

Historic first: Italy becomes Tunisia's first supplier ahead of France.

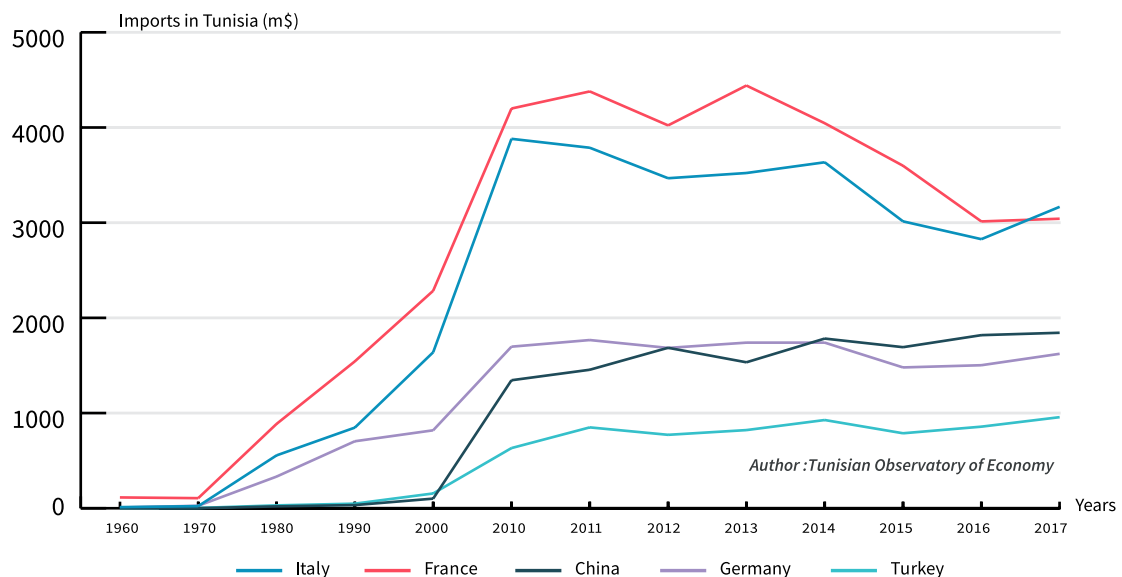
Key highlights :

- In 2017, Italy became Tunisia's leading commercial supplier ahead of France.
- Between 2010 and 2017, imports from France and Italy fell by 28% and 18% respectively.
- Between 2010 and 2017, imports from China and Turkey increased by 37% and 51% respectively.

ITitle: Top 5 suppliers of Tunisia 1960 - 2017

Author : Tunisian Observatory of Economy

Sources : IMF (DOTS)



Since independence, France, through its historical ties, has always been Tunisia's first commercial supplier. According to the latest IMF figures, expressed in USD, France has just lost this historic status in 2017 to Italy. Indeed, imports from Italy resumed in 2017 with \$ 3.16 billion of imports to Tunisia while those from France stagnated compared to 2016 at \$ 3.04 billion.

Among Tunisia's top 5 commercial suppliers in 2017, three trends can be distinguished. A first downward trend between 2010 and 2017 for the top two suppliers, France and Italy. Indeed, imports from France and Italy lost 28% and 18% respectively between 2010 and 2017. A second stagnant trend for Germany with imports from Germany down slightly by 4%. And finally, a third upward trend for China and Turkey. Indeed, imports from China and Turkey increased by 37% and 51% respectively between 2010 and 2017. China even overtook Germany in 2014, becoming Tunisia's third largest commercial supplier, still a long way from France and Italy.