ISSN: 2456-8503

International Journal for Development of Science and Technology (IJDST)

(An International Open–Access / Double–Blind Peer–Reviewed / Multidisciplinary Journal)

September 2026, Volume 2, Issue 3

RESEARCH

The Contribution of the Value of Gold Exports to the Value of Total Exports in Sudan for the Period (2001-2021)

Abdalatif Taha Ali Hassan[1*]

[1]Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Ministry of Higher Education, Economic and Social Research Burau, Economic Center, Sudan.

***Corresponding Author:** abdalatif.hassan@hotmail.com*

Doi: https://doi.org/10.26524/ijdst.2.10

Abstract

After South Sudan's secession in 2011, Sudan lost 75 percent of its oil resources. Since then, the Sudanese government has implemented policies to increase gold production and exports to offset revenue losses from oil. This paper examines the contribution of gold exports to Sudan's total exports and explores the main obstacles to gold mining in the country. A comparative analysis method is employed. The findings indicate that relying solely on gold revenues as a new source of income to recover the Sudanese economy and reduce the trade balance deficit is insufficient. Gold smuggling poses a significant challenge to the gold sector; for instance, the Chairman of the Energy and Mining Committee in the National Assembly disclosed the smuggling of 58 tons of gold in 2013. Despite the disadvantages of artisanal mining, it provides employment opportunities, benefiting about 5 million people. This suggests that artisanal mining can be a vital economic activity for livelihoods, and the government should find ways to mitigate its disadvantages while enhancing its benefits.

Keywords: *The Sudanese Economy, Trade Balance, Oil Loss.*

1. Introduction

1.1. Country Context

With the declaration of independence of the Republic of South Sudan in July 2011, Sudan's total area was reduced from 2,500,000 square km to 1,881,000 square km. Sudan's population was projected at approximately 48.2 million people in 2023 the *(Central Bureau of Statistics, Sudan, 2026)*. With the secession, Sudan lost 75 percent of its oil resources, 90 percent of export earnings, and nearly 50 percent of revenues. Oil accounted for nearly 15 percent of industrial value added. (*Update on Macroeconomic Developments in Sudan July 2025, UNDP Sudan).* Thus, the economy started to suffer losses from the withdrawal of oil revenues, and a significant fiscal adjustment is required.

1.2. Real Sector Developments

Based on a recalculation of Sudan's GDP in current dollars carried out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2019, GDP fell from 66.45 billion dollars in 2011 to 34.28 billion dollars in 2018, reflecting a near halving of GDP over this period despite the population growing at over 2.8 percent per annum over the same period. A World Bank update of information up to the end of 2020 indicates that GDP fell further to reach $26.99 billion in 2020. Estimates of GDP since 2020 indicate a continued decline, though at smaller rates, with the IMF projecting a 0.3 percent decline in 2022 after an estimated 0.5 percent increase in 2021. It is worth noting that this substantial decline in income was unevenly distributed, with the bulk of the reduction felt by lower-income groups. The decline in GDP and exports experienced since 2012 has led to a continual decline in the value of the Sudanese Pound, which is partly responsible for the triple-digit inflation experienced by the country since April 2020. The other factor that has been fueling inflation in the country is the removal of fuel and food subsidies, which have been reflected in several upward revisions in fuel and electricity prices as well as the effective per-ounce cost of subsidized bread.

1.3. Trade and External Sector Developments

Sudan's trade deficit declined in the first half of 2022. Imports subject to normal customs duties, i.e., manufactured goods, machinery, transport equipment, and textiles, declined in value from $2.34 billion in the first half of 2021 to $1.71 billion in the first half of 2022. Exports showed a notable increase. The increase in exports has largely come through the success of the authorities in channeling more of the country's substantial gold exports through formal channels. Recorded gold exports grew from $294 million in the first half of 2020 to $1.3 billion in the first half of 2022, more than four-fold.

High oil prices and continued high demand for Sudanese expatriate labour in GCC member countries have kept remittances flowing in at the rate of around $2 billion per year, thus covering a substantial share of the trade deficit and preventing a more radical decline of the value of the Sudanese Pound. An announced investment of $6 billion by the UAE during the first half of 2022 improved the psychological prospects of the Sudanese Pound by promising a higher level of inflows on the capital account. The national budget deficit for the first half of 2022 has narrowed in nominal terms to SDG 59.9 billion, compared to SDG 76.6 billion during the same period of 2021. Revenues showed a year-on-year increase of over 100% and only fell short of the approved budget by 21%, reflecting a relatively good revenue realization 72% of total tax revenues came from indirect taxation, which raises the prices of taxed commodities and has the potential to make the distribution of income more unequal and further fuel inflation through their direct impact on consumer prices. As indicated in the chart below, there is no significant difference between the contribution of tax revenues and non-tax revenue to total public revenues (Figure 1).

