ANNEX 1: CAMEROON

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1 ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Main features of the economy

1.1. Cameroon is an average-sized country in Central Africa, situated along the Gulf of Guinea. It was home to an estimated population of 29.9 million in 2021 and covers an area of 475,650 km^2 (Table 1.1). Its geographical position, sharing borders with Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Chad and Nigeria, make it a regional centre for transit and trade in respect of goods and services. With the exception of Nigeria, all of its neighbouring countries form, together with Cameroon, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), whose members are part of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) (Section 2.3).

1.2. Cameroon boasts vast natural resources (including oil, gas and wood) and a favourable climate for developing agriculture, the main products of which are coffee, cocoa, cotton and bananas. In addition, thanks to its coastline of approximately 402 km along the Gulf of Guinea and its three autonomous ports, Douala, Limbe and Kribi, there is plenty of scope for the country to expand economically. All of these assets make Cameroon's economy the most diversified within the CEMAC zone.

1.3. The sectoral distribution of GDP remained stable overall during the review period. The services sector, which is driven by trade, hotels, restaurants, transport and storage, accounted for 55.7% of GDP in 2021. Mining and manufacturing contributed over 20% of GDP. Agriculture (including fisheries, animal husbandry, forestry and logging) plays a key role. Its GDP share increased steadily from 14.6% in 2012 to 16.4% in 2021. It employs around 60% of the working population and significantly contributes to non-oil export earnings.

1.4. With a gross national income per capita of USD 1,590 in 2021, Cameroon is still a lower middle-income country, as per its classification by the World Bank.[1] Cameroon is CEMAC's largest economy in GDP terms (Common Report, Section 1), and the size of its population means that it alone accounts for around half of the CEMAC zone's market.

Table 1.1 Basic economic indicators, 2012-21

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Various										
GDP at current market prices (CFAF billion)	14,858.6	15,981.2	17,276.3	18,285.3	19,304.8	20,328.4	21,492.6	22,854.8	23,085.7	25,103.8
Non-oil nominal GDP (CFAF billion)	13,771.0	14,910.3	16,141.7	17,509.8	18,687.0	19,628.8	20,594.5	22,034.6	22,653.2	24,426.5
GDP at current market prices (USD billion)	29.1	32.4	35.0	30.9	32.6	35.0	38.7	39.0	40.1	45.3
Real GDP growth (%, at constant 2005 prices)	4.5	5.4	5.9	5.7	4.6	3.6	4.0	3.5	0.3	3.6
Oil sector	3.7	8.4	14.4	24.8	-3.6	-16.4	-2.7	8.5	2.9	-2.4
Non-oil sector	4.6	5.2	5.4	4.4	5.3	5.0	4.4	3.3	0.2	3.9
Population (million)	23.7	24.3	25.0	25.6	26.3	27.0	27.7	28.4	29.1	29.9
GDP per capita (USD)	1,228.4	1,330.4	1,402.5	1,208.1	1,239.9	1,298.5	1,405.3	1,374.9	1,379.8	1,516.6
Inflation (consumer prices, annual average, December)	2.4	2.1	1.8	2.7	0.9	0.6	1.1	2.5	2.5	2.3
National accounts at current prices (% of GDP)										
Consumption	82.1	82.2	81.5	83.4	81.3	80.9	79.8	81.0	80.9	79.6
Public (State)	12.2	12.3	12.2	12.3	12.1	11.1	11.1	11.0	11.2	11.1
Private	69.9	69.8	69.3	71.2	69.2	69.8	68.7	70.0	69.7	68.5
Gross investment	22.8	23.1	24.1	22.4	22.7	22.9	22.8	23.0	21.8	22.7
Gross fixed capital formation	22.8	22.6	23.7	23.0	22.6	23.0	22.8	23.0	21.7	22.7
Public (State)	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.8	4.4	4.0	4.0	2.8	3.0
Private (companies and households)	17.8	17.7	19.0	18.6	17.8	18.6	18.8	19.0	18.9	19.7
Oil sector	3.2	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.0
Non-oil sector	14.6	14.2	15.7	15.7	15.9	16.5	16.8	17.1	17.2	17.7
Changes in inventories	0.0	0.4	0.3	-0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.0
Net exports	-4.9	-5.2	-5.5	-5.8	-4.0	-3.9	-2.6	-3.9	-2.7	-2.3

[1] Online information. Viewed at: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD?locations=CM.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Exports of non-factor goods and services	25.4	24.8	24.6	21.8	19.2	18.7	19.1	19.8	15.2	18.0
Imports of non-factor goods and services	-30.3	-30.0	-30.1	-27.6	-23.2	-22.6	-21.6	-23.7	-17.9	-20.2
Sectoral distribution (% of nominal GDP at factor cost)										
Agriculture	14.6	14.8	15.3	16.1	15.6	15.7	15.7	15.8	16.3	16.4
Food crops	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.9	8.2	8.2	8.7	8.4
Agricultural exports	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.9	2.8	3.2
Animal husbandry, hunting and trapping	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
Fisheries	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Forestry and logging	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
Oil	7.8	7.1	7.0	4.6	3.5	3.7	4.6	3.9	2.0	2.9
Natural gas	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	1.2	1.1	1.7
Mining products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Industry	16.1	16.0	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.5	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.3
Electricity, gas and water	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
Construction and public works	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.4	6.7	6.7
Services	55.4	55.8	55.6	56.6	57.7	56.8	56.2	55.9	56.9	55.7
Transport and communications	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.5	8.9	8.5	8.3	8.2	8.6	8.4
Trade, hotels and restaurants	20.9	20.8	20.8	21.2	21.0	21.2	20.9	21.3	20.7	20.5
Other tradable services and adjustments	15.6	15.9	15.7	15.9	16.8	16.2	16.2	15.8	16.4	15.4
Non-tradable services	10.8	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.8	10.6	11.3	11.4
Public finances (% of GDP)										
Total revenue	16.4	16.5	16.0	16.8	14.6	15.0	16.0	15.4	13.8	13.9
Oil revenue	4.7	4.4	3.3	3.0	2.2	1.9	2.3	2.6	1.9	1.9
Non-oil revenue (excluding privatization revenue)	11.7	12.1	12.7	13.8	12.4	13.1	13.7	12.8	11.9	12.0
Total expenditure	17.2	20.0	19.5	18.7	20.8	20.2	18.7	19.1	17.2	17.4
Current expenditure	12.2	13.4	12.8	12.7	12.5	12.2	11.9	12.4	12.3	12.6
Capital expenditure	5.0	6.7	6.8	6.0	8.3	8.1	6.8	6.7	4.8	4.8
Budgetary balance, commitments basis, excluding grants (deficit -)	-0.8	-3.5	-3.5	-1.8	-6.2	-5.2	-2.7	-3.7	-3.4	-3.4
Budgetary balance, commitments basis, including grants (deficit -)	-0.4	-3.2	-3.1	-1.8	-6.0	-4.9	-2.3	-3.2	-3.2	-3.0
External sector										
Real effective exchange rate (% change)[a]	-3.8	2.6	0.8	-6.2	2.1	0.8	1.5	-1.1	3.0	0.1
CFAF per USD (annual average)	510.6	493.9	493.8	591.2	592.6	580.7	555.4	585.9	575.6	554.5
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-3.3	-3.5	-4.0	-3.8	-3.2	-2.7	-3.6	-4.3	-3.8	-4.0
Outstanding external debt (% of GDP)	7.4	9.5	14.8	18.7	20.6	24.1	26.6	28.0	33.3	33.6
Outstanding overall debt (including guaranteed debt) (% of GDP)	..	..	20.9	24.9	27.5	33.2	36.6	39.1	45.0	47.9
External reserves (in months of imports of good and services)	4.9	4.6	4.3	5.6	4.0	5.1	5.2	4.8	6.2	6.0
FDI inflows (USD million)	739.2	567.2	726.5	627.4	663.8	814.0	761.5	1,026.9	675.2	850.0
% of GDP	2.5	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.6	1.7	1.9
Inward FDI stock (USD million)	4,193.6	4,972.6	5,042.5	5,137.6	5,602.3	7,237.1	7,652.1	8,538.2	8,931.1	9,781.1
% of GDP	14.4	15.4	14.4	16.6	17.2	20.7	19.8	21.9	22.3	21.6

.. Not available.

a A minus sign indicates a depreciation.

Note: The CFA franc used by the CEMAC countries is pegged to the euro at a rate of EUR 1 = 655.96.

Source: BEAC. Viewed at: https://www.beac.int/economie-stats/statistiques-economiques/; IMF, International Financial Statistics. Viewed at: http://elibrary-data.imf.org/; IMF, Regional Economic Outlook, October 2019. Viewed at: https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2019/10/01/sreo1019; UNCTADstat. Viewed at: http://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html; and data provided by the authorities.

1.5. Cameroon's economic potential is still largely untapped. The country is experiencing governance problems which are making it less attractive to investment. It was ranked 142nd out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index.[2] The reforms undertaken during the review period included establishing alternative mechanisms for settling investment disputes, improving the Single Window facility and reducing the minimum capital required for starting a business. The business climate reforms have thus far failed either to attract significant foreign capital or to encourage companies to leave the informal sector, which would have contributed 42% of GDP in 2020.[3]

1.6. Cameroon falls within the UNDP's medium human development category with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.576 (compared to 0.533 in 2012), ranking 151st out of 191 countries and territories. Life expectancy was 60.8 years in 2020. Poverty and unemployment levels are still high, and significant wealth-distribution disparities persist within the country, mainly due to insufficient and non-distributive economic growth, and governance issues. The poverty rate is 37.5% according to the latest figures (2014).[4] The unemployment rate is officially estimated to be 10%, but there is a high rate of under-employment in the economy (69%). Despite the relative political and economic stability, Cameroon has been struck by security, humanitarian and economic crises in recent years.

1.7. As a member of CEMAC, Cameroon shares the same currency, the Central African Financial Cooperation franc (CFA franc), with other Member States in a fixed exchange rate regime pegged to the euro.[5] Together, they have harmonized their monetary and financial systems under the mandate of the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) (Common Report).

1.8. Cameroon accepted Article VIII of the IMF's Articles of Agreement on 1 June 1996. It applies the exchange rate regime adopted at the CEMAC level (Common Report, Section 1).

1.2 Recent economic developments

1.9. Cameroon's GDP growth has remained relatively strong overall since 2012. Despite these positive signs, it has still been below the 5.5% target set out in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP). The country has enjoyed accelerated economic growth, with annual rates rising from 4.5% in 2012 to 5.7% in 2015, mainly due to a significant increase in oil production. Oil revenues have helped to boost domestic consumption, particularly household consumption, which is still the largest expenditure component (almost 70% of GDP on average) (Table 1.1), followed by private investment and public expenditure.

1.10. From 2016 onwards, GDP growth gradually declined, falling from 5.7% in 2015 to 3.5% in 2019, with, however, a slight recovery in 2018 (Table 1.1). This decrease is due to a drop in oil production and related investments. Protracted security crises, most notably the attacks by the armed group Boko Haram in the far north and the socio-political unrest in the North-West and South-West regions, also affected the economic situation. Activities in the transport, hotel, telecommunications and agriculture sectors sharply contracted in the regions affected by the violence. The Government initiated a national dialogue in September 2019 with a view to ending the socio-political crisis. The authorities indicated that measures were taken in 2019 to declare these areas "economically distressed" and thus eligible to receive certain benefits. Examples of these benefits include tax subsidies to encourage enterprises to invest in such areas, as part of a Presidential Reconstruction and Development Plan, which has been allocated CFAF 154 billion.[6] The slight recovery in 2018 was largely spearheaded by the non-oil sector, including the food industry, services and, most notably, construction and public works, driven by the intensive work to prepare

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[2] Transparency International, Poverty Perception Index. Viewed at: https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/cameroon.

[3] IMF, Cameroon: 2021 Article IV Consultation. Viewed at: https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2022/03/11/Cameroon-2021-Article-IV-Consultation-and-First-Reviews-Under-the-Extended-Credit-Facility-514974.

[4] World Bank, online information, viewed at: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.NAHC?locations=CM.

[5] EUR 1 = CFAF 655.957 since 1 January 1994.

[6] Decree No. 2019/3178/PM of 2 September 2019 specifying the procedures for implementing "economically distressed zone" status and the requirements for the related tax benefits outlined in Articles 121 and 121 *bis* of the General Tax Code; and Decree No. 2019/3179/PM of 2 September 2019 granting the status of "economically distressed zone" to the far-North, North-West and South-West regions.

for the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), which was postponed until 2021, and other major infrastructure projects. The 10-year plan (2010-20 GESP), which is part of the Vision 2035 document, has led to public investment in the Kribi gas-power station, the Nachtigal and Lom Pangar hydroelectric power stations, the CEMAC Transport and Transit Facilitation Project, and the Agriculture Investment and Market Development Project. In particular, this plan aimed to accelerate growth to 5.5% on average per year, to create more formal jobs in order to reduce underemployment to 50% in 2020, and to alleviate poverty, which was expected to be reduced to 28.7% in 2020. In addition, in June 2017, Cameroon signed a three-year agreement with the IMF to "restore fiscal and external sustainability and buttress private sector-led and inclusive growth".[7]

1.11. The health crisis (COVID-19) in 2020 caused a significant deterioration in the economic situation. As a result, growth slowed sharply (0.3%) in 2020. However, economic activity started to recover in 2021, when economic growth resumed, buoyed by the non-oil sector. The GDP growth rate stood at 3.6%, which was higher than its 2019 level.

1.12. The current growth rate is seemingly not enough for Cameroon to become an upper middle-income country by 2035, as planned by the Government in its Vision 2035 document. According to the World Bank, in order to achieve this, Cameroon's GDP will have to grow at an average rate of approximately 8% per year until 2035.[8] In 2021, the country adopted the 2030 Cameroon National Development Strategy (NDS30), to serve as a reference framework for its development activities over the next decade. According to the authorities, it is built upon on the lessons learned from implementing the GESP, with a view to achieving the objectives of Vision 2035. The Cameroonian authorities are expecting GDP growth of approximately 6% under the NDS30.

1.13. At a macroeconomic level, the CEMAC countries, including Cameroon, pursue common monetary and foreign exchange policies within the framework of the Central African Monetary Union (CAMU) (Common Report, Section 1). Therefore, within a monetary union where BEAC is implementing a cautious monetary policy and the Member States cannot finance their deficits through assistance from the Central Bank, inflation in Cameroon is, to a large extent, sensitive to the prices of foodstuffs and petroleum products, which are generally subject to control and regulation (Section 3). Therefore, during the review period, inflation remained below the 3% regional convergence criterion, with, however, rates ranging from 2.7% (in 2015) to 0.6% (in 2017).

1.14. On the fiscal side, total annual receipts (as a percentage of GDP) remained stable from 2012 to 2015. In 2016, they fluctuated in accordance with oil revenues, as well as the domestic-industry tax base (Table 1.1). Expenditure (as a proportion of GDP) fluctuated, with notable increases in 2016 and 2017 (over 20% of GDP). In addition to the expenditure arising as a result of the various security crises, there was also significant public investment expenditure, as set out above. The increase in the share of capital expenditure in the national budget confirmed this trend of undertaking major public infrastructure construction works in 2016 and 2017.

1.15. Given the pressures on government revenue and the high expenditure levels, the budget deficit (including grants), which was 0.4% of GDP in 2012, fluctuated during the review period, peaking in 2016 and 2017 (Table 1.1). The deficit sharply declined to 2.3% in 2018, thanks to an increase in the tax base and fiscal consolidation measures. In 2017, the Government focused on fiscal consolidation as a matter of priority, signing a three-year agreement with the IMF. Measures were taken to improve fiscal governance, including increased transparency around the governance of customs services and improved cooperation between tax and customs administrations.[9] The authorities also introduced Treasury single accounts (TSA) into the government finances set-up.

1.16. In addition to the programme with the IMF, the reforms were also pursued as part and parcel of the fiscal discipline established at CEMAC level, through the adoption of the Code of Transparency and Good Governance, the budget laws, general regulations on government accounts, budget nomenclature and flow-of-fund tables. This approach aims to modernize national public financial

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[7] IMF (2018), *Cameroon:2018 Article IV Consultation.* International Monetary Fund. Viewed at: https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/CMR.

[8] World Bank, *Cameroon – Country Economic Memorandum*. Viewed at: https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/981281491336365033/pdf/Cameroon-economic-memorandum-markets-public-administration-and-growth.pdf.

[9] Cameroon, Third Review under the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement. Viewed at: https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/CMR.

management systems and make them more transparent, and provide greater comparability of public financial data, meaning that government economic, fiscal and financial policies can be monitored more effectively. As a result, Cameroon adopted Law No. 2018/011 of 11 July 2018 on the Code of Transparency and Good Governance in Public Financial Management; and Law No. 2018/012 of 11 July 2018 on the State's and other public bodies' financial system. The government procurement framework was also modernized in order to promote transparency around awarding and performing government contracts (Section 3.3.5). Technical tools for managing public expenditure were introduced, including technical tools for aligning the expenditure commitment programme with the government-contract procurement and performance plan.

1.17. The government deficit was contained at around 3% of GDP from 2019 to 2021, despite the challenges faced in mobilizing resources, particularly against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic restrictions introduced by the authorities, and the measures put in place by the authorities to support businesses and households. Events that worsened the government deficit increased Cameroon's government debt. However, as a proportion of GDP, the debt is still far below the 70% ceiling set by CEMAC; it rose to 36.6% of GDP in 2018 from 20.9% in 2014; and the country's debtor position has increased since 2019. There is still a high risk of debt distress, according to the IMF, which believes that efforts are needed in order to maintain debt sustainability, including by limiting new non-concessional borrowing and by reducing subsidies to state-owned enterprises through the gradual adjustment of administered prices.[10]

1.18. Cameroon's current account balance is still negative, as is the goods and services deficit. While the trade in goods deficit fluctuated during the review period, the services deficit, which is the main contributor to the current account deficit, gradually widened from USD 500 million in 2012 to USD 681.4 million in 2015 before gradually falling until 2017. The sharp decline in the current account in 2018 was due, in particular, to the pick-up in economic activity, which seemingly enabled mass imports of capital goods to resume. In 2019 and 2021, the increased demand for transport and travel services widened the services deficit. As a result, the current account deficit increased further until 2021.

Table 1.2 Balance of payments, 2012-21

(USD million)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Current account balance	-955.9	-1,128.1	-1,402.0	-1,173.7	-1,037.4	-949.8	-1,409.3	-1,695.1	-1,512.4	-1,795.0
Foreign trade balance (goods)	-274.1	-197.3	-449.4	-372.1	-237.2	-226.8	-533.0	-736.8	-679.4	-523.9
Exports	5,756.8	6,081.5	6,571.0	5,219.1	4,590.9	4,603.4	5,184.3	5,525.6	4,415.8	6,005.7
Imports	6,030.9	6,278.9	7,020.5	5,591.2	4,828.1	4,830.2	5,717.4	6,262.4	5,095.1	6,529.6
Balance of services	-500.4	-620.0	-628.3	-681.7	-591.5	-495.8	-588.4	-617.8	-408.6	-1,054.6
Credit	1,628.1	1,946.4	2,031.1	1,516.5	1,656.9	1,945.2	2,116.8	2,205.2	1,708.7	1,442.9
Transport	536.9	567.9	609.5	465.0	484.8	591.8	665.8	674.0	591.5	502.7
Travel	349.5	576.2	596.2	450.1	505.4	524.8	580.7	653.4	437.0	506.7
Other services	741.7	802.3	825.3	601.5	666.0	828.5	868.7	876.2	678.5	433.2
Debit	2,128.5	2,566.4	2,659.4	2,198.2	2,248.4	2,441.0	2,705.2	2,823.0	2,117.3	2,497.5
Transport	907.2	999.2	1,042.4	906.4	828.6	842.4	989.1	1,063.6	787.7	1,088.9
Travel	517.6	612.6	630.7	568.5	615.1	635.2	687.6	749.3	553.2	714.5
Other services	703.8	954.7	986.3	723.3	804.6	963.4	1,028.0	1,009.6	775.9	693.9
Primary income	-444.8	-615.2	-683.5	-436.9	-556.1	-651.5	-741.4	-843.5	-838.5	-733.2
Credit	205.7	167.8	162.5	182.3	202.8	194.5	210.5	231.5	162.4	139.8
Debit	650.4	783.0	846.1	619.2	758.9	845.9	951.9	1,075.0	1,000.9	873.1
Secondary income	263.3	304.5	359.3	317.0	347.3	424.3	453.5	503.0	414.1	516.7
Credit	506.2	554.0	640.8	587.1	635.3	702.4	749.2	780.6	656.6	784.9
Debit	242.8	249.5	281.5	270.1	287.9	278.1	295.7	277.6	242.6	268.2
Capital account	117.1	97.4	95.4	21.8	98.8	120.5	159.2	263.9	74.0	120.7
Financial account	-995.9	-1,173.7	-1,388.9	-1,125.9	-922.7	-1,121.3	-1,402.3	-1,494.1	-1,881.5	-1,754.9
Direct investment	-809.7	-705.0	-737.6	-638.5	-702.8	-792.6	-657.2	-898.9	-590.8	-892.5
Portfolio investments	1.5	69.8	63.7	-704.5	65.1	-20.5	34.8	-114.0	-35.8	181.9
Financial derivatives and employee stock options	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-23.0	0.0	-8.9	-8.4	-8.9	0.0
Other investments	-304.0	-464.3	-840.3	-489.5	992.8	-977.9	-1,184.0	-801.9	-1,159.2	-1,707.5
Reserve assets	116.3	-74.3	125.2	706.6	-1,254.7	669.7	412.9	329.1	-86.8	663.2
Errors and omissions	-157.1	-143.1	-82.4	26.0	16.0	-292.0	-152.2	-62.9	-443.1	-80.5

Note: 2016 is the juncture between official estimates based on BPM6 and estimates converted by the IMF on the basis of BPM5.

Source: IMF, International Financial Statistics. Viewed at: http://elibrary-data.imf.org/.

[10] Cameroon, Third Review under the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement. Viewed at: https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/CMR.

1.19. According to the IMF, in the medium term, growth will continue to increase gradually to 4.8% in 2023, and continue over the medium term at an annual average of 5%. This performance is expected to be achieved by implementing the National Development Strategy for 2020-30 (SND30) and large infrastructure projects (in particular, road and energy projects).[11]

1.20. The current account deficit is expected to stabilize at around 3% of GDP in the medium term, with foreign exchange reserves at around five months of imports. These are achievable objectives, particularly if the authorities implement export stimulus programmes and seize the opportunities offered by the ongoing regional integration enhancement process.

1.3 Developments in trade and investment

1.3.1 Trends and patterns in merchandise and services trade

1.21. Cameroon's trade in goods and services as a proportion of GDP declined steadily from 55.7% in 2012 to 33.1% in 2020, before starting to rise again during 2021 (Table 1.1).

1.22. The value of exports, which was relatively stable between 2012 and 2015, despite rising significantly in 2013, fell by half in 2016. This fall was due to lower raw material prices, mainly in the oil sector, and led to fuels and mining products accounting for a lesser share of total exports (Table A1.1).

1.23. Agricultural products are still a major source of export earnings, with their share in exports increasing over the review period, spearheaded by cocoa, coffee, cotton and wood. The share of manufactured goods is still relatively low compared to the other export categories (Chart 1.1 and Table A1.1).

1.24. Europe remained Cameroon's main export market until 2017, receiving more than half of its export flows. The main European partners are Spain, the Netherlands, and France. From 2017, the Asian market, led by China, became the largest destination for Cameroon's exports. This rise in exports has come at the expense of European and African markets, including markets in CEMAC countries (Chart 1.2 and Table A1.2).

1.25. In value terms, imports fluctuated slightly, peaking in 2014. The import share of manufactured products, which accounted for 47.2% of total imports, rose to over 50% in 2013, and this trend continued almost throughout the review period (Chart 1.1 and Table A1.3). Agricultural products, particularly food (rice and wheat), form the second largest import category for Cameroon.

1.26. As is the case with exports, Europe and Asia are still Cameroon's main sources of imports. Imports from Africa declined throughout the review period (Chart 1.2 and Table A1.3). Imports from Nigeria, which comprise solely crude oil, virtually stopped in 2019, due to the SONARA refinery ceasing operations as a result of being destroyed by a fire.

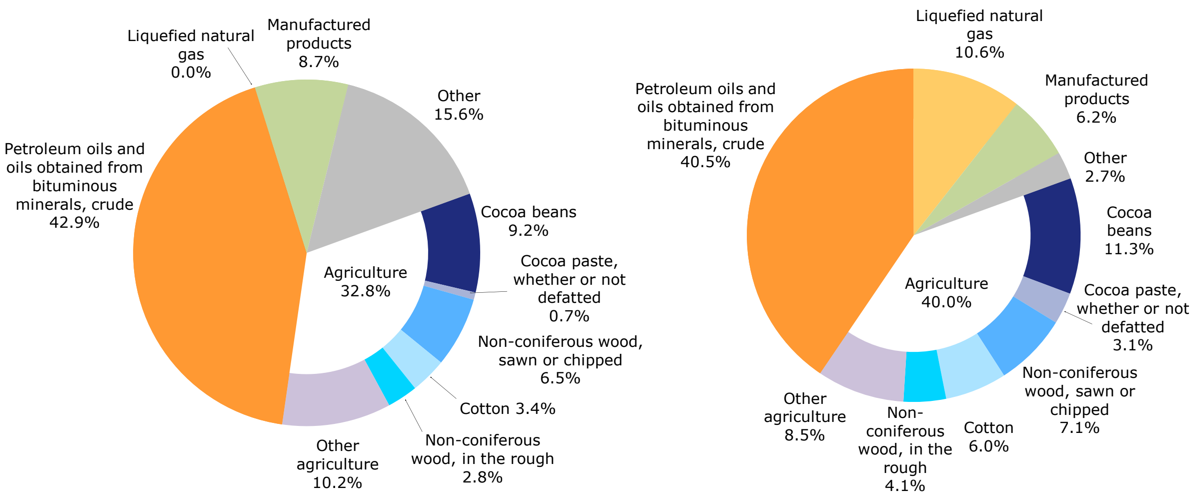
1.27. Imports of goods from other CEMAC countries are still tiny (less than 1% on average). These figures do not, however, take into account unrecorded trade (for example, cross-border trade or smuggling) in the region.

[11] IMF, Cameroon: 2021 Article IV Consultation. Viewed at: https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2022/03/11/Cameroon-2021-Article-IV-Consultation-and-First-Reviews-Under-the-Extended-Credit-Facility-514974.

