

If a country mainly exports its raw materials and imports finished goods, it is a neocolony. This economic dynamic is often referred to as a "primary commodity export economy" or "enclave economy."

In such a scenario, the country is heavily reliant on the export of raw materials, such as natural resources like oil, minerals, or agricultural products, to more developed countries. These raw materials are then processed and manufactured into finished goods in the importing countries, which are then sold back to the exporting country at a higher price.

This creates a number of problems for the neocolony:

1. **Limited economic diversification:** The country's economy is heavily dependent on a single industry or resource, making it vulnerable to fluctuations in global commodity prices and market trends.
2. **Lack of value-added production:** By only exporting raw materials, the country misses out on the opportunity to add value to its products through manufacturing and processing, which can lead to higher profits and economic growth ... at least for its domestic bourgeoisie.
3. **Dependence on foreign capital and technology:** The country may rely on foreign investment, technology, and expertise to extract and export its raw materials, which can perpetuate its dependence on the imperial core bourgeoisie.
4. **Unequal terms of trade:** The country may face unfavorable terms of trade, where the price of its raw materials is low, while the price of the finished goods it imports is high, leading to a trade deficit, chronic indebtedness to imperial core countries, and a general loss of national wealth.
5. **Limited economic development:** The country's economic development is hindered by its lack of control over its own economy, as key decisions are made by external actors, and the country's resources are exploited for the benefit of others.

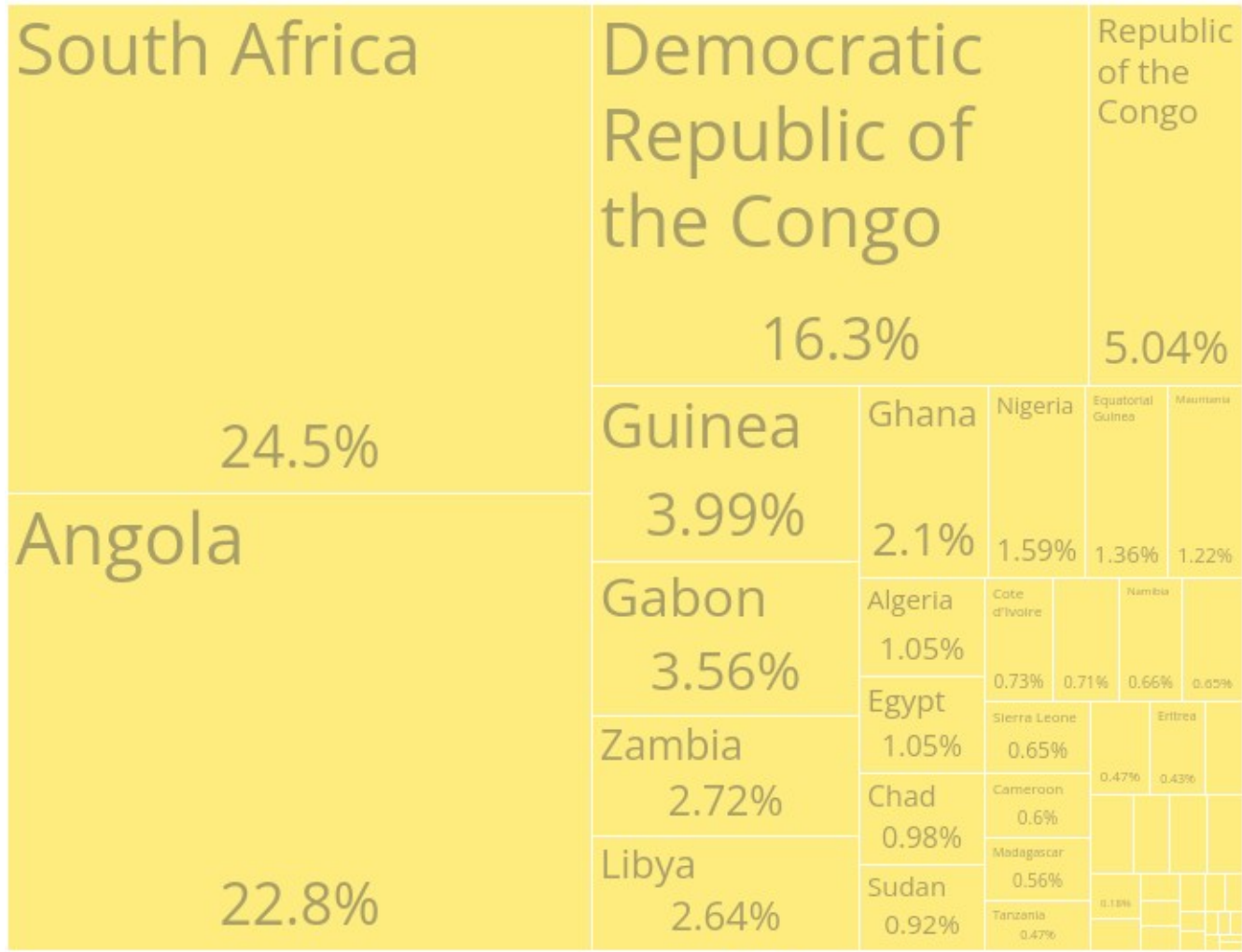
This type of economic relationship is often a legacy of colonialism, where the colonizer extracted natural resources from the colonized country and imposed a dependent economic relationship. In the post-colonial era, this relationship can persist through neocolonialism, where the former colonizer or other powerful countries maintain economic control over the former colony through various means, including asymmetrical trade agreements, privatization schemes, deregulation, austerity, labor discipline, foreign investment, and debt.

**Let's look at China's relationship with various nations of Africa in the year 2022. The figures on the following pages are Chinese imports from various African nations and Chinese exports to various African nations in that year.**

**Origins (2022)**  
**[Click to Select a Country]**



Total: \$95.7B



China imported a total of \$95.7B from the continent of Africa in 2022. Most of these imports were natural resources intended to be used as raw materials for manufacturing finished goods.

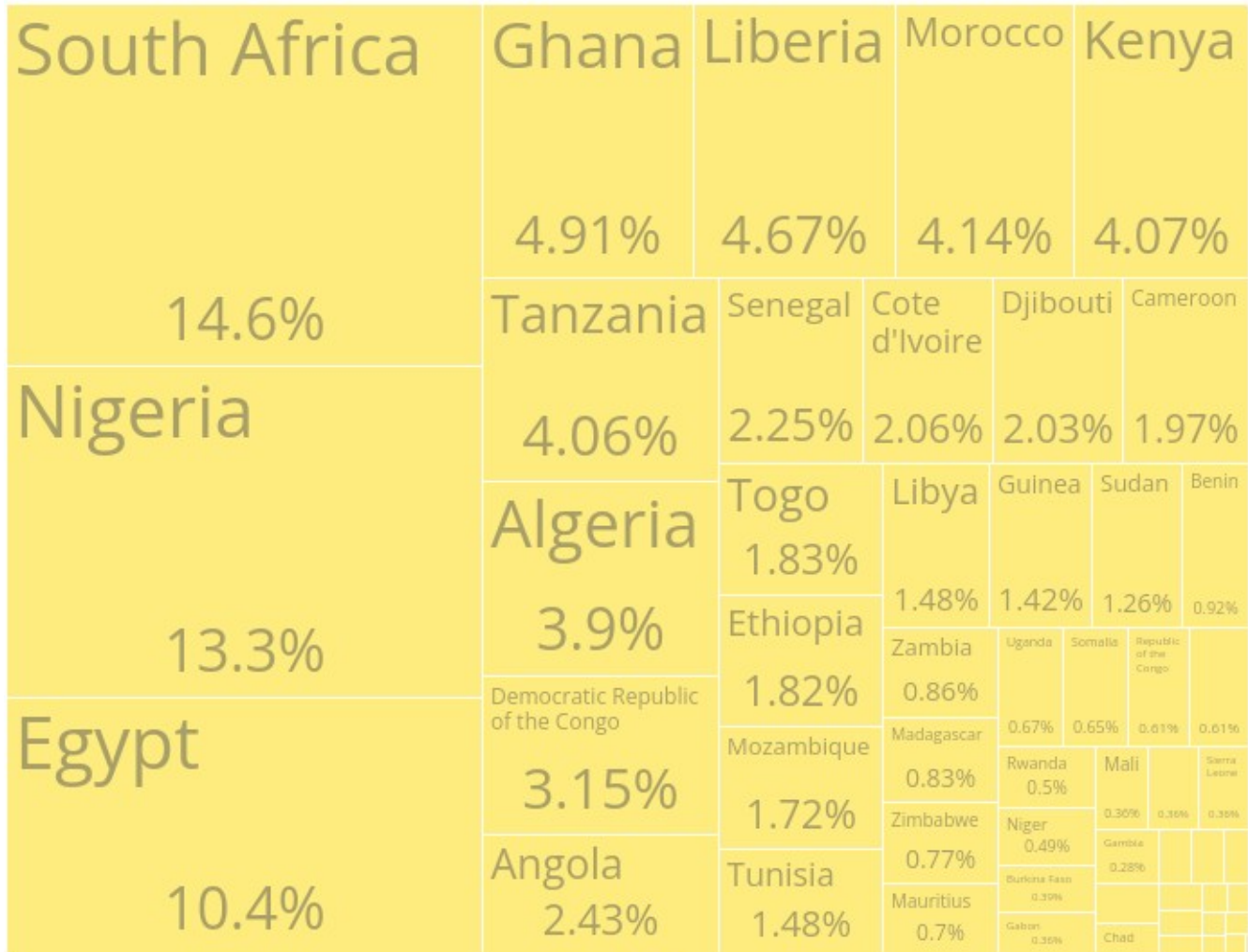
Here is the breakdown of the continental imports from Africa by China in 2022.

Country	Trade Value
South Africa	23,400,046,426.00
Angola	21,806,187,025.00
Democratic Republic of the Congo	15,562,729,849.00
Republic of the Congo	4,824,127,545.00
Guinea	3,814,849,338.00
Gabon	3,403,610,627.00
Zambia	2,599,265,929.00
Libya	2,524,702,451.00
Ghana	2,011,825,951.00
Nigeria	1,516,323,745.00
Equatorial Guinea	1,302,928,835.00
Mauritania	1,167,550,316.00
Algeria	1,008,736,107.00
Egypt	1,001,283,409.00
Chad	933,139,343.00
Sudan	877,260,963.00
Cote d'Ivoire	700,391,622.00
Mozambique	677,854,925.00
Namibia	627,890,479.00
Zimbabwe	624,734,749.00
Sierra Leone	622,305,190.00
Cameroon	570,960,832.00
Madagascar	538,446,809.00
Tanzania	446,664,758.00
Morocco	445,784,103.00
Eritrea	411,988,003.00
Niger	289,992,774.00
Botswana	275,598,627.00
Kenya	239,027,598.00
Senegal	238,563,788.00
South Sudan	236,969,823.00
Ethiopia	175,042,216.00
Tunisia	131,740,571.00
Djibouti	89,958,202.00
Togo	82,199,442.00
Burkina Faso	81,767,983.00
Mali	77,527,601.00
Benin	60,231,893.00
Uganda	54,010,916.00
Rwanda	40,017,104.00
Gambia	38,712,337.00
Mauritius	23,787,483.00
Malawi	23,168,269.00
Central African Republic	22,419,800.00
Lesotho	20,851,822.00
Liberia	13,203,347.00
Burundi	9,543,126.00
Somalia	7,022,825.00
Eswatini	756,027.00
Seychelles	135,667.00
Comoros	76,029.00
Sao Tome and Principe	64,050.00
Cape Verde	10,907.00
Guinea-Bissau	2,179.00

**Destinations (2022)**  
**[Click to Select a Country]**



Total: \$161B



China exported a total of \$161B to the continent of Africa in 2022. Most of these exports were finished goods made from raw materials

Here is the breakdown of the continental exports to Africa by China in 2022.

Country	Trade Value
South Africa	23,511,603,797.00
Nigeria	21,445,264,995.00
Egypt	16,659,473,352.00
Ghana	7,906,011,709.00
Liberia	7,520,079,073.00
Morocco	6,665,807,744.00
Kenya	6,551,985,902.00
Tanzania	6,536,314,015.00
Algeria	6,271,326,483.00
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5,061,061,160.00
Angola	3,913,394,473.00
Senegal	3,612,581,519.00
Cote d'Ivoire	3,310,010,974.00
Djibouti	3,261,824,700.00
Cameroon	3,166,638,838.00
Togo	2,944,659,765.00
Ethiopia	2,921,060,557.00
Mozambique	2,762,015,381.00
Tunisia	2,382,262,645.00
Libya	2,373,032,081.00
Guinea	2,283,117,357.00
Sudan	2,033,458,133.00
Benin	1,486,113,255.00
Zambia	1,380,381,006.00
Madagascar	1,331,293,140.00
Zimbabwe	1,243,779,796.00
Mauritius	1,120,188,020.00
Uganda	1,075,538,269.00
Somalia	1,046,621,191.00
Republic of the Congo	976,128,752.00
Mauritania	974,101,388.00
Rwanda	808,260,139.00
Niger	783,089,540.00
Burkina Faso	619,568,465.00
Gabon	583,105,701.00
Mali	581,030,783.00
Namibia	575,363,616.00
Sierra Leone	572,934,187.00
Gambia	453,578,232.00
Malawi	333,105,144.00
Chad	281,014,486.00
Botswana	235,780,787.00
Equatorial Guinea	230,653,314.00
Burundi	189,576,463.00
South Sudan	156,211,711.00
Eritrea	148,256,627.00
Lesotho	116,321,814.00
Seychelles	102,217,396.00
Eswatini	81,812,991.00
Cape Verde	78,125,922.00
Comoros	67,407,486.00
Central African Republic	65,033,801.00
Guinea-Bissau	56,492,016.00
Sao Tome and Principe	13,107,983.00

# Imports from South Africa (2022)



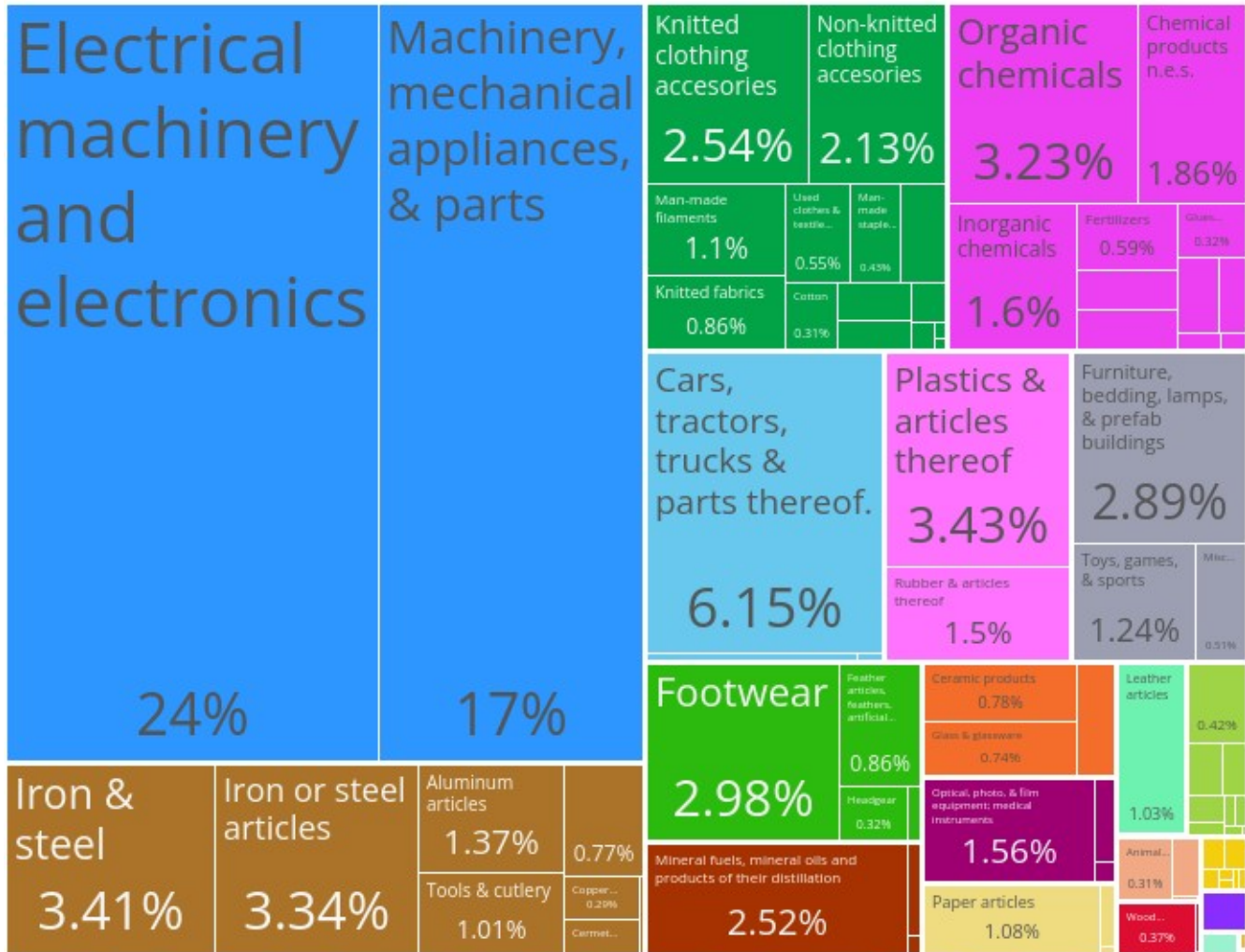
Total: \$23.4B



# Exports to South Africa (2022)



Total: \$23.5B



## Imports from Angola (2022)



Total: \$21.8B

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

99.3%



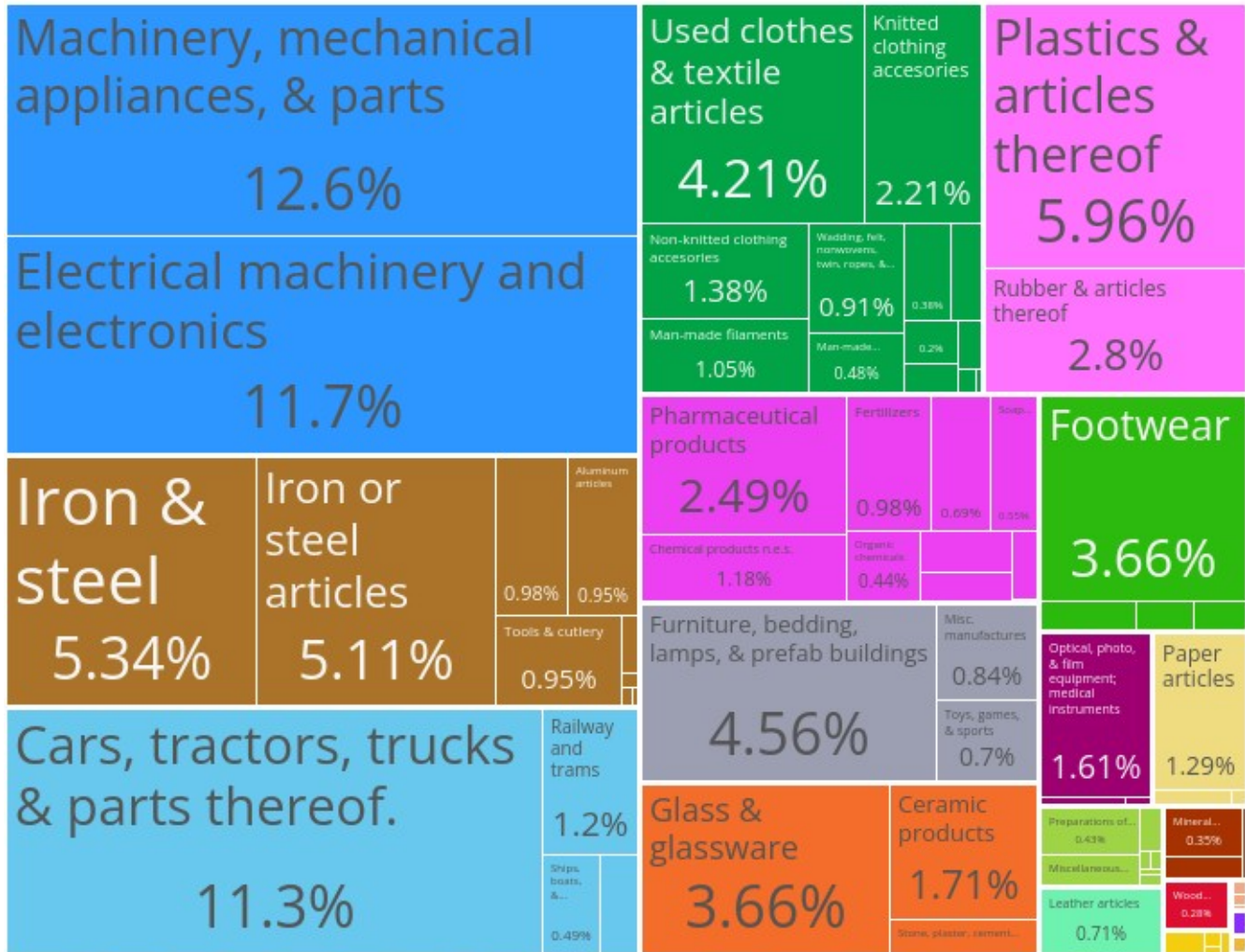
Imports from Angola are so dominated by mineral products that the remaining 0.7% does not meaningfully show up in the visualization.