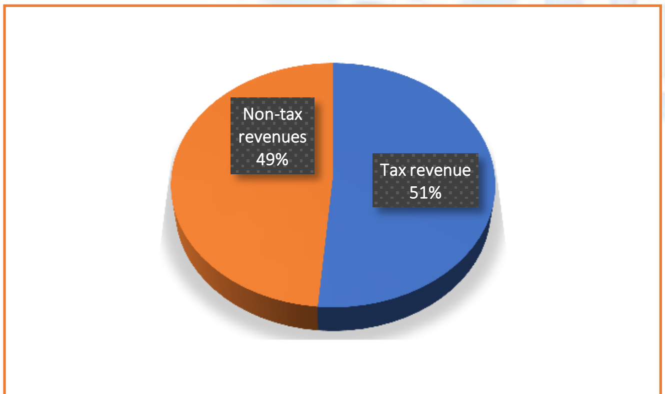

Figure 1: The Contribution of Tax Revenues and Non-Tax Revenue to Total Public Revenues for the First Half of 2022

Source: Generated from the data compiled from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Sudan, 2025

1.4. Highlights of Inflation up to October 2022

The statistics from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) show an increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 7268.7 points in September 2022 to 66395.40 points in October 2022; therefore, the CPI monthly percent change was about 1.9 percent from September to October of that year. However, the point-to-point annual inflation rate continued to fall towards the magic 100 percent level over the three-month period from August to October 2022, reaching 102.6 percent. This marks the first time the rate has fallen close to 98.8 percent reached in April 2020, the starting month of the radical reduction of fuel subsidies agreed upon with the IMF.

1.5. Justification of the Study

The secession of South Sudan significantly altered Sudan's economic landscape, especially in oil-dependent sectors. The government has shifted focus to mining, particularly gold, to offset the loss of oil revenues. This study investigates the impact of the recent gold mining boom on Sudan's economy, emphasizing its contribution to exports, trade balance, and employment.

1.6. Research Problem

Sudan lost 75% of its oil resources and over 50% of its revenues in 2011. In response, the government has promoted gold mining and exports. The key questions are: Has this strategy been successful? What are the main challenges facing gold mining and export?

2. Objectives

2.1. Main Objectives

To assess the contribution of gold exports to Sudan's total exports before and after the oil decline.

2.2. Specific Objectives

To provide a background on Sudan's gold sector and regulations. To identify the main challenges hindering gold mining development.

3. Methodology and Data

This research employs comparative and analytical methods, analyzing data from before and after the gold boom. Data sources include the Central Bank of Sudan, the Ministry of Minerals, and related agencies.

4. Background to Gold Mining in Sudan

Sudan is endowed with huge mineral wealth, such as oil, gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, mica, chrome, zinc, gypsum, and several other metals that were not fully exploited until today of these, the most important are oil especially before the secession of South Sudan, gold, and copper. Historically, Sudan has known gold mining since the era of pharaonic kingdoms in the third century BC. This activity has continued since then throughout the period of the Napata and Kosh kingdoms in the Nubian Desert and Red Sea hills. After these periods, the tribes of Beja migrant Arabs and Nubians continued gold mining by tracing the pharaonic mining sites. There had been similar gold mining activities in Bani Shangol, which extended to around 200 years in the area currently known as the Southern Blue Nile, close to the Sudanese Ethiopian borders. Gold mining using modern methods only started at the beginning of the nineteenth century in the Red Sea hills and the Nubian Desert *(www.minerals.gov.sd, 2025).*

Sudan managed to exploit its oil wealth by the last quarter of 1999, when it was able to meet its domestic needs and achieve self-sufficiency. The transport pipelines were established, together with the completion of export ports and all their facilities and oil refineries. Khartoum refinery participated in achieving self-sufficiency and entering the fields of petrochemical industries Khartoum Petro Chemicals Factory and electricity supply Garri Power Stations. Since that time, oil revenues have started to play a crucial role in the Sudanese economy, and the government has started to depend heavily on them.

Following the secession of the South in July 2011, Sudan's economy entered a new phase marked by the absence of oil earnings, resulting in severe economic challenges. The government has enacted initiatives to diversify the economy to compensate for the loss of oil money and to help the economy recover. To improve gold production and exporting, the government began to expand into gold mining. As a result, while the mining sector particularly gold has seen considerable success in recent years, the sector still faces several internal and external issues, such as financial instability and security challenges.

5. Gold Concession Agreements

Gold agreements with investors are based on the Minerals Development Act 2007 and its regulations. Accordingly, investors are to recover all exploration and development costs. Agreements cover both the exploration and exploitation periods. The government of Sudan is entitled to a royalty of 7 percent from the gross production of gold and 5 percent of base metals. The Sudanese Company for Mineral Resources Ltd. is the governmental supervisory mechanism over mining resources in Sudan, and it is the authority concerned with monitoring the mining sector, legalizing, and regulating traditional mining, tightening the environmental safety program, and establishing social responsibility projects. The Sudanese Mineral Resources Limited Company is unique because it is the only entity entrusted with dealing with the investing parties in the mining sector in compliance with the approved controls and adoption of strategic management systems, quality standards, and excellence in organizing mining work and setting policies and objectives for mining activities in all activities within the framework of the Mineral Resources Development Law of 2015. In March 2022, Sudan prohibited the export of gold by government agencies and foreigners, individuals, or companies, except for concession companies working in the field of gold mining.

