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### **Report Highlights:**

In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire's imports of U.S.-origin food and agricultural products grew to \$42 million, up 121 percent compared to \$19 million registered in 2023. Export growth in 2024, has been driven by the significant influx of U.S.-origin rice, valued at \$22.3 million ( i.e., linked to USDA/FAS food security programing for the Coastal West Africa region), as well as by \$13.4 million (record level) deliveries of U.S. soybean meal. In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire's global food and agricultural products imports are \$3.6 billion. In 2025 (January-May), Ivorian imports are coming in at \$1.8 billion (up 26 percent). FAS Abidjan, Accra (Post) find that the country's food retail industry is growing thanks to urbanization and a budding middle class. Inflation and high costs of living, notwithstanding, consumers are increasingly demanding quality products. In 2024, Ivorian imports of food processing ingredients surpassed \$852 million, fueling the food processing industry's demand for product that domestic producers cannot fill.

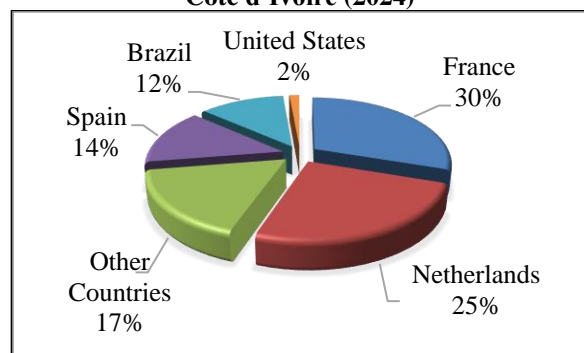
# Exporter Guide - Côte d'Ivoire

## Executive Summary:

Côte d'Ivoire, Francophone West Africa's economic powerhouse is the world's largest producer of cocoa beans and cashew nuts. With its sizeable manufacturing sector, it exerts regional economic influence. In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire's real gross domestic product (GDP) grew 6.5 percent; but is easing to 6.4 percent in 2025. The country is a large food and agricultural products producer. It seeks self-sufficiency in the production of rice and poultry.

**Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Imports:** In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire imported \$852 million worth of consumer-oriented food and agricultural products. However, imports from the United States remain low compared to those originating in the European Union, mainly from France, the Netherlands, and Spain.

**Chart 1: Top Exporting Countries to Côte d'Ivoire (2024)**



**Food Retail Industry:** In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire's food retail sales were \$48.8 billion. In 2025, the food retail industry is expanding by 10 percent, reinforcing growth trends. Large-scale distribution covering 15 to 25 percent of Ivorian food purchases, is expanding. This growth increases distribution opportunities, creating new avenues for imported food products.

**Food Processing Industry:** In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire's food processing industry contributed 7 percent to GDP. Growing diversification in the sugar, milling, fruit juice, dairy products, breweries, and vegetable oils sectors drives growth. Local and multinational companies, shore up the processing industry. In 2024, the industry benefitted from \$750 million in investment, helping to augment local job creation.

**Food Service Industry:** Côte d'Ivoire's food service sales reached \$1.4 billion in 2024, a 7.6 percent increase from \$1.3 billion in 2023. In 2025, growth should stabilize; potentially slowing, attributable in part to the presidential elections set for October 2025.

## Quick Facts CY 2024

### Imports of Consumer-Oriented Products

(\$852 million)

### List of Top 10 Growth Products in Host Country

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Dairy products     | 2) Pork & pork products    |
| 3) Fresh vegetables   | 4) Wine, related products  |
| 5) Beef & beef prod.  | 6) Non-alcoholic bevs.     |
| 7) Food preparations  | 8) Processed vegetables    |
| 9) Eggs, egg products | 10) Bakery, cereals, pasta |

### Food Industry by Channels (U.S. billion)

Retail Food Industry	\$48.8 billion
Food Service-HRI	\$1.4 billion
Food and Agriculture Exports	\$9.8 billion

### Top 10 Host Country Retailers (by sales)

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1) Prosuma      | 6) Sangel    |
| 2) CDCI         | 7) Super U   |
| 3) Carrefour    | 8) Supeco    |
| 4) Auchan       | 9) Miniprix  |
| 5) Mata Holding | 10) Monoprix |

### GDP/Population

Population (*millions*): 29.9 (CIA, 2024 est.); 31.9 (NSI, 2025 projected)

GDP (*billions USD*): \$79.4

GDP per capita (*USD*): \$2,728

**Sources:** National Statistics Institute (NSI), Trade Data Monitor, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Industry Associations, market intelligence.

## Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats

<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open and easily accessible market, well-established, with modern distribution channels.</li><li>• Offers tax credits and incentives to investments.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited purchasing power.</li><li>• Bureaucracy and slow administration response.</li><li>• Higher freight rates and longer transit times from U.S. ports compared to Europe.</li><li>• High cost of customs clearance, uncertain clearance times.</li></ul>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Growing middle-class.</li><li>• Consumer demand for value, high-quality.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Competition from Europe and Asia.</li><li>• Côte d'Ivoire's weak currency makes imports costly.</li></ul>