# Exports to Angola (2022)



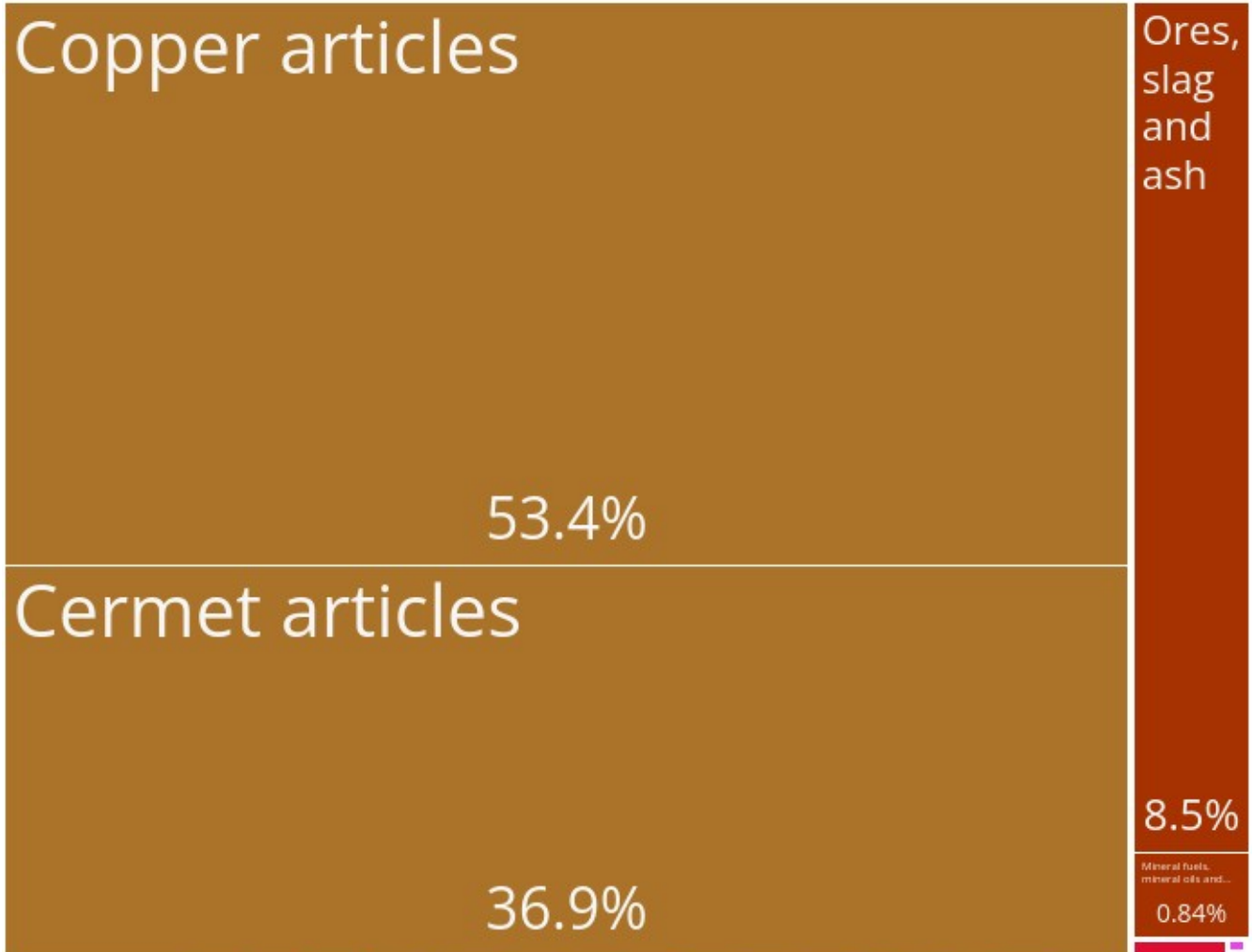
Total: \$3.91B



# Imports from Democratic Republic of the Congo (2022)



Total: \$15.6B





## Imports from Republic of the Congo (2022)



Total: \$4.82B

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

Copper articles

4.19%

Wood, wood articles, & charcoal

3.06%

91.7%

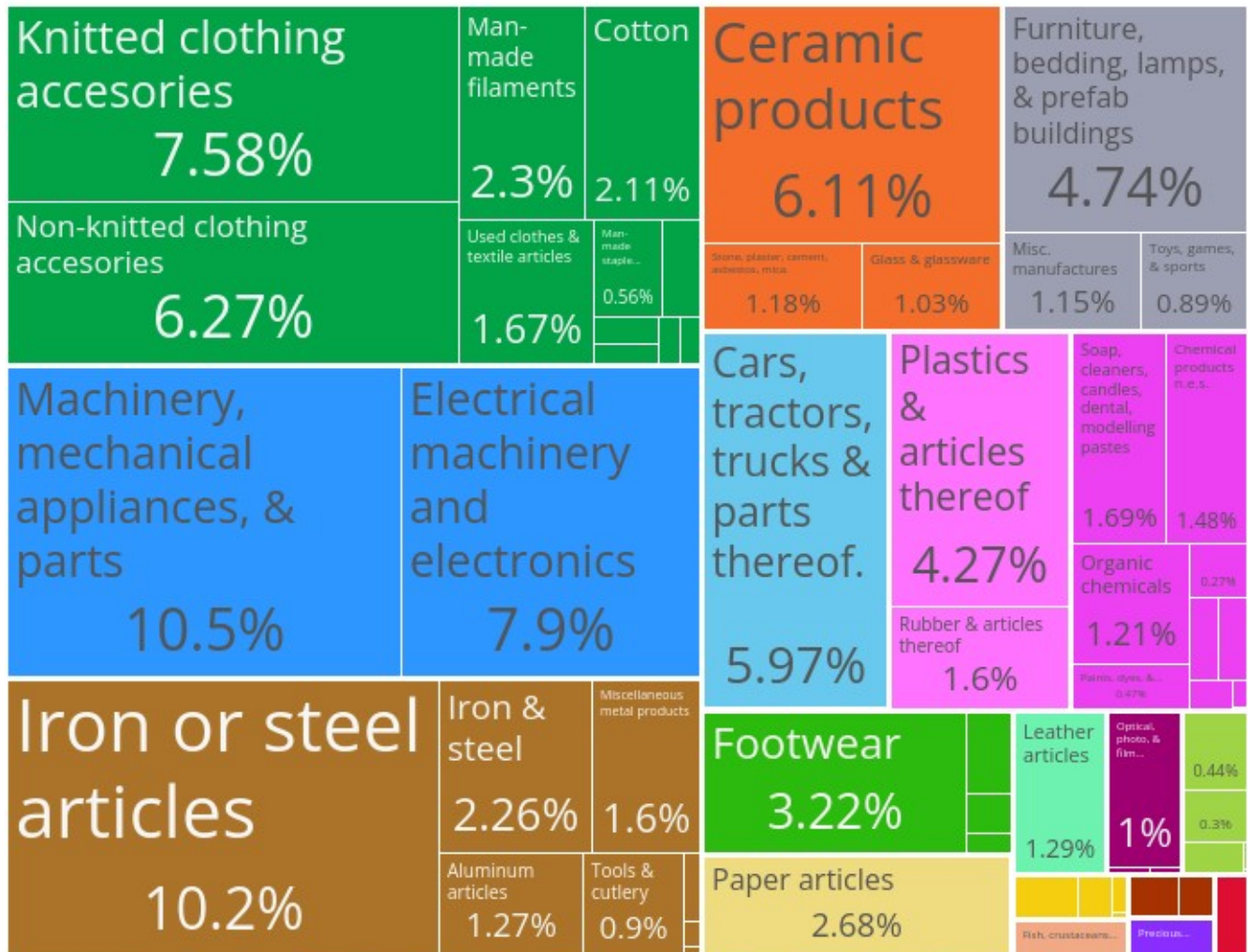




## Exports to Republic of the Congo (2022)



Total: \$976M



# Imports from Guinea (2022)



Total: \$3.81B

Ores, slag and ash

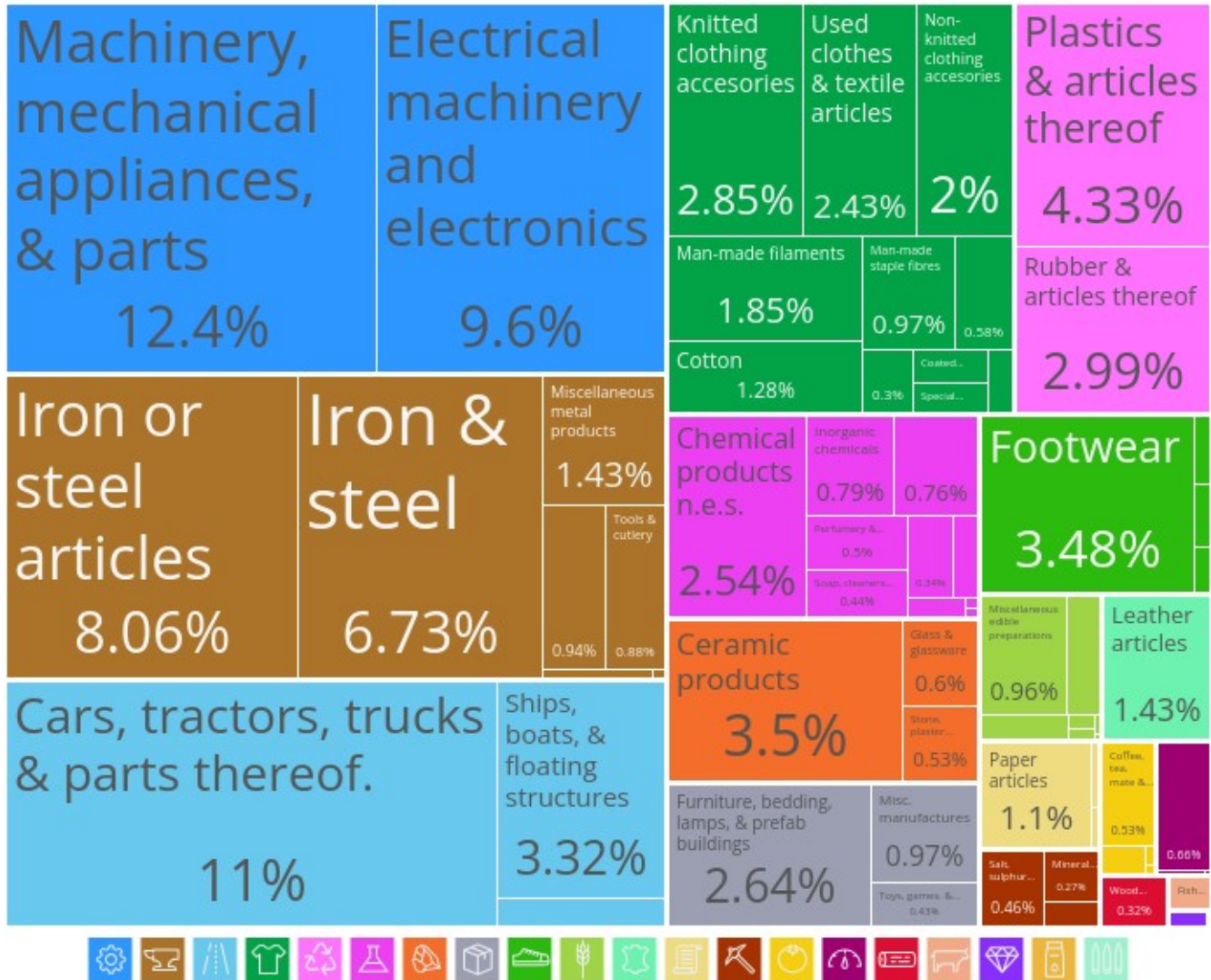
99.9%



## Exports to Guinea (2022)



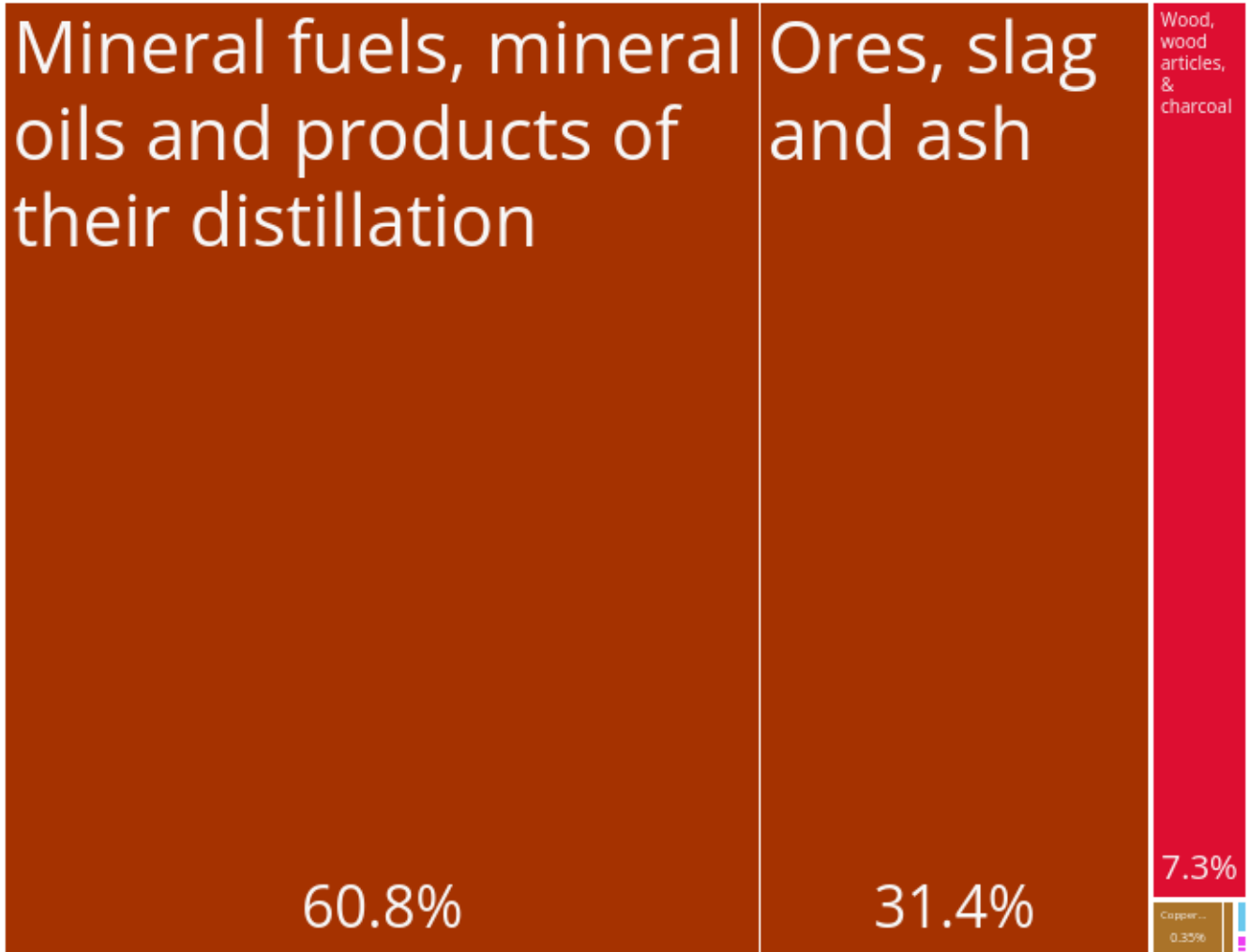
Total: \$2.28B



## Imports from Gabon (2022)



Total: \$3.4B

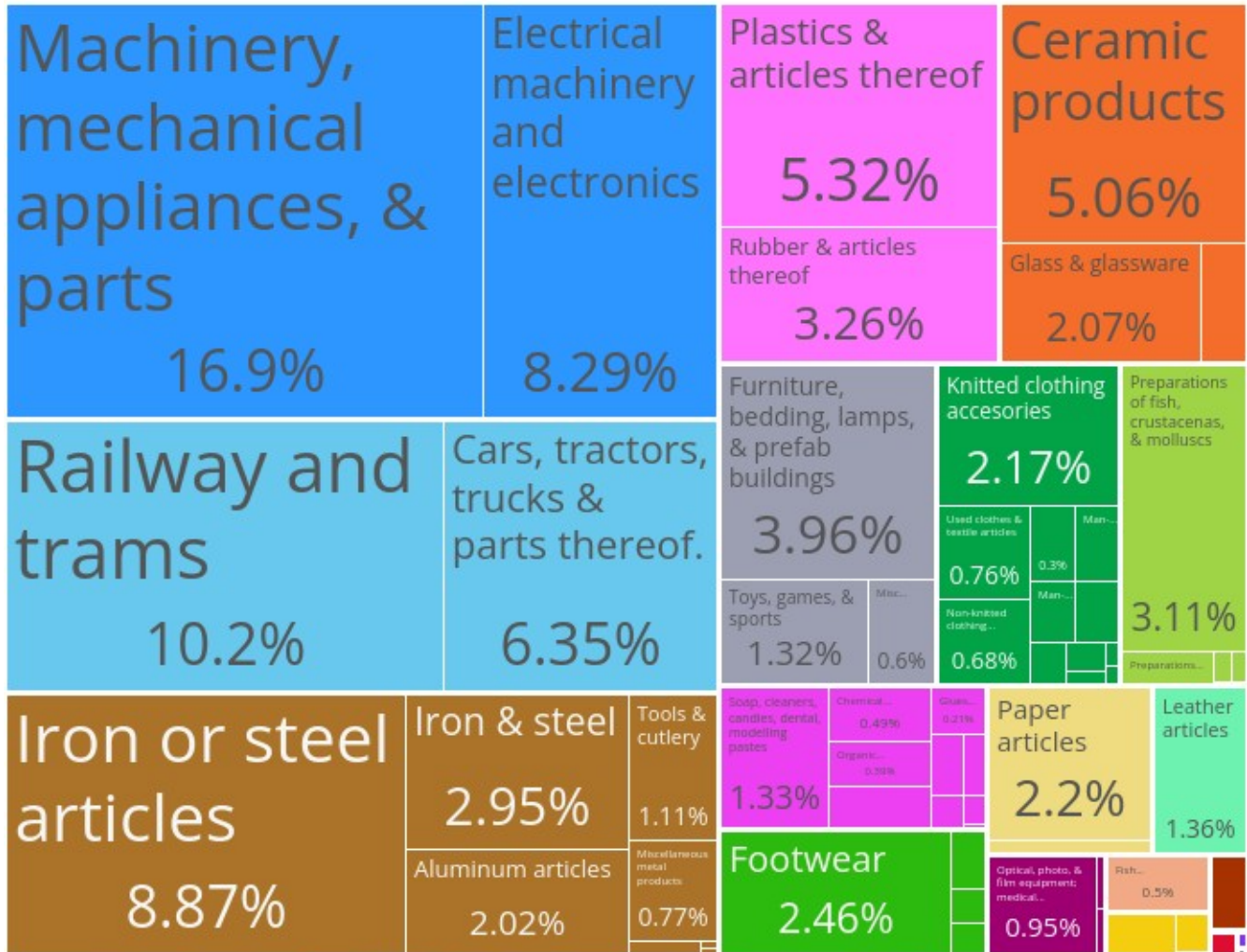




## Exports to Gabon (2022)



Total: \$583M



# Imports from Zambia (2022)



Total: \$2.6B

## Copper articles

Ores, slag and ash

5.54%

Tobacco & substitutes

2.09%

Chemical products

0.7%

Stone...

0.41%

Wood...

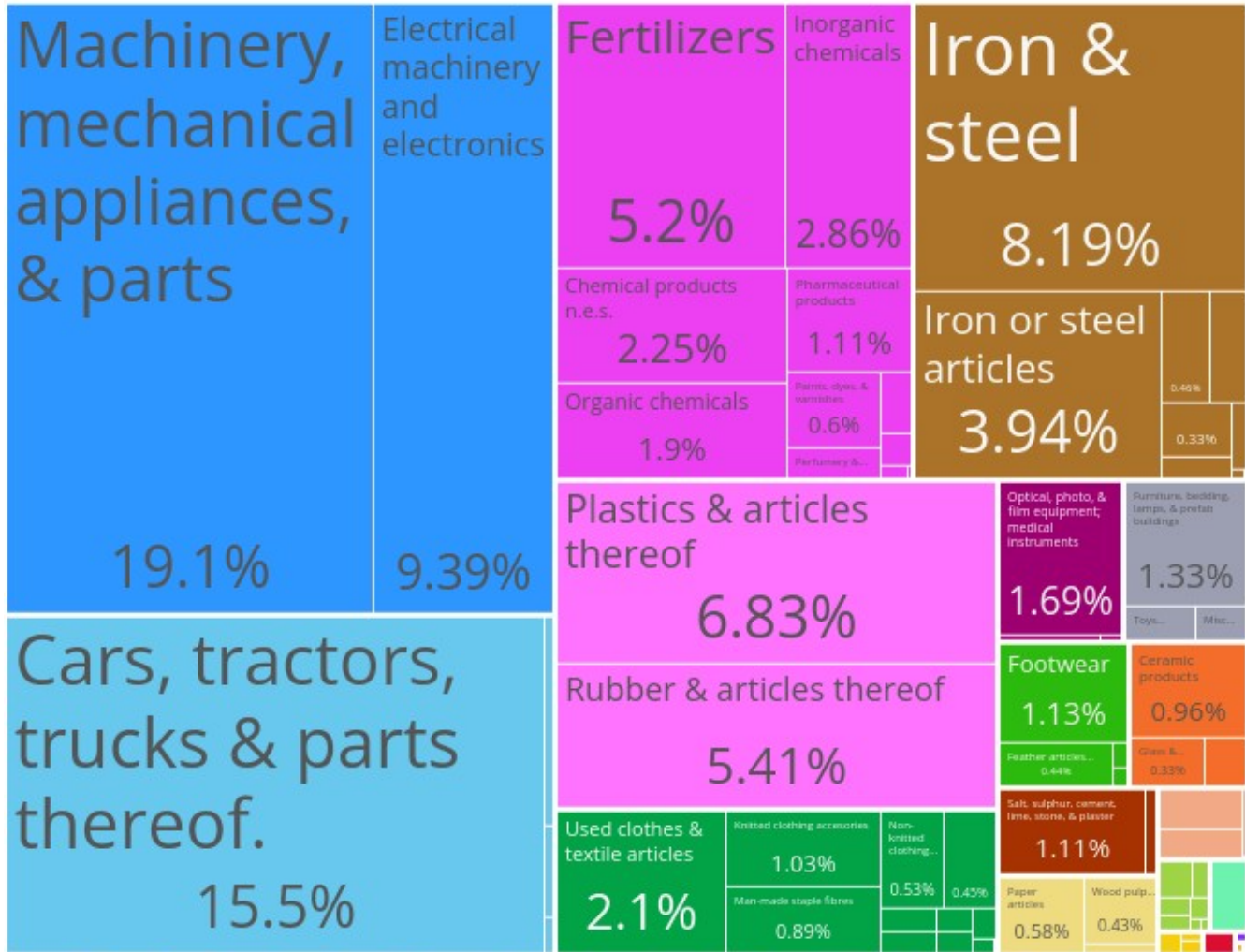
89.8%



# Exports to Zambia (2022)



Total: \$1.38B



## Imports from Libya (2022)



Total: \$2.52B

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

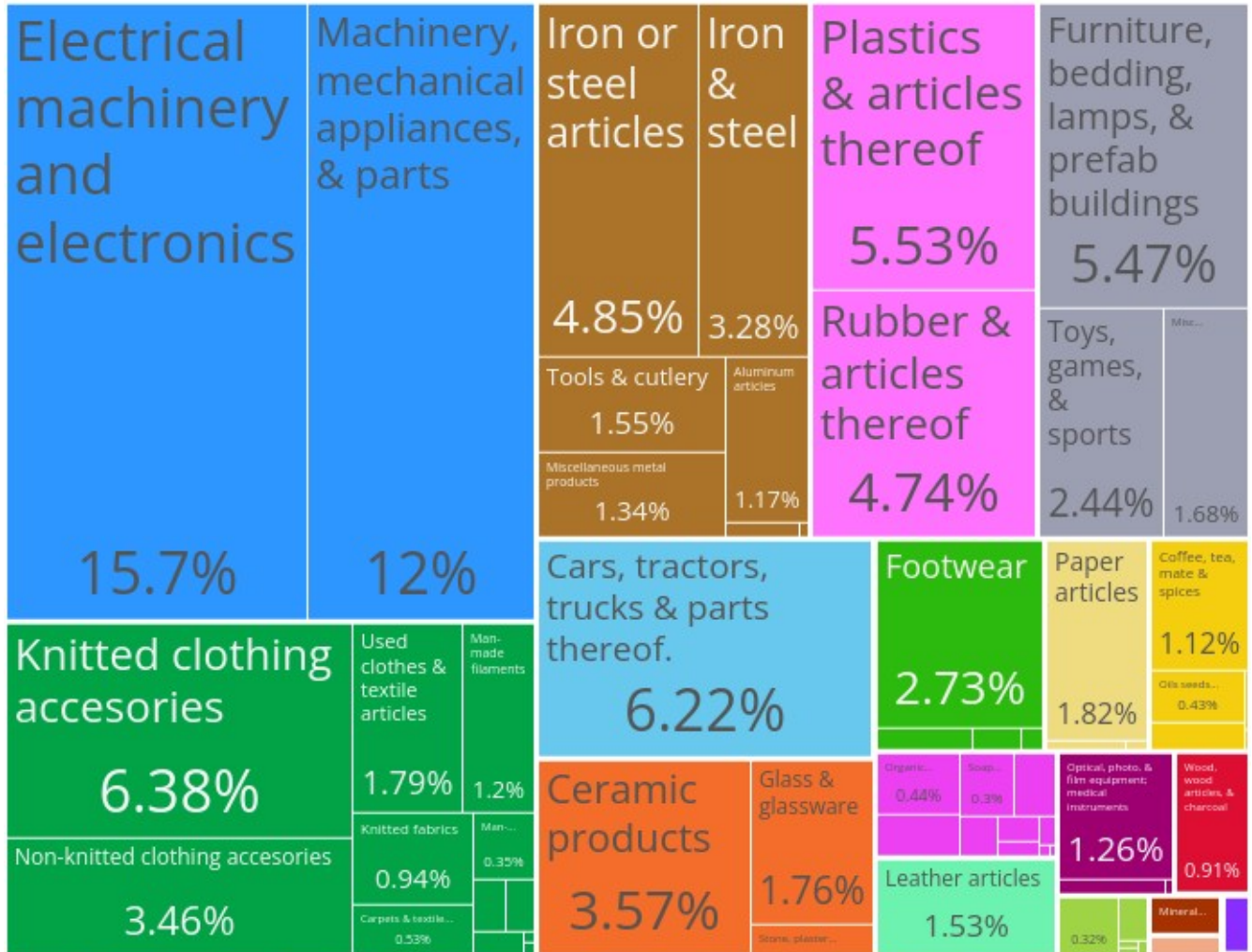
100%



## Exports to Libya (2022)



Total: \$2.37B





# Imports from Ghana (2022)



Total: \$2.01B

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

72.6%

Ores, slag and ash

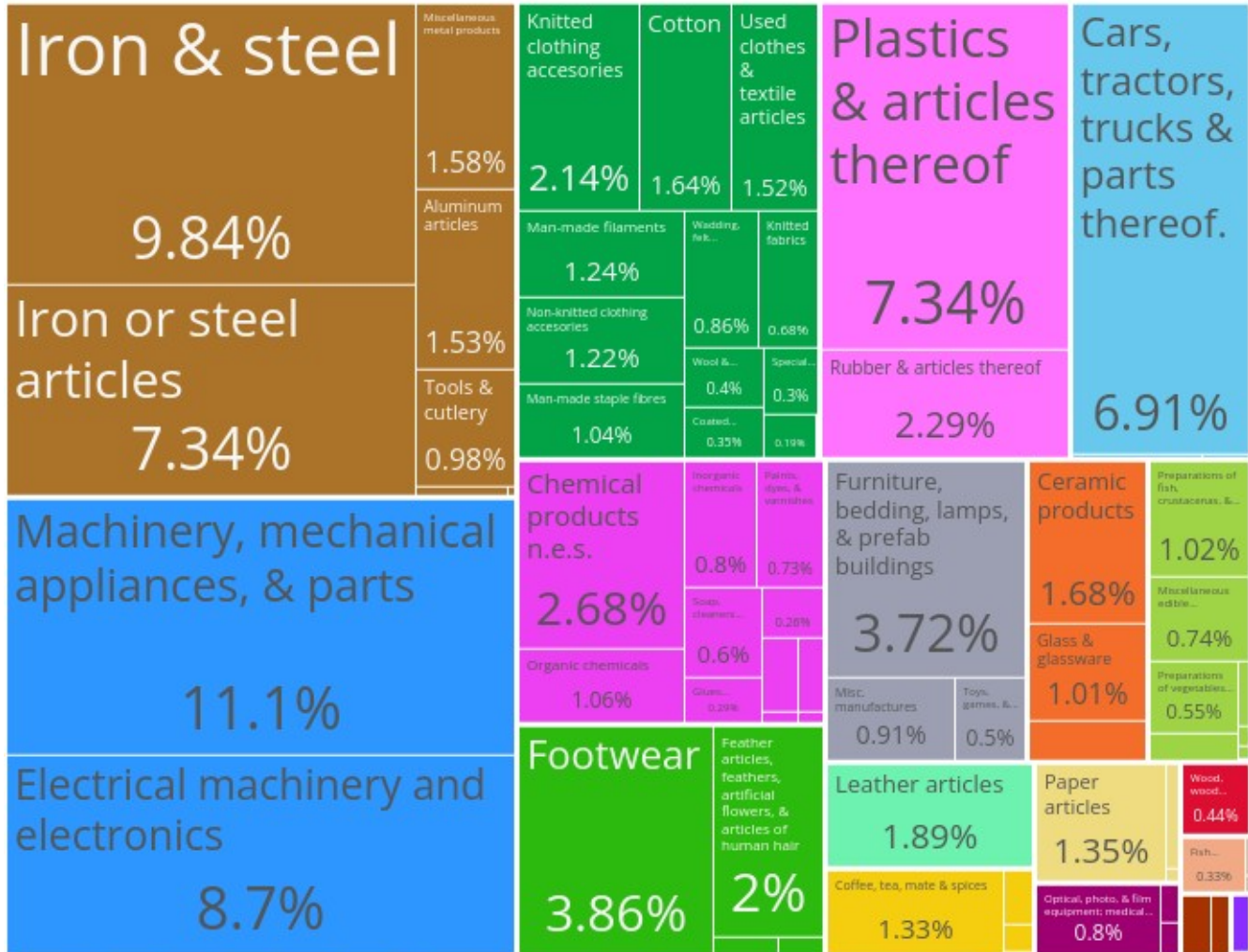
22.3%



# Exports to Ghana (2022)



Total: \$7.91B



# Imports from Nigeria (2022)



Total: \$1.52B

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

49.5%

Ores, slag and ash

22.6%

Salt, sulphur, cement, lime, stone, & plaster

Copper articles

7.44%

Aluminum articles

5.52%

Oils seeds, oleaginous fruits, grains, straw & fodder

3.72%

Raw hides & skin (non-fur)

1.72%

Ships, boats, & floating structures

1.62%

Inorganic...

0.4%

Wood, wood...

