

ANNEX 5 – MALI

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1 ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Main features

1.1. Mali is a least developed country (LDC) with an area of 1,241,238 km² and a population of 17.6 million in 2015. It shares borders with seven countries and has no access to the sea. The ports of Dakar and Abidjan, through which most of its international traffic passes, are about 1,200 km from its capital and main economic centre, Bamako. The country is irrigated by two large navigable rivers, the Niger and the Senegal.

1.2. Mali has several economic advantages, including its mineral wealth and enormous agricultural potential. It has major underground mineral deposits including gold, phosphate, rock salt, oil, limestone, bauxite, iron, manganese, gypsum, uranium, and marble. Gold is the leading export (ahead of cotton and live cattle).

1.3. The business climate has recently improved according to the World Bank's *Doing Business* indicator, which ranked Mali 141st out of 190 countries in 2017, up from 153rd out of 183 in 2011. This reflects measures adopted to simplify processes for starting a business, dealing with construction permits and registering property.¹

1.4. Despite progress since 2011, Mali's Human Development Index (HDI) remains low. According to the 2015 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), its HDI was 0.42 in 2014, compared to 0.36 in 2011, ranking the country 179th out of 188 countries.²

1.5. During the review period, agriculture's share of GDP gradually increased, while that of manufacturing industries declined (Table 1.1). The Malian economy remains poorly diversified and continues to rely heavily on the primary sector, which makes it hostage to weather conditions in the case of agriculture, and vulnerable to fluctuations in gold and cotton prices, which are the country's main production sectors. Moreover, the agricultural sector (including livestock and fisheries), which employs nearly 80% of the working population³, continues to use rudimentary techniques that constrain productivity and hold down farmers' incomes. The services sector is also important, contributing just under half of total GDP, driven mainly by commerce and by transport and telecommunications services. The manufacturing sector is still embryonic and offers opportunities for economic diversification; it is currently dominated by the agri-food and metallurgical and iron smelting industries.

Table 1.1 Main macroeconomic indicators, 2009-2016

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
GDP at current prices (US\$ million)	10,181.0	10,678.8	12,978.1	12,442.7	13,245.8	14,388.4	13,038.0	14,000.1
GDP at current prices (€ million) ^a	7,328.7	8,062.9	9,335.9	9,684.1	9,976.2	10,845.0	11,755.8	12,656.6
Nominal GDP per capita (US\$)	692.8	704.1	829.8	772.2	798.3	842.1	740.8	778.0
Nominal GDP per capita (€)	498.7	531.6	597.0	601.0	601.3	634.7	667.9	703.3
GDP at constant prices (variation %)	4.7	5.4	3.2	-0.8	2.3	7.0	6.0	5.4
Population (million)	14.6	15.1	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0
Rural population (% of total population)	64.8	64.0	63.2	62.4	61.6	60.9	60.1	59.3
Unemployment (% of total active population)	9.4	7.3	6.9	6.9	7.3	8.2	8.1	8.1
Inflation (CPI - variation %)	2.5	1.1	2.9	5.4	-0.6	0.9	1.4	-1.8

¹ Online information viewed at: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreconomies/mali>.

² Online information viewed at:

http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015_human_development_report_overview_fr.pdf.

³ Online information viewed at: <http://www.afd.fr/home/pays/afrique/geo-afr/mali/axes-strategiques-mali/agriculture-pastoralisme>.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
GDP by type of expenditure, at constant prices (% change)								
Final consumption expenditure	n.a.	12.6	2.1	-0.2	2.1	7.6	6.0	4.5
Private consumption	n.a.	13.6	0.2	2.9	1.3	8.6	5.6	4.0
Public consumption	n.a.	7.4	12.2	-14.5	6.2	2.0	8.1	7.0
Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF)	n.a.	10.7	15.1	-24.1	15.9	5.2	7.5	6.9
Exports of goods and services	-11.1	-0.2	6.2	8.8	2.5	1.1	4.7	4.0
Imports of goods and services	-4.7	26.7	5.5	-5.3	5.9	5.5	5.7	3.5
Distribution of GDP at current basic prices (% of GDP)								
Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing	34.6	35.4	37.0	40.7	39.2	39.8	40.4	40.3
Agriculture	15.9	16.8	18.2	20.1	17.5	18.7	19.7	20.2
Livestock and hunting	13.7	14.0	14.4	15.7	16.5	16.0	15.6	15.1
Forestry	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Fishing	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Mining and quarrying	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Manufacturing	18.1	16.3	15.3	17.2	15.0	15.2	14.0	13.4
Metal casting and foundry (gold)	9.8	8.9	8.7	10.9	7.8	7.1	6.8	6.2
Electricity gas and water	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Construction and public works	8.4	8.1	6.7	4.1	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0
Services	39.5	40.3	41.2	38.6	41.2	40.4	41.0	41.5
Commerce, repair services	11.1	11.8	12.0	11.8	12.3	11.8	11.7	12.1
Transport and communications	5.9	5.7	5.0	4.9	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.2
Financial activities	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Real estate activities and business services	4.6	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8
Public administration	9.2	9.9	12.5	11.0	11.5	11.3	11.9	11.8
Other services	6.8	6.5	5.9	5.2	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6
Financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM)	-1.6	-1.4	-1.2	-1.5	-1.3	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2
External sector								
Current account (% of current GDP)	-6.4	-11.1	-5.1	-2.2	-2.8	-4.7	-5.3	-2.7
Balance of goods (% of current GDP)	-2.1	-6.2	-2.6	0.9	-1.9	-3.5	-3.6	-0.5
Balance of services (% of current GDP)	-4.7	-6.0	-5.5	-5.8	-13.1	-11.9	-12.0	-11.7
Overall balance (% of current GDP)	-7.4	-3.7	-4.3	-3.1	-2.3	-1.0	-1.5	-1.4
Total reserves excluding gold (US\$ million)	130.9	129.2	128.8	129.4	133.8	123.0	110.0	123.6
CFAF per US\$ (annual average)	472.2	495.3	471.9	510.5	494.0	494.4	591.4	593.0
Nominal effective exchange rate (2000 = 100)	117.9	113.5	114.9	112.7	116.8	120.3	116.8	119.2
Real effective exchange rate (2000=100)	117.4	111.3	111.9	112.5	113.0	115.0	110.9	110.1
Concessional external debt (US\$ million)	1,938.3	2,192.6	2,430.7	2,683.7	2,980.4	3,022.7	3,258.2	n.a.
Total external debt (US\$ million)	2,210.3	2,455.8	2,921.9	3,056.2	3,423.8	3,429.5	3,668.3	n.a.
Concessional debt/Total debt (%)	87.7	89.3	83.2	87.8	87.1	88.1	88.8	n.a.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Public finance (% of GDP at current market prices)								
Total income and grants	18.6	17.5	17.2	14.6	17.6	17.0	19.2	21.6
Total income excluding grants	15.1	15.2	14.2	14.5	14.5	14.8	16.5	20.0
Current income	15.1	13.8	12.6	12.8	12.9	14.2	n.a.	15.5
Tax revenue	13.0	12.9	11.9	11.9	13.2	12.5	14.0	14.9
Taxes on foreign trade	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.7	1.6	1.8	n.a.
Grants	4.0	2.3	3.2	0.2	3.1	2.2	2.7	1.6
Total expenditure and net loans	22.8	20.2	20.4	14.8	19.7	20.0	21.4	25.5
Current expenditure	11.4	11.3	11.6	10.7	12.2	11.9	12.1	12.2
Capital expenditure	9.5	7.1	7.2	2.7	6.0	6.5	7.5	8.9
Net loans	0.4	0.3	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Current balance	3.7	2.5	1.0	2.1	0.6	2.2	n.a.	3.3
Overall balance excluding grants	-7.8	-5.0	-6.6	-1.3	-5.2	-5.2	-4.9	-5.5
Overall balance	-3.7	-2.7	-3.4	-1.1	-2.2	-3.0	-2.2	-3.9
Variation in arrears	0.0	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.7	-0.4	0.0
Overall balance, cash basis	-4.3	-2.7	-3.1	-1.0	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	-3.9
Financing needs:								
External financing	3.8	2.4	2.2	0.1	1.5	1.0	1.7	1.3
Domestic financing	0.5	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.9	1.5	0.8	2.6
External public debt	n.a.							

n.a. Not available.

a The CFA franc, which is the common currency of the WAEMU countries, is pegged to the euro at a rate of: €1 = CFAF 655.96.

Source: Online information from IMF eLibrary-Data; online information from the World Bank; Central Bank of West African States, *Annuaire statistique 2015*; and online information from INSTAT Mali.

1.6. The informal sector continues to play a key role in Mali's economy, contributing an estimated 55% of GDP, while encompassing nearly 98% of the primary and 66% of the tertiary sector.⁴ Migrant workers' remittances are a major source of income for a large segment of the Malian population.

1.7. Mali is a member of the West African Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Its monetary and foreign exchange policies are the responsibility of the Central Bank of West African States; and it uses the WAEMU common currency, the African Financial Community Franc (CFA franc), which is pegged to the euro at a fixed rate of CFAF 655,957 per euro (common report, section 1). As part of their multilateral surveillance, WAEMU countries have established several convergence criteria, as discussed in section 1 of the common report.

1.2 Recent economic developments

1.8. During the review period, Mali's economic performance was punctuated by natural shocks and institutional problems. The country endured a major socio-political crisis in 2012 and 2013, caused partly by the occupation of an area of its territory by armed groups and partly by a military coup. The process of restoring constitutional order, with support from the international community, was achieved through Presidential and National Assembly elections in 2013. Moreover, the political situation has stabilized thanks to the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, signed in 2015, but security remains fragile.

1.9. Following annual GDP growth of around 5.4% in 2010, mainly thanks to the robust performance of the agricultural sector, the expansion eased slightly to 3.2% in 2011; and, in the following year, the Malian economy contracted by 0.8% (Table 1.1). This sharp decline was brought on by a drought episode and was exacerbated by a series of socio-political disturbances

⁴ Online information viewed at: http://www.instat-mali.org/contenu/pub/compnat99-13_pub.pdf.

and a deteriorating security situation in the north of the country, which hindered economic activity. In addition to the decline in agricultural production, services, including trade, hotels and restaurants, were also severely affected. The decision by Mali's development partners to suspend all budgetary support and slow down much of their project assistance also weakened public investment.

1.10. Following a slight recovery in 2013, Mali returned to economic growth in 2014 at a rate of 7%. An improvement in the security situation and the resumption of aid from donors have helped restore confidence. Economic activity has recovered strongly, even in the services subsectors worst hit by the crisis (commerce, hotels and restaurants). The Malian economy has also benefited from rainfall that has assisted agricultural production, as well as the dynamism of the telecommunications sector, following the recent grant of a third mobile telephony license (section 4.4). Nonetheless, 2015 and 2016 again saw slightly weaker economic activity, with GDP growth rates estimated at 6% and 5.4%, respectively, owing to the poor performance of the agricultural sector, particularly the cotton industry.

1.11. As a WAEMU member, Mali applies the monetary policy implemented by the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), which pursues price stability as its chief goal (common report, section 1). Inflation in Mali has remained within the community convergence threshold of 3%, except in 2012, when poor harvests caused food prices to surge. Mali then experienced deflation in 2013, in the wake of a steep fall in the prices of staple foods, before prices resumed their steady upward trend over the next two years. In 2016, abundant availability of staple foods and lower hydrocarbon prices resulted in a further drop in prices.

1.12. The third generation of the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2012-2017 (GPRSP III), adopted in late 2011, provided the basis for all Mali's development policies and strategies. During its implementation, the GPRSP was complemented by the Priority Actions Plan (PAP) for 2012-2017, and by the Urgent Priority Actions Plan (PAPU) and the Sustainable Recovery Plan (PRED) for 2013-2014. In 2016, the Government reformulated and extended the GPRSP III in a new document, the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD), which will serve as a reference framework for economic and financial policies in 2016-2018. Moreover, while the effects of the crisis appear to have increased poverty between 2012 and 2013, the incidence of which rose from 42.7% to 47.1%, the economic recovery that began in 2014 helped to bring the poverty rate down to 46.9% in that year.⁵

1.13. As part of the reforms under the GPRSP III and the IMF dialogue under the Extended Credit Facility, Mali's fiscal policy emphasizes the need to mobilize domestic revenues, finance priority spending (education, health and national land management), and minimize the use of domestic borrowing. The budget deficit, which had improved in 2010 (2.7% of GDP) thanks to income from the privatization of the Mali Telecommunication Company (SOTELMA), worsened in 2011 to 3.4% of GDP before narrowing sharply to 1.1% of GDP in 2012. The Government responded to the socio-political crises by compensating for the revenue loss through cuts in both public investment and subsidies for petroleum products and cooking gas (section 4), and by letting payment arrears accumulate. Following the 2012 budgetary tightening, the deficit worsened steadily until 2014, before improving in the following year (Table 1.1).

1.14. Since 2013, with the return of donors, budgetary efforts have been in line with the Government's various strategic programmes. To this end, the authorities are determined to keep social spending (health, education and social development) above a certain minimum. To maintain this pace of expenditure and fund an increase in capital spending while stabilizing the budget balance, the current reforms of the tax and customs administrations aim to increase tax revenue by strengthening taxpayer compliance, streamlining procedures, and improving cooperation between the agencies and directorates concerned, to reduce tax evasion more effectively. The Government's budget programme continues to focus on reducing arrears and restricting resort to bank and market financing.

1.15. The external current account remains in deficit, reflecting the balance of goods and services trade (Table 1.2). The deficit widened significantly in 2010 (11% of GDP), owing to a sharp drop in gold exports and a rise in the value of hydrocarbon imports. Nonetheless, it narrowed to 5.1% of GDP in 2011, after which the stalling of economic activities following the March 2012 coup reduced

⁵ Online information viewed at: <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/fr/notes-pays/mali>.

it to 2.2%. Since 2013, however, the current account deficit has widened steadily in line with the pace of economic recovery and official development assistance. In 2014 and 2015, the deficit attained levels of 4.7% and 5.3% of GDP respectively, following the fall in gold prices and the growth of imports drawn in by the economic recovery. In 2016, however, it improved significantly as exports rebounded and the value of imports dropped in the wake of falling oil prices.

Table 1.2 Balance of payments, 2009-2016

(€ million)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Current account balance	-471.4	-898.5	-472.1	-212.4	-282.2	-509.3	-628.8	-341.6
Goods and services (net)	-492.3	-988.0	-755.5	-472.9	-1,489.3	-1,679.1	-1,836.9	-1,545.2
Goods (net)	-151.2	-501.9	-239.5	86.9	-187.1	-383.1	-428.8	-61.1
Exports f.o.b.	1,275.7	1,549.8	1,719.2	2,335.8	2,164.0	2,095.0	2,449.5	2,858.6
Imports f.o.b.	1,426.9	2,051.7	1,958.5	2,248.9	2,351.2	2,478.1	2,878.4	2,919.7
Services (net)	-341.0	-486.2	-516.0	-559.8	-1,302.2	-1,296.0	-1,408.1	-1,484.2
Credit	256.1	289.7	295.6	268.5	322.7	343.9	390.3	374.0
Transport	14.1	5.5	7.3	2.0	1.1	2.9	12.7	n.a.
Travel	138.0	154.6	151.4	110.4	134.5	159.8	167.6	163.7
Debit	597.1	775.8	811.6	828.3	1,625.0	1,639.9	1,798.4	1,858.0
Transport	331.1	467.3	511.0	523.5	552.8	528.8	599.2	n.a.
Travel	73.1	83.7	85.7	79.4	88.7	108.5	135.1	n.a.
Primary income	-329.3	-316.3	-332.2	-358.0	-325.8	-289.7	-266.5	-378.2
Interest on debt	-18.9	-19.8	-26.1	-27.3	-28.1	-26.2	-35.5	-39.9
Secondary income	350.2	405.8	615.6	618.6	1,532.9	1,459.2	1,474.6	1,581.8
Public administration	125.5	149.6	123.5	44.2	953.4	868.7	827.6	947.6
Other sectors	224.6	256.3	492.0	574.4	579.5	590.6	647.0	634.2
Migrant remittances	305.1	330.4	326.5	560.1	645.5	578.7	614.5	612.7
Capital account	296.4	190.1	281.0	81.4	197.1	173.9	308.6	195.4
Financial account	-612.7	-648.1	-161.6	-148.5	-210.2	-170.7	-246.9	327.9
Direct investment	-539.4	-300.9	-397.0	-297.3	-229.7	-108.1	-174.1	-183.2
Portfolio investment	-44.5	-29.0	-28.1	-7.9	-0.8	-135.5	-97.1	-132.0
Other investment	-28.7	-318.2	263.4	156.7	20.3	72.9	24.3	643.2
Errors and omissions (net)	-53.4	29.0	-38.4	-16.0	-27.4	-38.0	-58.7	0.0
Overall balance	384.2	-31.3	-68.0	1.7	97.7	-202.8	-132.0	-474.1

n.a. Not available.

Source: Central Bank of West African States.

1.16. The foreign debt stock grew steadily during the review period, from US\$2.2 billion in 2009 to US\$3.6 billion in 2015 (about 25% of GDP). Nonetheless, the most recent debt sustainability analysis conducted by IMF staff indicates a moderate risk of over-indebtedness for Mali.⁶

1.17. Mali's economic prospects seem bright. Growth is expected to come in at 5.0% in 2017, thanks partly to higher levels of public investment and increased donor support⁷, and ought to be driven mainly by the agricultural and tertiary sectors. Inflation will be below the BCEAO target in 2017, assuming abundant rainfall. The current account deficit (including grants) is expected to deteriorate to 5.2% in 2017, mainly due to lower gold production. These good prospects, however, could be compromised by insufficient rainfall, falling gold prices and the fragile security situation prevailing in the country.

