

DATA REPORT

Where Ghana's printers, photocopiers and printing machines come from (2019–2024 import data)

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SHORT ANSWER

Most printers, photocopiers and printing machines imported into Ghana come from **China (26%), the UAE, mainly Dubai (14%) and India (13%)**, by value of Ghana's customs records for 2019 and 2021–2024. The UK, Germany, the United States and the Netherlands follow, and much of what arrives from Europe is used office equipment. Ghana recorded US\$13.7M of these imports in 2024, but exporting countries report shipping about 3.3 times what Ghana recorded from them, so the real market is considerably bigger.

26%

of imports by value came from China, 2019–2024

US\$13.7M

recorded by Ghana's customs in 2024

118,276

office multifunction copiers recorded, 2021–2024

3.3x

more shipped, by exporters' own records, than Ghana recorded (2023)

Which countries does Ghana import printers and copiers from?

Ranked by the value of everything under the printer, copier and printing-press customs heading (HS 8443): machines, parts and toner cartridges. The last column shows how each country did in 2024 alone.

Country	Share, 2019–2024		Value	Share in 2024
China		26%	US\$21.8M	32%
UAE (Dubai)		14%	US\$11.6M	10%
India		13%	US\$11.0M	17%
United Kingdom		6.4%	US\$5.4M	5.9%
Germany		6.2%	US\$5.2M	2.6%
United States		5.7%	US\$4.8M	6.2%
Netherlands		5.3%	US\$4.4M	3.9%
Denmark		4.9%	US\$4.1M	0.7%
Belgium		2.6%	US\$2.2M	0.9%
France		2.1%	US\$1.7M	1.6%

Denmark's figure is almost entirely a single high-value printer shipment in 2019, not a regular trade route.

How much printing equipment does Ghana import each year?

Ghana's recorded imports of printers, copiers, printing machines and their parts peaked at US\$21.2M in 2021 and were US\$13.7M in 2024. Read the section on [why official figures understate the market](#) before treating these as the true size of the market.

Year	Recorded imports (US\$, CIF)
2019	US\$21.1M
2020	Not reported to UN Comtrade
2021	US\$21.2M
2022	US\$16.1M
2023	US\$11.7M
2024	US\$13.7M

Where do photocopiers in Ghana come from?

Office multifunction copiers (the print, copy and scan machines most offices, schools and photocopy shops buy) come mainly from China and Dubai. Next are a group of European countries whose machines are almost all used. Ghana recorded 118,276 of these machines from 2021 to 2024.

Country	Share of value	Machines	Declared value per machine
China	37%	17,970	US\$244
UAE (Dubai)	24%	32,041	US\$89
Netherlands	6.6%	7,428	US\$105
Belgium	4.9%	11,501	US\$51
United Kingdom	4.7%	5,277	US\$105
United States	3.9%	2,933	US\$158
Germany	3.2%	5,853	US\$66
India	1.8%	1,412	US\$154

Declared values per machine are far below what these copiers cost. That's partly because many are used, and partly because declared values are low (see below).

Where do printing presses and other printing machines come from?

Each type of machine has its own supply route. China leads for packaging (flexo) presses, screen printing and other print-shop machines. India dominates newspaper and gravure presses and is a big source of binding equipment. Germany leads for sheet-fed offset presses, declared at about US\$8,084 each on average, far below the price of a new press, so these are mostly used machines.

