

# Market Intelligence Department

## Africa's Imports Trends (2006-2015)

June 2016



*Your Link To The World*

## SNAPSHOT

### World Total Imports

### Africa's Imports Value by Region

### Africa's Imports Value by Country

### Africa's Imports Value by Sector

### Africa's Imports Value by Specific Sectors

The report presents general trade trends between Africa and other regions namely Asia, Latin America, North America, Europe as well as Oceania. The information contained in this report is intended solely to provide general guidance on trade related matters.

Since oil and gas have unique trading practices, they have been excluded from our analysis.

[www.trademap.org](http://www.trademap.org) is used as the main source of information .



# SNAPSHOT

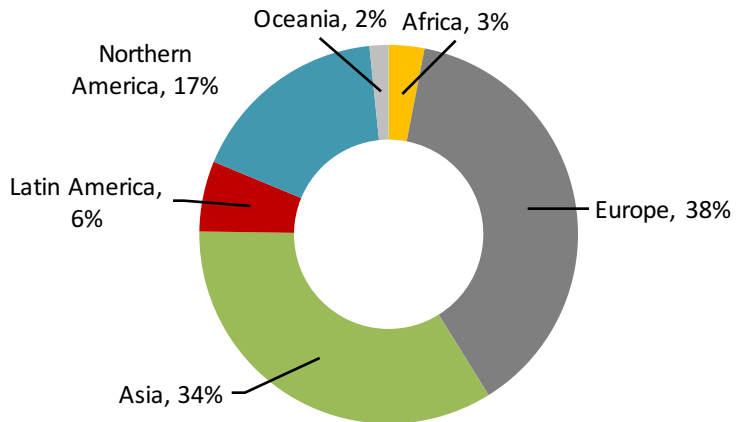
- Regions and countries referred to in the report, are divided in accordance with “United Nations Statistics Division”. Africa is divided into 5 main sub-regions: *Eastern Africa, Central Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa and Western Africa.*
- Africa’s Imports from world represent only 3% from the world imports with almost no significant changes in its imports since 2006.
- Africa relies on Asia & Europe in importing 70% of its most prominent and essential needs (2015).
- As of 2015 Asian products started to replace the African ones which led Africa inter trade to drop by 10%.
- Both Southern and Northern Africa sub regions account for around 70% of Africa’s total imports from world.
- In terms of countries, South Africa accounts for 16% of total Africa’s imports; while Egypt comes in second place with 13% imports value share.
- Machinery came first among the imported products with 13% value share; while electrical & Vehicles represents 11% and 9% of the total import values.