⁶ Online information viewed at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=44445.0>.

⁷ Online information viewed at: <http://www.imf.org/external/french/pubs/ft/scr/2016/cr1606f.pdf>.

1.3 Trade performance

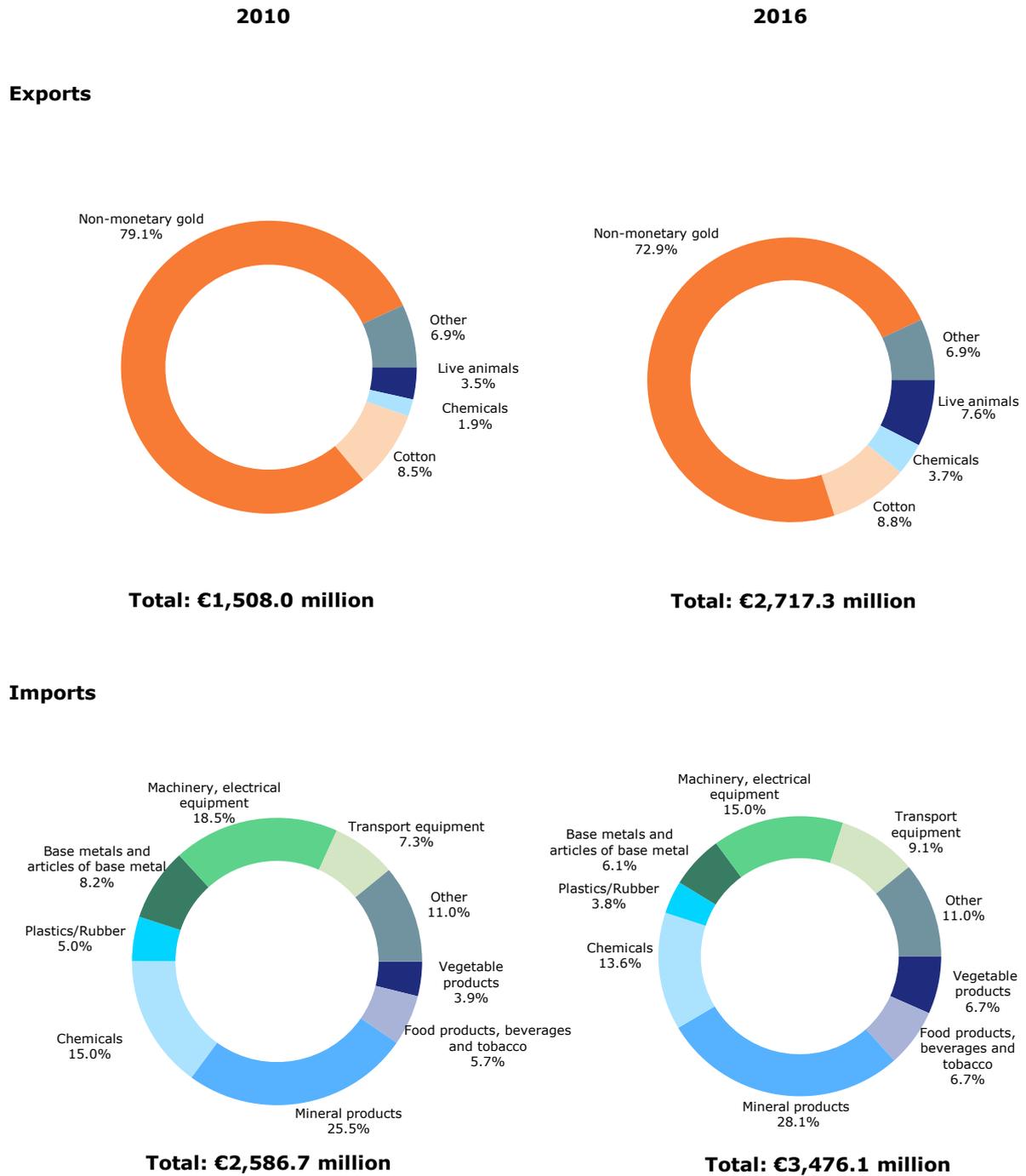
1.18. The GDP share of goods and services trade fluctuated between 2009 and 2011, before embarking on a downward trend, dropping from around 59% in 2012 to 51% in 2015, owing to a simultaneous decline in both imports and exports.

1.19. Official goods trade figures reveal an upward trend in exports in 2010-2015, followed by a slight decline in 2016 (Tables A1.1 and A1.3). The behaviour of Malian exports is generally driven by performance in the mining and cotton sectors, and by the market prices of their products. During the review period, exports remained dominated by commodities, particularly gold, followed well behind by cotton (Table A1.1 and Chart 1.1). The increase in gold exports reflects higher production levels in several existing mines, as well as new mining projects coming on stream.

1.20. After a slight decline between 2010 and 2011, merchandise imports also grew steadily from 2011 to 2015 before slipping back slightly in the following year (Tables A1.2 and A1.4). Malian imports are much more diversified and consist mainly of food products (rice and sugar in particular), fuels, manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, and chemicals (Table A1.2 and Chart 1.1). In general, Mali imports most of its food products and capital goods.

1.21. The distribution of Mali's export markets has not changed significantly since the last review. South Africa, which absorbs the bulk of Malian gold, remains the main destination. From 2010 to 2014, it received over half of Mali's exports, before dropping below that level in the case of goods. Exports to China also declined relatively in 2015 and 2016. The European Union is the second most important destination for Malian exports, followed by Switzerland, whose share of demand increased significantly in 2015 and 2016. Other destinations remain broadly unchanged, with Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso in the lead (Table A1.3 and Chart 1.2). On the import side, the European Union, particularly France, remains the main source of imports, followed by Senegal, China and Côte d'Ivoire (Table A1.4 and Chart 1.2).

Chart 1.1 Structure merchandise trade by HS section and chapter, 2010 and 2016



Source: WTO Secretariat calculations based on data provided by the Malian authorities.

1.24. The range of sectors receiving foreign investment has nonetheless diversified in recent years, as FDI has targeted banking activities; buildings and public works; and trade. In contrast, sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture seem to be unattractive.

1.25. The socio-political crises halted the upward trend in foreign investment seen between 2009 and 2011, and inflows collapsed from US\$556.1 million in 2011 to US\$152.9 million in 2015 (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3 Foreign direct investment, 2009-2016

(US\$ million)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Inward flow	748.3	405.9	556.1	397.9	307.9	144.0	152.9	n.a.
Outward flow	-1.0	7.4	4.4	16.0	2.9	0.6	1.4	n.a.
Inward stock	1,882.8	1,963.6	2,419.1	2,875.3	3,325.2	3,059.1	2,893.3	n.a.
Outward stock	10.6	17.6	21.1	37.9	42.6	38.1	35.6	n.a.

n.a. Not available.

Source: Online information from UNCTADSTAT.

2 TRADE AND INVESTMENT REGIMES

2.1 Overview

2.1. Mali's general legal and institutional framework has undergone no substantial change since the country's preceding trade policy review. The 1992 Constitution explicitly proclaims the separation of powers. The President of the Republic as well as parliamentarians are elected by direct universal suffrage.

2.2. The President of the Republic is elected for a once renewable, five-year term. He appoints the other members of the Government. The current President has been in office since 2013.

2.3. The National Assembly comprises 147 deputies elected for renewable five-year terms. It exercises legislative power and oversees the Government's activities. The latest parliamentary elections took place in 2013. Laws adopted by the National Assembly are transmitted to the President of the Republic, who promulgates them before their publication in the Official Journal. In certain circumstances, the Government may issue ordinances valid for a limited period.

2.4. Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court, which is at the apex of the judicial pyramid, and in the appeal courts, the lower courts, commercial courts and justices of the peace.

2.5. International treaties and agreements have force of law once signed and ratified by Mali, subject to their implementation by the other parties. They take precedence over national legal texts. Domestically, the Constitution remains the highest legal authority. It comes before laws, ordinances, decrees and orders. During the period under review, Mali adopted several laws on trade and/or investment (Table 2.1)

Table 2.1 Texts of domestic trade- and investment-related laws and regulations

Area	Instrument/text
Investment	Law No. 2012-016 of 27 February 2012 on the Investment Code of Mali
Internal taxes	Law No. 2011-078 of 23 December 2011 adopting the State budget for financial year 2012
Internal taxes	Decree No. 2015-0548-P-RM of 6 August 2015 setting the rates for the special tax on certain products
Export promotion	Law No. 2011-032 of 24 June 2011 establishing the Mali Export Promotion Agency (APEX-Mali)
Competition policy	Law No. 2016-006 of 24 February 2016 on the organization of competition
Consumer protection	Law No. 2015-036 of 16 July 2015 on consumer protection and the relevant Decree No. 2016-0482-P-RM of 7 July 2016
Government procurement	Decree No. 2015-0604/P-RM of 25 September 2015 establishing the Code of Government Procurement and Public Service Concessions, and the relevant Order No. 2015-3721/MEF-SG of 22 October 2015
Agricultural policy	Decree No. 10-574-/P-RM of 26 October 2010
Mining and energy	Law No. 2012-015 of 27 February 2012 on the Mining Code
Mining and energy	Law No. 2015-035 of 16 July 2015 on the organization of hydrocarbon prospecting, exploitation and transport
Mining and energy	Decree No. 2014-0866/P-RM of 26 November 2014
Telecommunications	Decree No. 2011-373/P-RM of 17 June 2011 on the procedure for granting the third licence for the establishment and operation of telecommunication networks and services

Source: WTO Secretariat.

2.2 Trade policy formulation and objectives

2.6. The main function of the Ministry responsible for trade is to formulate, evaluate and implement trade policy, including the trade-related aspects of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral trade agreements. Within the Ministry, the Directorate-General responsible for trade draws up national regulations on trade, competition and consumer protection.¹ It also acts as the secretariat of the National Trade Negotiations Commission (CNNC).

¹ Ordinance No. 2017-013/PRM of 6 March 2017.

2.7. Other ministries are also involved in trade policy formulation and implementation. The Ministry responsible for the economy plays an important role in trade policy matters through the Directorate-General of Customs, which is under its authority. The Minister in charge of foreign affairs is responsible for Mali's participation in the African Union and cooperation between the ACP countries and the EU. Several ministries that handle sectoral matters are also involved in the design and implementation of Mali's trade policy.

2.8. Private-sector organizations are generally consulted, on an ad hoc basis, on trade policy formulation, implementation and follow-up. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Mali (CCIM), supervised by the Ministry responsible for trade, may propose to the Government any measure conducive to the development of commercial, industrial or services activities and may express its opinion on relevant issues.² Since 2004, the CCIM has been home to the Arbitration and Conciliation Centre, whose task is to rule on disputes relating to trade, industry or the provision of services.

2.9. The overall aim of Mali's trade policy is to create an enabling environment for trade development, especially for exports, and investment, so as to enable the country to attain its economic growth and poverty reduction targets, as set out in the third generation of the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2012-2017 (GPRSP III), and recently in the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD). According to the authorities, a trade development policy paper is under preparation. Mali participates in the Enhanced Integrated Framework for technical assistance to LDCs.

2.10. Regional economic integration within WAEMU and ECOWAS is still an important component of Mali's trade policy (common report, section 2).

2.11. Mali has considerable export development potential, especially in the following sectors: cotton and textiles, citrus and other fruit, and commercial crafts. Tourism also offers major opportunities for trade in services.

2.3 Trade agreements and arrangements

2.3.1 WTO

2.12. Mali has been a WTO Member since 31 May 1995. It is recognized as a "least developed country" (LDC). It is not a member of any WTO plurilateral agreement. The concessions made by Mali during the Uruguay Round are contained in Schedule XCIV as regards goods and in document GATS/SC/53 as regards services.

2.13. Mali has made very few notifications to the WTO since 2010 (Table 2.2). The CNNC is chaired by the Ministry responsible for trade, and its main task is to validate notifications, take steps to bring Mali's regulations into conformity with WTO obligations, follow up the implementation of WTO Members' commitments in regard to Mali, examine the impact of WTO provisions on Mali's economy and identify what assistance the WTO can provide to Mali.³ It brings together the ministries involved with trade policy, the CCIM, as well as professional associations or trade unions. The Commission comprises five sub-committees dealing with matters relating to agriculture, customs and trade facilitation, regional trade agreements, trade in services and TRIPS. Moreover, a monitoring committee for the Sectoral Initiative in Favour of Cotton is specifically tasked with following up the cotton issue.

² Article 2 of Law No. 98-014 of 19 January 1998.

³ Decision No. 10/MICA-SG of 27 March 1998.

Table 2.2 Notifications by Mali to the WTO, 2010-2016

Requirement	WTO document	Content
Anti-dumping practices, Articles 16.4 and 16.5	G/ADP/N/193/MLI of 17 March 2010	Notification under Articles 16.4 and 16.5 of the Agreement
GATT 1994, Article VII – Article 22.2	G/VAL/N/1/MLI/1 of 14 January 2013	Notification under Article 22 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994
GATT 1994, Article VII, Annex III, para. IV; GATT 1994, Article XXVIII:5	G/MA/314 of 16 December 2014	Invocation of paragraph 5 of Article XXVIII
GATT 1994, Article XVII:4(a)	G/STR/N/1/MLI, G/STR/N/4/MLI, G/STR/N/7/MLI, G/STR/N/10/MLI, G/STR/N/11/MLI, G/STR/N/12/MLI of 4 March 2013; G/STR/N/13/MLI, G/STR/N/14/MLI of 5 March 2013; G/STR/N/15/MLI of 31 January 2014; G/STR/N/16/MLI of 15 November 2016	New and full notification pursuant to Article XVII:4(a) of the GATT 1994 and paragraph 1 of the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII
GATT 1994, Article XVII:4(a)	G/STR/N/2/MLI, G/STR/N/3/MLI, G/STR/N/5/MLI, G/STR/N/6/MLI, G/STR/N/8/MLI, G/STR/N/9/MLI of 5 March 2013	Updating notification pursuant to Article XVII:4(a) of the GATT 1994 and paragraph 1 of the Understanding on the interpretation of Article XVII
PSI Article 5	G/PSI/N/1/Rev.1 of 11 October 2012	Notification under Article 5 of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection Revision
LIC Article 7.3	G/LIC/N/3/MLI/3 of 28 September 2012; G/LIC/N/3/MLI/4 13 August 2013; G/LIC/N/3/MLI/5 of 10 April 2014; G/LIC/N/3/MLI/6 of 23 September 2014; G/LIC/N/3/MLI/7 of 10 March 2016; G/LIC/N/3/MLI/8 of 29 November 2016	Notification under Article 7.3 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures
Agriculture, Article 18:2, DS:1	G/AG/N/MLI/2 of 15 May 2013 G/AG/N/MLI/5 of 17 June 2014 G/AG/N/MLI/7 of 1 March 2016 G/AG/N/MLI/8 of 10 February 2017	Notification on domestic support
Agriculture, Articles 10 and 18:2, ES:1	G/AG/N/MLI/1 of 14 December 2012 G/AG/N/MLI/3 of 16 August 2013 G/AG/N/MLI/4 of 10 April 2014 G/AG/N/MLI/6 of 1 March 2016 G/AG/N/MLI/9 of 13 February 2017	Notification on export subsidies
TBT Article 2.9	G/TBT/N/MLI/1 of 20 March 2013 G/TBT/N/MLI/2 of 6 August 2013	Notification under Article 2.9.2
RO Article 5 and 4 A.II	G/RO/N/89 of 18 March 2013 G/RO/N/146 of 12 September 2016	Notification under paragraph 4 of Annex II to the Agreement on Rules of Origin Notification under Article 5 and paragraph 4 of Annex II of the Agreement on Rules of Origin
RO Article 5.1	G/RO/N/116 of 11 July 2014	Notification under Article 5 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin
QR (G/L/59)	G/MA/QR/N/MLI/1 of 15 May 2013	Notification pursuant to the Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions
SG Article 12.6	G/SG/N/1/MLI/1 of 8 February 2013	Notification of laws, regulations and administrative procedures relating to safeguard measures

Requirement	WTO document	Content
SCM Article 25.1, Article XVI:4	G/SCM/N/220/MLI of 8 February 2013; G/SCM/N/253/MLI of 13 August 2013	New and full notification pursuant to Article XVI:4 of the GATT 1994 and Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
SCM Article 25.12	G/SCM/N/202/MLI of 20 March 2015	Notification under Articles 25.11 and 25.12 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
SCM Article 32.6	G/SCM/N/1/MLI/1 of 11 February 2013	Notification of laws and regulations under Article 32.6 of the Agreement
SPS Article 7, Annex B	G/SPS/N/MLI/1 of 8 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/2 of 8 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/4 of 8 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/3 of 8 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/5 of 8 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/6 of 8 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/7 of 8 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/8 of 8 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/9 of 9 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/10 of 9 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/11 of 9 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/12 of 9 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/13 of 9 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/14 of 9 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/15 of 9 August 2013 G/SPS/N/MLI/16 of 9 August 2013	The notified text establishes marketing authorization for foodstuffs, animal feed and food additives. The notified text determines the nature of foods not subject to marketing authorization. The notified law establishes the production, processing and marketing requirements for milk and dairy products. The notified decree establishes rules for implementing the production, processing and marketing requirements for milk and dairy products. The notified law governs the control of foodstuffs of animal origin and animal feed. Rules governing the control of foodstuffs of animal origin and animal feed. The notified text establishes a health inspection levy payable throughout the Bamako district. The notified text bans the slaughter of domestic animals and the sale of domestic animal meat in places and establishments that do not have legal authorization The notified text regulates the slaughter and export of certain categories of bovine animals. The notified text bans the importation and transit of birds and poultry products from countries deemed to be infected with avian influenza. Organizational and operating procedures for the control and packaging of fisheries products in the port of Mopti. The notified text concerns the packaging of smoked and dried fish for export. The notified text concerns the use of insecticides (bioresmethrin and gordona) to treat fish dried and smoked in Mali. The notified text establishes tax rates for the packaging of dried and smoked fish.

