise Trade, 2022–2025 (%)



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

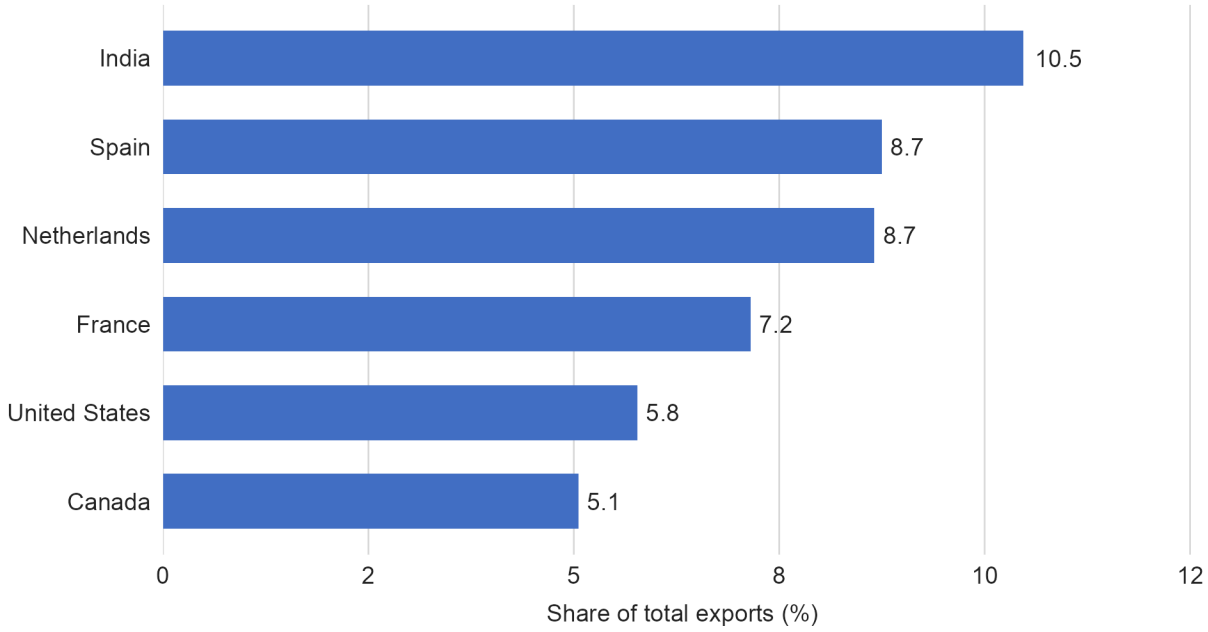
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Nigeria, HS 2017 Chapters, 2022–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 13 November 2026.

4. Merchandise Export Destinations by Country

In 2025, the six main destinations of Nigeria's merchandise exports together received 45.9% of the country's total exports (Figure 3). These destinations were:

- India: US$5.9 billion (10.5% of total exports);
- Spain: US$4.9 billion (8.7%);
- the Netherlands: US$4.9 billion (8.7%);
- France: US$4.0 billion (7.2%);
- the United States: US$3.2 billion (5.8%); and
- Canada: US$2.8 billion (5.1%).

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



Note: Shares are calculated relative to the total value of Nigeria's exports. The ranking excludes unspecified or non-geographic partners, which accounted for 1.8% of the total.