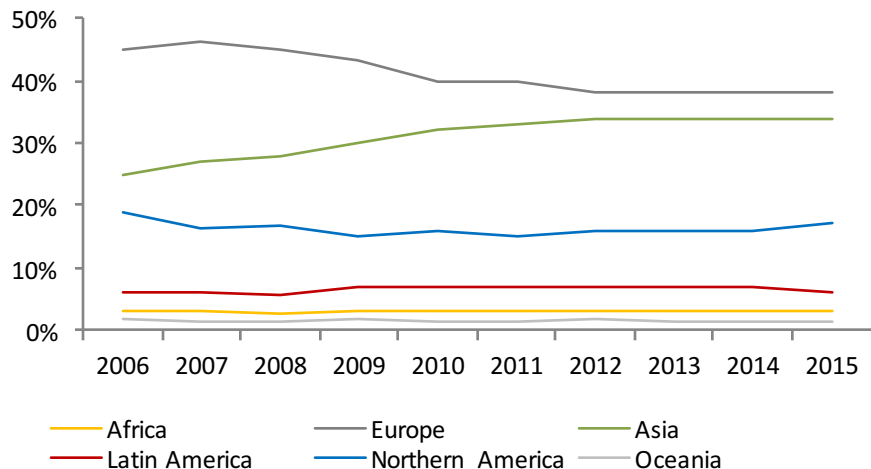
# World Imports Value

## World Total Imports

### World Total Imports Share 2015



### World Total Imports Evolution

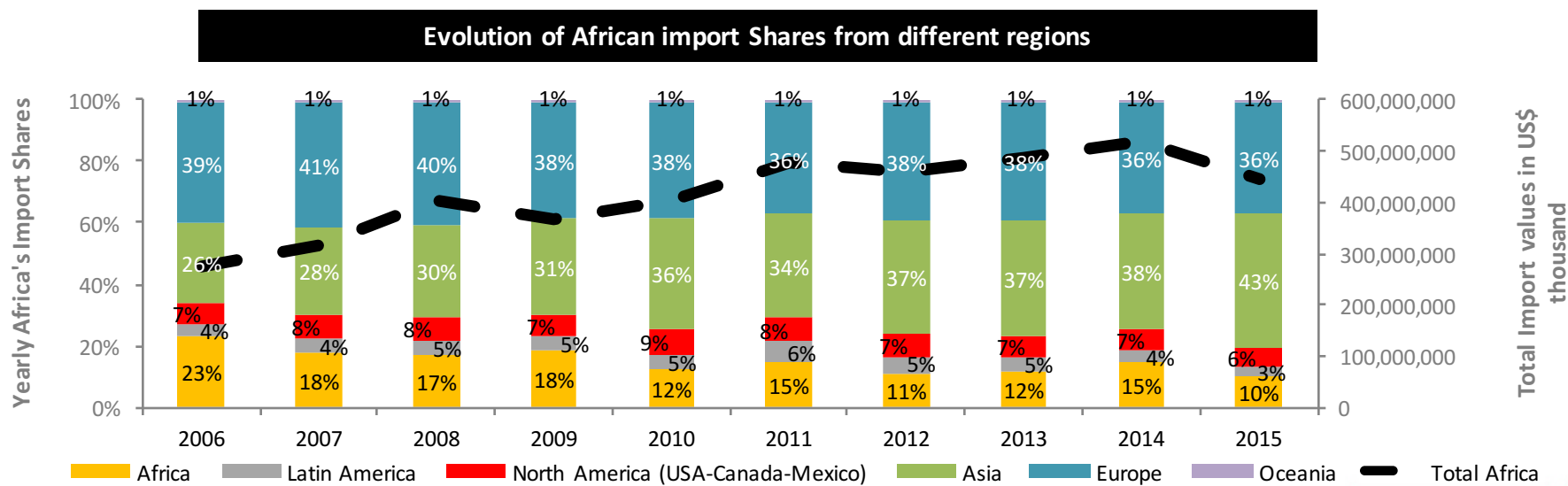


- Africa imports did not witness any significant increase over the past 9 years and it accounts for around 3% of the world total import shares.
- Africa's import shares came 5th among the 6 regions just before Oceania.
- In 2007 Asia witnessed a significant increase in its import value and it represented around 34% of world total imports in 2015; while Europe imports started to shrink until it reached to 38% of world total imports at 2015.
- The rest of the world import shares are almost consistent since 2006.

# Africa's Imports Value by Region

## Africa's Imports Shares from All Regions Including Africa's Inter Trade

- The total imports increase from US\$ 273 billion in 2006 to US\$ 444 billion in 2015 has essentially been driven by imports from Asia and Europe.
- More than 75% of Africa's imports came from Asia & Europe in 2015, while Latin America came least with shares less than 3% in 2015.
- Also, Africa's inter trade dropped to 10% which is equivalent to US\$ 44 billion in 2015 .
- The decrease in Africa's imports from inside Africa (Inter Trade) between 2006 - 2015 reflects the inability of the African countries to fulfill Africa's' needs.