0.31%

5.12%

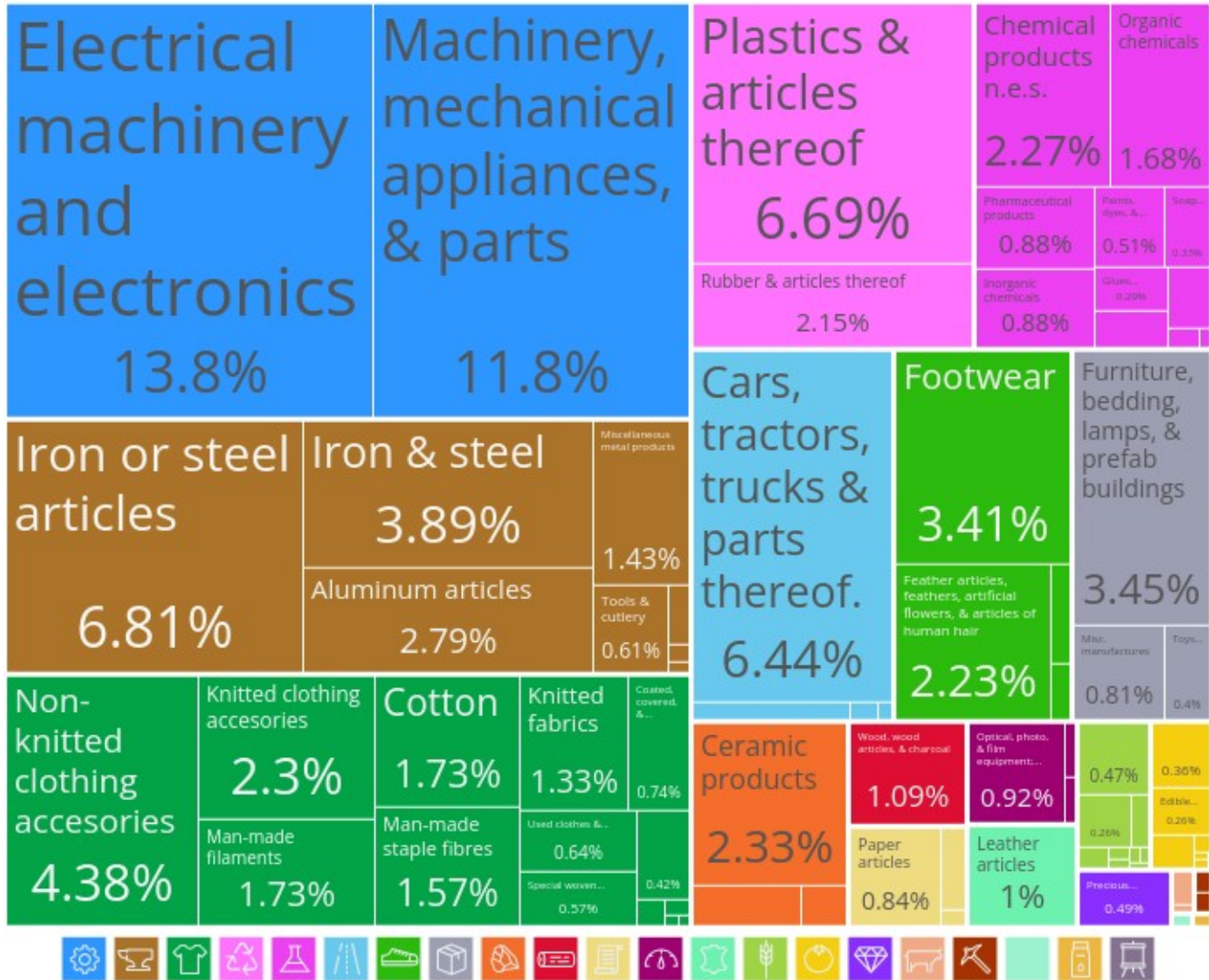




# Exports to Nigeria (2022)



Total: \$21.4B



## Imports from Equatorial Guinea (2022)



Total: \$1.3B

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

Wood, wood articles, & charcoal

90.9%

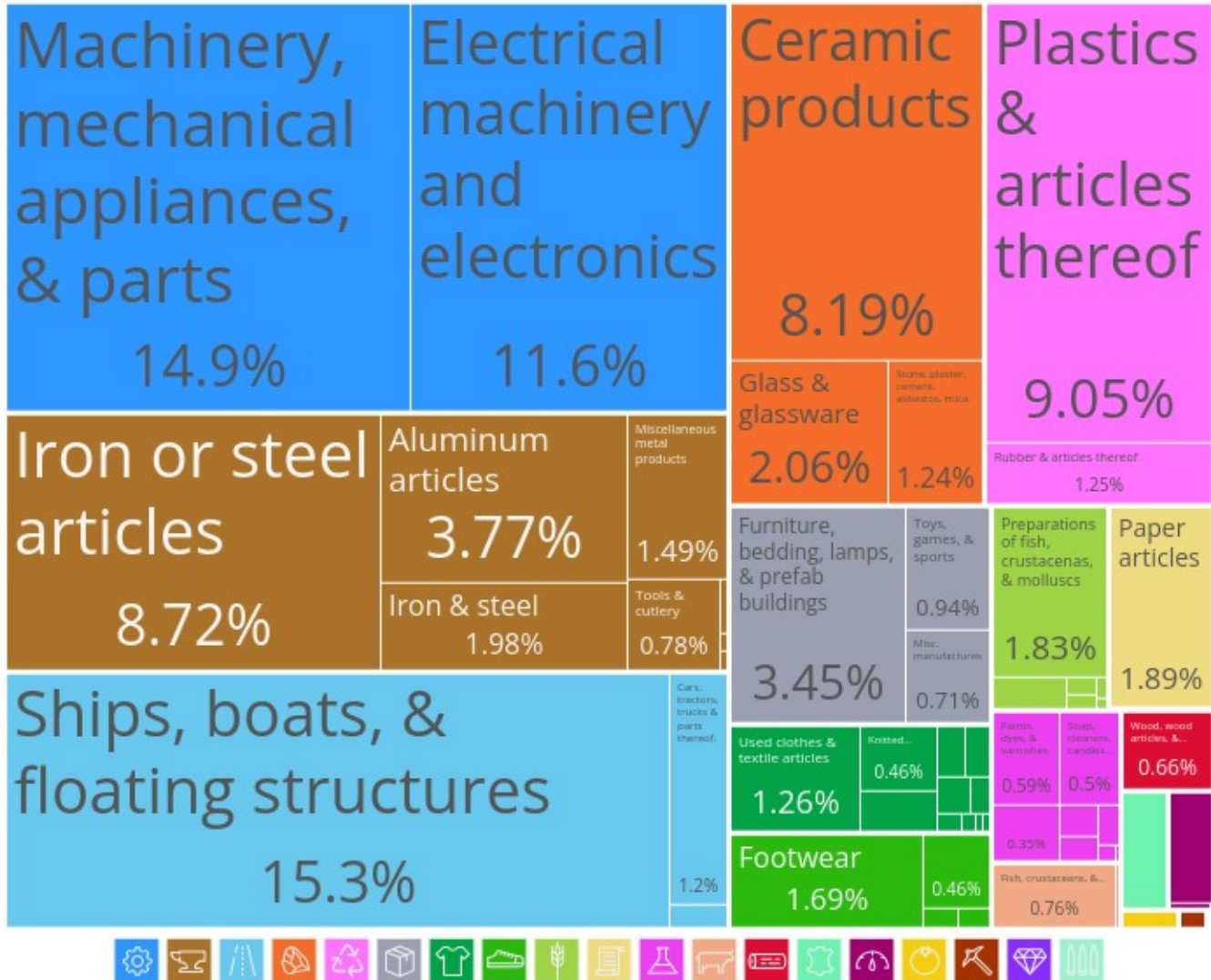
9.07%



## Exports to Equatorial Guinea (2022)



Total: \$231M



## Imports from Mauritania (2022)



Total: \$1.17B

Ores, slag and ash

Food residues & wastes; animal fodder

10.7%

Fish, crustaceans, & molluscs

3.29%

85%

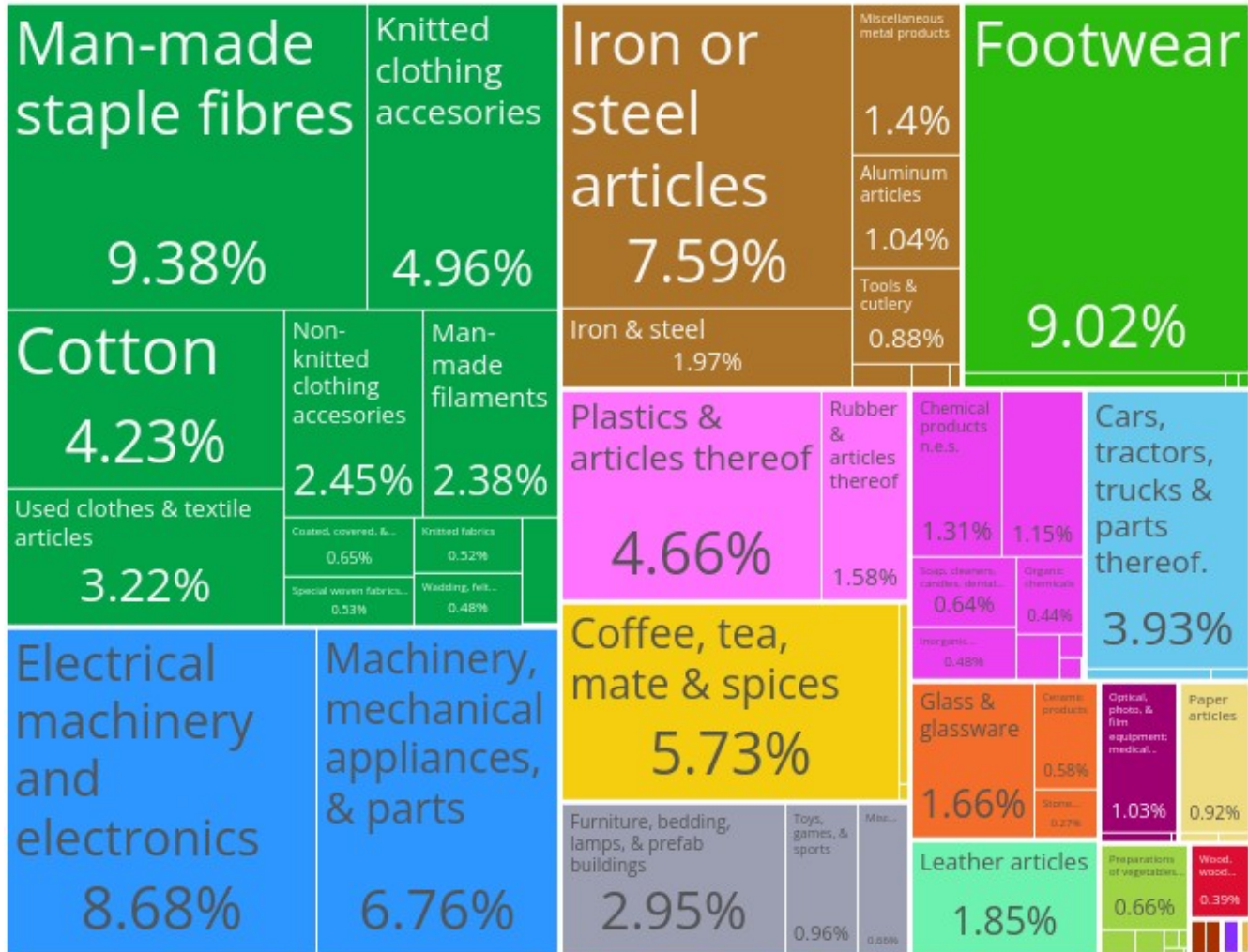




## Exports to Mauritania (2022)



Total: \$974M



# Imports from Algeria (2022)



Total: \$1.01B

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

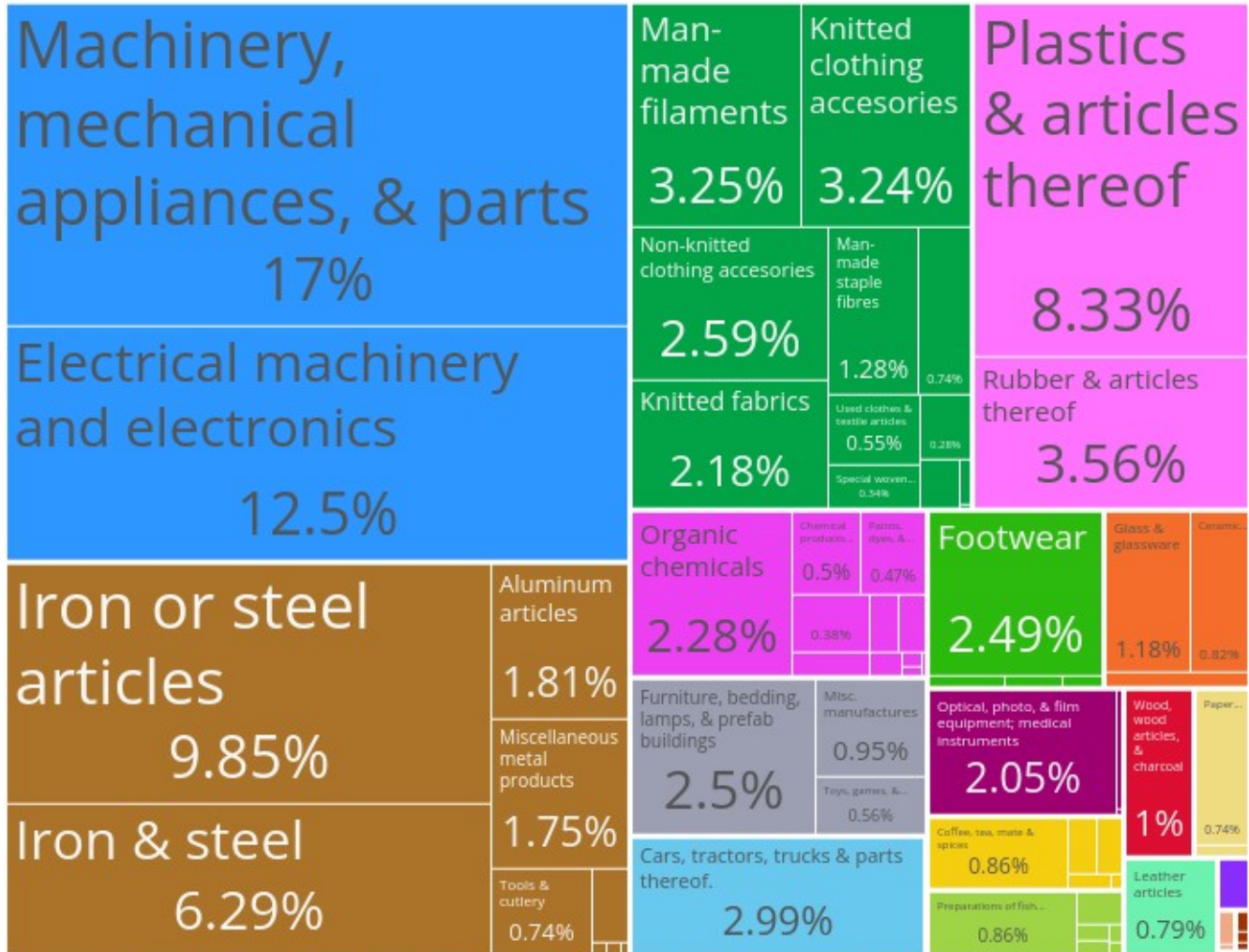
97.2%



## Exports to Algeria (2022)



Total: \$6.27B



# Imports from Egypt (2022)



Total: \$1B

Mineral fuels,  
mineral oils and  
products of their  
distillation

56%

Cotton

10.5%

Vegetable textile  
fibers, paper yarn &  
fabrics

2.62%

Carpets &  
textile floor  
covers

0.88%

Non-  
knitted...

0.53%

Edible  
fruits,  
nuts  
&  
fruit  
peels

7.66%

Food residues  
& wastes;  
animal fodder

5.68%

Raw  
hides &  
skin  
(non-fur)

2.77%

Fertilizers

1.03%

Soap...

0.36%

Copper  
articles

3.12%

Aluminum  
articles

1.72%

Stone,  
plaster,  
cement...

0.75%

Plastics &  
articles  
of various

0.66%

Electrical  
machinery and...

0.76%

Animal or...

