

## SRC TRADE QUICK GUIDE #5

# AFRICA-CARICOM TRADE RELATIONS

Africa and the Caribbean are joined together by a shared sense of history, culture, and identity, with origins tracing back to the triangular slave trade which started in 1502 and led to the displacement of more than 10 million Africans. During this time, "the development model and global trade were based on the categorization of slaves as 'chattel' and the use of their labour on agricultural plantations" (Ishmael, 2019). Consequently, the slave trade led to large settlements of African diaspora in the Caribbean. Ishmael (2019) estimates that around 73% of Caribbean nationals have an Afro-Caribbean identity.

Overlapping membership in different multilateral fora and associations (shown below) characterize the modern relationship between these two regions.

- **The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

NAM was established in 1961 and comprised 120 developing country members. The group sought to gain solidarity for independence movements during the decolonization process and neutrality in "the two bloc-world and Cold War." (MEA 2012, NTI 2021, Ishmael 2019)

- **The United Nations G77 + China**

This grouping was established in 1964 and comprises 134 developing countries of which more than half are African and Caribbean countries. The group promotes South-South cooperation for development, among other objectives. (G77 2021)

- **The African, Caribbean Pacific Group of Countries (ACP)**

Established by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975, the ACP comprises 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states. The group's objectives include sustainable development of Member States, coordination of intra-ACP activities and regulation the bloc's relation with the European Union, among other objectives. (ACP 2011)

- **The Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries, almost two-thirds of the membership is made up by African and Caribbean countries. (Commonwealth Secretariat 2021, Ishmael 2019)

- **The World Trade Organization (WTO)**

The WTO was established in 1995 as a multilateral institution charged with regulating global trade. There are currently 164 members - with one third of these members being African and Caribbean countries. Collaboration between these two regions was seen during the Doha Round as well as in preparations for other negotiations like the the small and vulnerable economies (SVEs) group. (Ishmael 2019, WTO 2021)

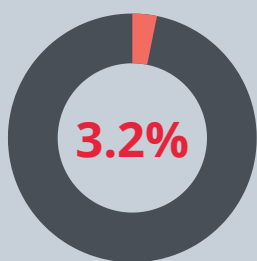
- **The African Union (AU) and The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

The AU and CARICOM are two regional blocs capable of promoting African-Caribbean relations. The two regions have conducted various high-level meetings under these auspices, for example: the South African, African Union and Caribbean Diaspora conference of March 16-17, 2005; the AU Commission's Citizens and Diaspora Directorate conference with CARICOM and the Caribbean Pan-African Network in 2015, the multi-agenda meeting between CARICOM's Secretary General and the AU's Deputy Chair in 2018, among others. (Ishmael 2019, AU 2015)

Diplomatic presence has also been established across the two regions. For example, "Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago have resident diplomatic missions in South Africa and the last two in Nigeria. Nigeria and South Africa have missions in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. There is also a Moroccan embassy in St. Lucia. CARICOM will be opening a diplomatic office in Nairobi and Barbados is set to pen new diplomatic offices in Kenya and Ghana." (Morgan 2020, Henry 2021)

There is limited trade between CARICOM and Africa and there are no formal trade agreements between the two regions or countries of the two regions, except for those embodied within broader multilateral agreements.