Requirement	WTO document	Content
	G/SPS/N/MLI/17 of 9 August 2013	The notified text establishes safety and quality standards for Malian fisheries products.
	G/SPS/N/MLI/18 of 9 August 2013	Authorization of the introduction and the use of insecticides for the treatment of smoked and dried fish.
	G/SPS/N/MLI/19 of 9 August 2013	The notified text establishes the fee for issuing phytosanitary certificates and import permits for plants, plant products and foodstuffs of plant origin, and the procedures for collecting this fee.
	G/SPS/N/MLI/20 of 9 August 2013	Provisions on penalties for animal health code infringements in the Republic of Mali.
	G/SPS/N/MLI/21 of 9 August 2013	The notified text establishes rules for implementing provisions on penalties for animal health code infringements in the Republic of Mali.

Source: WTO documents.

2.3.2 Regional and preferential agreements

2.14. In addition to the WAEMU and ECOWAS trade preferences, Mali is granted preferential treatment by the EU and the United States (common report, section 2).

2.4 Investment regime

2.15. Since its preceding trade policy review, Mali has kept up its efforts to encourage and promote investment. A new Investment Code has been in place since 2012.⁴ It guarantees identical treatment of Malians and foreigners, unless otherwise provided in treaties and agreements concluded by Mali. It likewise guarantees the repatriation of earnings of all descriptions on invested capital, including dividends and the proceeds of liquidation.

2.16. The Code applies to enterprises with a minimum direct value added of 35%. Expressly excluded from its scope are trading activities such as resale in the same state of products purchased outside the enterprise. The same applies to financial and telecommunication services. There are also concessions under specific regimes such as those provided under the Petroleum Code, the Mining Code and their implementing texts (section 4). Activities eligible under these specific Codes are excluded from the scope of the Investment Code.

2.17. The Code provides concessions under preferential regimes, in special economic zones and under various regimes for enterprises that make use of local raw materials or technological innovation, as well as export enterprises and those established in industrial zones. There are four preferential regimes (Categories A, B, C and D), classified according to specific conditions; they offer customs and fiscal concessions to domestic and foreign companies. Concessions are also available to enterprises located in special economic zones, in principle established by decree (Table 2.2). The Decree on the establishment of special economic zones has not yet been adopted, however.

2.18. Enterprises making investments of more than CFAF 12.5 million and producing for export are eligible for benefits under "Category D" preferential regimes. Under the Code, they enjoy the following concessions: 30 years' exemption from all production- and marketing-related taxes, duties and charges, with the exception of VAT; from the motor vehicle tax (sticker); the tax on wages and salaries (ITS) including those of expatriates; the flat-rate employer contribution (CFE); the housing tax (TL); the youth employment tax (TEJ); the vocational training tax (TFP); and social security contributions. However, enterprises approved under Category D may sell up to 20%

⁴ Law No. 2012-016 of 27 February 2012.

of their output on the local market; such sales are liable to the duties and taxes levied on like imported products.

Table 2.3 Preferential regimes under the Investment Code

Categories	Specific eligibility criteria	Concessions for the creation of activities	Concessions in case of expansion of activities
A	Investments relating to the creation of a new activity or the development of an existing activity in an amount equal to or greater than CFAF 12,500,000 and less than or equal to CFAF 250 million, excluding taxes and working capital requirements, are approved under Category A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - three years' exemption from import duties and taxes on certain materials, machines, tools and their spare parts. The spare parts are admitted free of import duties and taxes at a rate of 10% of the purchase value of the capital goods; - three years' exemption from VAT under the approved programme; - three years' exemption from the industrial and commercial profits tax (IBIC) and VAT on all technical assistance and consultancy services; - reduction of the tax rate on industrial and commercial profits and of corporation tax (IBIC-IS) to 25% for a non-renewable seven-year period; - exemption from the flat-rate minimum tax for any loss-making financial year for the first five years of operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two years' exemption from import duties and taxes on materials, machinery, tools and their spare parts which are not produced or manufactured in Mali and are intended specifically for the approved programme. The spare parts are admitted free of import duties and taxes at a rate of 10% of the purchase value of the capital goods; - exemption from VAT invoiced by local suppliers of goods, services and works required for carrying out the approved programme; - exemption from the IBIC and VAT on all technical assistance and consultancy services.
B	Investments relating to the creation of a new activity or the development of an existing activity in an amount greater than CFAF 250 million and less than CFAF 1 billion, excluding taxes and working capital requirements, are approved under Category B.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - three years' exemption from import duties and taxes on materials, machinery, tools and their spare parts, not produced or manufactured in Mali and intended specifically for the approved programme; - three years' exemption from VAT invoiced by local suppliers of goods, services and works required for carrying out the approved programme; - three years' exemption from the IBIC and VAT on all technical assistance and consultancy services; - reduction of the tax rate on industrial and commercial profits and of corporation tax (IBIC-IS) to 25% for a renewable ten-year period; - exemption from the flat-rate minimum tax for any loss-making financial year for the first eight years of operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two years' exemption from import duties and taxes on certain materials, machines, tools and their spare parts. The spare parts are admitted free of import duties and taxes at a rate of 10% of the purchase value of the capital goods; - two years' exemption from VAT invoiced by local suppliers of goods, services and works required for carrying out the approved programme; - two years' exemption from the IBIC and VAT on all technical assistance and consultancy services.

Categories	Specific eligibility criteria	Concessions for the creation of activities	Concessions in case of expansion of activities
C	Investments relating to the creation of a new activity or the development of an existing activity in an amount equal to or greater than CFAF 1 billion, excluding taxes and working capital requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - three years' exemption from import duties and taxes on materials, machinery, tools and their spare parts, not produced or manufactured in Mali and intended specifically for the approved programme. The spare parts are admitted free of import duties and taxes at a rate of 10% of the purchase value of the capital goods; - three years' exemption from VAT invoiced by local suppliers of goods, services and works required for carrying out the approved programme; - three years' exemption from the IBIC and VAT on all technical assistance and consultancy services; - reduction of the tax rate on industrial and commercial profits and of corporation tax (IBIC-IS) to 25% for a renewable 15-year period; - exemption from the flat-rate minimum tax for any loss-making financial year for the first ten years of operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two years' exemption from import duties and taxes on certain materials, machines, tools and their spare parts. The spare parts are admitted free of import duties and taxes at a rate of 10% of the purchase value of the capital goods; - two years' exemption from VAT invoiced by local suppliers of goods, services and works required for carrying out the approved programme; - two years' exemption from the IBIC and VAT on all technical assistance and consultancy services.
Special economic zones regime	Establishment of the corporate headquarters in a special economic zone in Mali.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exemption from import duties and taxes on certain materials, machines, tools and their spare parts. The spare parts are admitted free of import duties and taxes at a rate of 10% of the purchase value of the capital goods; - exemption from VAT payable on certain materials upon entry. The spare parts are admitted free of import duties and taxes at a rate of 10% of the purchase value of the capital goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exemption from VAT invoiced by local suppliers of goods, services and works required for carrying out the approved programme; - three years' exemption from the IBIC and VAT on all technical assistance and consultancy services; - exemption from the taxes, duties and charges listed hereunder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taxes on industrial and commercial profits and corporation tax; • business tax; • tax on wages and salaries (ITS); • flat-rate employer contribution (CFE); • housing tax (TL); • youth employment tax (TEJ).

Source: Investment Code.

2.19. In addition to the concessions available under Categories A, B and C, enterprises using at least 60% of local raw materials enjoy a reduction in the rate of the industrial and commercial profits tax and corporation tax to 25% for a further three years. This concession is accorded for an

additional year to enterprises using technological innovation and those established in industrial zones⁵; and for two years to export enterprises.⁶

2.20. The task of the Mali Investment Promotion Agency (API-MALI) is to encourage more direct investment and contribute towards the development and regulation of industrial zones. API-MALI is a government body of an administrative nature, supervised by the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Trade. API-MALI takes part in forums, trade fairs and seminars in order to promote investment opportunities in Mali.

2.21. Applications for approval under the Code must be filed with the API-MALI single window for business start-ups. The monitoring of projects approved under the Investment Code, the control of tax and customs concessions accorded and of investor commitments are entrusted to a Commission chaired by: the Directorate responsible for industry, for manufacturing; the National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality, for tourism businesses; and the National Directorate of Trade and Competition, for companies providing services. The Commission also comprises: API-MALI, the National Directorate of Taxation, the Directorate-General of Customs, and the National Directorate of Sanitation and Pollution and Hazard Control. In conjunction with the other entities involved, API-MALI prepares an annual activity report that takes stock of the implementation of the Investment Code. In 2015, API-MALI reported 95 enterprises approved under the Investment Code, representing projected investments worth over CFAF 134 billion and at least 2,949 jobs.⁷

⁵ Any enterprise that meets at least one of the following criteria is deemed to be an enterprise using technological innovation: (a) ploughing back at least 5% of its turnover into research, or conducting in-house R&D; (b) presenting an investment programme that aims to exploit the research outcomes of a Malian organization or an independent Malian researcher.

⁶ Under the Code, an export enterprise is deemed to be any enterprise that exports more than 50% and less than 80% of its output.

⁷ 2015 Activity Report, API-MALI.

3 TRADE POLICIES AND PRACTICES BY MEASURE

3.1 Measures directly affecting imports

3.1.1 Customs procedures, valuation and requirements

3.1. Overall, the registration requirements for acting as an importer did not change during the review period and remain governed by Decree No. 00-505/P-RM of 16 October 2000. Any natural or legal person wishing to engage in foreign trade must be registered in the Trade Register or the Trade Directory. The necessary formalities are completed at the Investment Promotion Agency (API-Mali). An annual business licence fee also has to be paid at the tax office. The rate is 10% plus a flat rate which varies depending on turnover, the activity and the geographical area.

3.2. A notice of intent to import has to be submitted to the Directorate-General of Trade and Competition (DGCC) for all imports, including those entering under a conditional relief procedure.

3.3. Most customs procedures have not changed since Mali's previous review. A new Customs Code is apparently about to be adopted to replace that in force since 1 January 2002.¹ It takes into account most of the provisions in WAEMU's Community Code.

3.4. Pursuant to the Customs Code, all imports of goods must be the subject of a customs declaration using a document entitled "single detailed declaration" (DDU); exemption from import duties and taxes does not waive this obligation. The DDU may only be submitted by an approved customs clearing agent. The criteria for approval of customs clearing agents have been harmonized within WAEMU (common report, section 3). Approval from the Minister responsible for the Customs is required in order to act as a customs clearing agent; foreigners may receive approval only if there is reciprocal treatment for Malians in their countries of origin.

3.5. The DDU has to be accompanied by the following documents: a notice of intent to import and an inspection certificate under the import inspection programme; the invoice; a declaration of the elements of value; a certificate of origin where applicable; and the other usual documents (insurance, quality, tax identification of the importer).

3.6. Since 1 August 2015, Mali has been using the ASYCUDA World automated customs system. According to the authorities, around 95% of Mali's customs offices have been connected to the computer network. For customs clearance of goods, risk analysis is based on a risk management system involving three channels: green (good for clearance), yellow (inspection of documents) and red (physical inspection of the goods). Between 2014 and 2016, around 74% of the imports of goods analysed were directed to the red channel and 25% to the yellow channel. The large percentage of imports subject to physical inspection would appear to extend the average time needed for customs clearance. According to the World Bank's *Doing Business 2016* report, an average of 77 hours is required to clear goods through customs.²

3.7. An accelerated customs clearance procedure called "direct clearance, with a simplified declaration (D24)", is available for some types of goods such as spare parts needed for the rapid repair of equipment for industry or building sites; dangerous goods; donations to public services; serums and vaccines; as well as other pharmaceuticals and perishable goods. Mali does not yet have a formal approved economic operator scheme.

3.8. Goods may be released only after settlement and payment of all duties and taxes, unless there is a clearance credit or a credit for duties and taxes. In addition, occasional importers have to make an advance payment at a rate of 5% of the c.i.f. value.

3.9. For customs-related disputes concerning tariff classification, the value or the origin of goods, the Customs Code provides for the establishment of a tariff committee, although it is proving

¹ Law No. 01-075 of 18 July 2001.

² This period includes the time and cost of obtaining, preparing and submitting documents during handling in the port or at the border, customs procedures and inspections. Viewed at: <http://english.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/mali#trading-across-borders>.

difficult to set up. Challenges to decisions by the Customs are therefore handled by the Directorate-General of Customs.

3.10. On 20 January 2016, Mali ratified the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, but has not yet notified the WTO of the list of its category A measures.

3.11. Mali has had a preshipment inspection programme (PVI) since 1989 and it was notified to the WTO in 1998.³ It applies to imports whose f.o.b. value is CFAF 3 million or more, unless they are specifically exempt from inspection as a result of an order.⁴ The company BIVAC has been entrusted with the PVI since January 2007. Inspection involves determining the value of the goods, their quality and quantity, as well as their tariff classification. After inspecting the goods, BIVAC issues an inspection certificate (or "a notice of refusal to issue a certificate"), which importers attach to their customs declaration dossiers. All import transactions, whether or not subject to the PVI, must pay the PVI contribution, which is 0.75% of the f.o.b. value of the goods and is payable by the importer.

3.12. In 2013, Mali notified the WTO of its customs valuation system.⁵ According to this notification, the WAEMU regulations on the customs value of goods remain in force in Mali. These regulations reproduce the provisions in the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement (common report, section 3). WAEMU also has a community system of reference values with the aim of "combating false declarations of value and unfair competition". In Mali, Order No. 09 1030/MEF.SG of 5 May 2009 determines the list of products subject to reference values used as the basis for settling customs duties and taxes.⁶ The reference values may be revised twice yearly.

3.1.2 Rules of origin

3.13. In 2016, Mali notified the WTO that it did not apply non-preferential rules of origin.⁷ As regards preferential rules of origin, it notified that it applied those of WAEMU, which have been harmonized with the relevant ECOWAS provisions (common report, section 3).⁸

3.14. The National Approval Committee is responsible for handling requests for approval for the preferential scheme. If the decision is favourable, approval is given by the national director responsible for industry. There is a computerized management system at the Directorate-General of Customs which regularly updates the approvals given in member States. Because of the complex administrative procedures required in order to obtain a certificate of origin, the import of industrial goods of community origin with exemption from customs duty remains marginal in Mali.

3.15. In 2015, 77 Malian companies and 298 products were approved for the preferential scheme for intra-community trade, compared to 49 companies and 207 products in 2009 (common report, Table 3.5).

3.1.3 Customs levies

3.1.3.1 Overview

3.16. Mali has applied the ECOWAS common external tariff (CET) at five rates (zero, 5%, 10%, 20% and the new 35% band) since 1 January 2015. As a transitional measure, from 2015 to 2020 it is also applying the "import adjustment tax" (TAI) on 176 tariff lines at rates ranging from 5% to 15%. These rates should gradually fall during the transition period. Mali does not for the moment

³ WTO document G/PSI/N/1/Add.7 of 24 February 1998. The relevant text is Decree No. 89-196/P-RM of 15 June 1989.

⁴ The following are exempt from inspection: gold, precious stones, works of art, ammunition, arms and explosives, live animals, fresh produce, wood, scrap metal, plants and flowers, fertilizer, cinematographic films, newspapers and periodicals, personal effects and gifts, parcels, commercial samples, crude petroleum, donations, serums and vaccines, vehicles of chapters HS 8702, 8703 and 8704, and imports by government departments, diplomatic or consular missions and United Nations agencies for their own use.

⁵ WTO document G/VAL/N/1/MLI/1 of 4 March 2013.

⁶ Paint for motor vehicles and buildings, plain soap, laundry preparations, mats, sanitary towels, make-up remover pads, exercise books, cotton thread, certain cotton fabrics, certain fabrics, household articles of aluminium, tiles, motor cycles and bicycles.

⁷ WTO document G/RO/N/146 of 12 September 2016.

⁸ WTO document G/RO/N/89 of 18 March 2013.

apply the supplementary protection tax provided in the community provisions as a safeguard measure (common report, section 3.1).

3.17. Other community duties and taxes are also levied on imports, for example: the statistical tax (RS) of 1%; the ECOWAS community levy (PC) of 0.5% on behalf of the community; and the community solidarity levy (PCS) of 1% on behalf of WAEMU (common report, section 3.1).

3.1.3.2 Bindings

3.18. Mali's bindings cover 40.6% of its tariff lines (common report, Table 3.9). During the Uruguay Round, Mali bound its tariffs on all agricultural products and some non-agricultural products at a ceiling of 60%.

3.19. For some 621 tariff lines, the applied rates exceed the bound rates.

3.20. Mali bound other duties and taxes on products covered by its tariff bindings during the Uruguay Round at a rate of 50%.

3.1.4 Internal taxes

3.21. In general, the value-added tax (VAT) regime is aligned on the relevant WAEMU community regulations. This has not changed since the previous review of Mali's trade policy (common report, section 3.1.6).

3.22. Mali applies VAT at the standard rate of 18% on the sale of most goods and services, including those imported. Law No. 2011-078 of 23 December 2011 introduced a reduced rate of 5% on some products, sales or supply of services that had previously been exempt from VAT, including agricultural and computer equipment. The zero rate applies to exports. Exemptions from VAT concern in particular: deliveries of medicines and pharmaceuticals; unprocessed food products and staple goods; banking transactions and insurance and reinsurance services, which are subject to another tax rate (section 4.4.4.1). VAT on imports is calculated on the basis of the c.i.f. price plus import duty. The tax base for local products is the selling or assignment price.

