

TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE



Chad Trade Fact Sheet

African Continental Free Trade Area



CHAD TRADE FACT SHEET

Trade unions, Trade and AfCFTA

Union of Trade Unions of Chad

October 2024

The AfCFTA will influence national policies that affect employment, income, and livelihoods – trade unions need to be prepared to engage with this process.

The practicalities of the AfCFTA, how it will affect trade, policies, and employment, are unknown and need to be better understood.

This resource provides insight into trade dynamics in Chad and helps trade unions think about trade and their interests in the AfCFTA.

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AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

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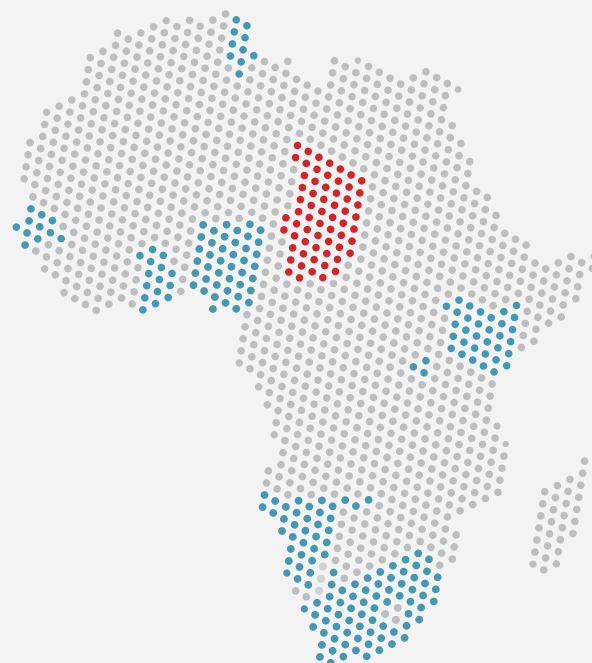
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**TRADE UNIONS
AND TRADE**

**Chad
Trade
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AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

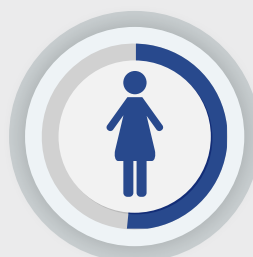
1.1 Population



IN 2022, THE POPULATION OF
CHAD WAS APPROXIMATELY

17.7 MILLION

adapted from the World Bank (2024)



FEMALES
49.81%



MALES
50.19%

As Table 1 shows, men slightly outnumber women, accounting for 50.2% of the population, while women account for 49.8%.

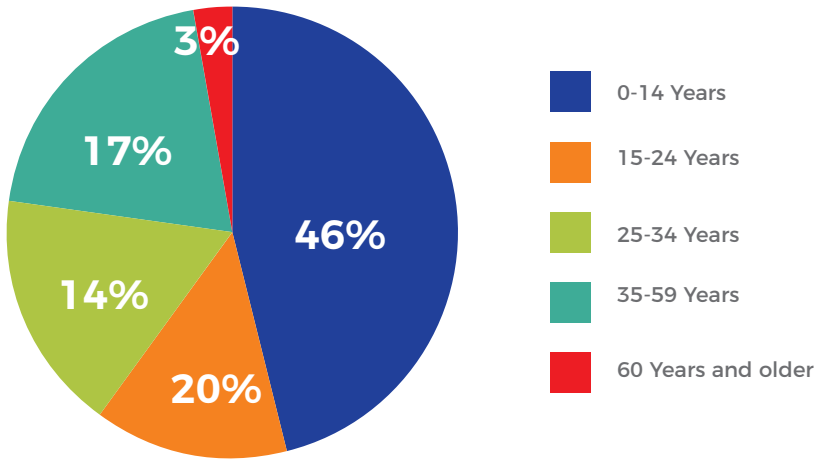
Table 1: Population (Projection) by Sex (2022)

Sex	Total	Percent
Male	8,896,002	50.19
Female	8,827,313	49.81
All	17,723,315	100.00

Source: adapted from the World Bank (2024)

Chad's population is predominantly young, with around 73% aged under 35 in 2022.

Figure 1: Population by age cohort (2023)



Source: adapted from the World Health Organisation (WHO) (2024)

Most Chadians live in rural areas. Table 2 shows that around 75% of the country's population was living in rural communities in 2022.

Table 2: Distribution of population by location

Location	Count	Percent
Urban	4,264,761	24.06
Rural	13,458,554	75.94
Total	17,723,315	100

Source: adapted from the World Bank (2024)



SECTION 2: ECONOMIC INDICATORS

2.1 Gross domestic Product (GDP)

The GDP was worth around \$13.31 billion in 2022, with an annual growth rate of 2.8%.