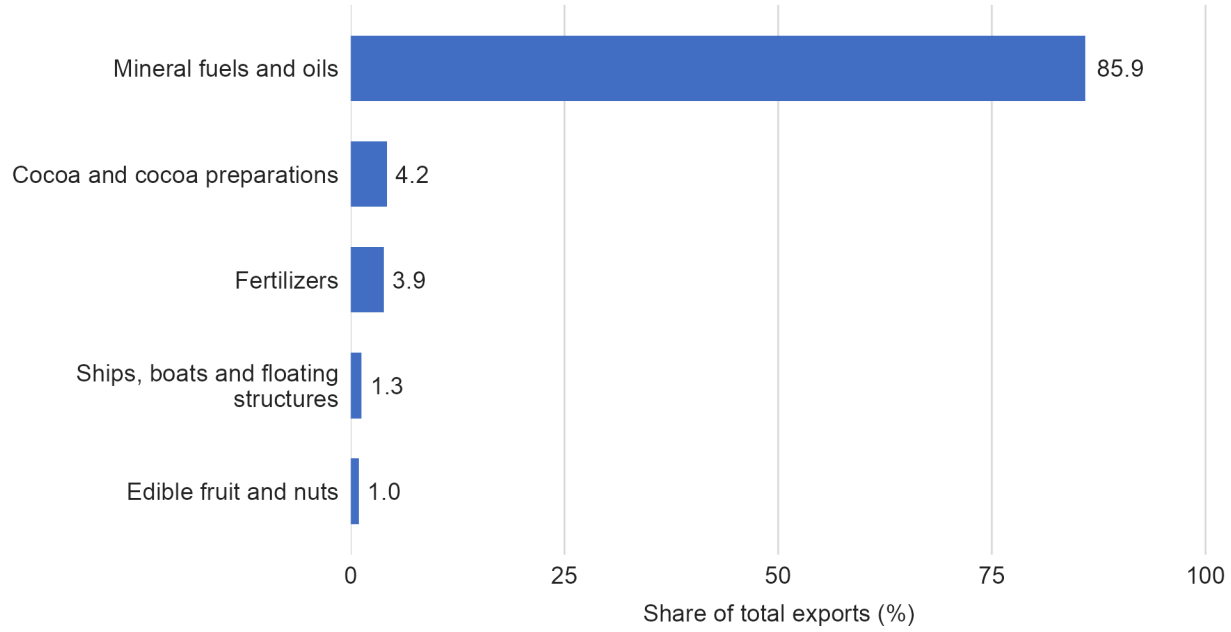
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Nigeria, HS 2017 Chapters, 2022–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 13 November 2026.

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 96.2% of Nigeria's total exports (Figure 4). These chapters were:

- mineral fuels and oils (chapter 27): US$48.2 billion (85.9% of total exports);
- cocoa and cocoa preparations (chapter 18): US$2.4 billion (4.2%);
- fertilizers (chapter 31): US$2.2 billion (3.9%);
- ships, boats and floating structures (chapter 89): US$711.2 million (1.3%); and
- edible fruit and nuts (chapter 08): US$533.9 million (1.0%).

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

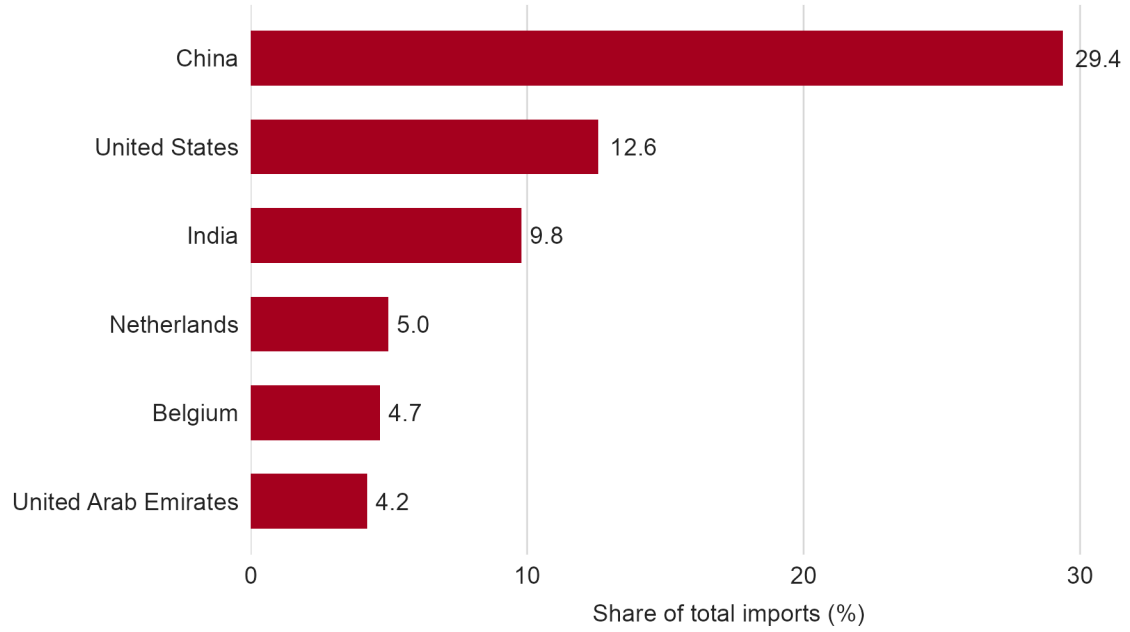
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Nigeria, HS 2017 Chapters, 2022–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 13 November 2026.

