AR RAGHIDA TRADE INTELLIGENCE · AUGUST 2026

Côte d’Ivoire Trade Review 2024–2025

A retrospective market analysis of the forces reshaping trade around Côte d’Ivoire - and the commercial signals we believe matter most for businesses looking at West Africa.

OUR VIEW

Growth stayed resilient. Trade became more strategic.

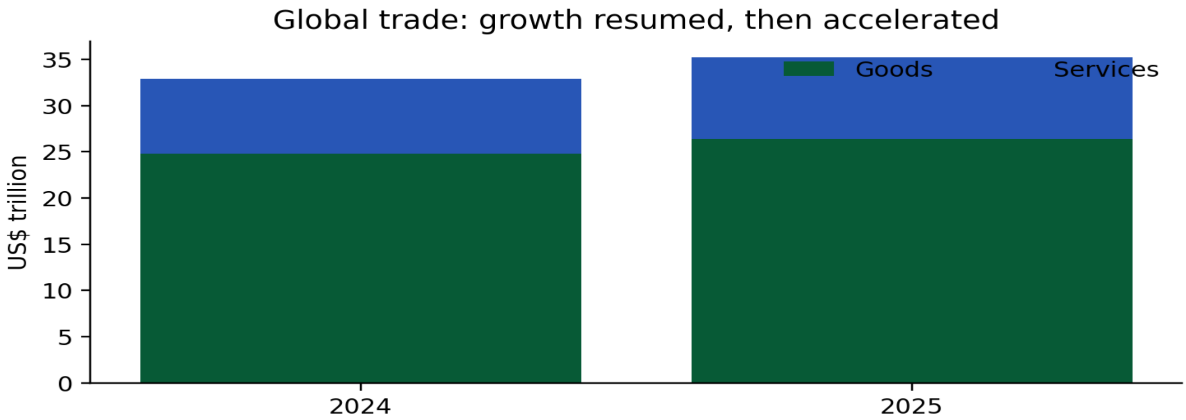
The 2024–2025 period showed two things at once: global commerce kept expanding, but the rules around it became less predictable. For Côte d’Ivoire, that creates opportunity. The country enters the next phase with strong growth, a strategic port position and an export base that is slowly moving toward more processing and value addition.

AR Raghida takeaway: the opportunity is not only in moving more goods. It is in building reliable routes, stronger supplier relationships and more value into each transaction.

6.0% real GDP growth Côte d’Ivoire, 2024	**$87.1bn** GDP Côte d’Ivoire, 2024	**3.5%** inflation Côte d’Ivoire, 2024	**$35.2tn** global trade estimate, 2025

The global backdrop

UNCTAD describes recent trade as increasingly fragmented by geopolitical tension, industrial policy and uncertainty over trade rules. Yet merchandise trade returned to growth in 2024, and preliminary estimates put global goods and services trade at roughly **US$35.2 trillion in 2025**, a new high.

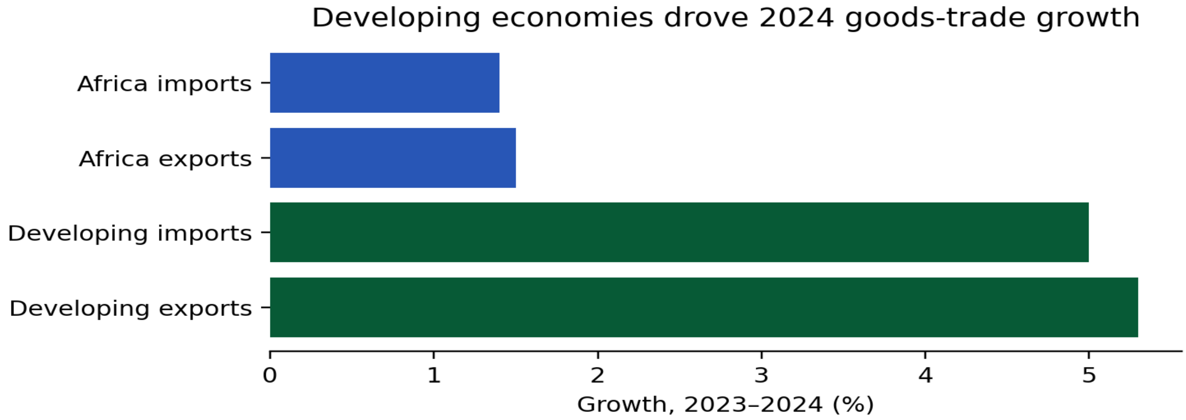


AR Raghida interpretation: demand is not disappearing; advantage is shifting toward businesses that can manage uncertainty, diversify routes and execute reliably.

MARKET REVIEW · 2024

Developing markets carried more of the momentum

Developing economies were the principal engine of goods-trade growth in 2024. UNCTAD reports merchandise exports rising about **5.3%** and imports about **5.0%** across developing economies, while developed-economy trade was broadly flat. Africa's growth was more modest - about **1.5% for exports** and **1.4% for imports** - but the wider shift matters because more trade growth is now being generated outside the traditional developed-market core.



