# Country Profile
## Republic of UGANDA

**ICDT 2025**

www.icdt-cidc.org
icdt@icdt-oic.org

# General Data

**General Info**

- Capital: Kampala
- Type of State: Republic
- Location: East Africa - Area: 245,857 km²
- Time zone: GMT + 3

**Demography**

- Population : 50 015 090 - 2024
- Natural increase: 2.8% - 2023
- Official language: English, Luganda, Swahili
- Business language: English

**Currency**

- Ugandan Shilling (UGX)
- 1 USD = 3 643 UGX June 2025

**macro economy**

- GDP: 56.45 MM USD –2024 Growth: 5.3 % - 2023
- GDP per capita : 1211 USD - 2024
- Employment rate of people aged 15 and over: 67.7 % - 2017

**International trade**

- Imports – 2023: 11.78 MM USD
- Exports – 2023: 6.31 MM USD

**FDI**

- FDI stocks in 2023: USD 19.51 MM
- Inward FDI flows in 2023: USD 2.88 MM

**Strong points**

- Natural resources: fertile soils, oil fields
- Hydroelectric potential
- Diversification efforts, particularly in the agro-food sector
- Main coffee exporter on the continent alongside Ethiopia

## GDP growth

In 2024, Uganda's economy expanded by approximately 6.1%, driven by robust growth in the services and industrial sectors, increased oil sector investments, and higher net exports of commodities like coffee and gold. Looking ahead, projections for 2025 indicate continued economic momentum. The African Development Bank anticipates a growth rate of 7.0%, buoyed by stronger regional growth and ongoing investments in the oil sector. The World Bank projects a slightly lower rate of 6.2%, reflecting expectations of sustained investment and ongoing reforms. These forecasts reflect expectations of sustained investment and ongoing reforms.

Investing in Uganda offers a unique opportunity due to its strategic location in East Africa, abundant natural resources, and a growing economy. The country features a youthful workforce and government policies that promote foreign investment through tax incentives and streamlined regulations. With diverse sectors like agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy ripe for exploration, Uganda presents promising returns for investors in a stable political climate and an expanding infrastructure.

## Doing Business in Uganda

Uganda offers a dynamic and evolving business landscape, underpinned by sustained economic growth and strategic reforms. In 2024, the country achieved a GDP growth rate of 5.8%, driven by robust performance in agriculture, services, and infrastructure development.

The government actively promotes investment through the Uganda Investment Authority's One-Stop Centre, streamlining processes for company registration, licensing, and work permits . Priority sectors include agro-industrialization, mining, tourism, and oil and gas. Notably, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project is poised to enhance Uganda's position in the regional energy market.

Uganda's youthful population—over 70% under the age of 30—provides a vibrant labor force and a growing consumer base . Additionally, the development of industrial parks, such as the Kampala Industrial and Business Park, offers infrastructure and incentives for manufacturers and exporters.

Uganda's commitment to economic diversification and investment facilitation makes it an attractive destination for business ventures in East Africa.

## Main sectors of activity

**22.2 %**

Share of agriculture in GDP
It employs 72.1% of the population

**25 %**

Share of industry in GDP
It employs 6.5% of the population

**52.8 %**

Share of services in GDP
They employ 21.4% of the population

## Sector Strategies

Uganda Vision 2040 is built on the premise of strengthening the fundamentals of the economy to take advantage of the various opportunities that the country offers.
The country's fundamentals include infrastructure for energy, water, oil and gas and ICT development; engineering and innovation sector (STEI); land management systems; urbanization; human resources; security and defense.

To turn vision into reality, some key strategies and reforms have been carried out, first of all:

- Invest in infrastructure, with a focus on oil and energy supply, transportation and ICT;
- Accelerate industrialization through upgrading and diversification to make better use of local resources;
- Develop industrial clusters along the value chains in which the country participates;
- Adopting agrarian reforms to facilitate faster land acquisition, allowing for planned urbanization, infrastructure development, and easier marketing of agricultural products;
- Establish an Infrastructure Fund of Uganda to significantly reduce the cost of infrastructure development;
- Develop a universal health insurance system through a public-private partnership
- Develop and implement a national science and engineering technology system that will help initiate, import, modify and disseminate new technologies.