GDP IN 2022

US \$13.31 BILLION



INDUSTRY

51.69%



SERVICES

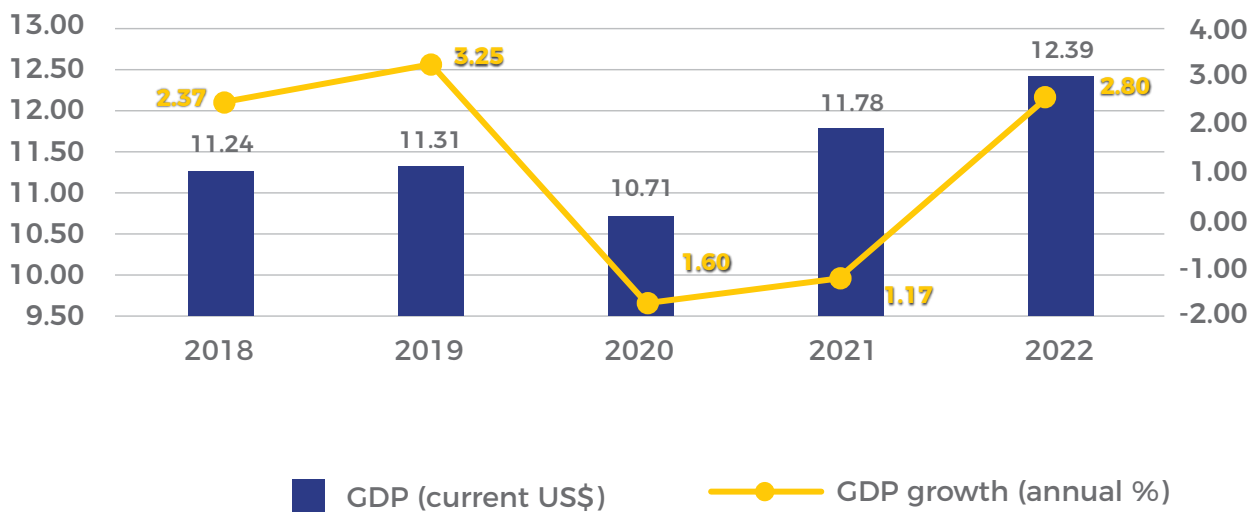
25%



AGRICULTURE

23%

Figure 2: GDP (billions of dollars) and GDP growth rate

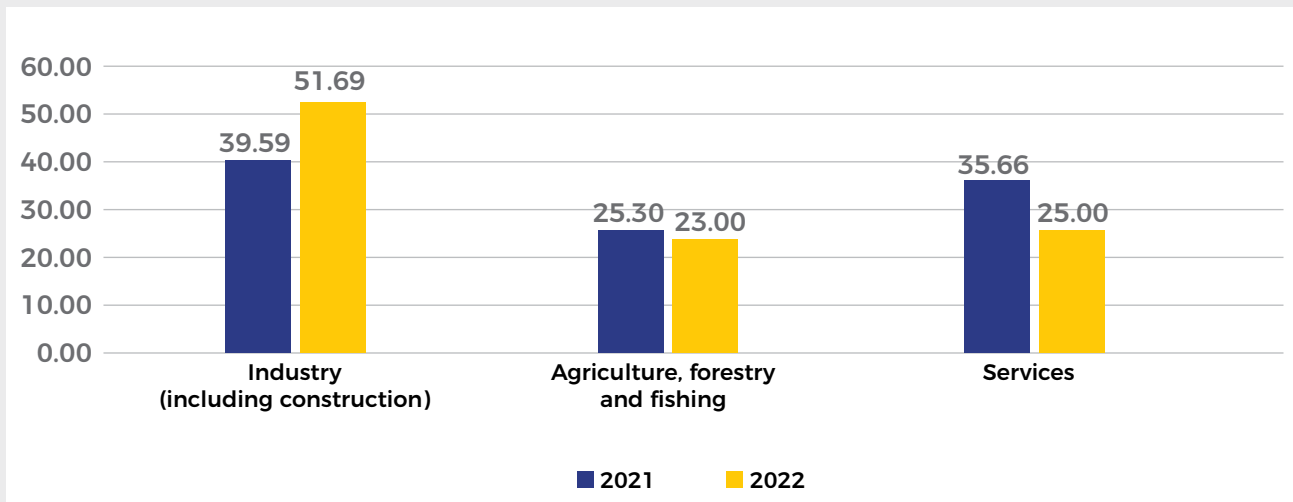


Source: World Bank (2024)

2.2 GDP Composition

Industry was the main contributor to the GDP, with a share of around 52%. The services sector contributed around a quarter of the country's GDP.