Table 1: Comparing Sudan's Gold Mining Fiscal Regime with Other Countries (In Percent)

Country	Royalty Rate	Corporate Income Tax	State Equity
Australia	2.5	29	None
Ghana	5	35	10
Indonesia	3.75	25	None
Mongolia	5 (plus price based progressive royalty)	25	Up to 34
South Africa	7	Variable rate	None
Sudan	7	30	Varies
Tanzania	4	30	5
Source: IMF Country Report No. 13/320, October 2025			

According to the table above, the royalty rates in Sudan and South Africa are relatively high when compared to the other nations listed. Some countries, such as Australia, Tanzania, and South Africa, impose no state equity to avoid double taxes, which may pose difficulties for gold investors (Table 1).

6. Gold Refinery

Sudan opened its first gold refinery on September 19, 2012, with the goal of improving the quality and trade capacity of gold mined in the country. The project cost a total of 9 million euros. The initiative is collaboration between the Central Bank of Sudan (70%) and the Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning (15%), as well as the Ministry of Minerals (15%). The refinery's current annual capacity is 150 tons of gold and 30 tons of silver (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Gold Bullion Storage in a Warehouse

It has a daily capacity of 600 kg. The refinery is in the northern portion of Khartoum North's industrial sector and is directly supervised by the Central Bank of Sudan. The Central Bank of Sudan has identified consolidation of government control over gold produced through traditional mining as a key objective in its 2012 policy. As part of this effort, the Sudanese central bank has been buying gold from traders at higher than market prices to sell on the international market to secure foreign exchange. The decision to pay more for gold in local currency and sell it at market price on the international market for foreign exchange has further devalued the Sudanese Pound *(Omer Ismail and Akshaya Kumar, 2026).* The Central Bank of Sudan buys around 350 kgs of gold from citizens working in gold mining traditional miners, while the refinery undertakes the refining of 400-502026 The gold from these traditional miners. The Central Bank of Sudan currently buys the gold and exports it in the form of alloys that contain some impurities of silver and copper. The refinery has a grinding mill for crushing stones and extracting gold from them. This gives the same ratio that is provided by traditional miners. The strategy of the refinery is to focus on serving local markets for the time being and to expand its services to neighboring African markets after getting the certificate of quality and universal validity after three years from the 2012 *(www.minerals.gov.sd, 2025).*

7. Gold Reserves in Sudan

Gold has a long history as a store of value and a medium of exchange money for goods and services amongst people all over the world. China (399.7 metric tons per year), Australia (312.2 metric tons), Russia (281.5 metric tons), the United States (253.2 metric tons), Canada (193.0 metric tons), Indonesia (190.0 metric tons), Peru (155.4 metric tons), South Africa (123.5 metric tons), Mexico (121.6 metric tons), and Ghana (101.8 metric tons) are the world's top gold producers. China is presently the world's greatest gold producer, generating 399.7 metric tons of gold in 2018 and accounting for 12% of worldwide output. China's production is declining, with output in 2018 being 6% lower than in 2017. This was because of the government's stricter environmental rules. Since 2016, the global increase of gold has slowed, owing in part to the fact that "easy gold," or easily accessible gold, has previously been extracted. Gold mining is becoming more difficult, which brings new issues such as miner safety and environmental implications *(worldpopulationreview.com/December 29, 2025, 8:40 a.m. GMT*). According to a geologist from the Ministry of Minerals, estimating Sudan's gold reserves is extremely challenging. Most gold firms begin production before the geophysical survey to identify real reserves is completed. An increasing number of foreign gold firms have expressed interest in getting licenses to operate in Sudan in recent years. In Sudan, 105 businesses are licensed to invest in gold mining. Only twelve businesses have completed resource assessments, feasibility studies, and proclaimed commercial finds thus far. Please see the table below. Exploration is still on going with the remaining concessions (Table 2).

Table 2: Gold Reserves in Sudan

S. No.	Company Name	Approved/ tons	Expected
		M tons	M tons
1	Ariab Mining Co.Ltd	180	-
2	Omdurman Co. Ltd	7	27
3	Manob Co.	96	250
4	Sahary Co.	4.2	-
5	Alhigagia Co.	6.5	-
6	Mahughani Co.	4.59	-
7	Dalgo Co.	37.2	372
8	Alnwaty Co.	5.758	6
9	Or Ashab Co.	7.5	-
10	Ayat Co.	5.555	-
11	Ansan Wikfis Co.	6	23
12	Hwakan Hamady Co.	13.8	24
	Total	374.103	702

Source: (Ministry of Minerals, Seminar Paper)

8. Gold Production in Sudan

Sudan's gold production began to rise dramatically in 2010. The total amount of gold produced in 2017 was 107.3 tons. Since South Sudan's secession in 2011, the Sudanese government has begun to focus on gold production and exportation to compensate for the loss of oil earnings see figure below. Despite Sudan's considerable mining potential, it is difficult to verify overall production estimates because unofficial gold searchers account up a substantial portion of the country's gold sector.

