🇸🇱 Sierra Leone: trade brief

Customs figures for 2025 and 2026 to date; products for 2024; long-run totals. Prepared 2026-11-15.

Sierra Leone exported **$466M** of goods and imported **$1.9B** in 2025, a trade deficit of **$1.5B**. Its largest export market was China (61.1% of exports) and its largest supplier was China (31.9% of imports).

#168
largest exporter of 202 economies, and #164 importer

#1 #202

61%
of exports go to 🇨🇳 China, the largest market

81%
of exports go to just three markets, out of 95

−1.5B
trade deficit: exports pay for 24% of imports

−14.2%
change in exports on 2024: $543M then, $466M in 2025

32%
of imports come from 🇨🇳 China, the largest supplier

Sierra Leone in 2025 and 2026: the latest figures

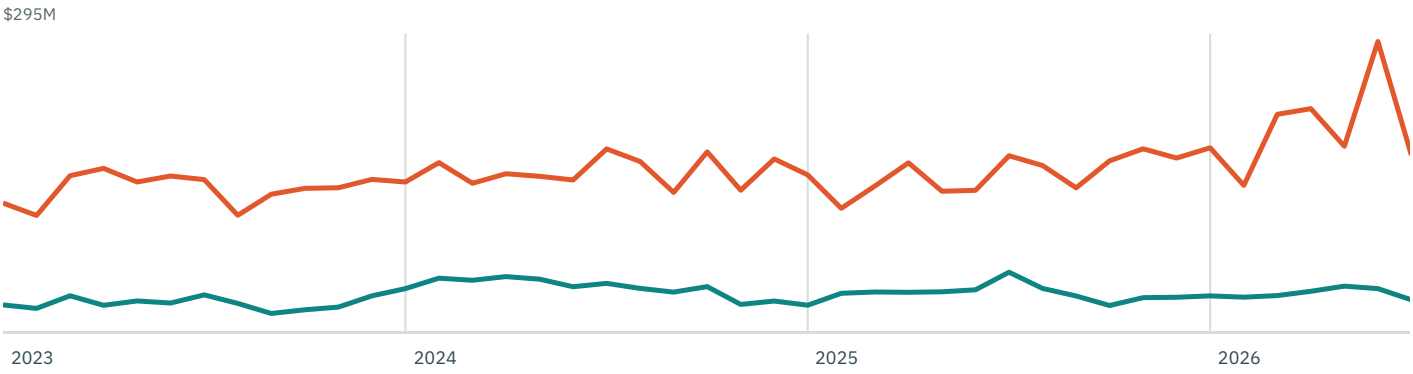
Monthly customs figures in US dollars from the IMF's trade-by-partner database. The newest month is Jul 2026.

$466M
Exports, 2025 **−14.2%** on 2024

$1.9B
Imports, 2025 **−1.5%** on 2024

$272M
Exports, Jan–Jul 2026 **−6.3%** on the same months of 2025

$1.4B
Imports, Jan–Jul 2026 **+35.2%** on the same months of 2025



Period	Exports	Imports	Balance
2026 (Jan–Jul)	$272M	$1.4B	−1.2B
2025	$466M	$1.9B	−1.5B
2024	$543M	$1.9B	−1.4B
2023	$342M	$1.7B	−1.4B
2022	$481M	$1.8B	−1.3B

Largest export markets in 2025 and 2026 so far

Export market	2025	Change on 2024	Share	Jan–Jul 2026	Change on Jan–Jul 2025
China †	$285M	+36.5%	61.1%	$196M	+19.0%
Netherlands †	$76M	+21.3%	16.2%	$20M	−63.7%
South Korea †	$17M	−13.6%	3.7%	$13M	+14.6%
Somalia, Fed. Rep. †	$14M	−33.5%	3.0%	$5M	−45.6%
Senegal †	$9M	+37.1%	1.8%	$3M	−45.6%
Nigeria †	$7M	+113.3%	1.5%	$4M	−7.1%
India †	$7M	+9.3%	1.4%	$10M	+163.1%
United Kingdom †	$6M	−14.5%	1.3%	$1M	−55.1%
Cote d'Ivoire †	$6M	−16.4%	1.2%	$3M	−19.8%
Kazakhstan †	$4M	−57.8%	0.9%	$2M	−34.9%