Chart 1.1 Structure of trade in goods, 2012 and 2021

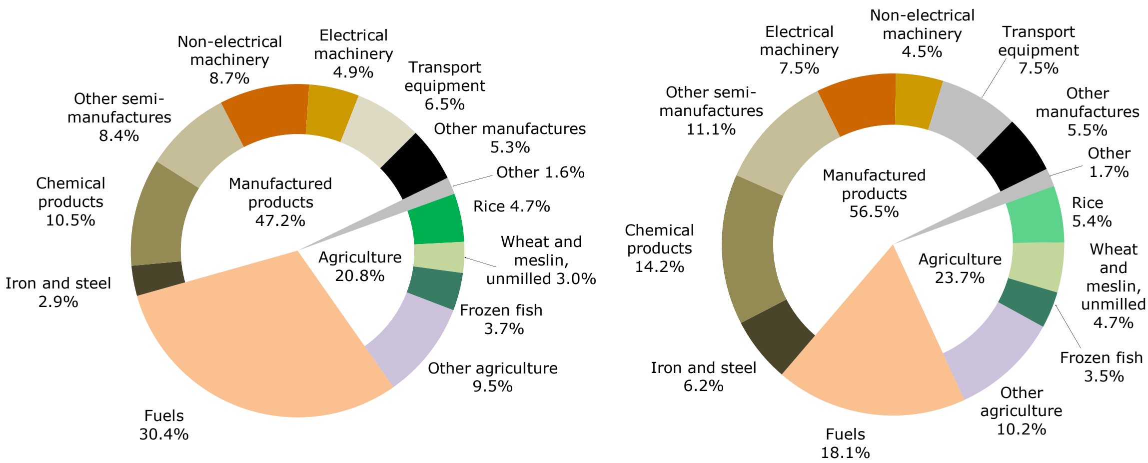
2012 **2021**

(a) Exports (f.o.b.)



Total: USD 4,275.0 million **Total: USD 4,319.1 million**

(b) Imports (c.i.f.)



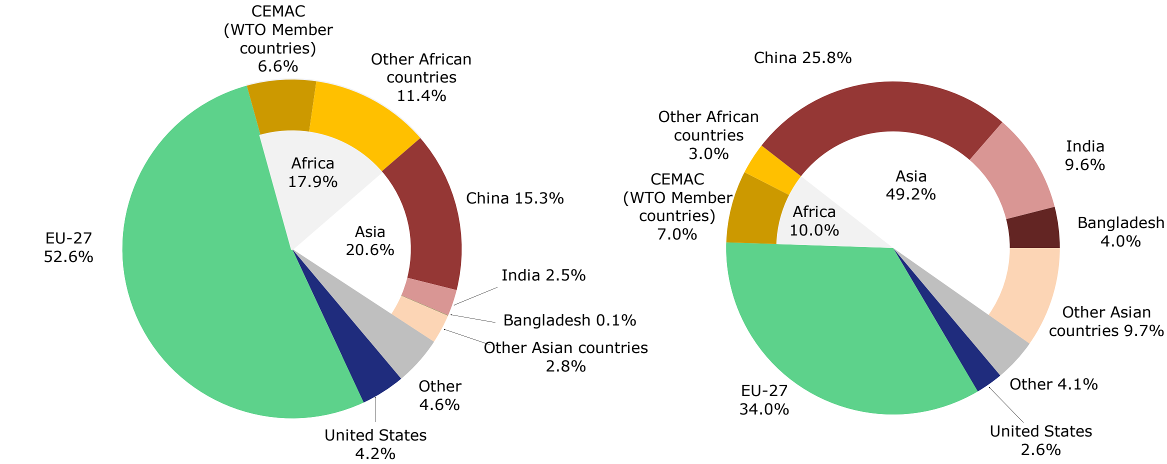
Total: USD 6,515.1 million **Total: USD 6,984.9 million**

Source: WTO Secretariat calculations based on data from the International Trade Centre Trade Map (SITC Rev.3).

Chart 1.2 Direction of trade in goods, 2012 and 2021

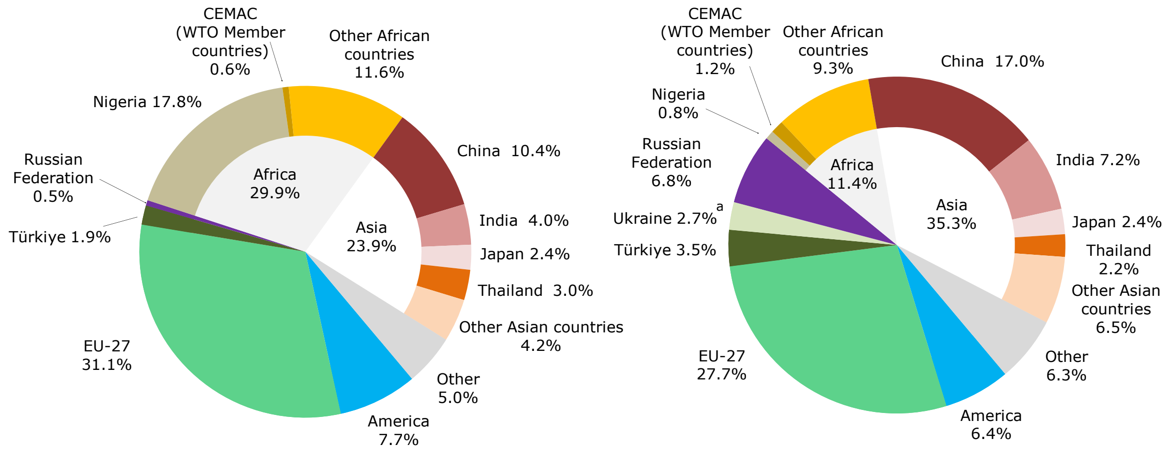
2012 **2021**

(a) Exports (f.o.b.)



Total: USD 4,275.0 million **Total: USD 4,319.1 million**

(b) Imports (c.i.f.)



Total: USD 6,515.1 million **Total: USD 6,984.9 million**

a There was no trade in 2012.

Source: WTO Secretariat calculations based on data from the International Trade Centre Trade Map.

1.28. Cameroon is a net services importer. Mass service imports are seemingly following the same trajectory as GDP growth, with periods of large deficits that reflect the increased demand for transport and travel services, as well as engineering services as part of infrastructure works. Imports and exports are still heavily dominated by transport, travel and business services (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3 Trade in services, 2012-21

(USD million and %)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Services trade balance (USD million)	**-500.4**	**-620.0**	**-628.3**	**-681.7**	**-591.5**	**-495.8**	**-588.4**	**-617.8**	**-408.6**	**-1,054.6**
Exports (USD million)	**1,628.1**	**1,946.4**	**2,031.1**	**1,516.5**	**1,656.9**	**1,945.2**	**2,116.8**	**2,205.2**	**1,708.7**	**1,442.9**
	(percentage share)									
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Transport	33.0	29.2	30.0	30.7	29.3	30.4	31.5	30.6	34.6	34.8
Travel	21.5	29.6	29.4	29.7	30.5	27.0	27.4	29.6	25.6	35.1
Other services	45.6	41.2	40.6	39.7	40.2	42.6	41.0	39.7	39.7	30.0
Construction	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.6	3.6
Insurance and pension services	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.8	1.2
Financial services	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.3	6.4	6.1	4.9	2.2	2.4
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	5.9	5.4	5.3	6.3	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.3	8.8	4.0
Other business services	24.0	21.0	20.6	17.4	16.7	15.7	14.6	17.0	16.7	13.6
Personal, cultural and recreational services	5.5	5.0	4.9	5.6	5.3	4.8	4.5	3.4	2.1	1.2
Government goods and services n.i.e.	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.3	4.6	5.4	3.8
Imports (USD million)	**2,128.5**	**2,566.4**	**2,659.4**	**2,198.2**	**2,248.4**	**2,441.0**	**2,705.2**	**2,823.0**	**2,117.3**	**2,497.5**
	(percentage share)									
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transport	42.6	38.9	39.2	41.2	36.9	34.5	36.6	37.7	37.2	43.6
Travel	24.3	23.9	23.7	25.9	27.4	26.0	25.4	26.5	26.1	28.6
Other services	33.1	37.2	37.1	32.9	35.8	39.5	38.0	35.8	36.6	27.8
Construction	2.6	2.4	2.4	4.3	7.1	4.3	4.2	4.5	2.0	0.9
Insurance and pension services	5.6	5.0	5.3	5.6	6.2	5.3	5.3	5.0	6.2	5.1
Financial services	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.6	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.0	1.0
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.6	3.1	3.0	3.4	4.8	4.3
Other business services	18.3	24.1	23.5	16.6	15.2	22.3	20.9	18.8	19.9	15.2
Personal, cultural and recreational services	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.3
Government goods and services n.i.e.	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	1.8	2.1	0.5

Note: 2016 is the juncture between official estimates based on BPM6 and estimates converted by the IMF on the basis of BPM5.

Source: IMF, International Financial Statistics. Viewed at: http://elibrary-data.imf.org/.

1.3.2 Trends and patterns in FDI

1.29. Inflows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Cameroon are rather volatile and are somewhat influenced by anticipated oil exploitation opportunities. During the review period, they fluctuated between approximately USD 500 million and USD 800 million. They peaked in 2017 (USD 1 billion). The volume of FDI steadily increased from USD 4.1 billion in 2012 to USD 9.7 billion in 2021 (Table 1.1).

1.30. The European Union (particularly France and Germany) is the main source of FDI into Cameroon. Such FDI targets mining and energy production in particular. China has also established itself as a significant source of FDI into Cameroon. In particular, the two countries worked in partnership to build sports infrastructure in the run-up to the AFCON and hydroelectric dams (Section 1.2).

2 TRADE AND INVESTMENT REGIMES

2.1 General framework

2.1. Since Cameroon's last Trade Policy Review, its overall institutional and legal framework has not substantially changed. The current Constitution has been in force since 1972, and was amended in 1996 and in 2008. It stipulates that the Republic of Cameroon is a decentralized unitary State, with 10 regions each headed by a Governor appointed by the President of the Republic. The 1996 amendment provided for, *inter alia*, the creation of regional councils responsible for promoting the development of the regions. In 2019, the regions were established by Law No. 2019/024 of 24 December 2019 on the General Code for Decentralized Territorial Authorities, while regional councils were elected in December 2020. The main objective of the 2008 amendment was to abolish the limit on the number of consecutive terms that the President of the Republic may serve.

2.2. The Constitution also enshrines the separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for a term of seven years, which may be renewed without limitation. The next presidential election will be held in 2025. The President is the Head of State and holds executive power. In this capacity, he shapes national policy and is responsible, *inter alia*, for negotiating and ratifying international treaties and agreements, and for enacting laws. He appoints the Prime Minister and, on the latter's recommendation, other members of the Government. He is responsible for appointing the members of the Supreme Court and other judicial authorities. The Government is in charge of implementing national policy, as defined by the President. The current ministerial structure dates back to 2011.[12] The Ministry of Trade is responsible for defining, implementing and evaluating Cameroon's trade policy. The Ministry of Finance is responsible, *inter alia*, for drawing up and implementing fiscal policy, including customs policy.

2.3. Legislative authority is vested in the bicameral Parliament (a two-chamber body). The National Assembly, the current members of which were elected in February 2020, is made up of 180 members elected by direct universal suffrage for five years. The Senate, which was established in 2013, is made up of 100 members, including 70 elected by direct universal suffrage and 30 appointed by the Head of State. The most recent Senate elections were held on 25 March 2018. Laws passed by Parliament are forwarded to the President of the Republic who enacts them before they are published in the Official Journal. In certain circumstances, the Government may issue ordinances that are valid for a limited period. Legislation is proposed both by the President and the Parliament (Assembly and Senate). The areas reserved for Parliament (regarding which the President must first seek Parliament's approval) include citizens' guaranteed rights and basic obligations; the status of an individual and the property regime; and the political, administrative and judicial structure.[13]

2.4. Judicial authority is vested in the Supreme Court, the courts of appeal and the lower courts. The Constitutional Council, which was introduced by the 1996 amendments to the Constitution, has been operating since 2018, with its members appointed in February of the same year. It is responsible for ruling on, *inter alia*, the constitutionality of international laws, treaties and agreements; the National Assembly and Senate's domestic laws; and any jurisdictional disputes between state institutions, most notably, between the State and the regions, and between regions. The Constitutional Council also ensures that the presidential election, parliamentary elections and any referenda are conducted legally. Until it became operational, the Supreme Court carried out these tasks.

2.5. International treaties and agreements have force of law once signed and ratified by Cameroon, subject to their implementation by the other parties. They take precedence over national legal texts. Domestically, the Constitution remains the highest legal authority, coming before laws, ordinances, decrees and orders. During the review period, Cameroon adopted a number of laws on international trade (Section 3). Commercial litigation between economic operators is heard in the ordinary courts should there not be a commercial court. A WTO agreement may be invoked directly before the domestic courts.

[12] Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 on the structure of the Government.
[13] Office of the President of the Republic, Note on the Parliament. Viewed at: https://www.prc.cm/en/Cameroon/institutions/49-the-president-of-the-national-assembly.

2.6. Policies are generally drawn up and implemented through laws, decrees or ordinances. Each ministry is responsible for formulating policies in its area of responsibility and drawing up the relevant draft laws. This process takes place in consultation with the private sector and other bodies that may be affected by the measures under consideration. The Economic and Social Council is normally consulted about all legislative provisions of a fiscal, economic, social or cultural nature, and may be involved, at an earlier stage, in their preparation.

2.2 Trade policy formulation and objectives

2.7. The Ministry of Trade is responsible for technical issues relating to formulating and implementing trade policy, including WTO-related matters, and all trade agreements. Other ministries and government bodies are also involved in formulating and implementing trade policy, in particular the Ministry of Finance and the ministries responsible for sectoral matters. The Ministry of Trade also seeks, on an *ad hoc* basis, the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mining and Crafts (CCIMA) and the Cameroon Employers' Association (GICAM), which primarily serve as liaison bodies with the private business community. The bodies which the Ministry may consult include the National Coffee and Cocoa Board, the Union of Cameroon Industrialists, the Cocoa and Coffee Interprofessional Committee, and other employers' organizations, consumers' associations and professional associations, as well as the National Federation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

2.8. Commercial law is to a large extent derived from CEMAC and the rules of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) (Common Report, Sections 2, 3 and 4). At the national level, the creation of commercial companies and their activities are governed by Law No. 2015/018 of 21 December 2015 regulating business activities in Cameroon. This law stipulates that mobile and street trading activities can only be undertaken by Cameroonian nationals.

2.9. The Cameroonian authorities recognize the challenges faced by their economy, including trade, most notably the poor competitiveness of the production sector and weaknesses in production factors, such as infrastructure and energy. In order to address these challenges, the "Cameroon Vision 2035" reference paper sets out the pathway for transforming Cameroon into an emerging country by 2035. It views trade as an essential tool for developing the country's economy. The Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) is part of this approach and provides the medium-term operational framework for such development.

2.10. In the strategic papers mentioned, the Government's trade development objectives are to ensure regular supplies in the domestic market while maintaining a healthy competitive environment, and to develop high value-added goods and services exports. One of the aims is to develop a healthy, competitive and diversified manufacturing sector that can help to invert the export structure currently dominated by basic commodities. The targets focus on increasing the share of manufactures in exports and simultaneously on reducing the share of oil and agricultural raw materials.[14]

2.11. As part of its regional integration approach, Cameroon is seeking to promote trading relations within the framework of ECCAS, with CEMAC support, and to boost trade with Nigeria.[15] The authorities have also stressed that they intend to promote intra-African trade by implementing the AfCFTA. A National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy has been developed for this purpose.

2.3 Trade agreements and arrangements

2.12. Cameroon is an original Member of the WTO. In addition to the WTO, it belongs to several regional trade groupings.

[14] Cameroon Vision 2035. Viewed at: http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/cmr145894.pdf.
[15] Growth and Employment Strategy Paper. Viewed at: https://www.undp.org/content/dam/cameroon/docs-one-un-cameroun/2017/dsce.pdf.

2.3.1 WTO

2.13. Cameroon is a Member of the WTO[16] and gives at least most-favoured-nation (MFN) treatment to all its trading partners. It has not signed any of the plurilateral agreements negotiated within the WTO framework; it does, however, have observer status in the Committee responsible for the Plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement. On 30 November 2018, the country ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and it has submitted Category A, B and C notifications under the Agreement.

2.14. Cameroon's Uruguay Round concessions are contained in Schedule CIII in the case of tariff bindings (Chapter III(2)(iii)(c)) and document GATS/SC/15 for specific commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Cameroon did not take part in the WTO negotiations on basic telecommunications or those on financial services.

2.15. During the review period, Cameroon continued to benefit from the technical assistance and training provided by the WTO. These activities included national seminars, regional courses, workshops, and internships for its officials.[17]

2.16. The country is experiencing difficulties in relation to WTO notifications. Since 2013, it has submitted notifications pertaining to the Agreements on agriculture, import licensing, trade-related investment measures, subsidies and countervailing measures, trade in services and trade facilitation (Common Report, Section 2.3.1).

2.17. Cameroon has never been a complainant or respondent in any dispute using the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. It was a third party in the dispute concerning the European Community's regime for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas from ACP countries.[18]

2.3.2 Regional and preferential agreements

2.3.2.1 Relations with the European Union

2.18. The trading relationship between Cameroon and the European Union (EU) is principally governed by the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The European Union-Central Africa interim EPA was concluded on 17 December 2007. It was signed by the EU and Cameroon on 15 January 2009. Cameroon ratified the EPA and notified its decision to the EU on 25 July 2014, and the agreement entered into force on 4 August 2014. The European Parliament had already approved the Agreement in June 2013. The EU notified this Agreement to the WTO on 24 September 2009 under Article XXIV:7 of the GATT 1994.[19]

2.19. The EPA provides duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market for exports from Cameroon. Reciprocally, most of the customs duties on products originating in the EU and going to Cameroon should be lowered or eliminated in accordance with a tariff dismantling schedule. However, for 1,409 lines (14.5% of all tariff lines), tariff duties will not be lowered or eliminated by Cameroon.[20] The authorities indicated that Cameroon is currently in the seventh phase of tariff dismantling.

2.20. Cameroon also retains its preferential access to the EU market under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

[16] The Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO was ratified by Decree No. 5/194 of 26 September 1995.
[17] The list of technical assistance activities can be viewed at: http://gtad.wto.org/ben_country.aspx?entityID=64.
[18] WTO, *European Communities - Regime for the Importation, Sale and Distribution of Bananas*. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds27_e.htm.
[19] WTO document WT/REG274/N/1 of 28 September 2009, and WTO RTA database. Viewed at: http://rtais.wto.org.
[20] WTO document WT/TPR/S/285 of 24 June 2013.

2.3.2.2 Relations with the United States

2.21. Cameroon enjoys preferential access to the United States market under the GSP. In addition, since 2 October 2000, the country has also been a beneficiary of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Cameroon has also been eligible for AGOA's special clause on textiles since 1 March 2002. The authorities indicated that Cameroon's preferential access to the US market was suspended in 2019.

2.22. In 2018, Cameroon's exports to the United States amounted to approximately USD 212 million[21], including USD 14.4 million under the GSP and USD 63.3 million under AGOA. Goods exported under AGOA included USD 60.9 million worth of energy products and USD 2.2 million worth of agricultural products. Goods exported under the GSP included agricultural products (USD 14.3 million).[22]

2.3.3 Other agreements and arrangements

2.23. Outside the European Union and the United States, Armenia, Australia, Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland grant non-reciprocal preferential tariff treatment to goods originating in Cameroon under the GSP.[23]

2.24. Since 1992, Cameroon has also been party to the Agreement on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP). The tariff concessions cover three groups of product: chemical fertilizers, alumina and essential oils. These preferences are not currently used. Cameroon is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and, at the continent level, participates in African integration initiatives such as the AfCFTA (Common Report, Section 2.3.2).

2.4 Investment regime

2.25. As part of its efforts to achieve its 2035 development vision, the Government of Cameroon has put in place an institutional and legal framework with the aim of promoting foreign and domestic investment.

2.4.1 Institutional and legal framework

2.26. Responsibility for investment policy generally rests with the Ministry in charge of industry or the Ministries responsible for the relevant economic sectors (mining, energy or tourism) where technical issues are concerned, and with the Ministries responsible for the economy and finances where financial issues are concerned.

2.27. The Investment Charter sets out the guiding principles for promoting investment in line with the overall development strategy, which seeks to improve growth, create job creation in economic sectors and ensure the social welfare of the population.[24] It focuses on investment operations relating to creation, expansion, replacement, redevelopment and/or changes of activity.

2.28. Under the Investment Charter, the State is committed, *inter alia*, to guaranteeing: economic freedoms, in particular the freedom to undertake any production, service or trade activity, irrespective of the nationality of the investor; equal treatment in conducting an activity in accordance with the principles and requirements of competition law; ownership rights for land, buildings and operating equipment, and those relating to movable property, securities, patents and other intellectual property items; and the freedom to repatriate foreign capital invested and operating profits, as well as savings on salaries paid to expatriates.

2.29. Law No. 2013/004 of 18 April 2013 (amended in 2017) sets out incentives for private investment in Cameroon, and its adoption constitutes the main change to the investment framework. It offers common and specific incentives, including full exemption from customs duties and taxes for

[21] United States International Trade Commission. Viewed at: https://pubapps2.usitc.gov/africa/total_gsp_agoa_import_suppliers.jsp.
[22] AGOA, Note on Cameroon. Viewed at: https://agoa.info/profiles/cameroon.html.
[23] WTO, Trade Arrangements. Viewed at: http://ptadb.wto.org/Country.aspx?code=120.
[24] Law No. 2002/004 of 19 April 2002 introducing an Investment Charter for the Republic of Cameroon.

imports of equipment for companies that are starting up or expanding, all while clarifying the State's commitments vis-à-vis private investors in Cameroon. The procedures for implementing these (tax and customs) concessions are set out in Order No. 00000366/MINFI/SG/DGI/DGD of 19 November 2013. The benefits under the Private Investment Law are available to a range of activities, particularly in the agriculture, tourism and manufacturing sectors, as well as to activities that contribute to environmental protection.

2.30. In order to enjoy the tax and customs concessions, an authorization must be issued by a committee established in 2015 by decision of the Minister of Finance and made up of representatives of the Directorate-General of Taxes, which serves as the Chair, and the Directorate-General of Customs, who are responsible for reporting on the work undertaken. The Committee will have 15 working days to examine the authorization application submitted through the Single Window, starting from the date of its receipt.

2.31. Pursuant to Order No. 004263/MINMIDT of 3 July 2014, authorization applications are filed against receipt through the Single Window set up within the SME Promotion Agency, for local SMEs.

2.32. Authorization applications for foreign investors and other local investors are made through the API Single Window. Order No. 006969/MINMIDT of 19 November 2013 regulates the organization and operation of the Single Window established within the Investment Promotion Agency (API) for this purpose.

2.33. The API is still the main body responsible for promoting investment and supporting foreign companies in their relations with other government institutions. In 2017, Decree No. 2017/127 of 18 April 2017 provided clarity about its powers and responsibilities. The Agency, which comes under the technical responsibility of the General Secretariat of the President's Office and under the financial responsibility of the Ministry of Finance, is tasked with, *inter alia*, helping to develop and implement Cameroon's investment promotion policy. It also provides, to foreign and local investors, with the exception of local small and medium-sized enterprises, the public services available to companies that apply for or have obtained concessions under one of the Investment Charter regimes, and monitors companies benefiting from concessions under this Charter and from the Law establishing incentives for private investment.

2.34. Tax and customs concessions under Order No. 00000366/MINFI/SG/DGI/DGD cannot be cumulated with tax and customs concessions under contractual regimes; the Mining Code regime; the Petroleum Code regime; the Gas Code regime; the reinvestment regime of the General Tax Code; the economic regimes of the Customs Code; and any other special regime granting tax and/or customs concessions.

2.35. Tax and customs concessions are granted to new and existing companies. The substance of the concessions depends on their activity phase (start-up phase or operational phase). The reductions and exemptions granted in the operational phase primarily depend on the volume of investment that the company is committed to making, as well as one of the following criteria: the number of jobs, the volume of exports, the use of domestic natural resources, and the added value that the company is committed to creating.

2.36. Under the Law on incentives for private investment in Cameroon, concessions may also be granted on the basis of specific activities, including: the financing of sports, cultural or social infrastructure; the financing of activities of public interest in rural areas; the recruitment of at least five young higher-education graduates per year; the acquisition and on-site installation of specialized materials and equipment for treating and purifying solid, liquid or gaseous industrial waste in order to prevent it from being discharged in the form of effluents, gas or other substances that are harmful to health.

2.37. Foreign companies incorporated in Cameroon may invest through a public-private partnership (PPP) contract under Law No. 2008/009 of 16 July 2008, which establishes the fiscal, financial and accounting regime applying to PPP contracts. In this case, all customs duties and taxes, including VAT are "borne" by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

2.38. There are also incentives for setting up industrial operations in Cameroon. For this purpose, Decree No. 71/DF/95 of 1 March 1971[25] makes secured land for commercial and industrial activities available in Cameroon to investors, business persons, entrepreneurs and developers, and provides a package of support services to them.

2.39. Cameroon is a member of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and has signed the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the New York Convention).

2.40. Through its membership of OHADA, Cameroon also has an arbitration mechanism, the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration. In addition, the Cameroon Employers' Association (GICAM) has its own arbitration centre.

2.41. Cameroon has signed bilateral investment treaties with Germany (1963), Switzerland (1964), the Netherlands (1966), the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (1981), Romania (1981), the United Kingdom (1985), the United States (1989), Italy (2004) and China (2014).[26] It has also signed treaties which are not yet in force with Egypt (2000), Guinea (2001), Mali (2001), Mauritania (2001), Mauritius (2001), Morocco (2007) and Türkiye (2012). Two bilateral investment treaties signed with Canada (2014) and the Republic of Korea (2013) entered into force in 2016 and 2018, respectively.

[25] As amended by Decree No. 73/483 of 25 August 1973 and Decree No. 80/474 of 5 December 1980 setting out the industrial development mission.
[26] The years when the treaties came into force are in brackets.

3 TRADE POLICY AND PRACTICES BY MEASURE

3.1 Measures directly affecting imports

3.1.1 Customs procedures, valuation, and requirements

3.1.1.1 Registration

3.1. Law No. 2016/004 of 18 April 2016 governing foreign trade in Cameroon, and its implementing decree[27], govern registration procedures for importers and exporters. According to the legislation, import and export activities are open to natural and legal persons of Cameroonian or foreign nationality. In general, foreigners (CEMAC nationals or others) with a valid residence and work permit can carry out foreign trade activities under the same conditions as nationals. The exercise of any commercial activity is subject to: registration with the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register (RCCM), which concerns all companies, subject to payment of CFAF 41,500 to the Business Creation Formality Centre and CFAF 53,000 to the competent Court of First Instance[28]; registration on the "List of importers and exporters" with the Ministry in charge of trade, in exchange for an annual contribution of CFAF 15,000 (previously CFAF 10,000) to the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNCC) and CFAF 15,000 to the department responsible for trade, on behalf of the Treasury. Under the Law, foreigners are excluded from the exercise of certain types of commercial activities, such as commercial activities carried out on an itinerant basis, as well as from the status of entrepreneur trader.[29]

3.1.1.2 Declaration and customs valuation

3.2. Cameroon is a member of the World Customs Organization. It is also a contracting party to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto Convention). On 30 November 2018, the country ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and notified the WTO of the list of measures under categories A, B and C of the Agreement.