8.2. Artisanal Gold Mining in Sudan

According to the Ministry of Minerals, the traditional mining for gold in Sudan is undertaken by individuals without using heavy machines like excavators, loaders, buckets, crawler dozers, and similar equipment. Even traditional mining has been known for centuries in Sudan, the sector is still using primitive tools and equipment, such as primary digging tools, wooden dishes, and recently aluminum dishes and washing basins for washing the ore with water and then picking up the pellets. Nowadays, there are hundreds of citizens searching for metal particles in the Nubian Desert, West Red Sea Hills, and North and South Kordofan in areas originally licensed to mining companies. Artisanal and Small-Scale mining (ASM) provides an important source of livelihood for rural communities and decreases the rate of unemployment, which reached 18.5 percent.

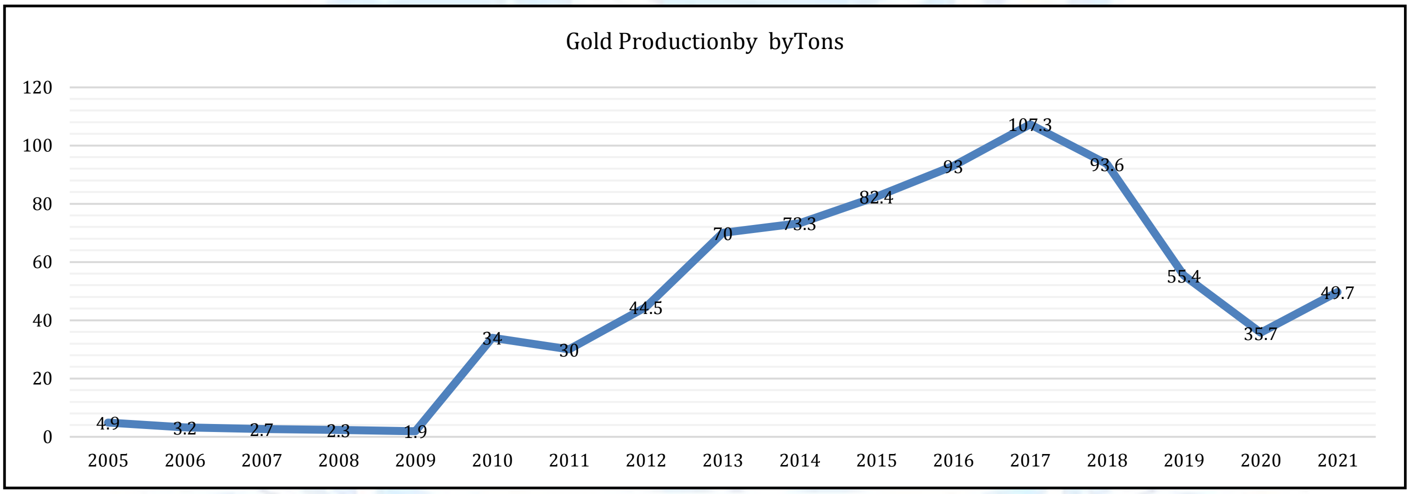

Figure 3: Trends in Gold Production in Sudan, 2005-2021

Source: Annual reports of the Central Banks of Sudan & the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

8.1. Hassai Mine: Sudan's Most Productive Gold Mine

The Hassai mining project, private-public collaboration between the Ariab Mining Company representing the Ministry of Minerals Sudan and La Mancha, is now Sudan's most prolific gold mine. The project is located in eastern Sudan, in the midst of the Arabian Nubian Shield. It is situated in the state of the Red Sea. The Hassai mine, which has been in operation since 1992, is made up of 18 open pits that produce high-grade oxide ore. To date, the mine has produced approximately 2.3 million ounces of gold and is run by Sudan's Ariab Mining Company in collaboration with Canada's La Mancha Resources (Figure 3) *(www.indepthnews.info/index, 2025).*

(Labor Force Survey conducted in 2011). The total income generated from artisanal gold mining is 18 tons for the period from January up to April 2012 *(Ministry of Minerals, Electronic Seminar paper, 2025).* According to the Minister of Minerals, about 5 million people have benefited from gold mining *(Alyoum Altali Newspaper, February 17, 2026).*

8.2.1. Selected Areas of Artisanal Mining in Sudan

The following are the most important areas of artisanal mining:

1. Red Sea Hills Area (North-East Sudan)
2. Bayuda Desert (North Central Sudan)
3. Rahib Mountain and Abyad Mountains (Northwest Sudan)
4. Marra Mountain (Western Sudan)
5. Nuba Mountains (South Central Sudan)

6. Ingassana Complex (Eastern Sudan)
7. Hofrat El-Nahas (Western sudan)

8.2.2. Some Positive Impact of the Traditional Mining in Sudan

Traditional mining creates jobs and increases economic standing, hence assisting in the fight against poverty, given that poverty estimates place the average rate of poverty incidence at 46.5 percent (CBS). Poverty is higher in rural areas (58%) than in urban areas (26%) and varies significantly across states, ranging from 26 percent in Khartoum state to more than 60 percent in periphery states like as North Darfur, South Kordofan, and the Red Sea. As a result, most people engaging in artisanal mining are likely to come from rural or isolated locations. Gold exports generate foreign currency, help to compensate for lost oil income, and help to stabilize the trade balance.