## Infrastructure

### River

River transport is one of the fastest and cheapest means of transportation in Uganda. The country's waterways, including Lake Victoria, offer a competitive alternative mode of transport for passengers and freight. There are also many other lakes, including Kyoga, Albert, Edward, George, Bunyonyi and Bisina. The country has 18 river ports, most of which are on Lake Victoria (more than 170 ships carrying about 6-8 million passengers per year).

### Road

The total length of Uganda's road network is 5,111 km. The government's goal is to increase the length of paved roads to 6,000 km by 2020 and 20,000 km by 2025. This will contribute to the development of an oil and gas industrial park in western Uganda as well as the promotion of business development.

### Airport

The country is served by 47 airfields, including Entebbe International Airport, which is the main entry and exit point for international traffic (12 commercial airlines target 3.5 million passengers and 100,000 tons of cargo per year). The government has designated five other international airports to promote trade and tourism: Arua, Gulu, Pakuba, Kidepo and Kasese.

### Railway

The government of Uganda is committed to developing the national railway system as the most cost-effective means of transportation. The government has carried out rehabilitation and refurbishment work on the old metre gauge railroad (MGR). Consequently, it has allowed the development of the Kampala-Portbell-Mwanza-Dar-es-Salaam corridor to boost regional trade. The government aims at doubling the proportion of freight transported by rail to about 20 percent from the current 10 percent.

## Promising Sectors

01 **Pharmaceutical industry**: There are over 30 pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing companies in Uganda. These companies currently manufacture 173 pharmaceutical products. Uganda is highly specialized in pharmaceuticals; the chemical sector accounts for over 10% of the manufacturing value added - as the highest percentage in the region.

02 **ICT**: Dynamic, fast-growing sector supported by a strong legal and regulatory framework. Newly developed and quantitative infrastructure.
Opportunities for outsourcing processes and services in agriculture, health, tourism, banking, insurance and public administration.

03 **Energy** : Huge natural resources such as mineral, hydroelectric, geothermal, oil, solar thermal,
Recent discovery of 1.2 billion barrels that could generate an investment between 15 and 20 billion USD.

04 **Electronics:** Unequaled and largely untapped opportunity for electronics assembly operations. Uganda combines first-class labor availability, the most competitive overall operating costs in the CAE, an attractive and stable investment and working environment, an attractive incentive package, and market access.

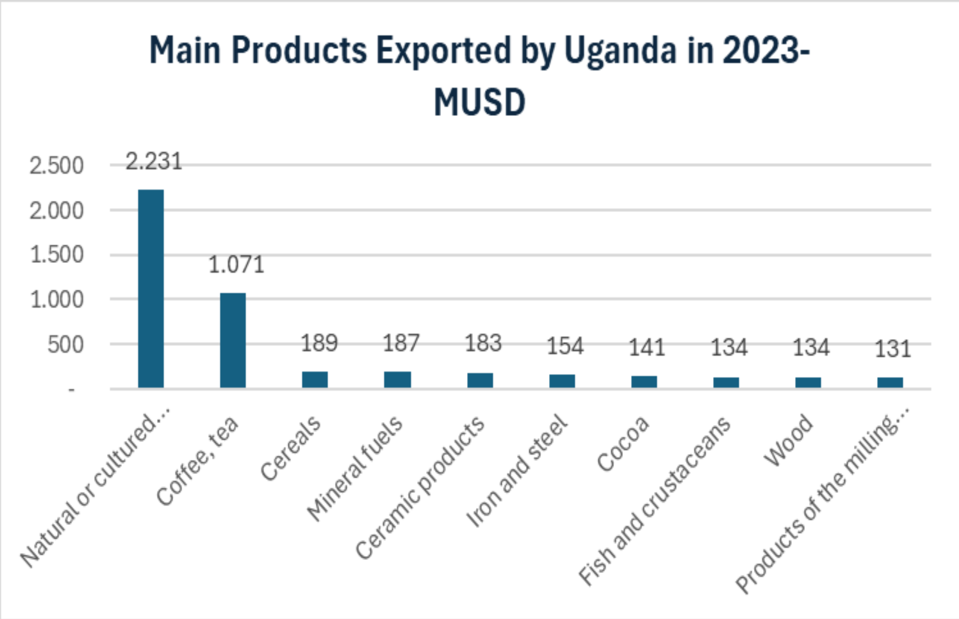
05 **Agriculture:** Investment opportunities are available in commercial agriculture in crops, animal industry, aquaculture; agro-industries and food processing; manufacturing of inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, refrigerated warehouses and logistics, manufacturing and assembly of agricultural machinery, packaging, irrigation programs.