0.3%

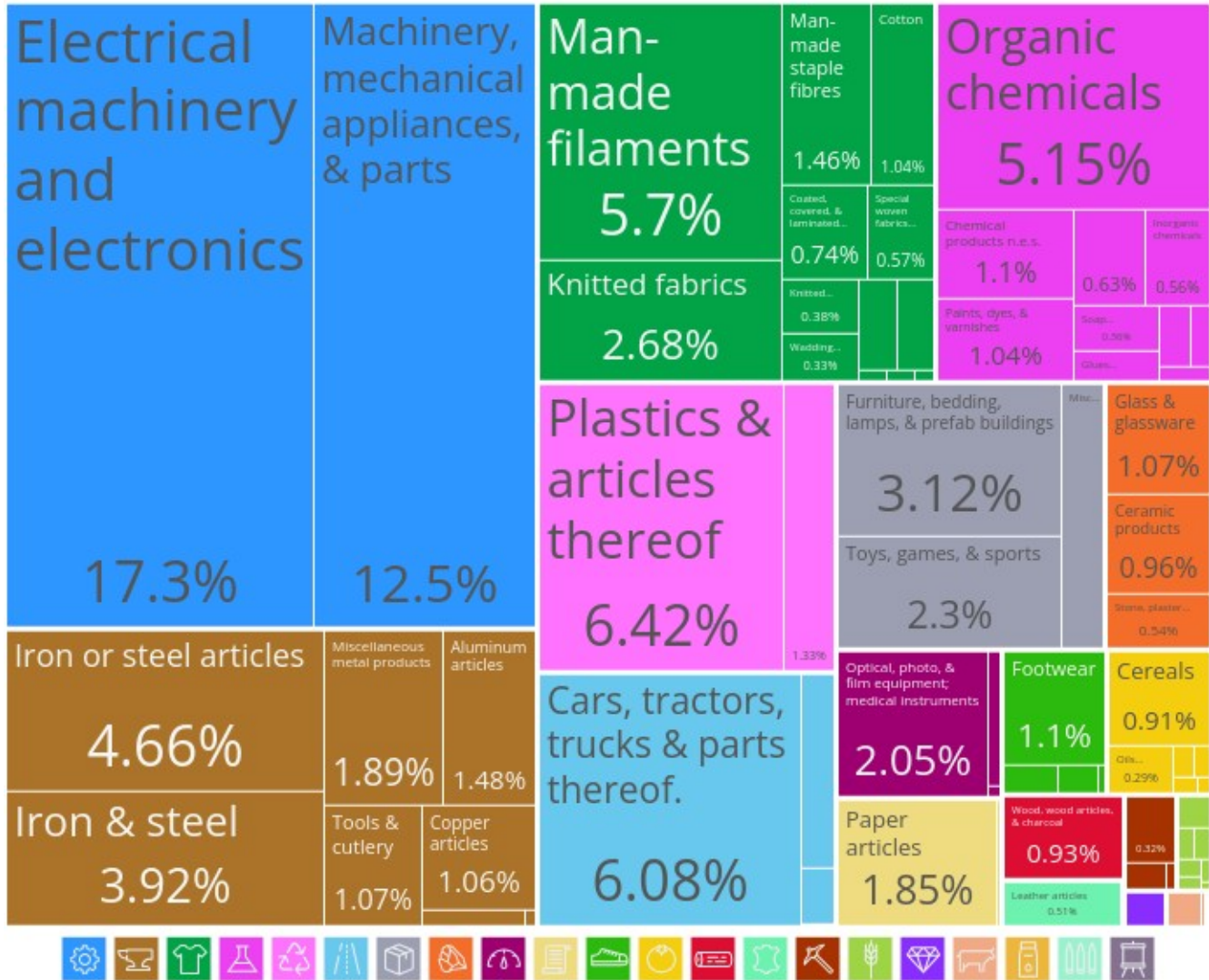




# Exports to Egypt (2022)



Total: \$16.7B



## Imports from Chad (2022)



Total: \$933M

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

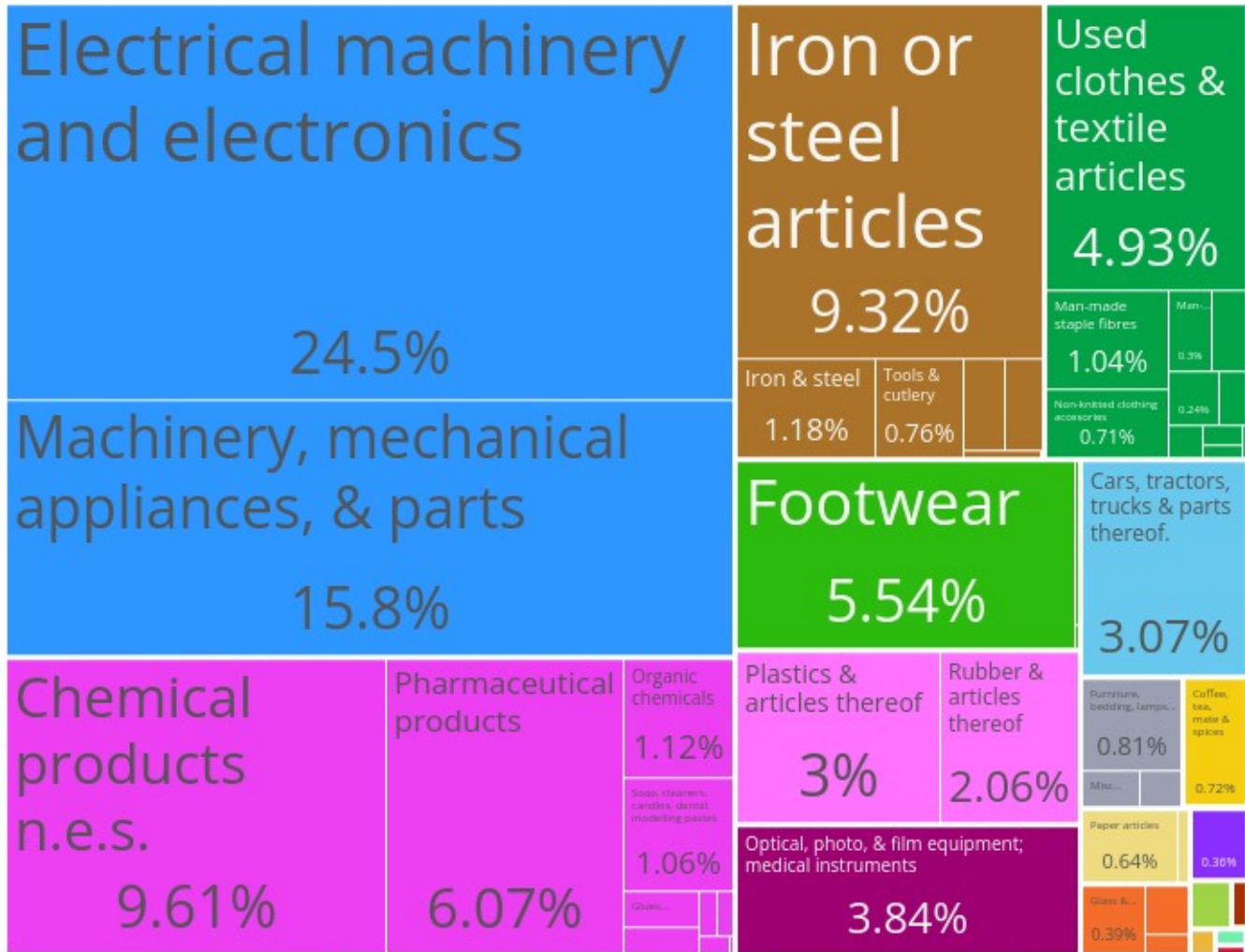
99.3%



## Exports to Chad (2022)



Total: \$281M



## Imports from Sudan (2022)



Total: \$877M

Oils seeds, oleaginous  
fruits, grains, straw &  
fodder

74.8%

Food residues  
& wastes;  
animal fodder

8.61%

Mineral fuels,  
mineral oils and  
products of  
their distillation

6.99%

Cotton

6.02%

Animal or vegetable fats, oils, &  
waxes

2.28%

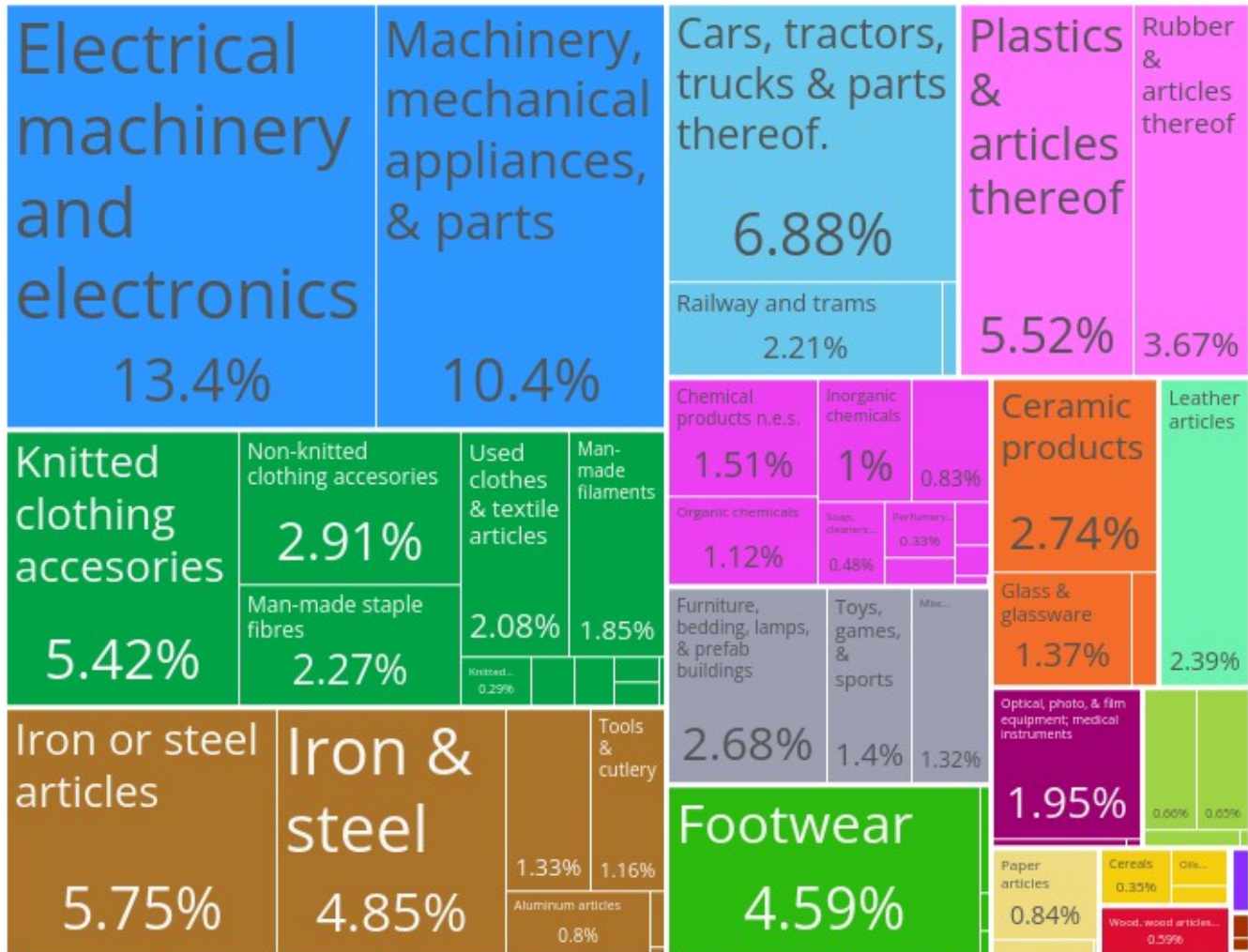




# Exports to Sudan (2022)



Total: \$2.03B



## Imports from Cote d'Ivoire (2022)



Total: \$700M

Rubber & articles thereof

56.8%

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

25.3%

Ores, slag and ash

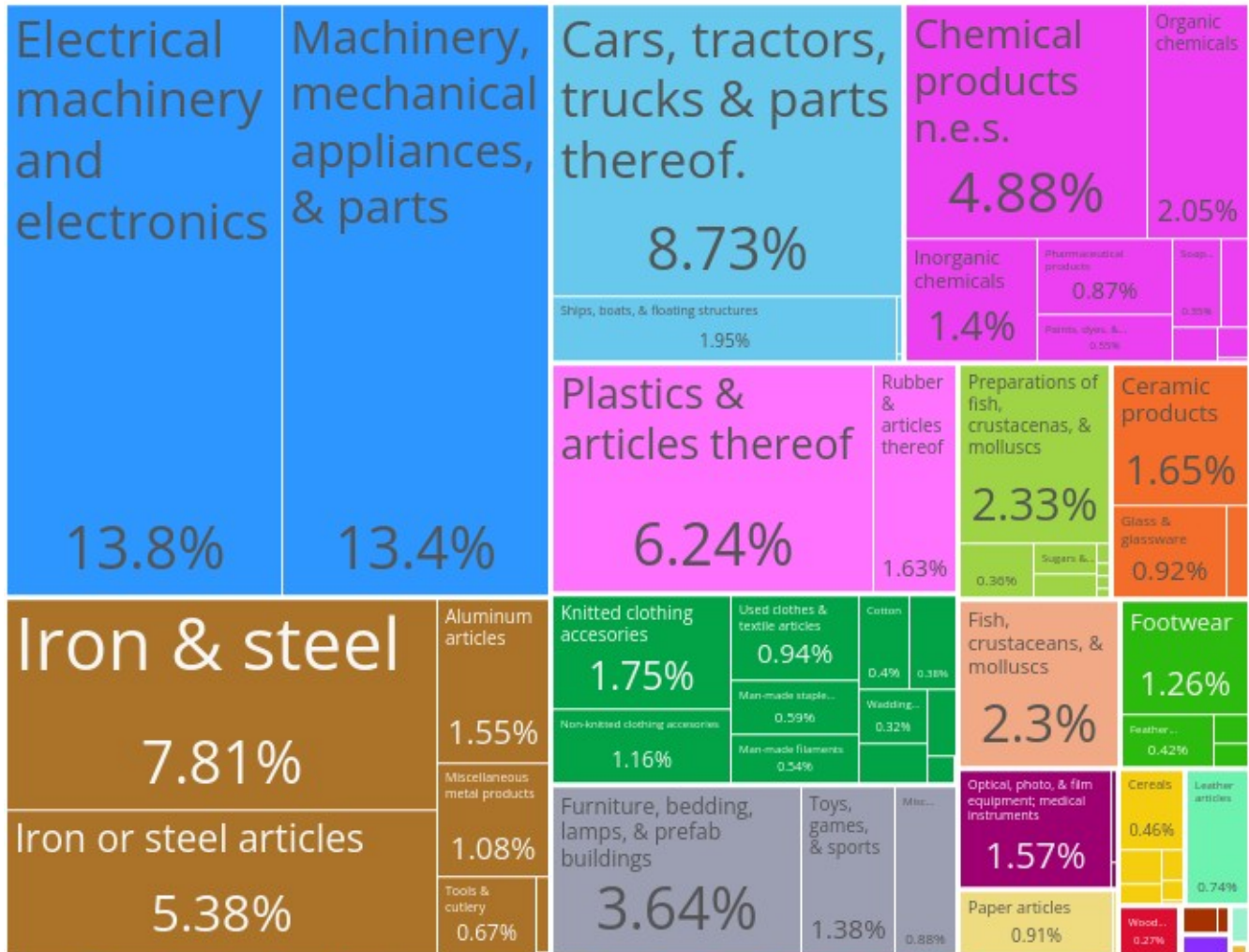
15.7%



## Exports to Cote d'Ivoire (2022)



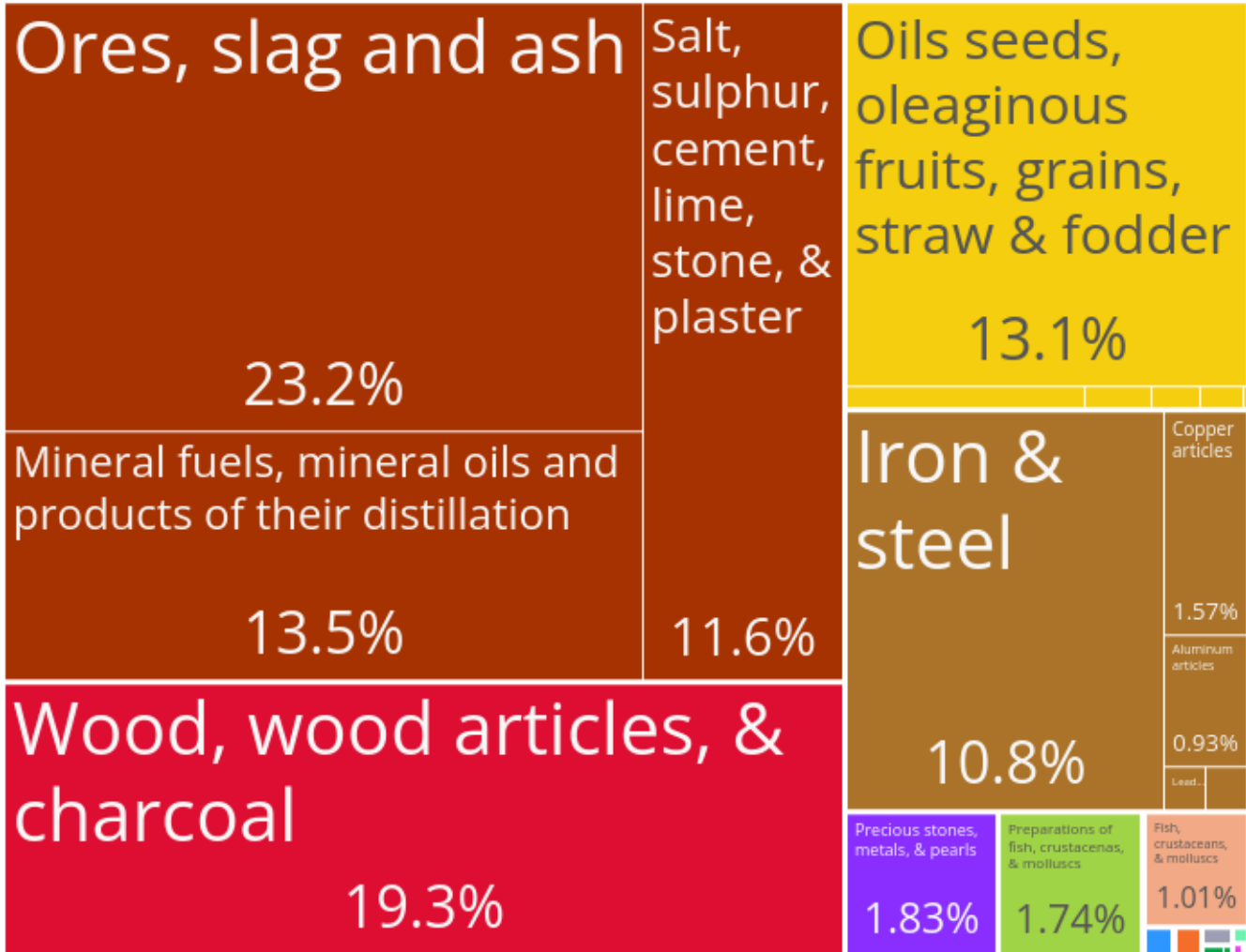
Total: \$3.31B



# Imports from Mozambique (2022)



Total: \$678M

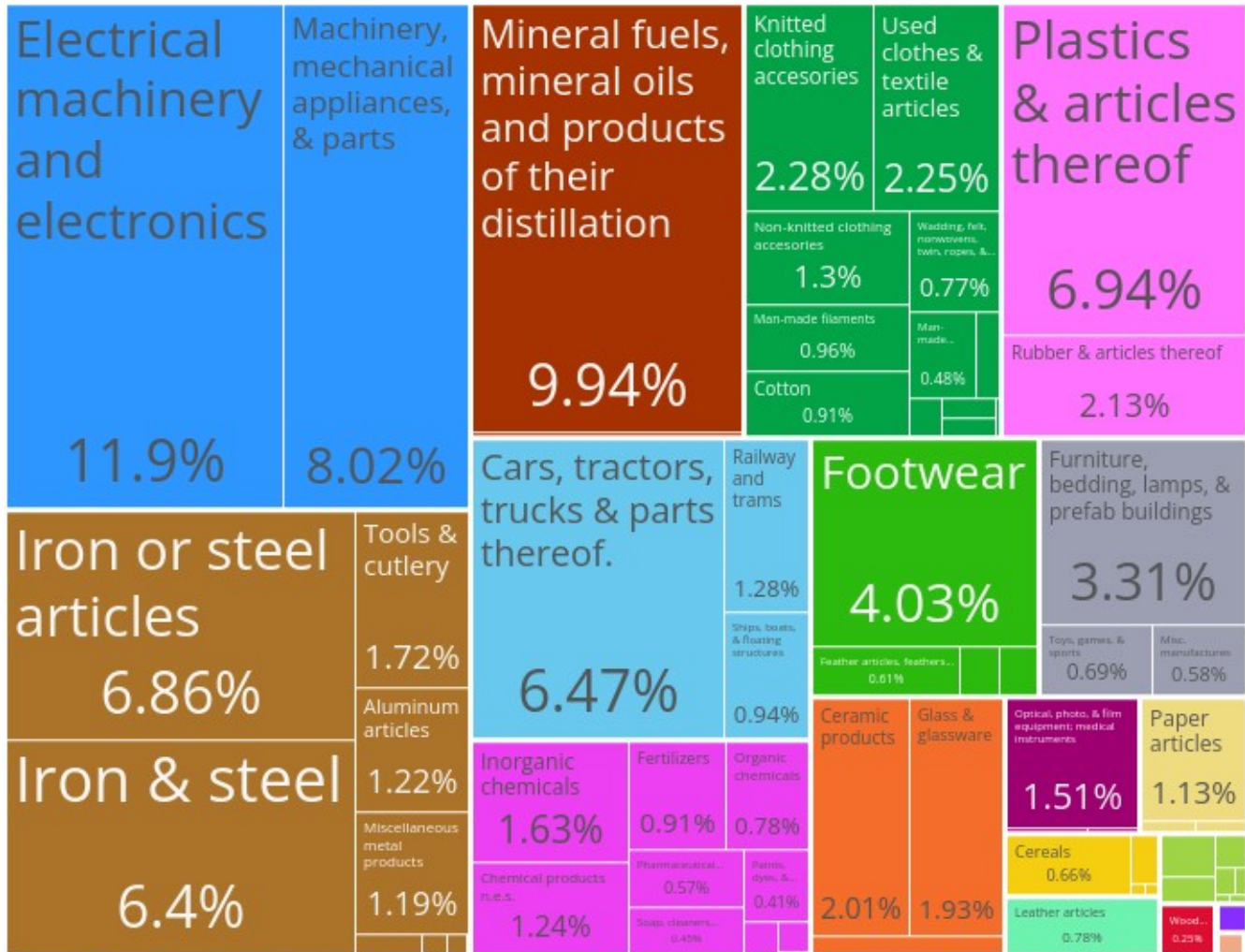




# Exports to Mozambique (2022)



Total: \$2.76B



# Imports from Namibia (2022)



Total: \$628M

Inorganic chemicals

Ores, slag and ash

13.2%

Salt, sulphur, cement, lime, stone, & plaster

2.73%

Copper articles

9.53%

Fish, crustaceans, & molluscs

2.03%

Meat & edible offal

0.75%

Food residues & waste

0.61%

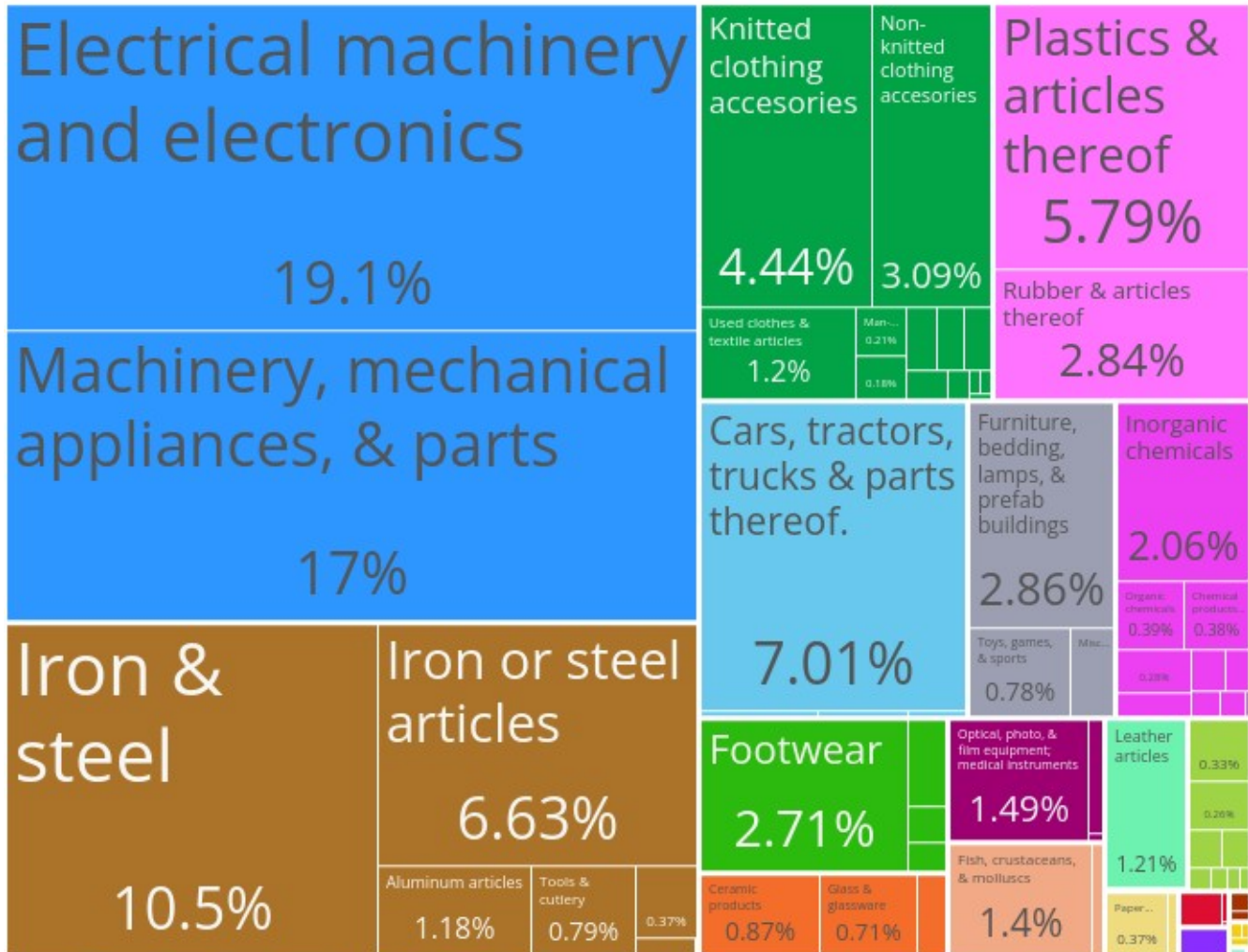
70.2%



## Exports to Namibia (2022)



Total: \$575M



## Imports from Zimbabwe (2022)



Total: \$625M

Tobacco & substitutes

51.1%

Iron & steel

36.6%

Ores, slag and ash

6.54%

Salt, sulphur, cement, lime, stone, & plaster

4.28%

Edible fruits, nuts & fruit peels

0.9%

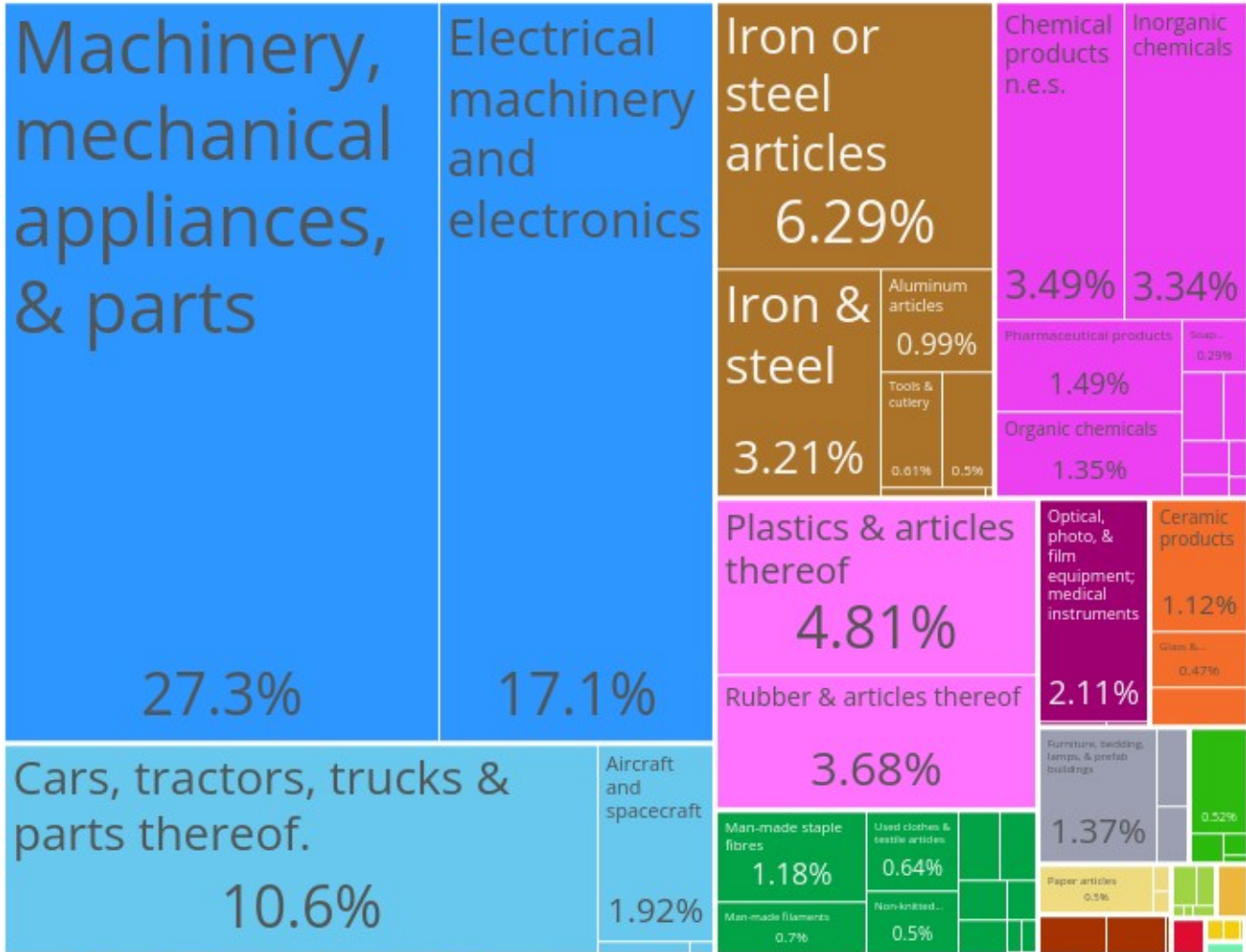




# Exports to Zimbabwe (2022)



Total: \$1.24B



## Imports from Sierra Leone (2022)



Total: \$622M

Ores, slag and ash

Wood, wood articles, & charcoal

86.1%

13.7%

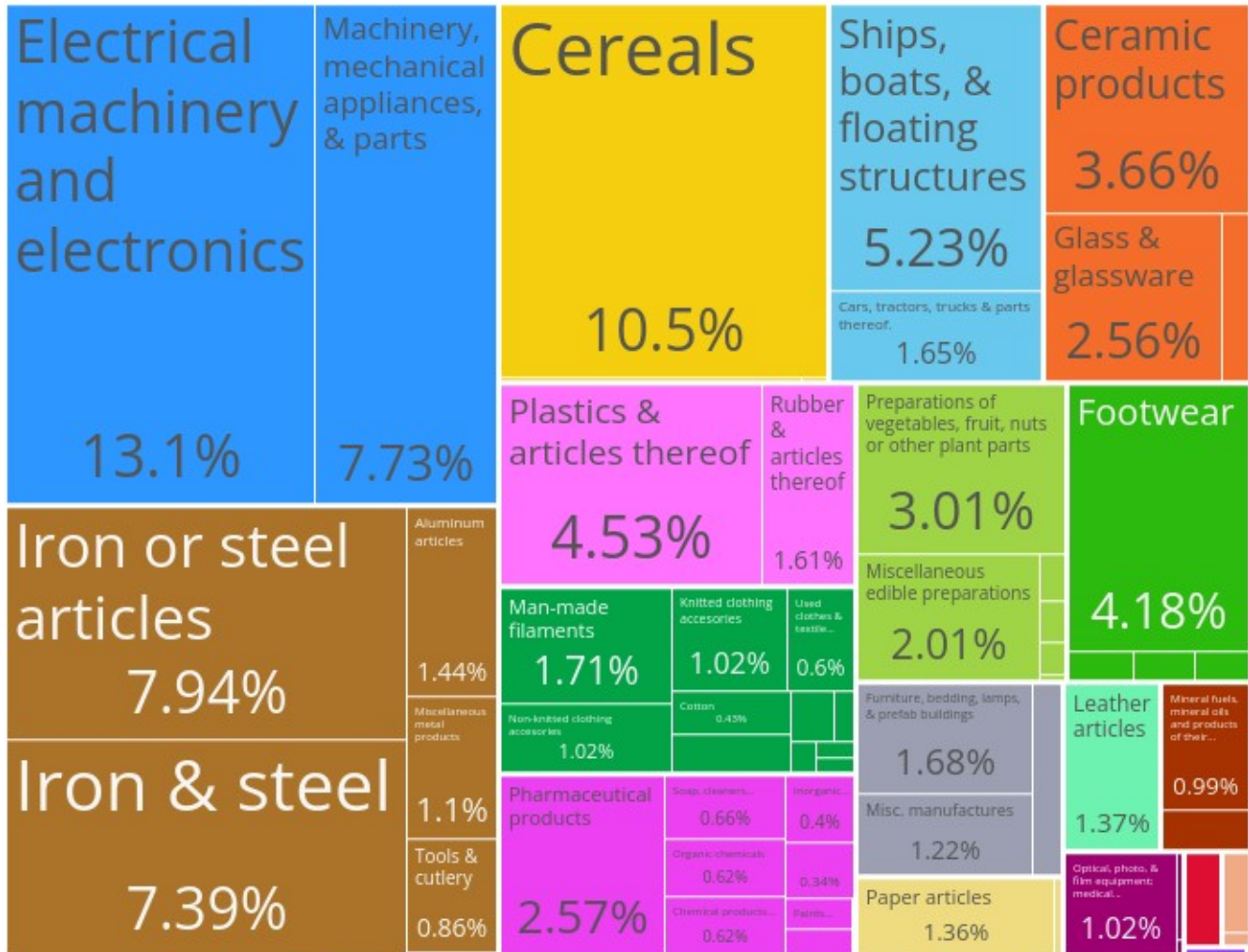




# Exports to Sierra Leone (2022)



Total: \$573M



## Imports from Cameroon (2022)



Total: \$571M

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

56%

Wood, wood articles, & charcoal

35.4%

Cotton

4.55%

Copper articles

3.17%

Aluminum...