3.23. Excise duty, called the special tax on certain products (ISCP), is levied on a list of imported goods (including those of WAEMU origin) and locally produced goods. An ordinance dating from 2015 determines its rates between 5% and 50%, instead of the 3% to 45% in effect from 2005 onwards (Table 3.1).⁹ For local goods, the tax base is the assignment price or the price of supplying the service; for imports, it is the c.i.f. value plus import duty (excluding VAT). The rates of excise duty on petroleum products range from 5% to 125% of the c.i.f. value.

Table 3.1 Special tax on certain products (ISCP)

Product	Rate (%)
Kola nuts	20
Non-alcoholic beverages, excluding water	12
Alcoholic beverages	50
Tobacco	
Cigarillos, de luxe cigarettes, category 1 cigarettes, category 2 cigarettes	32
Category 3 cigarettes	22
"Homogenized" or "reconstituted" tobacco, other	32
Arms and ammunition:	
Arms	40
Ammunition	40
Biodegradable plastic bags	10
Mining products:	
Marble, gold ingots	5
Vehicles:	
Passenger vehicles of 13 HP or more	5

Source: Decree No. 2015-0548/P-RM of 6 August 2015.

⁹ Decree No. 2015-0548/P-RM of 6 August 2015.

3.1.5 Duty and tax concessions

3.24. There have been no changes to the duty and tax exemptions and concessions regime since the previous review. Mali grants exemption from customs duties and taxes under the suspensive customs procedures provided in the Customs Code and under processing procedures (or economic procedures).

3.25. Moreover, exemptions from customs duties and taxes are still given to enterprises approved under the Mining Code, the Investment Code, the Petroleum Code and the Law on real estate promotion. Mali takes responsibility for import duty and internal taxes on imports for government procurement financed from external funds, pursuant to the agreement between the State of Mali and the source of the funds.

3.26. In January 2010, Mali introduced measures exempting all imports of three tonnes of sugar from the special import tax (TCI), subject to the purchase of one tonne of sugar from the Malian company Sukala.

3.27. According to the authorities, the revenue foregone because of duty and tax exemptions (except for those levied at the customs cordon) rose from CFAF 121 billion in 2011 to around CFAF 228 billion in 2012.¹⁰ In 2015, the total, including customs duty, was CFAF 305 billion.

3.1.6 Import prohibitions, restrictions and licensing

3.28. Mali has regularly notified its import licensing regime to the WTO since 2012 and the latest notification shows that there was no change during the review period. The regime continues to be applied in accordance with the provisions of Decree No. 00-505/P-RM of 16 October 2000 and its implementing Order No. 09-788 of 7 April 2009. The notification also shows that Mali does not apply a licensing system aimed at managing the qualities and value of products imported. Nonetheless, a DDU is required for all imports and, according to the authorities, is only used for statistical purposes.

3.29. Interministerial Order No. 2015-1535/MCI/MEF-SG of 5 June 2015 establishes two prohibition regimes – absolute and restrictive prohibition (Table 3.2). Fresh poultry and bovine meat may not be imported. The DGCC is the authority responsible for this regime.

Table 3.2 Products subject to the absolute or restrictive prohibition regime, 2017

Product	Document
Absolute prohibition regime	
Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances	n/a
Potassium bromate not intended for laboratory use	n/a
All food products containing potassium bromate	n/a
Bovine meat and meat products	n/a
Meat, blood or bone meal for animal feed	n/a
Unregistered pesticides	n/a
Oil and equipment containing polychlorobiphenyls (PCBs)	n/a
Hazardous chemical substances	n/a
Foreign goods bearing a Malian trademark	n/a
Food products and medicines for human or veterinary use past their use-by date	n/a
Alcoholic beverages in plastic sachets	n/a
Restrictive prohibition regime	
Medicines for human use	Authorization from the Ministry of Health
Medicines for veterinary use	Joint authorization from the Ministries responsible for health and livestock
Live bovine animals, eggs and embryos of bovine animals	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for livestock

¹⁰ This loss of revenue is attributable to the concessions granted under the Investment Code, the Mining Code and other ad hoc concessions granted under the General Tax Code.

Product	Document
Potassium bromate for laboratory use	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for health
Meat other than that of bovine animals and game	Permit or health certificate from the country of origin
Food additives	List drawn up by the Ministry of Health
Non-iodized salt not intended for human consumption	Authorization from the Ministry of Trade
Cigarettes, tobacco and other tobacco products	Authorization from the Ministry of Trade
Transit of cattle or importation of live animals other than bovine animals	Animal health certificate
Reproductive semen	Registration in the national official catalogue of the importing country and submission of an animal health certificate
Plants	Submission of a phytosanitary permit or certificate of origin
Plant seeds	Permit or certificate of origin
Motor vehicles with a GVW of 3.5 tonnes or more	Authorization from the Ministry of Transport
Ozone-depleting substances	List drawn up by the Ministry of the Environment
Dichlorodiphenyltrichlorethane (DDT)	Authorization from the Ministry of the Environment
Cyanide	Authorization from the Ministry of Mining or the Ministry of Health
Arms and ammunition	Authorization from the defence services
Explosives and kits for their use	Authorization from the security services and the Ministry of Mining
HF radio sets	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
VHF radio sets	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
UHF ground-to-air radio sets	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Radio relay stations	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Satellite link equipment	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Electronic and electromagnetic scrambling systems	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Observation drones	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Terrestrial surveillance radar	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Air surveillance radar	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Direction-finding systems	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Systems for searching electromagnetic waves	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Night vision binoculars	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Laser telemeters	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Metal detectors	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Single and double cabin pick-up trucks of 6 CC or more	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Portable magnetic detectors	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Demining kits	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Anti-fragmentation demining suits	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Electric and pyrotechnic detonators	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Detonating cords	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security
Slow fuses	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for security

Product	Document
Fabrics, clothing and accessories for military use (mesh and camouflage)	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Spare parts for military equipment	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence
Berets, balaclavas, skullcaps, helmets, caps, kepis and other headgear for military use	Authorization from the Ministry responsible for defence

n/a Not applicable.

Source: Interministerial Order No. 2015-1535/MCI/MEF-SG of 5 June 2015.

3.1.7 Anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures

3.30. According to the authorities, Mali has never taken any contingency measures. Moreover, it does not have any national legal framework in this regard. A WAEMU community code has been in effect in all the Union's member countries since 2004 and reproduces all of the provisions in the relevant WTO Agreement (common report, section 3.1.9).

3.1.8 Other measures

3.31. Mali applies the trade sanctions adopted within the United Nations framework or by regional organizations to which it belongs. It does not take part in countertrade and has not signed any agreement with governments or foreign companies with a view to influencing the quantity or value of goods and services exported to its market.

3.2 Measures directly affecting exports

3.2.1 Customs procedures and requirements

3.32. The registration formalities required for importing goods for commercial purposes also apply to exports (section 3.1.1 above). All exports must be the subject of a customs declaration.

3.33. Mali requires earnings to be repatriated and converted.

3.2.2 Export taxes, duties and levies

3.34. Stamp duty is levied on intents to export cotton and gold ingots and is imposed at rates which vary according to the applicable bracket.

3.2.3 Export prohibitions, restrictions and licensing

3.35. Interministerial Order No. 2015-1535/MCI/MEF-SG of 5 June 2015 determining the list of products banned from import also applies to exports. According to the regulations, the absolute prohibition regime applies to exports of young male bovine animals less than five years old and breeding female animals less than 10 years old, unless authorized by special agreements between Mali and third countries which seek to establish breeding herds. Absolute prohibitions also apply to exports of timber, building wood, firewood, bamboo, raffia in the raw state and charcoal.

3.36. The restrictive prohibition regime applies to: (a) exports of meat and live animals (requiring a health certificate or animal health certificate issued by the Ministry responsible for livestock); (b) game (CITES-compliant permit or certificate issued by the competent technical services); (c) plants (phytosanitary certificate issued by the competent technical services); and (d) works of art (authorization from the Ministry responsible for the arts and culture).

3.2.4 Export support and promotion

3.37. In 2017, Mali notified the WTO that it did not grant export subsidies within the meaning of Article XVI:1 of the GATT 1994 or Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing

Measures.¹¹ Under its Investment Code, however, various reductions, exemptions or other tax concessions are given to certain companies which produce for export (section 2).

3.38. In 2011, Mali set up its Export Promotion Agency (APEX). Pursuant to the Law establishing APEX¹², the Agency's responsibilities include organizing promotional activities for Malian goods and services; implementing sectoral strategies to promote exports; facilitating expansion of financial services for exporters; and providing economic operators with trade information.

3.39. The "AGOA Committee" within the Ministry responsible for trade and industry has been giving Malian economic actors support since 2016 to develop trade between Mali and the United States under the preferences given by the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

3.40. VAT at a zero rate applies to exports and VAT on inputs may be refunded at the request of the economic operators concerned.

3.3 Measures affecting production and trade

3.3.1 Incentives

3.41. Most of Mali's incentives consist of tax relief to encourage the development of enterprises with economic and social potential and those that are essentially export-oriented (sections 2.4, 3.1.5 and 3.2.4).

3.42. In addition, there are programmes to subsidize the purchase of inputs so as to support cereal production, particularly rice.

3.3.2 Standards, technical regulations and other requirements

3.43. There have been some important changes to Mali's institutional framework for standardization since the previous review. The Malian Standardization and Quality Promotion Agency (AMANORM) was established in 2012 within the Ministry responsible for industry, with the main task of ensuring implementation of domestic standardization and quality promotion policy. It is the national enquiry point for the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and, as such, is responsible for providing information on standards and technical regulations.

3.44. In 2015, Mali adopted its national quality promotion policy in order to make its production sector competitive by reinforcing its development infrastructure and controlling quality standards, as well as by adopting good practices with regard to the relevant international requirements. This policy constitutes the national component for WAEMU's "quality" programme (common report, section 3.3.2).

3.45. Law No. 92-013/AN-RM of 17 September 1992 and its implementing Decree No. 92-235/P-RM of 1 December 1992 still govern the standardization system. Mali has accepted the WTO Code of good practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards. A proposal for a standard may be made by government authorities, consumers' associations, or economic operators (producers). Within AMANOR, the National Standardization and Quality Control Council (CNNCQ) coordinates all activities relating to the adoption of standards/technical regulations. It adopts draft national standards after ascertaining that the procedures laid down for their preparation have been observed and that all parties concerned have had an opportunity to express their views. Twelve technical standardization committees are responsible for preparing and revising national standards in the following areas: cereals and cereal preparations; fruit, vegetables and oilseeds; textiles, hides and skins; chemicals and the environment; civil engineering and building materials; foodstuffs of animal origin; electrotechnical industry; transport; biofuels; national education; hotels and restaurants, tourism; and health and public hygiene. Draft standards prepared by the technical committees have to undergo a public consultation stage lasting at least three months in order to receive comments from all stakeholders. At this stage, draft standards are published in the most widely circulated newspapers in Mali and on the websites of AMANORM and the Ministry responsible for industry. Once the

¹¹ WTO document G/SCM/N/315/MLI of 10 February 2017.

¹² Law No. 2011-032 of 24 June 2011.

comments received as a result of the public consultation have been received, the draft standard is sent to the CNNCQ for adoption. In the final stage of the adoption procedure, an order from the Minister responsible for industry publishes the standard in the Official Journal. For technical regulations, an interministerial order has to be adopted to make its application mandatory.

3.46. According to the authorities, by 2016 AMANORM had drawn up 391 national standards in conformity with the relevant international standards in the following areas: cereals and cereal preparations; fruit, vegetables and oilseeds; textiles, hides and skins; chemicals and the environment; civil engineering and building materials; foodstuffs of animal origin; electrotechnical industry; transport; biofuels; and hotels and restaurants and tourism.¹³

3.47. The technical regulations in effect cover, *inter alia*, iodized salt (Interministerial Order No. 99-1622/MSPAS/MICA/MF-SG of 12 May 1999), wastewater discharge (Interministerial Order No. 09-0767/MEA-MEIC-MEME-SG of 6 April 2009), and edible oils (Interministerial Order No. 2017-0010/MDI-MEF-MSHP-MC/SG of 12 January 2017).

3.48. For conformity assessment and certification of the standards applicable, Mali has AMANORM as its national body for certifying the "MN" trademark, as well as several laboratories, of which only the National Health Laboratory (LNS) was accredited by the TUNAC in June 2013 in respect of food microbiology.

3.49. Capacity in terms of metrology remains limited. In 2017, Mali set up the Malian Metrology Institute (AMAM) to implement domestic policy on metrology.¹⁴ AMAM is a government institution of an administrative nature with its own legal status and independent management. The following are among its tasks: to participate in preparing metrology standards, to manage the National Metrology Laboratory, to give its opinion on metrology matters and to ensure metrological surveillance.

3.50. Mali has not yet signed any mutual recognition agreement with its trading partners.

3.3.3 Sanitary and phytosanitary requirements

3.51. There has been no change to the general framework for sanitary and phytosanitary regulation in Mali since the previous review. In 2009, following the threat of an avian flu epidemic, Mali banned the importation and transit of birds and poultry products from countries infected by the disease.¹⁵ A ban on fresh bovine meat was imposed in 2000 and has not yet been lifted.¹⁶

3.52. The National Food Safety Agency (ANSSA), a government institution of a scientific and technological nature established in 2003, has the task of guaranteeing the health safety of food, *inter alia*, by coordinating all action relating to the health safety of foodstuffs and animal feed; providing technical and scientific support to national food inspection structures; and assessing the possible health risks of certain foods intended for human or animal consumption. It also provides technical and scientific support to epidemiological surveillance and food hygiene monitoring structures. ANSSA acts as the Secretariat for the National Codex Committee (CNC).

3.53. The marketing of foodstuffs, animal feed and food additives, whether imported or locally produced, requires a marketing authorization.¹⁷ The National Marketing Authorization Commission (CNAMM) has been operating for this purpose since 2006, under the aegis of the Minister responsible for health. It is in charge of examining reports by experts, notably microbiologists, analysts, toxicologists and biologists, and giving the Minister a written and reasoned opinion on the granting, refusal or suspension of marketing authorizations. Applications for marketing authorizations must include: a stamped, handwritten application; a report on the analysis carried out by an approved laboratory; a receipt for payment of a fee to the CNAMM, whose rate and

¹³ These standards are listed on the following website: www.amanormmali.net.

¹⁴ Ordinance No. 2017-014/PRM of 6 March 2017.

¹⁵ Interministerial Order No. 09/MIIC-MEF-MEP-MSIPC banning the import and transit of birds and poultry products.

¹⁶ Interministerial Order No. 003445/MDR-MICT-MEF of 21 December 2000 banning the import of bovine meat and meat products, meat, blood or bone meal, live bovine animals, eggs and embryos of bovine animals.

¹⁷ Decree No. 06-259/P-RM of 23 June 2006.

collection methods are determined in an order from the Minister responsible for health; and an inspection certificate from the agency in charge of monitoring imports.

3.54. The National Food Safety Council (CNSSA), set up in March 2004, is tasked with managing major food-related risks.

3.55. The National Directorate of Veterinary Services (DNSV) is responsible for applying measures to protect animal health and the safety of foodstuffs of animal origin and animal feed. Law No. 028 of 14 June 2011 and its implementing Decree No. 440-P-RM of 14 June 2011 determine the criteria for control of foodstuffs of animal origin and animal feed in Mali. Import or transit of animals (domesticated or wild) and animal products requires the submission of a health certificate issued by the country of origin. In addition, any import of animals or animal products is in principle subject to inspection by the veterinary services. The same applies to meat for sale and hygiene conditions in abattoirs. The veterinary services are apparently drawing up a schedule of inspection fees. Animals without a certificate are placed in quarantine, which ranges from 15 to 45 days and is at the expense of the owner.

3.56. The National Directorate of Agriculture (DNA) is in charge of sanitary inspection of plants and plant products and for controlling the quality of inputs. Pursuant to Law No. 02-013 of 3 June 2002 and its implementing Decree No. 02-305, import or export of plants requires the submission of a phytosanitary certificate. A permit issued by the DNA is required for the import of plant products, together with a phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country. These documents do not exempt the imports from conformity control. All products of plant origin for export must undergo phytosanitary inspection in order to ensure compliance with the phytosanitary regulations of the destination country and to promote the quality of Malian products abroad.

3.57. Mali has not yet transposed the provisions adopted by WAEMU and ECOWAS with a view to guaranteeing the free movement of approved phytopharmaceutical products.

3.58. The DNVS is Mali's national enquiry point for the purposes of the WTO SPS Agreement.¹⁸

3.59. Labelling is compulsory for all prepackaged foods. The requirements regarding the packaging, marking and labelling of foods are generally aligned on the relevant international recommendations. For example, the general Codex standard on the labelling of prepackaged foods has made it compulsory to indicate the name of the product, its volume or weight, the name and address of the manufacturer, the ingredients, the batch number, conservation and storage instructions and, lastly, the use-by date.

3.60. Order No. 05 0001/MIC-SG of 6 January 2005 lists the products whose packaging is subject to mandatory indications. Some imported products (cigarettes, matches, electric batteries, yarn for weaving and fabrics, tomato paste and concentrate, edible oils and insecticides in the form of coils and sprays) must specifically mention their destination on the packaging, for example "*Vente au Mali*" ("For sale in Mali"), the country of manufacture, the name of the manufacturer, and the identification number of the importer or its address.

3.3.4 Competition policy and price controls

3.61. Competition is regulated at both the community and national levels. In principle, the community competition authorities have competence in the following areas: anti-competitive agreements; abuse of a dominant position; State support; and practices attributable to member States (common report, section 3).