3.3. In general, customs procedures are governed by the CEMAC Customs Code, administered at the national level by the Directorate-General of Customs, under the Ministry responsible for finance. All imported goods must be the subject of a customs declaration, whatever their value. Cameroon requires that customs declaration formalities be carried out by a customs broker approved by a national advisory committee of approved customs brokers chaired by the Director-General of Customs. Access to the profession is open to Cameroonian nationals and foreigners. Nevertheless, owners of used vehicles, public administrations, and diplomatic missions can make customs declarations in their own name and for themselves.

3.4. Generally speaking, the main requirements for customs clearance are the final invoice, freight invoice, electronic cargo tracking note (ECTN) (required since November 2022), insurance certificate, bill of lading or air waybill (AWB), and, where appropriate, the import declaration, SGS inspection report and duty and tax exemption certificate. An insurance contract with a local company is compulsory for imports of a value greater than or equal to CFAF 500,000. Other documents may be required, where appropriate, for example under specific regulations (certificate of origin, sanitary or phytosanitary certificate, fumigation certificate, authorization for temporary admission, importer's licence). In 2017, the authorities put online a commercial information portal allowing importers to learn about the administrative requirements relating to products imported into Cameroon.[30]

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[27] Decree No. 2017/0523/PM of 7 June 2017.

[28] Single window for foreign trade, listing in the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register. Viewed at: https://www.camerountradeportal.cm/tradeportal/index.php/fr/procedure-2/exportation/recherches.

[29] An entrepreneur is defined as an individual who, upon making a simple declaration to the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register, as provided for in the Uniform Act (OHADA), engages in a civil, commercial, artisanal or agricultural professional activity and whose annual turnover generated by their sales or service activities is less than CFAF 10 million.

[30] GUCE, Trade Information Platform. Viewed at: https://www.camerountradeportal.cm/tradeportal/index.php/fr/.

3.5. Since 2020, Cameroon has been using the Cameroon Customs Information System (CAMCIS) for customs declarations. The authorities have stated that these are almost exclusively done electronically and that all customs offices are equipped with CAMCIS.

3.6. For goods of an emergency nature (medicines, perishable products), and in the context of certain investment projects, it is possible to obtain an authorization for direct collection, generally subject to posting a bank guarantee.

3.7. The 2019 Budget Law introduced authorized economic operator (AEO) status, as well as an advance decision system relating to value, origin and tariff classification. In addition, the risk management system has been supplemented by the establishment of a green channel, which provides for automatic goods clearance. The blue channel provides for automatic clearance with deferred control. The yellow channel provides for the checking of documents for shipments presenting a medium level of risk (possibly using a scanner if there are doubts). Finally, shipments presenting the highest levels of risk pass through the red channel, which involves the checking of documents with inspection by scanner and, if there are any suspicions, a physical inspection. The main factors taken into account in the risk assessment may relate to the nature of the goods, their origin, or their destination.

3.8. As part of its efforts to facilitate customs procedures and the exchange of data, the Cameroonian Government has interconnected the computer systems of each administration involved in foreign trade on a common electronic platform, the Single Window for Foreign Trade (eGUCE). This most notably concerns the relevant services of the Ministries in charge of trade and agriculture, the National Coffee and Cocoa Board (ONCC), customs, customs brokers, banks, shipping agents and stevedores. Until 2013, none of these actors were interconnected electronically.

3.9. In terms of customs valuation, the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation are included, unchanged, in the CEMAC Customs Code. However, in practice, some goods are subject to administratively determined customs values (Table 3.1) that are updated in principle every six months.

Table 3.1 Administrative customs values for imports, 2019

Goods	Type of valuation	Amounts
Used clothing	Minimum value	20-ft. container: CFAF 6,292,000 40-ft. container: CFAF 12,000,000
Used tyres	Minimum value	CFAF 3,600/tyre for private vehicles; CFAF 30,000/tyre for lorries; CFAF 5,400,000 per 20-ft. container; CFAF 10,800,000 per 40-ft. container (5% wastage rate).
New tyres	Minimum value	CFAF 10,000,000 per 20-ft. container of tyres for lorries and buses; CFAF 20,000,000 per 40-ft. container of tyres for lorries and buses; CFAF 9,000,000 per 20-ft. container of tyres for private vehicles; CFAF 18,000,000 per 40-ft. container of tyres for private vehicles and light goods vehicles.
Second-hand goods	Minimum value	CFAF 4,800,000 per 20-ft. container; CFAF 8,400,000 per 40-ft. container.
Tiles	Minimum value	CFAF 3,200,000 per 20-ft. container; CFAF 3,500,000 per 40-ft. container.
Footwear, clothing and accessories, handbags, socks	Minimum value	CFAF 12,000,000 per 20-ft. container; CFAF 23,400,000 per 40-ft. container.
Pasta	Reference value	CFAF 410/kg
Polypropylene and polyethylene bags	Market value	CFAF 1,996/kg
Kraft paper bags	Market value	CFAF 1,050/kg
Granulated white sugar	Reference price	CFAF 458,800/tonne
Sugar in lumps		CFAF 578,000/tonne
Unrefined granulated sugar		CFAF 422,000/tonne
Wheat flour	Reference price	CFAF 340,000/tonne
Reinforcing bars	Reference price	CFAF 230,000/tonne
Matches	Minimum values	CFAF 15,000/carton of 1,000 boxes

Goods	Type of valuation	Amounts
		CFAF 21,600/cartons of 1,440 boxes
Frozen fish	Reference value	CFAF 350/kg
Frozen poultry	Reference value	CFAF 1,000/kg
Meat and offal	Reference value	CFAF 1,000/kg
Beer	Minimum values	CFAF 6,400/carton of 24 units of 33 cl.
Vegetable oils	Reference price	CFAF 1,500/kg
Asian lubricants	Minimum values	CFAF 6,500,000 per 20-ft. container
Unrefined salt	Reference price	CFAF 38,000/tonne
Refined salt	Reference price	CFAF 125,000/tonne
Fabrics	Reference price	CFAF 2,933/kg, CFAF 4,217/kg, CFAF 2,567/kg, CFAF 3,000/kg and CFAF 4,400/kg for cotton fabrics
		CFAF 2,090/kg or CFAF 3,942/kg for fabrics of synthetic fibres
Biscuits	..	CFAF 700,000/tonne
Canned goods and sardines	Minimum value	CFAF 1,850/kg
Black tubes and flat sheets in steel	Minimum value	CFAF 14,000,000 per 20-ft. container
		CFAF 500,000/tonne for conventional loads

.. Not available.

Source: Cameroonian customs.

3.10. Cameroon remains an important transit country. Goods in transit must be covered by a bank guarantee equal to the total amount of duties and taxes payable. Customs requires 20 days to regularize the bond for a transit operation.

3.11. As part of its NEXUS+ geolocation system, Cameroon affixes GPS beacons (against payment of CFAF 50,000 per lorry) on carriers' vehicles, so as to monitor shipments of goods until they leave Cameroonian territory.

3.12. Cameroon applies the relevant provisions of the CEMAC Customs Code in customs disputes. An independent committee for the settlement of customs disputes was set up in February 2022 to replace the arbitration committee chaired by the Director of Customs. According to the authorities, currently, an importer wishing to appeal the decision of the committee must consult with the CEMAC Council of Ministers.

3.1.1.3 Preshipment inspection

3.13. Since Cameroon's last trade policy review, the Import Verification Programme (IVP) has been introduced, under Decree No. 2015/1875/PM of 1 July 2015. It replaces the preshipment inspection system, notification of which Cameroon provided to the WTO in 2001[31] as part of its programme for guaranteeing customs revenue (PSRD). As part of the IVP, SGS ascertains on arrival the origin, value and tariff classification of goods from all sources (including CEMAC member states) with an f.o.b. value greater than or equal to CFAF 2 million.

3.14. The importer must file an import declaration application with SGS. This request must be accompanied by a copy of the pro forma invoice, the purchase order and the confirmation document showing the f.o.b. value. The original and four copies of the import declaration issued by SGS are given to the importer or freight forwarder, and inspection orders are issued by SGS in respect of the goods subject to inspection. After the inspection, SGS issues the Report on Value and Tariff Classification (RVC) before the arrival of the goods at the Port of Douala. According to the authorities, the RVC is a decision support tool made available to the Customs Administration.

3.15. Imports with a value of less than CFAF 2 million, and those of many products, including strategic products such as crude oil and equipment necessary for oil exploration and exploitation, works of art, and precious stones and metals, are exempt, as are imports under the free zone regime.

3.16. SGS and INTERTEK International have also been implementing, on behalf of ANOR, the Preshipment Evaluation of Conformity programme (PECAE) for imported goods since 2016. The main

[31] WTO document G/C/W/245/Add.2 of 29 March 2001.

purpose of PECAE is to certify the quality of imported products, subject to technical regulations, with a view to preserving the environment and public health.

3.17. Under the IVP and PECAE, an "inspection and control tax" is levied at the rate of 0.95% of the f.o.b. value of imports, with a minimum charge of CFAF 110,000 per delivery or shipment. On imports of CFAF 2 million, a 5.5% charge is levied on a flat rate of CFAF 110,000.

3.18. In addition, under the Second-Hand Imported Vehicle Inspection and Verification (CIVIO) programme, SGS conducts inspection on arrival. An inspection fee of CFAF 25,000 is levied per vehicle. SGS also carries out the customs valuation of these vehicles. A 30% reduction is made on the taxable value of vehicles not exceeding seven years of age, in order to encourage the rejuvenation of the vehicle fleet. Vehicles in transit do not have to go through the CIVIO procedure.

3.19. The Cameroonian Government has also set up a scanning system at the port of Douala, under Decision No. 000749 of 30 November 2016 on the use of container scanners in customs clearance procedures at the port of Douala. The scanning of goods has also been entrusted to SGS, in efforts to strengthen national security.

3.1.2 Rules of origin

3.20. In 2013, Cameroon notified the WTO that it did not apply non-preferential rules of origin.[32] It indicated, however, that as a member of the CEMAC customs union, it applied the legal instruments concerning rules of origin according to the provisions of the latter, for preferential purposes. The origin criteria can be consulted in the Common Report (Section 3.1.2).

3.21. The National Committee for the Approval of Industrial Products originating from CEMAC was created by Order No. 206/CAB/PM of 23 December 2010. Placed under the authority of the Minister in charge of trade, its main mission is to examine applications for approval, in accordance with CEMAC regulations relating to the free movement of industrial products of community origin. Community origin is confirmed by a certificate of origin issued in Cameroon by the Chamber of Commerce.

3.22. As part of the Interim EPA concluded with the European Union, proof of the originating status of goods is demonstrated either by a movement certificate or by a declaration of origin issued by the supplier and presented by the exporter of the goods to the competent department. The movement certificate is a document proving originating status issued under the EU-Cameroon preferential agreement (Eur1-CMR), while the certificate of origin is valid under the provisions on non-preferential origin.

3.23. According to the authorities, with regard to the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the entry into force on 1 January 2021 of the related preferential tariff, a certificate of origin has been introduced covering goods originating from the AfCFTA.[33]

3.1.3 Tariffs

3.1.3.1 Applied MFN tariff

3.24. Cameroon applies the CEMAC common external tariff (CET) (Common Report, Section 3) with, however, tariff lines whose applied rates differ from the CET. However, the list of exemptions was not available. The authorities have indicated that these exemptions from the CEMAC CET respond to social concerns or operator requests.

3.25. They further indicated that Ordinances No. 2008/001 and No. 2008/002 of March 2008 and the 2009 Budget Law had suspended customs duties on frozen fish, rice, salt, wheat and meslin, wheat flour and corn cake, and declassified cement and clinker. The 2016 and 2017 Budget Laws reintroduced the CET for fish, rice and meslin, and reclassified cement at the rate of 20% and clinker at the rate of 10%.

[32] WTO document G/RO/N/99 of 18 September 2013.
[33] Decree No. 2019/586 of 30 October 2019 ratifying the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA.

3.1.3.2 Other import duties and taxes

3.26. Other import duties and taxes, harmonized at the CEMAC level, are applied to the c.i.f. customs value of imported goods. These are the Community Integration Tax (TCI), collected on behalf of the CEMAC Secretariat at the rate of 1% and applicable to imports from countries outside CEMAC; the ECCAS Community Integration Contribution (CCI) of 0.4%, applicable to imports from countries outside ECCAS; and the 0.05% OHADA levy (Common Report, Section 3).

3.27. In addition, at the national level, a fee for use of the customs computer system (RUSID), is levied on declarations processed electronically, at the rate of 0.45% of the f.o.b. value.

3.28. A "fee on intellectual works" is imposed on electronic media imports (blank CDs, USB keys, etc.) at the rate of 5% of their f.o.b. value., benefitting copyright (Section 3.3.7).

3.29. Under Order No. 00557/MINT of 11 July 2006, as amended and supplemented by Order No. 000289/MINT of 5 March 2007, imports entering by sea must be accompanied by an electronic cargo tracking note (ECTN), to be made out by the Cameroon National Shippers' Council. The cost of issuing this document depends on the port at which the imported goods are loaded (Table 3.3).

3.30. The authorities have indicated that the loading of any cargo without a valid ECTN constitutes a violation of the legislation. In this case, an ECTN to ensure compliance is issued by the CNCC in Douala.

Table 3.2 Cost of the electronic cargo tracking note (ECTN), 2022

	Africa	Europe	Rest of the world
Imports			
Bulk and conventional loads Rice, wheat, other food products	EUR 100 per BL	EUR 100 per BL	EUR 100 per BL
Containers per group of 10 TEU	EUR 55 per BL	EUR 55 per BL	EUR 100 per BL
Vehicles	EUR 20 per BL	EUR 20 per BL	EUR 100 per BL
Exports			
	Africa		**Rest of the world**
Coffee/cocoa	CFAF 5,000 per BL		CFAF 10,000 per BL EUR 100 per portion of 300 tonnes EUR 100 par portion of 600 tonnes EUR 100 per portion of 700 tonnes EUR 90 per BL EUR 100 per portion of 300 tonnes
Other products	CFAF 10,000 per BL		CFAF 15,000 per BL
Containers per group of 10 TEU	CFAF 15,000 per BL		CFAF 20,000 per BL
Other	CFAF 15,000 per BL		20,000 per BL

Note: BL: Bill of lading.

Source: Data provided by the authorities.

3.1.4 Other charges affecting imports

3.1.4.1 VAT

3.31. VAT is regulated in Cameroon by the 1998-99 Budget Law and community provisions, which aim at harmonizing the tax base and the rates among CEMAC member States (Common Report).

3.32. Similar to locally produced goods and services, imports are subject to a 17.5% VAT rate, supplemented by an additional communal tax (*centime additionnel*) amounting to 10% of the VAT, bringing the total VAT rate (including the communal tax) to 19.25%, above the range envisaged by CEMAC (15% to 19%). Exports are subject to a zero rate.

3.33. The General Tax Code provides the list of goods (imported or locally produced) that are exempt from VAT. It mainly includes certain essential food products, agricultural equipment and inputs, medicines, and books and newspapers.

3.34. Exemption is also granted to inputs and equipment for pharmaceutical industries; leasing operations carried out for the acquisition of agricultural, livestock and fishing equipment; and domestic gas and materials and equipment for the exploitation of solar and wind energy. These provisions seem contrary to the CEMAC directive which, among other things, explicitly prohibits the waiver of or exemption from VAT within the framework of incentive measures for business creation and investment (common report).

3.1.4.2 Excise duties

3.35. The excise duty system is mainly regulated in accordance with the community texts on the subject (common report). States are free to set rates with minimums defined by product group.

3.36. Six excise duty rates are in force, in accordance with the budget laws of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022: a "super reduced" rate of 2%, a "reduced" rate of 5%, a "medium" rate of 12.5%, a "general" rate of 25%, a "high" rate of 30% and a "super high" rate of 50%.

3.37. The super high rate applies to hydroquinone and imported cosmetic products containing hydroquinone. The high rate applies to cigars, cigarettes and other tobacco, pipes and their parts, and tobacco and preparations for pipes. The medium rate applies to certain used vehicles specified in the Tax Code, second-hand motorcycles, all motorcycle parts, hair, wigs, wool, beards, eyebrows, eyelashes, locks of hair and other textile materials prepared for the manufacture of wigs or similar hair articles, second-hand items and second-hand tyres, programme packages, and digital audiovisual content.

3.38. The reduced rate applies to games of chance and games designed to entertain not subject to the special tax on games of chance and entertainment; cocoa-free sweets; chocolates and other processed food with a high cocoa content; motorcycles with a cylinder capacity of 250 cm^3 or less; certain prepared foodstuffs; ice cream; certain imported corn grits; and imported mayonnaise. The super reduced rate applies to the turnover, before tax, of communications, mobile telephony and internet service companies.

3.39. The general excise duty rate applies to a list of goods and services annexed to the Tax Code.

3.40. The 2019 Budget Law has also introduced additional excise duties at specific rates on beverages, the resources of which are intended to finance the removal and treatment of waste.

3.41. The excise duty regime does not apply uniformly to imported products and local production. For certain products, in particular pepper, honey, tea, ginger and wooden products, excise duties are only levied on imports.

3.42. In general, the excise duty tax base, with regard to the delivery of goods and the provision of services in national territory, comprises all sums or values received or to be received against delivery. The excise duty tax base with regard to imports is established by adding to the customs value the amount of the customs duties.

3.1.4.3 Bindings

3.43. Cameroon has only bound 15.2% of its tariff lines at rates between 50% and 80%, with a simple average bound rate of 79.9%. The low proportion of bound tariff lines and the wide gap between applied and bound rates do not support the predictability of Cameroon's trade regime.

3.1.4.4 Other taxes

3.44. A prepayment, to be credited against the company tax (IS) due, is levied on imports and purchases made by traders from manufacturers, wholesalers and semi-wholesalers. For persons subject to the real regime, the rate is 1%. For taxpayers under the streamlined regime, the rates of prepayment are 5% of the c.i.f. value of imports, plus duties and taxes (including VAT); and 3% for local purchases made by traders from industries, farmers, importers, wholesalers, semi-wholesalers or forestry operators.

3.45. Operators of service stations and exporters of commodities are subject to the rate of 0.5%. The prepayment rate for transactions carried out with companies that do not hold a taxpayer's card is 10%.

3.1.5 Preferences

3.46. In principle, Cameroon grants preferences under the CEMAC generalized preferential tariff (TPG) (Common Report, Section 3).

3.1.6 Duty and tax concessions

3.47. The regime of duty and tax exemptions and concessions has not changed substantially since the last review. Cameroon grants exemptions from customs duties and taxes under the CEMAC customs code. The suspensive customs regimes provided for by the Code include: transit; normal or special temporary admission; and customs warehousing. The processing regimes or suspensive economic regimes are: inward processing; outward processing; and drawback (Common Report, Section 3).

3.48. In addition, exemptions from customs duties and taxes are granted to approved companies under private investment promotion regimes (Section 2), and the mining and gas codes (Section 4), foreign companies established in Cameroon investing through a public-private partnership (PPP) contract[34], and companies admitted to the free zone (Section 3.2.4).

3.49. Imports of crude oil for refining, medicines, materials and medical equipment to be used in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and materials imported for the disabled are exempt from customs duties and taxes. Imported drugs and inputs for the pharmaceutical industry (under the 2021 Budget Law), as well as imported capital goods for agriculture, livestock and fishing, are also exempt from customs duties.

3.1.7 Import prohibitions and restrictions and import licences

3.50. Import prohibition and restriction measures have not changed significantly since the last review.

3.51. Cameroon has ratified several conventions allowing the control of imports or exports of certain products for environmental, health or safety considerations. At the customs cordon, Cameroon applies measures to control substances that deplete ozone, in accordance with the common framework adopted by CEMAC member countries.

3.52. Imports of frozen chicken of any origin, non-iodized salt and certain cosmetics, in particular lightening products, are prohibited for health reasons. TVs using analogue systems are also prohibited because of environmental concerns.

3.53. In 2017, Cameroon notified the WTO of its replies to the questionnaire on import licensing procedures. According to this notification, Cameroon does not implement an import licensing regime.[35]

3.54. However, for health or safety reasons, the import of certain products is subject to authorization (or a "technical endorsement" or an "import permit", depending on the administration concerned) from the appropriate Ministry (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3 Products subject to "technical endorsement" prior to import, 2020

Tariff heading	Description	Competent administrative service
Ch. 02	Meat and edible meat offal	MINEPIA
Ch. 03	Fishery and livestock products	MINEPIA
2309 9000	Animal feed other than dog or cat food	MINEPIA
2501 0011	Cooking salt	MINSANTE
2710 0040	Kerosene	MINEE

[34] Law No. 2008/009 of 16 July 2008 determining the fiscal, financial and accounting regime applicable to PPP contracts.
[35] WTO document G/LIC/N/3/CMR/ of 10 April 2017.

Tariff heading	Description	Competent administrative service
2710 0050	Fuel (petrol and gas)	MINEE
2903 4100	Trichlorofluoromethane (CFC 11)	MINEPDED
2903 4200	Dichlorodifluoromethane (CFC 12)	MINEPDED
2903 4300	Trichlorotrifluoroethane (CFC 113)	MINEPDED
2903 4400	Chloropentafluoroethane (CFC 115) and dichlorotetrafluoroethane	National Ozone Office
2903 4600	Halon 1211, Halon 1301, Halon 2402	MINEPDED
2903 1400	Carbon tetrachloride	MINEPDED
2903 1900	Trichloroethane (methyl, chloroform), chlorinated derivatives of saturated acrylic hydrocarbons	MINEPDED
2903 3000	Methyl bromide	MINEPDED
3003 1000 - 3004 9000	Veterinary pharmaceutical products	MINEPIA
3003 1000 - 3004 1000	Pharmaceutical products	MINSANTE
3401 1100	Medicated soap	MINSANTE
3602 0000	Prepared explosives other than propellant powders	MINMEE
3604 1000	Articles for fireworks	MIMEE
3604 9000	Signalling flares and other pyrotechnical products	MIMEE
3808	Pesticides	MINAGRI
7108 1200	Gold in unwrought form, non-monetary	MINMEE
7323 9900	Bottled gas	MIMEE
8525	Transceivers	MINPT
8527 9000	Other receivers, radio receptors, apparatus n.e.s.	MINPT
9015 8000	Equipment with radio elements	MIMEE
9303 1000	Muzzle-loading firearms	MINAT
9303 1000	Other sporting, hunting or target shooting rifles and shotguns	MINAT
9303 3000	Other sporting, hunting or target shooting rifles and shotguns	MINAT
9303 2000	Other firearms	MINAT
9306 1000	Cartridges for pistols	MINAT
9306 2100	Cartridges for rifles and shotguns	MINAT
9306 3000	Other cartridges	MINAT
9306 9000	Other ammunition	MINAT

Source: Cameroonian authorities. Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA); Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED); Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI); Ministry of Health (MINSANTE); Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MIMEE); Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT).

3.1.8 Anti-dumping, countervailing, and safeguard measures

3.55. Cameroon did not adopt any contingency trade measures during the review period. Law No. 2016/004 of 18 April 2016 governing foreign trade in Cameroon, notified to the WTO in 2022[36], constitutes the legal basis governing contingency trade measures in Cameroon. It defines the conditions under which anti-dumping and countervailing duties may be imposed and the modalities of the trade investigation procedure. In addition, it describes the legal provisions relating to safeguard measures.

3.56. In 2017, an Anti-Dumping and Subsidies Committee, placed under the Ministry in charge of foreign trade, was set up, with the role of investigating and giving its opinion on all questions relating to dumping practices, subsidies and imports causing or threatening to cause serious damage to a domestic industry.

3.57. Actions are under way at the CEMAC level to adopt a harmonized framework for anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures (Common Report, Section 3.1.6).

[36] WTO document G/ADP/N/1/CMR/2 - G/SCM/N/1/CMR/2 - G/SG/N/1/CMR/2 of 18 February 2022.

3.2 Measures directly affecting exports

3.2.1 Customs procedures and requirements

3.58. The registration formalities required for the import of goods for commercial purposes are also applicable to exports (Section 3.1.1).

3.59. In general, customs formalities are defined by CEMAC community rules. All goods are subject to an export customs declaration. Exported goods can only be declared by a customs broker. However, oil companies are allowed to declare their own crude oil exports to customs themselves.

3.60. Within the framework of its Sectoral Export Monitoring Programme (PSSE), compulsory inspection of exports covers rough wood and sawn wood, coffee, cocoa and medicinal plants. However, it would seem that, in practice, the inspection of sawn wood exports to determine the value and the species is not effective. With regard to rough wood (for the determination of species), coffee and cocoa (for the determination of their level of quality), the exporter's broker must submit to SGS an export declaration from an approved bank. The export dossier must be submitted to SGS at least 72 hours before shipment. SGS is responsible for sending copies of the export declaration to the exporter's bank, and to the administrations concerned (including the customs administration). For its inspection and control services, SGS levies, only on rough wood, 0.95% of the f.o.b. value of all shipments over CFAF 500,000. The authorities indicated that inspections of medicinal plants are additionally carried out by the Ministry in charge of forests and wildlife.

3.2.2 Taxes, charges, and levies

3.61. The CEMAC customs regime allows member countries to tax exports.

3.62. The authorities have indicated that Cameroon levies an export duty at the rate of 1% of the taxable value on semi-finished products. It maintains an exemption from export duties on bananas, manufactured products, raw products of animal and vegetable origin, and mining products which have undergone substantial processing. In addition, a rate of 10% is applied to the taxable value of diamonds, gold, rice, crude palm oil, millet, sorghum, gum arabic, kola nuts, and gnetum africanum (eru).

3.63. A rate of 50% applies to the value of wood species as rough wood and 10% for semi-finished wood. Export surcharges would also be levied on certain forest species.

3.64. CFAF 75 is levied on each kilogram of exported cocoa and CFAF 50 is levied on each kilogram of coffee for the benefit of organizations involved in the sector. A sanitary and veterinary inspection tax (ISV) is levied on the export of certain fish, animals and derived products (Section 3.3.3).

3.65. All exported goods are subject to a "computer fee" (RI) which is only due for exports domiciled in a computerized customs office. The rate is 0.45%, which is capped at CFAF 15,000 per declaration.

3.66. The GUCE fee (CFAF 12,500 per container and CFAF 16,000 per vehicle) and the electronic cargo tracking note fee (Table 3.2) are also collected on exports.

3.67. In general, Cameroon uses market values to calculate export duties on rough wood. The f.o.b. values are determined by an *ad hoc* committee set up for this purpose. The values are reviewed every six months. For other products, the export duty is levied on the ex-factory value.