Machine type	Total value	Top countries (share)
Office multifunction copiers and printers	US\$15.0M	China 32%, UAE (Dubai) 26%, Netherlands 6.2%
Printers: laser, inkjet and large-format	US\$13.5M	Denmark 28%, UAE (Dubai) 17%, China 10%
Other copiers and printers	US\$8.4M	United States 18%, China 17%, United Kingdom 12%
Sheet-fed offset presses	US\$7.0M	Germany 38%, China 26%, Netherlands 5.4%
Newspaper (reel-fed) offset presses	US\$2.2M	India 59%, Italy 16%, China 7.7%
Flexographic (packaging) presses	US\$6.2M	China 52%, India 32%, Türkiye 6.6%
Gravure presses	US\$4.3M	India 86%, China 14%, UAE (Dubai) 0.3%
Screen, letterpress and other printing machines	US\$6.9M	China 47%, India 9.6%, UAE (Dubai) 8.6%
Printer and copier parts, including toner cartridges	US\$15.3M	China 23%, UAE (Dubai) 22%, United Kingdom 7.7%
Printing press parts	US\$5.1M	China 31%, India 19%, Netherlands 11%
Bookbinding machines	US\$2.1M	India 51%, China 21%, Germany 16%

Denmark tops the printers line because of the single 2019 shipment noted above. DTF, UV, sublimation and banner printers fall under the printer lines with ordinary office printers, so customs data can't separate them. Most on sale in Ghana are Chinese-made.

Are the printers and copiers coming into Ghana new or used?

Customs records don't mark a machine as new or used, so there's no official count. The data still points one way. Office copiers shipped from Belgium, the UK, France, Germany, Poland and Sweden were declared at under US\$3 per kilogram, against US\$4.07 per kilogram for copiers from China. And Europe doesn't manufacture office copiers in volume: Canon, Ricoh, Konica Minolta, Kyocera and Sharp build most of their machines in Asia. Copiers arriving from Europe are almost all ex-lease machines from offices there.

Country	Declared value per kg	Total value
India	US\$15.71	US\$1.1M
Viet Nam	US\$12.32	US\$173k
South Africa	US\$9.92	US\$386k
United States	US\$6.51	US\$2.1M
UAE (Dubai)	US\$5.00	US\$4.8M
Netherlands	US\$4.90	US\$1.6M
China	US\$4.07	US\$6.3M
Belgium	US\$2.59	US\$1.1M
Denmark	US\$2.45	US\$174k
Italy	US\$2.30	US\$155k
United Kingdom	US\$1.85	US\$1.8M
Canada	US\$1.79	US\$219k
France	US\$1.32	US\$577k
Germany	US\$0.96	US\$885k
Poland	US\$0.64	US\$304k
Sweden	US\$0.49	US\$182k

In short: **new** machines come mostly from China, plus India for presses and binding equipment. **Used and refurbished** copiers come mostly from the UK, Belgium, Germany, Poland, France and Sweden. Dubai traders, the Netherlands (partly new machines from Asia routed through Rotterdam) and the United States send a mix of both. If you're buying used, our guide on [how to check a used photocopier](#) shows how to read the page count and spot a tired machine, and [used photocopy machine prices](#) shows what they sell for.

Why do official import figures understate the market?

Every country records its own trade, so Ghana's import records can be checked against what exporting countries say they sent to Ghana. For 2023, the exporters we could compare report shipping US\$25.4M of printers, copiers and parts to Ghana. Ghana recorded US\$7.7M from the same countries, about 3.3 times less. The gap shows up per machine too: the UAE's records value its copiers to Ghana at about US\$395 each, while Ghana recorded about US\$70 each.

Exporter	Exporter says it shipped	Ghana recorded	Gap
China	US\$10.8M	US\$2.5M	4.4×
UAE (Dubai)	US\$10.2M	US\$1.7M	6.1×
India	US\$1.9M	US\$2.0M	Ghana higher
Germany	US\$1.5M	US\$365k	4.2×
Italy	US\$794k	US\$451k	1.8×
Belgium	US\$90k	US\$451k	Ghana higher
Türkiye	US\$48k	US\$58k	Ghana higher
Japan	US\$8,871	US\$229k	Ghana higher
Netherlands *	US\$21.8M	US\$438k	49.7×

* Left out of the totals above. The Netherlands records goods leaving Rotterdam as Dutch exports, while Ghana records most of them under the country where they were made.