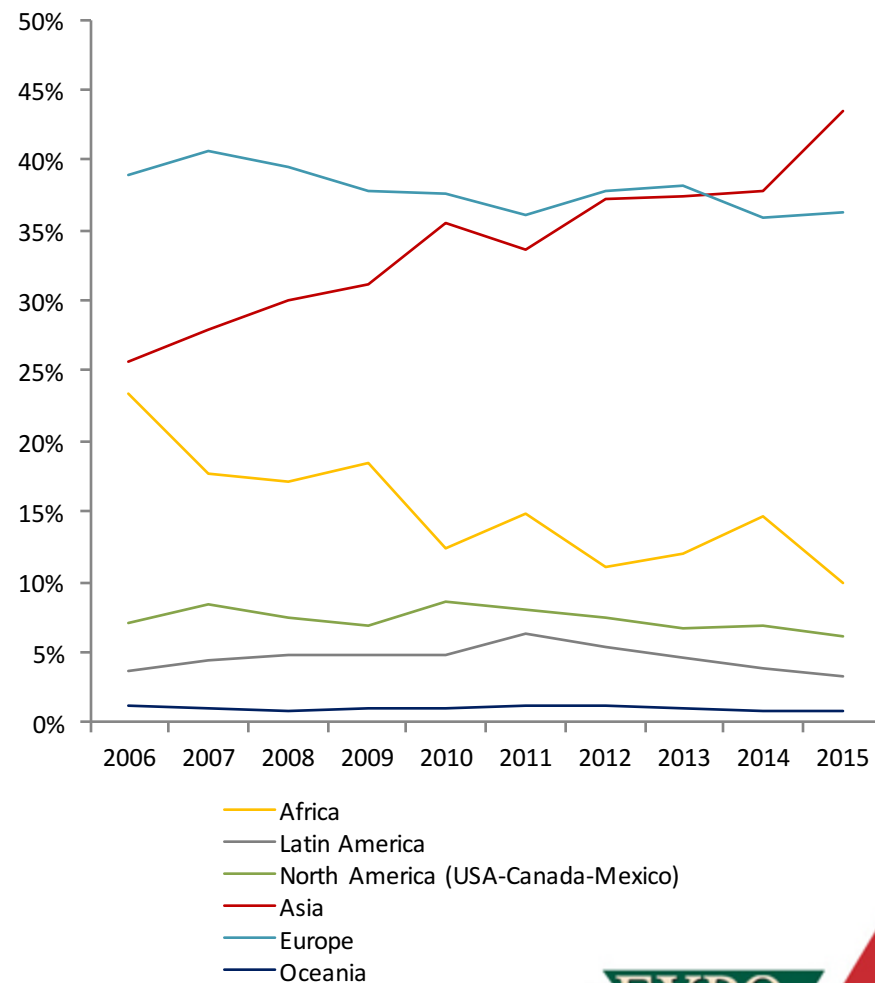


# Africa's Imports Value by Region

## Africa's Import Evolution among All Regions

- Imports from Asia have grown slightly and account for almost 43% of total imports in 2015. On the other hand, the Rest of the World (RoW) imports either have declined slightly or stayed the same.
- Africa's inter trade dropped down from 23% in 2006 to 10% in 2015.
- As illustrated in the graph, the Asian products have replaced the African ones and have increased ever since.
- In 2010 Europe was the main supplying market to Africa compared to other regions. In 2013 the position has been switched and Asia started to become the main supplying market to the African imports.
- A note worth mentioning, is that in 2006, Asian imports and African inter trade was at a similar starting point; however, inter trade in Africa has been on a down stream increasing the gap between its value and Asian exports value to African region.
- Amongst the main reasons behind Asia "Trade incursion" into Africa is the huge number of bilateral agreements between the African countries and Asia specifically China, South Korea, Japan and India. Also, the Asian banks facilitated corporate loans to invest in Africa's infrastructure and establish "One stop Shop" trade hubs.

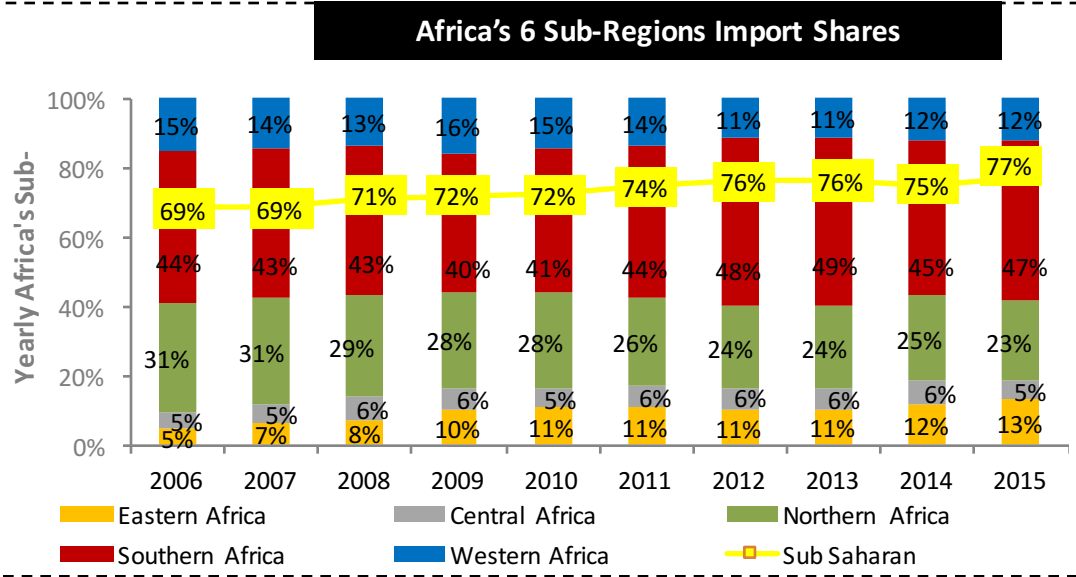
Evolution of African import Shares from different regions



