Country Profile

Islamic Republic of MAURITANIA

ICDT 2022

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General Data

General info

- Capital: Nouakchott
- Type of State: Islamic Republic based on a parliamentary democracy
- Location: West Africa Area: 1,030,700 Km2
- Time Zone: GMT

Demography

- Population: 4,775,110 - 2021
- Natural increase: 2.7 % - 2021
- Official language: Arabic
- Business language: Arabic, French

Currency

- Ouguiya (MRU)
- 1 USD = 37.9553 MRU - October 2022

Macro economy

- GDP: 8.23 MM USD Growth: 2.3 % - 2021
- GDP per capita: 1,723.0 USD - 2021
- Employment rate of 15 years and over: 40 %

International trade

- Imports – 2021: 3.86 0 MM USD
- Exports – 2021: 3.267 MM USD

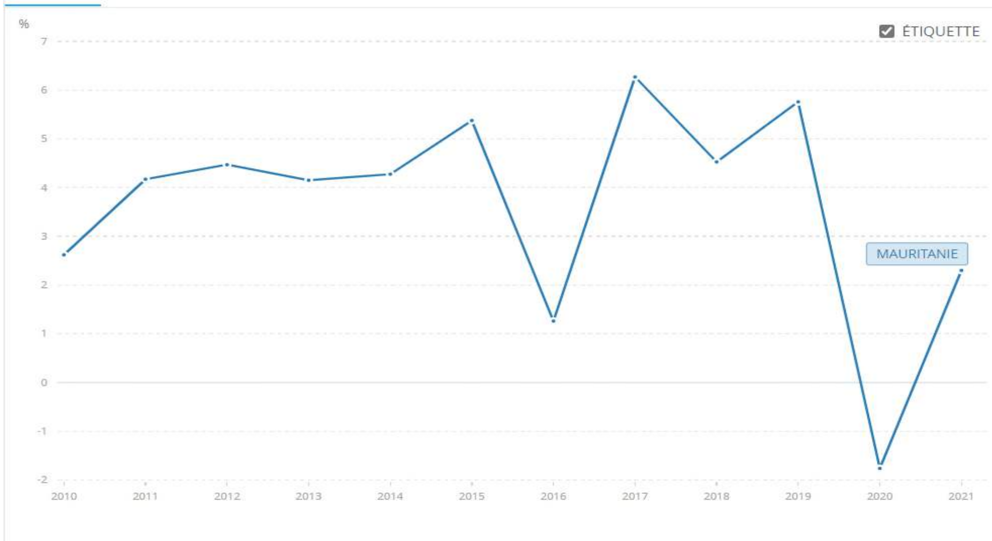
FDI

- FDI stocks in 2021: 9.995 M M USD
- Inward FDI flows in 2021: 22 M USD

Strong Facts

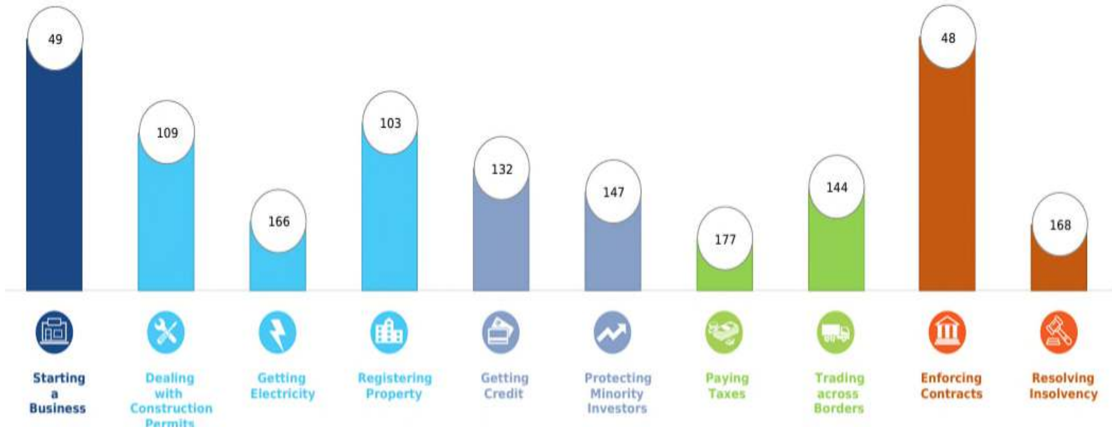
- Confidence of international donors
- Mineral (iron ore, gold, copper) and fishery resources
- Energy potential (gas, renewable energies)
- Relatively large sovereign wealth fund.