Largest suppliers in 2025 and 2026 so far

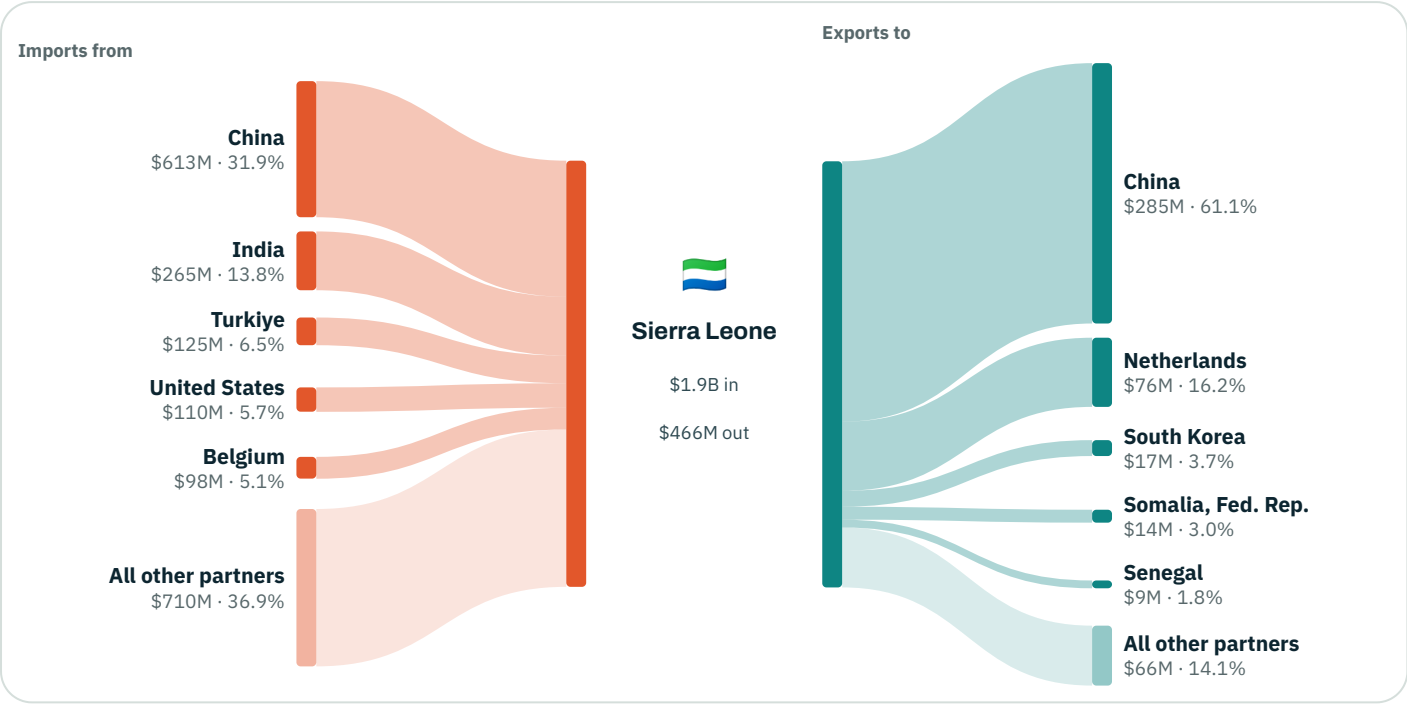
Supplier	2025	Change on 2024	Share	Jan–Jul 2026	Change on Jan–Jul 2025
China †	$613M	+15.4%	31.9%	$468M	+45.3%
India †	$265M	+14.5%	13.8%	$323M	+131.5%
Turkiye †	$125M	+10.4%	6.5%	$98M	+72.1%
United States †	$110M	−1.2%	5.7%	$58M	+4.3%
Belgium †	$98M	+11.6%	5.1%	$58M	−9.8%
United Arab Emirates †	$80M	−18.1%	4.2%	$52M	+9.7%
Brazil †	$44M	−7.9%	2.3%	$34M	+32.0%
Denmark †	$42M	+66.1%	2.2%	$14M	−58.4%
Netherlands †	$41M	+9.1%	2.1%	$50M	+120.8%
Spain †	$40M	−45.8%	2.1%	$16M	−47.9%