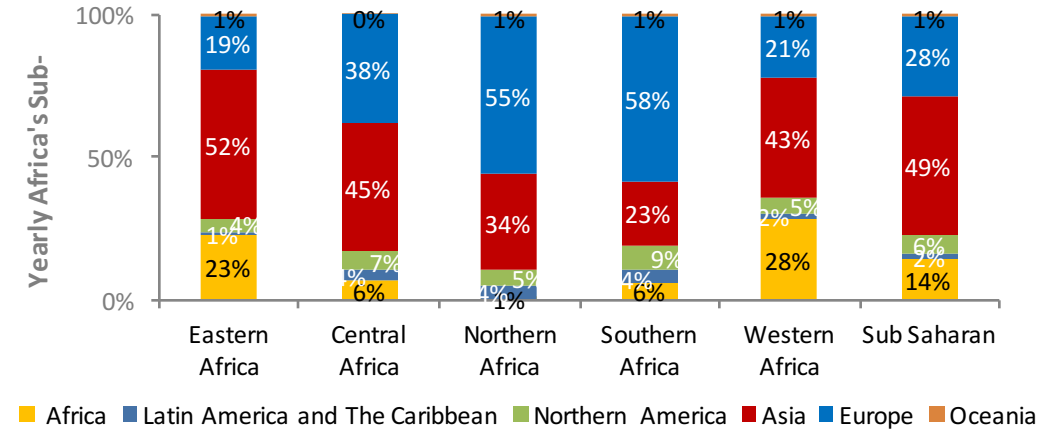
# Africa's Imports Value by Region

## Africa's Sub regions Imports Shares

- Southern Africa imports share is considered the highest among African sub regions with a percentages not less than 40% since 2006.
- North Africa is responsible for around 25% of total Africa imports.
- Central Africa imports share came the least among all African regions.
- Both Southern and Northern Africa account for 70% of Africa's total imports, while Sub-Saharan region (Africa region without the North) accounts for 77% of Africa's total imports in 2015



## Bilateral Trade between Africa's Sub-Regions and the World 2015



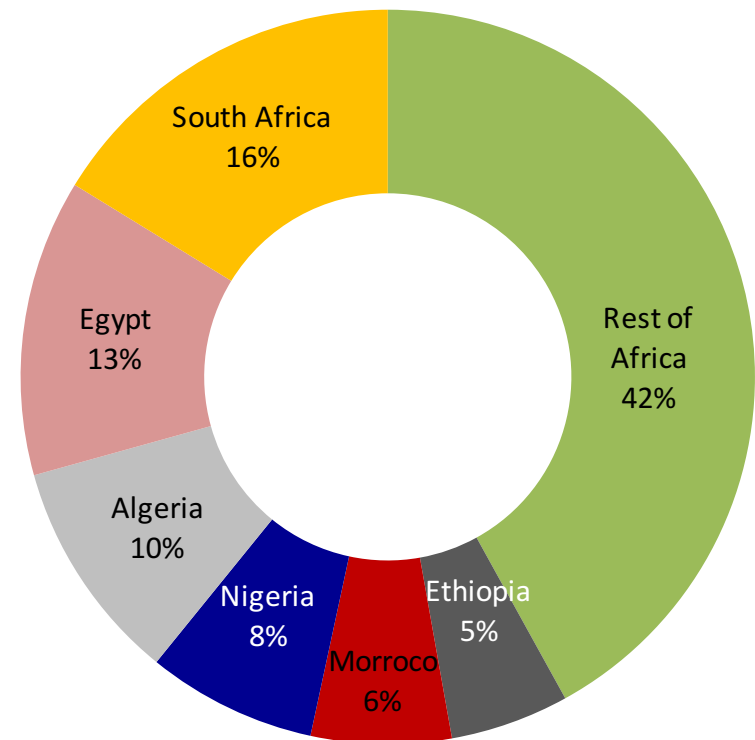
- More than 50% of Northern and Southern Africa's imports came from Europe in 2015.
- Asia is considered the main supplying market to Eastern, Central, Western and Sub-Saharan Africa (African region without North) in 2015.