Several things add up to the gap:

- **Low declared values.** Duty, VAT and levies are charged on the declared value, so there's pressure to declare low. The per-machine figures suggest this is the biggest single factor.
- **Mixed "used goods" containers.** Used copiers from Europe often travel with fridges, TVs and furniture and may be declared under other headings, so they never appear as copiers.

- **Transit trade.** Some goods shipped to Tema continue to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Exporters count them as going to Ghana; Ghana doesn't count them as imports.
- **Not freight costs.** Ghana values imports including shipping and insurance, so its figures should be *higher* than exporters', not lower.

The practical point for buyers and businesses: Ghana's printer and copier market is much larger than official statistics suggest, and the share of each supplier country above is a better guide than the dollar totals.

What does this mean if you're buying a printer or copier?

- **"UK used" or "foreign used" is normal, not a warning sign**, but condition varies enormously. Ask for the total page count and a test print before paying.
- **New machines are mostly Chinese-made**, whatever the brand. What matters more is whether toner, parts and a technician are available in Ghana.
- **Thinking of importing yourself?** Our [import guide](#) covers duty, VAT, clearing at Tema and real landed costs. Compare with [photocopy machine prices in Ghana](#) first.

Download the data

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How we made this report

We downloaded Ghana's own import records from UN Comtrade for every six-digit code under HS 8443 (printing presses, printers, copiers and their parts, including toner cartridges) and HS 8440 (bookbinding machines), by year and country of origin, for 2019,

2021, 2022, 2023, 2024. Ghana didn't report 2020 to UN Comtrade. Values are in US dollars including shipping and insurance (CIF), as declared at import. Shares are of total value over all years combined unless stated. Paper-cutting and paper-converting machinery (HS 8441) is left out because most of it isn't printing equipment.

For the cross-check we compared Ghana's 2023 records with the exports to Ghana reported by China, the UAE, India, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Japan and Türkiye. The new-vs-used analysis is our reading of declared value per kilogram and of where copier brands manufacture; customs data itself doesn't record condition. We'll update this report when Ghana's next full year is published.

Questions people ask

Q Where do most printing machines in Ghana come from?

China is the biggest source, with 26% of the value of printers, copiers, printing presses and parts Ghana imported in 2019 and 2021–2024. The UAE (mostly Dubai traders) supplied 14% and India 13%, followed by the UK, Germany, the United States and the Netherlands.

Q Are the photocopiers sold in Ghana new or used?

Customs records don't say whether a machine is new or used, but the data points clearly to a large used market. Copiers shipped from European countries are declared at a small fraction of the value per kilogram of Chinese ones, and Europe doesn't manufacture office copiers in volume, so those are mostly ex-lease office machines. Copiers from China are mostly new.

Q Why do so many copiers come to Ghana from Dubai?

Dubai is a trading hub, not a copier factory. Traders there buy new and used machines from manufacturers and from offices around the world, then ship to West Africa. The UAE was the second-largest source of office multifunction copiers for Ghana from 2021 to 2024, with 24% of their value.

Q Which country supplies Ghana's offset printing presses?

Germany supplied the most sheet-fed offset presses by value (38%), at an average declared value of about US\$8,084 per press. New offset presses cost far more, so these are mostly used machines. India dominates newspaper (reel-fed) presses (59%) and gravure presses (86%).

Q How much printing equipment does Ghana import a year?

Ghana's customs recorded US\$13.7M of printers, copiers, printing machines and parts in 2024. Exporting countries report shipping about 3.3 times what Ghana recorded from them, so the real figure is likely much higher.

Q Can I use this data?

Yes. It's free to use under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence. Download the CSV and credit Print Compare with a link to this page. The underlying records are Ghana's customs statistics published by UN Comtrade.

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Sources

- [UN Comtrade: Ghana imports, HS 8443 and HS 8440, by partner](#)
- [UN Statistics Division: partner country attribution in trade statistics](#)
- [Print Compare import dataset \(CSV\)](#)