Figure 3: Sources of growth

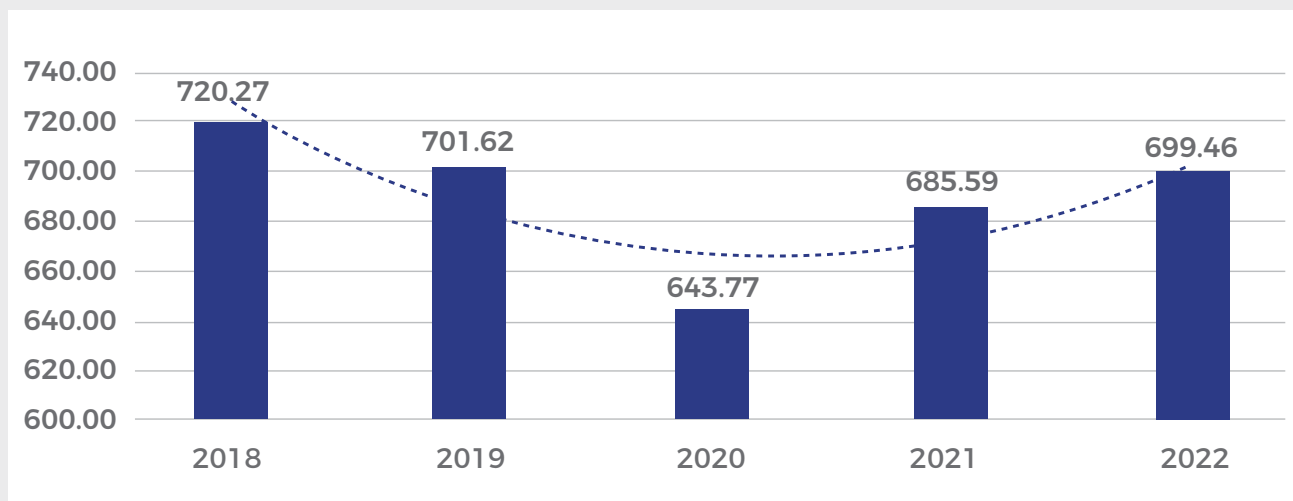


Source: World Bank (2024)

2.3 GDP per Capita

Figure 4 shows that the GDP per capita was USD 699.46 in 2022.

Figure 4: GDP per Capita (US\$)



Sources: adapted from the World Bank (2024)

2.4 Inflation

In 2022, the inflation rate was 5.8%, but it fell to 4.8% in 2023 (African Development Bank, 2024).