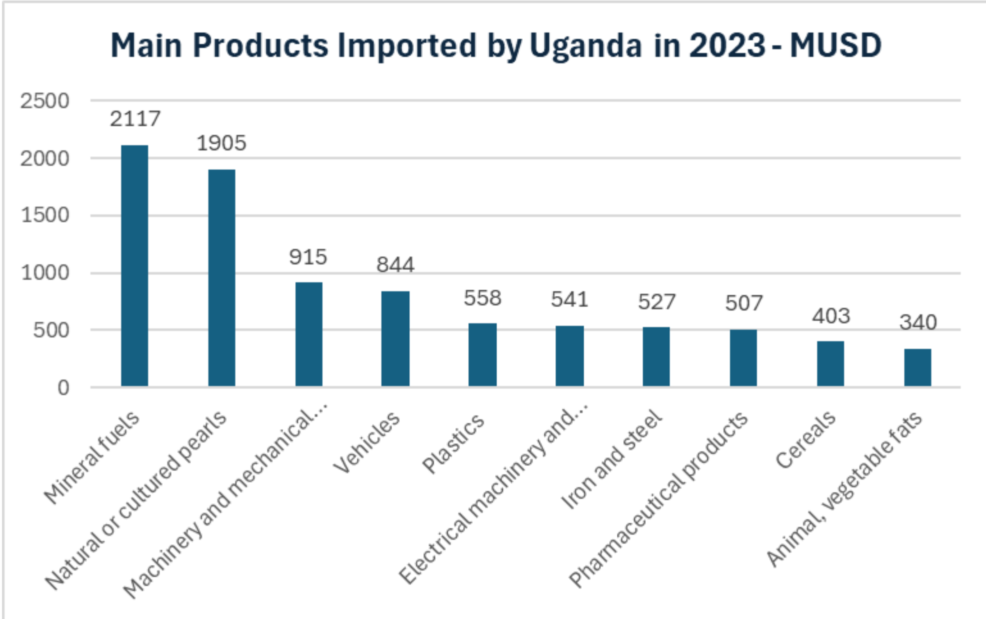
06 **Mining:** Large under-exploited mineral deposits of gold, petroleum, high-grade tin, tungsten/wolfram, salt, beryllium, cobalt, kaolin, iron ore, glass sand, vermiculite, phosphates (agricultural fertilizer), uranium, and rare minerals. There are also significant quantities of clay and gypsum.

07 **Edible oil:** The production of premium virgin oils for export is achievable in the medium and long term with higher profit margins. Premium/pure sunflower oils are already exported to Switzerland and Belgium and the demand in these markets and in the Asian markets is expected to continue growing continuously.

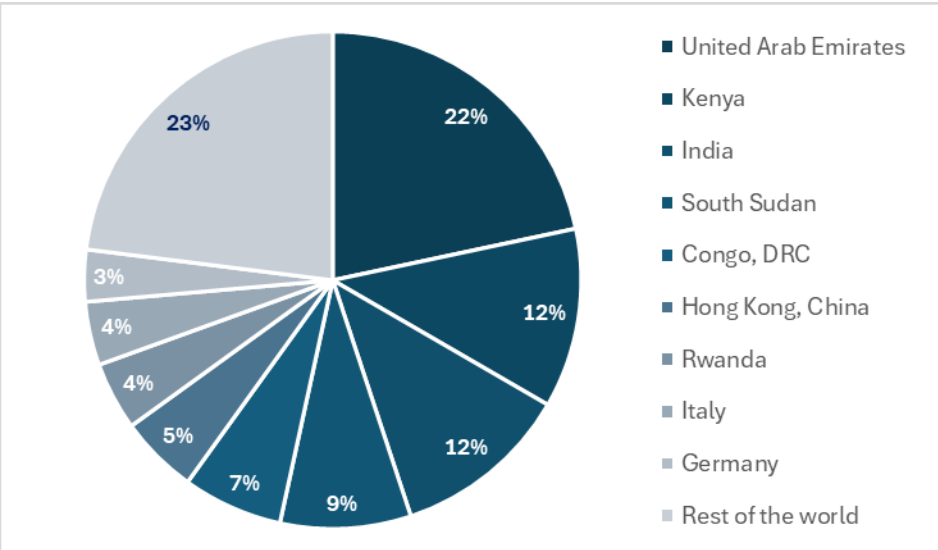
08 **Tourism** Rapidly growing sector due to the country's wildlife resources. Several opportunities in the construction of quality accommodations and the operation of tourist and travel tours as well as the development of specialized facilities for ecotourism, community tourism and faith-based tourism, such as pilgrimages to the martyrs of Namugongo, Uganda