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UN Comtrade; goods only.

01 · WHAT STOOD OUT

Commodity strength, but a diversification question

Africa remained more commodity-dependent than the global average. Natural resources represented around one-third of African exports in 2024, while manufacturing integration remained comparatively weak. Côte d'Ivoire is better positioned than many peers because its mix includes cocoa, gold, rubber, cashew and a growing range of processed products.

02 · OUR COMMERCIAL READ

Value addition is the real opportunity

The strongest long-term opportunity is not simply higher export volumes. It is keeping more value inside the chain: processing agricultural output, improving storage and documentation, strengthening supplier quality and reducing friction between source, port and buyer.

Trade routes are becoming less one-directional

South-South trade accounted for more than half of total trade in most developing regions in 2024, and China remained a major component of those flows. For West African businesses, planning can no longer be framed simply as Africa-to-Europe. Asian, Gulf and intra-African demand increasingly sit alongside traditional European markets.

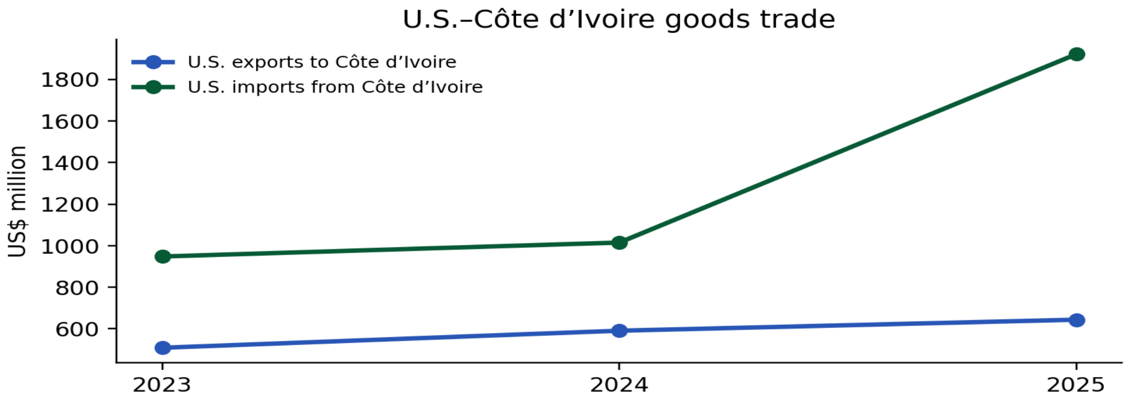
For AR Raghida, the practical implication is straightforward: **route optionality matters**. Shipping availability, documentation, port handling, currency exposure and counterparty reliability all influence the real economics of a transaction.

> **"The strongest trade businesses will be those that understand where product, logistics and buyer demand line up at the same time."**

BUSINESS OUTLOOK · 2025 AND BEYOND

Côte d’Ivoire has more routes to growth - but execution matters

Côte d’Ivoire’s macroeconomic position remained supportive through the period. Publicly reported 2024 data place real GDP growth at about **6%**, with inflation around **3.5%**. Strong commodity prices, investment and services supported activity, while the country’s location, regional integration and port infrastructure reinforced its potential as a West African commercial gateway.



The U.S.–Côte d’Ivoire trade series illustrates the widening set of commercial relationships around the market. In the figures supplied for this review, U.S. imports from Côte d’Ivoire rose sharply in 2025 while U.S. exports also continued to increase.

What AR Raghida would watch next

01	**Processing and value addition**	More processing can capture margin locally and reduce dependence on raw-commodity pricing.
02	**China, Gulf and South-South demand**	New buyer pools create opportunity, but make counterparty and corridor analysis more important.
03	**Port and logistics reliability**	Scheduling, documentation, storage and inland transport increasingly determine real transaction margins.
04	**Regionalisation of supply chains**	If the 2025 shift toward geographically closer trade persists, resilient regional and multi-route networks gain value.

AR RAGHIDA VIEW

The opportunity is in disciplined connectivity.

Trade is growing while becoming more fragmented. Côte d’Ivoire can benefit because it combines an export base, a major port and access to regional markets. The businesses best placed to win will be those that turn those advantages into dependable execution.

Our base case: continued trade and investment growth, gradual movement toward processing and a larger role for South-South relationships. **Key risks:** commodity-price reversals, climate shocks, geopolitical disruption and more protectionist trade policy.

Prepared by ETS AR RAGHIDA SARL in August 2026 as retrospective market intelligence using public information from UNCTAD, the World Bank, U.S. International Trade Administration and regional/national statistics supplied for this brief. AR Raghida was established in 2026; 2024–2025 references are retrospective analysis, not a statement of company activity during those years. This is commercial commentary, not investment advice.