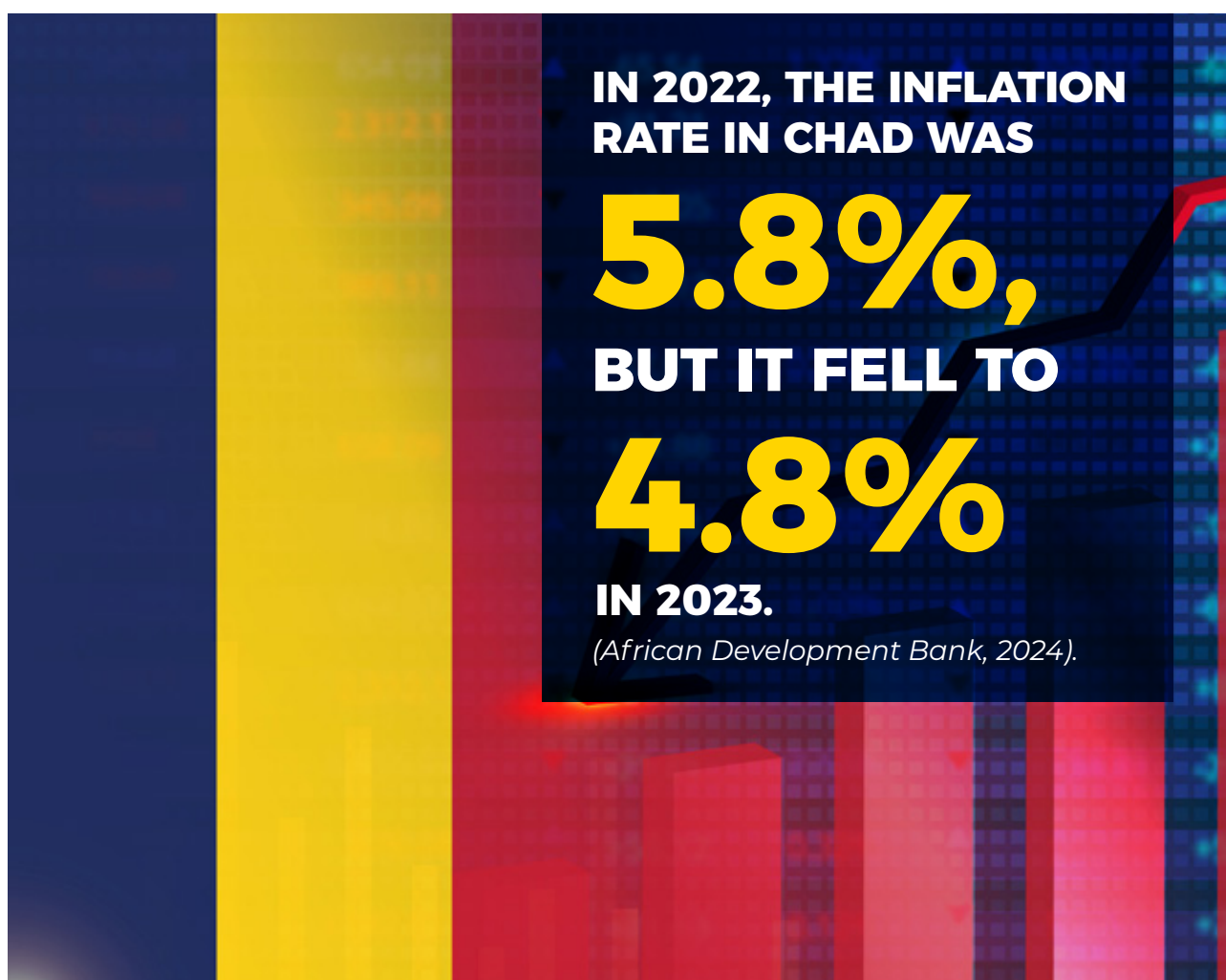
2.5 Exchange rates

Chad is one of 14 sub-Saharan African countries that belong to the CFA franc zone. Table 3 shows that the CFA franc depreciated by 11.8% against the US dollar between 2021 and 2022.

Table 3: Average annual exchange rates (foreign currency units per 1,000 CFA francs)

Currency	2021	2022	Variation (%)
US Dollar	1.80	1.61	-11.8
L'aciérage de la fourrière	1.31	1.30	-0.8

Source: adapted from BCEAO (2023)



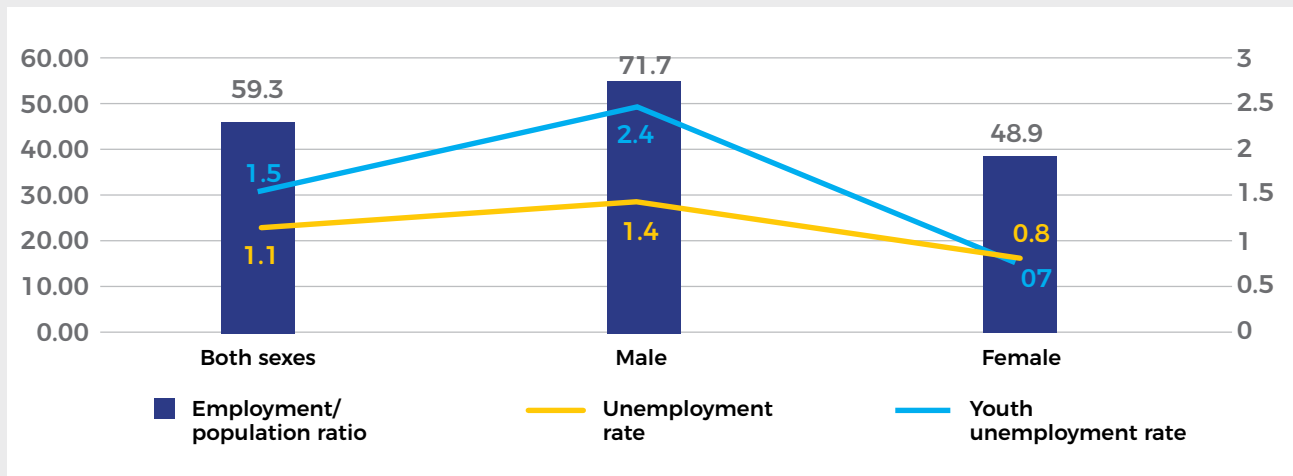
SECTION 3: THE LABOUR MARKET

3.1 Employment and unemployment



Figure 5 illustrates the employment-to-population ratio and unemployment rate in 2018, showing that around 59% of the workforce was employed. Employment rates were higher for men, at 71.7%, compared with 48.9% for women.