GDP growth (annual %)



In 2020, Mauritania's economy contracted by about 2.2 percent as a result of the pandemic. However, this contraction was mitigated by the strong performance of the extractive industry.
Mauritania is witnessing a rebound in economic growth after the pandemic in 2021, mainly due to the increasing growth of private consumption and investment, as well as the improved performance of the tertiary sector. The economic outlook for the next two years is promising, with economic activity expected to reach pre-COVID levels of around 4.5 percent by 2022.

Rankings of Doing Business 2020 by Domain



The country ranks 152nd in the Doing Business 2020 ranking, an increase of 8 places compared to 2016.
This progress stems from the reforms undertaken in:

Start a business	Mauritania	Sub-Saharan Africa
Procedures (number)	4	7.4
Time (days)	6	21.5

- Obtaining loans: by improving access to credit information.
- Enforcing contracts: by introducing a simplified procedure for disputes, setting time standards for major court events, and limiting adjournments. Mauritania has also adopted a law on arbitration.

Main sectors of activity

27.4 %
Share of agriculture in GDP
It employs 30.8% of the population

30 %
Share of industry in GDP
It employs 17.6% of the population

42,6 %
Share of services in GDP
They employ 51.6% of the population

Sector Strategies

The government's vision is guided by an ambitious program whose main objective is to put Mauritania on the path of progress through socio-economic policies, political reforms and the consolidation of social cohesion. Mauritania has been open to foreign direct investment, particularly in the mining, hydrocarbon, agriculture and fisheries sectors. The government is also encouraging new investments in the productive sectors of agribusiness, livestock and animal production. Indeed, An updated Investment Code strengthens investment security and facilitates administrative procedures.

Mauritania's main resources are agriculture, livestock and animal production, fisheries and mining. The agricultural potential is considerable; production is dominated by food crops: millet, sorghum, rice, dates.

Cattle, sheep, goat and camel breeding is a lucrative sector with a strong national presence. Mauritania has significant animal resources, estimated at 30 million head in 2020. Fishing, both industrial and traditional, is practiced along the 750 km of coastline.

The extractive industry is also a major resource for the country, as Mauritania's soil and coastline are rich in iron, gypsum, gold and oil.

Infrastructure

Maritime

2 seaports have been built in the last five years, the first in the Tanit area, near the gold and copper mining sites in the regions of Inchiri and Dakhlet Nouadhibou, and the second in N'Diago , in the region of Trarza. The port of Nouakchott has been expanded to increase its capacity.

Airport

Mauritania has two (2) international airports: Nouakchott (Oumtounsi) and Nouadhibou, equipped with facilities that meet safety standards. In addition to these two airports, the country has eight (8) national airports.

Rail and road

Mauritania has a 704 km railway line linking iron ore mining sites in the Tiris Zemmour region to the mining port of Nouadhibou from where iron is exported to international markets. The Mauritanian road network is approximately 10,282 km, including 5,417 km of paved roads.

Energy

Inauguration of 6 large power plants in Nouakchott and reinforcement of the production capacity of all the plants in the other cities.

Promising Sectors

01 **Agriculture** : The agricultural potential is enormous; production is dominated by food crops: millet, sorghum, rice, dates.

02 **Livestock** : Cattle, sheep, goat and camel breeding is a lucrative sector with a strong national presence. Mauritania has significant animal resources, estimated at 30 million head in 2020.

03 **Renewable Energy:** Mauritania has great potential in various renewable energies - solar, wind and hydroelectric.