3.2.3 Export prohibitions, restrictions, and licensing

3.68. In principle, the quantitative restrictions (including prohibitions) and controls on exports in force stem above all from the treaties to which Cameroon is a party (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, CITES, or the Chemical Weapons Convention, among others).

3.69. Order No. 00237/MINIMIDT/CAB of 19 July 2008 prohibits exports of ferrous and non-ferrous metal scrap and waste. The export of certain forest species as rough wood is also prohibited. The same applies to goods classified as national cultural heritage. In addition, under Law No. 2016/004 of 18 April 2016 governing foreign trade, Cameroon may prohibit certain exports for reasons of local market supply. To this end, cement exports have been prohibited since 22 April 2022.

3.2.4 Export support and promotion

3.70. The Cameroonian export promotion policy is implemented under the responsibility of the Ministry in charge of trade through its Department of Foreign Trade. The Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Crafts (CCIMA) is responsible for promoting exports, in particular by participating in fairs, international exhibitions and other commercial events, as well as meetings and missions of a commercial and economic nature outside the country.

3.71. Exports benefit from the zero-rate VAT regime. In addition, under the CEMAC Customs Code, suspension of customs duties is available for export-oriented activities under the inward processing regime, as well as for material and equipment under temporary admission (Common Report, Section 3). The drawback regime allows for the total or partial reimbursement of import duties and taxes levied on the inputs contained in the exported goods. Tax benefits linked to exports are granted under the free zone regime.

3.72. Cameroon has notified the WTO of its Industrial Free Zone (ZFI) programme.[37] The ZFI regime was, in principle, repealed by the Law on Economic Zones.[38] However, in practice, the economic zones are slow to materialize, and an "administrative tolerance" allows the ZFI regime to continue to operate.

3.73. The National Office for Industrial Free Zones (ONZFI) is responsible for the administration and inspection of free zones. It approves applications from companies wishing to set up in a free zone.

3.74. Companies benefiting from the ZFI regime can set up in: an industrial free zone (an industrial park designated as a free zone); or establish themselves as a special industrial free zone (*point franc*). Most of the companies admitted under this regime (about 38 in 2022), with the exception of three in the MAGZI Bassa free zone[39], have been admitted as special industrial free zones.

3.75. The ZFI regime seeks to promote investment[40], exports, and employment. Companies admitted to it are required to produce goods or services intended primarily for export. Nevertheless, 20% of their production can be sold on the domestic market, with the authorization of the Minister in charge of industry. Goods exported from ZFIs are exempt from all applicable duties and taxes; those exported to Cameroonian customs territory are treated as imported and subject to the duties, taxes and procedures in force for this purpose. Sales to other CEMAC countries are considered as exports.

3.76. The advantages granted to companies benefiting from the ZFI regime are summarized in Box 3.1.

Box 3.1 Some advantages under the industrial free zone (ZFI) regime

Customs advantages
Exemption from all customs duties and taxes and all other direct and/or indirect charges, duties and taxes for imports and exports of ZFI companies[a]
Exemption from import verification programme
Tax advantages
Exemption from corporation tax (IS) for 10 years, and then a flat rate of 15%
Total exemption from all other direct and/or indirect taxes and duties
Indefinite carry forward of deficits to subsequent years for tax calculation

[37] WTO document G/SCM/N/3/CMR - G/SCM/N/16/CMR of 29 November 1996.
[38] Law No. 2013/011 of 16 December 2013 governing economic zones in Cameroon.
[39] Mission Development and Management of Industrial Zones (MAGZI).
[40] Ordinance No. 90/001 of 29 January 1990 establishing the free zone regime, ratified by Law No. 90/023 of 10 August 1990; and Order No. 51/MINDIC/IG1 of 28 December 1990 determining the rules of implementation of the free zone regime in Cameroon.

Exemption from transfer tax on sales of real estate properties and from any tax on currency transfers
Exemption from taxes, and in particular from turnover tax, for sales by national companies to companies in free zones
Labour regulation
Automatic obtaining of work permits for foreign employees[b]
Service benefits
Right to obtain electricity or water at preferential rates, as well as to benefit from preferential port charges for services of the National Ports Authority of Cameroon (ONPC)
Right to install electro-generating equipment and private telecommunications networks[c]
Other benefits
The streamlining of administrative procedures (authorization to establish and operate a company in a free zone, customs inspection) within the single window framework
Exemption from all import and export licenses, authorizations and quota limitations

a With the exception of private vehicles and fuel.
b However, the workforce of these companies should be at least 80% Cameroonian, by professional category, by no later than the end of the fifth year following their entry into operation.
c Telecommunications equipment becomes state property.

Source: Ordinance No. 90/001 of 29 January 1990.

3.2.5 Export finance, insurance, and guarantees

3.77. Cameroon has not introduced any official mechanisms for export financing, insurance or guarantees.

3.3 Measures affecting production and trade

3.3.1 Incentives

3.78. In 2013, Cameroon notified the WTO, pursuant to Article 25.1 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, that it was not providing subsidies as defined in the Agreement.[41]

3.79. According to the Investment Charter and the law governing incentives for private investment in Cameroon, technical or financial support may be provided to promote investment, with the aim of ensuring sustainable growth and creating employment. Support is given notably to new and existing enterprises and for the development of exports (Section 2.4.2). Other support measures are provided to companies approved under the Industrial Free Zone regime (Section 3.2.4) and the mining, petroleum and gas codes (Section 4.2).

3.3.2 Standards and other technical requirements

3.80. The Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR) is responsible for formulating and implementing government policy on standards and quality in Cameroon.[42] ANOR operates under the technical supervision of the Ministry responsible for industry and under the financial supervision of the Ministry responsible for finance. Its functions include the development and approval of standards; the certification of conformity with standards; the promotion of standards and quality processes among public, semi-public and private sector entities; the monitoring of cooperation with international agencies and specialized committees concerned with standardization and quality; the conduct of studies relating to standardization and the development of proposed measures to improve the quality of products and services and compliance with standards; and the dissemination of information and documentation on standards. ANOR is a member of the African Organisation for Standardization

[41] WTO documents G/SCM/N/25/CMR - G/SCM/N/38/CMR - G/SCM/N/48/CMR - G/SCM/N/60/CMR - G/SCM/N/71/CMR of 10 July 2013.
[42] Decree No. 2009/296 of 17 September 2009 on the creation, organization and operation of ANOR; and Decree No. 2019/143 of 17 March 2019 on the reorganization of ANOR.

(ARSO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission, through its National Electrotechnical Committee.

3.81. The existence of ANOR has not yet been notified to the WTO. It replaces the former Standards and Quality Division, which itself replaced the Committee for Standardization and Quality, the latter having been notified to the WTO in 2006 as Cameroon's national enquiry point for all matters relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and to technical barriers to trade and as the body dealing with notification procedures.[43]

3.82. Law No. 96/11 of 5 August 1996 on standardization continues to govern: the national standardization system; the national quality mark; certifications of conformity; the approval of testing laboratories; quality control bodies; standardization organizations or offices; and quality control. At present, standardization may be initiated by the government, by consumer associations or by economic operators (producers). This requires the completion of a "standards-related needs form". Upon receipt of these forms, ANOR, which coordinates all activities related to the adoption of standards and technical regulations, forwards the related documentation to the relevant technical committee for the development of a preliminary draft standard.

3.83. In 2022, there were 56 such technical committees in place to cover a wide range of fields corresponding to ISO provisions. These technical committees are responsible not only for developing standards, but also for withdrawing them should the need arise.

3.84. According to ANOR's online information, preliminary draft standards are subjected to a public inquiry phase of at least 60 days in duration. They are communicated to the public to elicit comments through publication on the ANOR website. Comments received are then referred to a meeting of the technical committee concerned for analysis and decisions on which comments to include. Once the normative documents have been validated by the technical committee, the Director-General of ANOR approves and publishes them as Cameroonian standards.

3.85. A standard may become a technical regulation pursuant to an order from the Minister responsible for industry or, where applicable, a joint order with the Minister responsible for the area concerned by the standard.

3.86. According to the authorities, a total of 2,777 standards, including 290 technical regulations, are now in force in Cameroon. They pertain above all to food products, water and other beverages, jute sacks, bottles of LPG, cement, sheets of aluminium alloy or coated steel, electrical installations, gas bottles, reinforcing rods, wire, and welded mesh. However, even when they become technical regulations, many Cameroonian standards are not notified to the WTO.

3.87. The metrology system seems relatively undeveloped in Cameroon. Law No. 2004/002 of 21 April 2004 governing legal metrology in the country sets out the general framework for metrological control modalities and corresponding fees. Its effective implementation depends in principle on the adoption of regulatory texts, which it would seem have not yet been published.

3.3.2.1 Labelling, marking and packaging

3.88. None of the country's labelling, marking or packaging practices or requirements have changed since the last review.

3.89. According to Decree No. 0018/MINDIC/DDI/CML of 21 November 2000, labelling is mandatory for imported and local food products. The packaging of all perishables must indicate the expiry date. It is also mandatory to indicate (in French and English) the name of the producer, the production date and the national conformity mark.

3.90. The labelling for pharmaceutical products must indicate the product's expiry date and directions for use (in French and English). All boxes, cases, crates, and packages must bear marking identifying the country of origin.

[43] WTO documents G/TBT/ENQ/28 of 27 October 2006; G/SPS/ENQ/20 of 6 October 2006; and G/SPS/NNA/9 of 25 January 2006.

3.91. Except for beer and wine with less than 13% alcoholic content, all bottles and other containers of alcoholic beverages must be labelled to show the degree of alcohol. Labels for foreign food products must indicate the country of origin and precise addresses for the producer, importer, pre-packer or local distributor, in French and/or English.[44]

3.92. The labelling (in French and/or English) of breast milk substitutes is subject to certain specific requirements: information must be provided on the necessary precautions to avoid contamination, on the minimum age for use of the product and on product storage.

3.93. According to Decree No. 98/270 of 3 September 1998 on labelling of tobacco, it is compulsory to pre-label cigarettes to be marketed in Cameroon. This label must specify, *inter alia*, the country of origin and the identification number of the economic operator, and also provide a health warning.

3.3.2.2 Conformity testing and certification

3.94. In principle, ANOR plays the role of an evaluation agency for the conformity of imports and local production with standards and technical regulations, issuing conformity certificates permitting the national mark to be applied to the products concerned. Samples are taken and analysed by a laboratory selected by ANOR, with the cost borne by the importer.

3.95. Order No. 0014/MINCOMMERCE of 13 June 2006 determines the rules for technical inspection of quality and conformity with standards for products for domestic consumption and export. It requires every product intended for consumption (whether local or imported) to go through quality and conformity controls before being marketed to obtain authorization for delivery for consumption. A conformity certificate issued by ANOR, or its duly designated representative, is required prior to any customs clearance procedure for products subject to technical regulations and is also required throughout the process of release for consumption.

3.96. In the case of imports, it is reported that ANOR has established a framework for cooperation with bodies responsible for preshipment conformity assessment, such as SGS and INTERTEK, in order to develop effective control of conformity before goods are shipped from the country of origin.

3.97. According to the authorities, Cameroon has not to date signed any mutual recognition agreements. The authorities have indicated that such an agreement is now being negotiated between ANOR and Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

3.3.3 Sanitary and phytosanitary requirements

3.98. Cameroon is a member of the International Plant Prevention Convention, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

3.99. The institutional and legal framework for sanitary and phytosanitary measures has not changed since the last review. According to the authorities, the Director for the regulation and control of agricultural inputs and products, within the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development, is the authority responsible for the notification of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and acts as the national enquiry point for all matters relating to those measures.

3.100. The National Phytosanitary Council is responsible, *inter alia*, for advising the Government in this field, commenting on draft legislation or regulations and advising on the implementation of phytosanitary policy. The Council meets regularly to examine draft phytosanitary provisions, among other matters.

3.101. The import and export of plants or plant products are governed mainly by Cameroon's law on phytosanitary protection[45], but also by decrees establishing the modalities for phytosanitary

[44] Decree No. 2005/1928/PM of 3 July 2005 determining the metrological characteristics for pre-packaged or related products and rules for their control.

[45] Law No. 2003/003 of 21 April 2003.

measures[46] and plant quarantine operations[47], as well as conditions for the approval and control of phytosanitary products.[48]

3.102. Under the legislative framework now in force, plant and plant product imports require a phytosanitary certificate issued by the plant health authority in their countries of origin. In addition, each year the Minister responsible for agriculture issues a regulatory provision establishing the list of plants, plant parts and plant products the import of which into Cameroon is prohibited or restricted, depending on their provenance. A permit is required to import the plants and plant products so listed. A phytosanitary certificate and import permit are issued, at the applicant's expense, by the agencies responsible for phytosanitary enforcement (the Ministries responsible for agriculture or health). The fees charged for issuing permits and performing inspections are established by a joint order of the Ministers responsible for agriculture and finance. The most recent such order was issued in 2019.[49]

3.103. In 2018, the Minister responsible for agriculture took a decision establishing the modalities for the production and certification of certain fruits and vegetables. That decision was apparently prompted by recommendations from the European Union following an audit of the official control system for plants and plant products originating in Cameroon and exported to the European Union. Those fruits and vegetables were mangoes, soursop, citrus, chilis, pineapple, sunberry, okok, safou, passionfruit, peppers, aubergine, tomatoes, amaranth, cassava leaves, cassemanga and avocados.[50] The resulting ministerial decision was to prohibit the export of these fruits and vegetables without a sanitary certificate. The export and import of potatoes to and from the European Union were also prohibited. Cameroon has never notified the WTO of its sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

3.104. Phytosanitary conformity is verified by laboratories approved by the Minister responsible for agriculture. The only such laboratory operating to date has been the laboratory for the diagnostic analysis of agricultural products and inputs.

3.105. According to Law No. 2000/017 of 19 December 2000 on veterinary and sanitary inspection, live animals must be accompanied by an international or national vaccination card. Prior to release for consumption, products of animal origin must undergo veterinary or sanitary inspection to obtain a sanitary or veterinary inspection certificate from the Minister responsible for livestock.

3.106. The veterinary and sanitary inspection tax (ISV) amounts to 3% of the value (for fish, seafood and raw hides and skins) or 2% (for tanned hides and skins and other products), or a specific rate per head. For imports, the specific rate varies from CFAF 4 per head (for day-old chicks), to CFAF 5 for eggs, CFAF 2,000 per head for cattle and CFAF 6,000 per head for wild animals. This tax is lower for domestic trade: CFAF 0.5 for eggs, CFAF 1 per head for chicks and CFAF 200 per head for cattle.

3.107. Cameroon has had a National Biosafety Committee (NABIC) in place since 1997, the mission of which is to organize and coordinate activities related to genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The country ratified the Cartagena Protocol in February 2003.

3.108. Law No. 2003/006 of 21 April 2003 introducing a modern biotechnological safety regime in Cameroon, and its implementing Decree No. 2007/0737/PM of 31 May 2007, regulate the development, improvement, use (including use in a confined manner), manipulation and cross-border movement (including transit) of all GMOs. In terms of biosafety, Cameroon seeks to use its legal and regulatory framework to ensure the environmentally risk-free application of modern biotechnology to medicine, agriculture and the environment, and to prevent risks to human health and modern security.

3.109. This legislation provides that the import, sale and confined use of GMOs and their derivative products require prior authorization from the Ministry of Environment after an opinion has been received from NABIC. Apart from those being tested on cotton, the import of GMOs is currently

[46] Decree No. 2005/0770/PM of 6 April 2005.
[47] Decree No. 2005/0771/PM of 6 April 2005.
[48] Decree No. 2005/0772/PM of 6 April 2005.
[49] Joint Order No. 00022/MINADER-MINFI of 4 March 2019.
[50] Decision No. 00976/18/D/MINADER/SG/DRCQ of 20 July 2018.

prohibited. Imports of plant products require a "Non-GMO Certificate". In the case of suspected fraud, a sample may be taken and analysed before the final decision is made.

3.3.4 Competition policy and price controls

3.110. Competition in Cameroon continues to be governed by Law No. 98/013 of 14 July 1998, in conjunction with the relevant community legislation (Common Report, Section 3.3.2).

3.111. According to Cameroonian law, the National Competition Commission (CNC), under the Ministry of Trade, is responsible for seeking out, controlling and, where appropriate, punishing anti-competitive practices. It may, on its own initiative, take up matters it considers within its competence and also rule on matters brought before it. Violations can be addressed by the CNC only if they have occurred within the last 24 months.

3.112. The law most notably prohibits agreements or arrangements regarding prices, or those seeking to influence prices or to impede market access or restrict competition, unless the authority responsible for competition considers them profitable for the economy and conducive to efficiency gains that would otherwise not be possible. An enterprise that has a dominant position may not use that position to prevent another enterprise from setting up on the market, or to supplant it, put pressure on distributors or cause an increase in competitors' production costs. However, no sanctions are to be imposed if the anti-competitive practice aims to improve economic efficiency.

3.113. Mergers and acquisitions are allowed if they do not reduce competition. Those that do reduce competition are nonetheless allowed if the transaction secures efficiency gains (for the national economy) that would otherwise not be possible. Mergers and acquisitions that result in an entity having a turnover above a threshold pre-established by the Minister in charge of competition must be notified in advance to the CNC.

3.114. The Law on Competition applies to both state and private enterprises. It also applies when the effects of anti-competitive practices by companies abroad are felt in Cameroon itself, subject to agreements and treaties between Cameroon and the host countries of the enterprises concerned.

3.115. The Community's regulatory purview with respect to competition relates in principle to anti-competitive business practices and state practices affecting trade between member States (common report, Section 3.3.3). The regulations on those matters have not yet been implemented, however.

3.116. According to Law No. 2015/018 of 21 December 2015, which governs commercial activity in Cameroon, the prices of goods and services are generally determined through free competition. The Government can, however, make prices subject to approval in the case of "sensitive" goods and services (essential goods in particular) or those produced in or provided by sectors where monopolies exist. The list of goods and services whose prices are subject to such special approval is determined by the Minister responsible for trade.

3.117. The prices of certain goods can also be fixed following consultations between the authorities and operators in the sectors concerned.

3.118. The products subject to price regulation include sugar, milk, unrefined palm oil, frozen fish, wheat flour, maize flour, imported rice, cooking salt, table oils, frozen poultry, imported Portland cement, reinforcing rods, medicines and hospital consumables, and textbooks. Also subject to price regulation are social housing, school and university accommodation, water, electricity, household gas, services at Cameroon's autonomous ports and their ancillary services, and public transport (road/rail) (Section 4).

3.3.5 State trading, state-owned enterprises and privatization

3.119. Cameroon has not made any notifications to the WTO in respect of state trading enterprises within the meaning of Article XVII of the GATT.

3.120. The State holds shares in a number of enterprises in various sectors of the economy (Table 3.4). Such enterprises operate mainly in the agri-food, mining, energy and services sectors.

3.121. The semi-public *Société camerounaise des dépôts pétroliers* (SCDP) continues to hold a monopoly over the storage of petroleum products, while SONARA holds a monopoly over their supply.

3.122. Serious and persistent challenges in the management of public enterprises continue to weigh heavily on the state budget and contribute to increasing public debt. In 2019, the IMF reported that the financial situation of public enterprises remained difficult.[51] Four public enterprises (CAMTEL, CAMWATER, CAMAIR-CO and the Port of Douala) are considered to be suffering particular financial distress.

3.123. In July 2017, two new laws established general regulations for public establishments and public enterprises in Cameroon: Laws No. 2017/010 and No. 2017/11, respectively, replacing Law No. 99/016 of 22 December 1999 on the general regulations for public establishments and public and semi-public sector enterprises. The two laws most notably seek to establish conditions regarding the performance and economic viability of state enterprises and establishments, but also cover aspects pertaining to governance, budget procedures and control mechanisms.

Table 3.4 Selection of public or semi-public companies active in international trade

Company	Principal sector of activity
Agriculture and agro-industry	
Société de développement du coton (SODECOTON)	Agro-industry (cotton, cottonseed oil)
Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC)	Agro-industry (bananas, rubber, palm oil)
Société camerounaise de palmeraies (SOCAPALM)	Palm oil production
Société sucrière du Cameroun (SOSUCAM)	Production and marketing of sugar
Compagne industrielle d'exploitation des bois du Cameroun (ECAM Placages)	..
Société de développement et d'exploitation des productions animales (SODEPA)	Livestock products
Plantations PAMOL	Palm oil production and exports
Société anonyme des brasseries du Cameroun (SABC)	Brewery
Société industrielle des cacaos (SIC-Cacaos)	Cocoa production
Société forestière agricole du Cameroun (SAFACAM)	Edible oil production and exports
Cotonnière industrielle du Cameroun (CICAM)	Textile production
Société de développement de la cacao culture (SODECAO)	Cocoa production
Office national du cacao et du café (ONCC)	Coffee and cocoa marketing
Hévéas du Cameroun (HEVECAM)	Rubber production
Manufacturing and industry	
Société camerounaise de transformation de l'aluminium (SOCATRAL)	Production of metal products
Société Aluminium de Bassa Alubassa	Aluminium joinery
Cimenteries du Cameroun (CIMENCAM)	Production and marketing of cement
Société camerounaise de verrerie (SOCAVER)	Manufacture and marketing of glass bottles
ENEO-CAMEROON S.A.	Electricity generation and supply
Electricity Development Corporation (EDC)	Holdings in companies generating or exporting electricity
Kribi Power Development Company	Electricity generation and transmission
Mekin Hydroelectric Development Cameroun	Electricity generation and marketing
Société camerounaise de dépôts pétroliers (SCDP)	Storage of hydrocarbons
Compagnie camerounaise d'aluminium (ALUCAM)	Aluminium production and exports
Total EP	Exploration and production of hydrocarbons
Société nationale de raffinage (SONARA)	Petroleum refining
Mobil Cameroun	Exploration and production of hydrocarbons
PECTEN Cameroon Company	Exploration and production of hydrocarbons
IBC	Production, import-export of steel and metals
Services	
Cameroon Telecommunication (CAMTEL)	Telecommunications
Aéroports du Cameroun	Airport services
Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV)	..
Imprimerie nationale (IN)	..
Société de presse et d'édition (SOPECAM)	..
Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation	Production and distribution of water
Port autonome de Douala (PAD)	Port services
Cameroon Airlines Corporation (CAMAIR CO)	Air transport
Cameroon Postal Services	Postal services
Cameroon Shipping Lines (CAMSHIP)	Maritime transport

[51] IMF, Fourth Review under the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement. Viewed at: https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2019/07/24/Cameroon-Fourth-Review-under-the-Extended-Credit-Facility-Arrangement-and-Requests-for-48525.

Company	Principal sector of activity
Cameroon Shipping Lines Investment Corporation (CIC)	Maritime transport
Cameroon Oil Transportation Company (COTCO)	Transport of hydrocarbons
Cameroon Railways Corporation (CAMRAIL)	Railway transport
Société nationale des eaux du Cameroun (SNEC)	Production and distribution of water
Cameroon Container Transportation (CAMTAINER)	Container transit and transport

.. Not available.

a Public or semi-public sector.

Source: MINEFI (2007), *Agenda 2007 de la Commission technique de privatisation et de liquidations*.

3.124. The privatization programme seems to have been on hold for over a decade. The privatization process is in principle overseen by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance. A Technical Commission on Privatization and Liquidation (CTPL) and a Privatization Committee are in charge of operational aspects.

3.3.6 Government procurement

3.125. Decree No. 2018/366 of 20 June 2018 containing the Government Procurement Code regulates the government procurement framework in Cameroon. That decree has since 2018 replaced Decree No. 2004/275 of 24 September 2004.

3.126. The current Code's provisions apply to all government procurement financed or co-financed by the state budget, even where contracts are awarded by a private company acting on behalf of the State or state agencies, for works, supplies and services, quantifiable or otherwise, as well as intellectual services. It also applies to procurement contracts between legal persons established under public law. In the case of procurement contracts arising from international conventions, however, the Code applies only where its provisions are not contrary to those conventions.

3.127. The following forms of government procurement are excluded from the Code's scope of application: administrative purchase orders for amounts less than CFAF 5 million, the acquisition or rental of real estate, the acquisition of petroleum products for administrative vehicles, procurements by public enterprises and those defined as special by Article 71 of the Code, partnership contracts, and works executed entirely under state control. For procurement financed with bilateral or multilateral external aid funds, the funding agreements need to stipulate any rules that may be applicable.

3.128. The Code establishes the separation of functions for the award, monitoring and regulation of public contracts. Preparing the procedure for awarding procurement contracts is the responsibility of the contracting authority (a natural person heading a ministerial department or similar executive branch unit of a decentralized territorial authority or public establishment procuring the goods or services concerned) or delegated contracting authority. The contracting authority reports periodically to the Ministry of Government Procurement (MINMAP) and the Government Procurement Regulatory Agency (ARMP) on the award and execution of the procurement contracts concerned.

3.129. Each contracting authority is assisted by a procurement committee, responsible among other functions for preparing and monitoring the procurement plans, preparing the project documentation for consultation with the contracting authority's technical services, receiving the bids and finalizing the draft procurement contracts.

3.130. *A priori* control of the procedures for awarding government procurement contracts is performed by central procurement control boards, which are technical bodies within MINMAP composed of agents from several technical and financial offices. Each of these boards issues an opinion on: the tender documents prepared by the contracting authority concerned; the procedure to be followed in awarding procurement contracts; contract award proposals made by the procurement committees and validated by the contracting authority; draft contracts to be awarded following the direct contracting procedure to contractors meeting threshold qualifications, and any amendments thereto.

3.131. In the case of a favourable opinion, the contracting authority follows the procedure proposed. If a favourable opinion is subject to reservations, the contracting authority is required to correct the issues raised in the reservations before proceeding to follow the procedure. In the event of an unfavourable opinion, the contracting authority cannot proceed under the procedure proposed. The central procurement control boards issue their opinions on the procedures submitted to them within a maximum period of 10 business days from the date of their submission, failing which the opinions are taken to be favourable.

3.132. In addition to these central procurement control boards, an "independent observer" is recruited by the agency responsible for regulating government procurement to verify compliance with the rules on transparency and principles of equity for procurement processes. Based on reports from the independent observer or regulatory agency concerned, the authority responsible for government procurement can annul procurement contracts that are awarded in violation of the regulations or in a manner that is inconsistent with the rules on transparency and equity.

3.133. Pursuant to the Code, bidders must be in compliance with the requirements of the tax and parafiscal departments. Government procurement must be executed in the light of social, economic and environmental considerations and so as to promote local employment, decent working conditions and, where relevant, the achievement of sustainable development goals.

3.134. In terms of procurement methods, invitations to tender remain the default procedure of choice. The tendering method may be open, limited or competitive. Limited tendering is compulsory for the procurement of intellectual services. The Code of June 2018 introduced a two-stage bidding process, which nevertheless requires prior authorization from MINMAP. When using this method, contracting authorities (or delegated ones) base their choice on considerations of performance, operating constraints and economic cost. The invitation to tender may be national or international.

3.135. All invitations to tender must be published in the government procurement journal. Other publication organs and channels can be used, such as radio or press announcements, or posters, but only as supplements to publication in the government journal.