Figure 5: Employment and unemployment (2018)



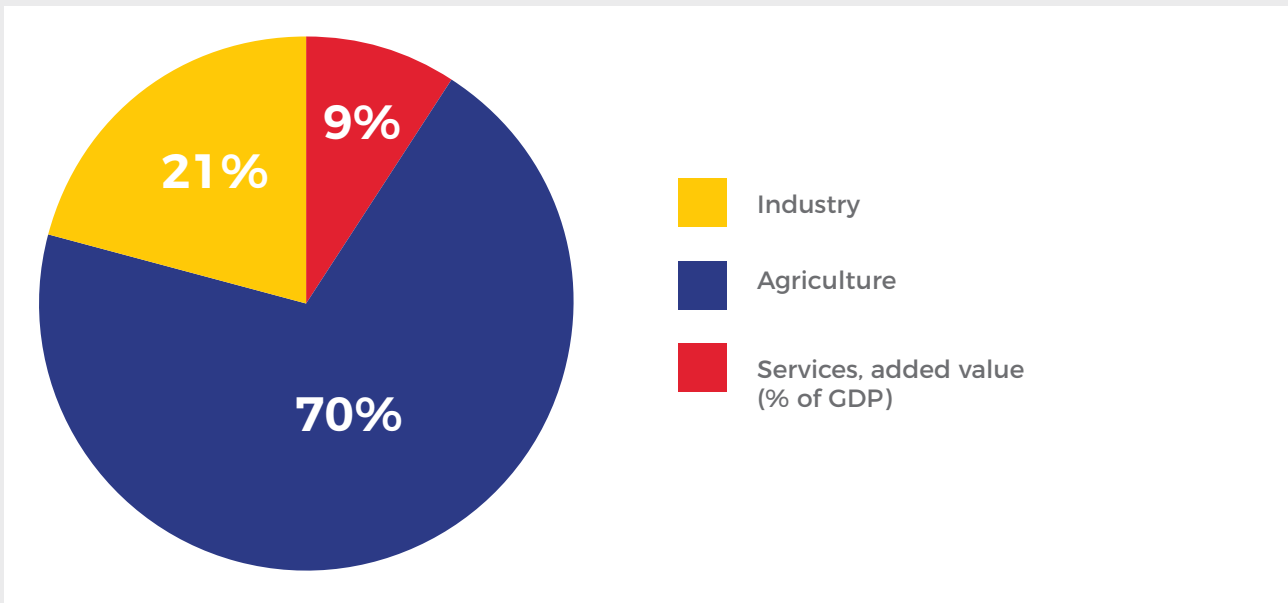
Source: adapted from ILOSTAT (2024)

Reported unemployment is low. Figure 5 shows that in 2018, only 1.1 per cent of the working population was unemployed. Youth unemployment was around 2.4 per cent.

3.2 Industrial distribution of employment

Agriculture is the main source of employment, with around 70 per cent of employed people working in this sector in 2018 (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Industrial distribution of employment



Source: adapted from ILOSTAT (2024)

3.4 Informal economy

In 2018, 96.9% of employed people worked in the informal economy. The rates of participation in the informal economy for men and women were 95.2% and 99% respectively.



SECTION 4: TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Trade Union federations

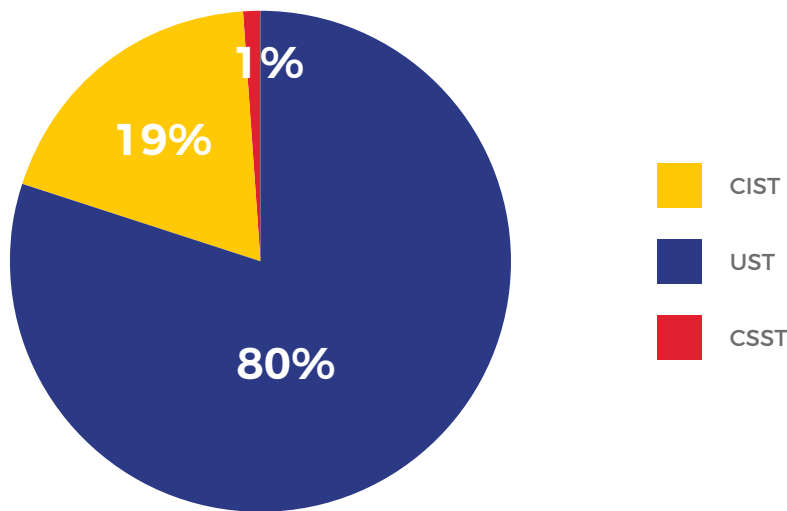
There are five major trade union centres:

1. Union of Trade Unions of Chad (UST)
2. Independent Confederation of Trade Unions of Chad (CIST)
3. Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Chad (CSTT)
4. Confederation of Trade Unions of Chad (CST)
5. Free Confederation of Chadian Workers (CLTT)

4.2 Trade Union Membership

Together, UST, CIST and CSTT have around 187,800 members. Figure 7 shows that UST is the majority union, with around 80% of the total membership of the three unions.

Figure 7: Distribution of trade union membership



Source: UST, CIST, & CSTT



SECTION 5: INTERNATIONAL TRADE

5.1 Merchandise exports and imports

Merchandise exports (goods) exceeded imports in 2022. Table 4 shows that the country's exports exceeded imports by around USD 2.2 billion in 2022.