# International trade

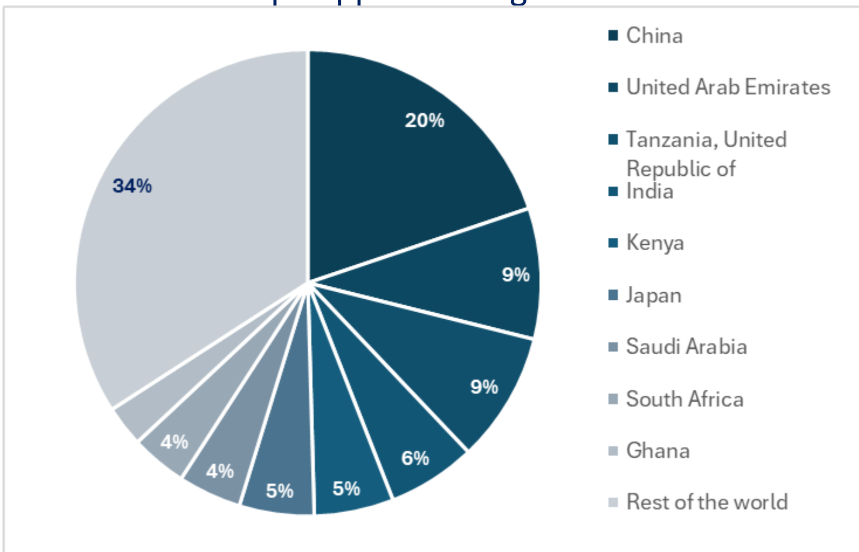


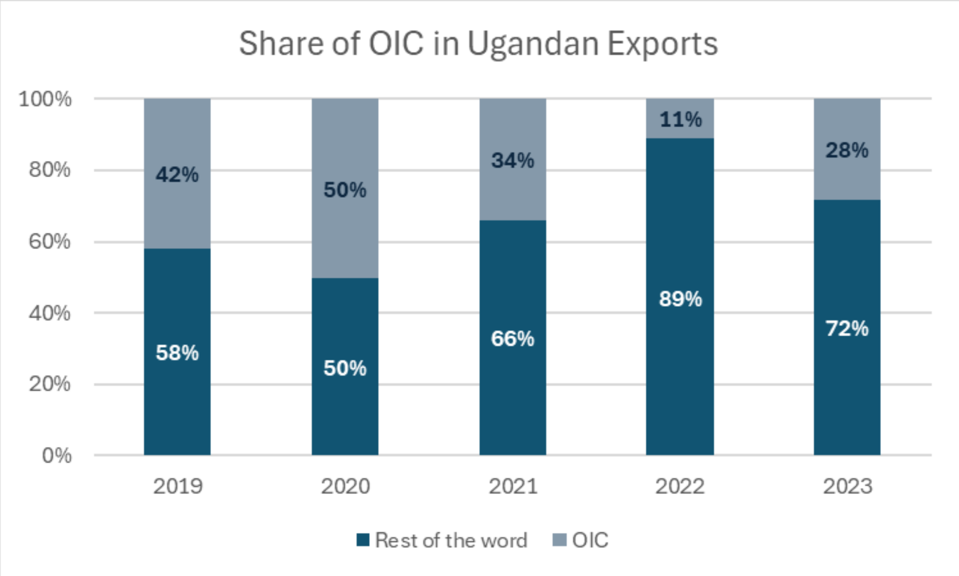

## Uganda's top customers in 2023

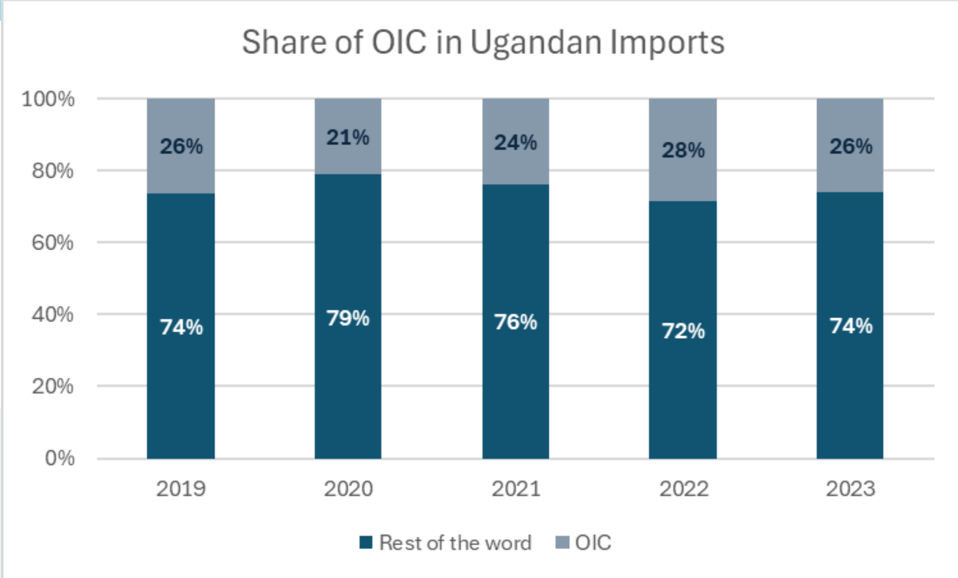



## Top Suppliers to Uganda in 2023



# Intra-OIC Trade



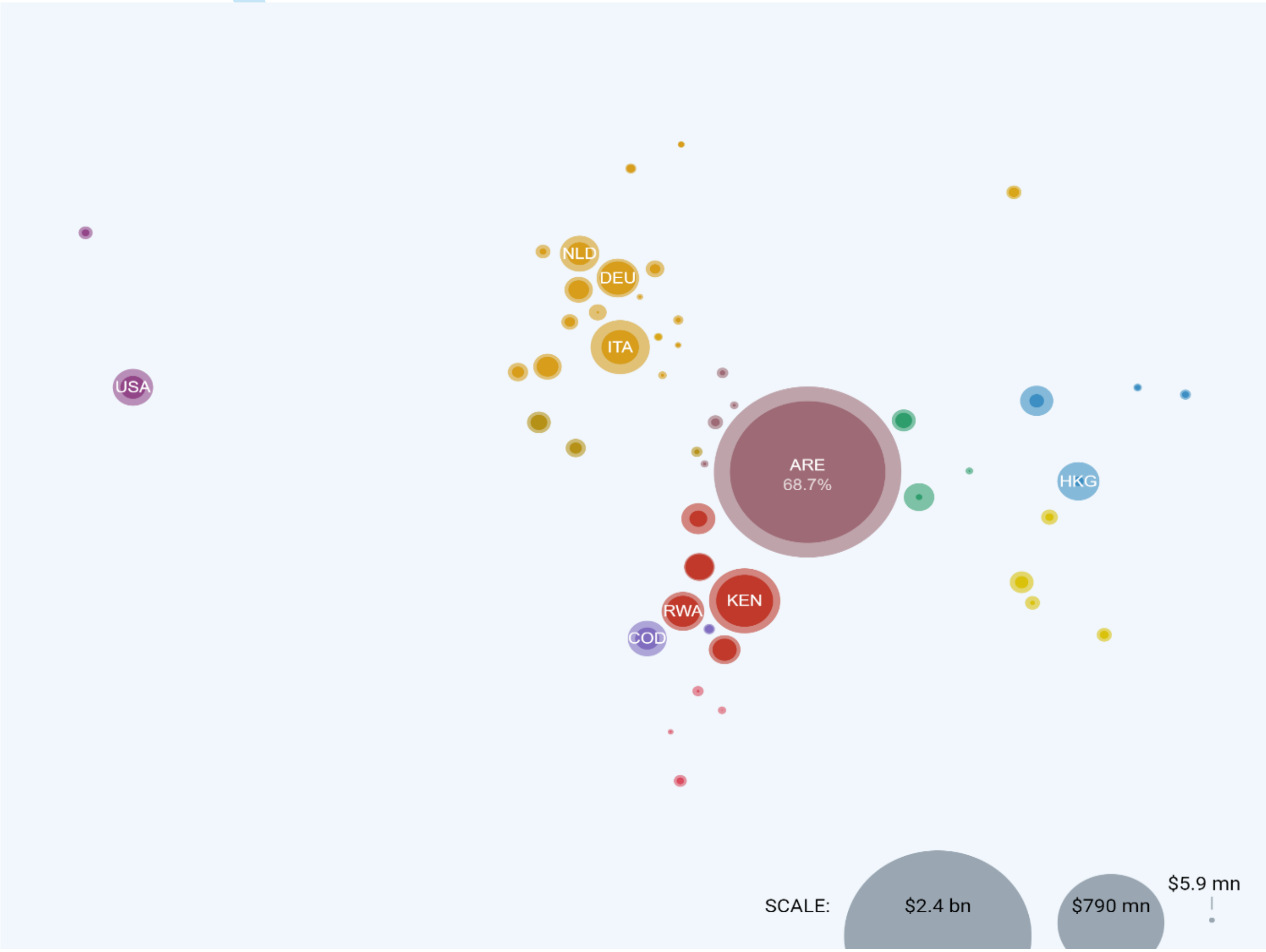

## Top 10 Customers, OCI Members in 2023

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Sudan