3.136. A contract for quantifiable works, supplies or services is awarded to the bidder who both meets the technical and financial qualification criteria and submits the lowest bid (according to the evaluation conducted). If the contract is for non-quantifiable services, including intellectual ones, or if subjected to competitive bidding, it is awarded to the bidder submitting the offer evaluated as best, based on a combination of technical, financial and/or aesthetic criteria.

3.137. A national preference margin is allowed when a contract is to be awarded following an international consultation, if stipulated in the invitation to tender and where equivalent bids are received. The preference margins remain the same as under the previous Code: 10% for works contracts and 15% for supplies contracts.

3.138. The direct contracting method of procurement may exceptionally be used subject to prior authorization by MINMAP. According to the Code, this method is permitted only in the case of an emergency, of an operator's failure or where requirements can only be satisfied by using an invention, process or skill under patent, licence or exclusive rights. Direct contracting is also possible in the case of contracts for supplies, services or works previously awarded through an invitation to tender but still requiring completion. The Code provides for other procurement methods as well: requests for price quotations and the selection of individual consultants. The total value of direct contracting procurement remains high in Cameroon, accounting for 42% of all procurement in 2018, compared to 32% in 2015.[52]

3.139. Statistics on each procedure for government procurement were not available for the purposes of this review.

3.140. *Ex post* control of government contracts is performed by the Ministry responsible for government procurement. Among other things, this involves verification of the following: the signature of contracts; their consistency with tender documents; the decisions awarding the contracts and the bids selected; payments made against the amounts invoiced; and contract performance.

[52] Information reported by the ARMP. Viewed at: http://armp.cm/Rapports_situation_generale.php?PHPSESSID=l6l3acsmseorqtl1ofejpo6ss3#tzM52.

3.141. The Government Procurement Regulatory Agency (ARMP) is responsible for regulating the government procurement framework. Its remit includes the definition of procurement training policies and strategies; the operation, development and maintenance of the procurement information system; the performance of independent technical audits and the penalization of any irregularities uncovered; and the framing of laws and regulations on government procurement.

3.142. Bidders claiming injury are provided recourse to an ARMP complaints review committee.

3.143. Cameroon did not sign the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (AGP) but has been an observer to the Agreement since 2001.

3.3.7 Intellectual property rights

3.3.7.1 Overview

3.144. Cameroon is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI). It has been a contracting party to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 11 September 2003 and has in principle applied the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) since 1 January 2000.

3.145. Cameroon notified its legislation on intellectual property rights to the WTO in 2001[53]; the TRIPS Council finished examining it in 2003. Cameroon has not, however, notified the WTO of its contact point, in accordance with Article 69 of the TRIPS Agreement, and has not answered the WTO's list of questions on the country's means of enforcing intellectual property rights.

3.3.7.2 Industrial property

3.146. As a member of OAPI, created by the Bangui Agreement, Cameroon has based its intellectual property rights regulations on the relevant provisions of that Agreement (Common Report, Section 3). The Directorate of Technological Development and Industrial Property, within the Ministry of Mining, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT), acts as the national liaison structure (SNL) for OAPI. Administrative procedures for registering industrial property titles start with an application to the Directorate of Technological Development and Industrial Property.

3.147. Statistical data on applications for industrial property titles and registration in Cameroon were not available for the purposes of this review.

3.3.7.3 Copyright and related rights

3.148. Copyright and related rights in Cameroon are protected not only under the revised Bangui Agreement but also under national legislation, namely Law No. 2000/011 of 19 December 2000 and its implementing regulation.

3.149. The regulatory framework for copyright and related rights applies to all Cameroonian literary or artistic works (including computer programmes). In the case of works of joint authorship, in order to be protected by the law, one of the joint authors must be a Cameroonian. The protection given to foreigners is subject to reciprocity. The Law's provisions nevertheless apply to works that are entitled to protection under an international treaty to which Cameroon is party.

3.150. The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the protection of copyright and related rights, which are registered by four companies responsible for the collective management of rights: *Société civile des droits de la littérature et des arts dramatiques* (SOCILADRA), for literature and the dramatic arts (also responsible for computer programmes); *Société civile de droit d'auteur et droits voisins des arts plastiques et graphiques* (SOCADAP), for copyright and related rights in the plastic and graphic arts; *Société civile des arts audiovisuels et photographiques* (SCAAP), for photography and audiovisual works; and *Société Nationale Camerounaise de l'Art Musical* (SONACAM), for musical works. There is also a collective society for related rights: *Société camerounaise des droits voisins* (SCDV).

[53] WTO document IP/N/1/CMR/1 of 17 May 2004.

3.3.7.4 Implementation of the legislation

3.151. The revised Bangui Agreement contains provisions on the penalties for infringement of intellectual property rights, which national authorities are responsible for enforcing. Penalties may be imposed only if a complaint is filed by an injured party. However, the CEMAC Customs Code prohibits the import of all apparently counterfeit goods, and all foreign products bearing a trademark, a name, sign or indication of any type giving reason to believe that they were produced in or come from a State with which an agreement in the field has been signed.

3.152. The application of regulations on intellectual property rights has been limited. Books and medication; cosmetic, agricultural and textile products; and electrical household appliances have all been affected by counterfeiting.

3.153. A national brigade for the control and prevention of fraud operates within the Ministry of Trade, and a national committee to combat piracy and counterfeiting is reportedly operating within the Ministry of Culture.

3.154. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between customs and collective management societies for copyright and related rights has instituted a levy applicable to electronic media as a "fee on intellectual works", amounting to 5% of c.i.f. customs value.[54] Pursuant to the MoU, customs collects the levies on behalf of the collective management societies, with 85% of the proceeds then going to an "extra-budgetary" account, to cover the royalties for copyright and related rights; 10% going to customs, for its operating costs; and 5% going to Treasury services.

[54] Decree No. 2001/956.

4 TRADE POLICIES BY SECTOR

4.1 Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

4.1.1 Overview

4.1. Contributing more than 16% to GDP in 2021, and 40% to earnings from the export of Cameroonian goods, agriculture continues to represent a key sector of the country's economy (Section 1). Agriculture is also Cameroon's largest employer, accounting for over 60% of its working population.[55] The informal sector's share of agricultural production is quite high, accounting for nearly all of the value added in food crop production, livestock and fisheries, and close to half of the value added in producing cash crops.

4.2. The country's principal crops and corresponding production statistics are shown in Table 4.1. Agricultural exports include cocoa and coffee, bananas, natural rubber, palm oil, pineapples, cotton and sugar. Rice, wheat and sugar are the leading agricultural imports.

Table 4.1 Principal crops and animal products, 2012-20

(Thousands of tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cassava	4,287	4,596	4,908	5,192	4,899	5,000	5,030	5,676	5,779
Plantains and other	3,569	3,692	3,854	4,041	3,862	3,919	3,941	4,328	4,493
Palm oil, nuts	2,500	2,450	2,454	2,771	2,558	2,594	2,641	..	..
Maize	1,750	1,647	1,959	2,071	2,164	2,247	2,345	2,217	2,087
Taro (cocoyam)	1,614	1,551	1,697	1,757	1,804	1,846	1,902	1,755	1,683
Sorghum	1,200	1,260	1,150	1,221	1,339	1,372	1,416	1,278	1,060
Bananas	1,471	1,600	1,068	1,083	1,188	1,245	1,203	..	..
Sugar, cane	1,200	1,200	1,262	1,281	1,291	1,289	1,287	1,489	1,321
Tomatoes, fresh	890	876	950	1,021	1,182	1,127	1,068	1,101	1,104
Fresh vegetables n.e.s.	700	736	759	763	757	763	770		
Groundnuts in the shell	634	636	579	609	748	480	594	725	801
Yams	538	557	580	602	625	649	675	513	519
Sweet potatoes	327	349	363	392	440	398	410	525	517
Dried beans	343	352	342	363	391	412	402	367	369
Cocoa, beans	269	275	271	275	293	301	308	301	310
Cottonseed	219	225	223	240	283	249	257	320	336
Cotton, lint	168	173	179	187	193	198	204	131	141
Natural rubber	137	156	215	190	185	210	204	..	..
Green coffee	38	42	38	35	33	31	33	40	35
Whole fresh cow's milk	180	185	193	179	173	172	173	..	..
Bovine meat	87	92	97	97	89	87	84	..	..
Poultry meat	70	72	75	76	76	76	79	..	..
Whole fresh goat's milk	50	49	49	51	54	54	54	..	..

.. Not available.

Source: FAO statistical database. Viewed at: http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data; and *AGRI-STAT Cameroun* for 2019 and 2020.

4.3. Agriculture has played a major role in the fight against poverty and food insecurity. Two million households both live on their own farm production and supply food products to urban markets. According to the authorities, 80% of the country's food requirements are met by domestic production.

4.4. Cameroonian agriculture has enormous potential, enabling it to contribute effectively to wealth creation, employment and food security. It benefits from a climate and natural conditions highly favourable to agricultural production. Cameroon also has abundant and still largely under-exploited land resources. Out of its 47 million ha of total land area, 9.2 million ha are suitable for farming. To its 7.2 million ha of arable land must be added close to 2 million ha of pastureland. Only 1.8 million ha are effectively being cultivated (26% of the country's cultivable area).

[55] African Development Bank, Agricultural Production Support Programme in Cameroon. Viewed at: https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/cameroon-agricultural-production-support-program-cameroon-project-appraisal-report.

4.5. Its enormous potential notwithstanding, Cameroonian agriculture continues to be disadvantaged by structural weaknesses associated in particular with low farm productivity, difficult access to markets and credit, limited organization among actors, a deteriorating natural environment and an underdeveloped legal and regulatory environment.

4.1.2 Agricultural policy

4.6. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA), the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) and the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) are responsible for designing agricultural development programmes – which also encompass livestock, fisheries and forests – in cooperation with farmers' organizations and development partners.

4.7. As reflected in such strategic documents as *Cameroun Vision 2035* and the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE), Cameroonian authorities assign a crucial role to agriculture in accelerating growth, fighting poverty and creating jobs.

4.8. The Rural Sector Development Strategy (SDSR) 2020-30, the agricultural component of the SND 2020-30, represents the central guiding document for government action in the rural sector. It has been aligned with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), as part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and also incorporates a National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA). In implementing the previous rural development strategy, the authorities conducted a review of public expenditure in 2014. It revealed a level of underspending on agriculture at odds with the country's Maputo commitment[56] (approximately 5% in 2012; 7.7% in 2015; 6.1% in 2016; 7.1% in 2017; and 6% in 2018).

4.9. Cameroon's agricultural strategy as described by the SDSR is aimed at: (i) ensuring food security and self-sufficiency for households and the nation; (ii) contributing to economic growth, and particularly the growth of foreign trade and employment; (iii) raising the incomes of agricultural producers; (iv) improving living conditions for rural populations; and (v) ensuring better use and sustainable management of natural capital, the basis for agricultural production.

4.10. A National Food Security Programme (PNSA) 2008-15 was developed in 2007 with the aim of fighting hunger and food insecurity by halving the number of malnourished persons by 2015, particularly among vulnerable households in rural and peri-urban areas. The PNSA was replaced in 2017 by the National Programme to Preserve and Strengthen Food Security (PNVRSA), which takes a more participatory approach and includes the objective of capacity building for agricultural-sector actors.

4.11. According to the most recent notification from Cameroon under the Agriculture Agreement, the country does not grant domestic support to agricultural producers. Support has been provided, however, under the environmental protection programme, through the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development.[57]

4.12. Border measures are the main trade policy instruments used by Cameroon in respect of agriculture. For reasons of social policy, and to protect certain sectors, several agricultural products are subject to customs duties at rates differing from those of the CEMAC common external tariff (CET). Agricultural products are also subject to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

4.13. All agricultural inputs and equipment are exempt from VAT, as are staple goods, some of which are agricultural products. Agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides are wholly imported. The production, import, export, packaging, storage and distribution of fertilizers are jointly regulated by the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade, Environment and Forestry, and Public

[56] In July 2003, at Maputo, Mozambique, during the 2nd Session of the Assembly of the African Union, the Union's member countries agreed to implement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Using it as a roadmap, the States committed to dedicating 10% of their public expenditure to the agricultural sector and achieving a growth rate in that sector of 6% per year.

[57] WTO document G/AG/N/CMR/11 of 23 October 2019.

Health under the law governing the activities of the fertilizers subsector and its various implementing texts.[58]

4.14. A prior declaration is required for the production and import of seeds to ensure that seed imports, production and marketing comply with the criteria defined in specifications determined in a joint order by the Ministers responsible for agriculture and trade. An advisory opinion from the National Council on Seeds and New Plant Varieties is required for matters relating to the production, marketing, quality control and certification of seeds and new plant varieties.

4.1.3 Policy by subsector

4.1.3.1 Coffee and cocoa

4.15. Cocoa and coffee (Robusta and Arabica) are Cameroon's leading agricultural exports. In 2020, total production of cocoa amounted to some 310,000 tonnes, and that of coffee to 35,000 tonnes (Table 4.1). The cocoa and coffee subsectors represent about 3% of national GDP and 15% of primary sector GDP.[59] Cocoa is still the largest cash crop, and Cameroon is the world's fifth largest cocoa producer. The cocoa subsector employs over 600,000 people.

4.16. Cocoa is fermented and dried by producers and then sold in that state to private operators. The terms of sale are established by the Ministry of Trade by order at the start of each season. About 90% is exported, the remainder being transformed by local companies into butter, powder and chocolate. According to the authorities, the installation of new processing capacity has enabled Cameroon to process a growing proportion of its cocoa in recent years.

4.17. The Cocoa and Coffee Interprofessional Council (CICC), the Cocoa Development Company (SODECAO) and the Development Fund for the Cocoa and Coffee Subsectors (FODECC) are the main organizations involved in these subsectors. They are financed by means of export fees (Section 3.2.2).

4.18. The CICC, which is a producers association, provides support for producers, organizes production through cooperative associations, and provides marketing services. It is not compulsory to be a member in order to produce, but membership entitles producers to support. Cocoa producers also receive support and guidance from MINADER and SODECAO, a public enterprise. Among other functions, SODECAO is responsible for the production and distribution of high-yield cocoa seedlings; the production of companion seedlings (plantain plants, fruit trees, leguminous plants, etc.); technical guidance and training for producers, and producer organization; the supply of inputs; technical advisory assistance for post-harvest operations; and marketing support.

4.19. FODECC, funded by export fees and the national budget, was created by Decree No. 2006/085 of 9 March 2006, as part of a plan to revive the cocoa and coffee subsectors. It seeks to ensure financing and the payment of benefits to strengthen and revive these sectors, while supporting applied research in these products and promoting the local processing and consumption thereof.

4.20. A plan to revive the cocoa and coffee subsectors was adopted in 2014 with a 2020 horizon. Cameroon's goals under the plan were to produce 600,000 tonnes of cocoa, 125,000 tonnes of Arabica coffee and 35,000 tonnes of Robusta coffee. According to the authorities, these targets were not reached, and a new target of 640,000 tonnes of cocoa was set for 2030.

4.21. All actors in the cocoa and coffee subsectors play clearly defined roles. Coffee producers, for instance, must shell their beans in homogenous batches prior to sale. Cocoa and coffee are sold at prices differentiated by quality and set by an agreement reached between the parties. The mixing of species or crops is forbidden. The marketing of green coffee is reserved for producers, producer organizations, economic operators and local roasting plants.

[58] Law No. 2003/07 of 10 July 2003 governing the activities of the fertilizer subsector in Cameroon.
[59] Development Fund for the Cocoa and Coffee Subsectors. Viewed at: http://www.fodecc.cm/site/?q=fr/content/plan-de-relance-et-de-developpement-des-filiere-cacao-cafe-au-cameeroun.

4.22. The concession of purchasing zones, allocation of quotas to operators, agreements among exporters, manufacturers or collection agents to impose prices on producers, as well as night-time or door-to-door purchases are all prohibited. Committees are in place in each locality, under CICC supervision, to verify the quality of products and shelling operations. The producer price is negotiated and set between the parties on the basis of benchmark prices published by the subsector information system. Manufacturers, exporters and their collection agents must hold a trader's card and certification of their inclusion in the manufacturer or exporter register.

4.23. All cocoa and coffee exports must be declared to the ONCC in advance of sale. Processing activities are liberalized.

4.1.3.2 Cotton

4.24. Seed cotton is produced almost exclusively by small-scale farmers, numbering about 350,000, on fields totalling 200,000 ha. Seed cotton yields fluctuate from year to year depending largely on climate. Cotton's share of total exports of goods rose from 3.4% in 2012 to 6% in 2021.

4.25. Seed, fertilizer and insecticide are supplied to producers on credit by the Cameroon Cotton Development Company (SODECOTON), which is owned in part by the State of Cameroon (59%), together with Geocoton (30%) and the SMIC (*Société mobilière d'investissement du Cameroun*) (11%). Once harvested, seed cotton is wholly purchased from farmers by SODECOTON, which is responsible for ginning and processing the seeds to produce oil and oil cakes. Cotton lint is exported or sold by SODECOTON to the Cameroon Cotton Company (CICAM) for cloth production.

4.26. SODECOTON sets purchase prices at the start of each season and adjusts them to permit performance premiums. A final supplement is paid by the Cameroon Cotton Producers Organization (OPCC) if these purchase prices are exceeded by actual world prices.

4.27. A Price Risk Management Fund for Cameroonian Cotton (FGRPC-C) has been in place since 2014 to guarantee a minimum price for seed cotton in the event of a sharp decline in world market prices for cotton lint. It is funded by a countercyclical levy on the purchase price negotiated with SODECOTON for seed cotton. The Fund is co-administered by SODECOTON and Cameroon's National Confederation of Cotton Producers (CNPC-C).

4.28. The CNPC-C is an association of some 250,000 producers organized into joint initiative groups.

4.1.3.3 Palm oil

4.29. Within the palm oil subsector, the review period was marked by the implementation of a development strategy for palm oil and hevea and subsidies granted to producers by the Union of Palm Oil Operators (UNEXPALM). UNEXPALM also distributed subsidized fertilizer to producers as part of a Village Palm Grove Fertilization Support Programme (PAFPV).

4.30. Palm oil production comes from three types of plantations: agro-industrial plantations (58,860 ha); regulated village plantations (35,000 ha); and traditional village plantations (100,000 ha). Cameroon's agro-industrial plantations and oil mills belong to four large companies, two of which are largely or entirely owned by private interests. The other two are state-owned: the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) and PAMOL.

4.31. Planters in village communities have the choice of either processing their output artisanally into unrefined oil or selling it to large companies. Unrefined palm oil is both exported and imported.

4.32. The institutions most involved in the subsector's organization include the Professional Association of Palm Oil Producers, the Association of Oilseed Refiners (ASROC), and the Committee for Regulating the Palm Oil Subsector.

4.1.3.4 Hevea and rubber

4.33. Nearly all of the country's harvest of hevea is exported. Rubber exports accounted for 0.9% of total exports of goods in 2021, compared to 2.5% in 2012. The hevea subsector is managed by three companies: HEVEACAM, SAFACAM and CDC, the latter being a public enterprise. These companies own the plantations and handle the marketing.

4.1.3.5 Bananas

4.34. Banana production in Cameroon accounts for a significant share of the country's exports, ranking second by that metric after cocoa production.

4.35. The subsector faces significant challenges, including demanding market standards for quality, sporadic investment programmes owing to treasury difficulties, and unpredictable climate conditions, the latter having killed thousands of banana plants and stoked a security crisis in the country's south-west and north-west regions.

4.36. The Cameroon Banana Association (ASSOBACAM) brings together the country's three largest producer-exporters: *Plantations du Haut Penja* (foreign capital), CDC (state-owned), and BOH Plantations (private, Cameroonian capital).

4.1.3.6 Sugar

4.37. In a context of annual demand as high as 300,000 tonnes, the Cameroon Sugar Company (SOSUCAM) produced a total of 105,000 tonnes in 2018. The company's average production capacity is 130,000 tonnes per year from an agricultural area of about 25,000 ha.

4.38. The Common Market Organization for Sugar (OCM-Sucre-CEMAC) set out a coordination policy at the CEMAC level to establish common measures for the sugar market in CEMAC member countries (Common Report, Section 4.1.3.2).

4.39. According to the authorities, the production of sugar cane and sugar is free and there is no legal monopoly. In addition to SOSUCAM, which is Cameroon's largest sugar company, a number of private companies also produce sugar cane and sugar in the country.

4.40. Sugar imports are subject to a reference price (Table 3.1) and a 30% customs duty. If the Ministry responsible for trade determines that there is a "shortage" on the market, however, it may authorize SOSUCAM and other companies in the subsector to import sugar at the lower tariff of 10% instead of the 30% CET.

4.1.3.7 Cereals and other food crops

4.41. The production of food products (rice and maize in particular) has generally been increasing (Table 4.1), but not enough to cover domestic requirements. The leading imports of food products are rice, wheat and maize. Nearly 90% of the rice consumed locally is imported. In the case of maize, 15% of domestic requirements are imported, while requirements for wheat are covered entirely by imports. During the review period, Cameroon introduced several strategies to cover cereal requirements, with support from partners such as Japan and the Republic of Korea. According to the authorities, the Government established a plan in 2022 to revitalize the production and processing of wheat over a five-year period. The Cereal Office is a state agency responsible for the storage and distribution of cereal products. It buys and sells cereals on local markets to ensure a buffer stock and smooth out sharp and sudden cereal price increases exclusively in northern parts of the country. The Cereal Office maintains 44 storage warehouses with capacity for 47,650 tonnes of cereals. It is also responsible for distributing food products received as grants by the Government.

4.42. In 2011, the Mission to Regularize Supplies of Fast-Moving Consumer Products (MIRAP) was established. Its role is to build up stocks of fast-moving consumer products (most notably cereals) bought on rural markets and then sold on urban markets at low prices.

4.1.4 Livestock and animal products

4.43. In 2010, a strategy was put in place for the livestock, fisheries and animal industries subsectors for the period 2010-20[60], to align MINEPIA's activities with the DSCE. The strategy seeks

[60] The preceding version of this strategy covered the period 2002-10.

to improve productivity and competitiveness, and thereby boost production, in the animal product subsectors.[61]

4.44. The overall objective is to satisfy the population's nutritional needs, meet raw material requirements in the agro-industry sector and generate surpluses for export. The effort and resources dedicated to that objective relate in particular to the intensification of production and improvement of productivity and competitiveness in subsectors showing potential for growth and job creation, including poultry, pork, and large and small ruminants. The strategy to diversify animal products and improve producer earnings includes the promotion of apiculture and shrimp farming.

4.45. The strategy for livestock and animal products up to 2020 included a doubling of both the number of head and meat production. In the cattle-beef subsector the target for head of cattle was 1% growth over five years. The target for meat production was an increase from 71,799 tonnes in 2010 to 89,814 tonnes in 2015 and to 119,341 tonnes in 2020. For the cattle-milk subsector the targets were 26% growth in head of dairy cattle and an increase in productivity per head from 159 litres/cow/year to 240 litres/cow/year (for a lactation period of at least 180 days).

4.46. The average customs duty established for meat products was about 20%, to which must be added other import duties and taxes, making meat an expensive product.

4.1.5 Fisheries and aquaculture

4.47. In Cameroon, fishing is an important activity from the socio-economic as well as nutritional point of view. It encompasses industrial fishing, artisanal maritime fishing, inland fishing and aquaculture. Artisanal maritime fishing and inland fishing are confined to rural populations, employing over 200,000 persons directly and 135,000 indirectly (processors, merchants, manufacturers, and vessel repair workers). Annual production statistics were not available for use in this review. Exports, confined mainly to industrially-farmed shrimp, are negligible.

4.48. As during the previous review, fishing activities continue to be regulated by the 1994 law on the forestry, fauna and fisheries regime.[62] That law provides that any person (natural or legal) wishing to exploit fishery resources on an industrial or semi-industrial scale must obtain approval by order of the Minister responsible for fisheries. Foreign vessels are authorized to fish in Cameroonian territorial waters provided they have a fishing licence issued by order of that Minister. Foreign vessels may obtain such a licence and engage in fishing only if an agreement has been signed between their country and Cameroon.

4.49. Government action in this sector, as defined by the DSCE and SND, seeks to significantly increase national fisheries and aquaculture production, as a contribution to improved food security while generating earnings and employment. The government strategy is to remove constraints preventing more responsible management of fisheries and the sustainable development of aquaculture. Priority measures to increase, diversify and intensify fisheries production include support for the development of industrial fisheries, artisanal maritime fishing, inland fishing and aquaculture.

4.50. The strategy paper for the livestock, fisheries and animal industries subsector targeted an increase in national fisheries production from 176,000 tonnes to 255,000 tonnes by 2015 and to 290,000 tonnes by 2020. For aquaculture, the development plan targeted an increase in production from 1,000 tonnes to 8,000 tonnes by 2015 and to 80,000 tonnes by 2020. The average CET rate on fisheries products (WTO definition) is 25.6% for tariffs ranging between 10% and 30%. These products have also been subject to additional import levies (Section 3.1.3).

4.1.6 Forestry

4.51. Cameroon's forest land is immense and extremely diverse, covering an area of 22.5 million ha (about 46% of national territory) with some 300 marketable species, around 60 of which are currently exploited. The areas exploited cover 200,000 to 300,000 ha, and the five most extensively

[61] Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, strategy paper for the livestock, fisheries and animal industries subsector, 2010.

[62] Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on the forestry, fauna and fisheries regime, and Decree No. 95/413 of 20 June 1995 determining certain rules for implementing the fisheries regime.

marketed species are Ayou, Sapelli, Azobé, Fraké and Iroko. Forestry plays an important role in the country's economy, employing 45,000 persons and accounting for around 3% of GDP. Its share of total exports was over 7% in 2021.

4.52. The 1994 law on the forestry, fauna and fisheries regime still governs, *inter alia*, the granting of logging rights, royalties and taxes on forestry activities, and the regime for the export of forest products. Other legal texts defining criteria for forestry sector activities relate, among other things, to environmental protection and sustainable forest management.[63] The Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) is the authority responsible for this subsector. The National Forest Development Agency (ANAFOR) is responsible for supporting individuals and communities in the creation of forest plantations.

4.53. During the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government of Cameroon committed to reducing its national emissions by 32% by 2035 from its baseline projected emissions in 2010.

4.54. Deforestation and forest degradation rates, quantified as roughly 0.12% for the 2001-15 period, are likely to rise in coming years, owing to various factors: the expansion of agriculture (shifting and permanent cultivation); timber extraction (commercial, charcoal) and infrastructure development (transport, housing settlements, private enterprises and public services). Aware of the serious degradation of its forest assets, as well as the fauna living there, Cameroon's Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development has been participating since January 2011 in the project Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), which also covers sustainable forest management and forest conservation.[64] Work on Cameroon's national REDD+ strategy for 2019-25 began in 2014 and continued until 2018.[65] Its implementation will be nationwide, with regional-scale programmes and projects (by agro-ecological zone, region and commune).