**MERCHANDISE EXPORTS IN 2022:
US\$4.3 BILLION**



**IMPORTS IN 2022:
US\$2 BILLION**



**TRADE BALANCE:
US\$2.2 MILLION**

Table 4: Merchandise trade (in millions of dollars)

Classification	2015	2022
Merchandise exports	2426	4383
Merchandise imports	3700	2084
Merchandise trade balance	-1,274	2,299

Source: adapted from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 2024

5.2 Trade in services

In 2015 and 2022, Chad recorded negative trade balances for services. As shown in Table 4, the country's services imports exceed exports by around USD 2.8 billion in 2022.

Table 5: Trade in services (in millions of dollars)

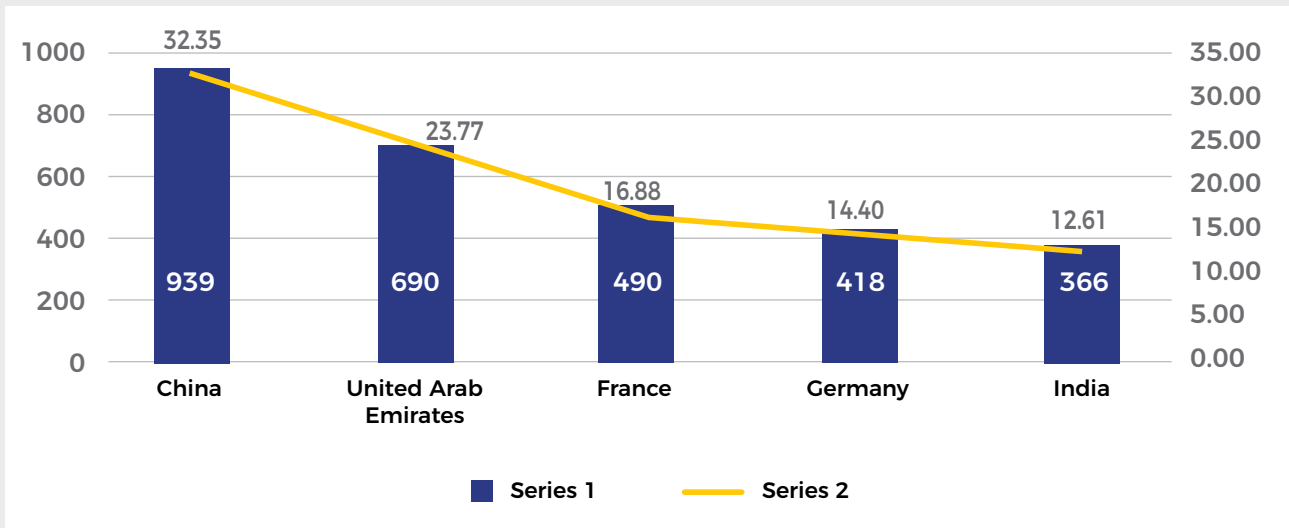
Classification	2015	2022
Services exports	266	271
Services imports	2322	3090
Services trade balance	-2056	-2819

Source: adapted from UNCTAD (2024)

5.3 Main export destination

China was Chad’s top export destination in 2022, receiving around 32% of the country’s exports to its top five markets. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) came second, with US\$690 million, or around 24% of Chad’s exports to its top five destinations.

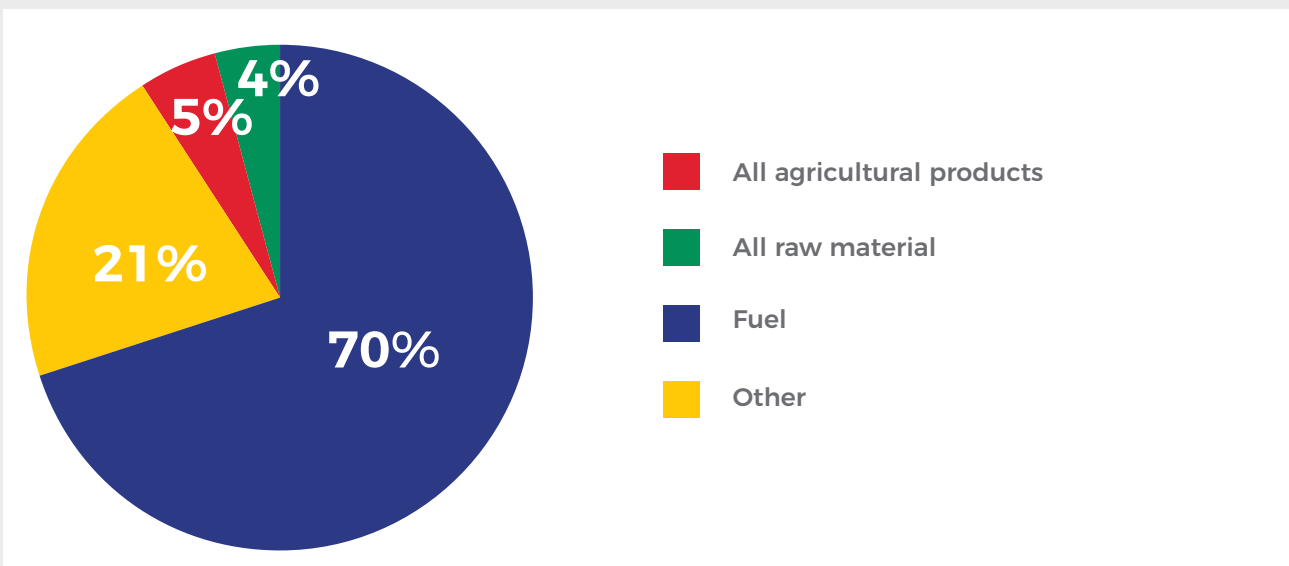
Figure 8: Top 5 partners (exports, in millions of dollars)