## Section I: Market Overview

Côte d'Ivoire (larger than New Mexico) sits on West Africa's Atlantic Coast on the Gulf of Guinea between Ghana and Liberia. Its youthful population (i.e., 60 percent is under 25 years-of-age) of over 29.9 million (Central Intelligence Agency, 2024 estimate) is growing at 2.13 percent, with urbanization at 53 percent.<sup>1</sup> Côte d'Ivoire, like neighboring Ghana, is a lower-middle income country. It is nonetheless one of West Africa's most influential, stable, and rapidly developing economies, with poverty declining in urban areas, albeit lingering in rural locales. It is heavily dependent on agriculture and related activities, that engages two-thirds of the populace.<sup>2</sup> Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa beans, as well as a major global producer of coffee (robusta), palm oil, cashew nuts, and rubber (natural). The country is a significant food and agricultural products producer. It aspires achieving self-sufficiency in the production of several commodities, including rice and poultry meat, to enhance its national food security. At the same time, it is eyeing the further development of agricultural value chains to service regional export markets.<sup>3</sup>

**Business Climate:** In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 6.5 percent; easing, however, somewhat to 6.4 percent in 2025. Francophone West Africa's economic powerhouse is the world's largest producer of cocoa and cashew nuts. With its sizeable manufacturing sector, Côte d'Ivoire exerts significant regional influence. The country accounts for over 39 percent of the West African Monetary Union's (WAEMU) total output.<sup>4</sup> Several foreign multinationals select Côte d'Ivoire as their regional headquarters and base of operations. The country is at the same time the venue of choice for international events, such as the Africa-CEO Forum. In 2024 (January-December), Côte d'Ivoire's food and agricultural products imports are \$3.6 billion by value and 4.9 million metric tons (MMT) by volume. In 2025 (January-May), Ivorian imports are already coming in at \$1.8 billion (up 26 percent) and 2.5 MMT (up 36 percent). The country's economy is robust despite high import prices, rising global and domestic interest rates, and falling external demand.

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<sup>1</sup> Côte d'Ivoire's population, at 29.9 million (Central Intelligence Agency, 2024 estimate) is likely to continue growing for the foreseeable future, since about 60 percent of the populace is under 25-years of age (as of 2020); the total fertility rate is holding steady at 3.5 children per woman, and contraceptive use is less than 30 percent. Côte d'Ivoire's National Statistics Institute projects the country's population in 2025, at 31.9 million.

<sup>2</sup> Agriculture accounts for 25 percent of GDP and 6 percent of export receipts. Besides cocoa and cashew nuts, Côte d'Ivoire exports coffee, rubber, cotton, palm oil, and bananas. The country imports wheat, corn, soybean meal, and dairy products and is the fifth-largest rice importer in the world, with 1.25 million metric tons (MMT) per year. It is the sixth-largest producer of milled rice in sub-Saharan Africa. The country produced 2.3 MMT of milled rice in 2022. The Ivorian government aims to be self-sufficient in milled rice by 2030. It seeks to increase domestic production to 2 MMT by 2025 from its current 1.48 MMT. To be self-sufficient, it needs to produce 2.5 MMT of milled rice. Côte d'Ivoire is self-sufficient in most staple foods.

<sup>3</sup> The Ivorian government's agricultural development strategy focuses on building a more intensive and sustainable agricultural sector. It aims to strengthen rice, corn (maize), soybean, cassava, and fisheries value chains to achieve food self-sufficiency, while at the same time reducing imports and boosting exports. See, CGIAR, "Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Agriculture, AfricaRice and TAAT to Build a Roadmap for Seed Sector Transformation," located at: <https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/news/cote-divoire-roadmap-seed-sector-transformation/>.

<sup>4</sup> Members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (*Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine* - known also by its French acronym, UEMOA) include Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. The WAEMU member countries are seeking greater regional integration through the unification of external tariffs. As Francophone West Africa's leading economic hub and the world's largest cocoa producer, along with a sizeable manufacturing sector, Côte d'Ivoire exerts significant regional economic influence. See, the International Monetary Fund at <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/SPROLLs/WAEMU-362#sort=%40imfdate%20descending>.

**Recent Trends:** Ivorian urbanization and economic growth entice the emerging middle- and upper-classes to embrace Western brands and products. Investment in the country's industrial sector, coupled with an attractive investment code, already makes the country receptive to international trade, foreign direct investment, and potentially greater U.S. export volumes. As such, the private sector is open to international business. U.S. exporters can benefit from growing Ivorian interest of late, to diversify its traditional trade links with Europe. The Ivorian middle-class, increasingly connected to global markets is developing a taste for both local and foreign food sensations. It is familiar with international standards and demands quality food products, notwithstanding a proclivity for price sensitivity.

## Advantages and Challenges

ADVANTAGES	CHALLENGES
International hotels and restaurants present.	Slow and or opaque decision-making process within the Ivorian government.
Infrastructure and digitization; digital payments.	Internet quality and accessibility is still insufficient.
Expatriates and multinational companies demand innovative and high-quality ingredients.	Import procedures are complex; high cost of customs-clearance, uncertain clearance times.
The United States supplies high-quality products.	Price sensitivities. Low/medium-quality Asian goods.
Limited, but growing domestic processing industry.	Consumers prefer often domestic products.
International standards are known and accepted.	French language labeling and packaging.
A young population interested in new products.	Limited qualified staff.
Retailers use foreign goods for differentiation, build new niche markets and gain high-end consumers.	Imports are considered luxury goods. Association of Europe with sophistication and tradition.
Importers look for new-to-market products.	Importers buy small quantities to test the market. U.S. suppliers reluctant to sell in small quantities.
U.S. food industry is responsive to consumer demand.	U.S. foods often seen as overly processed, unhealthy.
Importers update portfolios to stay competitive.	Purchasing power of most Ivorians is still low.

