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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
STATISTICS



RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix - Travail - Patrie

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA
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FOREIGN TRADE:

TRADE BETWEEN CAMEROON, UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

Updated version¹



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¹This brief revises the previous one by converting all major values into billion CFA francs for easier reading

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Structural trade balance deficit with Russia and Ukraine

With Russia, the trade balance recorded a deficit of 96.5 billion CFA francs in 2020, after 84.3 billion CFA francs in 2019, i.e. a worsening of 14%. With regard to global trade, Russia ranked 14th among Cameroon's trading partners in 2020. It ranked 8th in imports and 74th in exports.

Wheat (wheat and meslin) and fertilizers were the two main goods imported from Russia in the period 2018-2020. These two products had a respective weight of 65% and 17% in Cameroon's imports from Russia in 2020; thus positioning the latter at the forefront of suppliers of these products in Cameroon.

With Ukraine, the trade balance deficit increased by 60% in 2020 year-on-year and amounted to 64.1 billion CFA francs as against 40.1 billion CFA francs recorded in 2019. Compared to global trade, Ukraine was the 19th trading partner in 2020, thus occupying the 15th place in imports and 93rd place in exports.

Iron, cast iron and steel products accounted for about 95% of imports, thus placing this country in the first position of Cameroon's suppliers of iron, cast iron and steel products.

The armed conflict between the two countries is already disrupting the supply chains of products they supplied to Cameroon. This situation is likely to result in an increase in import costs and, consequently, in an increase in inflationary pressures in general, which are more significant on products from these two countries, in particular wheat flour and its derivatives (bread, pasta, etc.), fertilizers and certain building materials.

1. INTRODUCTION

The main factual element behind the production and publication of this brief is the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and its consequences on the national economy. The aim is to provide useful information for assessing risks and taking measures to anticipate or reinforce those already being implemented.

The brief addresses this issue from the perspective of trade. More specifically, it focuses on the quantity, value and nature of the products traded with the two trading partners.

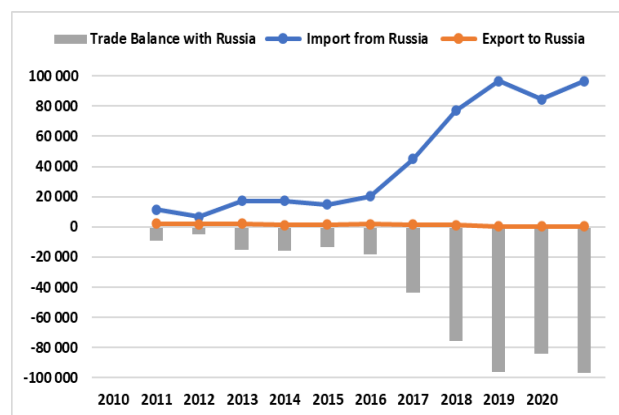
2. TRADE BALANCE

During the year 2020, global foreign trade in goods between Russia and Cameroon amounted to nearly 96.8 billion CFA francs for 536 thousand tons of goods, i.e. an increase of 14.2% in value compared to the year 2019.

With this value of trade, Russia was Cameroon's 14th trading partner, with a weight of 2% of global trade in 2020. Russia was one of Cameroon's main suppliers in 2020, occupying the 8th place in imports and 74th place in export.

With this partner, the trade balance is structurally in deficit. In 2020, this deficit amounted to 96.5 billion CFA francs, thus worsening by 14% compared to the year 2019.