Source: adapted from UNCTAD (2024)

Fuels were the main export in 2022, accounting for around 79% of the country’s total exports.

Figure 9: Structure of exports by product group in 2022



Source: adapted from UNCTAD (2024)

5.4 Main sources of imports

In 2022, the majority of Chad's imports came from China. Table 6 shows that imports from China amounted to US\$281 million, representing around 38% of the country's total imports from its five main sources.

Table 6: The five main sources of imports (2022)

Country	Amount (in millions of dollars)	Percent
China	281	37.79
United Arab Emirates	226	30.40
France	82.3	11.07
United States	78.9	10.61
Belgium	75.3	10.13

Source : adapted from *Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) (2024)*

The main imports in 2022 were vaccines, blood, antisera, toxins and cultures (\$909.6 million), accounting for around 24% of the top five imports.

Table 7: Top five imports (2022)

Non.	Basic products	Amount (in millions of dollars)	Percent
1	Vaccines, blood, antisera, toxins and cultures	71.2	24.08
2	Jewellery	63.6	21.51
3	Generator sets	61.4	20.76
4	Broadcast equipment	52	17.59
5	Packaged medicines	47.5	16.06

Source : adapted from the *OEC (2024)*

5.5 Trade agreements and economic community memberships

Chad is a member and signatory to a number of bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements and economic groupings. These include the following agreements:

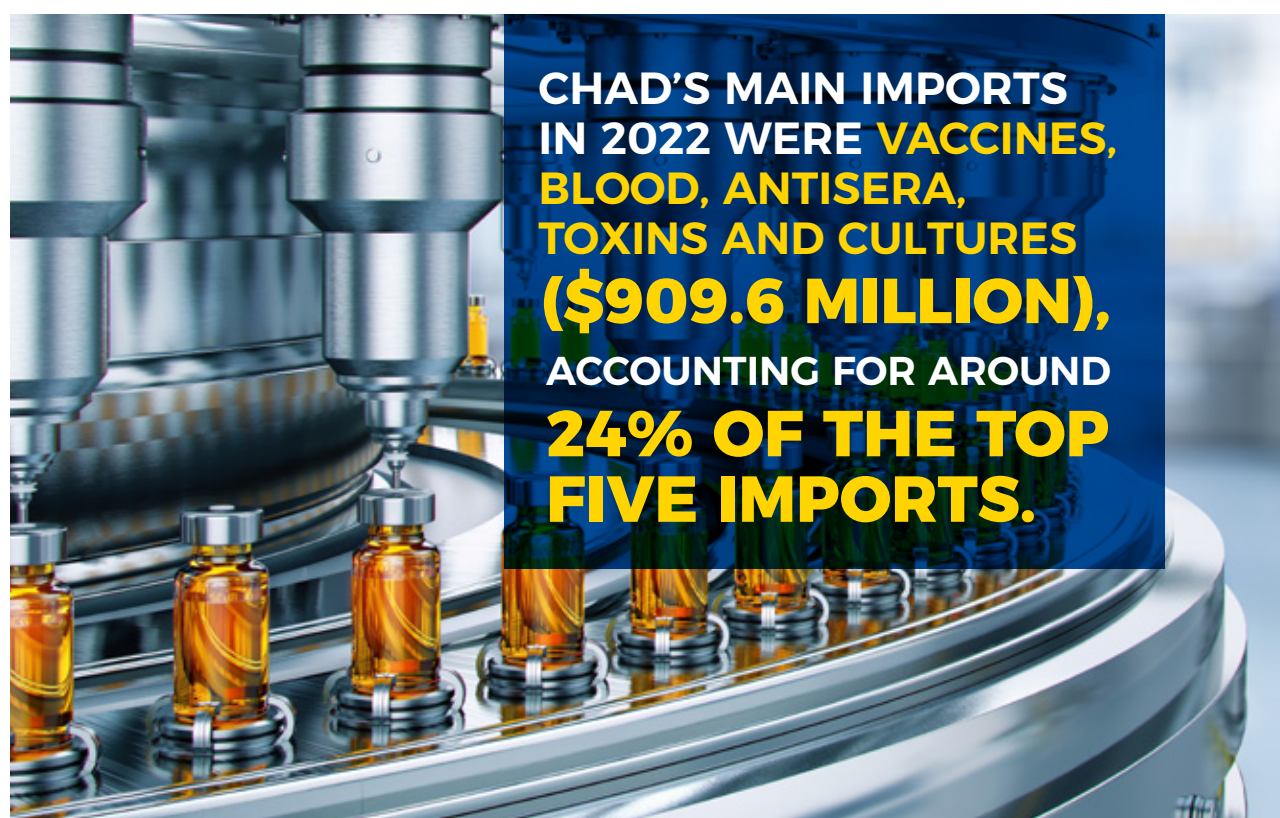
- World Trade Organisation (WTO) - Chad has been a member of the WTO since October 1996 and of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) since July 1963.
- Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)
- African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Table 8: Preferential Trade Agreements