6. Sources of Merchandise Imports by Country

In 2025, Nigeria's six main suppliers together accounted for 65.6% of the country's merchandise imports (Figure 5). These partners were:

- China: US$13.0 billion (29.4% of total imports);
- the United States: US$5.6 billion (12.6%);
- India: US$4.3 billion (9.8%);
- the Netherlands: US$2.2 billion (5.0%);
- Belgium: US$2.1 billion (4.7%); and
- the United Arab Emirates: US$1.9 billion (4.2%).

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



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

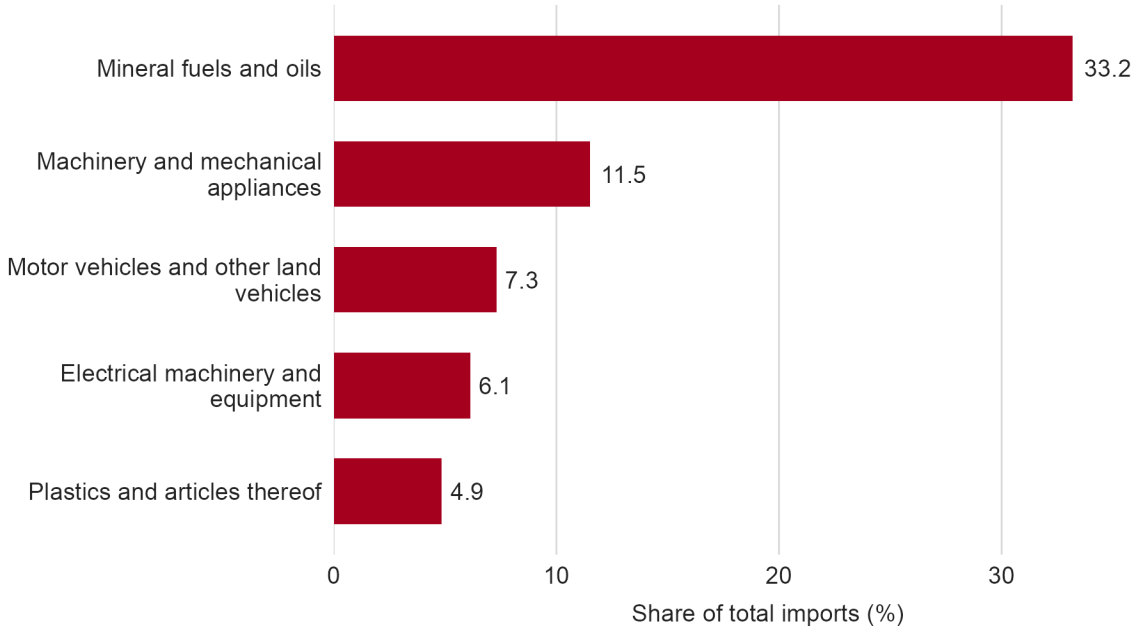
Source: Figure prepared by Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Publiques et de Recherche (CAPPR) using data obtained from World Bank, "Raw Trade Data – Nigeria, HS 2017 Chapters, 2022–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 13 November 2026.

7. Highest-Value Imports by Product Category

In 2025, the five HS chapters with the highest import value together accounted for 63.0% of Nigeria's total imports (Figure 6). These chapters were:

- mineral fuels and oils (chapter 27): US$14.7 billion (33.2% of total imports);
- machinery and mechanical appliances (chapter 84): US$5.1 billion (11.5%);
- motor vehicles and other land vehicles (chapter 87): US$3.2 billion (7.3%);
- electrical machinery and equipment (chapter 85): US$2.7 billion (6.1%); and
- plastics and articles thereof (chapter 39): US$2.2 billion (4.9%).

Figure 6 – Highest-Value Imports of Nigeria 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 Nigeria'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 – Nigeria, HS 2017 Chapters, 2022–2025," World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), Database, accessed 13 November 2026.

Methodological Note

The data come from Nigeria's reports to the United Nations Comtrade database (UN Comtrade) and were extracted using the World Bank's World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) on 13 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.