4.55. A forestry licence has to be obtained for felling and forest exploitation. It can only be granted to natural or legal persons resident in Cameroon and authorized by MINFOF to exercise the profession of forestry operator. Four different types of licence can be issued in Cameroon, the last two concerning international operators more specifically:

- The Personal Felling Authorization, applying to state-owned forests, is given to Cameroonian nationals to fell a limited number of trees, the volume of which does not exceed $30m^3$, to meet their own household needs. It lasts for three months and is not renewable.

- The Sale of Standing Volume Permit is an authorization to exploit a specified volume of standing timber over a maximum of 2,500 hectares. It is valid for up to one year, non-renewable, in state-owned forests (restricted to nationals authorized to exercise the profession) and up to three years, non-renewable, in the national domain.

- The Exploitation Permit is an authorization to exploit or harvest defined volumes of forest products within a given zone. Its maximum duration is one year, non-renewable.

[63] The other main legislative texts are Law No. 96/12 of 5 August 1996 containing the framework law on environmental management; Decree No. 98/009/PM of 23 January 1998 determining the basis and the criteria for payment of duties, royalties and taxes in respect of forestry activities; Decree No. 99/370/PM of 19 March 1999 on the programme for guaranteeing forestry revenue; Order No. 029/CAB/PM of 9 June 1999 creating a permanent committee to monitor the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration resolutions on the sustainable management of tropical forests; and Order No. 02936/MINEFI determining selection criteria and procedures for choosing bidders for forestry rights.

[64] The concept of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) has been expanded to include the conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. The combination of the REDD concept with these three additional activities is called REDD+.

[65] Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, national strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, promote sustainable forest management and forest conservation and enhance forest carbon stocks (2018).

- The Forestry Concession defines a territory covered by a forest exploitation agreement valid for 15 years and renewable. It consists of one or more forest development units (UFAs), which are long-term licences covering large areas.

4.56. With the exception of personal felling authorizations and some exploitation permits, forestry licences are granted following an invitation to bid issued by an interministerial commission dedicated to the issuance of such licences.

4.57. The levies paid by forestry enterprises are in principle as follows: a felling tax (2.5% of the value of the cut wood); an annual forestry royalty (FRA), for sales of cut wood (with a minimum of CFAF 2,500/ha); a concessions fee (CFAF 1,000/ha)[66]; an approval fee (CFAF 15/ha every five years); a bond (CFAF 40/ha every five years); a transfer fee (variable rate); and an acreage fee (of CFAF 10/ha/year). Production is mainly exported in the form of sawn wood (about 80%), followed by veneer sheets and rough wood.

4.58. In addition to the stumpage fees mentioned above, rough wood is subject to an export duty of 50% of its f.o.b. value, as fixed semi-annually by the Ministry of Finance based on market values (which are themselves generally determined on the basis of global prices). The export duty on sawn timber and other primary wood products is 10% of the value of the corresponding species.

4.59. The average tariff on wood industry imports is 22.4%, with rates varying between 0% and 30%, in addition to other duties and import taxes (Common Report, Section 3).

4.2 Mining and energy

4.2.1 Oil and gas products

4.60. In 2020, Cameroon had proven hydrocarbon reserves estimated at 309 million barrels.[67] In the same year, oil production was estimated at around 26.5 million barrels, compared to 25.9 million in 2019, while gas production grew from 78.1 billion cubic feet to 83.2 billion cubic feet over the same period.

4.61. As a major contributor to government revenue and exports, hydrocarbons, particularly oil, are Cameroon's main source of wealth. Local consumption of petroleum products is subsidized by the State. These subsidies represent significant expenditure, especially as a share of GDP.[68]

4.62. Oil sector activities can be subdivided into two parts: upstream activities involving exploration and production; and downstream activities, involving the refining, import and export of refined products and the transportation, storage and distribution of petroleum products. Cameroon joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2005.

4.2.1.1 Oil

4.2.1.1.1 Crude oil

4.63. There has been a notable change in the legal framework governing the oil sector since Cameroon's last trade policy review. A new Petroleum Code was adopted in 2019[69] to replace the provisions of the 1999 Code relating to upstream oil activities. The new Code governs oil contracts signed after it was enacted. However, holders of oil contracts entered into under the old Code who wish to avail themselves of the provisions of the new Code may renegotiate their contracts. The new Code applies only to upstream petroleum activities, which include hydrocarbon prospection, exploration and exploitation.

4.64. The Petroleum Code provides for concession contracts (linked to research permits and, where applicable, to operating concessions) and production-sharing contracts replacing exploration

[66] Law No. 2000/08 of 30 June 2000, Article 11.
[67] SNH, *Rapport annuel 2020*.
[68] Ministry of Water and Energy, *Situation énergétique du Cameroun, 2015*.
[69] Law No. 2019/008 of 25 April 2019.

authorizations, renewable every three years. It authorizes companies to choose either a production-sharing or a concession contract.

4.65. A concession contract gives the right to utilize the hydrocarbons extracted within a specified perimeter and determines the legal, financial, fiscal and social criteria conferring validity on the exploitation authorization, including payment of a royalty (either financial or in kind) in proportion to production. The production-sharing contract confers exclusive exploitation rights on its holder for a specified service area; output is shared between the holder and the State in accordance with the provisions of the contract. The authorization is valid for 25 years for hydrocarbons and 35 years for gaseous hydrocarbons, renewable once for 10 years. The National Hydrocarbons Corporation (SNH), a public enterprise, manages the State's shares in various petroleum projects, including those pertaining to gas.

4.66. In addition to the concession contract and the production-sharing contract, the new Petroleum Code also introduces a service contract, under which the contract holder manages and finances petroleum operations against remuneration. The new Code introduces a fixed corporate income tax rate of 35% (compared with a variable rate of between 38.5% and 50% under the old Code). Oil activities are performed by national and foreign companies holding exploration permits and/or operating concessions.

4.67. The Code provides incentives for investment in the oil sector. These incentives include exemption from payment of the signature bonus for certain oil contracts, exemption from payment of corporate income tax for a maximum period of five years for liquid hydrocarbons and seven years for gaseous hydrocarbons, as well as tax consolidation of research expenditure.

4.68. The 1,070 km long Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline links the oilfields at Doba in Chad with Cameroon's Atlantic Coast at Kribi. It includes three interconnected pumping stations, an optical fibre cable, and facilities for offshore oil transfer. The fiscal terms for its operation are set out in the hydrocarbons research, exploitation and transport agreement.

4.2.1.1.2 Refined products

4.69. Crude oil refining is conducted by the National Refining Company (SONARA), which normally processes an average of 2 million tonnes of crude oil a year. Most of the crude oil comes from Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea, as local crude is too heavy for the equipment. Local demand for refined petroleum products is largely met (up to about 80%) by SONARA. In June 2019, SONARA suffered a fire that destroyed a large part of its Limbe site. Since then, all refined oil consumed is imported.

4.70. Imports of products competing with those manufactured by SONARA are subject to the prior issue of a "shortage certificate " by the Hydrocarbon Price Stabilization Fund (CSPH), which imports the remainder of products consumed through a call for tenders.

4.71. The import of refined petroleum products is subject to a range of duties and taxes that the Government modifies according to its pricing and consumer subsidies policy. Customs duty, which varies from 10% to a maximum of 20%, is added to other import duties and taxes, VAT and the Special Tax on Petroleum Products (TSPP).

4.72. Together with the SNH, which is also involved in domestic distribution of petroleum products (through the TRADEX company), there are a dozen or so other operators in the distribution market, although it is dominated by subsidiaries of two large international groups. These groups are members of the Association of Petroleum Professionals (GPP), which holds close to 95% of the market share. Sales prices are set by the Hydrocarbon Price Stabilization Fund (CSPH) and approved by the Ministry responsible for trade. Oil prices at the pump are set in accordance with an equalization system.

4.73. Storage services are provided by the Cameroon Oil Depot Company (SCDP), in which the State holds a 51% stake. The SCDP also coordinates supply to the various depots, ensures provision to distributors, and provides the infrastructure needed to hold security stocks.

4.2.1.2 Gas

4.74. While the upstream gas sector is still governed by the 1999 Petroleum Code (Section 4.2.1.1), since 2012 the downstream sector has been governed by a new instrument, Law No. 2012/006 of 19 April 2012 establishing the Gas Code. This Law governs the transportation, distribution, processing, storage, import, export and sale of natural gas and its products in Cameroonian territory. Any natural or legal person residing in Cameroon, whether Cameroonian or foreign, subject to Cameroonian private or public law, may apply to the Ministry responsible for energy for an authorization to operate in the gas sector. Gas transport and distribution concessions are awarded through a bidding procedure. They may exceptionally be awarded following a spontaneous bid. The Minister responsible for energy grants concessions for a renewable period of 35 years.

4.75. The 2012 Gas Code also regulates the award of the licences required to process, store, import or export gas. During the first 10 years of exploitation, persons transporting, distributing, storing or processing gas are exempt from customs duties, taxes and levies on imports of capital goods intended for and used for these activities. They may also benefit from accelerated amortization. The Minister responsible for energy approves contracts between transporters and distributors and "eligible clients" on the same terms. These clients are defined by decree as persons whose annual consumption exceeds 3 million m^3 and who may therefore enter into contracts to buy gas with a producer, transporter or distributor.

4.76. A law on the recovery of gases associated with oil production was passed in December 2011[70], with the aim of creating an enabling contractual and fiscal environment for the recovery and marketing of gases released or flared during oil production.

4.77. Proven reserves of natural gas are estimated at 169.84 billion m^3.[71] Although the gas fields had long remained unexploited, in 2006 a gas exploitation unit began operations under a 25-year production-sharing contract signed between the State (through the SNH) and Perenco. The SNH and its partner Perenco, members of the Sanaga South Association, have brought the natural gas reserves of the Sanaga South field onstream, supplying the 216 MW Kribi thermal power plant. Gas deliveries to the power plant have been managed by the SNH since 2013, via a pipeline built and operated by Perenco. The Kribi power station supplies the southern interconnected grid, which serves the Centre, South, Littoral, South West, North West and West regions.

4.78. In addition, Cameroon has been exporting natural gas since 2018 through the SNH and its partners Perenco and Golar. Gas from the Sanaga South field is liquefied at a floating plant, Hilli Episeyo, off the coast of Kribi. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) production amounts to 1.2 million tonnes per year.

4.2.2 Mining products

4.79. Cameroon has major deposits of iron ore, bauxite, diamonds, limestone, rutile and cobalt nickel. However, despite the existence of these deposits, mining has yet to play a significant role in development. The contribution of the mining sector (excluding oil) to GDP is still marginal (less than 1%).[72] Under its long-term development strategy (Vision 2035), Cameroon intends to become an emerging economy with a strong industrial and mining sector.

4.80. Five mining licences are currently in force: the Mbalam iron project operated by CamIron, the Nkamoun nickel-cobalt project near Lomie, owned by Geovic, the Adamaoua bauxite project (at Minim-Martap and Ngaoundal) operated by Cameroon Alumina, and the Mobilon diamond project developed by Cameroon & Korean Mining. There are two licences for nickel-cobalt and diamonds and three for limestone and marble.[73]

4.81. The development of Cameroon's mining potential is recognized by the Government as one of the key drivers of the country's economic growth. The Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development is responsible for implementing the Government's policy in these areas. In 2020, the

[70] Law No. 2011/025 of 14 December 2011 on the recovery of associated gases.
[71] SNH. Viewed at: http://www.snh.cm/images/publications/Plaquette_SNH_2019_Fran%C3 per centA7ais.pdf.
[72] MINMIDT. Viewed at: https://www.minmidt.cm/strategie-ministerielle/.
[73] MINMIDT. Viewed at: https://www.minmidt.cm/precasem-2/.

country set up the National Mining Corporation to promote mining exploration and manage the State's interests in the mining sector.

4.82. The Government had noteworthy ambitions for the mining sector during the period under review. In 2016, a new Mining Code was enacted so that the sector could serve as a driver of sustainable economic development.[74] It has set up a "local content" value enhancement system and created a special local capacity development account to maximize the impact of mining projects on Cameroon's economic, social, cultural, industrial and technological development.

4.83. The Mining Code also lays down rules for the sustainable use of resources. It requires mining operators to comply with the principles of the EITI and the Kimberly Process (KP).

4.84. Mining legislation covers all deposits of mineral substances not classified as quarries[75], with the exception of those containing liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons, and any locations where mineral substances are extracted by means of either opencast or underground mining, as well as facilities and fixed or mobile equipment used for mining. The Code covers prospection, exploration, exploitation, possession, movement and processing in respect of mineral or fossil substances. It differentiates between small-scale and industrial mining operations.

4.85. The small-scale prospection and exploitation of mineral substances, including their marketing, are reserved for Cameroonian nationals. Industrial activities, including the exploitation of geothermal deposits and spring and mineral waters are open to all Cameroonian or foreign natural persons, provided that they hold a mining permit and that they establish a company under Cameroonian law to operate. Permits are granted preferentially to applicants who undertake to recruit and train Cameroonian workers.

4.86. Mining permits either grant authorization for small-scale operations or allow exploration or exploitation activities; they are renewable in both cases. Applications for exploitation permits must be accompanied by a feasibility study containing a draft mining agreement between the State and the permit applicant. The agreement lays down the legal, financial, fiscal and social prerequisites for the validity of the mining permit; it may supplement the provisions of the Mining Code but may not derogate from them. The agreement is valid for the entire period of exploitation, as appropriate. The granting of an exploitation permit may involve the State holding up to a 10% stake in the operating company, although the nature and conditions of such an arrangement are set out in the agreement.

4.87. Holders of mining exploitation permits pay fixed charges for the permit itself; royalties based on the surface area being worked; an extraction tax, at a rate determined by the type of substances being mined, e.g., whether ductile (clays, shingle, laterites, pozzolanas and sands) or hard; and an *ad valorem* tax.

4.88. Under the Mining Code, holders of exploration permits benefit from the temporary admission regime for materials to be used in exploration activities and for professional equipment, machinery, apparatus, worksite vehicles, spares and replacement parts. The materials and replacement parts needed to maintain professional materials and equipment in good working order, together with specific lubricants needed for the functioning of exploration materials and equipment, are exempt from customs duties.

4.89. Imports of mining products are low (less than 2% on average over the review period). The import of mining substances is subject to customs duties, the average rate of which is 11.2%, with a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 30%, in addition to other import duties and taxes (Common Report, Section 3).

4.2.3 Electricity

4.90. Thanks to its abundant water resources, Cameroon has immense potential for hydropower, estimated at 20,000 MW. Electric energy is currently produced by three hydroelectric dams with a total installed capacity of 722 MW, and one thermal power plant with a capacity of 205 MW. Installed capacity is 1,360 MW (998 for the main electricity operator Eneo and 362 for independent

[74] Law No. 2016/17 of 14 December 2016.
[75] The Code provides a list of substances governed by quarrying legislation.

producers). In 2014, 57.56% of total energy production was derived from hydroelectricity, 21.6% from publicly-owned thermal power, 20.79% from thermal self-generation and 0.06% from renewable energies.

4.91. Under-exploitation of the country's electrical potential frequently leads to power cuts, affecting the productivity of businesses, with obvious implications for economic growth. The electricity access rate was around 65% in 2021.

4.92. Cameroon's energy policy stems from Vision 2035 and the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE 2010-20) and is implemented through sectoral planning documents: the Electricity Sector Development Plan up to 2035; the strategy to promote access to and use of domestic gas in Cameroon; the Rural Electrification Master Plan; and the Three-Year Emergency Plan (2015-17). Its aims include ensuring an adequate, efficient, reliable and clean energy supply; developing and guaranteeing access to modern energy services over the long term; and leveraging energy to promote the competitiveness of Cameroon's industries.

4.93. Activities in the electricity sector are regulated by Law No. 2011/022 of 14 December 2011 governing the electricity sector in Cameroon. Cameroonian legislation does not include any specific restrictions on market access or national treatment for foreign companies. However, transport and distribution remain a monopoly and the electricity grid is still managed by a public corporation.

4.94. Under the legislation, electricity generation is open to competition. The independent production of electricity; the sale of very high-, high- and medium-voltage electricity; and the import and export of electricity are all subject to licensing. The Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL) receives and processes applications for the relevant licenses, after which it transmits them to the Minister responsible for energy. Independent power producers generate electricity and sell their energy to the state-owned company Eneo.

4.95. ARSEL is responsible for, *inter alia*, ensuring the technical and economic regulation of the sector, encouraging competition, promoting investment, reviewing prices and protecting consumer rights. The Rural Electrification Agency (AER) is responsible for promoting rural electrification.

4.96. Since 2014, Energy of Cameroon S.A. (Eneo Cameroon S.A.) replaced AES-SONEL as manager of the production and distribution of electrical energy in Cameroon. Eneo, a semi-public company with 51% of its capital held by the Actis group, 44% by the State of Cameroon and 5% by employees, is affiliated to the State of Cameroon by a 20-year framework concession contract which was set to expire on 17 July 2021. The contract was recently extended for a further 10 years from 18 July 2021 by decision of the President of the Republic. To encourage the entry of new operators into electricity generation, Eneo's installed capacity has been capped at 1,000 MW. The generation facilities consist of a total of 39 power plants, 13 of which are interconnected and 26 isolated thermal. 73% of Eneo's production is hydroelectric. Eneo's generating facilities contribute 72% to Cameroon's energy mix.

4.97. Cameroon's largest independent power producer is Globeleq Africa, owned by a consortium of Norwegian investment fund Norfund and British finance institution the CDC Group. Globeleq Africa holds majority stakes in DPDC and KPDC, which respectively manage the Dibamba oil-fired power station and the Kribi gas-fired power station (216 MW, currently being expanded to 330 MW) in the South region. In addition to Globeleq Africa, British independent producer Aggreko also operates in Cameroon. It operates a 10 MW power plant in Maroua. In addition, in 2023, the Nachtigal Hydro Power Company (NHPC) plans to complete the Nachtigal hydroelectric power station, which will have a capacity of 420 MW, more than 30% of the country's current installed capacity.

4.98. By law, the transmission and distribution of electricity are subject to a concession system. Operators engaged in activities relating to transmission network management, transmission and distribution are selected by invitation to tender.

4.99. Eneo's concession contract for the transmission of electricity and management of the electricity transmission network ended on 31 December 2018. It was replaced by a new player, the National Electricity Transmission Company (SONATREL). However, Eneo retains a monopoly on distribution. The price per kWh of electricity, excluding tax, is fixed by decision of ARSEL, the representative of the State, in consultation with Eneo. In general, the price depends both on the voltage level and on the consumption time bands.

4.100. The Electricity Development Corporation (EDC), created on 29 November 2006, is responsible for managing public assets in the electricity sector on behalf of the State.

4.3 Manufacturing

4.101. Manufacturing makes a substantial contribution to Cameroon's GDP (Table 1.1). Manufacturing activities are based principally on the processing of domestically-sourced commodities (oil refining and agro-industrial activities), although the non-ferrous metal (aluminium) sector relies chiefly on imported raw materials. Other manufactures include cotton; paints and varnishes; perfumes, eau de toilettes and cosmetics; soaps and detergents; and cement. Exports of manufactured goods account for less than 10% of annual exports of goods (Table A1.1).

4.102. The main trade measures applied to the manufacturing sector are customs duties averaging 17.9% and ranging from 0% to 30%. In some cases, this duty structure increases the cost of inputs and adds to the high cost of production factors, placing a significant burden on the competitiveness of local businesses. This is why most companies negotiate substantial exemptions from duties and taxes on their inputs and equipment. Exports of manufactured goods are generally exempt from exit duties (Section 3.2.2).

4.103. The forward-looking Vision 2035 and DSCE documents aim to make industrial development the driving force behind the country's development. They have defined their objectives as the emergence of a competitive manufacturing sector to support growth, employment, exports and integration into the global economy. This industrial expansion will be based on the development of infrastructure, the reduction of factor costs and the promotion of new financing methods. In 2010, Cameroon issued a policy statement on the development of industry, mining and technological development, with a view to tackling sectoral challenges, particularly in the area of manufacturing, which the authorities see as a means of diversifying the national economy. It covered the period from 2011 to 2015.

4.104. The country's fishery and agricultural wealth provide the food industry with a variety of inputs. However, there are relatively few food industries in Cameroon. The main food products manufactured include milk, sugar (by SOSUCAM), crude and refined palm oil, cocoa-based preparations and soups. The beverages subsector is also significant in terms of value added. The principal products, also exported and imported, are beer, aerated beverages and mineral waters. Sugar is one of the products for which prices are subject to approval. Sugar imports vary according to local production.

4.105. The basic metallurgical industry is represented by ALUCAM, which processes alumina, mainly imported from Guinea, into aluminium before it is exported. ALUCAM is partly owned by the international group Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) (46.7%), the Cameroonian Government (46.7%), the French Development Agency (AFD) (5.6%) and its employees (1.1%). Through its subsidiaries, ALUCAM also produces aluminium roofing sheets and tableware.

4.106. In the textile sector, the CICAM Group remains the leader. It has three industrial production sites and a distribution network for the local market.

4.107. The cement market is still dominated by mainly foreign-owned production units (Nigeria, Morocco and Türkiye).

4.4 Services

4.4.1 Telecommunications services

4.4.1.1 Market overview

4.108. Table 4.2 below describes the main telecommunications indicators for Cameroon and compares them with continental and global averages.

Table 4.2 Key telecommunications indicators, 2022

Key indicators	Cameroon	Africa	World
Fixed lines (per 100 inhabitants)	4.0	1.0	12.0
Mobile subscribers (per 100 inhabitants)	84.0	83.0	106.0
High speed network (per 100 inhabitants)	17.7	24.8	61.9
3G coverage (% of the population)	79.0	90.0	95
LTE[a]/WiMAX[b] coverage (% of the population)	13	41	88
Individuals using Internet (%)	38	30	60
Households with a computer (%)	18	8.9	47.1
Households with Internet access (%)	22	19.4	54.7
International bandwidth per Internet user (kbits/s)	2.7	11.2	76.6
Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	2.72	0.6	15.89
Fixed broadband subscriptions by speed band (% distribution)			
from 256 kbit/s to 2Mbit/s	47.0	38.7	4.2
from 2 to 10 Mbit/s	30.1	37.2	13.2
greater than or equal to 10 Mbit/s	22.9	24.1	82.6

a Long-term evolution.
b Worldwide interoperability for microwave access.

Note: Figures in italics are ITU estimates.

Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU). ITU Global Connectivity Report 2022; ITU World Telecommunication Development Report and databases, 2022; *Observatoire annuel 2020 du marché des communications électroniques*, 2020. Viewed at: https://datahub.itu.int/data/.

4.109. Cameroon has four telephone operators: MTN Cameroon, a subsidiary of a South African group (48.7% of the mobile market in January 2022); Orange Cameroon, a subsidiary of Orange France (38.2% of the market at the same date); VIETTEL, which operates under the Nexttel brand, a subsidiary of a Vietnamese mobile operator (11.4% of the market) – VIETTEL obtained the country's third licence in 2012 and launched its services in 2014; and CAMTEL, the state-owned incumbent operator which, under its "Blue" brand, offers 2G, 3G and 4G services and has 356,000 registered subscribers as of June 2022 (1.7% of the market).

4.110. CAMTEL is a publicly owned landline operator; it was reorganized by Decree No. 2019/263 of 28 May 2019. On 4 March 2020, the State awarded it three concessions relating to:

- the establishment and operation of an electronic communications transmission network;
- the establishment and operation of a fixed nationwide electronic communications network open to the public; and
- the establishment and operation of a mobile nationwide electronic communications network open to the public.

4.111. In 2020, at least 84.2% of households had a mobile subscription, with a marked disparity between urban and rural areas.

4.112. Only one Mobile Virtual Network Operator operates in Cameroon: YooMee Mobile Cameroun S.A. (100% Cameroonian-owned), which has joined forces with CAMTEL.

4.113. Mobile broadband services began in 2015 following the entry into operation of VIETTEL and the renewal of the licences of MTN and Orange, which authorized these two operators to provide 3G and LTE services and to roll out fibre-optic networks. VIETTEL launched 3G services in 2014, Orange launched 3G services in 2015 and MTN set up an LTE network in the same year.

4.114. Cameroon Telecommunications, or CAMTEL, the state-owned incumbent operator, is the main provider of fixed telephone lines using a combination of copper, optical fibre and wireless local loop. The total number of active subscriptions to services provided by CAMTEL's wired and wireless networks stands at 814,114 (June 2022). CAMTEL also offers fixed broadband services via ADSL and CDMA EV/DO 100 fixed wireless. Other Internet service providers offer WiMAX and fixed wireless LTE services.

4.115. Cameroon has a national fibre-optic network of more than 12,000 km, forming the backbone of the inter-city fibre-optic network deployed in the country's 10 regions, serving 52 out of 58 administrative departments and 209 out of 360 districts, with links to neighbouring countries such as Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria. Cameroon's digital development ambitions are to reach the target of more than 20,000 km of fibre-optic cable.

4.116. Cameroon currently has four fibre-optic submarine cable landing points in service:

- the SAT3/WASC (South Atlantic 3/West Africa Submarine) in Douala, with a capacity of 36.645 Gbps, commissioned on 18 February 2002;
- the WACS (West Africa Cable System) in Limbe with a capacity of 57.7 Gbps, commissioned on 1 July 2015;
- the NCSCS (Nigeria to Cameroon Submarine Cable System) in Kribi, an extension of Main One in Kribi with a capacity of 40 Gbps between Kribi and Lagos and 10 Gbps, between Lagos and Portugal, commissioned on 25 January 2016; and
- the SAIL (South Atlantic Inter Link) cable in Kribi, linking Cameroon to Brazil, with a capacity of 1.4 Tbps, commissioned in December 2018 (expandable to 32 Tbps).

4.4.1.2 Telecommunications policy

4.117. The regulatory framework for the telecommunications sector in Cameroon did not undergo any major changes during the review period. The institutional framework has not changed: the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications is the main government body responsible for information technology in the country. These responsibilities include the development of the information and communication technology (ICT) sectoral strategy. The most recent strategy was completed in 2015 and entailed building and updating the regulatory and institutional framework; increasing the quantity, availability and accessibility of ICT services; and increasing the use of ICT by industry.

4.118. In 2016, the Government adopted the "Digital Cameroon 2020" strategic plan for the development of the digital economy, which is based on three main pillars: supply, demand, governance and training. This strategic plan comprises eight key areas:

- developing broadband infrastructure;
- increasing the production and supply of digital content;
- ensuring the digital transformation of government and business;
- promoting digital literacy through the widespread use of ICT in society;
- building digital confidence;
- developing a local digital industry and encouraging research and innovation;
- developing human capital and digital leadership; and
- improving governance and institutional support.

4.119. Cameroon also adopted the National Development Strategy 2020-30 (NDS30), which is the new reference framework and is based on four main pillars that will serve as a reference point for its actions: structural transformation of the economy; development of human capital and well-being; promotion of employment and economic integration; and governance, decentralization and strategic management of the State.