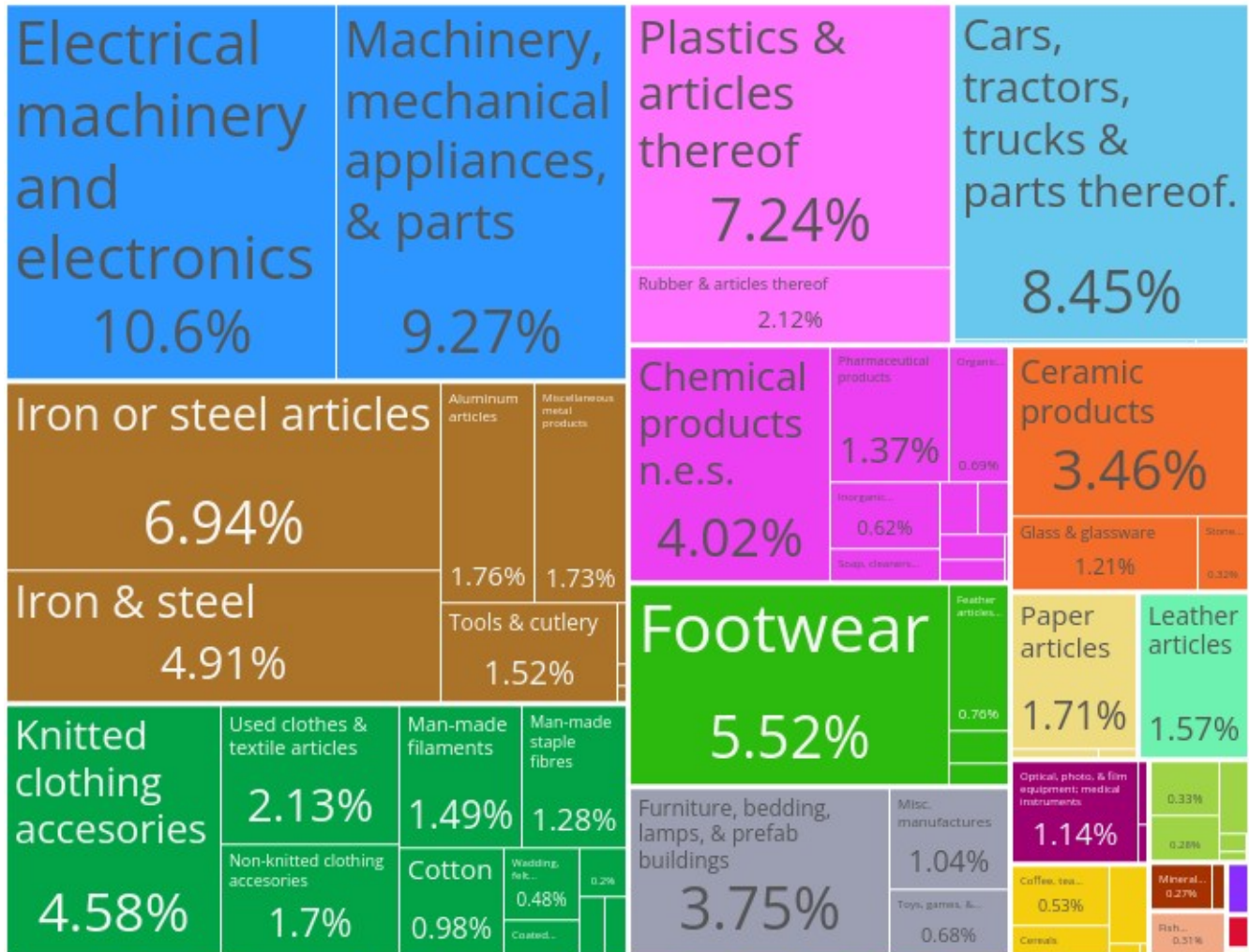
0.47%



## Exports to Cameroon (2022)



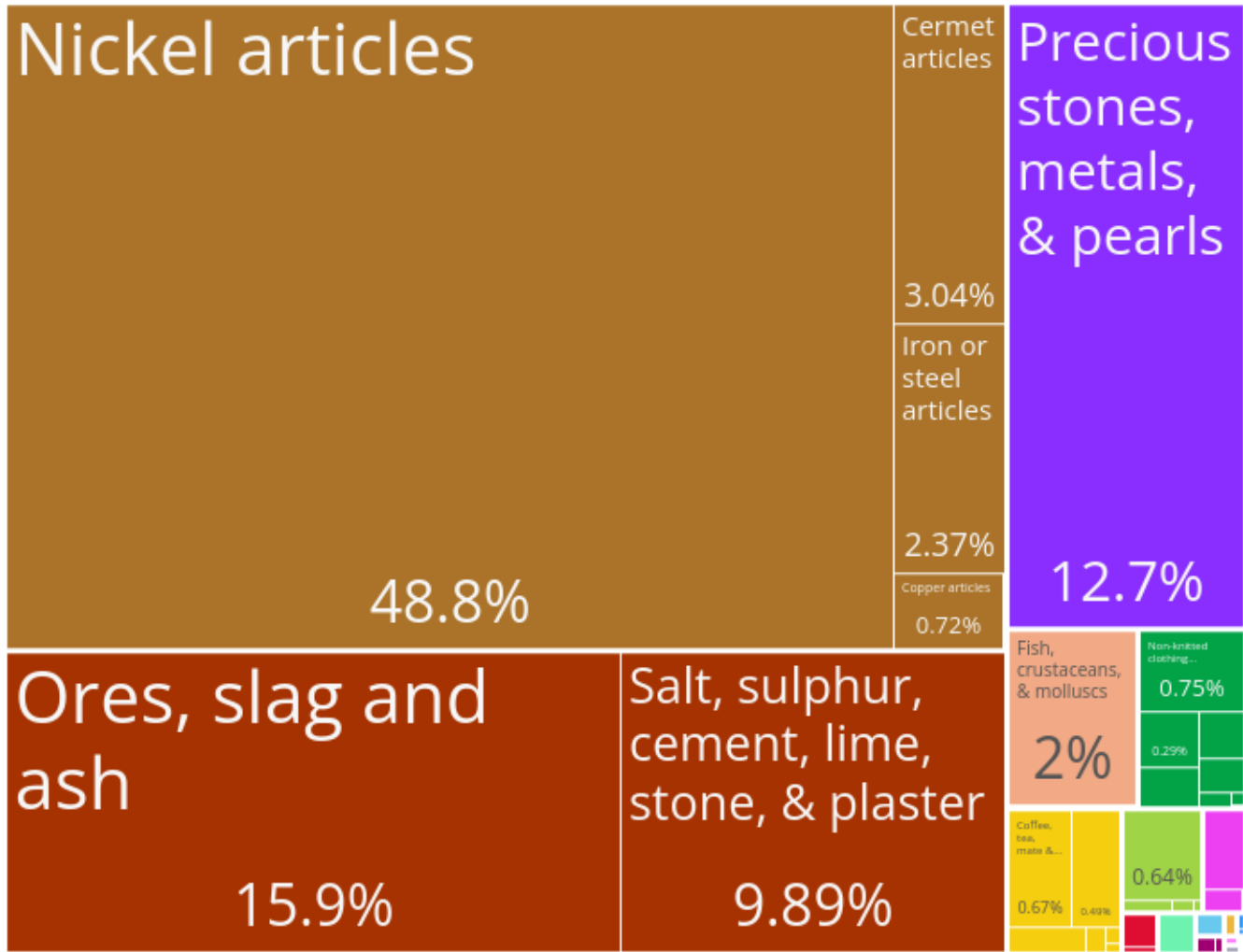
Total: \$3.17B



# Imports from Madagascar (2022)



Total: \$538M

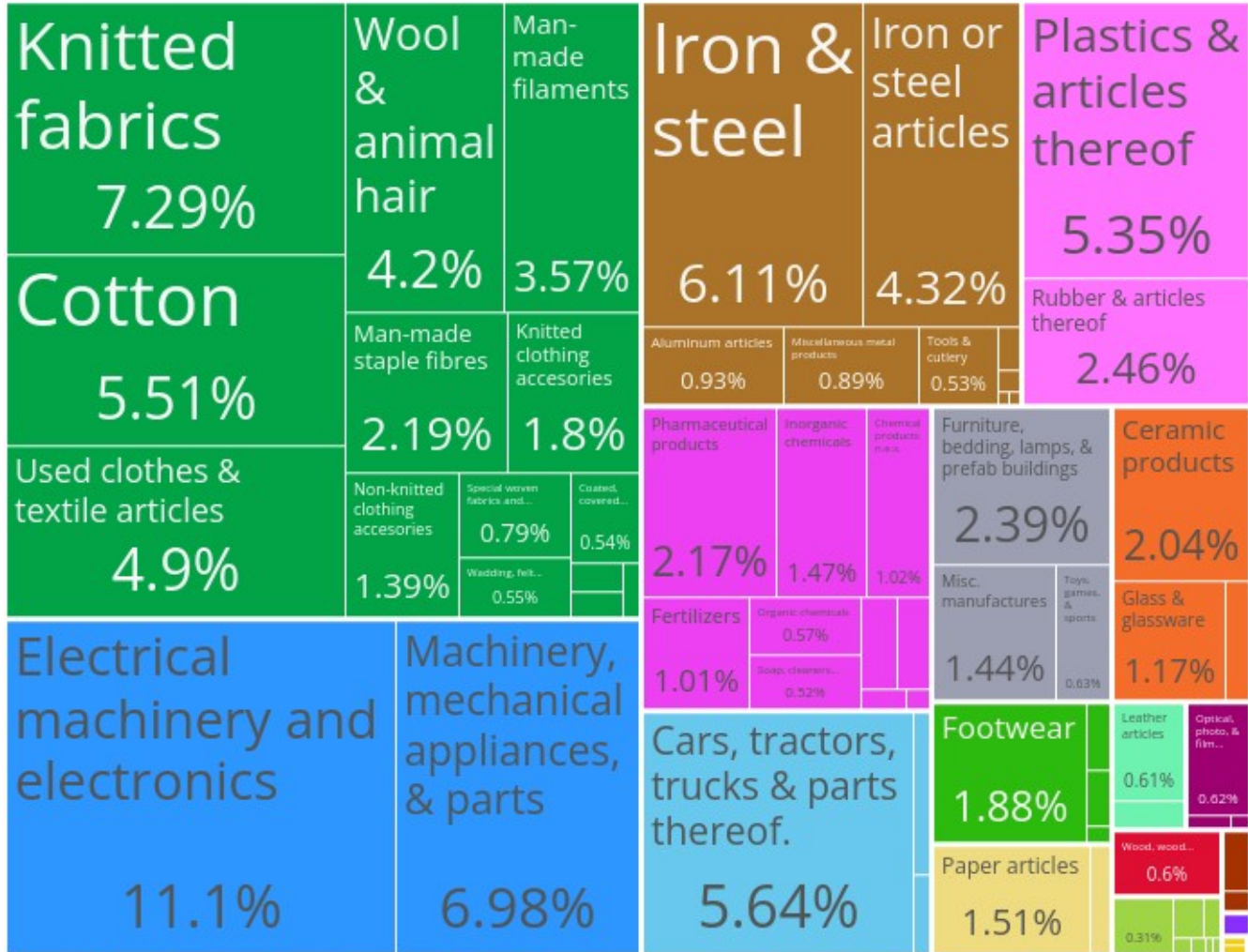




# Exports to Madagascar (2022)



Total: \$1.33B

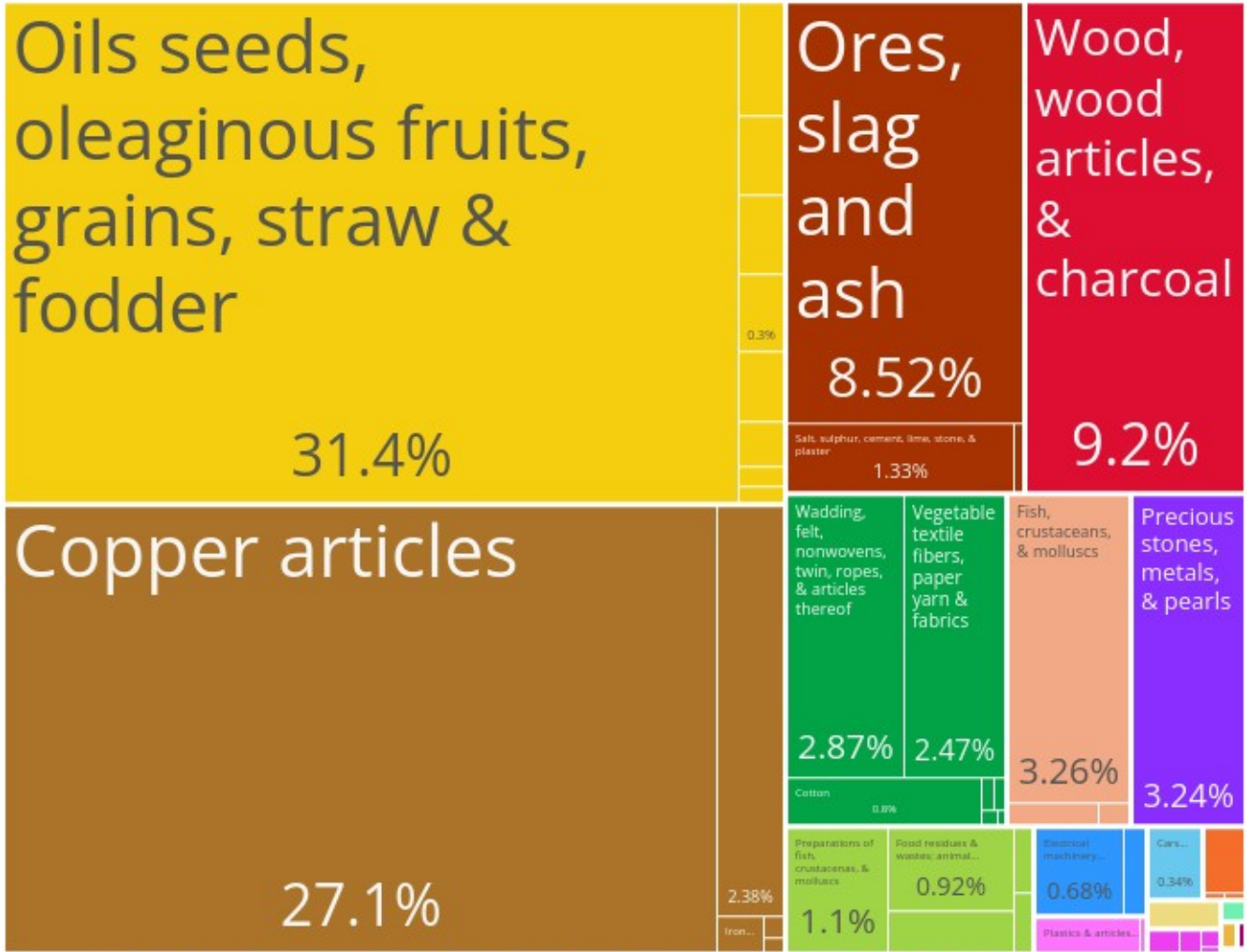




# Imports from Tanzania (2022)



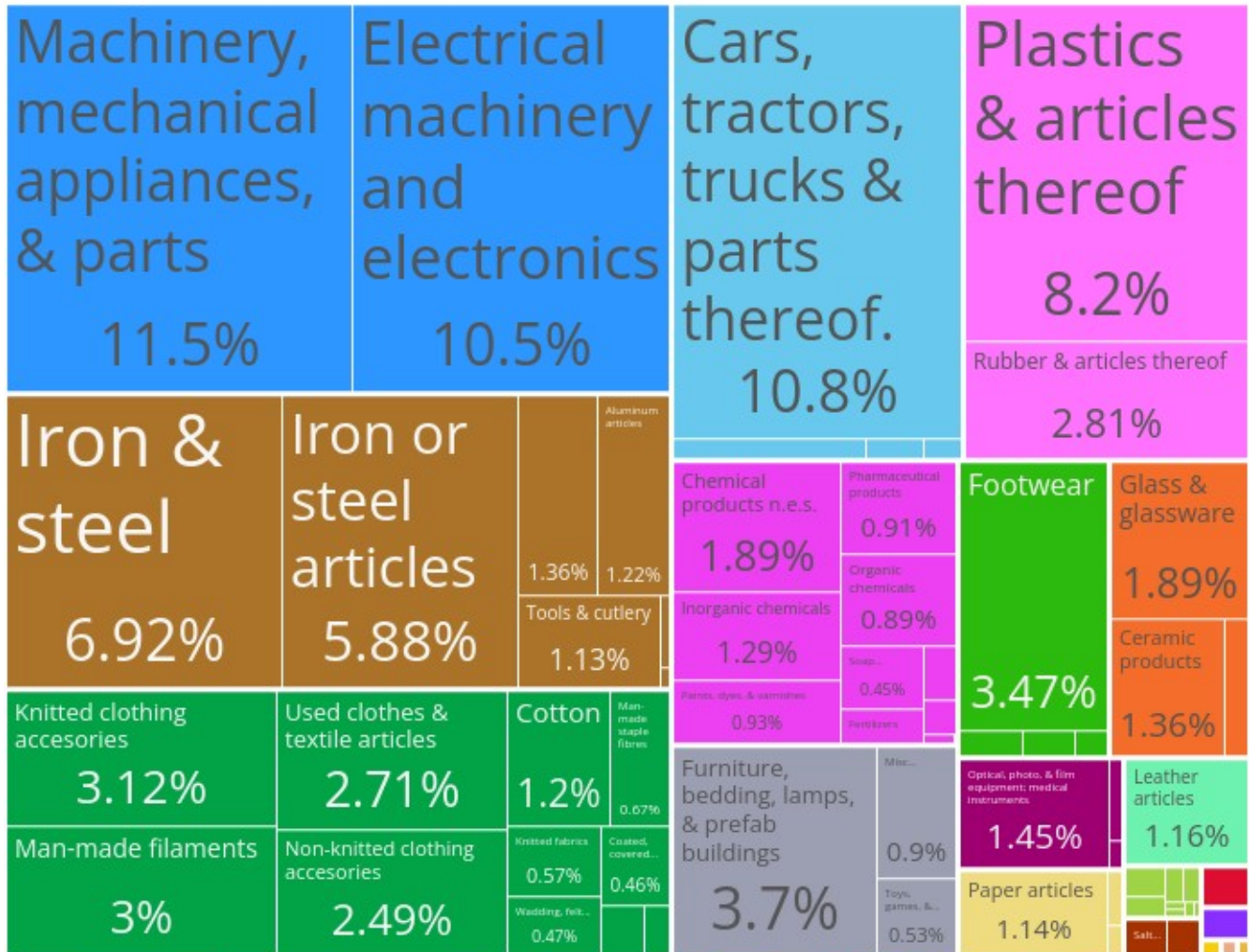
Total: \$447M



## Exports to Tanzania (2022)



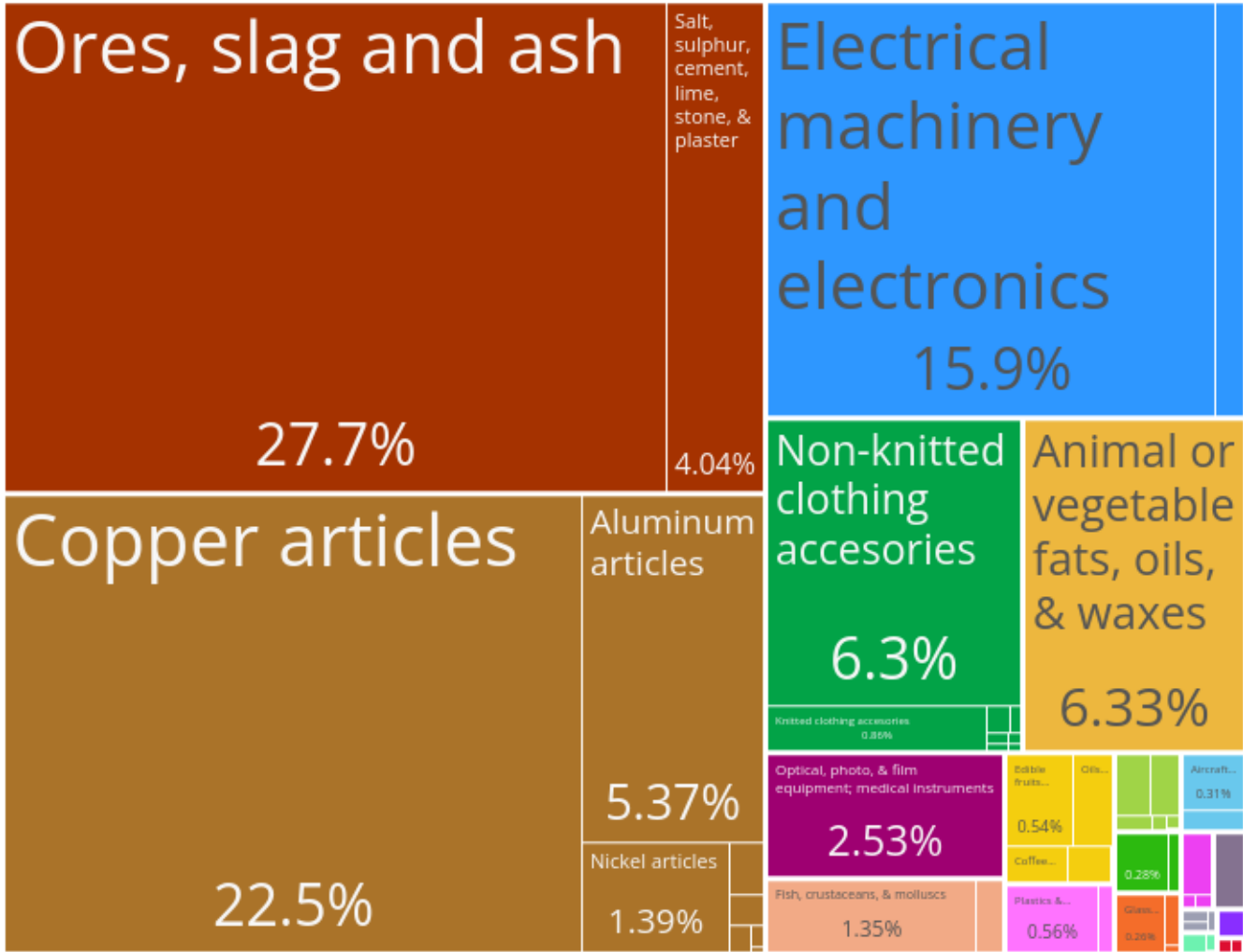
Total: \$6.54B



# Imports from Morocco (2022)



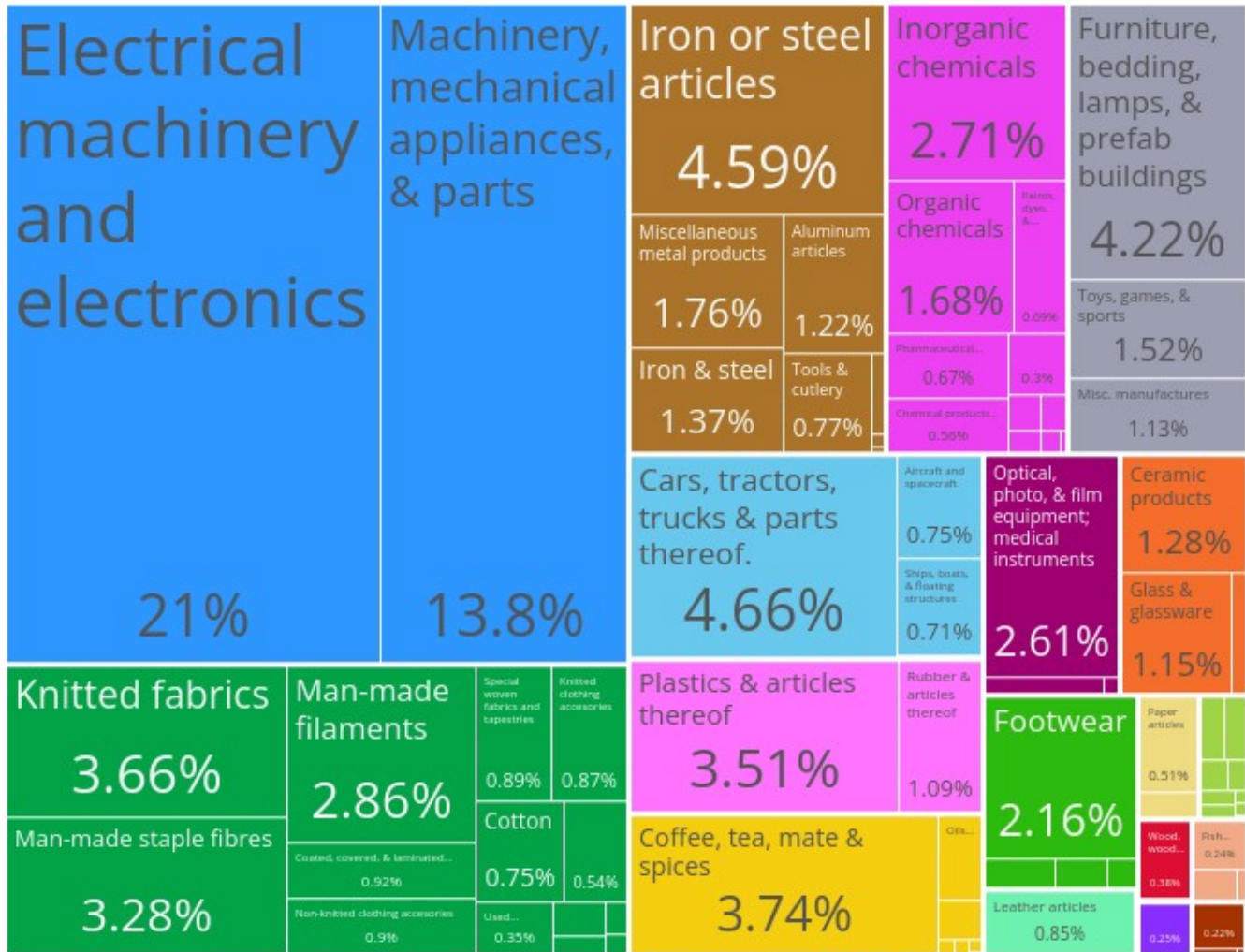
Total: \$446M



# Exports to Morocco (2022)



Total: \$6.67B



## Imports from Eritrea (2022)



Total: \$412M

Ores, slag and ash

100%

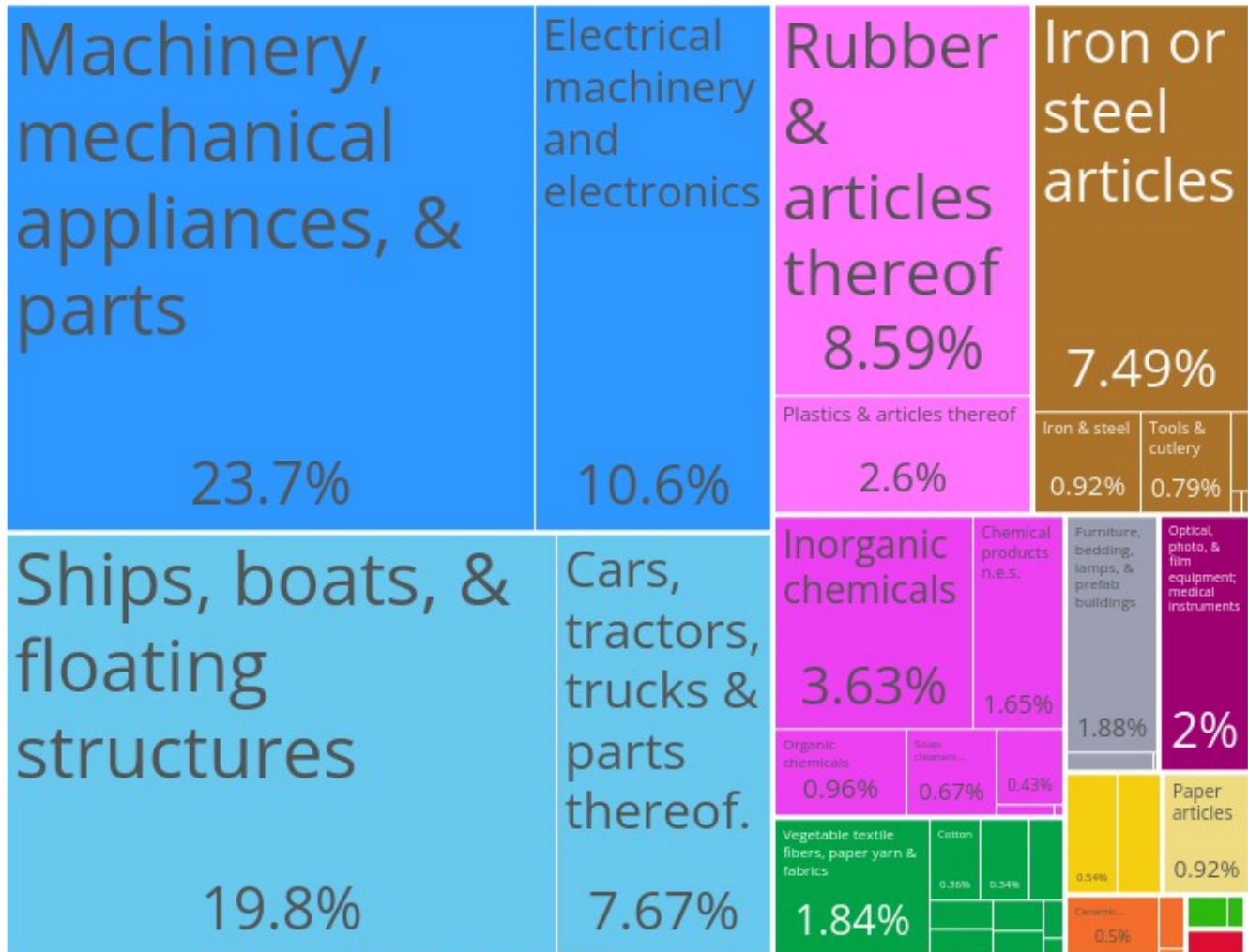




# Exports to Eritrea (2022)



Total: \$148M



## Imports from Niger (2022)



Total: \$290M

Oils seeds, oleaginous fruits, grains,  
straw & fodder

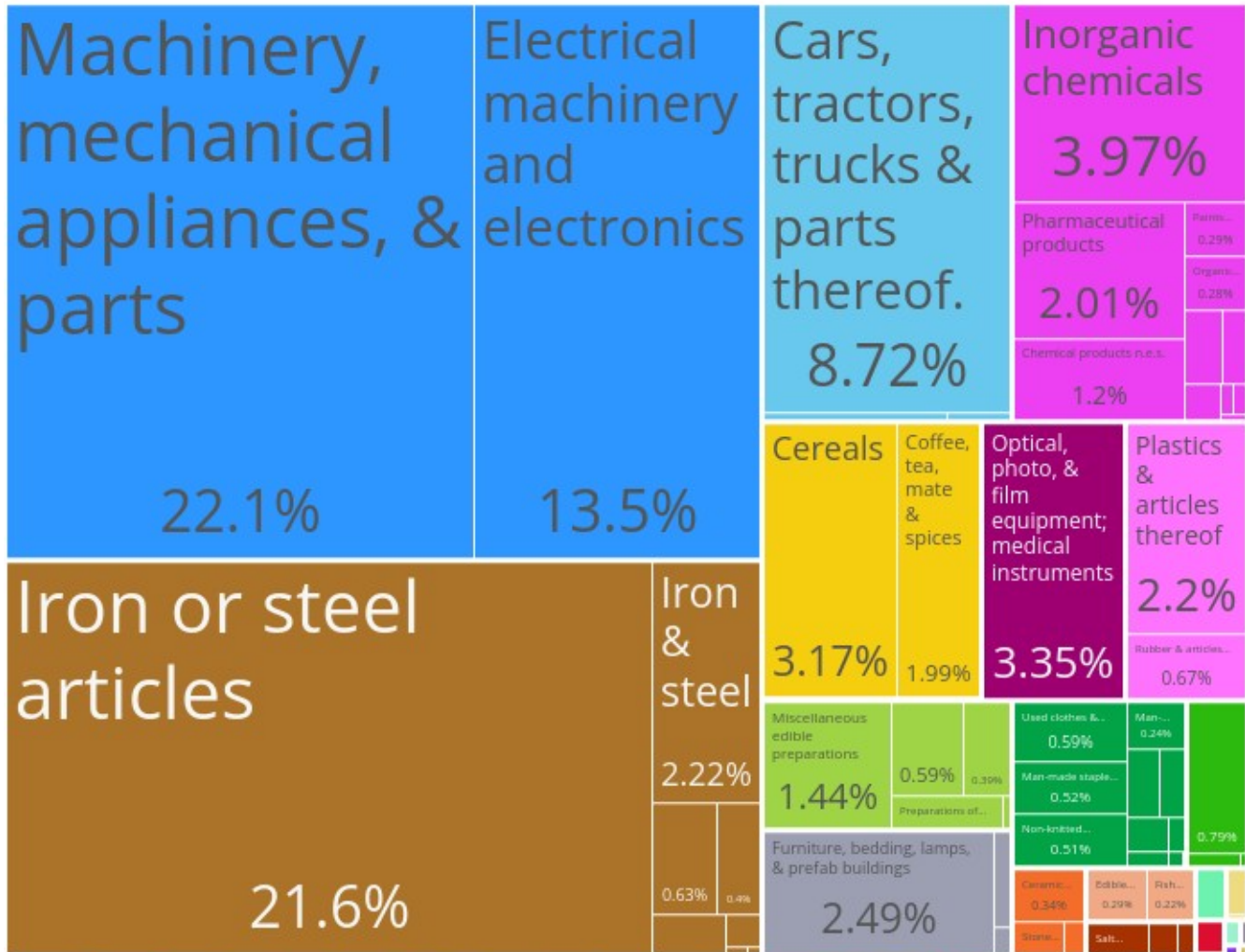
99.2%



# Exports to Niger (2022)



Total: \$783M



## Imports from Botswana (2022)



Total: \$276M

Ores, slag and ash

Precious stones, metals, & pearls

94.7%

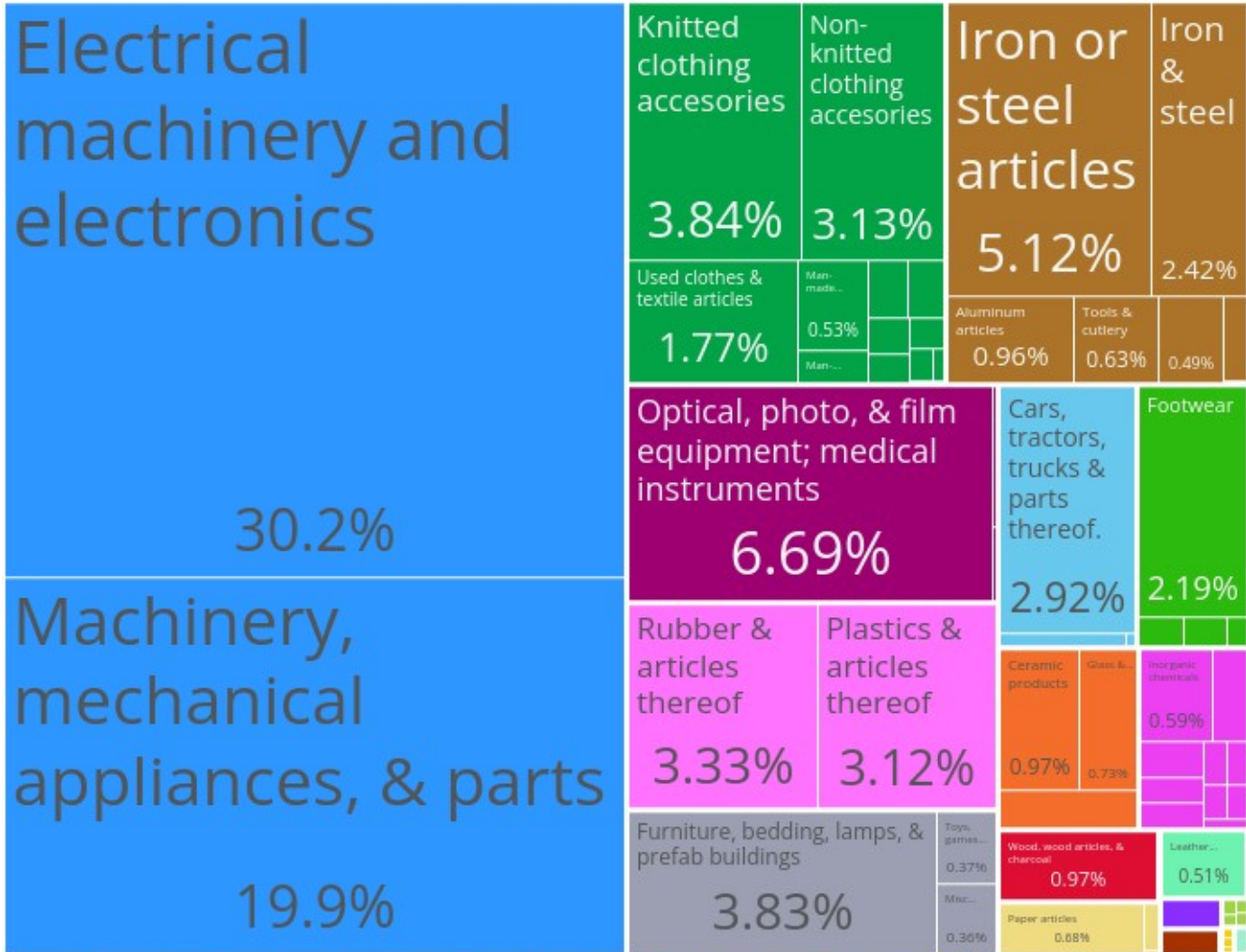
5.10%



# Exports to Botswana (2022)



Total: \$236M





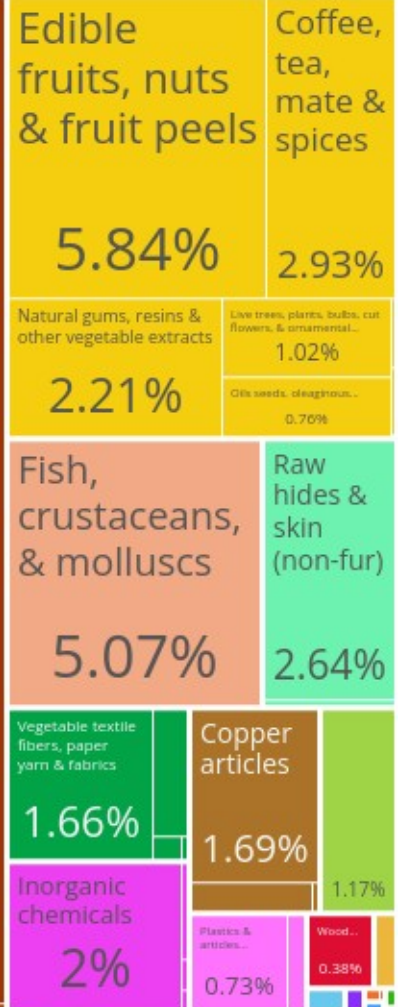
# Imports from Kenya (2022)



Total: \$239M

## Ores, slag and ash

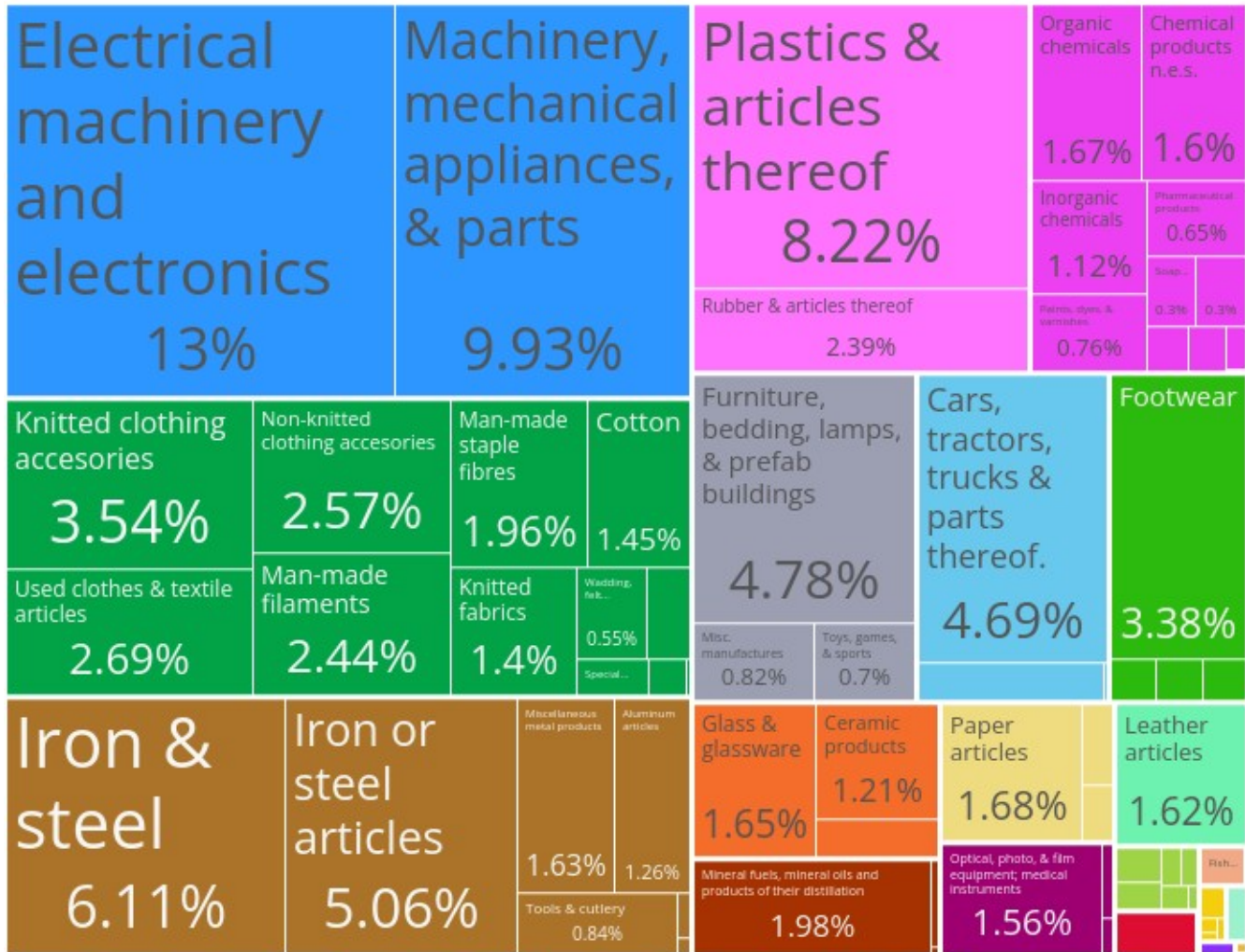
70.2%



# Exports to Kenya (2022)



Total: \$6.55B



# Imports from Senegal (2022)



Total: \$239M

Oils seeds,  
oleaginous fruits,  
grains, straw &  
fodder

55.3%

Edible fruits, nuts & fruit peels

5.63%

Ores, slag  
and ash

25.5%

Fish,  
crustaceans,  
& molluscs

6.06%

Animal or  
vegetable  
fats, oils,  
& waxes

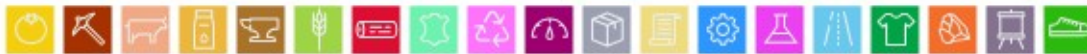
2.66%

Cermet  
articles

0.79%

0.30%

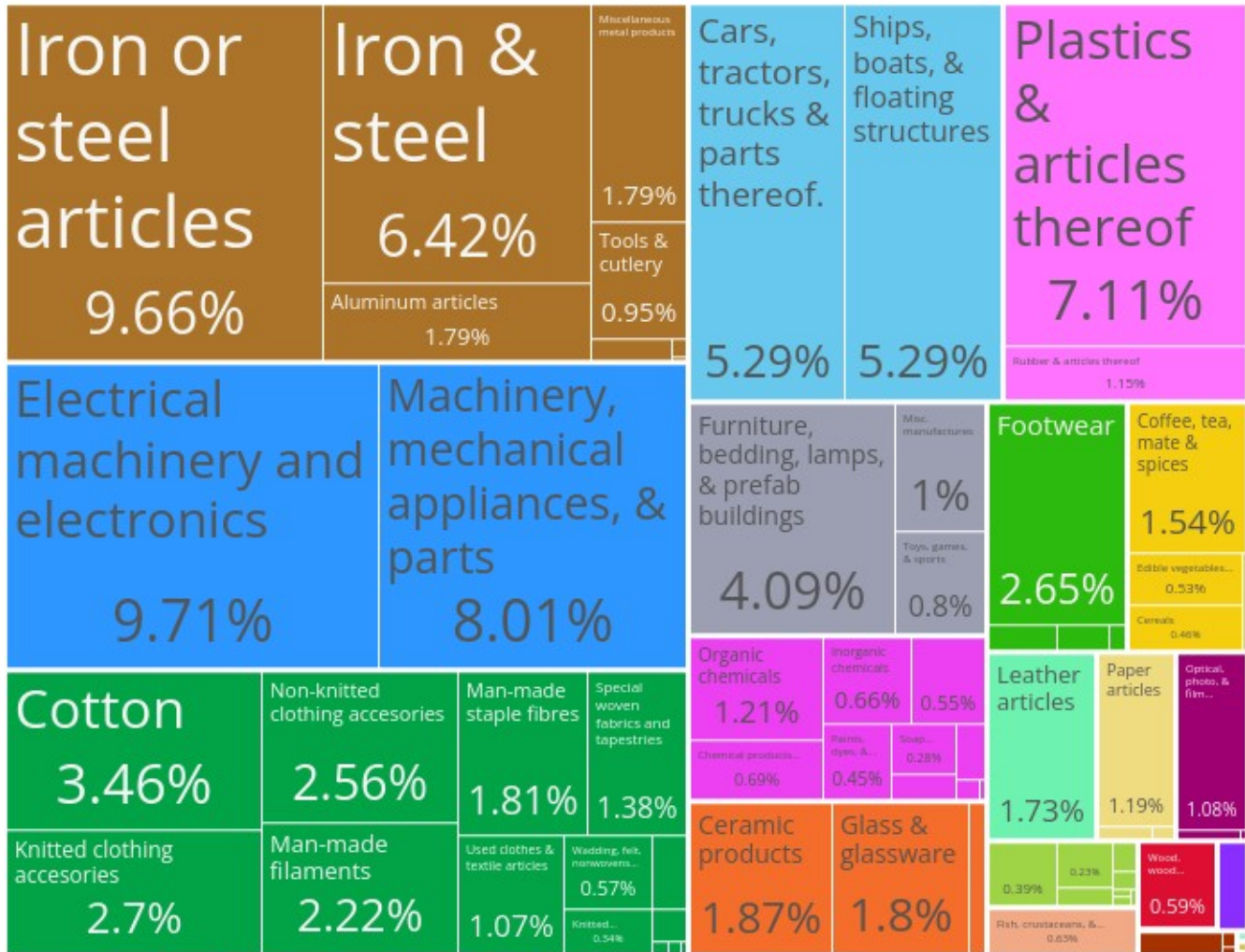
Wood, wood...