† Sierra Leone had not yet reported this flow, so the IMF derived it from the partner's own records. Treat these as provisional.

Source: International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country, retrieved 2026-11-15. The IMF collects each economy's national customs figures and converts them to US dollars at the average exchange rate of the month the goods moved. Imports include freight and insurance; exports do not. The product and partner sections further down use BACI's reconciled figures for 2024, which can differ noticeably for the same year, so compare like with like.

Where Sierra Leone's goods come from, and where they go

The five largest suppliers and the five largest markets in 2025. Ribbon width is in proportion to value within each side.



What Sierra Leone exports, 2024

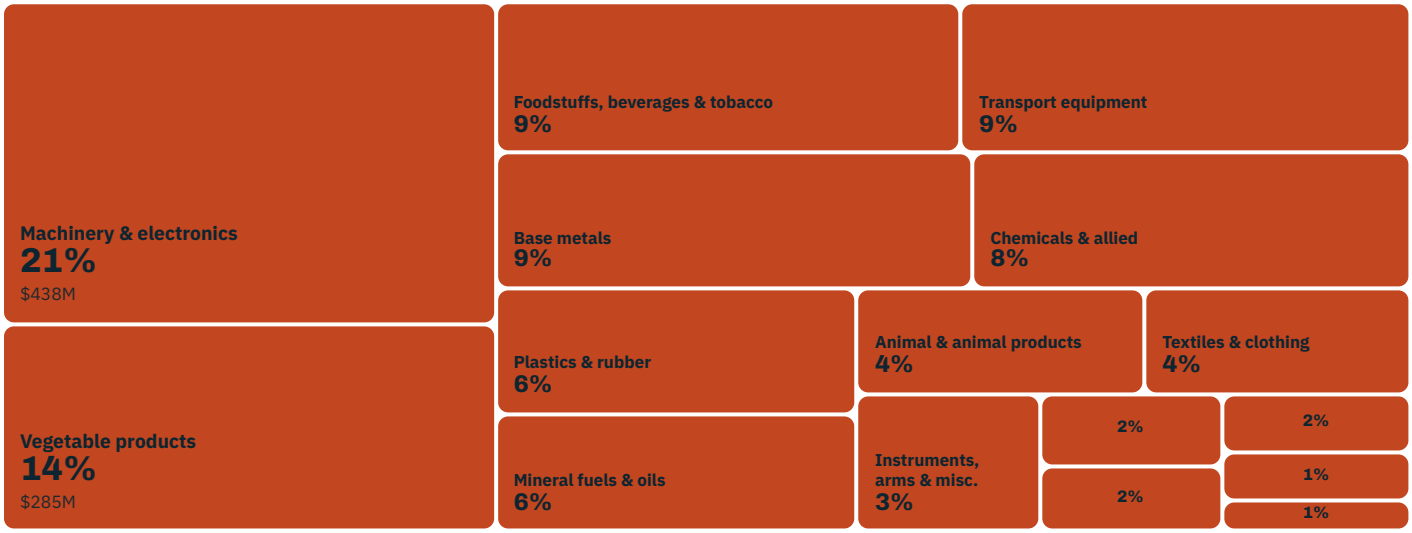


Reconciled figures (BACI): exports of $1.5B on that basis. 2024 is the newest year with product detail for every economy.