## Section II: Exporter Business Tips

**Market Research:** To successfully enter the Ivorian market U.S. exporters should conduct thorough market research. It is key for U.S. exporters to understand Côte d'Ivoire's economic landscape, consumer behavior, and its trade dynamics. The market is price-driven, developing relationships is key. Côte d'Ivoire benefits from an open market, that is liberalized and welcomes U.S. food products.

Côte d'Ivoire is improving its business environment. The World Bank Group ranks Côte d'Ivoire 110 of 190 in the Ease of Doing Business Index (see, the [World Bank Economic Profile of Côte d'Ivoire](#)).<sup>5</sup> Côte d'Ivoire welcomes exporters and other companies, to register as business entities. Exporters drawn to this market can engage with the Ivorian Investment Promotion Agency (CEPICI), trade associations, and government regulators (see, [Single Window for Foreign Trade, Côte d'Ivoire - Trade](#) and [CEPICI](#)).<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The World Bank Group, "World Bank Economic Profile of Côte d'Ivoire," located at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/cotedivoire/overview>.

<sup>6</sup> See, "Guichet Unique du Commerce Extérieur," located at: <https://guce.gouv.ci/cepici?lang=en>. Also see, *Centre de Promotion des Investissements en Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI)*, "Service à la Creation d'Enterprises," located at: [https://www.cepici.gouv.ci/creation\\_entreprise](https://www.cepici.gouv.ci/creation_entreprise).

**Local Business Customs and Trends:** U.S. exporters should familiarize themselves with Ivorian business customs; helpful for building relationships and successful trading experiences. Côte d'Ivoire's official language is French. Business correspondence, catalogs, and advertising materials prepared in French are essential for winning over potential partners and buyers. Business cards, "*cartes de visite*," are widely used and appreciated. It is recommended that these be translated into French.

Business customs in Côte d'Ivoire are like, but more formal than, those in the United States. Ivorian managers in large commercial enterprises tend to follow a Western business dress code. Many businesses close during August, and senior-level officials generally take their vacation during this period. Additionally, some businesses and shops close for lunch between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (or even as late as 3:30 p.m.). Banks are open until 4:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Attending regional trade shows such as Gulfood, Anuga, and SIAL, is crucial for U.S. exporters looking to connect with importers and retailers. These trade shows are well-attended by Ivorian importers and offer excellent opportunities for face-to-face meetings and networking. By participating in these events, U.S. exporters can showcase not just their products but similarly gain valuable market insights while establishing business connections. Direct engagement helps build trust and fosters long-term relationships with local partners; essential for successful market entry in Côte d'Ivoire.

U.S. exporters can also look into participating in Ivorian trade shows and business summits, such as, the [International Exhibition of Agriculture and Animal Resources \(Salon International de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Animales d'Abidjan - SARA\)](#), as well as the Abidjan Livestock and Agricultural Exhibition (*Le Sommet de l'Élevage d'Abidjan - SELAB*) (see, [GAIN-CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0016 | Côte d'Ivoire Designates the United States as the SELAB 2026 Country-of-Honor](#)).<sup>7</sup>

**Declare the Origin - Made in America, Wave the Flag Proudly:** All products entering Côte d'Ivoire must mention their origin – i.e., U.S.-origin food and agricultural product exports must be clearly labeled "Made in the U.S.A." Retailers generally prefer that consumer products be labeled in French. Manufactured food products must state the country of origin and display an expiration date.

**Moving U.S. food and Agricultural Products to Côte d'Ivoire:** U.S. exporters should be aware of the often-higher freight rates and longer transit times from the United States compared to European ports. There are also elevated customs-clearance costs and uncertain clearance times. Ivorian importers will:

- Require the services of customs brokers and freight consolidators in the United States to handle their ordering and shipment to minimize shipping costs.
- Prefer purchasing mixed containers.
- Seek exclusive distribution/agency agreements from exporters.

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<sup>7</sup> See, the International Exhibition of Agriculture and Animal Resources (*Salon International de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Animales d'Abidjan – SARA*), SARA 2025," located at: <https://sara.ci/> and United States Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service – Abidjan, Accra, "GAIN-CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0016 | Cote d'Ivoire Designates the United States as the SELAB 2026 Country-of-Honor," located at: <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Cote%20d%27Ivoire%20Designates%20the%20United%20States%20as%20the%20SELAB%202026%20Country-of-Honor%20 Accra Cote%20d%27Ivoire IV2024-0016>.



**Entry Strategy:** It is recommended to work with a carefully vetted local agent, importer or distributor; while not legally required, these can provide an understanding of current policies and procedures (see, [GAIN-CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0003 | Côte d'Ivoire, Food Processing Ingredients Annual – 2024](#) and [GAIN-CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0009 | Côte d'Ivoire, Retail Foods Annual - 2024](#)).<sup>8</sup>