8.2.3. Some Negative Impacts of Traditional Mining

1. Spread of epidemic illnesses in areas of artisanal mining because of a lack of sanitation.
2. Traditional miners infringe on licensed areas.
3. Unless proper precautions are taken, any artisanal mining techniques will significantly harm the environment.
4. Migration from the agricultural sector, which may lead to its deterioration, i.e., the deterioration of the most historically important pillar of the Sudanese economy and the main contributor to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

9. The Gold Mining Sector's Contribution to the Sudanese Economy

9.1. Sudan's Gold Exports from 2001 to 2021

After the secession, Sudan lost 75 percent of its oil resources and started to focus on gold production and exportation as part of a strategy to make up for the loss of oil revenues. Before 2009, the contribution of gold exports to total exports was insignificant. The figure below shows that there were no huge variations in the exported quantities of gold from 2001 up to 2008. Since 2009, gold exports have started to increase significantly and reached their maximum in 2012 (46 tons), which reflects the recent serious efforts made by the government to increase gold exports. Gold exports decreased in 2013 to about 27 tons because of smuggling, as the Chairman of the Energy and Mining Committee at the National Assembly disclosed the smuggling of 58 tons of gold in 2013. However, after a significant decline in gold exports in 2018, 2019, and 2020, it restored its rising trend in 2021 to 40 tons.

9.2. Trends in Gold Export Value in Billions of US Dollars

(Figure 4) Shows the large rise in the value of gold exports on average for the period 2010-2021 compared to the period 2001-2009 due to the previously indicated increase in export quantities. The government's strategy is to replace lost oil revenue with gold revenue in order to revive the economy.

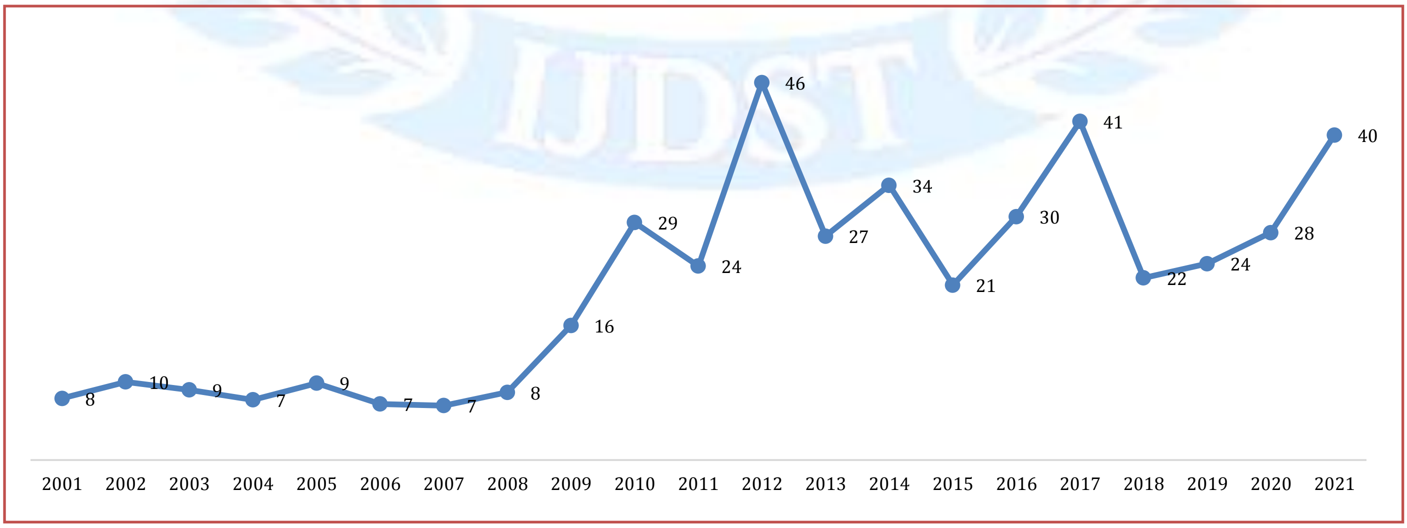

Figure 4: Trends in Gold Exported by Sudan from 2001 to 2021

Source: Generated from the data of the Central Bank of Sudan, Annual reports.