3.62. Until 2016, Ordinance No. 07-025/P-RM of 18 July 2007 and its implementing Decree No. 08-260/P-RM of 6 May 2008 regulated areas relating to consumer protection, anti-competitive and fraudulent practices.

3.63. In 2015, however, Mali adopted a Law on consumer protection.¹⁹ Its aim is, *inter alia*, to guarantee the protection and defence of consumers' interests in respect of clauses in consumption

¹⁸ WTO document G/SPS/ENQ/26 of 11 March 2011.

contracts; provide consumers with appropriate and clear information on the goods and services they buy or use; ensure the conformity of goods and services and consumer safety in accordance with the required standards; and determine the criteria and procedures for repairing injury or prejudice suffered by consumers.

3.64. In 2016, a new Law was adopted to reorganize competition in Mali²⁰, and its implementing Decree is apparently in process of being adopted. The National Directorate of Trade and Competition (DGCC) is responsible for implementing the legislation on competition and consumer protection. A new law dealing with fraudulent practices is reportedly also being adopted.

3.65. Practices which help to improve the production or distribution of products or to promote technical or economic progress are not subject to the prohibitions in the Competition Law.

3.66. The National Competition Commission (CNC), attached to the Ministry responsible for trade, has the task of advising the Government on all matters relating to competition.

3.67. Mali's price control regime is based on the Competition Law, which provides that the price of goods and services is determined by free competition, except in cases where the legislation in effect provides otherwise. When special circumstances mean that the selling price of a good deemed to be essential manifestly bears no relation to its cost price, temporary price-regulation measures are adopted by order of the Minister responsible for trade, following consultation with other economic agents. Between 2010 and 2016, the Ministry responsible for trade adopted a number of measures to bring down prices or to keep them within a given price range. These measures mostly took the form of exemptions and direct consumption subsidies (the Government assuming part of the cost, application of a flat rate administrative customs value lower than the actual value, as well as a certain percentage of exemption from customs duty or VAT).

3.68. Since 2015, a "monitoring committee", established by Decision No. 31/MCI-SG of 17 April 2015 to monitor Mali's supply of staple goods, has been responsible for following consumer prices. It regularly monitors consumer prices for staple goods such as cereals (rice, millet, sorghum and maize), powdered sugar, wheat flour, edible oil, milk powder, cooking salt, tea, smoked fish, meat on the bone and cattle feed. It warns the Minister responsible for trade of any abnormal increase in prices and makes recommendations to reverse the trend.

3.69. Hydrocarbon prices are subject to indicative ceilings determined monthly by a commission composed of representatives of the Government and of petroleum operators and depends on global price trends.

3.70. The price of water, electricity and telecommunications is regulated; sectoral regulations apply to these three subsectors. The Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (CREE) approves the rates for electricity and water (section 4). The Malian Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications/ICT and Postal Services (AMRTP) approves agreements on interconnection of operators and retail rates (section 4).

3.3.5 State trading, State-owned enterprises and privatization

3.71. In 2016, Mali notified the WTO that the Malian National Tobacco and Matches Company (*Société nationale des tabacs et allumettes du Mali* (SONATAM)) had a monopoly on the import of cigarettes into the Republic of Mali.²¹

3.72. Moreover, despite privatization, the State has holdings in a number of enterprises active in most sectors of the economy (Table 3.3).

¹⁹ Law No. 2015-036 of 16 July 2015 on consumer protection and its Decree No. 2016-0482-P-RM of 7 July 2016.

²⁰ Law No. 2016-006/ of 24 February 2016 on the organization of competition.

²¹ WTO document G/STR/N/16/MLI of 15 November 2016.

Table 3.3 State-owned enterprises, 2017

Entreprise	Main activity	State holding (%)
Complexe sucrier du Kala supérieur (SUKALA) SA	Sugar	40
Abattoir frigorifique de Bamako	Abattoir	15
SEPAV Mali	Poultry products	30
Office du Niger (ON)	Agri-food business	100
Office de la Haute Vallée (OHV)	Agri-food business	100
Société malienne d'études et de construction de matériel agricole (SMECMA)	Agricultural machinery	44.4
Sociétés de gestion et d'exploitation des mines de Morila, et de Loulo	Mining	20
Sociétés de gestion et d'exploitation des mines de Sadoula	Mining	18
Énergie du Mali (EDM-SA)	Electricity	66
Compagnie malienne du développement du textile (CMDT)	Cotton	99.51
Usine malienne de produits pharmaceutiques (UMPP)	Pharmaceuticals	100
Éditions imprimeries du Mali (EDIM)	Publishing, printing	10
Société nationale des tabacs et allumettes (SONATAM)	Tobacco and matches	38
Compagnie malienne des textiles (COMATEX)	Textile industry	20
EMBAL MALI	Plastic bags	20
Compagnie malienne de navigation (COMANAV)	River transport	100
Transrail	Rail transport	20
Aéroports du Mali	Air transport	100
Office national des postes	Postal services	100
SOTELMA	Telecommunications	49
Banque nationale pour le développement agricole	Banking	36.5
Banque malienne de la solidarité (BMS)	Banking	7.1
Pari mutuel urbain du MALI (PMU-Mali)	Organization of betting and horse racing	75
Nouveau complexe sucrier du Kala supérieur	Sugar	40
SOMAGEP SA	n.a.	n.a.
SOMAPEP SA	n.a.	n.a.
Mali Tracteur SA	Agriculture	49
Diamond Cement Mali (DCM)	Cement	10
Industrie navale de construction métallique (INACOM)	Metal construction	n.a.

n.a. Not available.

Source: WTO Secretariat, Malian authorities.

3.3.6 Government procurement

3.73. There have been important changes to Mali's regulatory framework for government procurement since the previous review. Since 2015, new laws have governed the system for awarding government contracts, including those by decentralized authorities.²² The previous reforms in 2008 ensured conformity with community regulations (common report, section 3.3.6).

3.74. According to the authorities, the aim of the new Code is to make government procurement more efficient by introducing greater transparency into the procedures. The principal changes introduce higher thresholds for awarding contracts and approval of the annual government procurement plans by the Minister responsible for finance.

3.75. The Code mainly applies to purchases by the State, local authorities, government institutions, State agencies whose resources depend on public finance (except for the Ministry of Defence) and enterprises in which the State has a majority holding, when the amount of the contract meets or exceeds the threshold determined by law. Government procurement financed by external resources is, in principle, also subject to the Code's provisions. The threshold depends on the beneficiary and the type of contract.

²² Decree No. 2015-0604/P-RM of 25 September 2015 and the relevant Order No. 2015-3721/MEF-SG of 22 October 2015.

3.76. The thresholds are as follows: CFAF 100 million for contracts for works; CFAF 80 million for contracts for supplies; and CFAF 70 million for intellectual services. For State-owned companies, companies in which the State has a majority holding and government institutions of an industrial or commercial nature, the threshold is set at CFAF 150 million in the case of contracts for work or supplies and CFAF 80 million for intellectual services. Order No. 2015-3721/MEF-SG of 22 October 2015 established special procedures for government procurement in amounts below the contract thresholds.

3.77. Contracts awarded by contracting authorities must already be included in the annual forward plans approved by the Minister responsible for finance. Any splitting of orders, contrary to the annual government procurement plan, is deemed to be splitting of expenditure and thus constitutes an unlawful practice.

3.78. The Code provides that contracts may be awarded either following an invitation to tender or by direct agreement (negotiated). In principle, contracts are awarded by means of an open invitation to tender. They may, however, exceptionally be awarded under the direct agreement or negotiated procedure with special authorization from the Directorate-General of Government Procurement (DGMP) and for one of the exceptional reasons, which include the expertise of the supplier, intellectual property rights issues, or military secrecy.

3.79. The contracting authority may, as a matter of exception, use one of the alternative procedures for invitations to tender, under the conditions specified in the legislation. For example, the invitation to tender may be open, restricted, involve a competition, be in two stages or preceded by a prequalification stage. In addition to those involving a competition, the new Code introduces government procurement procedures specific to the services of individual consultants, contracts awarded following a spontaneous bid, and also framework agreements.

3.80. In order to make a purchase through an invitation to tender, all government institutions must compile a file and set up a commission to open and evaluate bids. *A priori* control is the DGMP's task: it authorizes (after verifying and, where applicable, amending the descriptive documentation) the invitation to tender and gives its opinion on the decision by the commission, in which it is not allowed to participate. A representative of the DGMP attends the opening of bids, however, as an observer and is the guarantor of government procurement regulations. Government procurement financed from external resources is subject to review *a priori* by the donor or by the DGMP.

3.81. Notices of invitations to tender, as well as decisions on awarding government procurement contracts (following endorsement of the outcome by the DGMP) must be made public in the Government Procurement Journal (or in any other national or international publication). The contracting authority must inform any unsuccessful bidder in writing of the reasons for refusing the bid.

3.82. Pursuant to WAEMU directives, a community preference (not exceeding 15% of the amount of the bid) may be given to community companies (from WAEMU); this margin is taken into account when comparing the bids.

3.83. An open invitation to tender was the method used for over 85% of the value of government procurement contracts awarded between 2013 and 2015 (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4 Statistics on contracts awarded, 2010-2016

Year		Procedure followed			Total
		Open invitation to tender	Selective invitation to tender	Direct negotiation	
2010	Number of contracts	933	113	156	1,202
	Amount (CFAF billion)	196,412	37,908	79,663	313,984
2011	Number of contracts	1,257	212	117	1,586
	Amount (CFAF billion)	233,613	84 355	100,529	418,497
2012	Number of contracts	464	50	45	559
	Amount (CFAF billion)	76,190	10,440	25,306	111,939
2013	Number of contracts	861	95	72	1,028
	Amount (CFAF billion)	130,395	7,455	35,514	173,455

Year		Procedure followed			Total
		Open invitation to tender	Selective invitation to tender	Direct negotiation	
2014	Number of contracts	1,212	49	91	1,352
	Amount (CFAF billion)	225,950	8,305	31,784	266,040
2015	Number of contracts	1 399	30	100	1,529
	Amount (CFAF billion)	423, 046	19,570	38,118	480,734
2016	Number of contracts	1,492	50	85	1,627
	Amount (CFAF billion)	626, 698	32,524	36,872	696,095

Source: Directorate-General of Government Procurement and Public Service Concessions.

3.84. The authority regulating government procurement and public service concessions (ARMDS) is tasked with *a posteriori* control of compliance with the rules on government procurement. Accordingly, it may at any time carry out controls concerning the transparency and regularity of the procedures followed when awarding contracts, as well as the conditions under which the contract is being fulfilled. It gives an account of the controls performed in an annual report to the President of the Republic.

3.85. Government procurement-related disputes may be settled before the contracting authority. Any bidder who considers that he has suffered prejudice may submit a complaint within five working days of the date of publication of the decision awarding the contract. Appeals against the ARMP's decisions may be made before the Dispute Settlement Committee. Decisions by the latter may be the subject of an appeal before the administrative section of the Supreme Court.

3.3.7 Intellectual property rights

3.86. The general regime for the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) has not changed since the previous review. Mali is a member of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) created by the Bangui Agreement. Mali's regulations on IPRs, in particular industrial property rights, are therefore based on the relevant provisions in the Bangui Agreement, which was revised in December 2015, although the revision has not yet come into force (common report, section 3.3.4).

3.87. Mali has also ratified the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT). Pursuant to the Constitution, these agreements are directly applicable as laws in Mali and automatically enforceable (without requiring any domestic legal instrument for their application). On 20 January 2016, Mali ratified the Protocol amending the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to make it easier for poorer Members to access affordable medicines.²³

3.88. The following industrial property titles are currently registered in Mali: patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs, trade names, and new plant varieties. In 2010, the authorities confirmed that a mechanism for registering geographical indications was under preparation and that Mali was identifying products whose reputation or typical qualities were associated with the name of the place where they were harvested or manufactured. The Malian Centre for the Promotion of Industrial Property (CEMAPI), within the Ministry responsible for industry, acts as the national liaison structure (SNL) with OAPI. Administrative procedures for registering industrial property titles start with an application to be filed with CEMAPI. Applications to register trademarks are by far the most common industrial property rights for which registration is requested in Mali (Table 3.5).

²³ Online information viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/amendment_e.htm.

Table 3.5 Filing of industrial property titles with CEMAPI, 2013-2016

Applications for industrial property titles	Year			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Patents	4	1	13	6
Utility models	0	0	0	0
Trademarks	51	46	78	98
Industrial designs	3	9	23	12
Trade names	13	11	24	24
Total	71	67	138	140

Source: CEMAPI.

3.89. As regards copyright and related rights, in addition to the revised Bangui Agreement (1977), Mali has its own domestic legislation. Law No. 08-24/AN-RM of 23 July 2008 determines the literary and artistic property regime in Mali. It applies to works whose author or producer is a Malian national or whose habitual residence is in Mali, to works published for the first time in Mali, to architectural works built in Mali, and to literary or artistic works entitled to protection under an international treaty to which Mali is party. The following are deemed to be works within the meaning of the Law: works expressed in writing, including computer programs; lectures, sermons and talks; musical, dramatic and choreographic works; audiovisual works; works of fine art and architecture; photographic works; works of three-dimensional art, illustrations, geographical maps, plans and drawings, expressions of folklore and printed works of folklore; translations, adaptations, arrangements and other transformations of works and expressions of folklore; and collections of works, of expressions of folklore or simple facts or data.

3.90. The legislative framework for copyright is complemented by: Decree No. 08-678/P-RM determining the criteria and detailed rules for engaging in the production, duplication, distribution or import of audio and video recording media; Decree No. 08/650/P-RM of 27 October 2008 determining the organization and detailed rules for the functioning of the Malian Copyright Bureau (BUMDA); and Order No. 3735/MFC-MSAC determining the rules for collection and redistribution of royalties by BUMDA.

3.91. The author of an intellectual work has the exclusive right to exploit his work in any form whatsoever and to earn money from it. For copyright, the economic rights in a work are protected throughout the lifetime of the author and for 70 years after his death; there is no time-limit on moral rights. With regard to related rights, the protection given for performances, phonograms and videograms is 50 years, and 25 years for broadcasts.

3.92. BUMDA is responsible for managing and protecting copyright and related rights. It is regularly involved in activities to promote awareness, to monitor markets and to follow up on progress in cases before the courts. In 2015, 2,250 works (in all categories) had been filed with BUMDA.

3.93. There have been no changes to the procedures for infringement of copyright since the previous review. Legal proceedings may be heard by civil or criminal courts. The authorities responsible for enforcing the Law as regards civil or criminal proceedings are still BUMDA; the police force, the gendarmerie, the Customs; and the Directorate-General of Trade and Competition. The judicial police force or the president of the ordinary law court applies confiscation measures.

3.94. Regarding enforcement of the Law at the border, a right holder who has valid reason to suspect that the proposed importation involves counterfeit goods, may send a written request to the competent administrative or judicial authorities asking for suspension of the release of the goods by the customs authorities. The customs services may not, however, order destruction of the infringing goods.

3.95. A copyright infringer may be sentenced to a fine of CFAF 50,000 to CFAF 15,000,000 and a prison term of one to five years, or to only one of these two sanctions. To these must be added additional penalties such as: closure of the establishment, confiscation of copies of the counterfeit works, confiscation of earnings, and publication of the rulings handed down by the courts.

3.96. In 2015, BUMDA confiscated 5,700 counterfeit media, with the aid of the police force. It also brought a dozen cases before the courts, leading to some users being condemned to pay copyright royalties.

4 TRADE POLICIES BY SECTOR

4.1 Agriculture

4.1.1 Overview

4.1. Agriculture, including livestock farming, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry, is of vital importance for Mali's economy (section 1.1). Moreover, it provides the means of subsistence for some 80% of the working population.

4.2. Mali exhibits high mean temperatures, a short wet season lasting four to five months, and a long dry season. There are four main agro-climatic zones: the southern area, which is characterized by savannah woodland and forests, with annual rainfall of over 1,200 mm; the central area of the country, which displays a fairly dense and varied vegetation cover (Sudanian savannah), with annual rainfall of between 600 and 1,200 mm; the north (much of the Inner Niger Delta), where annual rainfall ranges from 200 to 600 mm, with many areas that are flooded for part of the year and areas of rainfed agriculture; and the Sahara Desert area, which covers the northernmost region of the country, where annual rainfall never reaches 200 mm.

4.3. The Niger and Senegal rivers and their tributaries cross Mali, over a distance of 1,700 km from east to west and 900 km, respectively. Non-perennial surface water, estimated at around 15 billion m³, is used for market gardening and as water supply for the population and especially cattle, although the potential it offers is very much underexploited.

4.4. Mali's agriculture remains heavily reliant on rainfall levels. Small family farms predominate, accounting for around 68% of the total. They are barely profitable, owing to their small size (less than 5 ha on average), and because they use rudimentary production methods. Mali's agricultural sector also faces several other challenges, including the high cost of access to credit and the poor state of the road network, which is essential for transporting products from rural areas. Among the leading crops are cotton, cereals (rice, maize, millet and sorghum), sugar, mangoes, shea and soya.

4.5. Mali's agricultural trade statistics are grossly understated on account of the considerable volume of informal transactions, particularly with countries of the West African subregion. The country is a net importer of agricultural products. It exports primarily cotton, live animals and to a lesser extent citrus fruit and oilseeds (Table A1.1). It still imports a lot of staple foods such as sugar, rice and milk (Table A1.2).

4.1.2 Agricultural policy

4.6. The Ministry responsible for agriculture is in charge of formulating agriculture and livestock development programmes and strategies, in collaboration with farmers' organizations and development partners. Mali is one of the few African countries that have allocated at least 10% of their national budgetary resources to agriculture in the last decade, pursuant to the Maputo Declaration.