3. Algeria
4. Malaysia
5. Indonesia
6. Türkiye
7. Morocco
8. Egypt
9. Nigeria
10. Qatar

## Top 10 Suppliers, OIC Members in 2023

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Malaysia
4. Mozambique
5. Indonesia
6. Burkina Faso
7. Egypt
8. Oman
9. Mali
10. Cameroon

# Uganda's export potential by country of destination




Markets with potential for Uganda's exports

Legend

- Export potential
- Realized potential

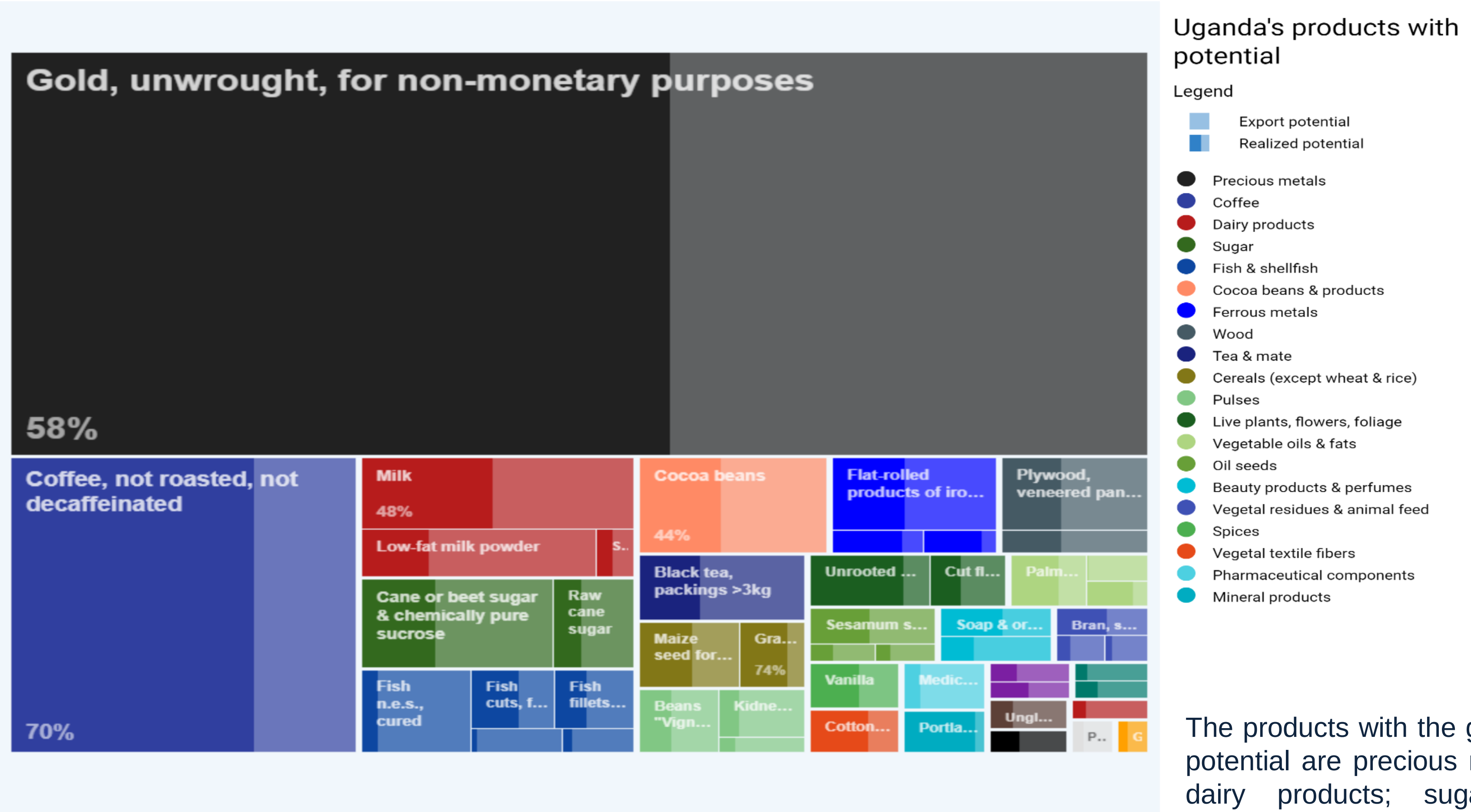
- Middle East
- EU & West Europe
- Eastern Africa
- East Asia
- North America
- South Asia
- Central Africa
- Southeast Asia
- Northern Africa
- Southern Africa
- East Europe & Central Asia