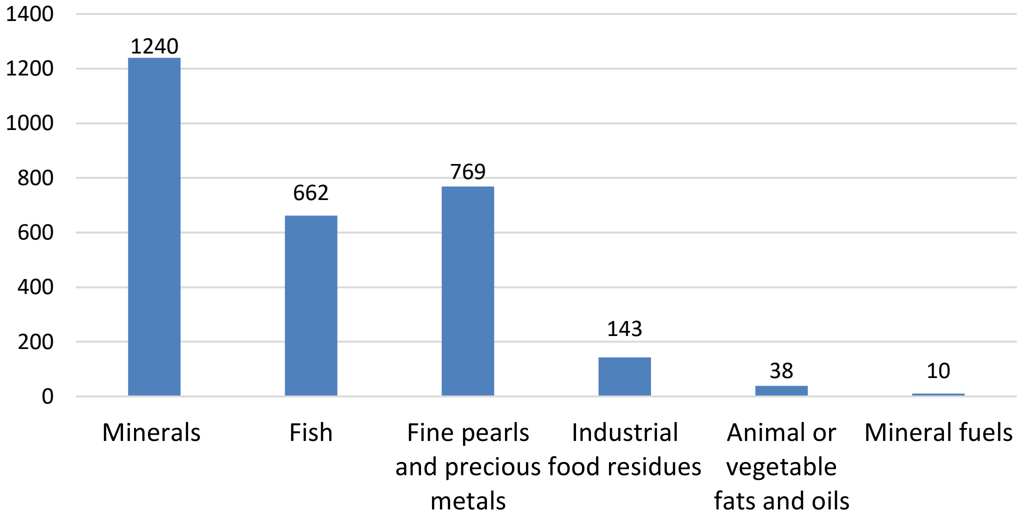
04 **Tourism:** Mauritania connects the Arab world and sub-Saharan Africa. It is well known for having a unique landscape at the intersection of the desert and the ocean.

05 **Fishing:** Industrial and traditional fishing is practiced off the 750 km of coastline the most fishy in the world.

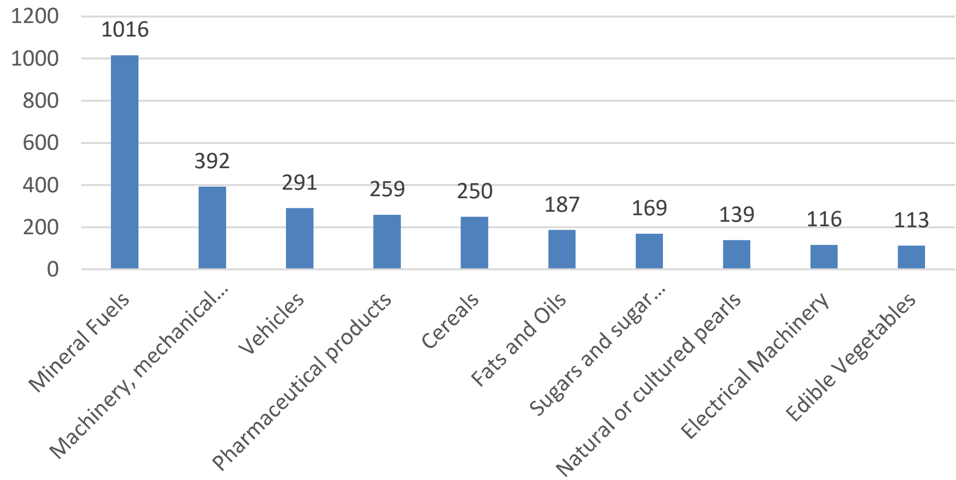
06 **Extractive Industries:** Large reserves of natural resources, including hydrocarbons and precious metals, with Mauritania's soil and coastline rich in iron, gypsum, gold and oil.