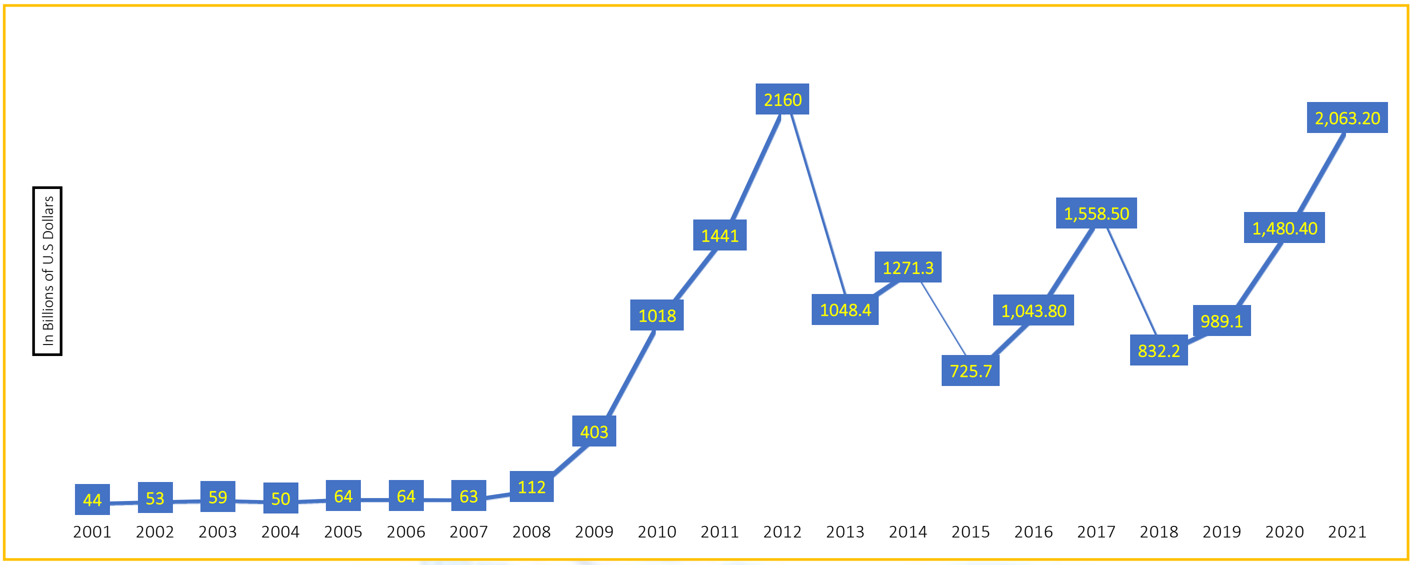

Figure 5: Trends in the Value of Gold Exports in Sudan (2001-2021)

Source: Generated from the data of the Central Bank of Sudan, Annual Reports.

9.3. Gold Exports' Contribution to Total Exports

In 2012, the gold sector was the most major contributor to Sudan's exports. The gold share of overall exports climbed from roughly 1% in 2008 to about 53% in 2012, implying that gold shipments accounted for more than half of total Sudanese exports that year. Over the medium term, it is projected to contribute about one-third of total exports. As indicated in (Figure 5), the share of oil shipments in total exports was 95% in 2007 and 2008. As previously stated, gold exports accounted for 53% of total exports in 2012 (US$ 2,158.0 million), while oil exports accounted for only 15% of total exports (US$955 million).

The significant aspect here is that the value of total exports in 2012 fell substantially to US$ 4,067 million, compared to US$ 11,671 million in 2008 during the oil boom. This circumstance clearly implies that relying on gold as a fresh source of income to help the Sudanese economy recover is insufficient, at least in the short term. So far, gold exports have not been able to entirely compensate. More efforts should be made by the government to coordinate and expand gold production and exportation. In this regard, the Ministry of Minerals should issue numerous regulations to systemize traditional mining and, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Sudan, should offer incentives to small-scale prospectors to entice them to sell their mined gold within the country, thereby making it exportable. One alternative to gold smuggling could be the gold stock market.

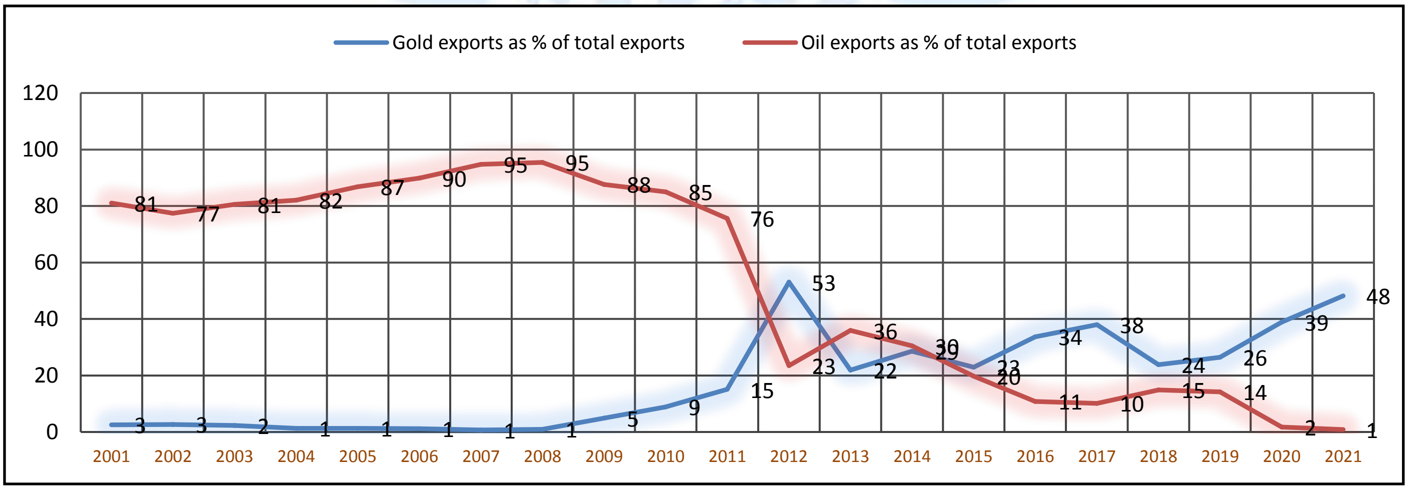

Figure 6: Trends in Value of Oil Exports and Gold Exports as % of Total Exports

Source: Generated from the data of the Central Bank of Sudan (annual reports)

9.4. Gold and Oil Shipments as a Percentage of Overall Exports from 2001 to 2021. (In Millions of Dollars)

As seen in (Figure 5), during Sudan's oil boom, the share of oil exports in overall exports was significantly higher than that of gold exports. In 2012 (after the separation), the oil share of overall exports was less than the gold share. In general, gold exports have begun to play a larger role in total exports in recent years, taking the place of oil exports (Figure 6).