- Collect and analyze market potential and compliance with market conditions and regulations. For that, reach out to the USDA/FAS OAA Abidjan, Accra team.
- U.S. Exporters should plan to visit Côte d'Ivoire to learn more about the local agent, importer and or distributor and the market before signing an agreement. Contact the USDA/FAS OAA Abidjan, Accra team for assistance in identifying credible importers, franchisees and distributors.
- Directly contact the local agent, importer, franchisee and or distributor to register the U.S.-origin food, brand and agricultural products with the Ministry of Agriculture and or the other competent Ivorian authorities.
- Identify and consider selling through U.S.-based consolidators who are servicing the West African region. Such consolidators usually have a good understanding of local market practices.
- Offer flexible shipping volumes and small-sized packaging with well displayed, easily readable, manufacture and expiration dates.
- Participate and exhibit at [USDA/FAS endorsed trade shows](#), which tend to be well attended by Ivorian importers, making these suitable venues for face-to-face meetings and networking opportunities (e.g., the Gulfood, Anuga, and SIAL food trade shows).<sup>9</sup>

**General Consumer Taste and Trends:** Côte d'Ivoire's rapid economic growth is generating the rise of an affluent middle-class. It is creating opportunities for supplying a growing number of urban consumers receptive to imported quality food and agricultural products. Consumers are willing to spend more on premium services that can provide an affordable taste of foreign lands. For example, in 2024, Côte d'Ivoire was Africa's second largest wine importer, with nearly \$53 million in imports, while at the same time the continent's largest importer of beef with \$65 million.<sup>10</sup>

Likewise retail food sales in the country reached \$49 billion, representing 15 percent of 2024's GDP. The sector is expanding, attracting foreign brands like Carrefour and Auchan. Consumer demand for foreign products and brands is growing. However, the traditional retail market is grappling with supply chain challenges. The informal retail sector, remains strong, accounting for 75 percent of the market.

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<sup>8</sup> See, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service – Abidjan, Accra, “GAIN-CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0003 | Côte d'Ivoire, Food Processing Ingredients Annual – 2024, located at: [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20Processing%20Ingredients%20Annual\\_Accra\\_Cote%20d%27Ivoire\\_IV2024-0003](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20Processing%20Ingredients%20Annual_Accra_Cote%20d%27Ivoire_IV2024-0003). GAIN-CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0009 | Côte d'Ivoire, Retail Foods Annual – 2024, located at:

[https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods%20Annual\\_Accra\\_Cote%20d%27Ivoire\\_IV2024-0009](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods%20Annual_Accra_Cote%20d%27Ivoire_IV2024-0009).

<sup>9</sup> See, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service, “USDA/FAS Trade Shows,” located at: <https://fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-shows>.

<sup>10</sup> For earlier dated Post discussion on the Ivorian wine market and its potential, see, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service – Abidjan, Accra, “GAIN CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0013 | Côte d'Ivoire – It's Time for U.S. Wines in Abidjan,” located at: [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Cote%20d%27Ivoire%20-%20It%27s%20Time%20for%20US%20Wines%20in%20Abidjan%20\\_Accra\\_Cote%20d%27Ivoire\\_IV2024-0013](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Cote%20d%27Ivoire%20-%20It%27s%20Time%20for%20US%20Wines%20in%20Abidjan%20_Accra_Cote%20d%27Ivoire_IV2024-0013).

**Delivery and Third-Party Operators:** Côte d'Ivoire's telecommunications infrastructure and growing internet access support eCommerce development. Most consumers access online sales platforms and websites through their smartphones. The national telecom sector regulator estimates mobile internet penetration rate at 185 percent, with 57.3 million active accounts (note, many subscribers have more than one SIM card). The Ministry of Commerce and Industry projects eCommerce to grow annually by 11 percent through 2027. Food and personal care account for 40 percent of this sector's overall growth.

**Food Retail Sector:** Urbanization, youth social media savviness, and a growing middle-class are transforming the Ivorian retail food sector. Consumers demand quality products and are assimilating Western tastes and styles. Consumers are favoring quick-service chains like of Burger King, KFC, and Pizza Hut. The outbreak of the earlier COVID-19 pandemic also forced changes in the Ivorian snack food market to better meet customer needs and habits. The food retail sector is expanding the number of its snack shops and bakeries, restaurants with takeaway options, mass distribution, and corner shops.

### Section III: Import Food Standards, Regulations and Procedures

U.S. exporters seeking to enter Côte d'Ivoire's market need to familiarize themselves with the Ivorian regulatory framework and documentation requirements. The following information assists in outlining the necessary stages and stakeholders involved in this process. Before shipping food and agricultural products, U.S. exporters must ensure that all licenses and related documents are fully processed.

Imports and exports play a crucial role in Côte d'Ivoire's economy, allowing companies to participate in international trade and access new markets. Ivorian importers and exporters must adhere to health safety rules to guarantee the quality of imported and exported products. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the lead agency overseeing import regulations and imported food health safety requirements.

**Customs Clearance:** Goods entering Côte d'Ivoire with a free-on-board (FOB) value exceeding West African CFA (*Communauté Financière Africaine*) franc (XOF) 1 million (~\$1,784) must be inspected by a designated inspection company at the point of origin.<sup>11</sup> This inspection ensures that invoice valuation is consistent with the goods being shipped. The inspection certificate serves as the basis for customs valuation. Parts of the clearance process are now digitalized. (See, [Côte d'Ivoire - Customs Regulations](#) and [GAIN-CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0006 | Côte d'Ivoire – FAIRS Country Report Annual - 2024](#)).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The CFA franc is the name of two currencies in circulation in 14 African countries. Here the West African CFA franc refers to the monetary unit utilized by eight countries in West Africa (i.e., Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo); that trades under the ISO currency code XOF. The XAF (*Coopération Financière en Afrique centrale*) franc is utilized by six central African countries (i.e., Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon). While the two currencies are referred to as CFA franc, and maintain the same value, these are not interchangeable. Both CFA francs have a fixed exchange rate (peg) to the euro guaranteed by France: €1 = F.CFA 655.957. Four international inspection companies are accredited to carry out goods inspections: 1) COTECNA Inspection Ltd.; 2) Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS); 3) Bureau Veritas Valuation Assessment and Control (BIVAC-BV); and 4) Intertek International Ltd. USD 1.00 to XOF 560.70 CFA francs (June 25, 2025).