# Africa's Imports Value by Region

- South Africa accounts for 16% of total Africa's imports; while Egypt comes next with 13% imports value share.
- In broad terms, these 6 countries have seaports or access to a seaport which is a competitive edge and enhances the international trade industry within those countries
- Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco combined (North Africa) represent around 30% of total Africa imports.

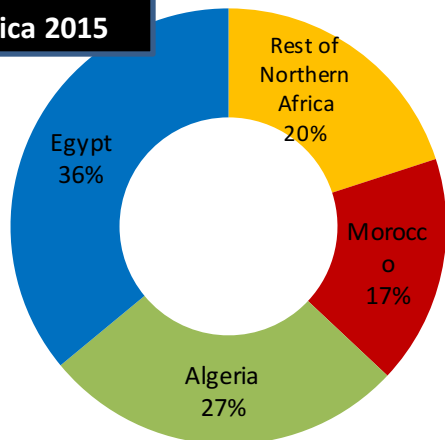
Countries' imports value shares in 2015



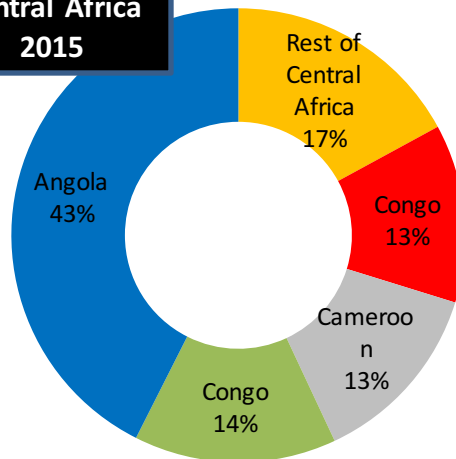


# Africa's Imports Value by Country

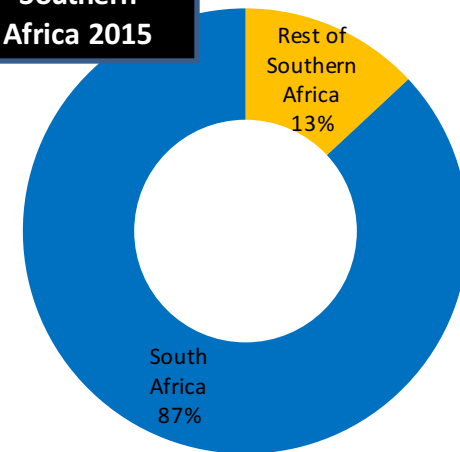
**Northern Africa 2015**



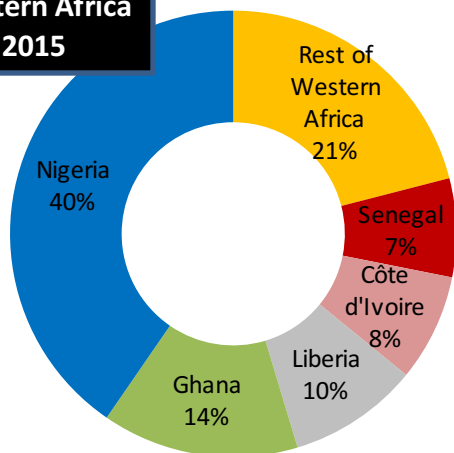
**Central Africa 2015**



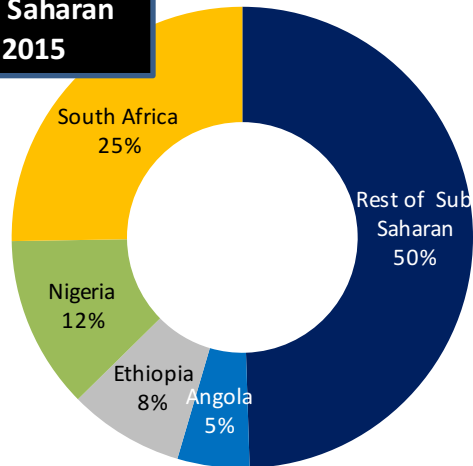
**Southern Africa 2015**



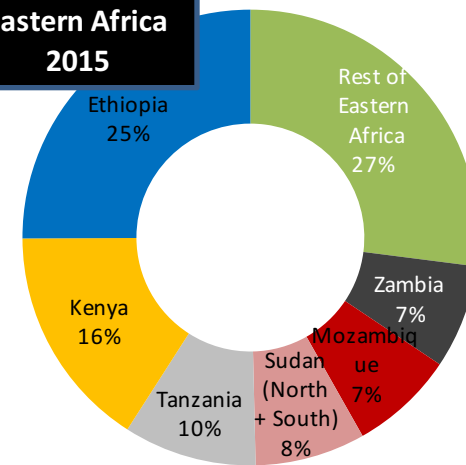
**Western Africa 2015**



**Sub Saharan 2015**



**Eastern Africa 2015**



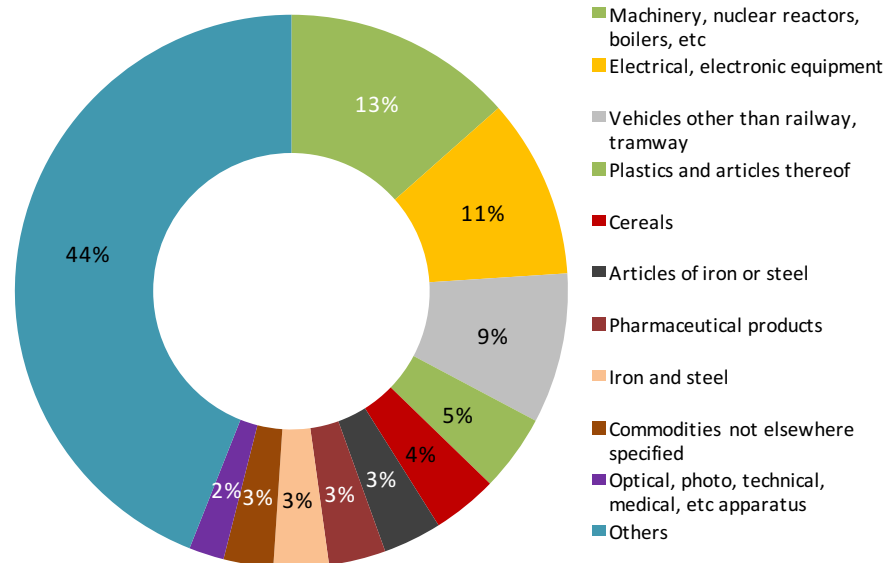