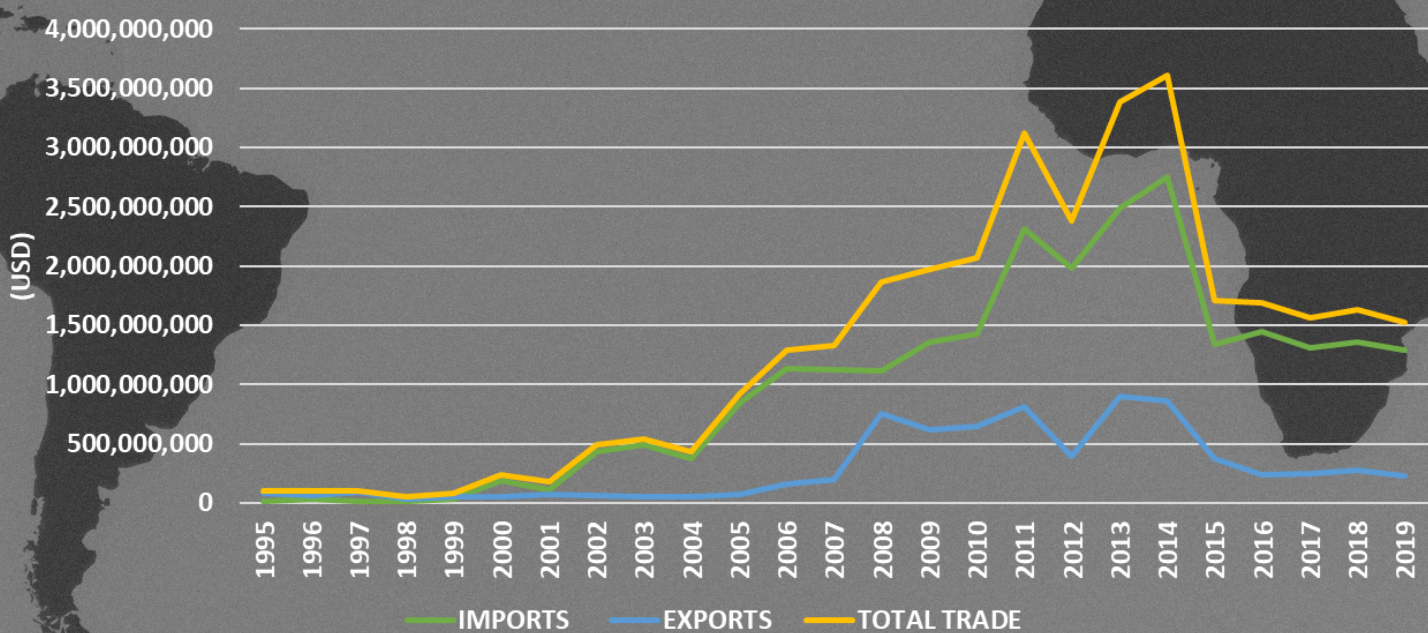
## Merchandise Trade



**In 2019 CARICOM's trade with Africa accounted for only 3.2% of CARICOM's total trade**

UNCTAD STAT 2021

CARICOM'S TRADE WITH AFRICA



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### TOP 5 CARICOM IMPORTS FROM AFRICA (2019)

PRODUCT	VALUE (USD)	VALUE (%)
1. Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	1,140,220,027	88.3
2. Gas, natural and manufactured	90,908,876	7.0
3. Road vehicles	17,925,543	1.4
4. Iron and steel	5,156,683	0.4
5. Non-ferrous metals	3,054,453	0.2

### TOP 5 CARICOM EXPORTS FROM AFRICA (2019)

PRODUCT	VALUE (USD)	VALUE (%)
1. Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	85,894,055	37.6
2. Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	28,921,847	12.7
3. Gas, natural and manufactured	21,998,428	9.6
4. Iron and steel	21,552,045	9.4
5. Other transport equipment	11,943,664	5.2

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## CARICOM'S TOP AFRICAN TRADING PARTNERS (2019)

### EYIPT

The fourth largest source and destination market in Africa, accounting for 0.61% and 8.92% of CARICOM's imports from and exports to the African continent respectively.

### MOROCCO

Morocco is the fifth largest source and destination market in Africa, accounting for 0.43% and 8.61% of CARICOM's imports from and exports to the African continent respectively.

### NIGERIA

Nigeria is CARICOM's second largest source market in Africa, accounting for 7.08% of CARICOM's imports from the African continent.

### LIBERIA

Liberia is the second largest export destination, accounting for 14.05% of CARICOM's exports to the African continent.

### GHANA

Ghana is the main export destination, accounting for 17.61% of CARICOM's exports to the African continent.

### GABON

87.7% of CARICOM's imports from the African continent are sourced from Gabon, making Gabon the CARICOM's #1 source market in Africa.

### TOGO

The third largest export destination, Togo accounts for 8.92% of CARICOM's exports to the African continent.

### SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is CARICOM's third largest source market in Africa, accounting for 3.08% of CARICOM's imports from the African continent.

(DUE TO DATA LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO TRADE IN SERVICES AN OVERVIEW OF SERVICES TRADE HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THIS INITIAL QUICK GUIDE)

This SRC Trade Quick Guide provides a brief overview of the trade relations between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Africa. Due to the lack of available disaggregated data for trade in services, an overview of trade in services was not included. This Quick Guide should not be seen as a holistic analysis, but rather an overview that can be used to gain initial insight.

## References

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