4.7. The Agricultural Policy Law (LOA), drawn up in 2006, is the main legislative instrument governing Mali's agricultural sector. It is aimed at reviving the sector, and informs the Agricultural Development Policy (PDA) adopted in 2013. The Higher Council for Agriculture is a cooperation mechanism on national agricultural development policies and is tasked with ensuring application of the LOA. It comprises representatives of the public and private sectors, local authorities, agricultural industry and civil society, working together to formulate and implement agricultural policies.

4.8. The overarching goal of the PDA is to "help turn Mali into an emerging country where the agricultural sector would be one of the drivers of the national economy and the guarantor of food sovereignty within a sustainable development approach". This goal translates into the following specific objectives: (a) ensure food security for the population and guarantee food sovereignty for the nation; (b) ensure rational management of natural resources and the environment, taking into account climate change; (c) modernize agricultural production systems and improve the competitiveness of agricultural subsectors by adding value to agricultural products; (d) ensure the

development of technological innovations through agricultural research and vocational training; (e) promote the status of farmers and build the capacities of all stakeholders; (f) reduce rural poverty.¹

4.9. The PDA relies primarily on the following subsectors: cotton, rice, fruit and vegetables, cattle, meat, poultry, fisheries products, oilseeds and dry cereals. Its funding comes from three main sources: a programming mechanism in the Finance Law; a National Agricultural Support Fund (FNAA)²; and support from banks and microfinance institutions. The National Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (PNISA) 2015-2025 provides the framework for programming investment under the PDA.

4.10. The LOA has moreover underpinned the formulation and adoption of a land policy in Mali³, in order to afford greater protection for farms, promote public and private investment, and foster equitable access to land resources and their sustainable management. It formally recognizes customary rights alongside statutory law; and highlights the unsuitability of the mechanisms for formalizing rights (title deeds, rural concessions). Consequently, a new land law was passed in 2017.⁴ According to the authorities, access to agricultural land is open to nationals and foreigners alike.

4.11. Several initiatives have been put in place to supplement the PDA, such as a national irrigation strategy, a seed policy, a national agricultural mechanization policy, and the development of rural tracks.

4.12. The average tariff protection of agriculture and fisheries (ISIC Rev.2) stood at 11.9% in 2016, well down on the 2011 level (13.1%), with rates ranging from 5% to 35% (common report, section 3.1). VAT is levied on agricultural equipment at the lower rate of 5%, and on domestic or imported agricultural products at 18%, whereas unprocessed food products are exempt.

4.13. The import of agricultural products requires a permit issued by the competent services of the Ministry responsible for agriculture (section 3.3.2).

4.1.3 Policy by subsector

4.1.3.1 Vegetable products

4.1.3.1.1 Cotton

4.14. The cotton subsector, as indeed the agricultural sector as a whole, is dominated by small farmers. Cotton is Mali's principal agricultural subsector. It generates some 15% of export earnings and provides a livelihood for over 3 million people. It is also a key component of the local industrial fabric, supplying 17 ginning factories, one textile factory and several cotton seed mills. Seed cotton is produced by farmers organized in cooperatives, then sold on to the Mali Textile Development Company (CMDT) which turns it into cotton lint. The other by-products are cotton seeds, cake and oil. Less than 2% of the cotton is processed by the textile factory.

4.15. The cotton business also creates knock-on effects on transport, crafts, trade and construction.

4.16. Cotton output doubled between the 2010-2011 and 2014-2015 crop seasons (Table 4.1). This significant increase appears to be attributable to the granting of more fertilizer subsidies and higher purchase prices.

¹ PDA (2013).

² Decree No. 10-574/P-RM of 26 October 2010.

³ Mali agricultural land policy, Ministry of Rural Development, April 2014.

⁴ Law No. 2017-001 of 11 April 2017 on agricultural land.

Table 4.1 Cotton production, 2010-2015

No.	Season	Area	Seed cotton output	Yield (kg/ha)	Ginning capacity (T)	Quantities of lint produced (T)
1	2010-2011	285,985	243,589	852	575,000	103,404
2	2011-2012	477,817	445,314	932	575,000	186,750
3	2012-2013	521,436	449,656	862	575,000	191,626
4	2013-2014	480,541	440,027	916	575,000	184,189
5	2014-2015	539,652	548,696	1,017	575,000	232,722

Source: Information provided by the authorities.

4.17. The core strategy for the subsector is set out in the Policy Letter on Development of the Cotton Sector (LPDSC). The implementation of the LPDSC has led, *inter alia*, to: the creation of the Cotton Industry Association (IPC-Mali) and its four regional committees; the creation of the Cotton Grading Board (OCC); the introduction of a support fund for the subsector; and a mechanism for setting cotton prices.

4.18. The CMDT is a semi-public company in which the State owns 99.51% of the capital. It enjoys a *de facto* monopoly on ginning and marketing of cotton. The CMDT supplies producers with agricultural inputs.

4.19. Every year, an economic interest group (EIG), comprising the CMDT, the *Office de la haute vallée du Niger* (OHVN) (Upper Niger Valley Board) and the National Union of Cotton Producers' Cooperatives (UNSCPC), takes stock of producers' needs and issues an international call for bids for the purchase of inputs, which it sells on to the producers on credit at cost price. In return, producers are tied to selling their harvests back to it at prices that vary depending on the quality of the product.

4.20. According to the authorities, the plan to privatize the CMDT in 2010, foreseen under the LPDSC, is no longer on the agenda.

4.21. Mali is one of the co-sponsors of the WTO Sectoral Initiative in Favour of Cotton, whose objective is to eliminate support for producers and export subsidies, which are considered to be the underlying reason for the general fall in cotton prices on global markets.

4.1.3.1.2 Cereals

4.22. Cereals are the Malian population's main staple food. However, production systems are still rudimentary and highly susceptible to the vagaries of the climate. In addition, the lack of land developed for farming is one of the major obstacles to further growth in the cereals sector. For several years, the authorities have been rolling out support programmes for the main cereal crops, in particular rice.

4.23. The "Rice Initiative" programme has been in place since 2008. The programme seeks to boost production in areas suitable for cultivation. In this connection, the Government has undertaken to provide support in the form of a subsidy for the purchase of fertilizer (CFAF 12,500 per 50-kg bag) and seed, as well as advice. According to the authorities, development of the cereals subsector is being addressed through several other programmes in areas such as: capacity building for professionals called upon to provide advice to farmers, implementation of an action plan to combat cereal crop pests, and an agricultural machinery programme (tractors and other types of equipment).

4.24. The *Office du Niger* (ON) (Niger River Board), a Malian State enterprise, continues to engage in production, processing and producer support activities, by providing water for farming, and ensuring maintenance of infrastructure and land management in the Niger River Delta area.

4.25. Paddy rice is classed as a local product and is therefore exempt from duties and taxes within the WAEMU.

4.1.3.1.3 Mangoes

4.26. Mango output climbed from 48,943 tonnes in 2008 to 66,669 tonnes in 2016. The principal mango production basins are the regions of Sikasso and the outskirts of Bamako. Mangoes are generally produced by smallholders owning small orchards. Nevertheless, large orchards have recently emerged in the Sikasso region. Malian mangoes are sold mainly on the domestic market, in Africa and in Europe.

4.27. Fresh mangoes are exported by private companies. Several of them are certified for private quality standards, including "organic" standards. The total volume of fresh mango exports increased from some 6,586 tonnes in 2007 to around 23,000 tonnes in 2016. The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) programme in Mali continues to support the mango processing sector, for the production of jams and dried fruit, which has helped to empower women's cooperatives in rural areas and expand the private sector. Processed mango is primarily intended for export.

4.1.3.2 Forestry and logging

4.28. The logging subsector and forestry contribute only a marginal share of GDP (Table 1.1). Mali has about 100 million hectares of forest nationwide. Listed forests, with an area of 5.2 million hectares, represent only 4.2% of the national territory, when the accepted international standard is 15%. Forest cover is suffering from the ongoing deterioration of natural resources in general and of forestry resources in particular, on account of climate vulnerability and human activity. Law No. 10/028 of 12 July 2010 governs the management of forestry resources in Mali, and responsibility for administering the Law lies with the National Directorate of Water Resources and Forests. The main restrictions are associated with the CITES provisions.

4.1.3.3 Livestock farming

4.29. Livestock farming has accounted for a gradually increasing proportion of GDP, up from 14% in 2010 to 16.5% in 2014. It is estimated that 80% of the rural population is engaged in animal husbandry, which constitutes a significant source of subsistence income. With steadily growing herd numbers, livestock farming is one of the most important subsectors in Mali's economy. It ranks third in terms of exports after cotton and gold.

Table 4.2 Trend in livestock numbers in Mali, 2007-2016

Year	Bovine animals	Sheep	Goats	Equine animals	Asses	Camels	Pigs
2007	8,141,459	9,761,578	13,593,063	357,414	807,591	852,880	71,875
2008	8,385,703	10,249,657	14,272,716	393,834	825,277	869,305	72,666
2009	8,896,392	11,300,247	15,735,670	478,187	861,820	904,425	74,272
2010	9,163,284	11,865,259	16,522,454	487,751	880,694	922,514	75,015
2011	9,438,182	12,458,522	17,348,576	497,506	899,981	940,964	75,765
2012	9,721,328	13,081,448	18,216,005	507,456	919,691	959,783	76,523
2013	10,012,968	13,735,521	19,126,805	517,605	939,832	978,979	77,288
2014	10,313,357	14,422,297	20,083,145	527,957	960,414	998,558	78,061
2015	10,622,620	15,143,415	21,087,150	538,545	979,510	1,008,440	82,425
2016	10,941,400	15,900,500	22,141,650	549,270	999,200	1,028,700	83,200

Note: Poultry stock totalled 37,390,355 in 2016, broken down between traditional poultry breeding (34,934,600) and modern poultry breeding (2,455,755).

Source: Information provided by the authorities.

4.30. Exports of livestock products go primarily to markets in the subregion, particularly Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal and Algeria. They mainly take the form of live cattle. Meat exports remain marginal, owing to a lack of adequate slaughterhouse and transport infrastructure. There is also some degree of exportation of leather and of sheep and goat skins, either raw or tanned.

4.31. Despite its importance, the livestock subsector is beset by many difficulties which leave it very much underexploited and untapped. It falls far short of domestic demand for dairy products, thus forcing Mali to continue importing large quantities every year. Investment in livestock farming remains low. Problems of feeding herds, animal health protection and marketing and export of livestock products are a real challenge. A national livestock development policy has been in place

since 2004. Its aim is to develop the subsector with a view to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction, in line with the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (GPRSP) and the Master Plan for Rural Development. Its key strategic targets focus, *inter alia*, on improving animal feeding and health; rational management of resources; enhancing infrastructure for marketing and processing of livestock products; and capacity building for stakeholders.

4.32. In 2016, the CET rates applied to products of animal origin ranged between 5% and 35% (as against 5% and 20% in 2011), with an average of 24.1% (18.8% in 2011).

4.1.3.4 Fishing and aquaculture

4.33. Fishing contributes around a 3% share of GDP. National output stood at 102,000 tonnes in 2010, mainly concentrated in the Central Niger Delta. The subsector as a whole provides employment for an estimated 500,000 people. The lack of a cold chain considerably constrains the capacity to capitalize on fisheries resources.

4.34. The National Directorate of Fisheries is responsible for formulating the bases for the national fisheries policy and for coordinating and following up its implementation. Fishing and fish-farming policy is an integral part of the national economic and social development policy.

4.35. The fisheries and aquaculture subsector in Mali is framed by several strategic, legal and regulatory instruments. The goal of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Master Plan is to encourage sustainable, decentralized and participative management of Mali's fish and fishery resources. Law No. 2014/062 of 29 December 2014 regulating the management of fishing and fish-farming sets the general framework for engaging in fishing activities.

4.36. Pursuant to the legislation in force, fishing in State and local authority fish-farming domains requires a permit, issued by the Directorate of Fisheries. A special authorization has to be obtained to fish in protected areas.

4.37. The fisheries subsector faces several constraints that are hampering its development: fishing outputs are not fully exploited; basic infrastructure and equipment for fisheries (storage and packaging) are inadequate; and fishing areas remain isolated. Fish-farming in Mali is still in its infancy.

4.2 Mining and energy

4.2.1 Mining products

4.38. The mining sector plays a key role in Mali's economy. In 2016, it accounted for more than 70% of the country's export earnings. Furthermore, it employs some 14% of the labour force.⁵ Gold mining (95% of the country's mining output) is the chief mining activity in Mali, which is the third biggest gold producer in Africa, with around 46 tonnes produced in 2016 by ten mining companies (Table 4.3). Gold panning reportedly produces three to four tonnes of gold per year. However, the artisanal sector's contribution to State revenues is virtually nil on account of the informal nature of most small-scale mining activities.

⁵ Online information viewed at:
https://eiti.org/sites/default/files/migrated_files/rapport_itie_mali_2013_-_final.pdf.

Table 4.3 Raw gold production statistics in tonnes, 2010-2016

Company	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SOMISY SA	2.811	3.219	5.036	5.678	6.432	7.845	7.984
SEMOS SA	10.381	11.168	9.536	8.111	7.712	6.124	5.867
MORILA SA	8.954	9.414	7.686	5.553	4.495	4.706	2.341
YATELA SA	5.022	2.815	2.480	2.408	1.078	0.668	0.463
SOMIKA SA	0.491	0.381	0.408	0.429	0.365	0.356	0.394
SOMILO SA/ GOUNTKOTO	11.046	11.665	16.853	20.187	21.192	21.356	23.801
SEMICO SA	3.328	3.376	4.176	4.578	4.548	5.416	5.656
WASSOUL'OR SA	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.000
NAMPALA	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.029	0.396
ACCORDS SA	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.035
TOTAL	42.033	42.038	46.272	47.006	45.822	46.500	46.937

Source: Information provided by the authorities.

4.39. Besides gold, Mali's potential also lies in a number of untapped natural resources such as bauxite, iron ore, base metals and phosphate.

4.40. Until February 2012, mining research and exploration activities were governed by Ordinance No. 99-032/P-RM of 19 August 1999 on the Mining Code, as amended by Ordinance No. 013/P-RM of 10 February 2000, and its implementing texts, notably Decrees Nos. 99-25/PM-RM and 99-255/PM-RM of 15 September 1999. In 2012, by Law No. 2012-015 of 27 February 2012, Mali promulgated a new Mining Code. The latter only applies, however, to mining titles granted after 27 February 2012. For companies holding mining rights valid prior to that date, the provisions of the former Code still apply.⁶ These existing mining companies are nevertheless entitled to opt for the regime adopted in the new Code.⁷ The new Code stipulates, *inter alia*, that mining companies are required to draw up an environmental and social management plan, as well as a community development plan for the population in mining areas. It further prescribes that 5% of operating companies' capital must be held by Ivorian nationals.

4.41. Pursuant to the Constitution, all resources contained in the soil or subsoil in Mali are the property of the State. The Mining Code draws a distinction between mines and quarries, and provides for five types of mining permit: prospection authorization (three years, renewable once); exploration authorization (three months, renewable once); research permit (three years, renewable twice); exploitation permit (30 years, renewable for ten-year periods until the deposits are exhausted); exploitation authorization for small mines (i.e. less than 150 tonnes of mineral ore per day in the case of gold), which also covers mechanized gold panning (four years, renewable for four-year periods until the deposits are exhausted). Traditional (manual) artisanal exploitation requires an authorization granted by the local authorities.

4.42. All applications for an exploitation permit must be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment. When an exploitation permit is granted, 10% of the operating company's shares are automatically handed over to the State (without any consideration); and the State reserves the right to raise this figure up to 20% by purchasing shares. The State has exercised this right in full for open gold mines, except in the case of SEMOS SA (18%). There is no State-owned enterprise operating directly or indirectly in the mining sector.

4.43. For gold mining, the main levies collected by the State are the 3% service provision contribution (CPS) on mining companies' turnover or the special tax on certain products (ISCP), also at 3%⁸; the 35% industrial and commercial profits tax (BIC); employers' contributions; and the 10% priority dividend tax.⁹ Mining activities are also subject to various taxes, including: fees for the issue or renewal of mining rights (the amounts of which vary according to the activity and the mineral involved); and surface royalties.

⁶ Online information viewed at:

https://eiti.org/sites/default/files/migrated_files/rapport_itie_mali_2013_-_final.pdf.

⁷ Online information viewed at:

https://eiti.org/sites/default/files/migrated_files/rapport_itie_mali_2013_-_final.pdf.

⁸ Most of the mining companies signed their agreements before 1999 and have to pay the CPS. The Kalana mine, however, for which the agreement was signed after 1999, is required to pay the ISCP instead of the CPS.

⁹ Ordinance No. 00-013/P-RM of 10 February 2000.

4.44. Mali endorsed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2006, and was granted EITI compliant status in 2011.

4.2.2 Hydrocarbons

4.45. Mali is not a producer of petroleum products. However, prospection work has uncovered potential reserves. The Oil Exploration Promotion Authority (AUREP) is responsible for regulating prospection. Up to 2015, Law No. 04/037 of 2 August 2004 on the Petroleum Code regulated the conditions governing crude oil exploration and exploitation in the country. Mali then introduced a new Law No. 2015-035 of 16 July 2015 on the organization of hydrocarbon prospecting, exploitation and transport. Under the new Law, petroleum rights are governed by production-sharing contracts and cover prospecting or exploitation.

