

A [new report](#) published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) argues that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will be particularly beneficial for trade in agrifood, services and industry sectors, that are expected to increase by 49%, 38% and 36% by 2045, respectively. Hence, it concludes that these sectors will be those that will gain more from the implementation of the agreement than others. On the other hand, the traditional extractive and energy sectors (that historically represent the primary sources of exports of most of African countries), will increase only of 19%. This is not surprising, considering that such goods are mainly traded outside Africa, while the AfCFTA is expected to lead to an increase of intra-Africa trade.

Particularly interesting is the case of Ethiopia, that in countertendency with other African countries, will obtain the main benefits from the agricultural sector (84.2%), while industry and services will generate earnings of 11.1 and 3.8%, respectively. In all the other African countries the main gains will be in the industrial sector. This includes Kenya and Nigeria, for instance, as shown in figure 1.

**Figure 1: *Distribution of absolute gains by main sectors in African countries' exports to Africa with the AfCFTA implemented (compared with the absence of the AfCFTA)***