International Trade

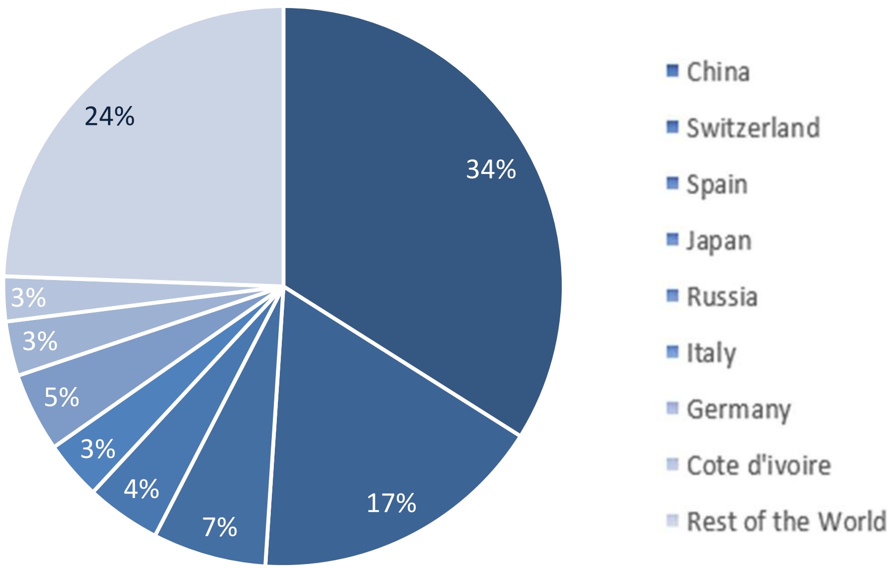
Main Products Exported by Mauritania in 2020 -MUSD



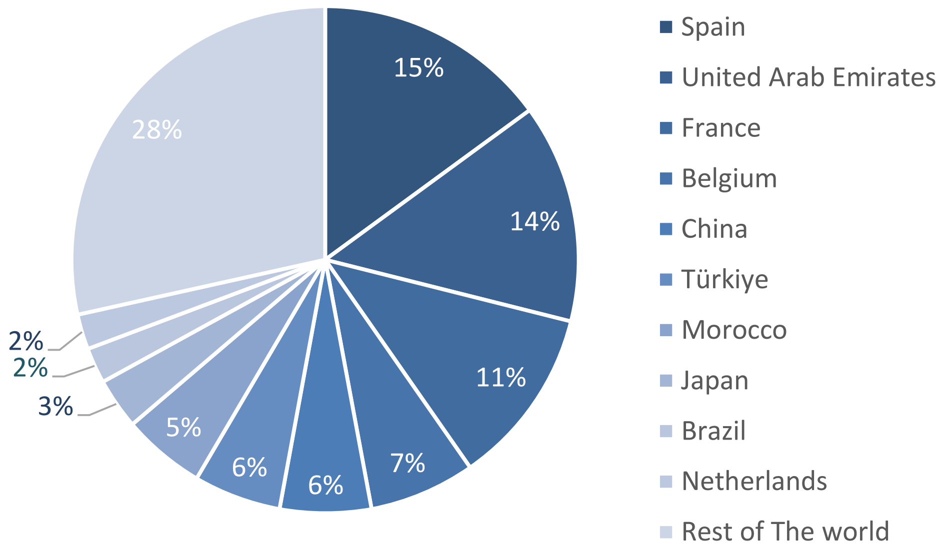
Main Imported products by Mauritania in 2021 - MUSD