2. Tax artisanal miners with a withholding tax. Unlike mining enterprises, collecting business earnings tax from small traditional miners is difficult and expensive because most of them operate in isolated desert areas of the country. The easiest method would be to levy a withholding tax in lieu of BPT on payments made to artisanal miners by gold merchants permitted to buy gold from them and sell it to the central bank. The withholding tax rate should be high enough to resemble the BPT but not so high that it becomes excessive (Figure 7).

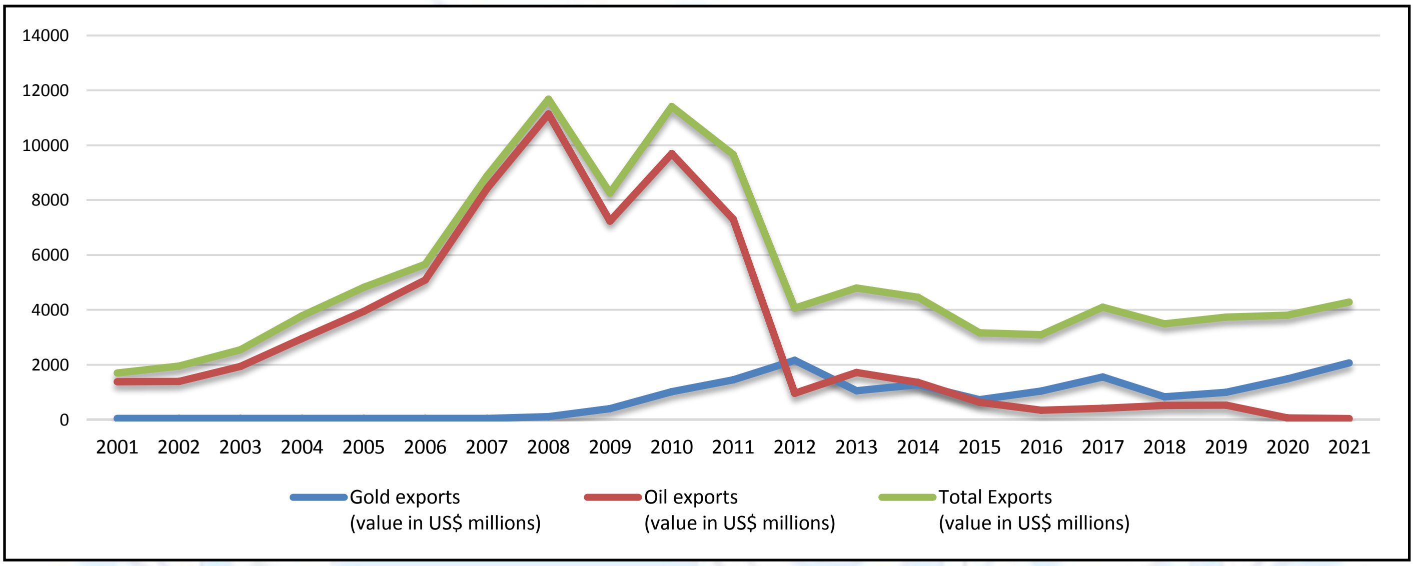

Figure 7: Trends in the Revenues of Gold Exports, oil Exports, and Total Exports

Source: Generated from the data of the Central Bank of Sudan (annual reports)

10. Gold Taxation Reform Strategy

Taxation is one of the many impediments to any type of investment in Sudan. Sudan currently has two types of gold miners: the five major gold mining firms and thousands of tiny artisanal miners. While artisanal miners are not taxed under the existing system, gold mining businesses are subject to a royalty (7%), a corporate profit tax (30%), and a dividend equivalent to the equity share held by the government. This taxation scheme compares favorably to those in place in other gold-producing countries. However, the IMF (2013) believes that in the long run, there is a need to:

1. Mining businesses are subjected to taxes to improve progressivity. This ensures that taxes move in tandem with changes in activity.

11. Sudan's Gold Mining Challenges

There are numerous obstacles to the advancement of gold mining in Sudan, such as:

1. The requirement for a gold geological map.
2. The requirement for mining investing businesses to be protected from different infringements.
3. The creation of a sophisticated gold studies and research center.
4. Improvement of traditional miners' capacity and prevention of encroachment into firms' franchised regions hundreds of residents are now hunting for metal particles in the Nubian Desert, West Red Sea Hills, North and South Kordofan, and other places previously permitted to mining firms *(www.minerals.gov.sd, 2025).*
5. There are security concerns in several gold mining areas, particularly in Darfur.