Graph 1 Trends in trade balance with Russia (in billion FCFA)

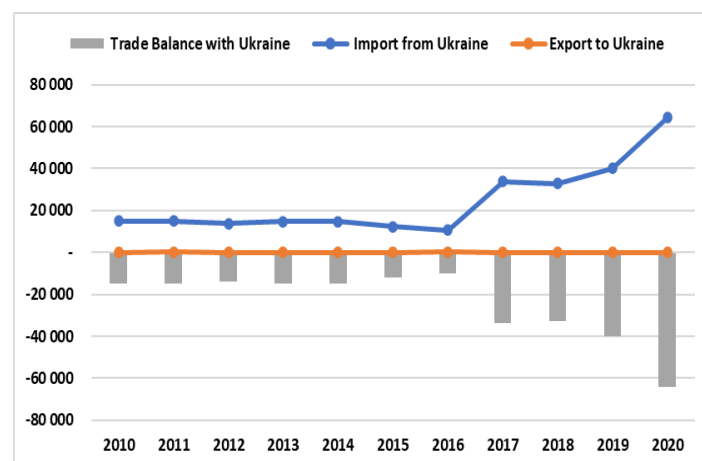


Source: NIS

With Ukraine, the overall level of trade in 2020 amounted to 64.2 billion CFA francs, thus recording an increase of 60% compared to the year 2019. It was thus the 19th trading partner in 2020, ranking 15th in imports and 93rd in exports.

Cameroon is a net importer with Ukraine and the trade balance deficit in 2020 amounted to 64.1 billion CFA francs as against 40.1 billion CFA francs recorded in 2019, i.e. an increase of 60% year-on-year.

Graph 2 Trends in trade balance with Ukraine (in billion FCFA)



Source: NIS

3. IMPORTS

Russia is Cameroon's leading supplier of wheat (wheat and meslin) and fertilizer
Ukraine is Cameroon's leading supplier of iron, cast iron and steel products

Russia is one of Cameroon's main trading partners, especially with regard to imports which have been growing steadily over the past decade, increasing from 11.5 billion CFA francs in 2010 to 96.7 billion CFA francs in 2020 (see graph above).

In 2020, it exported to Cameroon goods worth 96.7 billion CFA francs, thus ranking 8th among supplier countries of Cameroon.

Table 1: Main suppliers of Cameroon in 2020

Country	Quantity in tons	Value in billion CFA francs	Weight value (in %)
China	884 801	563,8	17,5
France	489 297	281,3	8,7
Belgium	430 872	181,2	5,6
India	280 668	160,7	5,0
United States of America	302 891	140,9	4,4
Turkey	1 096 473	127,3	4,0
Togo	299 217	115,6	3,6
Russia	535 649	96,7	3,0
Netherlands	203 239	96,7	3,0
Germany	74 661	94,5	2,9
Total of top 10 suppliers	4 597 768	1 858,6	58
Other countries	4 536 419	1 363,4	42
Grand Total	9 134 187	3 221,9	100,0

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

These products imported from Russia were mainly comprised of wheat (wheat and meslin) which accounted for 65% of the total, fertilizers followed with 17%, hydrocarbons with 8%, and iron, cast iron and steel products closed the list with 4%.

By supplying Cameroon with wheat in a quantity of 396 thousand tonnes and worth 62.8 billion CFA francs in 2020, i.e. 45% of total wheat imports in value for the year 2020, Russia was the first country supplier of wheat to Cameroon. The country was followed by France with a market share of 33% and Canada with 17% for the same year.

Table 2: Wheat suppliers in Cameroon in 2020

Country	Quantity in tons	Value in billion CFA francs	Weight value (in %)
Russia	395 597	62,8	46%
France	282 863	46,0	33%
Canada	134 927	23,9	17%
Latvia	23 955	3,6	3%
Argentina	12 000	1,9	1%
Switzerland	5 500	1,1	1%
Lebanon	1	0,0	0%
Total	854 842	139,2	100%

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

Regarding fertilizers, Russia held 43% of the Cameroonian market share in 2020, and also ranked first in this market. The country was followed by Saint-Barthélemy Island (16%), Finland (11%) and China (5%).