<sup>12</sup> See, U.S. Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration, "Côte d'Ivoire Country Commercial Guide – Customs Regulations," (2022-12-05) located at: <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/cote-divoire-customs-regulations>. See also, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service – Abidjan, Accra, "GAIN-CÔTE D'IVOIRE | IV2024-0006 | Côte d'Ivoire – FAIRS Country Report Annual – 2024," located at:

**Documents Generally Required by the Ivorian Authorities for Imported Food:** Required documentation for the import of food and agricultural products includes: 1) commercial invoices; 2) bills of lading; and 3) certificates of origin. (See, [Côte d’Ivoire - Import Requirements and Documentation](#) and [GAIN-CÔTE D’IVOIRE | IV2024-0006 | Côte d’Ivoire – FAIRS Country Report Annual - 2024](#)).<sup>13</sup>

**Country Language Labeling Requirements:** Côte d’Ivoire’s Regulatory Agency for Standards and Quality (CODINORM) develops and implements technical standards. It regulates the health and safety of imported and exported products. CODINORM inspects imports and exports for compliance and certifications. Labels must be in French and provide clear and accurate information about product ingredients, expiration dates, and safety warnings (See, [Côte d’Ivoire - Labeling and Requirements](#) and [GAIN-CÔTE D’IVOIRE | IV2024-0006 | Côte d’Ivoire – FAIRS Country Report Annual - 2024](#)).<sup>14</sup>

**Tariffs and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):** Côte d’Ivoire is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It adopts the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET), requiring simplification and harmonization of *ad valorem* tariff rates.

**Table 1: ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) Rates, Levies, and Charges**

CET Rates	Categories
0%	Essential Social Commodities
5%	Basic Raw Materials, Capital Goods, and Specific Inputs
10%	Intermediate Products
20%	Final Consumer Goods
35%	Specific Goods for Economic Development
Percentage	Other Levies and Charges
0.8%	WAEMU
0.2%	African Union Levy
0.5%	ECOWAS Levy
1%	Statistical Fee

Côte d’Ivoire also applies a value-added-tax (VAT) of 18 percent to all imported products. The 2025 fiscal law, now grants VAT exemption for natural unprocessed food products, that is, except for high-end, premium meat cuts and rice, that are fixed at 9 percent.<sup>15</sup>

[https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual\\_Accra\\_Cote%20d%27Ivoire\\_IV2024-0006](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Accra_Cote%20d%27Ivoire_IV2024-0006).

<sup>13</sup> See, U.S. Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration, “Côte d’Ivoire Country Commercial Guide – Import Requirements and Documentation,” (2024-02-08), located at: <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/cote-divoire-import-requirements-and-documentation>. See also, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service – Abidjan, Accra, “GAIN-CÔTE D’IVOIRE | IV2024-0006 | Côte d’Ivoire – FAIRS Country Report Annual – 2024,” located at: [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual\\_Accra\\_Cote%20d%27Ivoire\\_IV2024-0006](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Accra_Cote%20d%27Ivoire_IV2024-0006).

<sup>14</sup> See, U.S. Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration, “Côte d’Ivoire Country Commercial Guide – Labeling and Marking Requirements,” (2024-02-08), located at: <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/cote-divoire-labeling-marking-requirements>. See also, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service – Abidjan, Accra, “GAIN-CÔTE D’IVOIRE | IV2024-0006 | Côte d’Ivoire – FAIRS Country Report Annual – 2024,” located at: [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual\\_Accra\\_Cote%20d%27Ivoire\\_IV2024-0006](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Accra_Cote%20d%27Ivoire_IV2024-0006).

<sup>15</sup> The Economic and Financial Affairs Commission of the parliament has announced the exemption from VAT (value-added tax) imported natural food products for the 2024 fiscal year and renewed for 2024. This means, no VAT for unprocessed food products, such as, beef and beef products, fruits, and others. The is VAT is 18 percent.



**Trademarks and Patents:** Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and a signatory to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Côte d'Ivoire is also a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It is a signatory to the following: 1) the Berne Convention; 2) the Hague Agreement; 3) the Marrakesh Treaty; 4) the Paris Convention for the Protection of Intellectual Property; and 5) the Patent Cooperation Treaty. These international obligations require Côte d'Ivoire to protect and enforce for all manner of intellectual property.

#### Section IV: Market Sector Structure and Trends

Côte d'Ivoire's food processing industry is rapidly developing; becoming itself a major importer of food ingredients. In 2024, imports of food processing ingredients were \$852 million, up slightly from the \$845 million registered in 2023. The Ivorian food processing industry's insatiable demand for food ingredients cannot be met by domestic producers.

The country's food retail industry is growing thanks to urbanization and a budding middle-class. Inflation and high costs of living, notwithstanding, consumers are demanding quality products. Ongoing infrastructure development and improvements favoring the urban population is boosting the food retail sector. Online food services are expanding as time-starved consumers adapt to new lifestyles and tailor their purchasing habits. In the same way, the appetite for convenience food and casual dining is growing; Burger King, KFC, and Pizza Hut are present, and McDonald's is expected to land soon.