Main customers of Mauritania in 2020

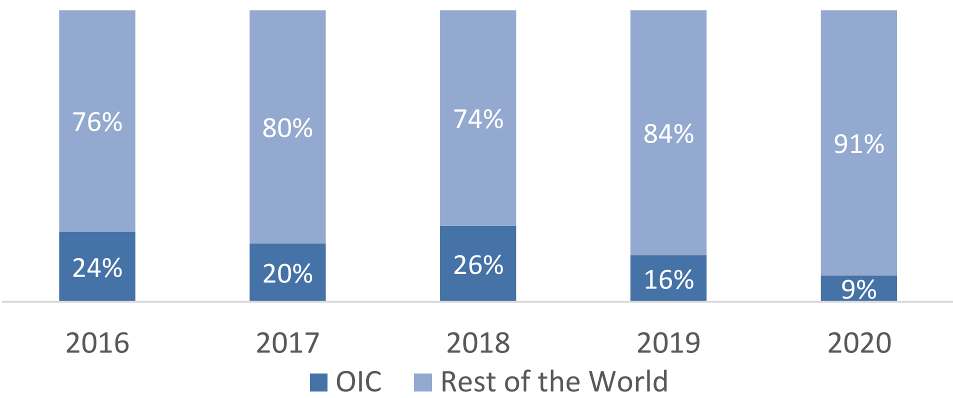


Main suppliers of Mauritania in 2020

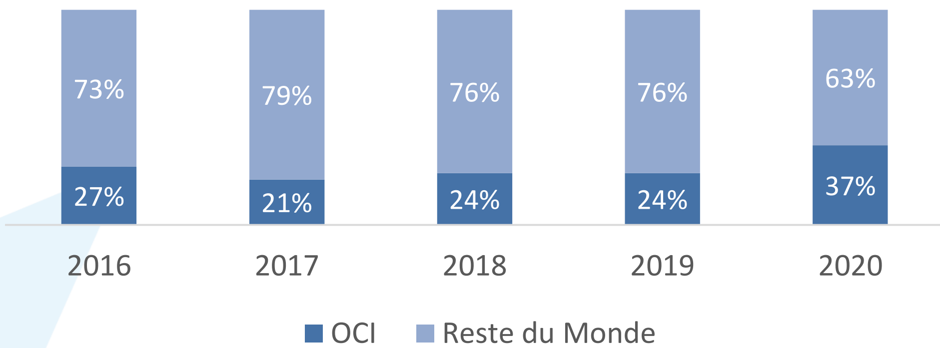


Intra-OIC Trade

Share of OIC in Mauritania's Exports



Share of OIC in Imports of Mauritania



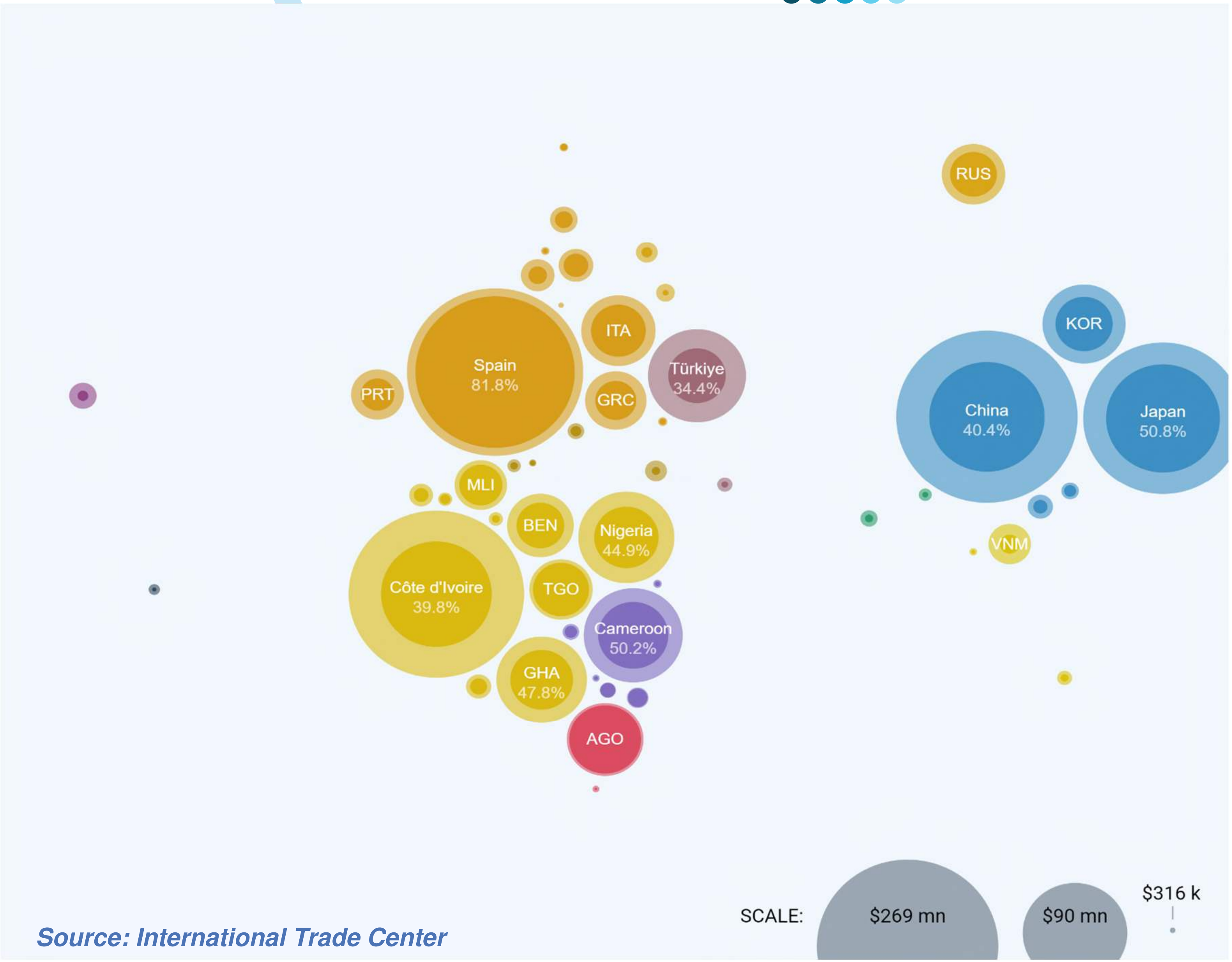
Top 10 Customers, OIC Members in 2020

1. Cote d'ivoire
2. Nigeria
3. Türkiye
4. Mali
5. Cameroon
6. Togo
7. Benin
8. Senegal
9. Egypt
10. Burkina Faso

Top 10 Suppliers, OIC Members in 2020

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Morocco