Table 3: Fertilizer suppliers in Cameroon in 2020

Country	Quantity in tons	Value in billion CFA francs	Weight value (in %)
Russia	91 864	16,4	43%
Saint-Barthelemy	35 157	6,0	16%
Finland	22 108	4,2	11%
China	16 228	1,9	5%
Poland	11 615	1,8	5%
Morocco	8 177	1,8	5%
Norway	6 595	1,2	3%
Vietnam	6 133	1,0	3%
United States of America	3 963	0,9	2%
Belgium	3 825	0,6	2%
Total of top 10 suppliers	205 665	35,8	94%
Other countries	4 115	2,3	6%
Total	209 780	38,1	100%

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

With regard to **Ukraine**, imports from this country have been on a bullish trend since 2016 (see Graph 2). These imports consisted mainly of the product "cast iron, iron and steel" which accounted for over 95% of imports from

Ukraine in 2020, followed by machinery, appliances and recording equipment (2%).

By supplying Cameroon with cast iron, iron and steel products worth 60.9 billion CFA francs in 2020, i.e. 35% of the market share, Ukraine ranked first as the leading supplier of this product in Cameroon. The country was followed by China (26%), Turkey (18%) and Saint-Barthélemy Island (11%).

Table 4: Cast iron, iron and steel suppliers in Cameroon in 2020

Country	Quantity in tons	Value in billion CFA francs	Weight value (in %)
Ukraine	95 269	61,0	35%
China	68 444	44,9	26%
Turkey	47 943	30,1	18%
Saint-Barthelemy	30 972	19,1	11%
Russia	10 876	3,6	2%
Poland	5 079	2,6	1%
Georgia	4 188	1,6	1%
Republic of Congo	2 099	1,6	1%
India	2 250	1,3	1%
France	1 055	1,1	1%
Total of top 10 suppliers	268 173	166,9	97%
Other countries	10 739	5,3	3%
Total	278 912	172,2	100%

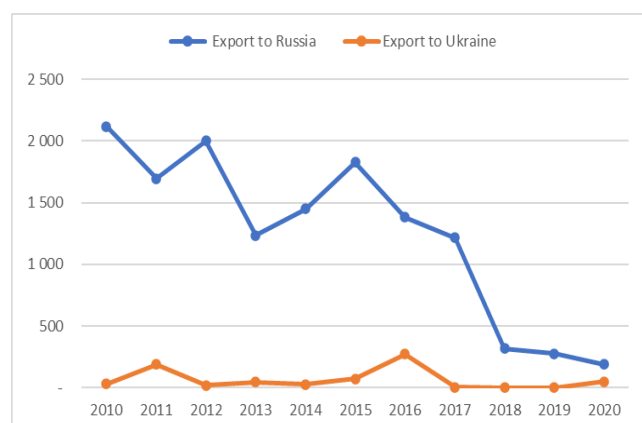
Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

4. EXPORTS

Russia and Ukraine ranked 74th and 93rd respectively in exports in 2020

In trade relations with Russia and Ukraine, Cameroon is a net importer. Cameroon's exports to these two countries are very low and of an almost insignificant value compared to Cameroon's overall exports in 2020 (i.e. a weight of 0.04% for Russia and almost zero for Ukraine).

Graph 3: Trends in exports in value to Russia and Ukraine (in million CFA francs)



Source: NIS

In 2020, exports to Russia amounted to 188 million CFA francs and were comprised of 96% of wood and woodwork.

These exports have recorded a bearish trend over the last decade, decreasing from 2,116 million CFA francs in 2010 to 188 million CFA francs in 2020. This trend is mainly attributable to the gradual decline in exports of coffees, teas and spices, the value of which zero in 2020 amounted to 1,251 million CFA francs in 2010 to this destination.

Regarding Ukraine, exports to this destination in 2020 amounted to 47.7 million CFA francs and were 100% comprised of wood and woodwork.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, strategic partners of Cameroon could disrupt the supply chains of products they supply to Cameroon. This situation could therefore result in an increase in import costs and consequently in an increase in their wholesale and retail prices. In other words, the inflationary pressures already recorded on wheat flour and its derivatives (bread, pasta, etc.) could increase. The same applies to other products imported from these countries, such as fertilizers and certain building materials.