4.120. A National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC) is responsible for promoting ICT, managing domain names and cybersecurity. Its organization and operation are laid down in Decree No. 2012/180 of 10 April 2012 on the organization and functioning of the

National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies. Following the passing of Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime and Law No. 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon, as well as Decree No. 2019/150 of 22 March 2019 on the organization and functioning of this agency, ANTIC was charged, *inter alia*, with regulating electronic security activities, promoting ICT, regulating the Internet in Cameroon and spectrum management, in collaboration with the Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART). ANTIC has legal personality and financial autonomy and is under the authority of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

4.121. The Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART) was created in 1998. Its powers were extended by Law No. 2015/006 of 20 April 2015 governing electronic communications, which amends and supplements certain provisions of Law No. 2010/013 of 21 December 2010, and Decree No. 2020/727 of 3 December 2020 on the reorganization and operation of ART, which makes it a special public establishment with legal personality and financial autonomy. ART regulates, controls and monitors the activities of operators (including network operators) and providers of electronic communications services, on behalf of the State.

4.122. The principal laws on telecommunications are Law No. 2010/013 of 13 December 2010 governing electronic communications and Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime.

4.123. Other important instruments govern the sector, including two recent laws.

4.124. Law No. 2015/006 of 20 April 2015 amends and supplements certain provisions of Law No. 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon. It seeks to: (i) promote the harmonious and balanced development of electronic communications networks and services, with a view to ensuring the contribution of this sector to the development of the national economy, and to satisfying the multiple needs of users and the population; (ii) set the terms and conditions for the establishment and operation of networks and the provision of electronic communications services in compliance with the requirements of national defence and public security; and (iii) encourage and promote the participation of the private sector in the development of electronic communications in a competitive environment.

4.125. Law No. 2015/007 of 20 April 2015 governs audiovisual activity in Cameroon. It seeks to: (i) define the legal regimes governing audiovisual activities; (ii) determine the rights and obligations of operators in the audiovisual sector; and (iii) lay down the terms and conditions for the provision of audiovisual services. The Ministry of Communication is now responsible for issuing authorizations for the creation and opening of audiovisual companies. The use of frequencies by audiovisual companies is conditional on obtaining an operating licence, depending on the case. This licence is used to apply to the Telecommunications Regulatory Board for a frequency assignment agreement, which is an authorization issued to the licensee to use certain frequencies. The implementing instruments for the law governing audiovisual activity in Cameroon, in particular those laying down the procedures for setting up and operating companies and for paying entry fees in this sector, are pending signature. In the absence of these implementing texts, operators rely on administrative tolerance.

4.126. Between 2017 and 2022, three implementing decrees were issued: Decree No. 2019/150 of 22 March 2019 on the organization and functioning of ANTIC; Decree No. 2020/721 of 3 December 2020 on the reorganization and functioning of ART, amending Decree No. 2012/203 of 20 April 2012; and Decree No. 2017/2580/PM of 6 April 2017 laying down terms and conditions for the establishment or operation of electronic communications networks and the provision of electronic communications services subject to the authorization regime. The latter provides a general reminder that the performance of activities relating to the establishment and operation of electronic communications networks and the provision of electronic communications services is subject only to the prior granting of a concession, licence or approval. Licences and approvals are issued solely by the Ministry responsible for telecommunications, while concessions are issued in conjunction with the Minister responsible for finance and approved by the President of the Republic.

4.127. The following types of service are fully liberalized: cable television; data; global mobile personal communications by fixed or mobile satellite; and Internet services and paging. International mobile communications (3G and 4G) and international gateways are subject to full competition. Most concession operators have their own international gateway.

4.128. The following services are still monopolies: domestic long-distance fixed lines; fixed satellite services; fixed wireless broadband; international long-distance fixed lines; leased lines; wireless local loop; local fixed lines; and digital subscriber lines. Regulations (Law No. 11 2015/006 of 20 April 2015 amending and supplementing certain provisions of Law No. 11 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon) have already liberalized this market segment. Operators wishing to offer these services have only to apply for the necessary authorizations.

4.129. Universal service, within the meaning of the law, is defined as the minimum set of defined services of good quality that is accessible to the entire population under affordable tariff conditions irrespective of geographical location. Universal access policies seek to promote the installation of public payphones and public telecentres in remote villages or low-income urban areas.

4.130. In order to finance universal service and the development of the telecommunications and ICT sector, Law No. 11 2015/006 of 20 April 2015 establishes a special telecommunications fund, the resources of which are derived *inter alia* from the following:

- annual contributions from operators of electronic communications services, amounting to 3% of their turnover excluding tax;
- government subsidies;
- income from the production and publication of the universal subscriber directory; ART budget surpluses;
- the proportion of entry and renewal fees generated by the sale and renewal of licences;
- gifts and legacies.

4.131. The resources of the special telecommunications fund are recovered by ART.

4.4.2 Postal and express services

4.132. The regulatory framework for postal services in Cameroon evolved during the period under review with the enactment of Law No. 2020/004 of 23 April 2020 governing postal activity in Cameroon. This text provides for the "creation, organization and operation of a postal activities regulatory agency", to regulate, control and monitor the activities of postal operators and service providers on behalf of the State. This body must also ensure that the principle of equal treatment of users is respected in all postal undertakings and that a universal postal service is provided throughout the country.

4.133. The law establishes three operating regimes for postal networks and services: concessions, licences and declarations.

4.134. The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications is responsible both for the general policy of the sector, including its development through a special allocation account for the development of postal activity (CAS-Poste), and for regulatory functions, through its Directorate for the Regulation and Control of Postal Activities (DRP).

4.135. Pending the establishment of a postal regulatory authority, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, through the DRP, is responsible for regulating the market. The DRP grants licences to operators for the partial delegation of exclusive rights and monitors compliance with licensing conditions.

4.136. A postal market regularization operation, launched in April 2019 to bring operators operating outside the regulatory framework into compliance with current legislation, increased the number of compliant private postal operators from 11 to 36 (including 34 postal couriers and 2 postal money transfer operators) by December 2022.

Table 4.3 Private postal operators in Cameroon, 2022

No.	Name of operator	Category	Head office	Type of business
2	AMOUR MEZAM	2	Bamenda	Postal messaging
3	APM	1	Douala	Postal messaging
4	AVENIR VOYAGES	2	Koutaba	Postal messaging
5	BINAM S.A.	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
6	BOLLORE T&L	1	Douala	Postal messaging
7	BUCA VOYAGES	2	Sangmelima	Postal messaging
8	CDV SARL	2	Douala	Postal messaging
9	CITY MESSENGERS	2	Douala	Postal messaging
10	DANAY EXPRESS	2	Yagoua	Postal messaging
11	DHL	1	Douala	Postal messaging
12	EMI MONEY	1	Yaoundé	Postal funds transfer
13	ESICO	1	Douala	Postal messaging
14	EXPRESS EXCHANGE	1	Douala	Postal funds transfer
15	FINEXSCAM	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
16	FLEXI LOGISTICS	1	Douala	Postal messaging
17	GHF SARL	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
18	GARANTI EXPRESS COMPANY	2	Douala	Postal messaging
19	GENERAL EXPRESS VOYAGES	2	Mbouda	Postal messaging
20	GLOBEX C. SARL	1	Douala	Postal messaging
21	GF International	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
22	KINGSLEY INT.	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
23	MOGHAMO EXPRESS	2	Bamenda	Postal messaging
24	M.T.A TXL	1	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
25	MVILA VOYAGES SARL	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
26	OVERLINE T&L	2	Bertoua	Postal messaging
27	PRINCESSE VOYAGES	2	Douala	Postal messaging
28	SATIT Sari	2	Douala	Postal messaging
29	SMS	2	Yagoua	Postal messaging
30	SOCOOPTRANSCAM	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
31	SOLEX	1	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
32	SUD DEPECHE	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
33	TOURISTIQUE CCE	2	Yaoundé	Postal messaging
34	TRESOR VOYAGES	2	Bafoussam	Postal messaging

Note: Category 1 indicates international coverage and Category 2 national coverage.

Source: Information provided by the authorities.

4.137. Licences are subject to a postal fee, for which Decree No. 2005/07006/PM of 21 March 2005 lays down rates and calculation and collection procedures. The decree sets the following admission fee rates:

- postal messaging: Category 1 (international) 45 million; Category 2 (national) 35 million;
- postal fund transfer: Category 1 (international) 75 million; Category 2 (national) 40 million; The term of the licence is ten years, renewable under Decree No. 2010/2429/PM of 12 August 2019.

4.138. In addition, proportional duties, set at a rate of 5% of turnover, excluding tax, are applied under Law No. 2020/004 of 23 April 2020.

4.139. Within the meaning of Law No. 2020/004 of 23 April 2020, the universal postal service is the set of basic postal services that the State guarantees to all sections of the population, on a permanent and regular basis, in accordance with specific quality standards and at the lowest cost, throughout the national territory, at the access points of the operator in charge of universal service.

4.140. In return for its universal postal service obligations, the State granted the designated postal operator (CAMPOST) a residual monopoly known as reserve services. Reserve services include the collection, sorting, routing and distribution of national and international items of correspondence, for ordinary mail weighing up to 500 grams and national express mail weighing up to 100 grams.

4.141. Private postal operators may participate in providing these services, provided that they sign an agreement with the designated operator. The agreement is for a period of one year, renewable by tacit agreement.

4.142. A special allocation account for the development of the postal sector (CAS-Poste) was created by Budget Law No. 2019/023 of 24 December 2019 for the 2020 financial year. It is funded by levies on private operators for the performance of the activities entrusted to them, the fixed and proportional entry fees described above, and the fee for examining approval applications, which is CFAF 200,000.

4.143. In addition to this revenue, CAS-Poste is also funded by the telecommunications sector's contribution to the postal sector, levies on fees for non-bank money transfer transactions carried out by banks and micro-finance institutions through partnerships signed with international integrators (Western Union, Money Gram, Ria, Small World), and levies on email and SMS turnover.

4.4.3 Transport services

4.4.3.1 Air transport services

4.144. Tables 4.4 and 4.5 below provide details of air passenger traffic from 2015 to 2021 and freight traffic from 2014 to 2017 only, as no subsequent data is publicly available.

Table 4.4 Air passenger traffic trends, selected indicators, 2015-21

(Number of passengers)

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
267,208	343,592	236,000	265,136	83,882	40,884	177,992

Source: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Table 4.5 Air freight traffic trends, 2014-17

(Tonnes)

2014	2015	2016	2017
10,131	14,115	13,476	9,831

Source: Aéroports du Cameroun (ADC).

4.145. Passenger traffic fell over the period as a whole, with a very sharp drop due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but climbed back towards previous levels as of 2021. There is no clear trend in freight traffic and its instability is probably linked to the vagaries of the oil industry, which makes frequent use of air transport for its precision parts.

4.146. Air transport policy is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport, which has delegated some of its powers to the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA). The CCAA is most notably responsible for safety and security-related matters, and issues landing and overflight authorizations. It fixes and collects taxes on aircraft and passengers (for 2018, CFAF 15,000 per aircraft and CFAF 10,000 per passenger). Aéroports du Cameroun (ADC), a semi-public company that is 60% owned by the Government of Cameroon, is responsible for the management, development and maintenance of airport infrastructure for seven airports, including four international airports. The other airports are managed by the CCAA. ADC's remit also includes a monopoly on the provision of ground handling services. The pan-African Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) provides air navigation and meteorological services for the three international airports in Douala, Yaoundé and Garoua. ADC provides these services at other airports.

4.147. Cameroon has just one national airline, Camair-Co. Founded in 1971 as Camair and renamed Camair-Co in 2011, it underwent a lengthy restructuring, suspending its international routes and some of its domestic routes in the process. Thanks to a financial rescue plan in 2019, it was able to resume its domestic routes and gradually extend its network to neighbouring countries. However, the restructuring process is by no means complete.

4.148. Out of 67 bilateral air agreements in force, only 15 are operational (with Belgium, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Luxembourg, Morocco, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Togo and Türkiye); they are implemented by an airline from the partner country. According to the authorities, all the agreements signed with African countries that are signatories of the Yamoussoukro Decision[76] conform to that declaration, which liberalizes intra-African air traffic.[77] The authorities further state that the other operational agreements are restrictive in nature.

4.149. One of the major developments during the review period was the lifting of the requirement for companies from partner countries to touch down twice at Yaoundé and Douala.

4.4.3.2 Maritime transport and port services

4.150. Table 4.6 shows container port traffic in Cameroon from 2015 to 2021, while Table 4.7 shows trends in all traffic, including liquid bulk oil traffic, from 2011 to 2017 only, as no data is publicly available for the subsequent period.

Table 4.6 Container traffic, 2015-20

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
379,915	370,000	386,367	387,600	370,685	366,667

Source: UNCTAD.

Table 4.7 Cameroon port traffic trends, 2011-17

Type of traffic	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Long haul	8,568,798	9,556,136	10,504,668	10,791,717	11,212,407	11,042,894	11,756,695
Local	54,799	61,860	59,612	60846	89,694	79,887	40,207
Total	8,623,597	9,617,996	10,564,280	10,852,563	11,302,101	11,122,781	11,796,902
No. of ships	2,405	3,287	3,617	2,526	3,053	3,188	3,132
No. of ships by type							
Cargo	317	276	346	326	410	350	
Banana carriers	97	102	103	103	85	86	
Oil tankers	93	121	128	137	133	129	
Chemical tankers	0	0	0	15	10	9	
Mineral tankers	40	110	60	71	7	31	
Gas tankers	36	49	54	51	39	24	
Edible oil tankers	0	0	0	51			
Container ships	393	331	344	291	281	294	
Roll-on/roll-off ships	95	81	80	84	89	82	
Various	0	0	0	23	102	132	
Total	**1,071**	**1,070**	**1,115**	**1,152**	**1,156**	**1,137**	**1,135**

Source: Autonomous Port of Douala (PAD).

4.151. Cameroon has four ports: Douala, Kribi, Limbe and Tiko.

4.152. Douala is the main port, handling 95% of the country's traffic. It is also the main port for foreign trade with Cameroon's landlocked neighbours: the Central African Republic, Chad and the northern region of the Republic of the Congo. It is located 50 kilometres upstream from the Wouri River, which requires constant dredging and limits the size of ships that can call in at the port. A new quay dedicated to clinker traffic was created during the review period thanks to a public-private partnership (PPP), while two other quays, one also dedicated to clinker traffic and the other to gas traffic, were rehabilitated. There are plans to construct a new PPP bulk terminal at an estimated cost of CFAF 150 billion.

4.153. The 15-year concession for the container terminal awarded to Douala International Terminal (DIT, a joint venture between French company Bolloré and Danish company Maersk) in 2005 has expired. The selection process for the new operator is under way. TIL, a subsidiary of Swiss shipowner MSC, has been selected as the provisional winning bidder. The port's Container Terminal Authority (RTC) is managing the terminal pending the outcome of legal proceedings launched by the parties involved over the award of the concession. The port's 2050 development

[76] Morocco is not a signatory to this Decision.
[77] For more information on the Yamoussoukro Decision, see WTO document S/C/W/270/Add.2, 28 September 2007, pages 165 et seq.

plan envisages the creation of a second container terminal, which could be managed by another operator.

4.154. Stevedoring, handling (excluding containers) and consignment activities at the Port of Douala are open to competition. By decision of the Douala Autonomous Port Authority in December 2018, the port authority is responsible for dredging.

4.155. A new container terminal opened in Kribi in March 2018. With a draught of 16 metres, it is the only deep-water port in Cameroon. It is therefore suited to the new generation of trans-oceanic container ships and is set to become Cameroon's second main port. The concession for this terminal was awarded in 2015 to the company Kribi Container Terminal (KCT), a partnership between the French groups Bolloré and CMA-CGM, the Chinese company China Harbour Engineering Corporation and private Cameroonian investors. A second terminal expansion phase is planned, which will be financed by the EXIM Bank of the People's Republic of China.

4.156. A shipyard in Limbe specializing in the maintenance and repair of oil rigs ("oil yard"), a project more than 15 years in the making, was finalized during the period under review with the help of multilateral donors.

4.157. In 2021, Cameroon had a national flag fleet of 98 vessels over 100 gross tonnes with a total carrying capacity of 2,750 million deadweight tonnes (DWT), i.e. 0.13% of global capacity. The bulk of the fleet's tonnage comes from oil tankers (1,727 million DWT) and the UNCTAD category "other types of ships" (neither oil tankers, nor bulk carriers, nor container ships, nor general cargo, 773,300 DWT). In addition, Cameroon has 436,000 tonnes of deadweight capacity, i.e. 0.02% of the world fleet flying flags other than its national flag.

4.4.3.3 Land transport

4.4.3.3.1 Road transport

4.158. Cameroon's road network consists of 121,000 kilometres of roads and tracks, of which only 7,260 are paved; about half of the paved roads have deteriorated. As a result, the network is struggling to cope with the increase in road traffic, which is growing by around 7% a year.[78]

4.159. The road transport sector is highly fragmented. Firms with one to three vehicles and a fleet of older trucks together account for 82% of employment.[79]

4.160. There were no significant developments in the regulatory and institutional framework for road transport during the period under review. It is still organized around the Land Freight Management Office (BGFT) and is based on approvals for carriers, a ban on cabotage by transport companies not registered in Cameroon, 55%-45% traffic distribution ratios with Chad and CAR and informal arrangements with other neighbouring countries.

4.161. Although direct data on domestic and international traffic is lacking, a number of indirect indicators suggest that road freight and passenger transport activities surged during the period under review.

4.162. Firstly, the total fleet of vehicles weighing more than one tonne, which largely consists of buses, coaches and heavy goods vehicles, had almost quadrupled by 2017, as shown in Table 4.8. No information was publicly available for the subsequent period.

Table 4.8 Total number of vehicles registered by tonnage, 2014-17

Line labels	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Other		104			
One tonne	43	25	36	29	116
Below one tonne	75,649	82,109	87,827	79,523	280,740

[78] World Bank, Cameroon – Systematic Country Diagnostic: An Update, July 2022, viewed at: https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/446021657067054458/cameroon-systematic-country-diagnostic-an-update.

[79] Ibid.

Line labels	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Above one tonne	13,881	15,371	13,857	12,827	48,546
Total	**89,573**	**97,609**	**101,720**	**92,379**	**381,281**

Note: Vehicles include buses, vans, lorries, agricultural machinery, public works machinery, special machinery, minibuses, motorbikes, semi-trailers, road tractors, tricycles, commercial vehicles and passenger cars.

Source: Ministry of Transport.

4.163. Secondly, as Table 4.9 shows, the number of different types of transport licences and authorizations also increased threefold up to 2017 and sometimes more for certain sub-categories of authorizations.

Table 4.9 Total number of blue cards and licences by category, 2014-17

Line labels	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Blue cards	**25,865**	**18,396**	**13,676**	**10,259**	**62,348**
Other	349	257	157	124	802
Transport of goods	15,720	10,430	6,607	4,684	35,009
Intercity passenger transport	2,754	1,912	1,593	1,260	6,733
Urban passenger transport	7,042	5,797	5,319	4,191	19,804
Transport licence	**7,323**	**7,140**	**6,680**	**5,071**	**23,178**
Total	**33,188**	**25,536**	**20,356**	**15,330**	**94,410**

Note: Vehicles include buses, vans, lorries, agricultural machinery, public works machinery, special machinery, minibuses, motorbikes, semi-trailers, road tractors, tricycles, commercial vehicles and passenger cars.

Source: Ministry of Transport.

4.164. Lastly, with regard to international road transport, as shown in Table 4.10 below, traffic on the transit corridors linking Cameroon to its neighbours is on the increase overall, even if it is decreasing slightly for certain destinations and is subject to fairly wide annual variations. This upward trend is more marked for the number of vehicle movements than for the tonnage transported.

Table 4.10 Annual change in traffic on transit corridors, 2012-17

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CAMEROON-CAR						
Annual tonnage	357,122	308,664	421,409	442,839	679,941	607,255
Annual vehicle movements	17,177	12,728	14,783	15,069	23,353	22,642
CAMEROON-CHAD						
Annual tonnage	678,255	724,293	903,734	709,613	911,028	600,080
Annual vehicle movements	27,875	34,463	36,162	28,392	36,453	21,086
CAMEROON-CONGO						
Annual tonnage	317,460	349,094	272,384	221,633	237,780	280,141
Annual vehicle movements	12,177	13,214	10,096	9,674	9,674	11,334
CAMEROON-GABON						
Annual tonnage	5,915	9,062	16,733	11,683	17,006	15,851
Annual vehicle movements	1,174	1,727	2,551	2,410	2,393	2,794
CAMEROON-EQUATORIAL GUINEA						
Annual tonnage	6,645	6,911	3,507	3,465	3,219	4,603
Annual vehicle movements	768	819	378	218	368	3,943
TOTAL						
Annual tonnage	1,365,397	1,398,024	1,617,667	1,389,236	1,848,974	1,507,930
Annual vehicle movements	59,171	62,951	63,970	55,763	72,241	61,799

Note: These include the transit of goods via Cameroon, and imports and exports from CAR, Chad, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, respectively.

Source: BGFT.

4.4.3.3.2 Railway transport services

4.165. Cameroon's rail network is made up of three lines: Transcam I: Douala-Yaoundé (262 km); Transcam II: Yaoundé-Ngaoundéré (662 km) and the Western line which has two sections Douala-Mbanga (74 km) and Mbanga-Kumba (27 km). During the period under review, significant investments were made on this network, including the rehabilitation of 175 kilometres of track

(Batchenga-Nkaa section) co-financed by the Cameroonian government and the World Bank, the construction of level crossings in Douala and Yaoundé, plus the renewal of rolling stock.

4.166. At government level, rail sector activities are monitored by the Directorate of Rail Transport (DTF) at the Ministry of Transport. The network remains the property of the Cameroonian State. The network operator is Camrail, a private company with a concession for the entire network, granted in 1999 for 20 years and extended in 2005 for a further 30 years. The main shareholder is the French transport company Bolloré, which holds 77%, with the Cameroonian state holding 13.5%.

4.167. Table 4.11 below shows the main economic indicators for the sector from 2011 to 2017 only, as no data is publicly available for the subsequent period.

Table 4.11 Overall traffic trends in the rail sector, 2011-17

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tonnes of goods per year (millions)	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	2	2	1
Passengers per year (in millions)	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.6	2	2	0.9
Locomotives	57	57	60	60	56	59	51
Passenger coaches	63	63	63	103	103	63	33
Carriages	1,184	1,173	1,224	1,234	1,234	1,234	1,233
Seat kilometres offered (in millions)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.2

Source: CAMRAIL.

4.168. After a period of fairly strong growth from 2011 to 2016 in both passenger and goods traffic, there was a sharp drop in traffic in 2017, due in part to a serious accident that led to the suspension of some passenger traffic.

4.4.4 Tourism services

4.169. Table 4.12 below shows the main indicators for the Cameroonian tourism sector from 2014 to 2021.

Table 4.12 Main economic indicators for the Cameroonian tourism sector, 2014-21

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Inbound tourism								
Arrivals (thousands)[a]								
By region (total)	434	452	484	554	546	460	147	..
Africa	211	192	219	208	238	205	91	..
Americas	21	27	27	39	33	25	6	..
East Asia and Pacific	21	22	24	23	27	25	6	..
Europe	151	167	166	203	186	160	36	..
Middle East	8	15	21	45	32	10	3	..
By main purpose of journey								
Personal reasons								
Business and professional reasons								
By mode of transport (total)	822	897	994	1081	997	1021	..	..
Air	244	308	401	464	475	489	..	..
Sea	24	27	30	28	17	19	..	..
Land (road)	554	563	564	589	506	513	..	..
Accommodation (thousands)								
Hotels and similar establishments								
Guests	434	452	484	554	546	460	147	..
Nights	833	1,045	1,158	1,204	1,150	1,111	324	..
Tourism spending (USD million)	629	476	508	544	633	681	437	508
Travel	595	450	505	525	581	653	4,357	507
Passenger transport	34	26	3	19	52	28	..	1
Tourism industries								
Number of establishments	2,000	2,092	2,252	2,213	2,275	2,382	2,547	..
Number of rooms	31,485	32,710	35,686	34,745	37,807	39,190	42,219	..
Number of bed places	33,096	34,414	37,712	36,887	40,001	41,067	44,354	..
Occupancy rate by room (%)	28.49	28.1	26.9	31.31	29.04	29.52	11.02	..
Average length of stay	1.62	1.63	1.65	1.86	1.87	1.9	1.47	..

.. Not available.

a Overnight visitors (tourists) by air.

Source: World tourism statistics, UN/WTO.

4.170. As the table shows, there were between 400,000 and 500,000 inbound tourists during the period, before a sharp decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. African tourists (most likely from neighbouring countries, as illustrated by the preponderance of arrivals by land) make up the largest contingent, followed by European tourists. Tourism spending was fairly stable during the period. The number of establishments and hotel capacity in terms of both rooms and beds increased during the period, but the occupancy rates remained low, particularly during COVID-19.

4.171. The Ministry of Tourism sets the sector policy, and the basic regulatory framework was renewed by Law No. 2016/006 of 18 April 2016.

4.172. Article 6 of this law affords any natural and legal person, regardless of nationality subject to fulfilment of the requirements of professionalism recognized by international rules and standards, the freedom to practice tourism and recreational activities throughout the territory.

4.173. However, Article 7 of the law requires that an authorization, approval or licence, as applicable, be obtained before a commercial and industrial recreational or tourism activity is carried out.

4.174. The authorization regime applies to the following: the construction, transformation and extension of a tourism establishment or of a recreational facility; the operation of a tourism establishment providing lodging services (hotels, furnished apartments and motels) or food and beverage serving services; the operation of a recreational facility; and the organization of recreational or vacation activities. Recreation facilitator or tourist guide activities fall under the approval regime. Lastly, the operation of a travel and accommodation organization structure falls under the licence regime.

4.175. According to the law, the procedures for issuing these three types of authorization are determined by regulation. The different types of authorization are individual, but can be transferred subject to prior approval from the tourism administration.

4.4.5 Financial services

4.4.5.1 Insurance services

4.176. Tables 4.13 and 4.14 below list, from largest to smallest, the life and non-life insurance companies operating in Cameroon, their turnover and their market share, for 2021 and 2022.