4.46. Prospection for hydrocarbons is being carried out mainly in the Taoudénit basin and the Gao graben, mostly by foreign companies. The Government has signed a number of agreements with oil companies. All the oil companies operating in Mali are at the exploration stage, and most of them had suspended their activities since the 2012 crisis. Following the decision to cancel the agreements with several companies, only four contracts remain in force at this time.¹⁰

4.47. The tax regime applicable to hydrocarbon prospecting, research/exploration, exploitation and transport prescribes: a flat-rate fee levied for the issue and renewal of authorizations; an annual surface royalty of between CFAF 500 and CFAF 2,500/km² during the exploration phase and CFAF 1 million/km² during the exploitation phase; a levy on production, at rates of 0% to 15% for petroleum (sliding scale) and 3% to 5% for gas (depending on whether the output is sold in Mali or exported).

4.48. During the research/exploration phase, hardware, tools, materials, fuel and technical equipment imported by the company or its subcontractors for its petroleum operations are exempt from any duties and taxes, with the exception of the community levy (PC), the community solidarity levy (PCS) and the statistical tax (RS). During the exploitation phase, this exemption is applicable only to technical hardware, machinery and apparatus, utility vehicles and heavy-duty machinery, which come under the temporary admission procedure; all other goods imported by the company or by its subcontractors for their petroleum operations are subject to the ordinary law regime.

4.49. Hydrocarbons accounted for around 28.7% of imports in 2012 (Table A1.1).

4.50. Mali currently imports all the petroleum products needed to cover its requirements. The country's storage capacity was 53,853 m³ in 2017. Approved private companies supply the country with petroleum products. They are required to obtain an authorization issued by the Ministry responsible for trade. Import companies must provide proof of a minimum own storage capacity (i.e. on their own premises) of 500 m³ and deposit a security of CFAF 200 million.

4.51. A series of taxes are levied on the import of petroleum products, including the CET; the internal tax on petroleum products (TIPP), at varying rates according to supply channel and product; community levies; and VAT.

4.52. Fuel prices at the pump are determined according to fluctuations in supplier prices, by a commission composed of the authorities, represented by the National Petroleum Products Board (ONAP); oil companies; and consumer representatives. Supplies are routed through the coastal countries of the subregion and Niger. Supply from the furthest ports is taxed at a lower rate as an incentive for operators to use them, as part of the policy of diversifying sources to give Mali a more secure supply of petroleum products.

4.53. The butane gas consumption subsidy, in place since 1998, was reduced in 2012.

¹⁰ Decree No. 2014-0866/P-RM of 26 November 2014.

4.2.3 Electricity

4.54. The electricity access rate in Mali is still low. In 2012, it stood at 15% in rural areas and 62% in urban centres. The Government's efforts in regard to electricity are focused on expanding both renewable and non-renewable sources of energy in order to meet the growing demand for electricity nationwide.¹¹

4.55. The State-owned enterprise *Électricité du Mali* (EDM-SA) provides the public electricity service under a concession agreement for the production, transport and distribution of electricity. EDM-SA's monopoly on the wholesale purchase of electric power is due to expire in 2030; its current monopoly is confined to distribution within its concession area. However, self-producers, once they have catered for their own needs, have to sell their surplus to EDM-SA at negotiated prices.

4.56. The interconnected grid, which belongs to EDM-SA, is powered mainly by hydroelectricity generated for the most part by the Manantali dam, which is having production issues (104 MW of its 200-MW output belong to Mali), and the Sélingué dam (46 MW). Hydroelectric power accounted for 60% of total electricity output in 2012, the remainder coming from diesel or fuel-oil power stations. Hydroelectricity's share in the interconnected grid fell to 44% in 2014. In 2013, the electricity supplied by EDM-SA comprised 26% purchased thermal energy and 37% purchased hydroelectricity.

4.57. EDM-SA supplies 22 remote urban centres from independent networks using diesel-powered generators, whereas in rural areas the Malian Agency for the Development of Domestic Energy and Rural Electrification (AMADER), thanks to the Rural Electrification Fund, has adopted a decentralized approach that authorizes local private energy producers. For their part, industries and mines (self-producers) have an estimated 200 MW of installed power capacity to meet their own needs.

4.58. Electricity tariffs depend on several parameters, including voltage category, subscribed power level and consumption band, to which must be added VAT and maintenance and rental fees. VAT is billed on top at 18%, except on the first 100 kWh of the social tariff. The Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (CREE) is responsible for approving and monitoring electricity tariffs. Tariffs are determined according to the formula laid down in the agreement between the CREE and EDM-SA. The latter may request a revision of the tariffs each year, and the request is considered by the CREE.

4.2.4 Water

4.59. The National Water Policy, adopted in February 2006, sets forth the approach for the sector, based on the principles of integrated water resources management (GIRE), and the strategy directions on which efforts to develop the water sector will focus. The National Plan for Access to Drinking Water 2004-2015 (PNAEP) had announced a significant investment programme, in both rural and urban areas, and envisaged, *inter alia*, the installation, rehabilitation or upgrading of 11,000 water points over the period 2004-2015. According to the authorities, the PNAEP targeted a national drinking water access rate of 82%. However, the rate at 31 December 2016 was of the order of 66.9% nationwide, 65.3% in rural areas and 70.6% in semi-urban and urban areas.

4.60. In practice, two main water management methods co-exist in Mali. In rural areas, communes act as the contracting authority for water and sanitation services, but are obliged to delegate management to a private operator or an association of users. EDM-SA was responsible for water distribution in urban centres until 2011. Since then, this role has been assigned to two State-owned enterprises: the Mali Drinking Water Management Company (SOMAGEP SA), and the Mali Drinking Water Resources Company (SOMAPEP SA). Water prices have to be approved by the CREE and have not changed since 2004.

¹¹ Online information viewed at: https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/energies_renouvelables_en_afrique-profil_pays_du_mali.pdf.

4.3 Manufacturing sector

4.61. The share of manufacturing industry in GDP has stood at around 15% on average since 2010 (Table 1.1). The manufacturing sector comprises small-scale industries, the majority of them in agri-food. Other production plants are also in operation in the chemical, metalworking and textile industries. In 2015, 298 categories of product manufactured by 77 Malian enterprises were admitted under the intra-community preferential trade regime (common report, section 3.1.3). The GPRSP III attaches great importance to the development of manufacturing industries in Mali, through the improvement of infrastructure, implementation of reforms, and promotion of an enabling environment for business.

4.62. In recent years, the Government has put in place a number of strategies to support the private sector and foster sustainable development of industrial activities. For instance, the Industrial Development Policy (PDI) was adopted in 2010, with the overall goal of increasing the secondary sector's contribution to GDP to 20% in 2012 and 45% in 2015. It aims to enhance the economic environment for industrial enterprises, make them more competitive and encourage use of the best technologies through measures such as strengthening intellectual property rights. The PDI was underpinned, through to 2017, by two three-year operational plans.

4.63. Other strategy documents are also in play in the manufacturing sector, in particular a national agri-food development strategy, a national IP development strategy and a national quality promotion policy (section 3.3).

4.64. The simple average of applied MFN tariff rates (ECOWAS CET) in the manufacturing sector (ISIC definition) is 12.4%. Across all manufactured products, the tariff escalation is mixed (common report, Table 3.8), being slightly negative from raw materials (10.4%) to semi-finished products (10.1%) and positive for finished products (13.9%). This raises the production costs of enterprises that use taxed inputs and/or does nothing to encourage them to improve their competitiveness.

4.4 Services

4.4.1 Transport

4.65. Transport services chiefly consist of road, rail, river and air transport, insofar as Mali has no access to the sea. Most of its international traffic goes through the ports of Dakar and Abidjan, which are, respectively, 1,471 km and 1,225 km from Bamako. Goods transport costs (in relation to import value) are prohibitive, at an estimated 24.4% in 2007 and 30% in 2016, and constitute a handicap to Mali's economic development.

4.66. With this in mind, since 2015 the National Transport and Transport Infrastructure Policy (PNTIT) has carried forward the actions and initiatives set out in the Policy Letter on the Transport Sector of 5 April 2007. The vision enunciated in the PNTIT is to "turn Mali into a country that is durably connected to its neighbours; lift it out of isolation through appropriate infrastructure and efficient, reliable and safe transport services that equip the country with cost-effective supply lines in order to meet the population's needs in a manner that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable; and, thereby, stimulate development and poverty reduction".

4.67. The Ministry of Equipment, Transport and Territorial Integration is responsible for managing the sector. In this capacity, its role is to formulate and implement national equipment and transport policy.

4.68. In the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), Mali was given MFN (GATS Article II) exemptions in relation to maritime transport, specifically on granting cabotage rights to certain trading partners; trade-sharing under the resolutions of the Ministerial Conference

of West and Central African States¹²; and cargo-sharing between the State shipping companies at both ends of a particular traffic.¹³

4.4.1.1 Road transport

4.69. Road transport remains the principal means of transporting persons and goods in Mali. The country has an 89,024-km classified road network, of which around 24,000 km are developed, ranging from rural tracks (for cotton and farming) to international road corridors coated with either asphalt concrete or surface dressing.¹⁴ The paved network, composed mainly of trunk roads, has a total length of 5,700 km. Road density stands at 1.80 km/100 km², one of the lowest in Africa; and this figure is even lower in the northern regions.

4.70. Mali has signed bilateral agreements on road transport and transit with neighbouring coastal or landlocked countries. These agreements specify, *inter alia*: the terms for transit by road; transport routes; the terms for sharing freight and passengers between carriers from the two countries and from third countries; and the goods that are excluded. In general, cabotage is not allowed. Nevertheless, Mali grants cabotage rights on a reciprocal basis with Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

4.71. The conditions for authorization to exercise the profession of road haulier are the same for a Malian national and a citizen of the WAEMU community. For other foreign nationals, the criteria depend on the bilateral agreements in force.¹⁵

4.4.1.2 Rail transport

4.72. Mali's railway network consists of a single 729-km line between Koulikoro and the Senegalese border. It connects Dakar (Senegal) and Bamako, and transports freight and passengers. This train track is in an advanced state of disrepair, some of its segments not having been renovated at all for several years now. Incidents on the track such as derailments have increased significantly of late. For instance, 136 derailments were recorded between Dakar and Thiès in the first 11 months of 2011.

4.73. In October 2003, Senegal and Mali entrusted management of the network for 25 years to a French-Canadian consortium, Transrail, which was tasked with maintaining, renovating and upgrading the railway infrastructure. However, the contract was broken off in 2015.

4.74. Rail transport is vital to Mali's economy on account of several ongoing mining programmes and the fact that it is a landlocked country. To tap this potential, Mali has to build and rehabilitate the necessary infrastructure. Several railway interconnection projects are reportedly under way with countries of the subregion such as Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

4.4.1.3 River transport

4.75. Mali is crossed by the Niger and Senegal rivers, which offer three main transport routes: on the Niger, the northern stretch linking Koulikoro and Gao and the southern stretch linking Bamako and Kouroussa in Guinea or Bamako and Kankan via the Milo river; and on the Senegal, the route linking Kayes and St. Louis. There are 13 formal ports. Koulikoro is the biggest. There is no longer a port in Bamako.

4.76. River transport is provided by the Malian Navigation Company (COMANAV), a State-owned enterprise, as well as by small operators of canoes and fishing smacks. For several years, COMANAV has suffered financial losses because its navigability period has been reduced from

¹² These resolutions seek to implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct which provides for sharing of 80% of liner trade with the national shipping company of the State at the other end of a particular traffic.

¹³ WTO document GATS/EL/53 of 30 August 1995.

¹⁴ Online information viewed at:

[https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/AfDB - Mali - Note sur le secteur des transports.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/AfDB_-_Mali_-_Note_sur_le_secteur_des_transports.pdf).

¹⁵ Law No. 00-043 of 7 June 2000 on the profession of road haulier and its implementing Decree No. 00-0503/P-RM of 16 October 2000.

six months to four and it also has difficulty maintaining and modernizing its fleet. This fleet comprises three very old mail boats for carrying goods and passengers, one petroleum boat, a tug, a push boat, three scows and 18 barges with a capacity of 200 tonnes. In 2015, COMANAV acquired two passenger transport vessels. There is no formal regulation in this area. According to the authorities, a draft law on the subject is in the process of being adopted.

4.4.1.4 Air transport

4.77. Mali has 26 airports and airfields, but only five of them are served by scheduled flights: Bamako, Kayes, Mopti, Gao and Tombouctou. In 2013, Bamako (Senou) airport, the only operational international airport, handled 573,802 passengers (including arrivals, departures and transit), 10,480 aircraft movements and 167.33 tonnes of postal parcels. As regards freight, 10,096 tonnes of merchandise were transported via the international airport, as against 7,669 in 2012. Two Malian airlines (whose operations have been suspended since 2013) and 16 international airlines use Mali's airports, mostly with medium-haul aircraft.

4.78. The National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC) designs and ensures the implementation of national civil aviation policy. It is responsible, in particular, for: (a) participating in developing civil aviation regulations in conformity with the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Yamoussoukro Decision and community provisions; (b) monitoring the observance of civil aviation security and safety rules; and (c) overseeing air navigation services. A new national civil aviation policy was adopted in 2010. Its primary goal is to tackle the country's domestic and international isolation, above all by bringing its national air transport in line with international air transport requirements and creating the conditions to mobilize, capitalize on and make rational use of resources in the sector.

4.79. Airports are managed by Mali Airports (ADM), a State-owned company set up in 1970. There is only one company, the Mali Airport Handling Company (ASAMSA), providing handling services. "Self-handling" and "mutual handling" among airlines are not authorized.

4.4.1.5 Port services

4.80. Mali has no sea coast or maritime fleet. Nevertheless, in order to monitor and transport goods for export and import, it has warehouses in six African ports. These Malian warehouses (EMA) are external services of the National Directorate of Land, Maritime and River Transport (DNTTMF) and are the result of maritime transport and transit agreements signed between the Malian State and the countries of transit. Mali has three dry ports near Bamako for storage, customs control and cargo handling. Others are planned at Ambidédi, Sikasso and Gao.

4.4.2 Posts and telecommunications

4.81. Since the previous review of Mali's trade policy in 2010, the governance framework for posts and telecommunications has undergone a number of changes. Ordinance No. 2011-024/P-RM of 28 September 2011 established the Malian Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications/ICT and Posts (AMRTP), which is responsible, *inter alia*, for: ensuring compliance with the principle of equal treatment for operators in the sector; assisting the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications in drawing up regulations; protecting posts and telecommunication users; and ensuring compliance with the rules applicable in the regulated sectors, in particular by monitoring and supervising the activities of the operators involved.¹⁶

4.82. In principle, it is the AMRTP's responsibility to examine applications for telecommunication/ICT licences and to prepare and conduct the licensing process by invitation to tender. However, the Government itself may, in some cases, decide to grant a licence after completion of a bidding process when it considers that such a procedure is preferable for the development of the telecommunication sector in Mali. For instance, the procedure for granting the third licence for the establishment and operation of telecommunication networks and services was set by Decree No. 2011-373/P-RM of 17 June 2011. Under the terms of this Decree, the procedure

¹⁶ Ordinance No. 2016-014/P-RM of 31 March 2016 setting out the responsibilities of the AMRTP.

consisted, *inter alia*, in establishing an interministerial technical support committee; recruiting an international consultancy firm to deal with technical issues; and carrying out a bidding process.¹⁷

4.83. Since 2011, the telecommunication sector has been governed by Ordinance No. 2011-023/P-RM of 28 September 2011, on telecommunication and information and communication technologies in the Republic of Mali. Ordinance No. 2011-012/P-RM of 20 September 2011 established Mali POSTE, replacing the National Post Office (ONP), with the role of operating postal services and postal financial services.

4.84. The Ministry of Communications and New Technologies is responsible for regulating telecommunication and postal services.

4.85. Mali did not make any specific commitments on telecommunication services under the GATS and did not take part in the WTO negotiations on basic telecommunication services concluded in 1997.

4.4.2.1 Telecommunications

4.86. The number of mobile customers stood at 23.5 million in 2014 (a penetration rate of around 138%), whereas there were 154,417 fixed-telephone subscribers in the same period (a penetration rate of around 0.72%).¹⁸ There are three operators in the market. Orange Mali has been in the market since 2003, and SOTELMA since 2009. Alpha Télécom, which obtained its licence in 2013, is not yet operational. Licences to set up and operate mobile telecommunication networks are technology-neutral, thus allowing telephone companies to provide broadband mobile Internet (2G and 3G) services. The main uses of mobile telephony are voice, mobile broadband and mobile payment.

4.87. Orange Mali and SOTELMA provide fixed-telephone services in Mali. Decree No. 2016-0975/P-RM of 27 December 2016 on fixed telecommunication network interconnection conditions and arrangements lays down the procedure and arrangements for the interconnection of telecommunication services and networks. Network and service interconnection is a regulatory obligation. In general, interconnection contracts are negotiated between operators and are cost-oriented. Each interconnection contract is subject to prior approval by the Regulatory Authority.

4.88. In 2009, Maroc Telecom bought a 51% share in SOTELMA, which was originally a State-owned enterprise, for CFAF 180 billion. As to the remaining 49%, the privatization strategy provides that 19% be sold to the public and 10% be set aside for the company's employees. On completion of the privatization process, the State will thus retain a residual share of 20% of the capital.

4.89. Internet access in Mali is provided mainly by SOTELMA and Orange Mali. The latter has over 95% of the fixed Internet market. A few alternative operators (AFRIBONE, ARC MALI, DOGON TELECOM, COMSAT, FIYEN MALI, COMPASS) are also present in the market.¹⁹ The networks operated are the wireline network, the optical fibre transmission network and radio-relay links. While fixed Internet access remains marginal in Mali, mobile Internet teledensity on the other hand is growing steadily.

