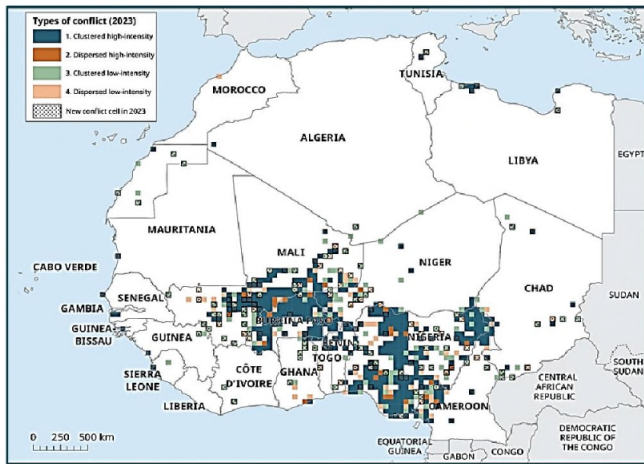


Security

- The reduced engagement of France, Francophone West Africa's longstanding security underwriter, has accentuated a security vacuum in the region.
- Accordingly, Islamic terror groups and nonstate actors have proliferated in France's absence.
- Given myriad conflicts and absent guarantors, multiple West African nations have turned to Russia for security assistance.
- Seizing opportunity, China has a growing security presence, demonstrated through arms sales and military cooperation.
- **Côte d'Ivoire** benefits from and *prefers* collaboration with the U.S. over Russia and China. It seeks to deepen the security and intelligence-sharing relationship in the face of growing threats from non-state actors.



Source: OECD

Institutions and Domestic Policy

- Côte d'Ivoire has enjoyed independence for 65 years. Its political system is based on the separation of powers between executive, legislative, and judicial branches with democratic governance.
- Côte d'Ivoire will hold its next election October 25, 2025. Incumbent President Ouattara is running for reelection.
- President Ouattara is credited with restoring national unity after a long, devastating civil war. Côte d'Ivoire

has enjoyed domestic stability for over a decade under the current regime.

- Under the current Administration, domestic tranquility has been preserved between Christian and Muslim communities. Côte d'Ivoire has preserved religious freedom and diversity absent civil strife present in other West African nations.

Trade and Energy

- U.S. goods and services trade with Côte d'Ivoire totaled an estimated \$1.9 billion in 2024, up 12.3% (\$213 million) from 2023.

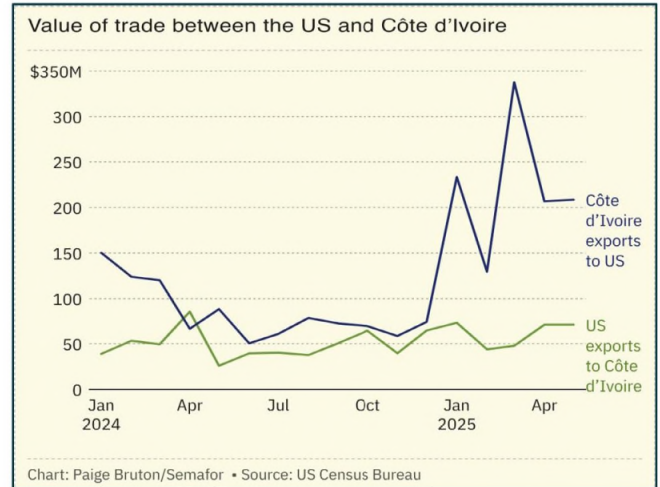


Chart: Paige Bruton/Semafor • Source: US Census Bureau

- Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest cocoa producer, supplying approximately 40% of the global market, and exported \$3.7 billion of cocoa in 2023.
- Côte d'Ivoire has vast deposits of gold, which to date have been mined by small, artisanal shops.
- Côte d'Ivoire seeks to institutionalize a regulatory framework and implement best practices in the mining sector, with gold as a strategic mineral focus, as a means to growth and continue economic diversification.
- Côte d'Ivoire is a participant under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and benefits from the trade program. Most exports from the Côte d'Ivoire to the U.S. qualify for preferential treatment under AGOA.
- Côte d'Ivoire seeks to grow imports, specifically agricultural imports, from the U.S.
- Côte d'Ivoire has the potential to produce other strategic minerals with additional exploration.

Ivorian Demographic and Economic Statistics

- Population: ~32 million
- Average GDP growth: 7%
- Ninth largest economy in Africa
- Second largest economy in West Africa

Objectives

- Increased security arrangements, with a focus on intelligence matters
- Increased trade between the U.S. and Côte d'Ivoire
- Greater investment by U.S. companies in the mining sector
- More cultural and educational exchanges

This material is distributed by ArentFox Schiff LLP on behalf of the Republique de Côte d'Ivoire. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.