Ivorian urbanites seek time-saving solutions for their food and shopping needs. This evolving market dynamism creates business opportunities for suppliers of cereals, wheat, dairy products, sauces and condiments, beef and pork meats, poultry products, seafood, and snacks. Convenience store formats, ready-to-eat meals, and home delivery services are expanding rapidly, to meet the growing demand for fast and accessible solutions. Ivorian consumers are increasingly focused on product quality and origin.

FAS Abidjan, Accra (Post) sources inform that the beef sector makes up the largest segment of the Ivorian food market; followed by the poultry and seafood sectors. The Ivorian government is keen on further developing its domestic poultry sector, seeking to achieve self-sufficiency in poultry production for domestic consumption in the medium-term. The country also seeks to export poultry to its neighboring ECOWAS markets. U.S.-origin poultry shipments to Côte d'Ivoire are small (less than 3 percent at present), not exceeding \$400 thousand in 2024 and \$500 thousand earlier in 2023. Impeding fairer trade are tariffs, taxes, and other barriers that dampen the U.S. trade in poultry product going to Côte d'Ivoire. The Ivorian seafood products market, valued at \$250 million, is expected to reach \$350 million by 2027. U.S.-origin exports to Côte d'Ivoire in 2024 came in at \$2.6 million, up 18 percent from 2023's figure of \$2.2 million but have eased downward to about \$200 thousand, so far in 2025 (January-April).

The bakery industry in Côte d'Ivoire generates around \$167 million annually by some estimations. The growing demand and cultural significance of this sector present an opportunity for U.S. exporters of bread, pastry products, cake mixes, biscuits and similar baked products, chocolate puddings, fruit, nuts, and confectionary products.

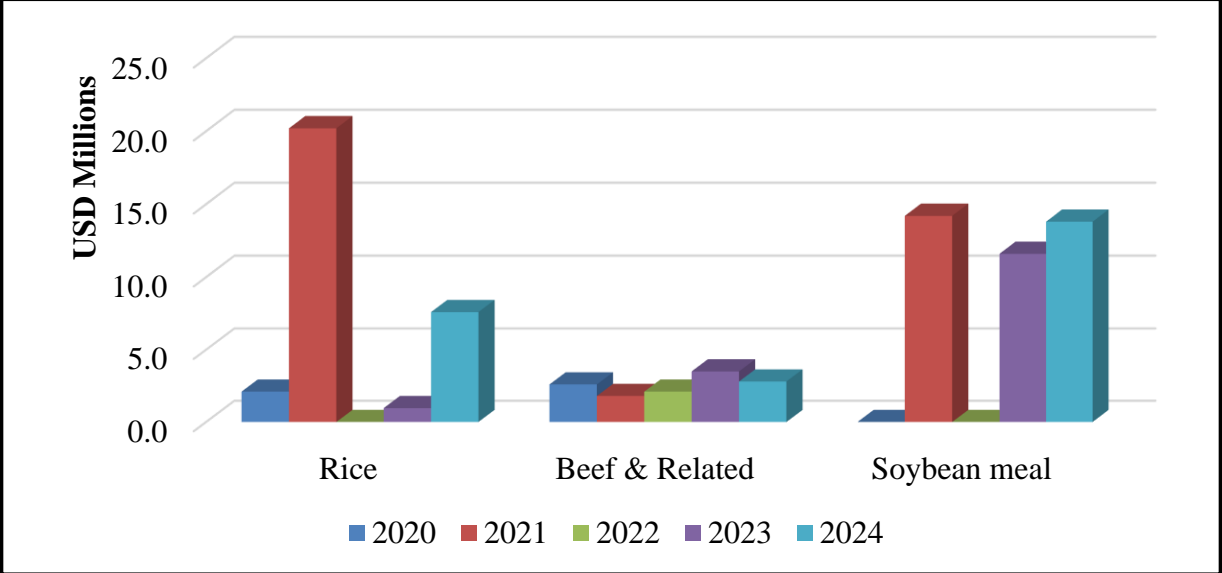
Section V: Agricultural and Food Imports

One of Côte d’Ivoire’s fastest-growing food and agricultural sectors is the wheat and related products sector. The proliferation of bakeries and related businesses is set to continue proliferating in the near- to medium-term. Ivorians maintain a marked preference for breads and related products. The Ivorian government closely monitors this sector, providing supports to avoid shortages and to control for and prevent price increases.

Post assesses that U.S. exports of wheat to Côte d’Ivoire would benefit from better preferential tariff treatment; U.S. wheat exports to Côte d’Ivoire are currently nil. Much like with several other U.S. agricultural commodities, rice, corn, sorghum, soybean meal, beef and beef products, pork and pork products, and wines and spirits among others, wheat could benefit from tariff relaxation that would level the competitive field with European and Asian suppliers.

Rice consumption in Côte d’Ivoire is very high, offering great import opportunities; yet the United States market share is very low, with 0.7 percent of the total \$1 billion in global imports. Soybean meal is in high demand. In 2024, Côte d’Ivoire imported \$106 million worth of soybean meal, with the United States coming in with \$13.4 million in consignments, taking about 13 percent of the import market.