Provider	Name	Type
United Kingdom	Developing Countries Trading Scheme	GSP
Armenia	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Australia	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Canada	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
European Union	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Iceland	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP

Provider	Name	Type
Japan	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Kazakhstan	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Kyrgyz Republic	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
New Zealand	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Norway	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Russian Federation	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Switzerland	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
Türkiye	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
United States of America	Generalized System of Preferences	GSP
India	Duty-free tariff preferences for LDCs	LDC-specific
Morocco	Duty-free treatment for African LDCs	LDC-specific
Chile	Duty-free treatment for LDCs	LDC-specific
China	Duty-free treatment for LDCs	LDC-specific
Chinese Taipei	Duty-free treatment for LDCs	LDC-specific
Montenegro	Duty-free treatment for LDCs	LDC-specific
Tajikistan	Duty-free treatment for LDCs	LDC-specific
Korea, Republic of	Preferential Tariff for LDCs	LDC-specific
United States of America	African Growth and Opportunity Act	Other PTAs

Source: adapted from WTO (2024)



SECTION 6: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (SEZS)

6.1 Legal and institutional framework

The government of Chad introduced special economic zones (SEZs) in 2022 with the adoption of Ordinance no. 002/PCMT/2022 and Ordinance no. 003/PCMT/2022. The N'Djamena and Moundou zones have been selected as pilot zones for the livestock and meat sectors (UNCTAD, n.d.).

6.2 Incentives

Companies operating in Chad's SEZs benefit from tax exemptions for a period of 10 years. Imported raw materials, equipment and spare parts used in production are exempt from import duties and other related charges (UNCTAD, n.d.).



Pierre Laborde / Shutterstock.com

SECTION 7: INDUSTRIAL POLICY

7.1 Objectives and strategies

Chad has a Master Plan for Industrialization and Economic Diversification (PDIDE). The PDIDE is based on 12 pillars:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| i) Meat, leather, milk, | viii) fiber optic network, |
| ii) spirulina, sesame and shea, | ix) data center, intelligence |
| iii) cotton, gum arabic | x) cement production, |
| iv) refining and petrochemicals, | xi) marble processing; and |
| v) gold mining, | xii) brick production. |
| vi) quarrying, | |
| vii) the metallurgical industry, | |



SECTION 8: LABOUR MIGRATION

8.1 Migrants



IN 2020, THERE WERE AROUND
547,500
MIGRANTS IN CHAD.

Table 9 shows that the overwhelming majority of these migrants, around 97%, originate from the continent.

Table 9: Migrants in Chad (2020)

Region	Count	Percent
Africa	529,746	96.76
Europe	1,216	0.22
Other regions	16,532	3.02
Total	547,494	100.00

Source: adapted from United Nations (2020)

Table 10 shows that most of the African migrants in Chad were Sudanese, accounting for around 70%. The Central African Republic came second, with a 19% share.

Table 10: African migrants in Chad (2020)

Country	Count	Percent
Sudan	372,594	70.33
Central African Republic	101,662	19.19
Cameroon	35,635	6.73
Nigeria	13,033	2.46
Niger	3,586	0.68
Libya	1,504	0.28
Congo	980	0.18
Gabon	401	0.08
Democratic Republic of Congo	351	0.07
Total	529,746	100

Source: adapted from United Nations (2020)

8.2 Emigrants



Around **222,300 CHADIANS** were living abroad in 2022 (IOM, 2022).

The majority of these Chad emigrants remained in Africa.



Remainder of Chadians living abroad



Source: adapted from IOM (2022)

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Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

“A continental free
trade agreement
requires a continental
free trade union
movement on the
continent.”

Mobilising trade union research, learning
and strategies to influence
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Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

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