- Egypt, Angola, South Africa, Ethiopia, and Nigeria are considered the main importing countries in each of the 5 main sub regions in Africa.
- South Africa is the larger importing country among both Southern and Sub Saharan regions with 87% & 25% imports value shares.

# Africa's Imports Value by Sector

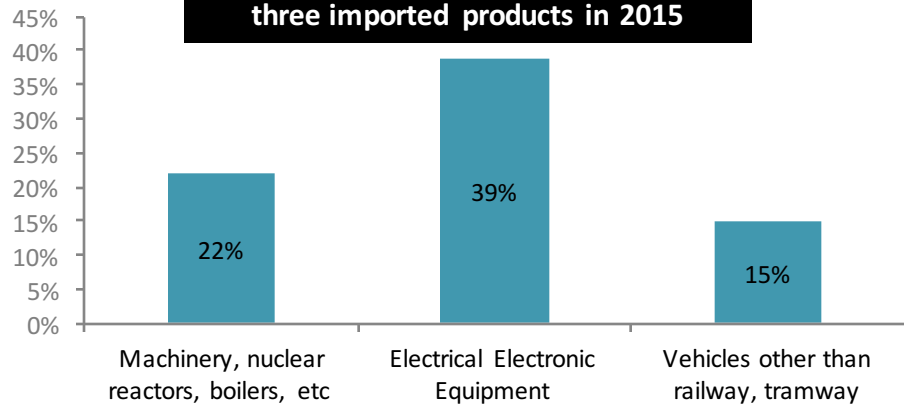
## Africa's Total Imports

- Africa imports growth went down by 20% from 2014 to 2015.
- The Top 10 imported products in 2015 represent around 56% of the total imports value.
- Machinery came first among the imported products with 13% value share; while electrical & Vehicles represents 11% and 9% of the total import values.
- South Africa, Egypt and Algeria are considered the main importers for the first top three products with value share more than 40% of total imports.
- China is considered the main supplier for Machinery, Electrical and Vehicle to Africa.