Table 4.13 Turnover and market share of non-life insurance companies operating in Cameroon, 2021-22

(Thousands)

Companies	Turnover 2022[a]		Turnover 2021		Trend 2021-22[b]	Share 2022
	CFAF	USD	CFAF	USD		
AXA Assurance	22,374,888	36,471	21,528,222	37,244	3.93%	8.84%
Activa Assurance	18,524,770	30,195	17,246,525	29,837	7.41%	7.32%
Chanas Assurances	18,020,594	29,373	16,251,189	28,115	10.89%	7.12%
SAAR Assurances	17,012,014	27,730	15,060,018	26,054	12.96%	6.72%
Allianz Cameroon	12,382,839	20,184	10,622,795	18,377	16.57%	4.89%
NSIA Cameroon	11,154,034	18,181	11,107,233	19,216	0.42%	4.41%
Garantie Mutuelle des Cadres - GMC	10,471,894	17,069	10,586,698	18,315	-1.08%	4.14%
SANLAM Cameroon	10,012,168	16,320	8,821,449	15,261	13.50%	3.96%
Atlantique Assurance	9,496,842	15,480	8,189,073	14,167	15.97%	3.75%
Prudential Beneficial General Insurance	8,284,578	13,504	5,472,173	9,467	51.39%	3.27%
Zenithe Insurance	6,858,762	11,180	7,681,084	13,288	-10.71%	2.71%
SUNU Insurance	4,781,312	7,793	3,938,826	6,814	21.39%	1.89%
Assurances Générales du Cameroun - AGC	4,511,530	7,354	3,886,347	6,723	16.09%	1.78%
Area Assurances	3,745,384	6,105	4,666,181	8,073	-19.73%	1.48%

Companies	Turnover 2022[a]		Turnover 2021		Trend 2021-22[b]	Share 2022
	CFAF	USD	CFAF	USD		
Royal Onyx Insurance	3,049,681	4,971	2,654,543	4,592	14.89%	1.21%
PRO ASSUR Assurances	2,971,788	4,844	2,563,217	4,434	15.94%	1.17%
Compagnie Professionnelle d'Assurance - CPA	2,371,709	3,866	2,284,566	3,952	3.81%	0.94%
Total non-life	**166,024,787**	**270,620**	**152,560,139**	**263,929**	**8.83%**	**65.60%**
Overall total	**253,102,146**	**412,556**	**229,833,107**	**397,611**	**10.12%**	**100%**

a Provisional figures.
b Growth rate in CFAF.

Source: Cameroonian Association of Insurance Companies (ASAC).

Table 4.14 Turnover and market share of life insurance companies operating in Cameroon, 2021-22

(Thousands)

Companies	Turnover 2022[a]		Turnover 2021		Trend 2021-22[b]	Share 2022
	CFAF	USD	CFAF	USD		
Allianz Vie	25,427,071	41,446	20,940,905	36,228	21.42%	10.05%
Prudential Beneficial Life	20,324,534	33,129	17,643,583	30,523	15.20%	8.03%
ACTIVA Vie	9,518,921	15,516	8,588,578	14,858	10.83%	3.76%
SUNU Assurances Vie	8,081,755	13,173	8,234,731	14,246	-1.86%	3.19%
WAFA ASSURANCE Vie	6,230,017	10,155	6,204,426	10,734	0.41%	2.46%
SAAR Vie	6,060,564	9,879	4,431,689	7,667	36.76%	2.39%
SONAM Vie	3,258,775	5,312	3,889,458	6,729	-16.22%	1.29%
SANLAM Vie	3,203,681	5,222	3,625,828	6,272	-11.64%	1.26%
NSIA Vie	2,926,747	4,770	2,181,913	3,775	34.14%	1.16%
ACAM Vie	2,045,294	3,334	1,531,857	2,650	33.52%	0.81%
Overall total	**253,102,146**	**412,556**	**229,833,107**	**397,611**	**10.12%**	**100%**

a Provisional figures.
b Growth rate in CFAF.
Rate of exchange as at 31 December 2022: CFAF 1 = USD 0.00163; as at 31 December 2021: CFAF 1 = USD 0.00173.

Source: Cameroonian Association of Insurance Companies (ASAC).

4.177. The Inter-African Conference on Insurance Markets (CIMA), a pan-African body formed of WAMU and CEMAC member States, is responsible for regulating the sector. The structure of and recent changes in this regulation are described in the common report.

4.4.5.2 Banking services

4.178. 4.148. The Cameroonian banking system comprises 16 commercial banks with assets equivalent to 27% of the country's GDP for 2019. It is highly concentrated, with the three largest banks holding 44% of sector assets.

4.179. Cameroon also has a large microfinance sector consisting of 419 institutions, with approximately CFAF 480 billion in deposits, even though this system is plagued by quality issues with poor product diversification, a large proportion of non-performing loans (NPLs) and high transaction costs that are passed on to consumers. The sector is dominated by the Cameroon Cooperative Credit Union League (CamCCUL) network, which accounts for close to 52% of the total balance sheet of microcredit institutions.

4.180. The sector is also composed of non-bank finance companies focused on insurance, leasing, factoring and real estate loans, accounting for 6% of financial sector assets.[80]

4.181. According to the World Bank, the financial sector remains sound with acceptable capital adequacy ratios and has proven resilient despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the proportion of NPLs is still high at 16.8%. The IMF's assessment of the recent developments in the stability of the Cameroonian financial system is largely in line with that of the World Bank, with minor differences. The IMF states as follows:

> "Overdue loans are particularly high for private firms, rising significantly for both private and individual firms. Bank profitability moderately declined in June 2021 relative to June 2020, despite the forbearance on NPLs, which reduced provisioning needs given broadly stable coverage ratios. However, aggregate capital, liquidity, and fixed asset ratios improved moderately, but may worsen when forbearance measures expire and credit risk increases. NPLs rose strongly in the Hotels and Commerce and Transportation and Telecom sectors, sectors exposed to the pandemic where NPLs were already high at the start of the pandemic. Sovereign-bank linkages have intensified as Cameroon is the reference debt issuer for the CEMAC regional market."

4.182. Table 4.15 shows the main indicators for the sector in 2021, while Table 4.16 shows how financial soundness indicators changed over the entire period from 2016 to 2022.

Table 4.15 Main indicators for the Cameroonian banking sector, 2021

Number of banks	Banking concentration (3 largest banks)	Domestic credit (% of GDP), 2020	Annual credit growth (%)	Loan-to-deposit ratio (%)	Financial soundness indicators: date of latest data available	Indic.1 Ratio of capital to risk-weighted assets (%)	Indic.2 Return on equity (%)	Indic. 3 Non-performing loans (% of total loans)
12	49	15	-2	83	2nd quarter 2021	14	22	13

Source: European Investment Bank, "Finance in Africa: Navigating the Financial Landscape in Turbulent Times", October 2022.

Table 4.16 Financial soundness indicators, 2016-21 (Q2)

(%)

	Cameroon							CEMAC average	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2018	2022
Capital adequacy									
Ratio of total regulatory capital to risk-weighted assets[a,b]	9.1	9.7	10.8	10.7	13.8	12.8	13.9	15.0	13.2
Ratio of total capital (net value) to assets	7.5	7.8	8.7	8.9	9.9	9.8	9.7	10.9	12.4
Asset quality									
Ratio of NPLs to total loans	10.7	10.8	12.4	12.8	13.4	13.7	14.2	17.0	18.2
Ratio of NPLs net of provisions to capital	12.1	6.0	7.6	7.0	8.2	9.2	6.7	33.5	31.5
Earnings and profitability									
Ratio of net income to average equity (return on equity)	20.6	27.9	22.4	24.7	19.5	..	18.7	18.5	13.0
Ratio of net income to average assets (return on assets)[c]	1.6	2.2	1.9	2.1	1.9	..	1.8	2.0	1.6
Ratio of non-interest expenses to gross income	89.6	88.2	87.3	96.5	89.1	..	83.3	..	..

[80] The source of the information in the first four paragraphs is the World Bank (Cameroon – Systematic Country Diagnostic: An Update, July 2022), viewed at: https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/446021657067054458/cameroon-systematic-country-diagnostic-an-update.

	Cameroon							CEMAC average	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2018	2022
Liquidity									
Ratio of liquid assets to total assets	23.2	24.2	26.4	25.9	30.1	27.8	29.9	26.5	27.7
Ratio of liquid assets to short-term liabilities	148.7	149.3	162.4	161.9	182.4	177.9	187.3	162.1	167.2

.. Not available.

a Profits for the current fiscal year are excluded from the capital requirements definition in accordance with the Basel I Accord guidelines. The general provisions are included in "Tier 2" supplementary capital up to a maximum equal to 1.25% of risk-weighted assets. The capital requirement is the sum of ("Tier 1") core capital and of ("Tier 1") minimum core and ("Tier 2") supplementary capital.
b Risk-weighted assets are estimated based on the following weighting: 0% for liquid reserves in domestic currency and for central bank claims and 100% for all other assets.
c Ratio of post-tax earnings to average total assets at the start and end of the period.

Source: Cameroonian authorities; BEAC.

4.183. The regulatory framework applicable to the sector falls under community jurisdiction. Its structure and recent developments are described in the common report.

4.184. Worth noting, however, is that the Cameroonian Parliament passed Law No. 2022/006 governing bank secrecy in Cameroon, enacted on 27 April 2022. The new law, which replaces a 2003 law, contains four innovations, namely the addition of new terminology in the definitions section, the expansion of persons authorized to request information, a clarification regarding acts giving rise to the unenforceability of banking secrecy and the imposition of stricter sanctions on infringing parties.

4.4.5.3 Financial market services

4.185. With the merger in July 2019 of the former Douala Stock Exchange (DSX) and the former Central African Regional Stock Exchange of Libreville in Gabon under the name Central African Regional Stock Exchange (BVMAC), Cameroon is now home to all financial market activities for the CEMAC zone. The regulation and activities of this market are described in the common report.

5 APPENDIX TABLES

Table A1. 1 Structure of exports, 2012-21

(USD million and %)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
World (USD million)	**4,275.0**	**4,520.9**	**5,159.5**	**4,052.6**	**2,130.5**	**3,264.2**	**3,804.8**	**4,083.8**	**3,155.1**	**4,319.1**
	(Percentage share)									
Total primary products	**90.5**	**90.5**	**92.1**	**92.9**	**90.1**	**92.2**	**93.8**	**93.7**	**93.1**	**93.8**
Agriculture	32.8	32.5	31.8	42.9	75.2	43.1	39.9	36.8	44.3	40.0
Food products	17.1	16.6	17.5	26.0	45.1	21.8	19.6	19.8	23.9	21.4
0721 - Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted	9.2	10.0	10.9	18.9	31.4	12.3	11.1	12.1	13.6	11.3
0723 - Cocoa paste, whether or not defatted	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.3	2.8	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.8	3.1
0724 - Cocoa butter, fat and oil	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.4	2.0	1.8
0573 - Bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.6	3.1	1.9	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.2
0711 - Coffee, whether or not roasted or decaffeinated, coffee husks and skins	2.0	0.9	1.2	1.3	2.3	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.5
Agricultural raw materials	15.7	15.9	14.3	16.9	30.0	21.3	20.2	17.0	20.4	18.6
2484 - Wood of non-coniferous species, sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or rotary-cut	6.5	6.1	5.8	6.9	13.4	8.0	7.5	7.0	8.7	7.1
2631 - Cotton, not carded or combed	3.4	3.8	3.1	4.1	6.9	5.0	5.5	5.4	6.2	6.0
2475 -Wood of non-coniferous species, in the rough or roughly squared	2.8	3.2	3.4	4.3	7.1	6.0	5.7	3,6	4.1	4.1
2312 - Natural rubber	2.5	2.4	1.6	1.4	2.1	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.9
Extractive industries	57.7	58.0	60.3	50.0	15.0	49.0	54.0	56.9	48.8	53.7
Ores and other minerals	0.6	0.3	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Non-ferrous metals	1.6	1.8	3.2	3.5	5.8	4.5	3.6	2.8	3.3	2.0
6841 - Aluminium and aluminium alloys, unwrought	1.2	1.4	2.9	3.2	5.2	4.0	3.2	2.4	2.8	1.6
Fuels	55.5	55.9	56.3	45.4	7.7	43.4	50.3	54.0	45.5	51.7
3330 - Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	42.9	48.8	47.9	40.1	0.0	39.3	40.8	41.8	35.3	40.5
3431 - Liquified natural gas	00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	10.9	0.0	10.6
Manufactures	**8.7**	**9.3**	**7.8**	**7.1**	**9.8**	**7.7**	**6.1**	**6.2**	**6.9**	**6.2**
Iron and steel	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.0
6762 - Other bars and rods of iron or steel, not further worked than forged, hot-rolled, hot-drawn or hot-extruded,	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.6
Chemicals	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.9	3.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.6
5541 - Soap	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.1
Other semi-manufactures	2.4	2.9	2.0	1.9	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.0	2.4	2.1
6341 - Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood and other sawn wood	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Transport machinery and material	1.7	2.7	2.3	1.8	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.1	0.5	1.1
Power-generating machinery	00	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Other non-electrical machinery	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Office machines and telecommunications equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Other electrical machinery	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Automotive products	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3
Other transport equipment	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Textiles	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Clothing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other consumer goods	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
Others	**0.8**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Source: WTO Secretariat calculations, based on data from the International Trade Centre Trade Map (SITC, Rev.3).

Table A1. 2 Destination of exports, 2012-21

(USD million and %)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
World (USD million)	**4,275.0**	**4,520.9**	**5,159.5**	**4,052.6**	**2,130.5**	**3,264.2**	**3,804.8**	**4,083.8**	**3,155.1**	**4,319.1**
	(Percentage share)									
America	**4.9**	**3.7**	**3.3**	**3.0**	**4.8**	**2.4**	**3.1**	**7.1**	**6.5**	**4.5**
United States	4.2	2.9	3.2	2.1	4.5	2.2	2.8	5.9	2.9	2.6
Other America	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.3	3.6	1.9
Canada	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	3.2	1.7
Europe	**56.0**	**66.9**	**52.4**	**49.3**	**55.7**	**56.2**	**44.9**	**42.6**	**39.1**	**35.5**
EU-27	52.6	62.6	46.8	45.0	53.2	54.1	43.4	41.1	35.2	34.0
Netherlands	11.3	10.5	10.4	16.3	21.4	9.6	9.7	12.9	9.3	12.4
Italy	5.2	2.8	9.1	4.6	7.8	13.9	13.7	12.2	10.0	7.1
Spain	11.2	12.8	16.7	5.2	3.2	9.0	5.9	7.0	6.8	6.1
Belgium	2.7	3.2	2.9	4.8	9.3	5.4	3.6	2.7	3.4	3.6
France	8.7	4.8	4.4	5.2	7.7	1.5	7.0	3.1	3.8	3.0
Germany	0.8	1.4	0.4	0.9	2.0	1.2	2.0	1.2	1.2	1.2
EFTA	0.3	1.8	0.8	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0
Other Europe	3.1	2.5	4.7	2.9	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.5	2.2	1.4
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)[a]	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Africa	**17.9**	**13.2**	**12.9**	**12.2**	**17.1**	**11.9**	**9.6**	**9.2**	**9.9**	**10.0**
Chad	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.8	4.3	2.1	2.6	2.8	3.8	3.8
Central African Republic	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.7	1.8	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.2	1.3
Gabon	1.9	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.1
Nigeria	3.5	1.8	2.1	1.0	1.9	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.8
Middle East	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.4**	**0.5**	**0.9**	**0.6**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**1.0**	**0.8**
Asia	**20.6**	**15.3**	**30.5**	**34.9**	**21.4**	**28.8**	**41.8**	**40.5**	**43.4**	**49.2**
China	15.3	5.8	14.7	12.5	7.1	12.1	24.8	18.4	21.5	25.8
Japan	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0
Other Asia	5.3	9.5	15.7	22.4	14.3	16.7	17.0	21.5	21.8	23.3
India	2.5	5.7	9.8	15.6	1.1	6.9	5.5	11.0	4.0	9.6
Bangladesh	0.1	0.2	0.8	1.8	2.3	2.5	3.3	3.0	3.9	4.0
Viet Nam	0.9	1.3	1.6	2.2	3.9	3.1	3.1	2.3	2.8	2.2
Korea, Republic of	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.1
Malaysia	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.8	4.9	2.4	3.0	2.6	4.2	2.0
Other	**0.1**	**0.5**	**0.4**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Memo:										
CEMAC (WTO Members)	6.6	5.1	5.2	6.0	9.7	6.2	6.1	6.2	7.0	7.0
EU-28	54.5	64.4	51.1	47.4	54.3	54.8	44.1	42.1	35.7	34.5

a Commonwealth of Independent States, including certain associate and former member States.

Source: WTO Secretariat calculations, based on data from the International Trade Centre Trade Map.

Table A1. 3 Structure of imports, 2012-21

(USD million and %)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
World (USD million)	**6,515.1**	**6,657.2**	**7,561.1**	**6,036.8**	**4,898.9**	**5,183.6**	**6,133.6**	**6,582.7**	**5,605.9**	**6,984.9**
					(Percentage share)					
Total primary products	**52.7**	**48.8**	**48.5**	**44.0**	**36.7**	**41.0**	**46.2**	**49.7**	**46.4**	**43.4**
Agriculture	20.8	23.8	18.7	21.4	23.7	24.5	21.7	21.8	24.3	23.7
Food products	19.4	22.3	17.4	19.9	21.9	22.8	20.0	20.4	22.6	22.3
0423 - Rice, semi-milled, whether or not polished, glazed, parboiled or converted	4.7	6.2	3.7	5.1	4.9	6.1	4.2	6.0	5.0	5.4
0412 - Other wheat (including spelt) and meslin, not milled	3.0	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.6	4.3	4.7
0342 - Fish, frozen	3.7	4.2	3.9	4.7	5.7	3.8	4.5	3.4	4.2	3.5
4222 - Palm oil and its fractions	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.2
0989 - Food preparation, n.e.s.	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1
Agricultural raw materials	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.4
2690 - Worn clothing and other worn textile articles, rags	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.0
Extractive industries	31.9	25.1	29.8	22.6	13.0	16.5	24.4	27.9	22.1	19.7
Ores and other minerals	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.6	1.8	2.4	1.4	1.2	1.3
Non-ferrous metals	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Fuels	30.4	23.5	28.0	20.2	10.9	14.3	21.6	26.2	20.6	18.1
334 - Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (other than crude)	8.7	6.7	7.3	6.0	4.4	8.4	13.9	18.8	19.0	15.9
3425 - Butanes, liquefied	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.6	1.3
Manufactures	**47.2**	**50.7**	**51.4**	**55.9**	**63.1**	**58.9**	**53.8**	**49.9**	**53.5**	**56.5**
Iron and steel	2.9	3.4	3.2	4.3	4.7	3.8	4.3	3.1	5.8	6.2
6726 - Iron or non-alloy steel; semi-finished products thereof	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.7	2.0
Chemicals	10.5	10.9	10.3	12.4	12.8	13.6	13.2	11.9	14.6	14.2
5429 – Medicaments, n.e.s.	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.7	2.6	3.0	2.9	2.5	3.1	3.6
Other semi-manufactures	8.4	9.4	8.9	10.0	11.1	12.0	9.3	10.8	10.8	11.1
6612 - Portland cement, aluminous cement, slag cement, supersulphate cement and similar hydraulic cements, whether or not coloured	2.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.7	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.9
6624 - Non-refractory ceramic bricks, tiles, pipes and similar products	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.2
6911 - Iron or steel structures	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.8	1.0
6996 - Articles of iron or steel, n.e.s.	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.9
Machinery and transport equipment	20.1	21.6	23.9	22.4	27.9	23.6	21.1	18.4	16.5	19.5
Power-generating machinery	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0
Other non-electrical machinery	7.3	8.1	8.2	7.0	7.5	8.6	7.1	6.5	6.0	6.6
Agricultural machines and tractors	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Office machines & telecommunication equipment	2.7	3.6	4.2	3.3	7.5	3.4	4.2	2.8	2.1	1.8
Other electrical machinery	2.2	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.3	3.2	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7
Automotive products	5.1	5.1	5.1	6.0	6.7	6.0	5.0	4.4	3.6	5.8
7812 - Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, n.e.s.	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.4	3.0	2.4	1.8	1.7	1.7	2.4

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
7821 - Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.3	0.8	1.6
Other transport equipment	1.4	1.2	2.9	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.7
Textiles	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.8
Clothing	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Other consumer goods	4.1	4.4	4.0	4.8	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.4

Source: WTO Secretariat calculations, based on data from the International Trade Centre Trade Map (SITC, Rev.3).

Table A1. 4 Origin of imports, 2012-21

(USD million and %)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
World	**6,515.1**	**6,657.2**	**7,561.1**	**6,036.8**	**4,898.9**	**5,183.6**	**6,133.6**	**6,582.7**	**5,605.9**	**6,984.9**
	(Percentage share)									
America	**7.7**	**9.0**	**7.6**	**8.3**	**8.1**	**9.4**	**8.3**	**6.2**	**7.9**	**6.4**
United States	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.9	2.6	4.4	2.8
Other America	4.2	5.1	4.2	4.6	4.5	5.9	4.5	3.6	3.5	3.5
Europe	**36.2**	**33.4**	**28.6**	**30.0**	**34.7**	**34.6**	**34.5**	**35.4**	**40.8**	**36.0**
EU-27	31.1	29.5	25.4	26.7	30.8	31.0	28.3	28.9	30.5	27.7
France	11.9	12.3	10.2	10.5	12.1	10.0	8.4	8.5	9.5	9.3
Belgium	3.1	2.1	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.5	3.1	5.7	5.6	3.8
Germany	2.9	3.8	3.4	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.0	2.6	2.9	3.1
Netherlands	4.1	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.9	2.3	4.8	3.5	3.0	2.8
Spain	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.4	3.9	4.2	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7
Italy	3.2	2.3	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.5
EFTA	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	2.9	1.2
Other Europe	4.2	3.3	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.8	5.4	5.6	7.4	7.1
Türkiye	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.6	2.1	3.1	4.0	3.5
Ukraine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.7
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)[a]	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.6	2.6	2.8	2.2	3.1	6.8
Russian Federation	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.5	2.6	2.8	2.2	3.0	6.8
Africa	**29.9**	**25.9**	**30.6**	**25.5**	**17.5**	**18.1**	**19.1**	**22.7**	**13.8**	**11.4**
Nigeria	17.8	13.8	17.9	12.1	4.6	4.9	5.6	6.3	0.9	0.8
Equatorial Guinea	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.3
Middle East	**1.5**	**1.3**	**1.2**	**1.5**	**1.4**	**1.8**	**2.1**	**2.0**	**3.0**	**4.0**
United Arab Emirates	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.8	2.0
Asia	**23.9**	**29.9**	**31.2**	**34.0**	**36.7**	**33.5**	**33.1**	**31.4**	**31.4**	**35.3**
China	10.4	14.2	18.0	19.4	21.4	17.2	18.5	16.1	17.5	17.0
Japan	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.6	3.2	2.4	1.9	1.8	1.7	2.4
Other Asia	11.1	13.4	11.0	12.0	12.2	13.9	12.7	13.5	12.2	15.9
India	4.0	5.0	2.9	3.6	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.2	5.0	7.2
Thailand	3.0	2.9	3.6	4.0	4.5	5.7	4.2	4.8	2.9	2.2
Korea, Republic of	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.5	1.6	1.6	0.7	2.1
Singapore	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.9	2.0
Other	**0.3**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.1**
Memo:										
CEMAC (WTO Members)	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.2
EU-28	33.4	31.3	26.8	27.9	32.2	32.2	30.4	30.3	32.0	28.7

a Commonwealth of Independent States, including certain associate and former member States.

Source: WTO Secretariat calculations, based on data from the International Trade Centre Trade Map.

Table A4. 1 Air transport agreements concluded by Cameroon with third countries

Third countries	Initial phase		Status	Scope	Yamassoukro Declaration	Comments (Operators)
	Date of initialling	Date of signing				
Algeria	16/10/1974		Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Angola		23/03/1995	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Austria	22/10/2014		Implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Belgium		25/11/1971	Implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	Brussels Airlines
Benin	15/10/1982	08/08/2008	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Brazil	19/01/2006		Implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Burkina Faso	23/11/2001	15/05/2003	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Burundi		24/03/1977	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Canada	07/12/2016		Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Central African Republic		30/10/1971	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	KARINOU Airlines
Chad		25/05/1973	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	
China	19/08/2009	21/04/2011	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Congo		26/08/1982	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	Trans Air Congo
Côte d'Ivoire	23/02/1973		Implemented	Liberalized	Full	Air Côte D'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo		29/06/1973	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Egypt		03/06/1966	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Equatorial Guinea		14/01/1974	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	CEIBA International Cronos Airlines
Ethiopia		03/08/1973	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	Ethiopian Airlines
France	21/02/1974	19/07/1974	Implemented	Restrictive	Full	Air France KLM
Gabon		16/05/1972	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	SOLENTA AVIATION
Gambia	05/04/2007		Implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Ghana		06/08/1976	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Guinea	30/11/2006		Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Guyana	13/12/2018		Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Iceland	22/10/2015		Not implemented		Not applicable	
India	22/10/2011		Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Israel	14/06/1962	09/08/1963	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Italy	13/07/1968	13/05/1981	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Jordan	06/12/2017		Not implemented			
Kenya		07/08/1976	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	Kenya Airways
Liberia		03/05/1977	Not implemented	Restrictive	Full	
Libya	30/08/2005	29/03/2006	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Luxembourg	20/11/2014	20/01/2016	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	CARGO LUX Airlines
Madagascar	25/02/2003		Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Malawi	21/08/1991		Not implemented	Restrictive	Full	
Mali		17/03/1964	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Morocco	23/02/2005	24/01/2007	Implemented	Restrictive	Partial	Royal Air Maroc

Third countries	Initial phase		Status	Scope	Yamassoukro Declaration	Comments (Operators)
	Date of initialling	Date of signing				
Namibia	15/04/1991		Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Netherlands		07/09/1971	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Niger	21/11/2002		Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Nigeria	04/07/2003	11/10/2011	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	ALLIED Air
Portugal	05/12/2016		Not implemented	Liberalized	Not applicable	
Qatar	19/10/2011		Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	Most recent MoU signed on 08/12/2016
Russian Federation		11/11/1979	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Rwanda	18/07/1983	07/06/1984	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	RWANDAIR
Sao Tomé and Principe		20/01/1978	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	18/11/2014	07/03/2017	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Senegal	30/05/1973	13/07/1973	Implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Seychelles	07/12/2016		Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Sierra Leone		28/08/1978	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Singapore	19/11/2014		Not implemented		Not applicable	
South Africa	24/11/1992		Implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Spain	05/08/2004		Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Sudan	20/12/2006		Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Switzerland		11/11/1968	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
Tanzania	08/08/1991		Not implemented	Restrictive	Partial	
Togo	28/03/1977		Implemented	Liberalized	Full	Asky Airlines
Tunisia	11/04/2004	10/05/2006	Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	
Türkiye	26/04/2007	19/10/2012	Implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	Turkish Airlines
United Arab Emirates	24/01/2000		Not implemented	Liberalized/	Not applicable	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		11/09/1981	Not implemented	Restrictive	Not applicable	
United States of America		16/02/2006	Not implemented	Liberalized	Not applicable	
Viet Nam	20/10/2015		Not implemented		Partial	
Zambia	16/08/1991		Not implemented	Restrictive		
Zimbabwe	09/04/1991		Not implemented	Liberalized	Full	

Source: Information provided by the authorities.