Chart 2. Côte d’Ivoire, Top Food & Agricultural Imports from United States (2020-2024)



**Table 2: Côte d'Ivoire, Top Food & Agricultural Imports - United States (USD Millions)**

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Rice	2.1	20.2	1.2	.959	7.6
Beef & Beef Products	2.6	1.8	2.1	3.5	2.8
Soybean Meal	0	14.2	0	11.6	13.8

Note: Import figures are reported on a cost-insurance-freight (CIF) basis.

Source: Trade Data Monitor (TDM); USDA/FAS Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) – BICO report; FAS Abidjan, Accra office research.

**Table 3: Côte d'Ivoire, Top Food & Agricultural Imports - World (USD Millions)**

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Rice	559.8	725.9	805.	726.	1,003.
Beef & Beef Products	49.4	57.1	57.5	64.5	65.6
Soybean Meal	43.9	88.2	59.2	105.9	106.1

Note: Import figures are reported on a cost-insurance-freight (CIF) basis.

Source: Trade Data Monitor (TDM); USDA/FAS Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) – BICO Report; FAS Abidjan, Accra office research.

Côte d'Ivoire's imports of U.S.-origin soybean meal, beef and beef products, and rice are growing. Nonetheless, Ivorian imports of U.S.-origin soybean meal (13 percent), beef and beef products (4.5 percent), and rice (under 1 percent) still trail those from competing source origins. This is attributable to a combination of the market's low level of familiarity with U.S. food products and agricultural products compared to greater awareness of those from European and Asian sources.

**Best High-Value, Consumer-Oriented Product Prospects:** Beef and beef products, including pork meat are among the top 10 best consumer-oriented products based on growth trends. Other promising products include food preparation products, dairy products, fruit and vegetable juices, condiments and sauces, non-alcoholic beverages, condiments and seasoning, and cocoa and chocolate products.

**Table 4: Top U.S. Consumer Oriented Agricultural Products imported into Côte d'Ivoire.**

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change 2023-2024
Products	USD Millions					
Beef & Beef Products	2.6	1.8	2.1	3.5	2.8	-18
Sauce/Food Preparation	.805	.637	1.34	1.21	.969	-19
Non-alcoholic Beverages	.682	.278	.493	.330	.657	98.5
Fruit & Vegetable Juice	.013	.015	.019	.051	.128	147
Poultry & Related	0	0	.044	.120	.076	-36
Dairy Products	.020	.03	.07	.017	.131	650
Mixed Condiments & Seasoning	.517	.649	.188	.112	.113	0.87

Note: Import figures are reported on a cost-insurance-freight (CIF) basis.

Source: Trade Data Monitor (TDM); USDA/FAS Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) – BICO Report; FAS Abidjan, Accra office research.

## Section VI: Key Contacts and Further Information



<b>Côte d'Ivoire, Government Regulatory Agencies</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Ministry of Tourism and Leisure</b> <b>(Ministère Tourisme et des Loisirs)</b> Plateau, Immeuble Postel 2001, 19 <sup>th</sup> Floor TEL: (+225) 27-20242659/ 27-20242664 Website: <a href="https://tourisme.gouv.ci/">https://tourisme.gouv.ci/</a>	National Tourism Authority
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Développement</b> <b>(Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural)</b> Plateau, Immeuble Caistab, 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> Floor TEL: (+225) 27-20214238/ 27-20214615 Website: <a href="https://agriculture.gouv.ci/">https://agriculture.gouv.ci/</a>	National Agricultural and Rural Development Authority
<b>Ministry of Animal Husbandry/Côte d'Ivoire Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD)</b> <b>(Ministère de l'Élevage/Direction des Services Vétérinaires)</b> Plateau, Immeuble N'SIA, 17 <sup>th</sup> Floor <b>TEL: (+225) 27-20218972</b>	National Animal Health Authority
<b>Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries</b> <b>(Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques)</b> Secrétariat du Ministre Immeuble CAISTAB, 11 <sup>ème</sup> TEL: (+225) 20-229930 and (+225) 20-213423 Website: <a href="https://www.ressourcesanimales.gouv.ci/accueil/">https://www.ressourcesanimales.gouv.ci/accueil/</a>	National Livestock and Fisheries Authority
<b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b> <b>(Ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie)</b> Website: <a href="http://www.commerce.gouv.ci">www.commerce.gouv.ci</a>	National Commerce and Industrial Authority
<b>Côte d'Ivoire Customs (Head Office)</b> <b>(Les Douanes Ivoiriennes)</b> Plateau, Face Place de la République TEL: 800-800-70 (Toll free) Website: <a href="https://www.douanes.ci/">https://www.douanes.ci/</a>	National Customs Authority
<b>CODINORM (Standards Authority)</b> <b>(Côte d'Ivoire Normes)</b> Cocody 2 Plateau/Sideci / Angle Boulevard Latrille-Rue K 115 Villa 195 (SOCOCE 2 Plateau) TEL: (+225) 27-22411791/ (+225) 27-22590010 Email: <a href="mailto:info@codinorm.ci">info@codinorm.ci</a>	National Standards Authority
<b>National Statistics Institute</b> <b>(Institut National de Statistiques)</b> Website: <a href="http://www.ins.ci">www.ins.ci</a>	National Statistical Authority