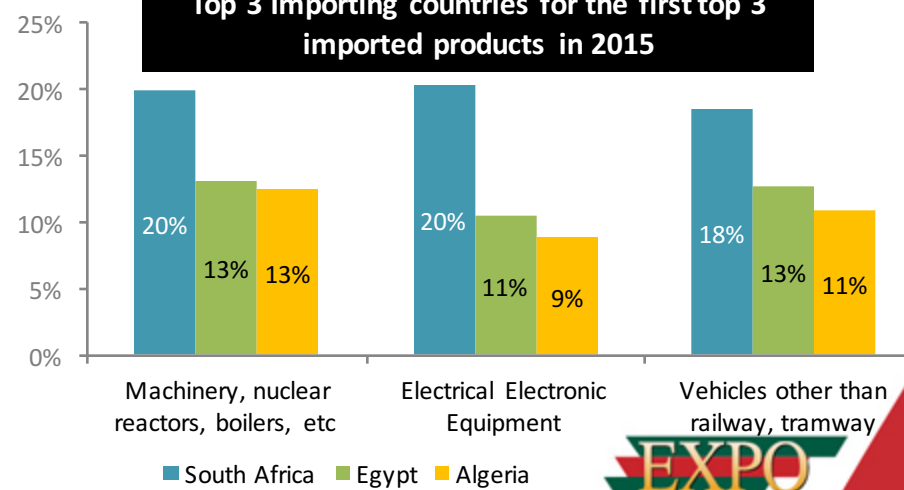
## Africa Top 10 Imported sectors in 2015



## China the main supplier for the first top three imported products in 2015



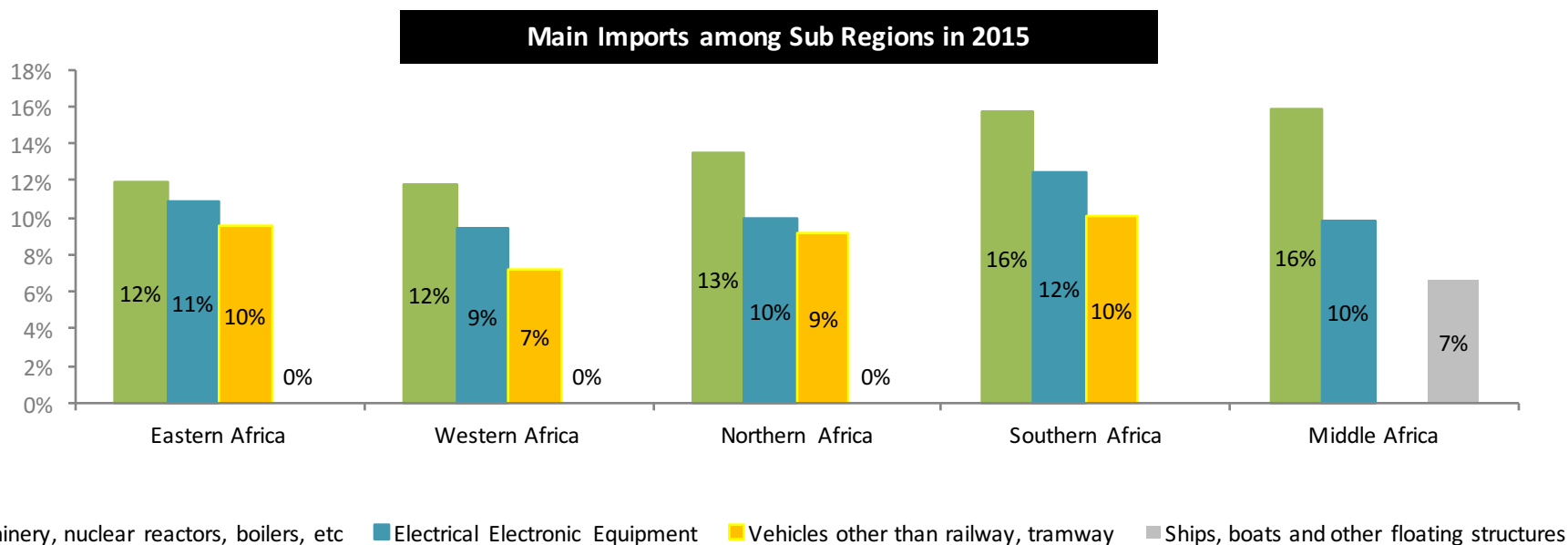
## Top 3 Importing countries for the first top 3 imported products in 2015



# Africa's Imports Value by Sector

## Africa's Sub Regions Imports

- Machinery, Electrical and Vehicles are considered the main imports among all regions excluding the Middle Africa. While Machinery, Electrical and Ships are considered the main imports in the Middle Africa.
- Ships, boats and other floating structures come first among middle African countries.