# Exports to Senegal (2022)



Total: \$3.61B



## Imports from South Sudan (2022)



Total: \$237M

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation

100%

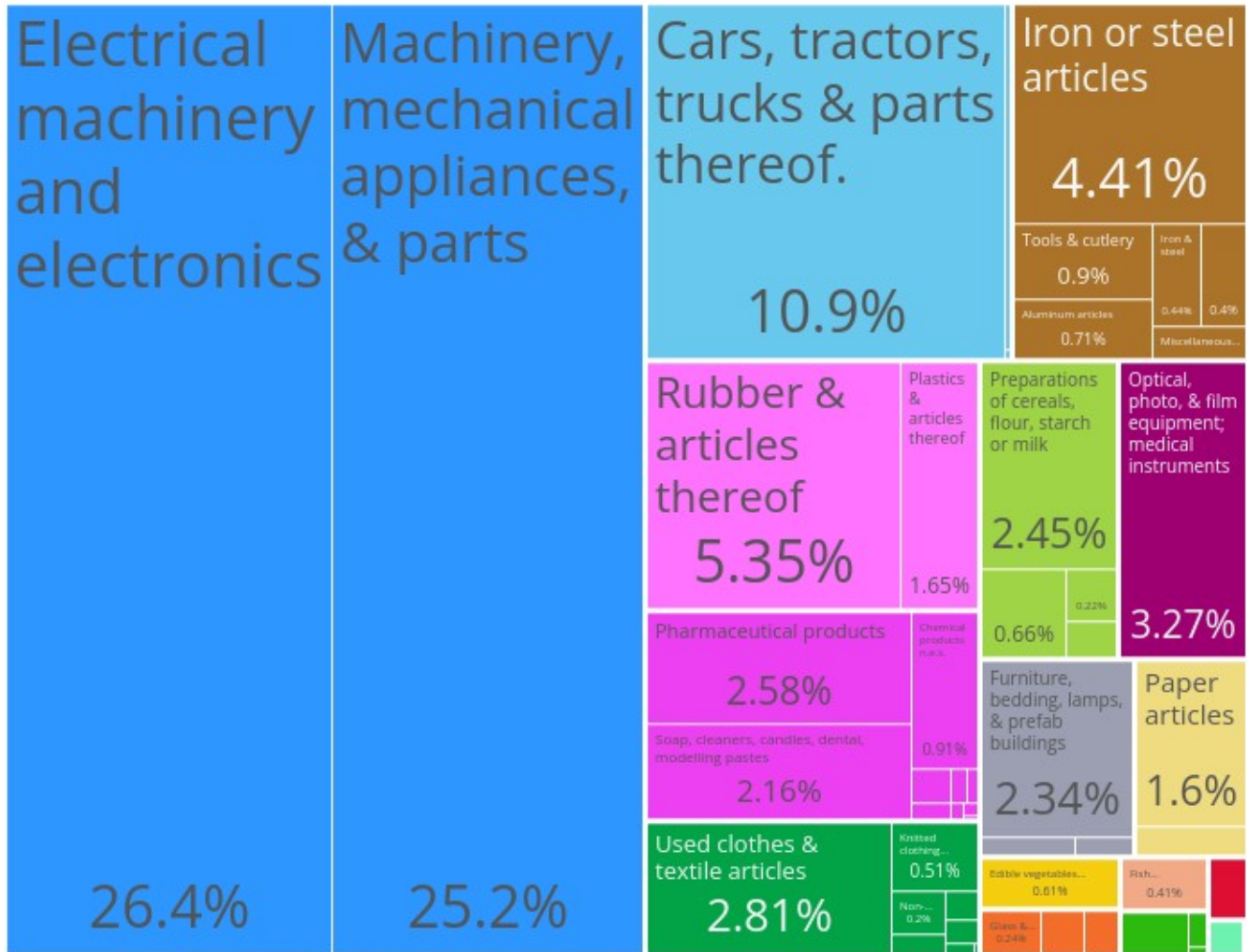




## Exports to South Sudan (2022)



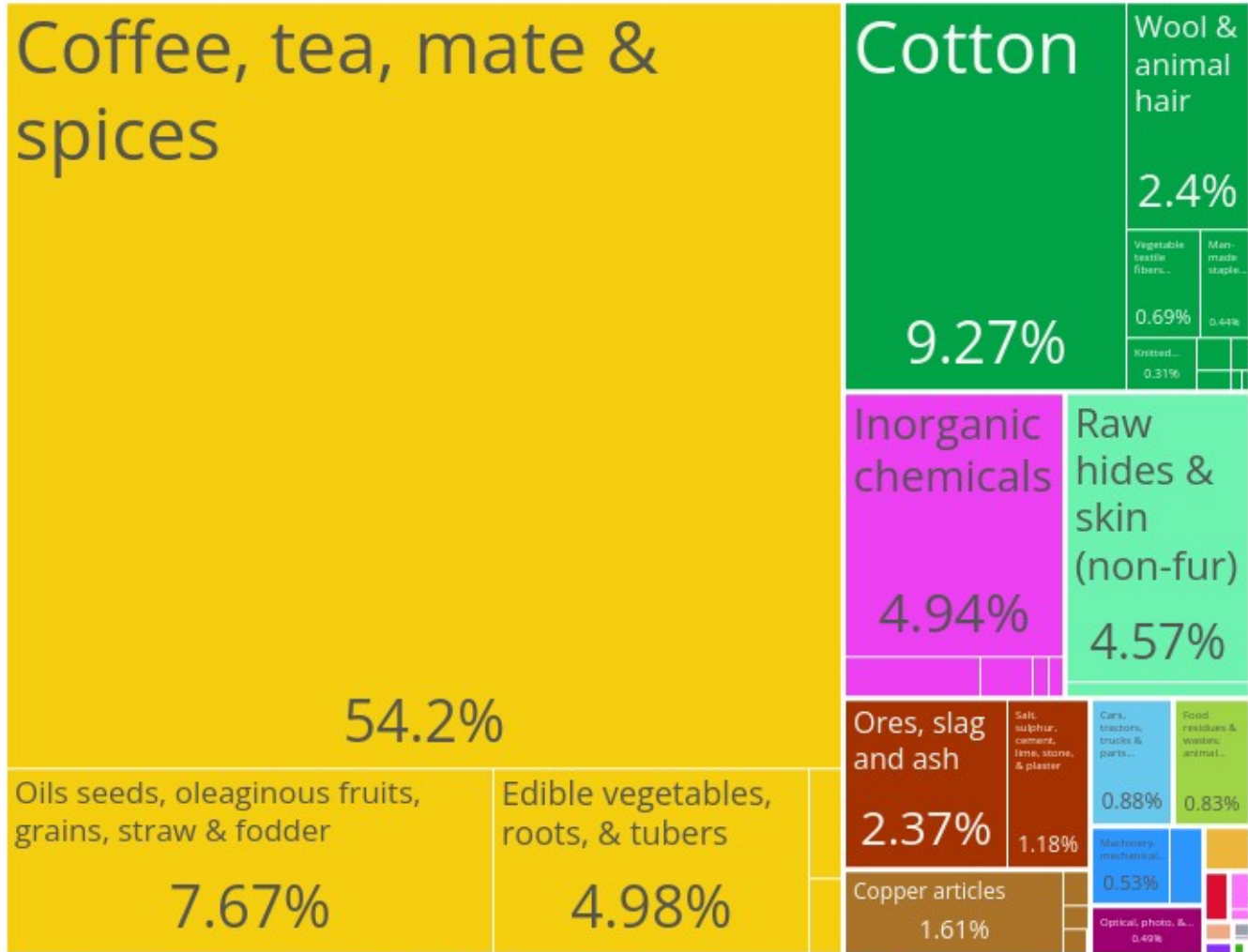
Total: \$156M



# Imports from Ethiopia (2022)



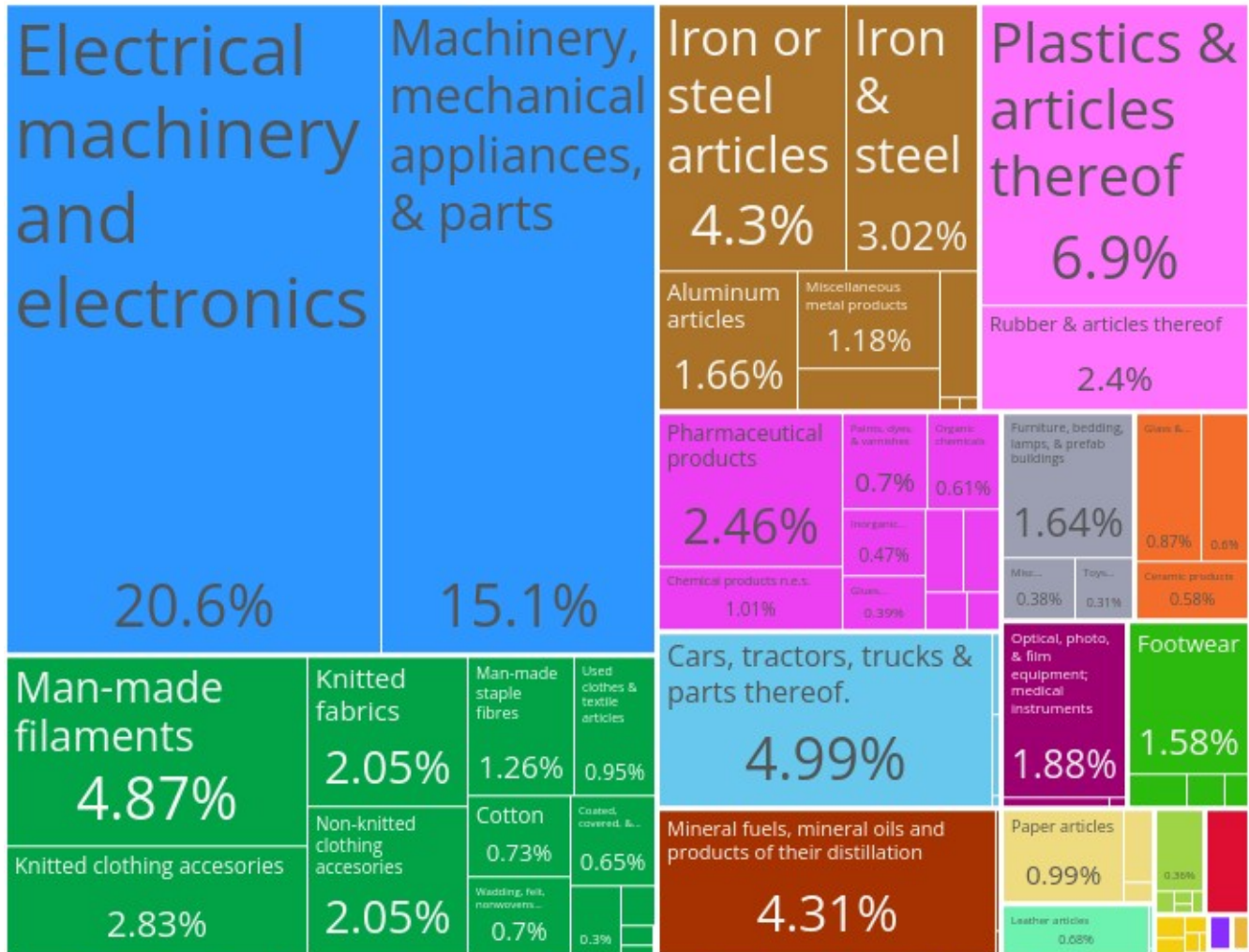
Total: \$175M



## Exports to Ethiopia (2022)



Total: \$2.92B











## Imports from Djibouti (2022)



Total: \$90M

Inorganic chemicals

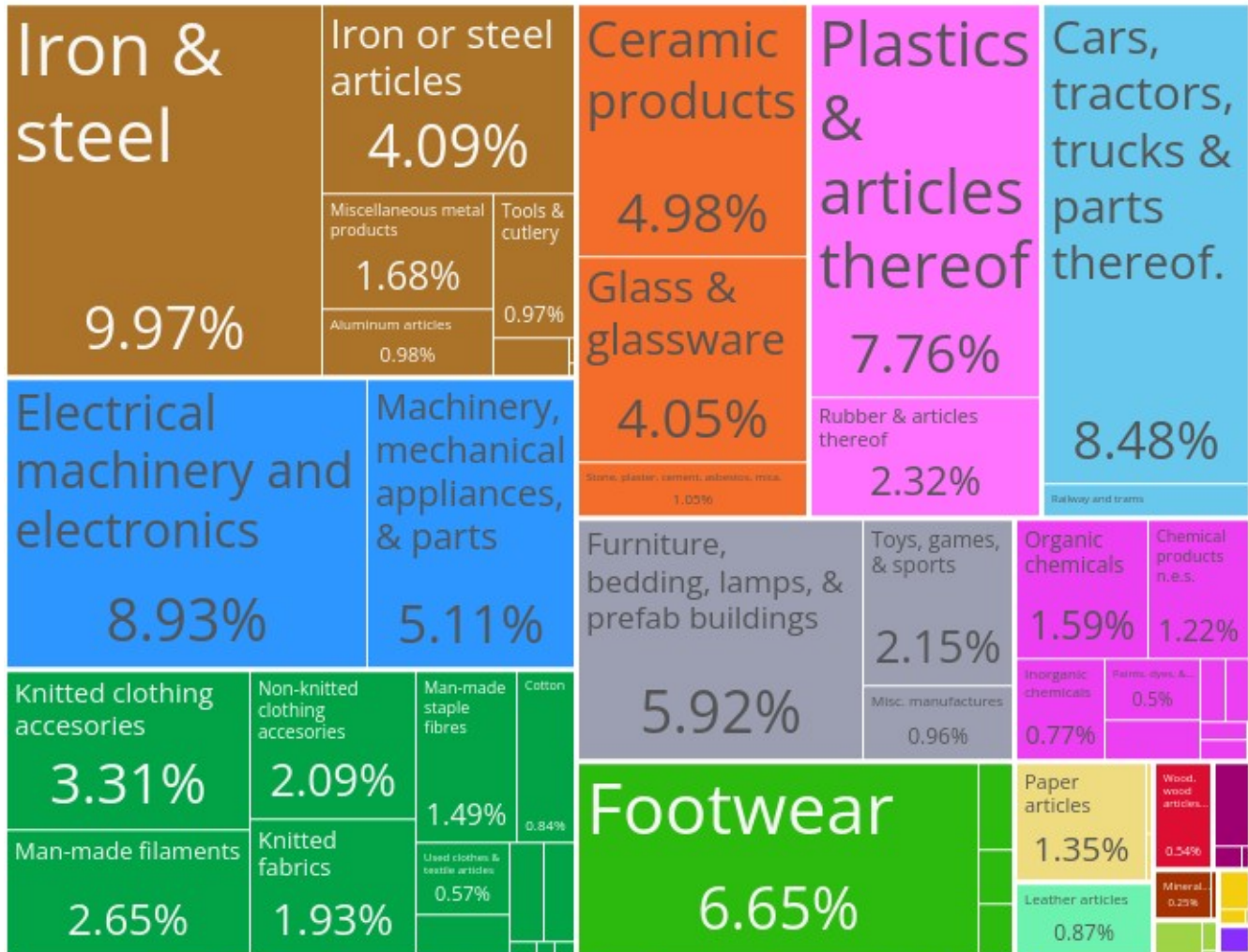
100%



## Exports to Djibouti (2022)



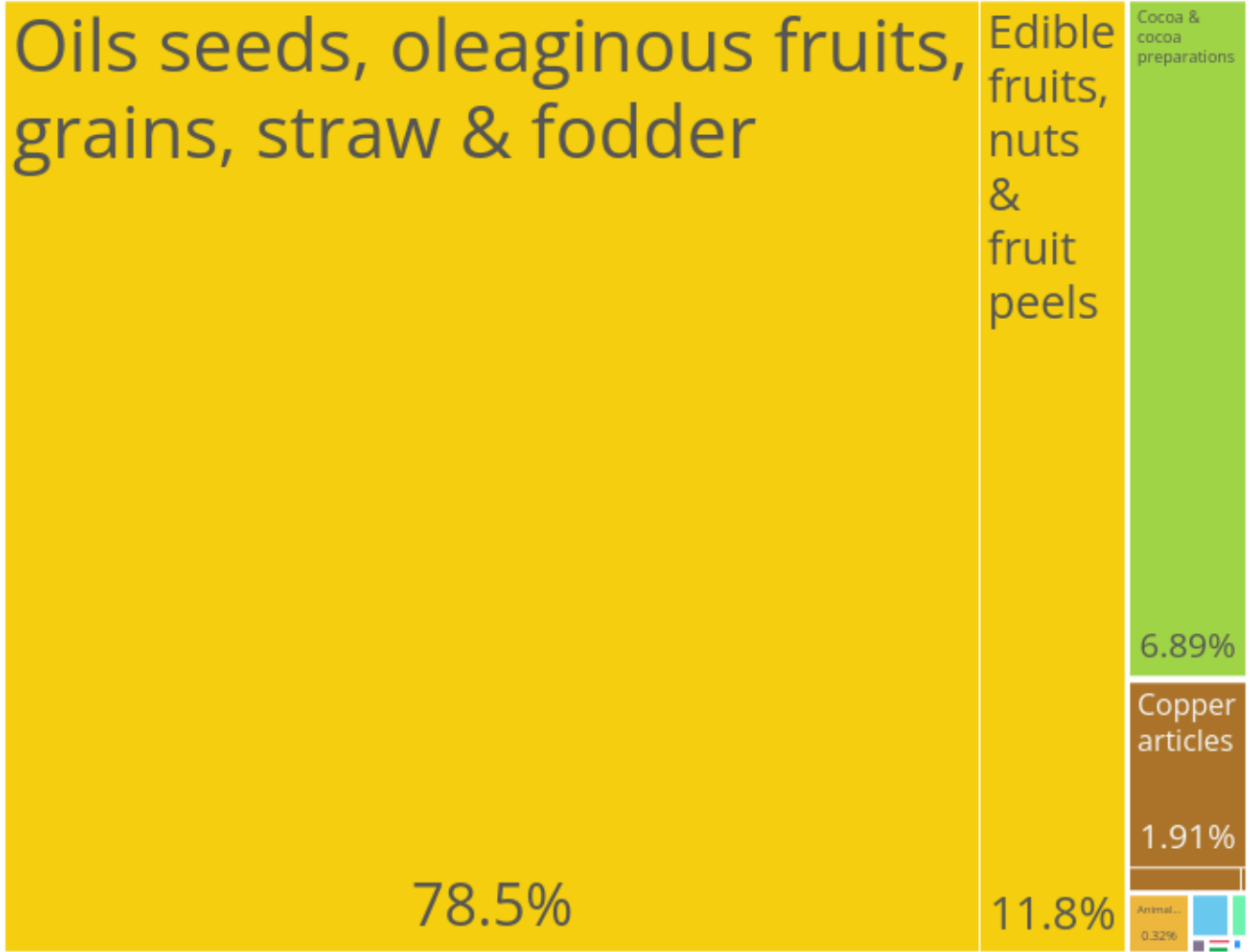
Total: \$3.26B



# Imports from Togo (2022)



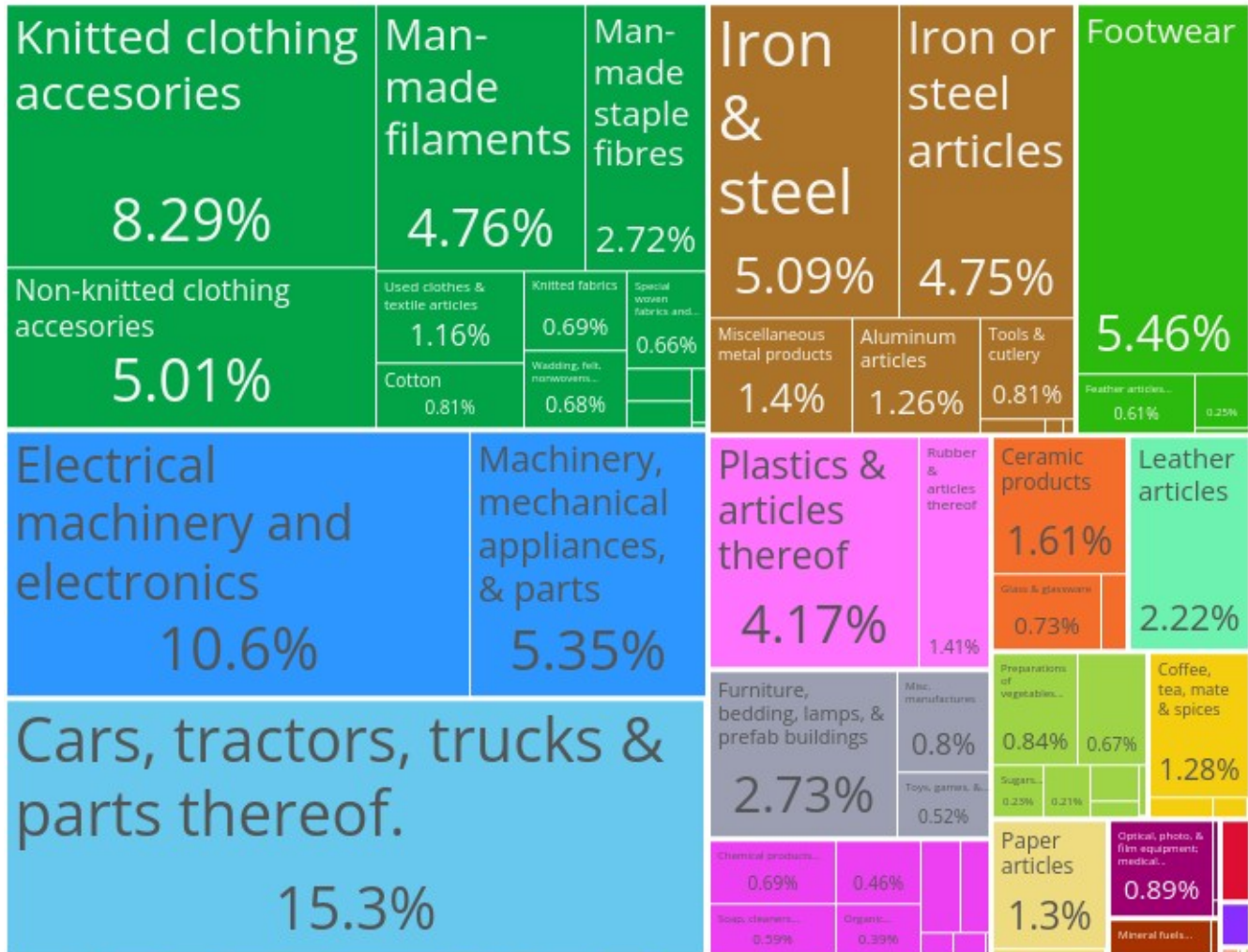
Total: \$82.2M



## Exports to Togo (2022)



Total: \$2.94B



## Imports from Burkina Faso (2022)



Total: \$81.8M

Cotton

61.4%

Ores, slag  
and ash

22.7%

Oils seeds,  
oleaginous  
fruits, grains,  
straw & fodder

15.7%







# Imports from Mali (2022)



Total: \$77.5M

Wood, wood articles, & charcoal

36.1%

Cotton

18.7%

Oils seeds, oleaginous fruits, grains, straw & fodder

35.4%

Ores, slag and ash

5.4%

Salt, sulphur, cement, lime, stone, & plaster

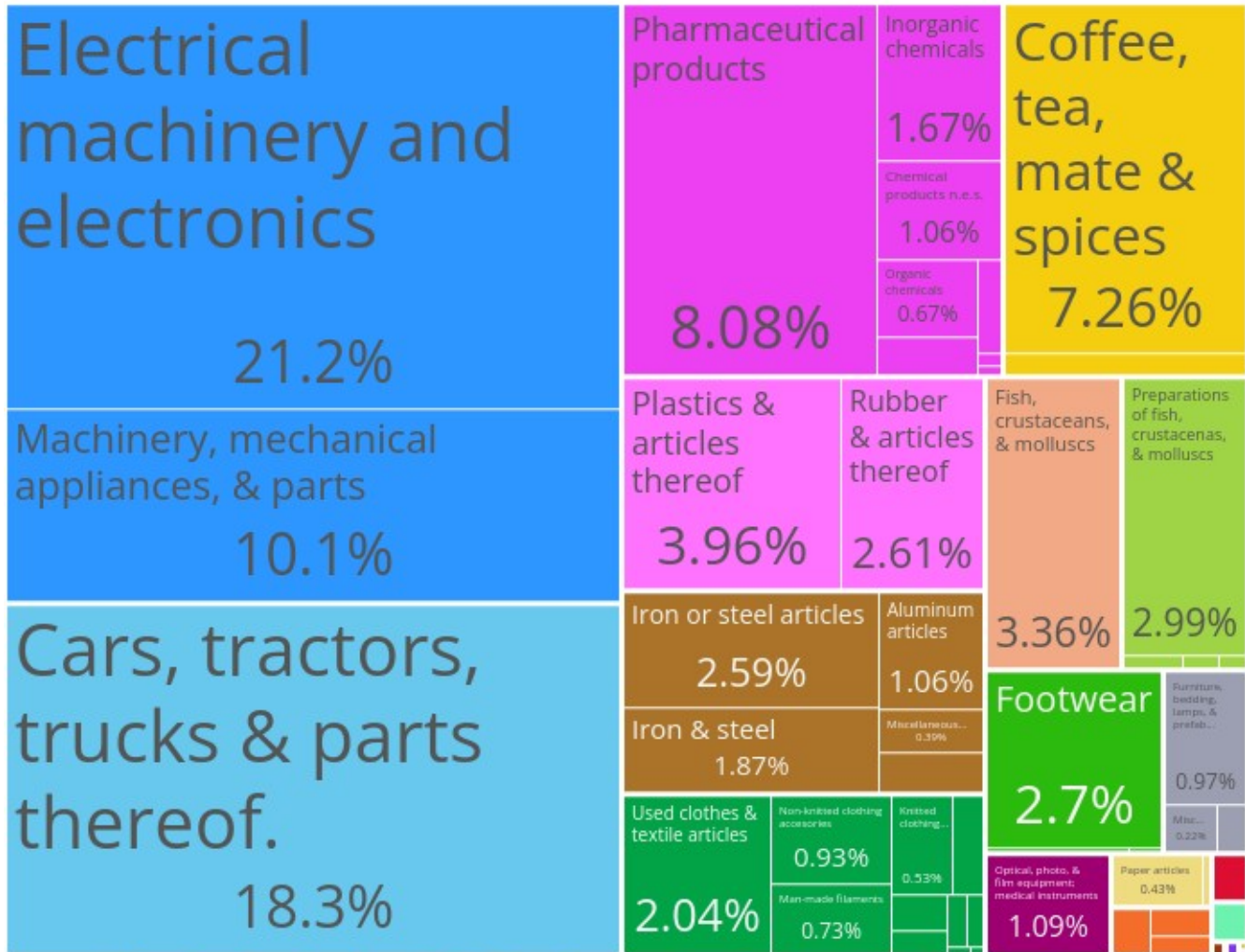
3.43%



## Exports to Mali (2022)



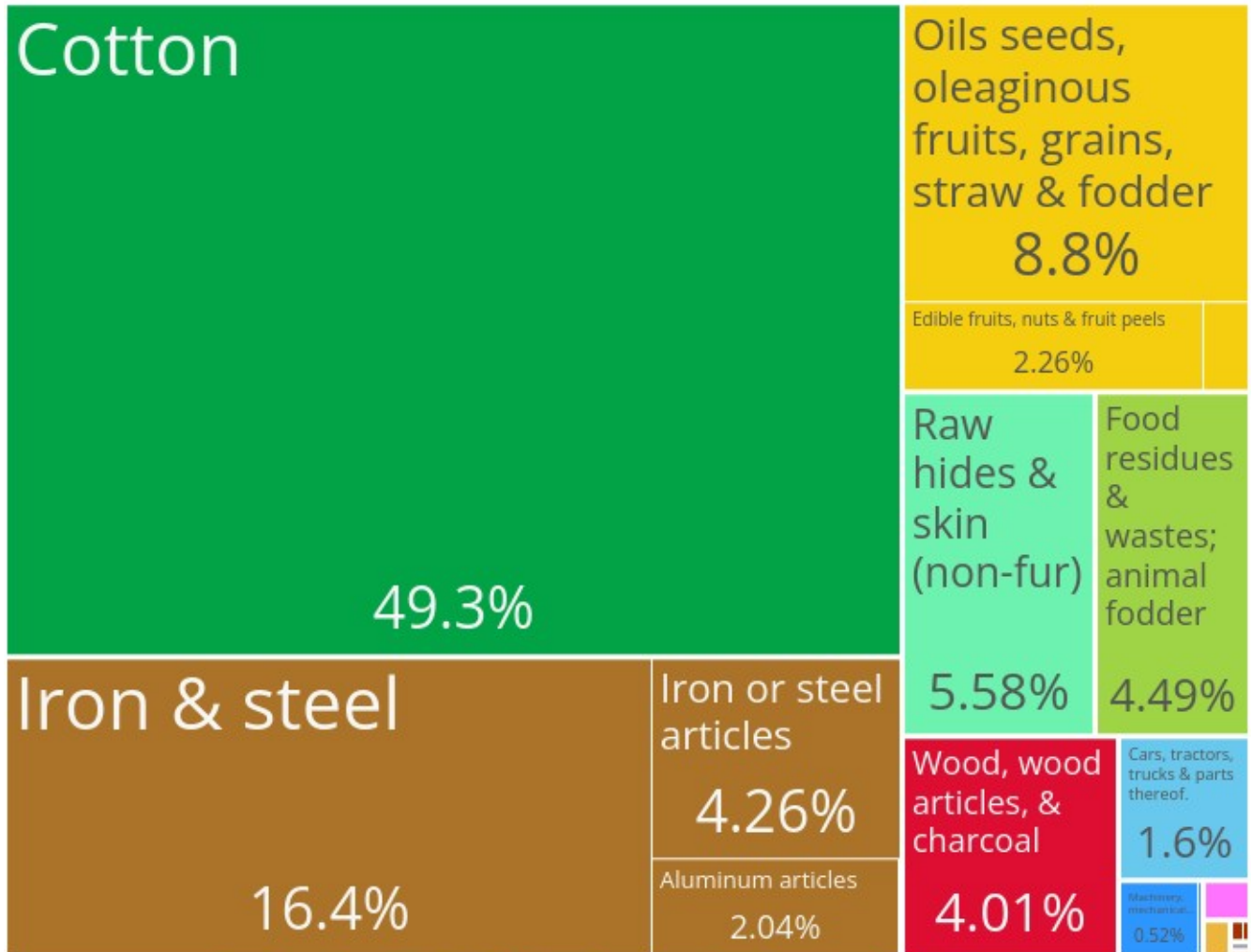
Total: \$581M



# Imports from Benin (2022)



Total: \$60.2M

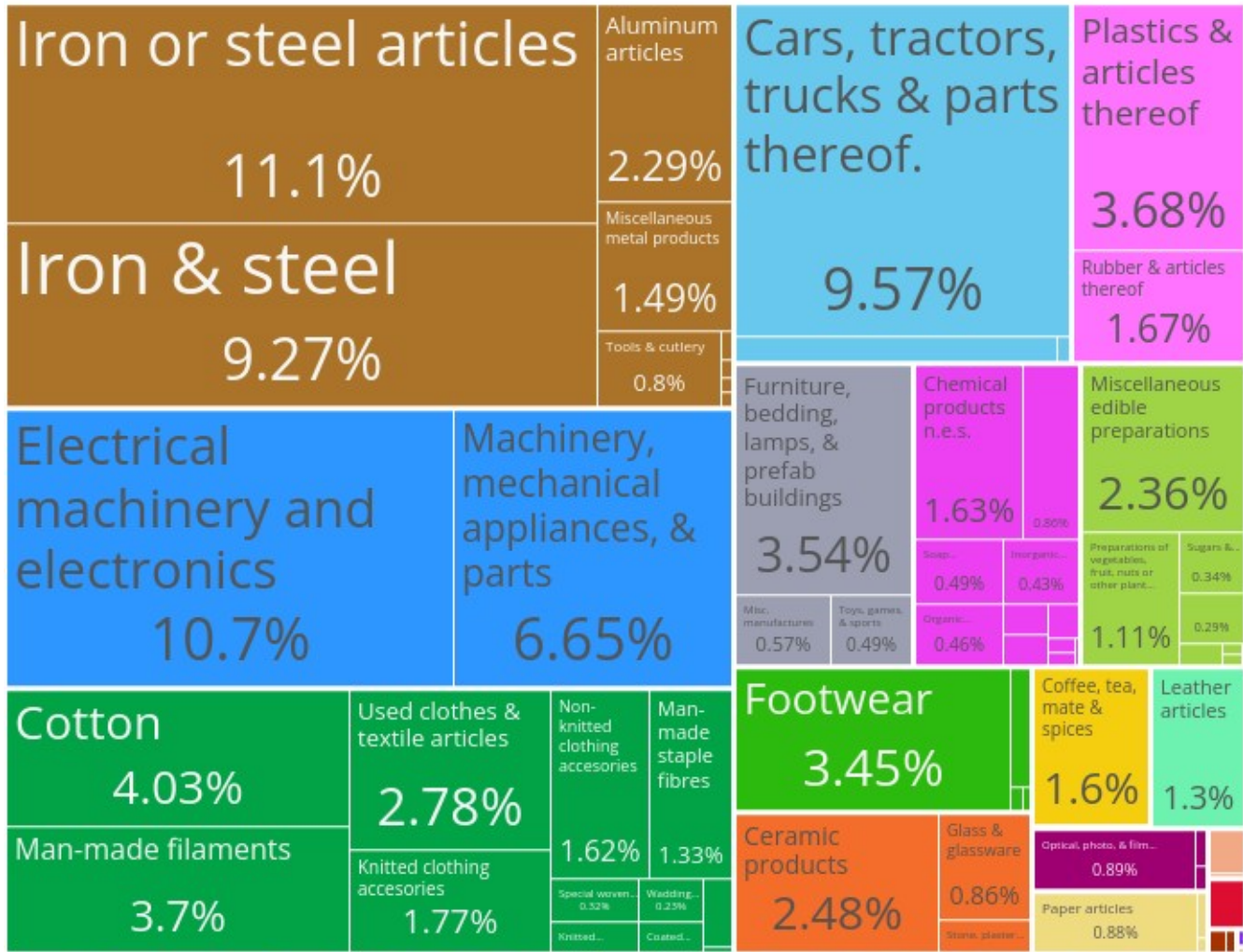




# Exports to Benin (2022)



Total: \$1.49B

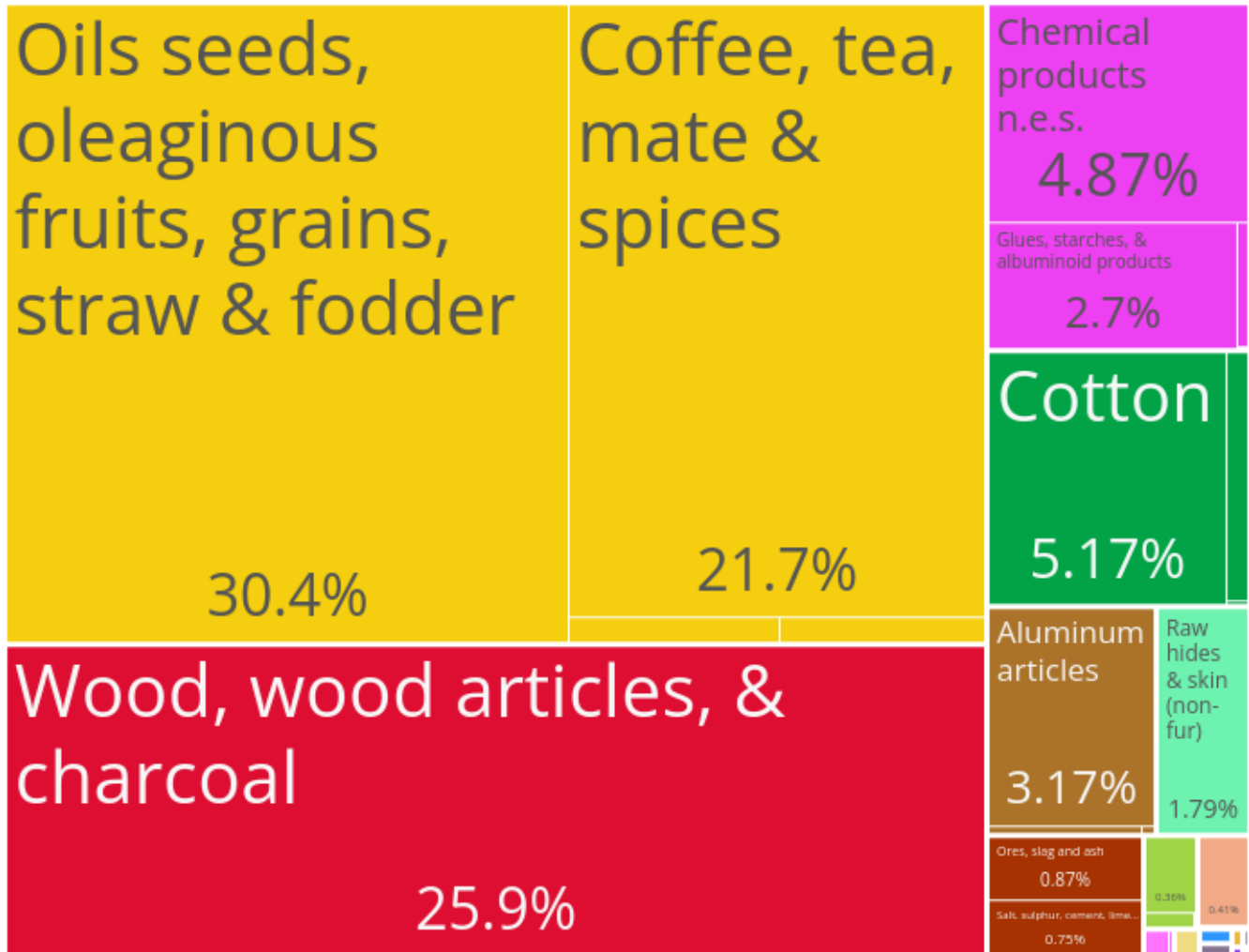




## Imports from Uganda (2022)



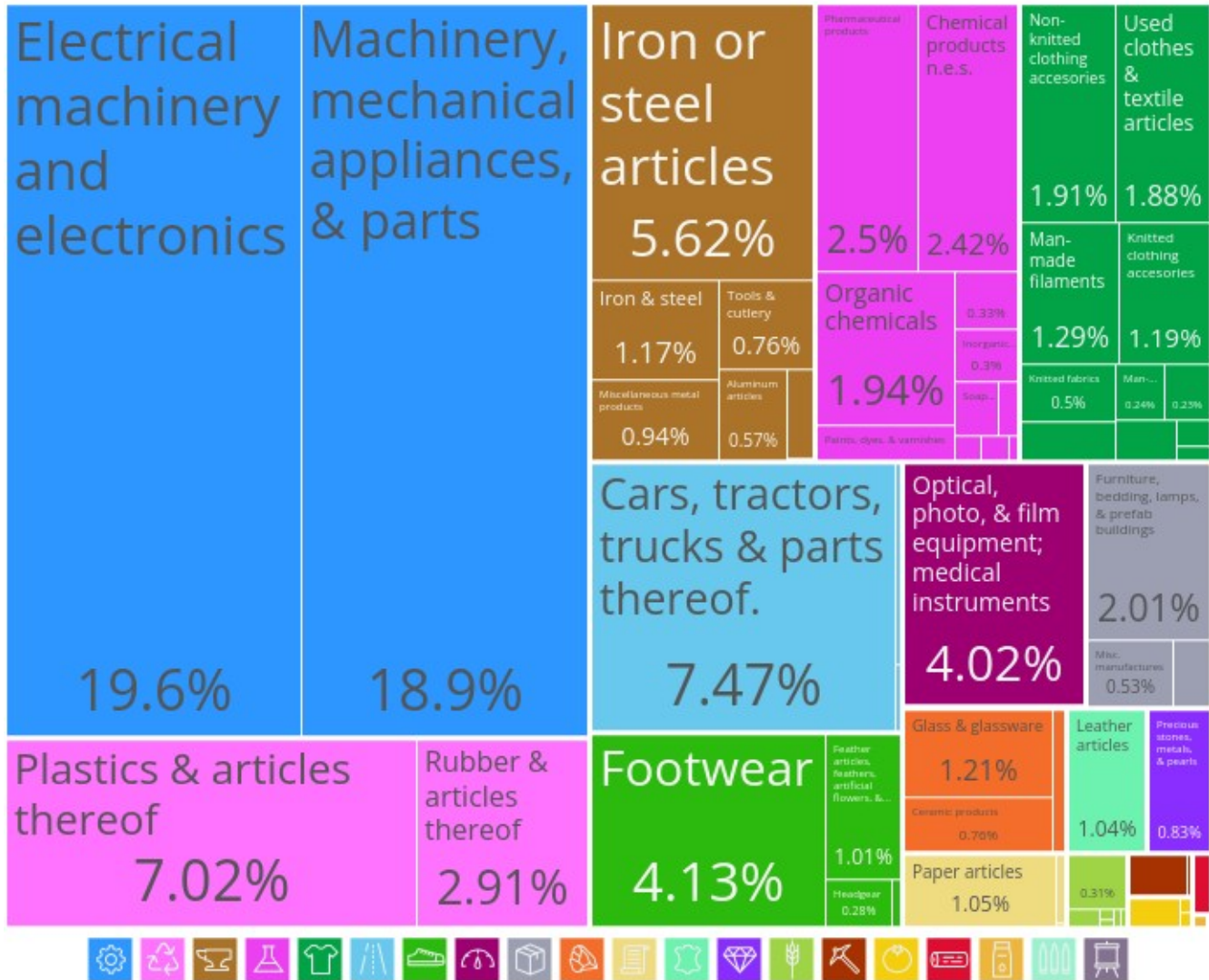
Total: \$54M



# Exports to Uganda (2022)



Total: \$1.08B



# Imports from Rwanda (2022)



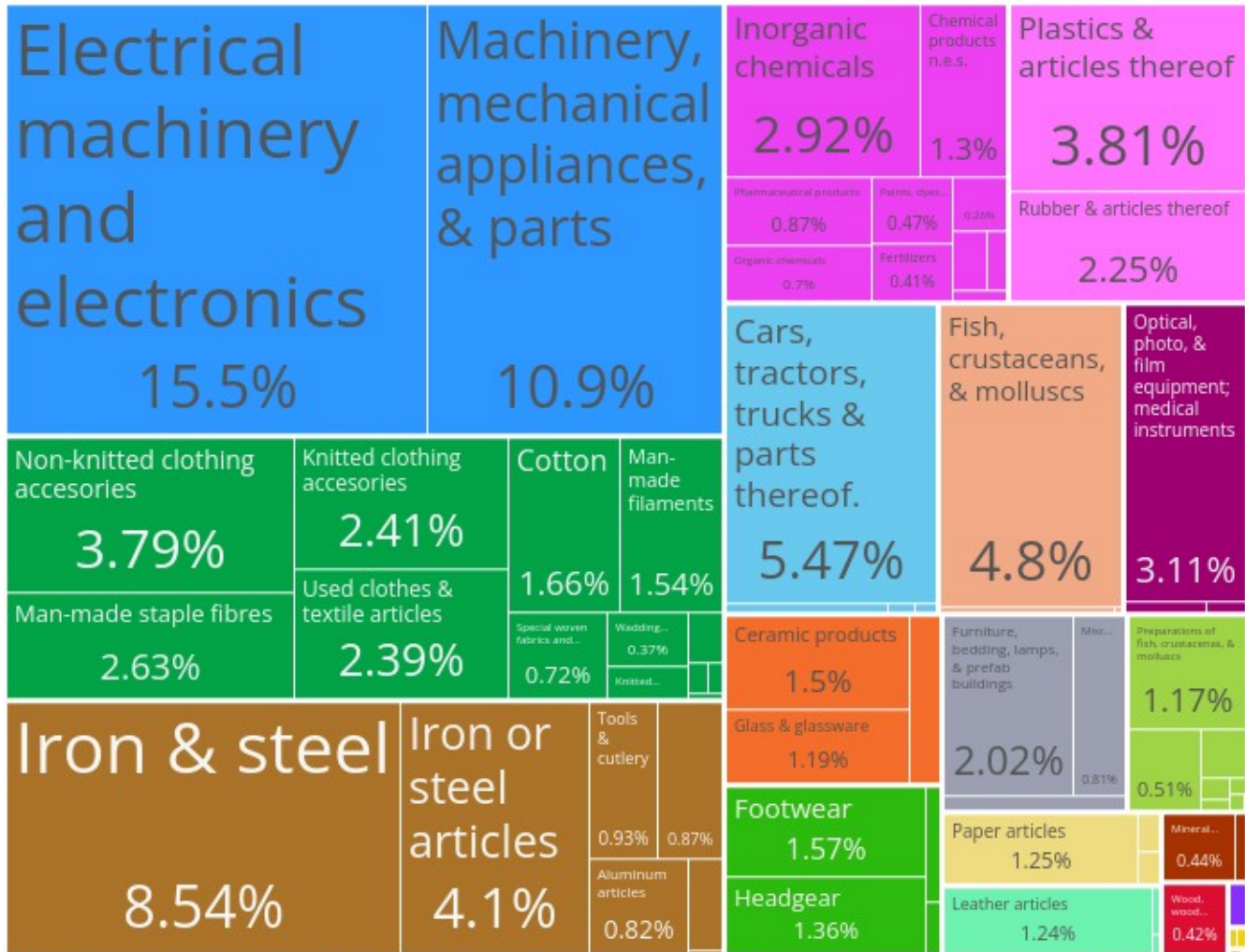
Total: \$40M



# Exports to Rwanda (2022)



Total: \$808M



## Imports from Gambia (2022)



Total: \$38.7M

Wood, wood articles, & charcoal

74.4%

Ores, slag and ash

15.1%

Oils seeds, oleaginous fruits, grains, straw & fodder

9.71%

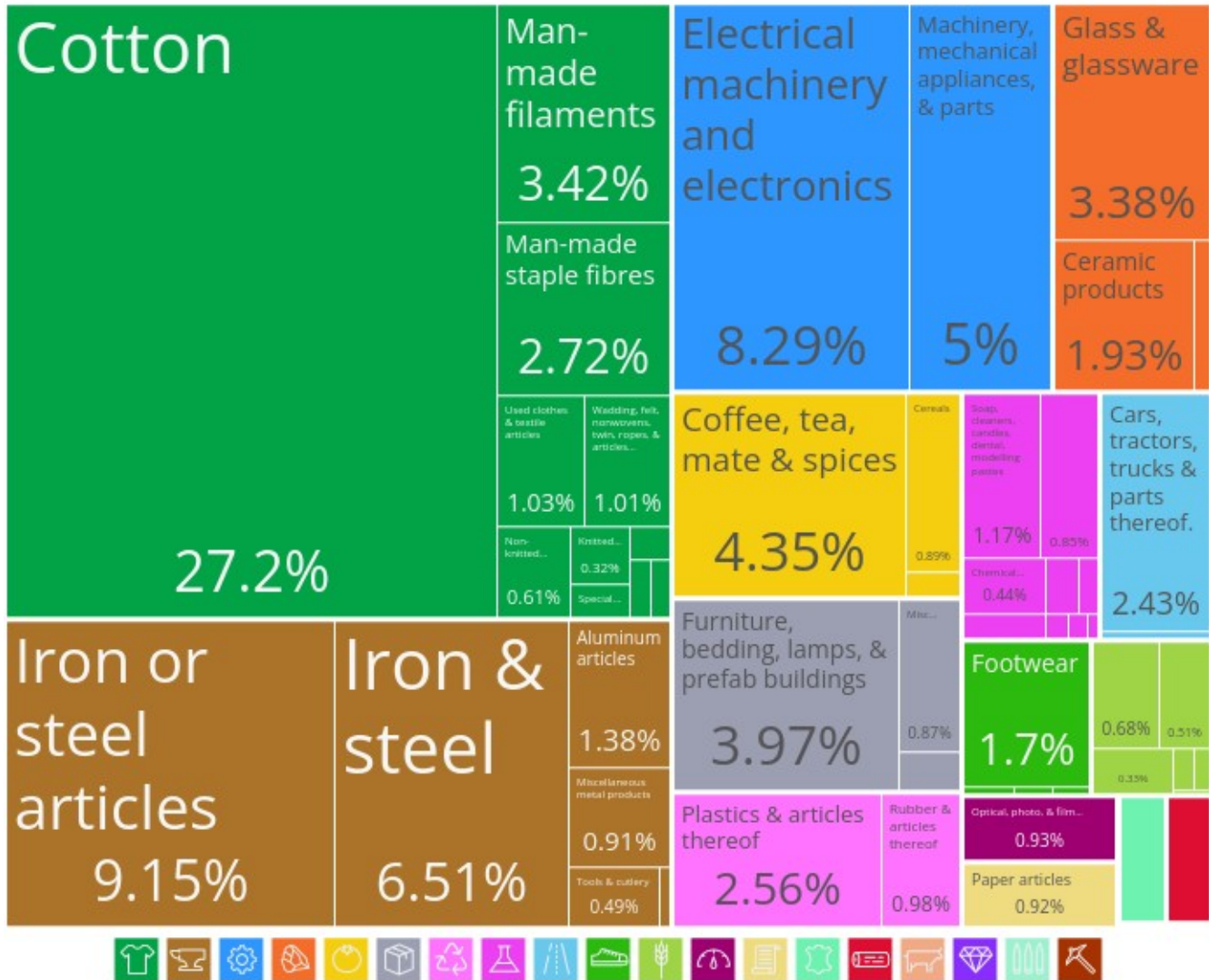




# Exports to Gambia (2022)



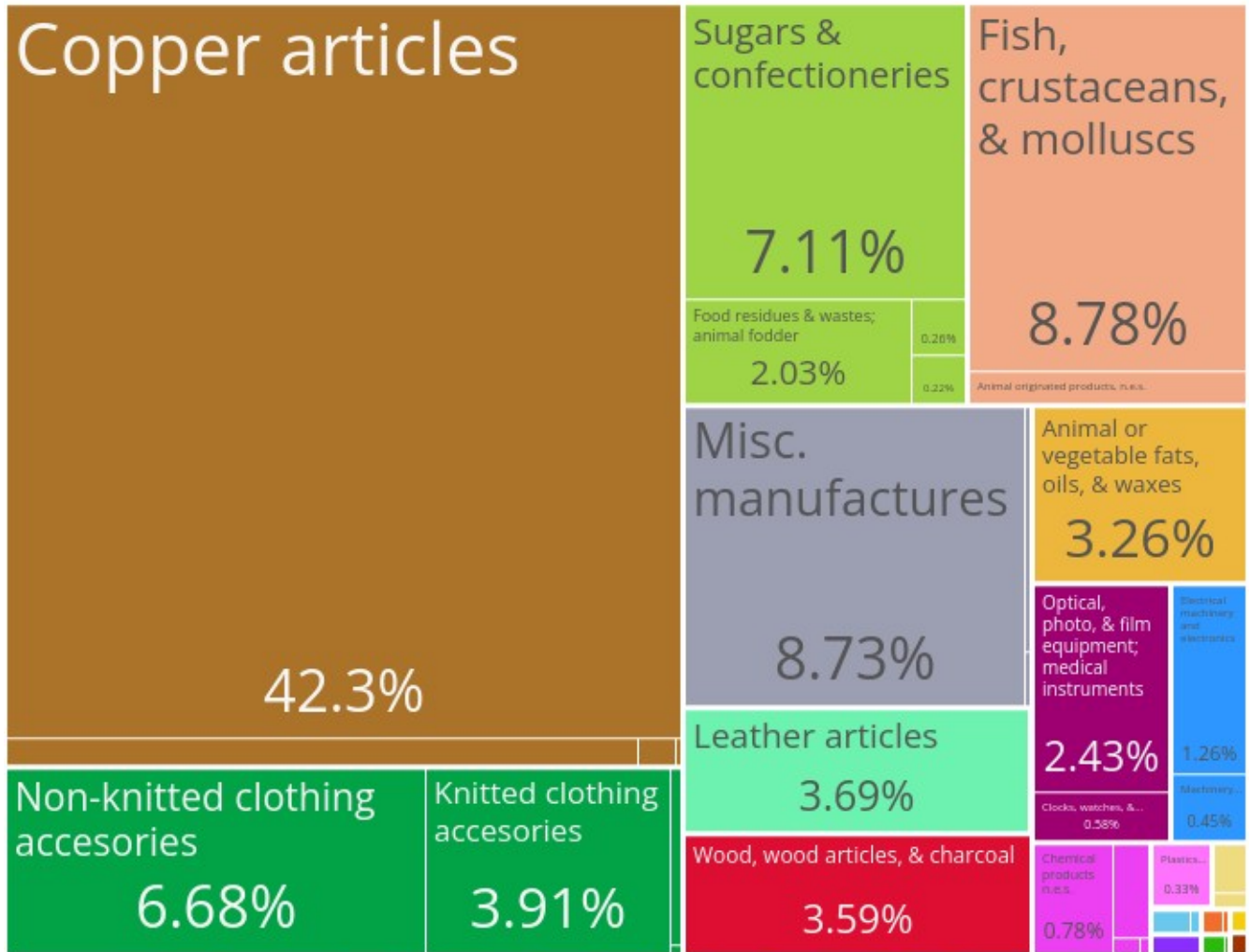
Total: \$454M



# Imports from Mauritius (2022)



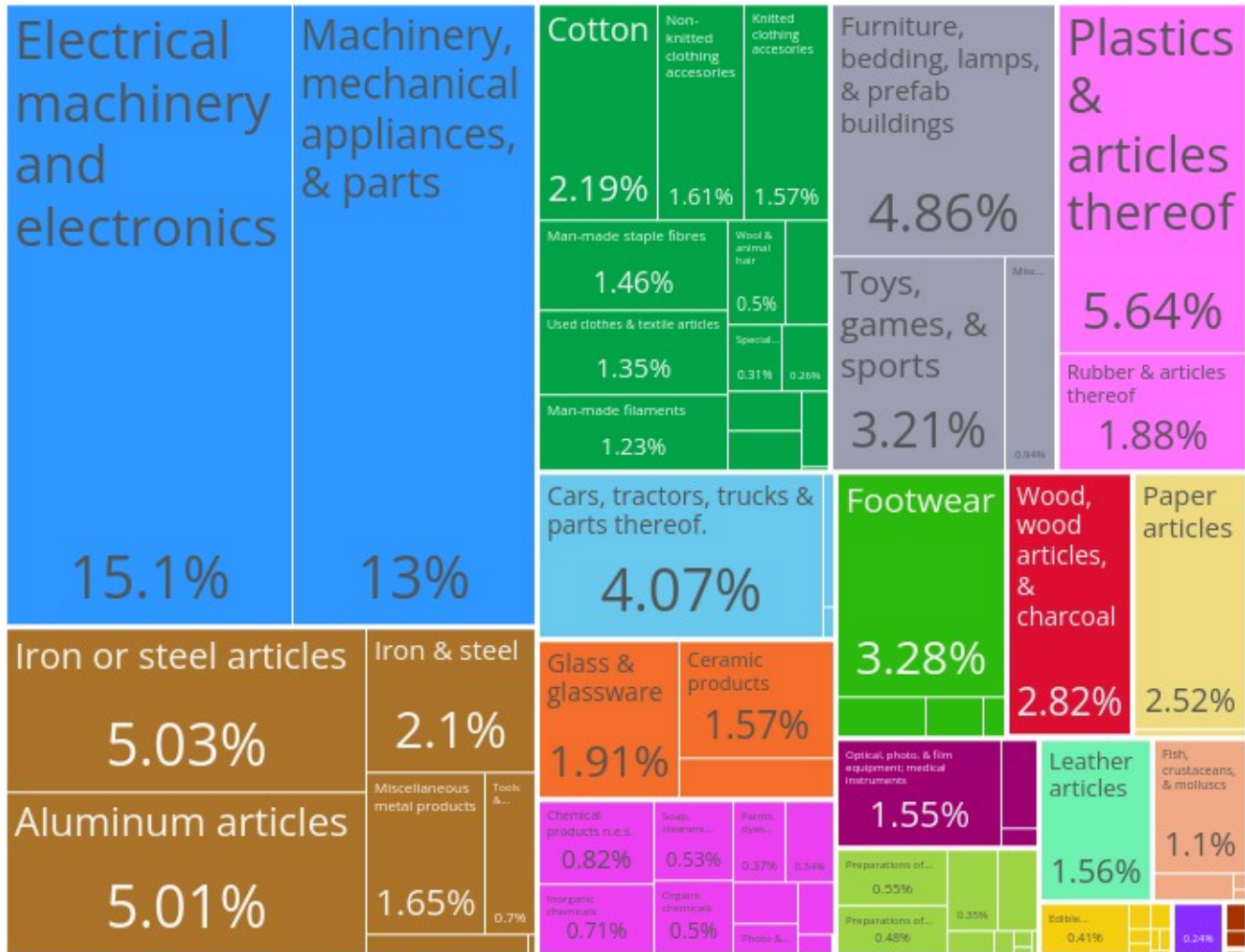