Largest export products

Product	2024	Share
Iron ores and concentrates; non-agglomerated `2601.11`	$829M	54.6%
Titanium ores and concentrates `2614.00`	$176M	11.6%
Cocoa beans; whole or broken, raw or roasted `1801.00`	$143M	9.4%
Diamonds; non-industrial, unworked or simply sawn… `7102.31`	$101M	6.6%
Zirconium ores and concentrates `2615.10`	$43M	2.8%
Aluminium ores and concentrates `2606.00`	$24M	1.6%
Ores and concentrates n.e.c. in chapter 26; other than… `2617.90`	$23M	1.5%
Coffee; not roasted or decaffeinated `0901.11`	$11M	0.7%

What Sierra Leone imports, 2024



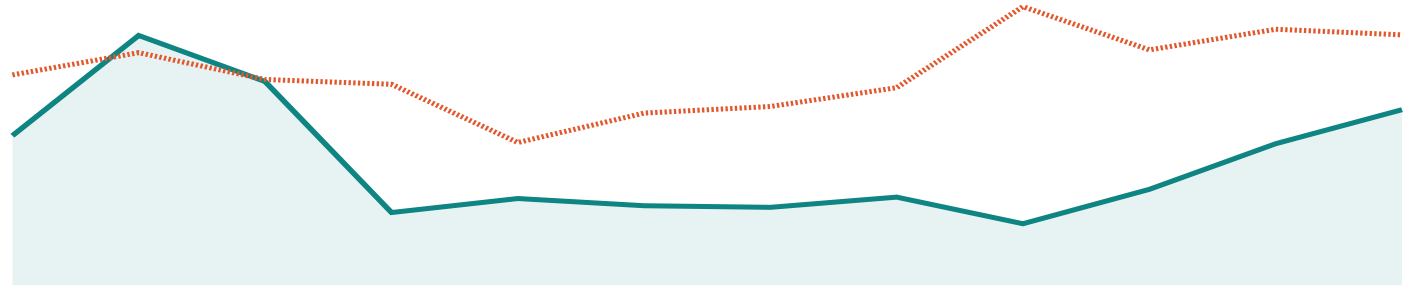
Reconciled figures (BACI): imports of $2.1B on that basis.

Largest import products

Product	2024	Share
Cereals; rice, semi-milled or wholly milled, whether or… `1006.30`	$188M	9.1%
Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, not… `2710.00`	$93M	4.5%
Medicaments; consisting of mixed or unmixed products… `3004.90`	$58M	2.8%
Cereals; rice, broken `1006.40`	$46M	2.2%
Sugars; sucrose, chemically pure, in solid form, not… `1701.99`	$34M	1.6%
Plastics; household articles and hygienic or toilet… `3924.90`	$32M	1.6%
Meat and edible offal; of fowls of the species Gallus… `0207.14`	$30M	1.5%
Cement; portland, other than white, whether or not… `2523.29`	$30M	1.4%

Sierra Leone's trade over the long run

Merchandise exports and imports, World Bank series, current US dollars.



Exports Imports 2012–2023

Sources and method

- **2024 products:** BACI (CEPII), which reconciles what exporters and importers each reported to UN Comtrade, six-digit HS, current US dollars.
- **Totals and partners, latest year and current year:** International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country: each economy's own monthly customs figures, converted to US dollars at the average exchange rate of each month. Values marked † were derived by the IMF from partners' records because the economy had not yet reported.
- **Long-run totals:** World Bank, merchandise exports and imports, current US dollars.
- The two sources use different methods and can give different totals for the same year. Compare like with like.
- Product classification: Harmonized System, © World Customs Organization.

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