4.90. In 2015, the Information and Communication Technologies Agency (AGETIC) was contemplating taking over management of the ".ml" domain name within the national territory, a role that had been performed by SOTELMA since 1997.

4.91. Ordinances Nos. 2011-023 and 2011-024 of 28 September 2011 establish the framework for organizing the Universal Access Fund under the responsibility of the AMRTP. The Fund was set up to finance universal access to basic telecommunication services, including access to national and international telecommunications (text, fax, Internet). Access to these services must be provided for all inhabitants of remote areas at an affordable price. Health and education services

¹⁷ In 2017, Decree No. 2017-065/P-RM of 9 February 2017 laid down new procedures for granting, withdrawing and transferring licences.

¹⁸ Online information viewed at: https://www.amrtp-mali.org/pdf/rapport_act/Rapport_2014.pdf.

¹⁹ Online information viewed at: https://www.amrtp-mali.org/pdf/rapport_act/Rapport_2014.pdf.

and services for persons with disabilities are considered as priority areas. The Fund is financed by a 2% levy on operators' net turnover. An agency to manage the Fund was set up in 2016.

4.4.2.2 Postal services

4.92. The State-owned post office (Mali POSTE) offers postal and financial services throughout Mali, with 130 "contact points" (95 post offices, 7 outlets and 28 postal sales points). Some services are restricted to Mali POSTE, in particular the collection, franking, transportation and distribution of letters, postcards, parcels weighing up to 10 kg, printed matter and newspapers, as well as the operation of P.O. box services and letter boxes.

4.93. Courier services (including transport) are also supplied by private companies on the domestic and international segments.

4.4.3 Tourism

4.94. The security crisis caused enormous harm to the tourism sector in Mali, which saw a sharp decline in the number of tourists and the closure or destruction of some tourist establishments. Between 2010 and 2013, inbound tourist numbers fell from 125,496 to 120,901. Things picked up in 2014, with 168,000 visitors, before deteriorating again in 2015 (159,000 tourists).²⁰

4.95. Mali had 675 hotels in 2014 (57 of them with a rating of one to five stars according to ECOWAS standards), providing a total of 10,214 rooms and 13,469 beds. The number of travel agencies climbed to 319 in 2014, from 154 in 2008. A classification commission, composed of representatives of the Government and the hotel industry, is responsible for grading hotels. The classification process takes place every three years. Nevertheless, ratings can be given at the request of hotel owners. Tourism administration officials are empowered to inspect rated establishments. To be rated, establishments have to meet certain technical standards in terms of size, hygiene and safety of their premises. Those found to no longer comply with the standards are liable to see their approval downgraded, suspended or withdrawn. Furthermore, the ECOWAS supervisory committee is also supposed to carry out an annual inspection and verification visit *in situ* to check the establishments' degree of compliance with hotel standards.

4.96. The Government considers the tourism sector as one of the priority areas for the country's development. The Ministry responsible for tourism and the Mali Tourism Promotion Agency (APTMA) are tasked with promoting tourism. Several trade associations are also active in this area.²¹ Regular consultations are held between the national tourism administration and private-sector stakeholders. These meetings are generally called by the national tourism administration, but they may also be initiated by the private sector. A tourism development strategy was put in place in 2008 and ran until 2011.

4.97. Mali offers enormous potential for tourism. A dozen sites enjoy UNESCO world heritage status.²² The country boasts natural treasures such as the Gourma national park, home to around 500 of the largest elephants in the tropical region. These locations are suitable for various types of tourism, including ecotourism.

4.98. In the main, the tourism sector is open to the presence of foreign enterprises, and foreign investors enjoy the same privileges as domestic investors. Tourism establishments and travel agencies or tour operators must obtain an authorization to engage in the activity from the API-MALI.

²⁰ Online information viewed at: <http://donnees.banquemondiale.org/indicateur/ST.INT.ARVL>.

²¹ These include, among others, the Malian Association of Tourism Professionals, Malian Association of Travel Agencies and Tourism, National Federation of the Hotel Industry of Mali, Network of Women Hotelkeepers, Mali Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers, Tourism Industry Business Council, Association of Tourist Guides, Malian Association of travel agencies for pilgrimage and the Umrah, and Collective of travel agencies for the Hajj and the Umrah.

²² Not forgetting, for instance: the site of Djenné Djeno and the modern town of Djenné, Tombouctou and its mosques, Gao and the Tomb of Askia, the septennial re-roofing of Kamablon in Kangaba, the transhumance of cattle herds through Diafarabé and Dialoubé, the Dogon natural and cultural sanctuary.

4.99. Under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), Mali bound without limitations the supply of adult education services in the crafts subsector; hotel and restaurant services were also bound, with the exception of cross-border supply (not bound because of lack of technical feasibility according to the authorities).²³

4.100. The Investment Code grants benefits to investors in several economic areas, including tourism. The standard 18% VAT rate applies to tourism services. A tourism promotion tax is used to fund the work of the APTM.

4.4.4 Financial services

4.101. Mali did not make any specific commitments on the financial subsector under the GATS and did not take part in the WTO negotiations on financial services, concluded in 1998.

4.4.4.1 Banking and microfinance services

4.102. Banking operations in Mali are subject to the common banking regulations and the prudential provisions of the WAMU, which also performs a monitoring role (section 1; and common report, section 4).

4.103. Mali has 13 BCEAO-approved banks, and three financial establishments.²⁴ Banking establishments held around 97% of assets in the financial sector in 2015.²⁵

4.104. The rate of the tax on financial activities (TAF) is set at 15%. The TAF applies to banking or financial activities, and in general to trade in securities and money. The financial institutions subject to this tax are banks, financing establishments, foreign-exchange dealers and other persons principally engaged in banking or financial operations.

4.105. Although the financial sector is very largely dominated by banks in terms of volume of assets, microfinance has a bigger client base in terms of customer numbers. It plays an important role in providing financial services to the poorest households, to microenterprises and to small farmers. Microfinance serves around 1.4 million beneficiaries.

4.106. The activities of these financial institutions are subject to common WAEMU regulations (common report, section 4). In total, 126 microfinance institutions are listed on the register of authorized institutions in Mali.

4.107. The political instability which the country went through in 2012 led to a deterioration in the financial health of microfinance, which had already been hit by a crisis of confidence in 2010. This prompted a drastic increase in unpaid loans.²⁶

4.4.4.2 Insurance

4.108. The insurance market is subject to the regulations of the Inter-African Conference on Insurance Markets (CIMA) (common report, section 4). There are 11 insurance companies in Mali, eight of which handle general insurance (CNAR, Lafia, Sabu Nyuman, Allianz Mali, Saham Assurance Mali, Nallias S.A., NSIA Mali, Sunu Assurances Mali) and three specialize in life insurance (Sonavie, NSIA Vie Mali, Saham Vie Mali).

²³ WTO document GATS/SC/53 of 30 August 1995.

²⁴ Online information viewed at: <http://www.bceao.int/-Etablissements-de-credits-.html>.

²⁵ Online information viewed at:

<http://documents.banquemondiale.org/curated/fr/188841468194052200/pdf/105298-FRENCH-REPF-FSAP-P153363-PUBLIC-Mali-FSAPDM-TN-Microfinance.pdf>.

²⁶ Online information viewed at:

<http://documents.banquemondiale.org/curated/fr/188841468194052200/pdf/105298-FRENCH-REPF-FSAP-P153363-PUBLIC-Mali-FSAPDM-TN-Microfinance.pdf>.

4.109. The authorization required to operate in Mali is granted by the Minister for Finance, after receiving a favourable opinion from the Regional Insurance Monitoring Commission. Automobile third-party insurance, which is mandatory, alone accounts for almost half of turnover in the insurance market. The other mandatory types of insurance are the insurance of goods at importation, and construction insurance. The insurance subsector is overseen by the National Directorate of the Treasury and Public Accounts. Insurance services are subject to the tax on insurance contracts, levied at a rate of 4% for insurance contracts covering air, maritime, land or river navigation risks, and 20% for all other insurance contracts.

5 APPENDIX TABLES

Table A1. 1 Merchandise exports by HS section and major HS chapter, 2010-2016

Section	Chapter	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total (US\$ million)		1,997.2	2,399.4	2,626.3	2,776.4	2,851.2	3,170.0	3,005.7
Total (€ million)		1,508.0	1,726.0	2,044.0	2,091.1	2,149.0	2,858.3	2,717.3
		(% of total)						
01	Live animals; animal products	3.6	4.2	4.8	5.0	1.5	6.3	7.8
	01 Live animals	3.5	4.1	4.6	4.7	1.2	6.1	7.6
02	Vegetable products	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.1
03	Animal or vegetable fats and oils	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
04	Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.6
05	Mineral products	1.5	2.9	1.2	2.5	2.4	1.5	0.3
06	Products of the chemical or allied industries	1.9	7.0	6.5	5.9	7.2	3.8	3.7
	31 Fertilisers	1.5	6.5	6.1	5.6	6.7	3.3	3.1
07	Plastics and rubber	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
08	Raw hides and skins, and leather	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.3
09	Wood, cork, wickerwork	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.2
10	Pulp of wood, paper and paperboard	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
11	Textiles and textile articles	8.6	8.7	14.9	13.0	11.8	10.4	8.9
	52 Cotton	8.5	8.6	14.8	13.0	11.6	10.2	8.8
12	Footwear, headgear, etc.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	Precious stones and precious metals, pearls	79.1	70.5	65.7	67.7	70.5	69.6	72.9
	71 Precious metals (gold, non-monetary)	79.1	70.5	65.7	67.7	70.5	69.6	72.9
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.4
16	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	1.2	1.9	2.1	1.5	1.3	2.4	1.5
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	0.3	0.5	1.3	0.6	0.6	1.7	1.6
18	Precision instruments and apparatus	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19	Arms and ammunition	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0

Source: WTO calculations based on data provided by the Malian authorities.

Table A1. 2 Merchandise imports by HS section and major HS chapter, 2010-2016

Section	Chapter	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total (US\$ million)		3,425.9	3,352.6	3,466.1	3,822.4	3,926.7	3,994.6	3,845.1
Total (€ million)		2,586.7	2,411.7	2,697.6	2,878.9	2,959.7	3,601.7	3,476.1
		(% of total)						
01	Live animals; animal products	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.1	1.8
02	Vegetable products	3.9	4.9	6.1	6.7	5.9	6.2	6.7
	10 Cereals	2.2	3.2	4.5	4.9	3.9	3.6	4.3
03	Animal or vegetable fats and oils	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0
04	Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco	5.7	6.4	5.6	5.9	6.7	7.0	6.7
	21 Miscellaneous edible preparations	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.8	2.0	2.2
	24 Tobacco	1.2	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.6	1.7
05	Mineral products	25.5	35.9	34.4	33.1	31.7	26.5	28.1
	25 Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials	5.8	6.6	5.7	5.1	5.0	6.1	5.9
	27 Mineral fuels, mineral oils	19.7	29.3	28.7	28.0	26.7	20.3	22.2
06	Products of the chemical or allied industries	15.0	11.2	13.5	13.7	13.0	13.8	13.6
	30 Pharmaceutical products	7.9	3.0	4.2	4.3	4.8	5.1	4.0
	31 Fertilisers	2.8	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.0	5.6
07	Plastics and rubber	5.0	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.4	4.5	3.8
	39 Plastics	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.3
08	Raw hides and skins, and leather	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
09	Wood, cork, wickerwork	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
10	Pulp of wood, paper and paperboard	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.9	2.4	1.3	0.7
11	Textiles and textile articles	2.6	2.0	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.0
12	Footwear, headgear, etc.	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
14	Precious stones and precious metals, pearls	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	8.2	7.4	6.5	6.0	5.3	6.0	6.1
	72 Iron and steel	3.0	3.4	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.1
	73 Articles of iron or steel	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.1	2.7	3.0
16	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment	18.5	14.0	15.9	14.5	14.0	16.1	15.0
	84 Machinery and appliances	11.2	8.3	9.0	8.5	7.5	7.9	7.3
	85 Electrical equipment	7.3	5.7	6.8	6.1	6.5	8.2	7.8
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	7.3	8.4	6.5	7.4	8.8	9.3	9.1
	87 Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock	7.0	8.4	6.4	7.3	8.5	8.5	8.7
18	Precision instruments and apparatus	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7
19	Arms and ammunition	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.6	1.4	2.1
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other		0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0

Source: WTO calculations based on data provided by the Malian authorities.

Table A1. 3 Destination of exports, 2010-2016

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total (US\$ million)	1,997.2	2,399.4	2,626.3	2,776.4	2,851.2	3,170.0	3,005.7
Total (€ million)	1,508.0	1,726.0	2,044.0	2,091.1	2,149.0	2,858.3	2,717.3
	(percentage share)						
America	3.3	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.4
United States	3.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.3
Other America	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1
Europe	21.1	15.2	16.3	10.5	12.5	23.1	22.0
EU(28)	8.9	3.4	4.6	2.4	2.5	3.4	2.5
France	1.1	1.4	2.0	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.6
Netherlands	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4
Italy	6.0	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
EFTA	12.1	11.6	11.6	8.0	9.3	19.6	19.1
Switzerland	12.1	11.6	11.6	8.0	9.3	19.5	19.1
Other Europe	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.4
Turkey	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.4
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	0.0	1.6	1.3	0.6	1.8	0.5	0.3
Africa	67.5	73.0	64.3	74.0	66.0	60.5	58.9
South Africa	57.1	56.3	51.7	58.6	54.3	45.8	44.5
Côte d'Ivoire	2.0	3.7	4.5	5.2	3.1	4.8	5.7
Burkina Faso	2.2	4.2	3.6	3.0	5.0	3.9	3.7
Senegal	4.4	4.8	2.5	2.6	1.4	2.9	2.5
Guinea	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.4	0.9
Morocco	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5
Niger	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Mauritania	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Middle East	1.1	1.5	2.0	0.3	6.9	4.1	7.4
United Arab Emirates	1.0	1.5	0.7	0.2	6.7	4.0	7.4
Asia	7.0	8.2	15.7	13.6	12.2	11.0	11.0
China	2.0	3.6	7.8	4.2	2.1	1.2	1.0
Japan	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.2
Other Asia	4.9	4.5	7.6	9.3	10.1	9.4	9.8
Bangladesh	0.8	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.9	2.3	2.8
India	0.0	0.2	0.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.4
Malaysia	1.2	0.7	4.9	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.8
Indonesia	0.6	1.7	0.3	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.1
Viet Nam	0.4	0.4	0.5	2.3	2.0	1.0	1.0
Thailand	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.5
Memo:							
West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)	9.1	14.0	11.0	12.1	9.6	12.0	12.4
Côte d'Ivoire	2.0	3.7	4.5	5.2	3.1	4.8	5.7
Burkina Faso	2.2	4.2	3.6	3.0	5.0	3.9	3.7
Senegal	4.4	4.8	2.5	2.6	1.4	2.9	2.5
Niger	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Benin	0.3	0.7	0.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Togo	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Guinea-Bissau	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: WTO Secretariat calculations based on data received by the Malian authorities.

Table A1. 4 Origin of imports, 2010-2016

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total (US\$ million)	3,425.9	3,352.6	3,466.1	3,822.4	3,926.7	3,994.6	3,845.1
Total (€ million)	2,586.7	2,411.7	2,697.6	2,878.9	2,959.7	3,601.7	3,476.1
	(percentage share)						
America	8.4	5.8	5.5	6.2	6.5	5.1	4.9
United States	5.8	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.8	2.6	2.6
Other America	2.6	3.3	2.7	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.2
Brazil	1.8	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.2
Europe	27.7	21.6	20.9	22.1	24.5	27.1	24.8
EU(28)	26.9	20.4	19.7	20.8	23.4	25.4	23.7
France	15.1	10.3	10.8	9.3	11.2	10.3	8.6
Germany	2.9	3.5	2.2	3.0	2.9	4.0	4.4
Belgium	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.9
Italy	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.8	2.2	1.7
Netherlands	3.0	0.7	0.6	2.1	2.5	1.7	1.5
Spain	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.7	1.0	1.4	1.3
Lithuania	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
EFTA	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.3
Other Europe	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8
Turkey	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	2.6	3.6	2.7	3.0	3.0	1.8	2.6
Russian Federation	1.0	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.6
Belarus	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.8
Africa	40.6	48.8	51.0	45.5	43.3	40.9	42.3
Senegal	14.1	21.4	25.1	22.0	21.7	20.0	19.4
Côte d'Ivoire	6.7	8.1	8.3	9.0	9.5	10.4	9.8
South Africa	7.9	4.7	3.1	3.7	2.9	3.0	3.2
Benin	6.7	7.6	5.0	4.1	4.0	1.7	2.6
Morocco	0.8	1.2	0.7	1.5	1.0	1.9	2.5
Ghana	1.3	3.2	2.9	1.6	1.6	1.5	2.2
Middle East	1.5	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1
United Arab Emirates	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9
Asia	19.2	18.8	18.8	22.3	21.8	24.2	24.3
China	12.3	10.7	10.6	12.0	12.8	15.5	15.6
Japan	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.0
Other Asia	4.9	6.3	7.0	8.4	7.1	6.5	6.7
India	1.6	2.1	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.7	3.2
Australia	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.1	1.3	0.9
Memo:							
West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)	29.2	38.2	42.9	37.6	36.4	33.1	33.0
Senegal	14.1	21.4	25.1	22.0	21.7	20.0	19.4
Côte d'Ivoire	6.7	8.1	8.3	9.0	9.5	10.4	9.8
Benin	6.7	7.6	5.0	4.1	4.0	1.7	2.6
Togo	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5
Niger	0.0	0.0	3.0	1.8	0.9	0.2	0.4
Burkina Faso	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2
Guinea-Bissau	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: WTO Secretariat calculations based on data received by the Malian authorities.