Total: \$23.8M



# Exports to Mauritius (2022)



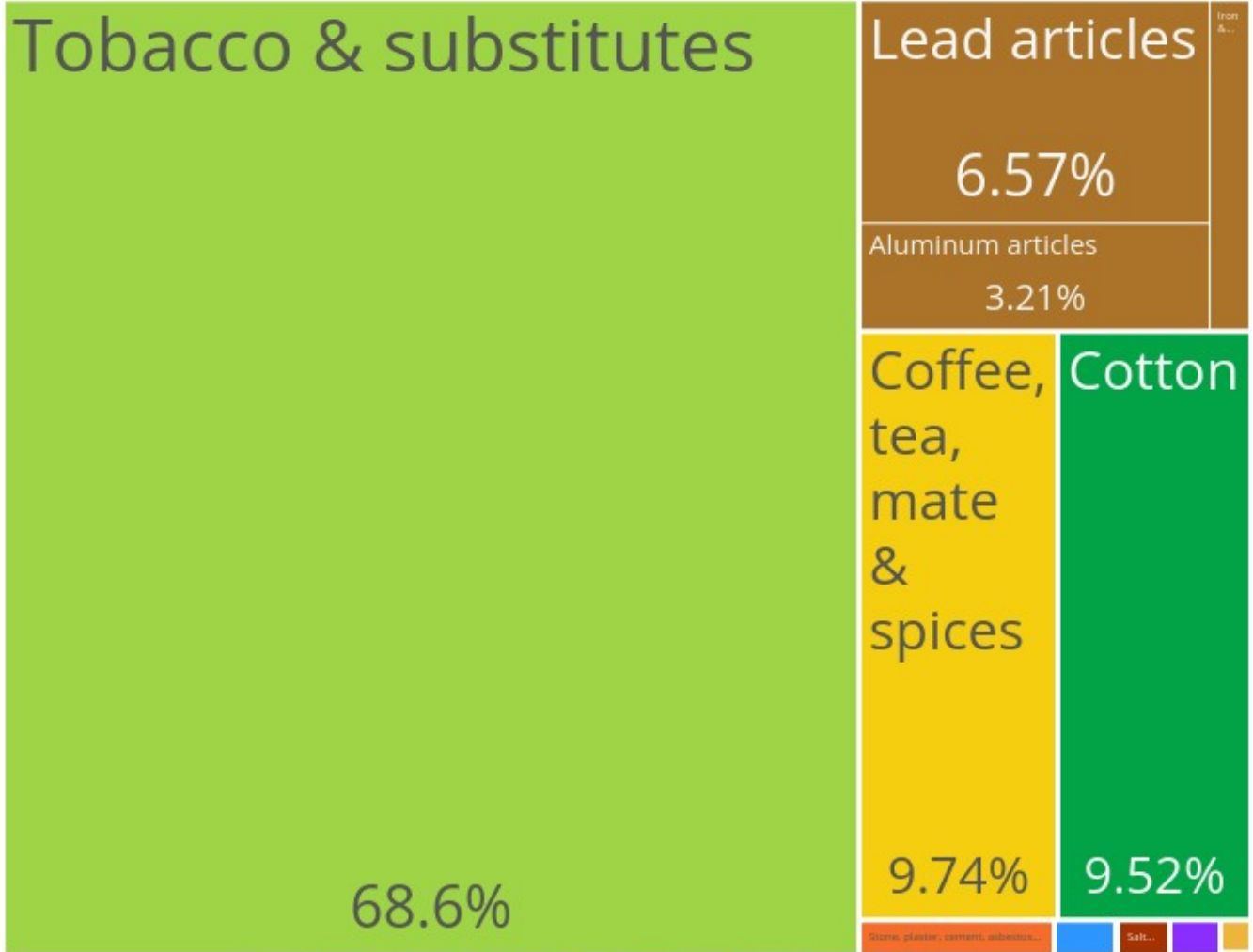
Total: \$1.12B



# Imports from Malawi (2022)



Total: \$23.2M

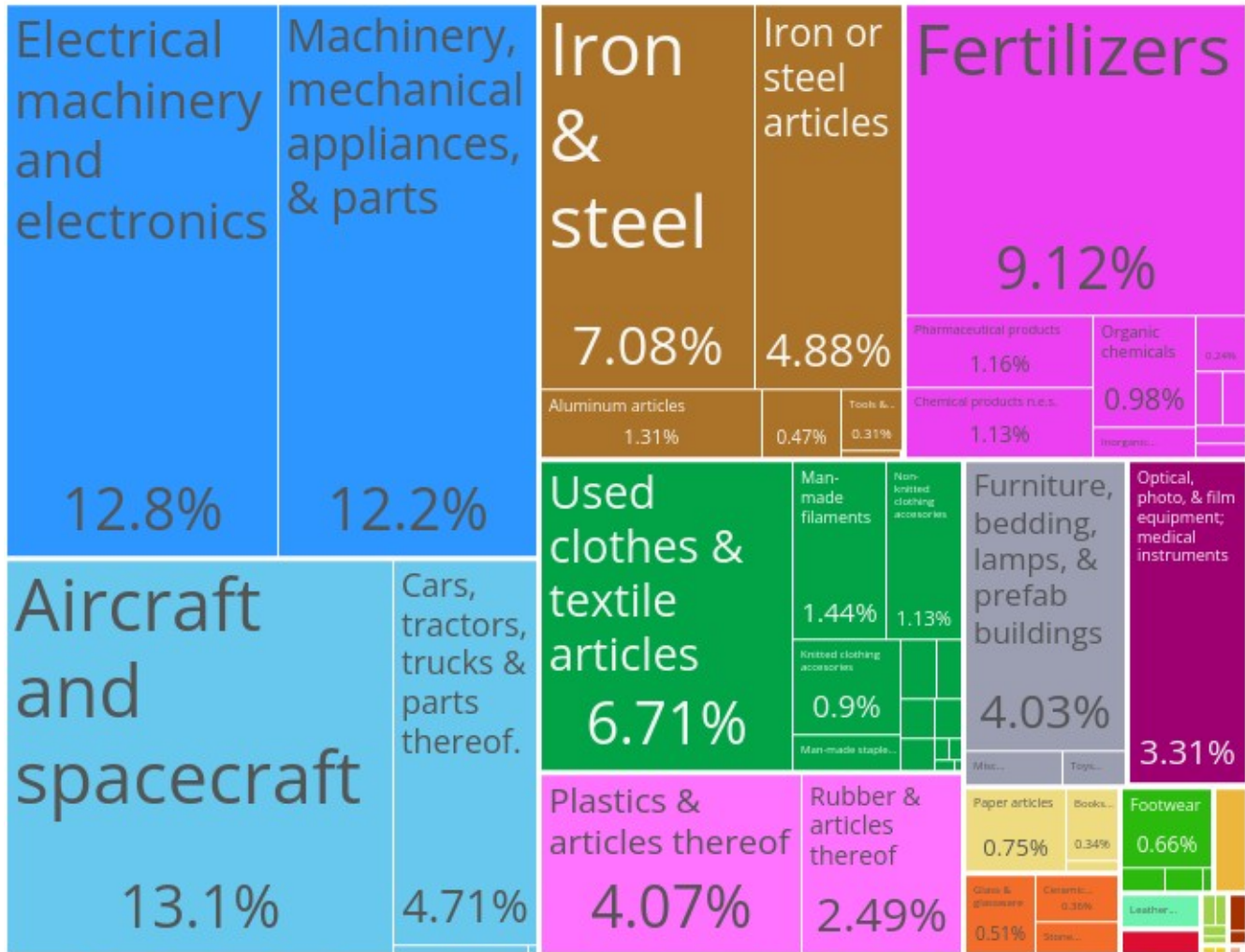




## Exports to Malawi (2022)



Total: \$333M





## Imports from Central African Republic (2022)



Total: \$22.4M

Wood, wood articles, & charcoal

95.8%

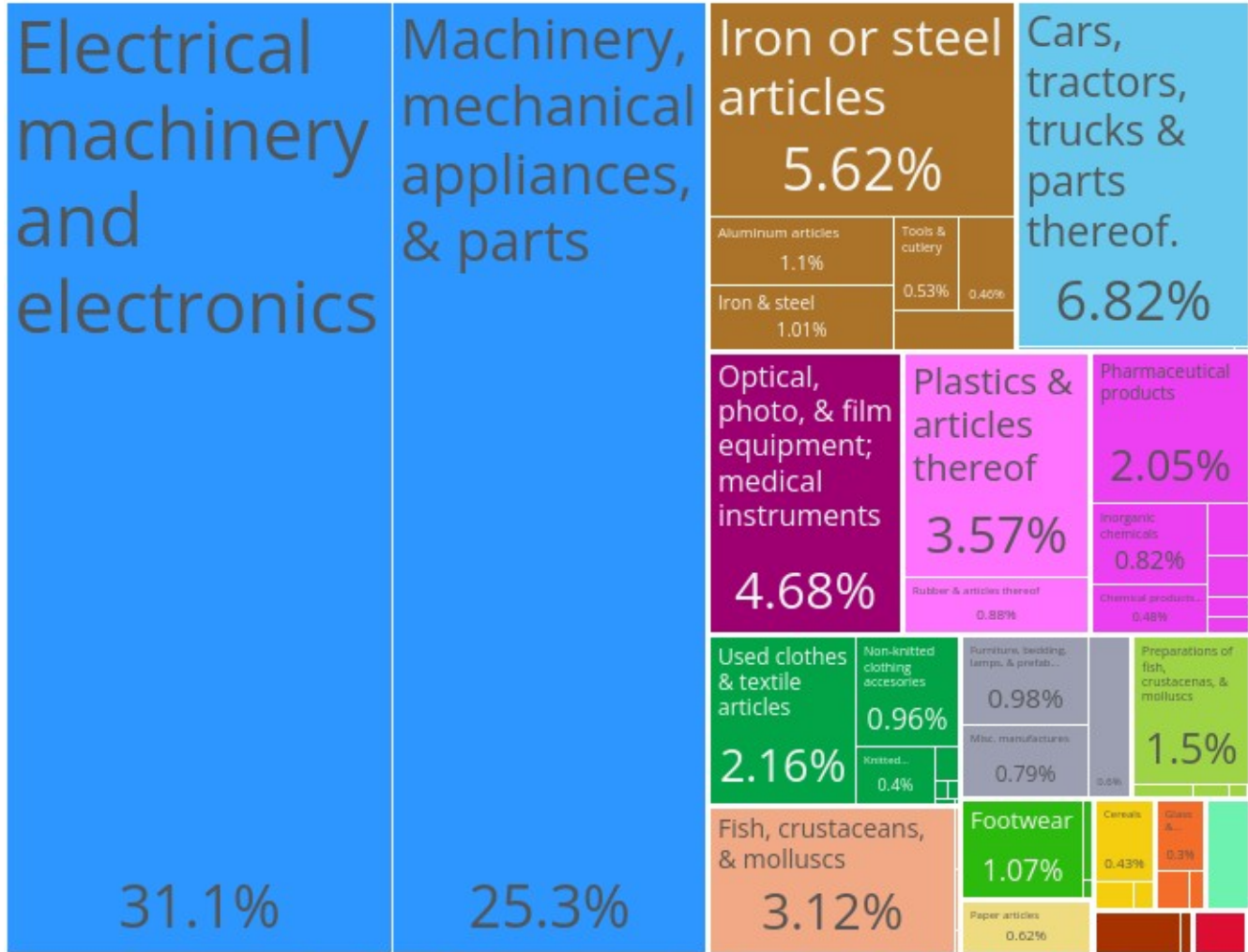
3.52%  
0.52%



# Exports to Central African Republic (2022)



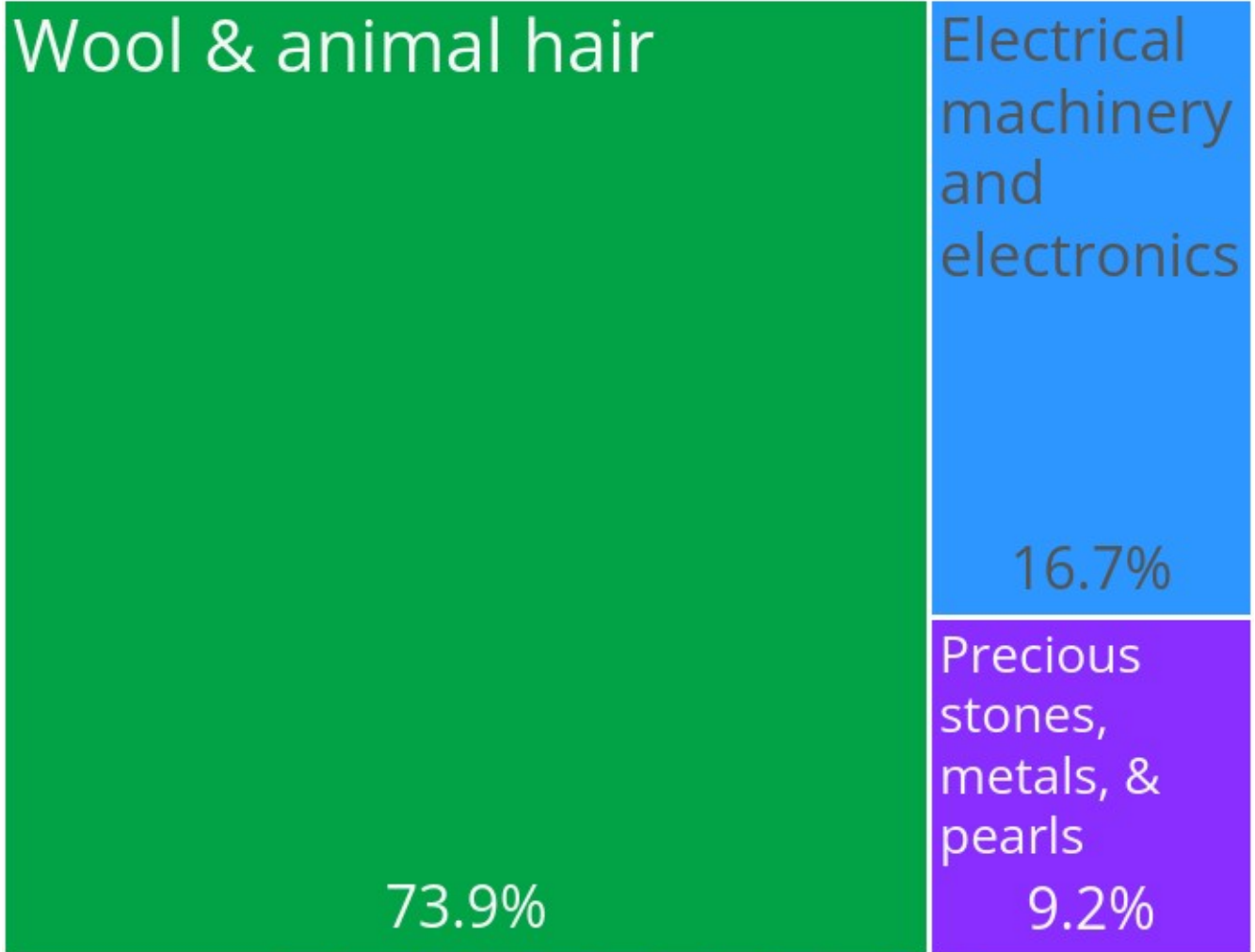
Total: \$65M



## Imports from Lesotho (2022)



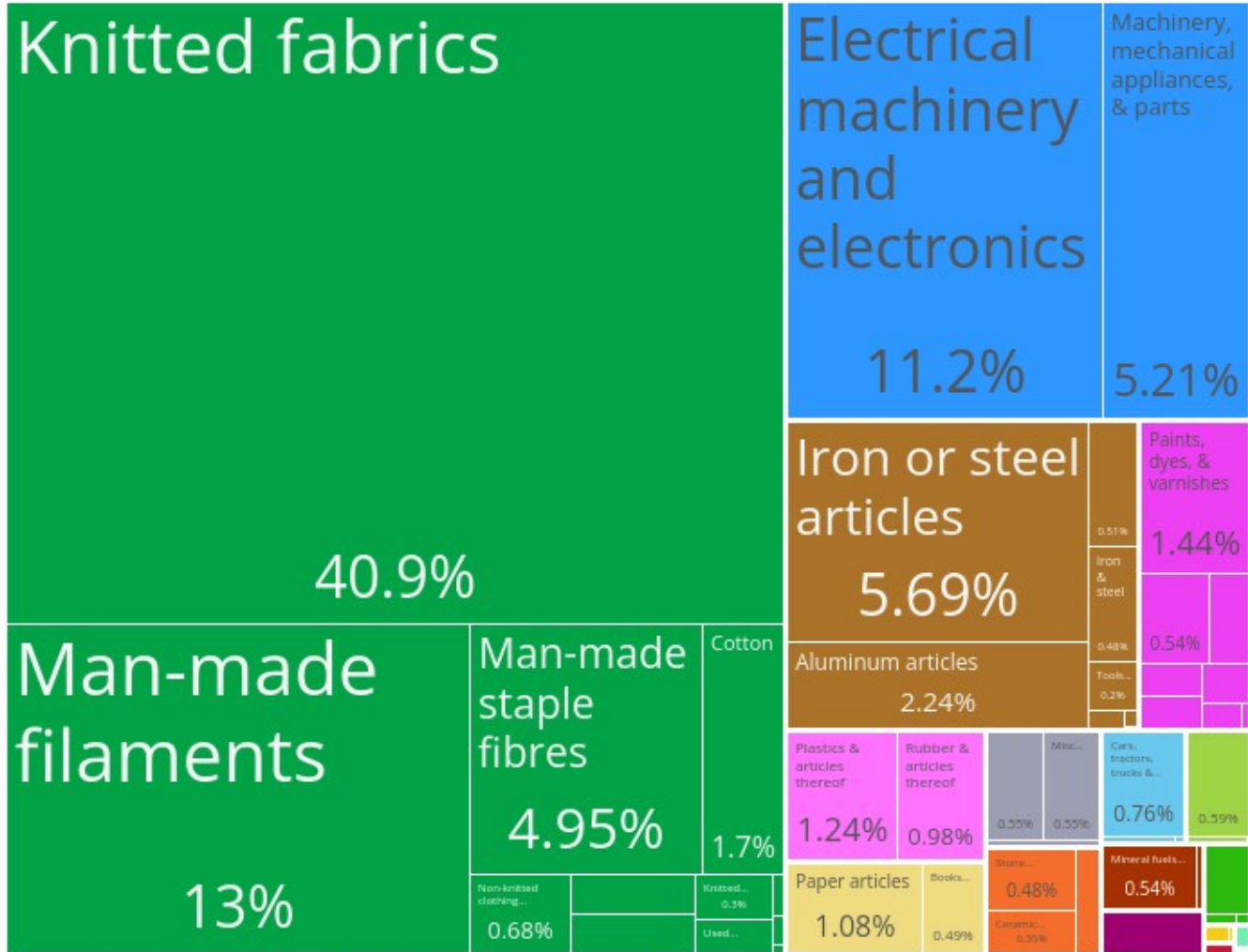
Total: \$20.9M



# Exports to Lesotho (2022)



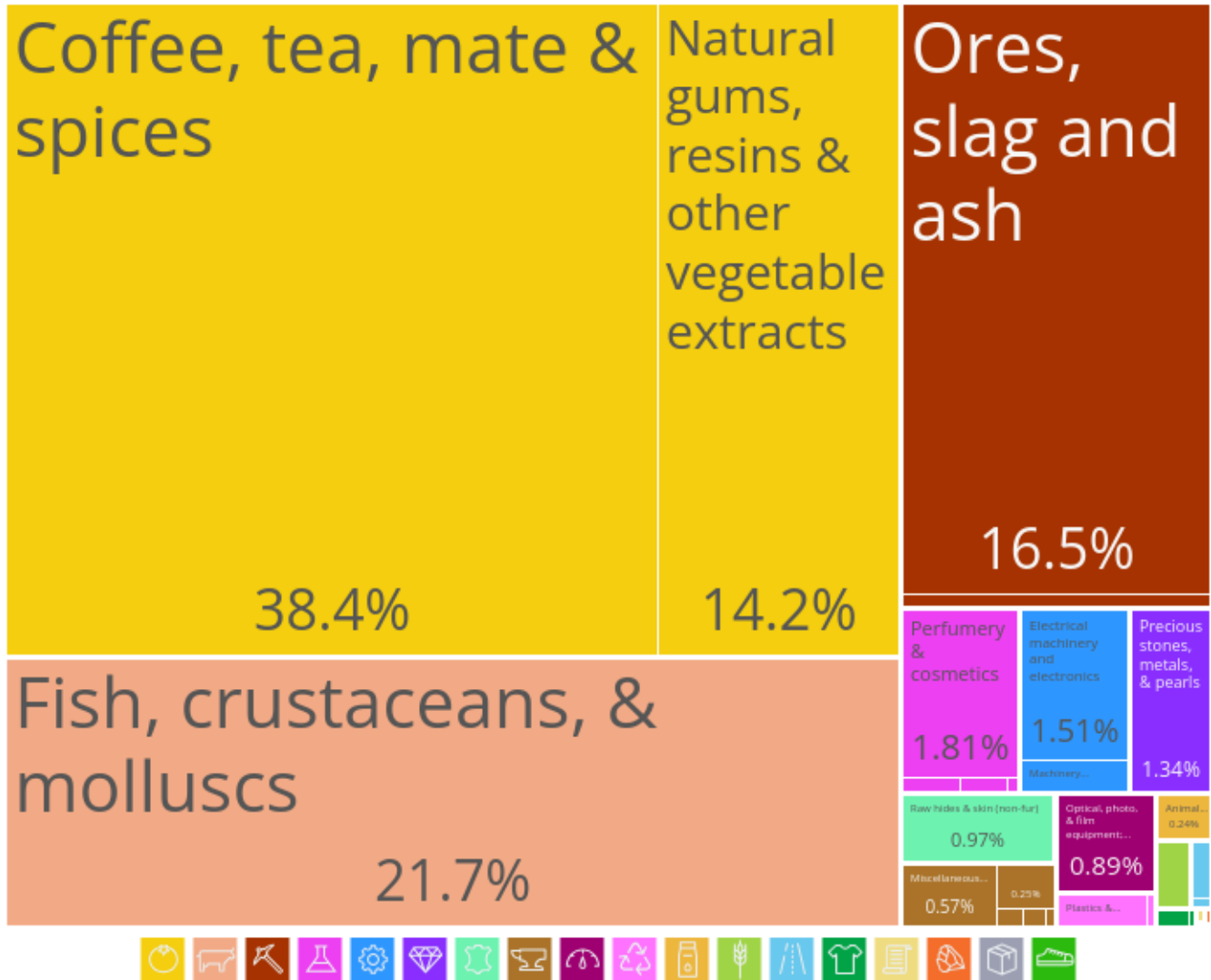
Total: \$116M



# Imports from Seychelles, Eswatini, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Comoros, Burundi (2022)



Total: \$17.6M

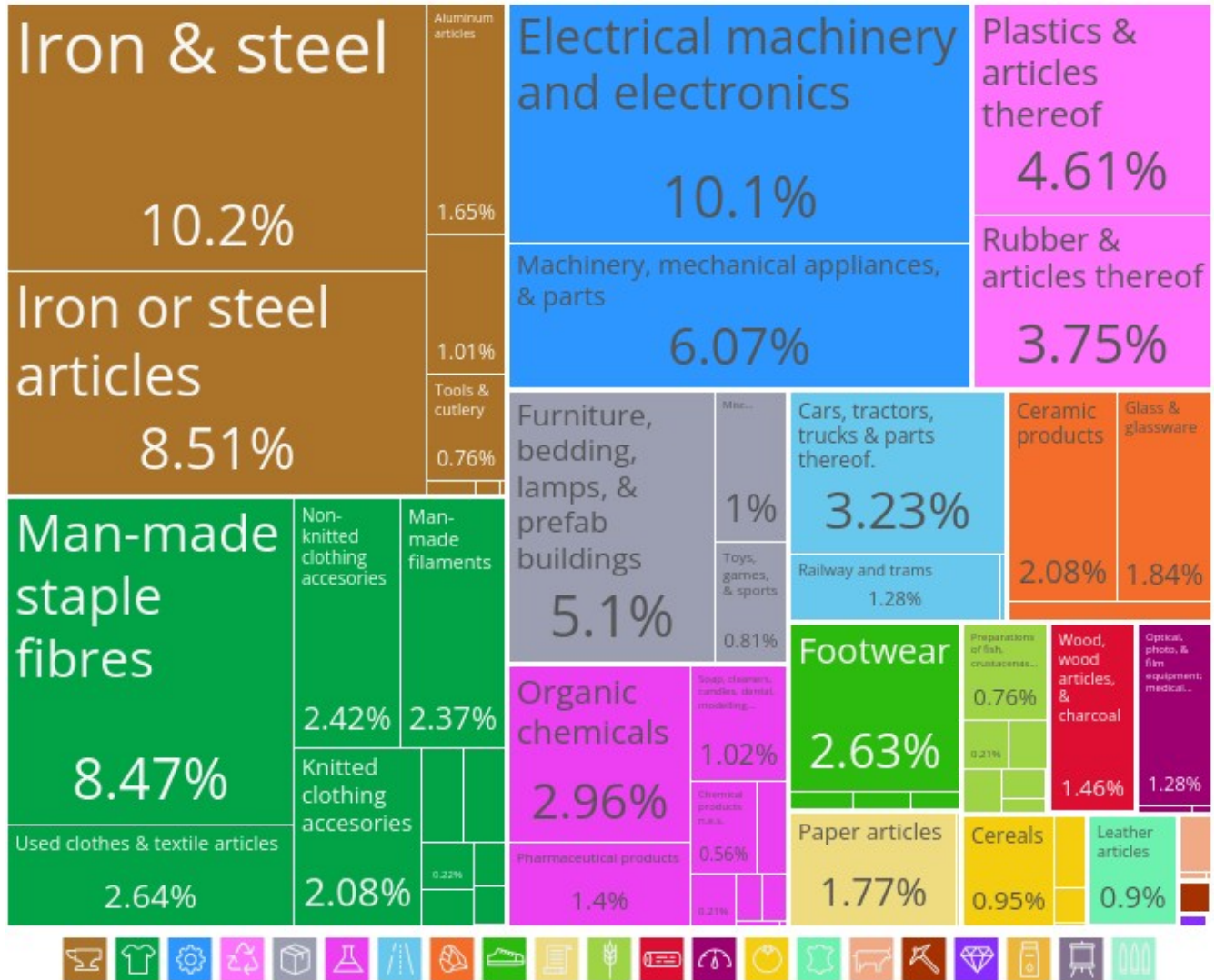




## Exports to Seychelles, Eswatini, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Comoros, Burundi (2022)



Total: \$1.64B



## Arguments and Counterarguments

There are also arguments *against* characterizing China's involvement in Africa as imperialism in the Leninist sense. Let's examine these counter arguments and briefly respond to each of them:

1. **Mutual benefit:** Many African countries view China as a partner that offers alternative financing and investment opportunities, which can help them develop their economies and reduce dependence on traditional Western powers.
  - Just because Chinese imperialism is *currently* a preferable alternative to NATO imperialism does not mean the “honeymoon” phase will last forever. While some African countries may view China as a partner, the reality is that the benefits of China's investments and financing often accrue disproportionately to Chinese companies and interests. Many African countries are saddled with debt from Chinese loans, which can limit their economic sovereignty and force them to prioritize Chinese interests over their own development needs. Furthermore, the terms of Chinese financing often favor Chinese companies, which can lead to a lack of transparency and accountability in project implementation. This undermines the notion of mutual benefit and raises concerns about the long-term sustainability of African economies.