3. Türkiye
4. Algeria
5. Senegal
6. Malaysia
7. mali
8. Togo
9. Saudi Arabia
10. Egypt

Export potential of Mauritania by country of destination



Markets with potential for Mauritania's exports

Legend

- Export potential
- Tapped potential

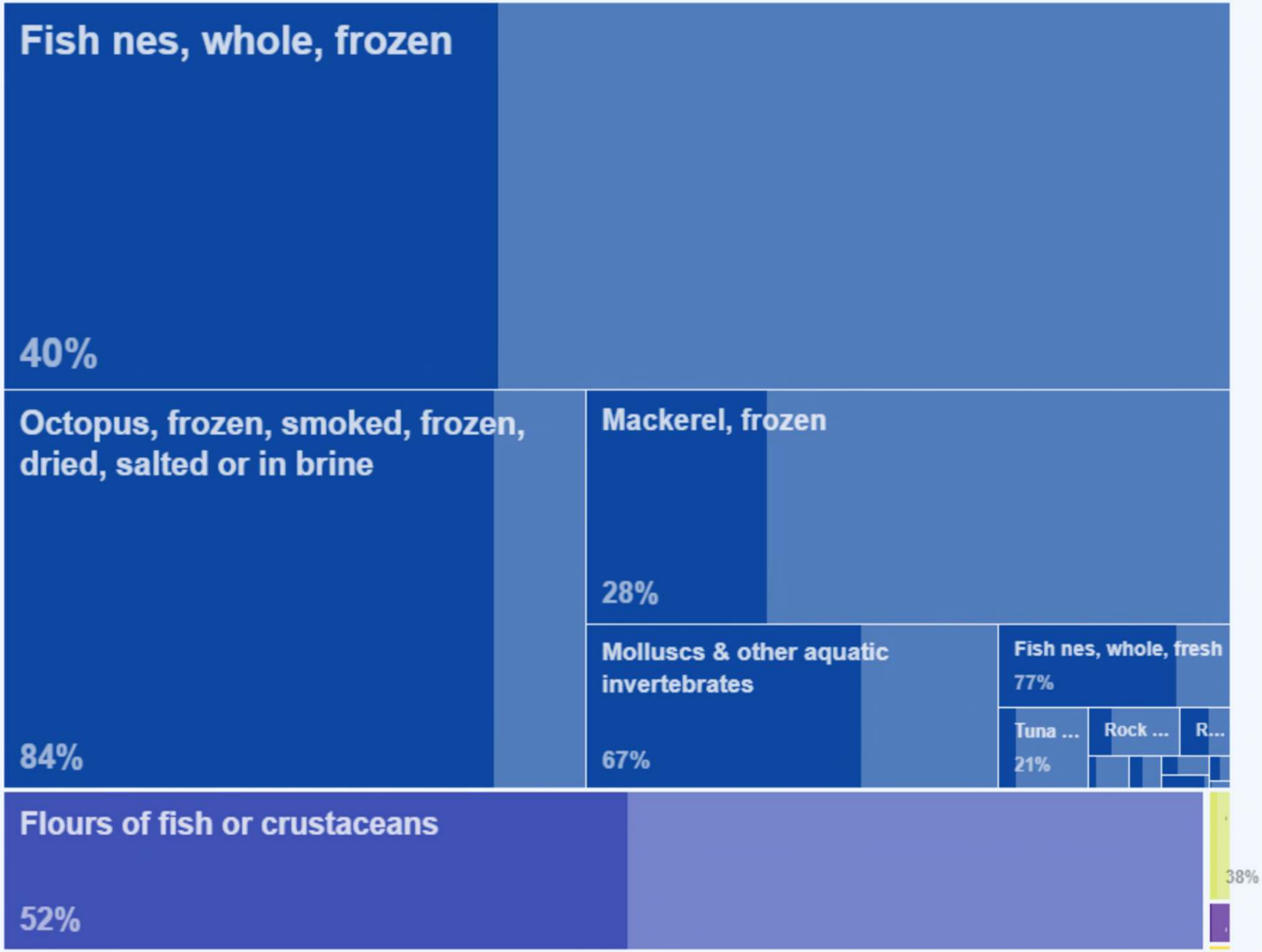
- East Asia
- Western Africa
- EU & West Europe
- Central Africa
- Middle East
- Southern Africa
- East Europe & Central Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Northern Africa
- North America
- South Asia
- South & Central America