<b>USDA/FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) – Coastal West Africa Region</b>	
U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Accra No. 24 Fourth Circular Road Cantonments Accra, Ghana Tel: +233 (0) 30 274-1590 Email: <a href="mailto:AgAccra@usda.gov">AgAccra@usda.gov</a>  Websites: <a href="https://fas.usda.gov/regions/ghana">https://fas.usda.gov/regions/ghana</a> <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov">http://www.fas.usda.gov</a>	U.S. Embassy/FAS OAA Abidjan Abidjan, Cocody Riviera Golf 01 B.P. 1712 Abidjan 01, Côte d’Ivoire Tel: +225 2722 494 000 Email: <a href="mailto:AgAbidjan@usda.gov">AgAbidjan@usda.gov</a>  Websites: <a href="https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/cote-divoire">https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/cote-divoire</a> <a href="http://www.fas.usda.gov">http://www.fas.usda.gov</a>

<b>Links to U.S. Government Sources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USDA/FAS – Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS): <a href="https://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS">https://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS</a></li> <li>• USDA/FAS – Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN): <a href="https://gain.fas.usda.gov/">https://gain.fas.usda.gov/</a></li> <li>• U.S. Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration (ITA) - Ghana Country Commercial Guide: <a href="https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/ghana-market-overview">https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/ghana-market-overview</a></li> <li>• U.S. Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration (ITA), “Côte “Côte d’Ivoire – Country Commercial Guide, Customs Regulations,” located at: <a href="https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/cote-divoire-customs-regulations">https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/cote-divoire-customs-regulations</a>.</li> <li>• U.S. Embassy Accra, Ghana: Website <a href="https://gh.usembassy.gov">https://gh.usembassy.gov</a></li> <li>• U.S. Embassy Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire: Website: <a href="https://ci.usembassy.gov/">https://ci.usembassy.gov/</a></li> </ul>



## Appendix I: BICO, U.S. Exports of Agricultural & Related Products, Côte d'Ivoire (CY) 2020/2024

		U.S. Exports of Agricultural & Related Products to "Cote d'Ivoire" CY 2020 - 2024 and Year-to-Date Comparisons (In millions of dollars+)							
Export Market: "Cote d'Ivoire"		Calendar Years (Jan-Dec)					January - April Comparisons		
Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025	%Chg	
Bulk Total.....	13.0	25.0	8.6	1.0	22.4	21.7	14.6	-32.7	
Wheat.....	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Rice.....	13.0	25.0	7.0	1.0	22.3	21.7	14.6	-32.7	
Pulses.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Other Bulk Commodities.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Intermediate Total.....	1.0	11.9	0.7	11.6	13.4*	13.3	4.1	-69.3	
Soybean Meal.....	0.0	11.4	0.0	11.2	13.3*	13.3	3.9	-70.6	
Vegetable Oils (excl. soybean).....	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	
Live Animals.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Other Feeds, Meals & Fodders.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Ethanol (non-bev.).....	1.0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Planting Seeds.....	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Sugar, Sweeteners, Bev. Bases.....	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	-	
Dextrins, Peptones, & Proteins.....	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Essential Oils.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Other Intermediate Products.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Consumer Oriented Total.....	10.0	6.6	4.3	4.0	3.3	1.0	2.0	91.9	
Beef & Beef Products.....	2.0	1.8	2.2	3.0	2.0	0.6	1.9	227.3	
Pork & Pork Products.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Poultry Meat & Prods. (excl. eggs).....	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	-	
Meat Products NESOI.....	0.0	0.2	0.5*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Eggs & Products.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Dairy Products.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Fresh Fruit.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Processed Fruit.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Processed Vegetables.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Fruit & Vegetable Juices.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	-	
Tree Nuts.....	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Confectionery.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Bakery Goods, Cereals, & Pasta.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Food Preparations.....	0.0	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	-52.7	
Condiments & Sauces.....	8.0	3.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Non-Alcoholic Bev. (excl. juice).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-54.8	
Beer.....	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Wine & Related Products.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	
Distilled Spirits.....	0.0	0.0	0.0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Dog & Cat Food.....	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Other Consumer Oriented.....	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	-	
Agricultural Related Products.....	2.0	4.1	2.7	2.3	2.6	0.7	0.2	-68.5	
Forest Products.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	
Seafood Products.....	2.0	4.0	2.7	2.2	2.6	0.7	0.2	-68.5	
Agricultural Products.....	24.0	43.5*	13.6	16.6	39.1	36.0	20.6	-42.7	
Agricultural & Related Products.....	26.0	47.5*	16.3	18.9	41.6	36.7	20.8	-43.2	

Prepared By: Trade & Economic Analysis Division/GMA/FAS/USDA  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data  
Biodiesel aggregate includes only higher-level and pure biodiesel HTS chapter 38 codes; biodiesel blends below 30% by volume (aka. petroleum oils containing biodiesel) found in chapter 27 are excluded.

\* Denote Highest Export Levels Since at  
Least CY 1970

[www.fas.usda.gov/GATS](http://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS)  
[GATSHelp@fas.usda.gov](mailto:GATSHelp@fas.usda.gov)

Prepared By: Trade & Economic Analysis Division/GMA/FAS/USDA

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data

Biodiesel aggregate includes only higher-level and pure biodiesel HTS chapter 38 codes; biodiesel blends below 30% by volume (aka. petroleum oils containing biodiesel) found in chapter 27 are excluded.

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[www.fas.usda.gov/GATS](http://www.fas.usda.gov/GATS)  
[GATSHelp@fas.usda.gov](mailto:GATSHelp@fas.usda.gov)

### Attachments:

No Attachments