2. **South-South cooperation:** China's engagement in Africa is often framed as South-South cooperation, emphasizing mutual benefit and solidarity between developing countries. This narrative challenges the traditional North-South power dynamics that characterized colonialism and imperialism.
  - The narrative of South-South cooperation between China and Africa is often a rhetorical device that obscures the significant power imbalance between the two. China's economic and military might dwarfs that of most African countries, allowing it to dictate the terms of their engagement. This is not a partnership of equals, but rather a relationship in which China exercises significant influence and control. Moreover, the emphasis on South-South cooperation can be used to deflect criticism of China's actions in Africa, implying that any concerns are motivated by a Western bias rather than a genuine concern for African interests.
3. **Different motivations:** China's motivations in Africa may differ from those of traditional imperial powers. While China seeks to secure resources, markets, and strategic influence, its primary goal is often to fuel its own economic growth and development, rather than to extract wealth and resources solely for the benefit of Chinese capitalists.
  - While it is true that China's motivations in Africa may differ from those of traditional imperial powers, this does not necessarily mean that its actions are any less exploitative or detrimental to African interests. China's drive for economic growth and development is often pursued at the expense of African workers, environments, and local industries. The fact that China's primary goal is to fuel its own economic growth rather than solely to extract wealth for Chinese capitalists does not necessarily make its actions more benevolent. In fact, it may simply mean that China is willing to use more subtle and insidious means to achieve its objectives, such as through debt diplomacy and strategic investments that secure its interests over the long term.