Within the OIC region, the markets with the highest export potential are located in West Africa, Central Africa and the Middle East.

Source: International Trade Center

Export potential of Mauritania by product

Source: International Trade Center



Mauritania's products with potential

Legend

- Export potential
- Tapped potential

- Fish & shellfish
- Vegetal residues & animal feed
- Fish products (processed)
- Fertilizers
- Metal products

The products with the greatest export potential are Fish & Seafood, Plant Residues & Animal Feed, Fishery Products, Fertilizers and Metal Products.

Market Access

Customs Duties and Taxes

Average rate: 12%
Average rate of agricultural products: 15%
Average rate of non-agricultural products: 11.5%

Trade agreements

Mauritania has been a member of the WTO since May 31, 1995 and a member of the GATT since September 30, 1963.

Public markets

Calls for Tenders are published on: https://www.mauritaniatenders.com/

Investing in Mauritania

Why Mauritania

Distinctive geostrategic location; major political and economic reforms; free trade zone in the economic capital, Nouadhibou; abundance and diversity of resources; - A growing oil market.

Special Economic Zones

The state has made the bay of Nouadhibou a free zone. Created in early 2013, it covers more than 1,000 km2 and accommodates a population of 100,000 inhabitants. The Free Zone includes the whole of the Nouadhibou urban area and part of the peninsula and its bay , the maritime domain bordering its perimeter and those of the development zones, the whole coastal strip and the territorial waters up to 2 nautical miles from the coast. The free zone of Nouadhibou benefits from its strategic position and remains a pillar in terms of development of industrial activities. Fields of activity: fishing, mining, and in perspective oil and gas; mineral port for the evacuation of iron ore.

Implemented Measures

Exemption up to the seventh fiscal year (included) following the one in which the registration or approval was issued;
Reduced rate of seven percent (7%) from the eighth to the fifteenth fiscal year included;
Common law rate of twenty-five percent (25%) from the sixteenth year onwards.
Exemption from import and export duties and taxes except for hydrocarbons and cars
Foreign currency accounts opened in foreign banks
Free transfer of funds.

Contacts

Ministry of Trade and Industry of Mauritania

- www.commerce.gov.mr

National Office of Statistics

- www.ons.mr

General Directorates of Taxes

- www.impots.gov.mr

Central Bank of Mauritania

- www.bcm.mr

Mauritanian Company of fish commercialisation (SMCP)

- www.smcp.mr

National Union of Mauritanian Employers – (UNPM)

- www.unpm.mr

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (CCIAM)

- www.cciam.com

Mauritania Trade

- www.mauritaniatrade.com

Invest Mauritania

- www.invest-mauritania.com

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors (Mauritania)- General Directorate of Public Private Partnerships

- www.ppp.gov.mr