Within the OIC region, the markets with the highest export potential are located in the Middle East and South East Asia, and in North Africa.

*Source: International Trade Center*

# Uganda Export Potential by Product

*Source: International Trade Center*




The products with the greatest export potential are precious metals, coffee, dairy products; sugar, fish and seafood.

# Market Access

# Investing in Uganda

## Customs Duties and Taxes

Average rate: 17.6%
Average rate of agricultural products: 25.5%
Average rate of non-agricultural products: 16.3%

## Trade agreements

Member of WTO;
Member of the East African Community (EAC)
Member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

## Fairs and Exhibitions

For more information, visit the website:
https://www.eventseye.com/fairs/c0_salons_ouganda.html

## Public markets

Uganda's tenders are published on the website: https://www.tenders.ug/

## Why Uganda

Access to East African markets (fastest growing in the world in terms of GDP and Population)
Highly competitive human capital
Institutional and legal framework favorable to attract FDI
Abundant natural resources (iron ore, phosphate, gold, wolfram, oil, diamonds, vermiculite, silica, limestone)
Tourism opportunities

## Special Economic Zones

The Uganda Investment Authority has been entrusted with developing 27 industrial and commercial zones. The completion of these industrial zones will add value to locally available raw materials, thereby boosting the agricultural and mining sectors. There are three government-owned industrial zones in the Kampala-Mukono region. These include the Kampala Industrial and Business Park (KIBP), Namanve, Luzira and Bweyogerere Industrial Parks..

## Implemented Measures

Exemption from payment of import duties
Refund of duties payable on imported inputs used in the production of goods for export
Exemption from all taxes, deductions and duties on free zone exports.
10-year tax exemption for a Free Zone Developer
10-year tax exemption for a Free Zone Operator
Exemption from tax on plant and machinery used in free zones for 5 years
Exemption from stamp duty on the lease of land, increase of share capital, transfer of land

# Contacts

## Uganda Revenue Authority

www.ura.go.ug
services@ura.go.ug
(256) 800117000

## Uganda Export Promotion Board

2nd Floor, UEDCL Tower Plot 37,
Nakasero Road P. O. Box 5045 Kampala - Uganda.
www.ugandaexports.go.ug
+256 (0)414 230250
info@ugandaexports.go.ug

## Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives

Tel: +256-312 324 000 |268
Plot 6/8, Parliamentary Av, Kampala
www.mtic.go.ug
mintrade@mtic.go.ug

## Uganda Investment Authority

Kampala Industrial and Business Park (KIBP)
P.O. Box 7418 Kampala, Uganda
+256-393-202-077
+256-393-202-076
info@ugandainvest.go.ug