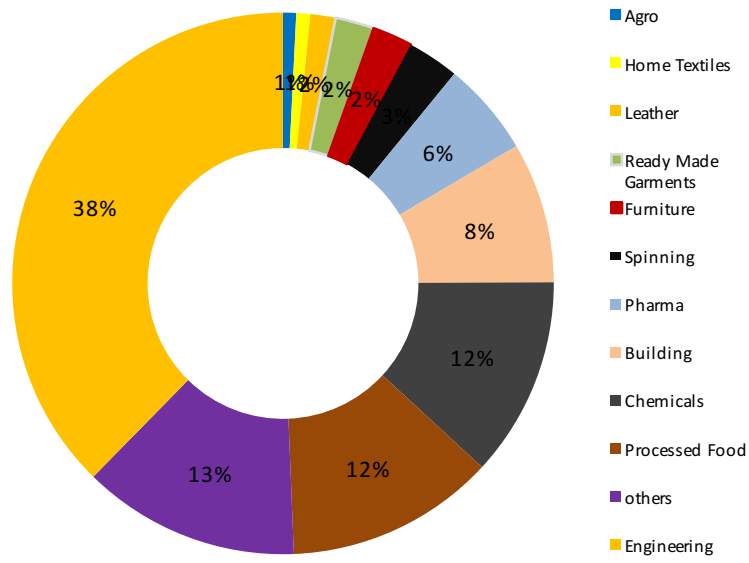


# Africa's Imports Value by Specific Sectors

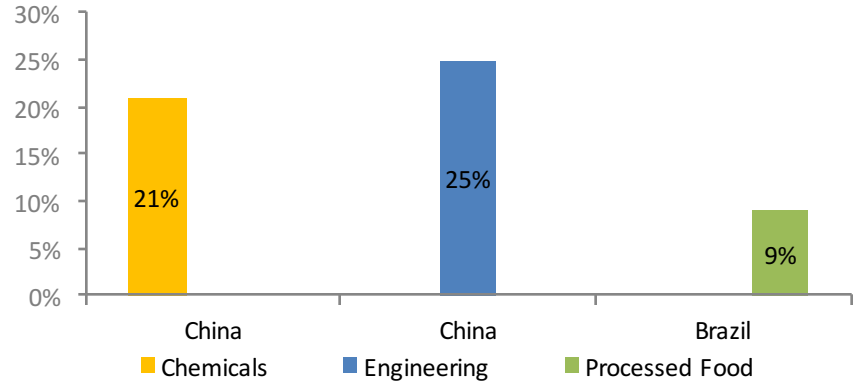
## Africa's Specific Sectors

- Such specific basket of sectors represent around 56% of the total imports value.
- Engineering came first among the imported sectors with 38% value share; while process food and chemical represents 13% and 12% of the total import values.
- South Africa, Egypt, Algeria and Nigeria are considered the main importers for the first top three sectors with value share more than 40% of total imports.
- China and Brazil are considered the main exporter for chemicals, engineering and processed food to Africa.

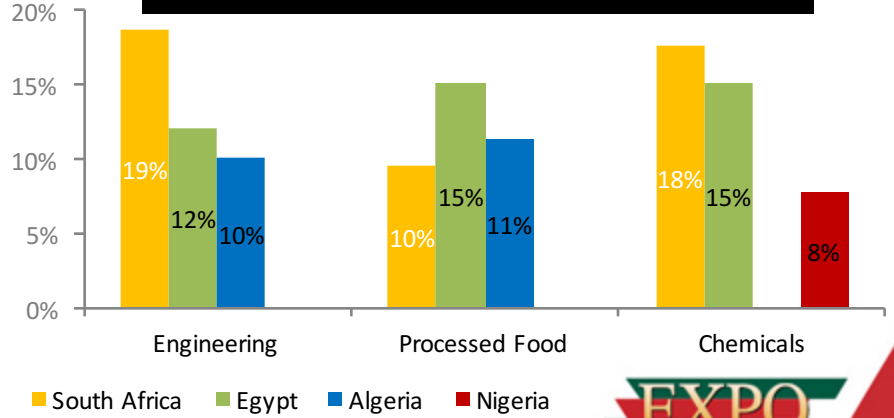
Imports by sectors in 2015



main supplying markets for the first top 3 imported sectors in 2015



Top 3 Importers for the first top 3 imported sectors in 2015





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