To address this situation, Cameroon could rely on the import substitution policy under implementation as part of the NDS30 and take advantage of this situation to promote the consumption of substitutable local products, by raising awareness among people to change their consumption habits. These include replacing, at least partially, wheat flour with locally produced flour, especially corn, sweet potato, cassava, plantain, etc.

6. APPENDIX

Table 1: Main suppliers of Cameroon (Value in billion CFA francs)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Weight value in 2020 (%)
China	694.4	632.1	517.9	628.7	62.2	56.4	18%
France	366.7	349.2	294.5	281.3	311.6	281.3	9%
Belgium	65.7	0.6	74.3	10.6	220	1.8	6%
India	129	94.1	108.9	115.2	12.4	160.7	5%
United States of America	133.5	10.4	104.8	132.7	99.6	140.9	4%
Turkey	57.6	49.5	4.9	73.7	120.1	127.3	4%
Togo	138.9	77.2	153.6	115.7	253.5	115.6	4%
Russia	20.4	45	77.1	96.6	84.6	96.7	3%
Netherlands	60.5	54.3	69.7	164.5	13.3	96.7	3%
Germany	128.4	117	114.3	102	100.9	94.5	3%
Grand total of imports	3,574.1	3,095.5	3,090.0	3,405.2	3,856.9	3,221.9	100%

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

Table 2: Trends in trade with Russia (Value in billion CFA francs)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Exports to RUSSIA	1.8	1.4	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total GLOBAL EXPORTS	2,399.9	1,959.7	1,891.9	2,084.9	2,420.2	1,813.4
Imports from Russia	20.4	45.0	77.1	96.6	84.6	96.7
Total GLOBAL IMPORTS	3,574.1	3,095.5	3,089.9	3,405.2	3,856.9	3,221.9
Trade balance with Russia	- 18.6	- 43.6	-75.9	- 96.2	- 84.3	- 96.5

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

Table 3: Trends in the main products imported from Russia (Value in billion CFA francs)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Weight in 2020
Wheat and meslin	1.5	8.9	42.1	69.6	61.4	62.8	65%
Fertilizer	9.4	14.8	13.7	12.4	11.5	16.4	17%
Hydrocarbons	2.1	4.5	8.4	11.1	6.9	7.5	8%
Cast iron, iron and steel	0.1	9.7	5.2	0.1	2.3	3.6	4%
Fish and shellfish	3.8	4.9	4.5	0.5	0.3	1.9	2%
Paper and cardboard	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.7	0.9	1.6	2%
Total	20.4	45.0	77.1	96,6	84.6	96.7	100%

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

Table 4: Trends in wheat imports (Value in billion CFA francs)

Country	2018	2019	2020
Russia	69.6	61.4	62.8
France	21.5	42.3	46.1
Canada	23.6	30.3	23.9
Latvia	0.0	0.0	3.6
Argentina	1.2	8.9	1.9
Switzerland	0.0	0.0	1.1
Total	115.9	142.9	139.2

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

Table 5: Trends in the main products exported to Russia (Value in million CFA francs)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Wood and woodwork	171	79	160	92	106	181
Plastics						5
Miscellaneous items					1	2
Edible fruits	1			0	5	0
Coffee, tea and spices	706	749	942	216	120	0
Rubber	50				39	
Optical and photographic devices	768	354	105	9		
Electrical machinery and appliances	122	172			2	
Inorganic chemicals			8			
Mechanical machinery and appliances	8	26			3	
Grand total	1,827	1,380	1,216	318	275	188

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

Table 6: Trends in trade with Ukraine (Value in million CFA francs)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Imports from Ukraine	12,251	10,525	33,871	32,827	40,159	64,144
Exports to Ukraine	71	271	5	-	-	48
Trade balance	- 12,180	- 10,254	- 33,866	- 32,827	- 40,159	- 64,096

Source: NIS, Directorate General of Customs/MINFI

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