6. The mining industry suffers from a scarcity of experienced personnel and marketing agency competence.
7. The Problem of Gold Smuggling as previously noted, the Chairman of the National Assembly's Energy and Mining Committee revealed the smuggling of 58 tons of gold in 2013. *(Altaghyeer newspaper, January 23, 2026).* He also stated that total production in 2013 was 80 tons.

12. Concluding Remarks

Sudan has placed a premium on gold in the last two years as it attempts to recover the oil income lost when South Sudan seceded in July 2011. Because the purpose of this work is to investigate the contribution of gold mining to Sudan's economic recovery and development, the following pressing issues should be considered to maximize income collection from this sub-sector:

12.1. One Crucial conclusion is that Relying Just on Gold as a Fresh Source of Income to Help the Sudanese Economy Recover is Insufficient

Indeed, diversification of the economy is critical for the Sudanese development. To avoid reliance on a single source, the government should learn from the oil experience rather than repeat it. To develop gold mining, the government should make greater efforts to coordinate and increase gold output and exporting. The Minerals Authority should try to recruit foreign mining companies with modern technology and strong balance sheets to assure the continued development of Sudan's gold industry. The application of current international technology, the advancement of scientific research, and the updating of the Sudanese geological map of gold are critical to the development of gold mining in Sudan and the recovery of the contracting economy.

12.2. Gold Smuggling Poses a Significant Problem to Sudan's Gold Economy

Gold smuggling is a significant difficulty for the government in maximizing its advantage from gold mining. In this regard, the government should combat gold smuggling to maximize the benefit of gold production through official gold exports; it should investigate the primary causes of the recent spike in gold smuggling to develop solutions. Some observers, for example, claim that there is a significant discrepancy between the Central Bank of Sudan's rate and the global market, which favors gold smuggling.

12.3. The Protection of Mining Corporations Investing in the Field Against Artisanal Miners is Critical

This would improve the investment climate for foreign enterprises, which can help to promote and develop gold mining in Sudan. Such businesses have extensive experience as well as cutting-edge technology.

12.4. The Importance of Organizing Artisanal Gold Mining in Sudan

Despite its downsides, conventional mining creates jobs and improves economic status, so contributing to poverty alleviation. This shows that artisanal mining might be a significant economic activity for artisanal miners' livelihoods. As a result, the government should make more efforts to mitigate the disadvantages and maximize the benefits of artisanal mining. The Ministry of Minerals issued several regulations to govern conventional gold mining. One of these is that anyone wishing to engage in traditional mining must register his name with the state or locality's authorized mining committee, and the state is authorized to give permits to people and other legal companies for a charge (see Annex No. 2). The difficulty is determining how to translate these regulations into actions and how the Ministry of Minerals would implement these restrictions in close collaboration and coordination with the appropriate authorities. Furthermore, the government should offer critical services such as health centers, sanitation, and so on in regions with artisanal gold mining. The Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) agreed in 2014 to lend Sudan 13.5 million dinars, or $47.2 million, as a contribution to the mining sector for the establishment and equipping of mining laboratories.

The minerals minister highlighted the fund commitment to the building of 12 mining laboratories as a significant boost that would allow the Ministry to proceed with its mining goals Sudan *(Vision, 18th February 2026).* Furthermore, the Minister of Minerals pledged to improve laboratories, increase exploration, and introduce modern international technology, develop scientific research, and update the Sudanese geological map, all of which are expected to lead to the development of Sudan's gold subsector.

13. Annexes

13.1. Annex 1

Table 3: Data on Total Exports, Oil Exports, and Gold Exports for the Period (2001-2021)

	Total Exports	Gold Exports			Oil Exports	
Years	Value in millions USD	Q (Ton)	Value in millions of US$	As % of Total exports	Value in millions of US$	As % of Total Exports
2001	1699	8	44	3	1377	81
2002	1949	10	53	3	1397	77
2003	2542	9	59	2	1934	81
2004	3778	7	50	1	2957	82
2005	4824	9	64	1	3948	87
2006	5657	7	64	1	5087	90
2007	8879	7	63	1	8419	95
2008	11671	8	112	1	11142	95
2009	8257	16	403	5	7237	88
2010	11404	29	1018	9	9695	85
2011	9656	24	1455	15	7304	76
2012	4067	46	2158	53	955	23
2013	4790	27	1048	22	1717	36
2014	4454	34	1271	29	1357	30
2015	3169	21	726	23	627	20
2016	3094	30	1044	34	336	11
2017	4100	41	1559	38	417	10
2018	3485	22	832	24	520	15
2019	3735	24	989	26	532	14
2020	3803	28	1480	39	65	2
2021	4279	40	2063	48	37	1

13.2. Annex 2: The Regulation of Traditional Mining for Gold

According to Article 26 of the 2007 Law on Minerals Development and Mining, the Minister of Minerals issued the following regulation:

1. *The Name of the Regulation and its Effective Date are:* This regulation is called the Regulation of Traditional Mining for Gold, and it is effective as of the date of signature.
2. *Definition of Traditional Mining:* The traditional mining for gold in Sudan is undertaken by individuals without using heavy machines like excavators, lauders, buckets, crawler dozers, and similar equipment and should not be in deep zones.
3. *Practicing Traditional Mining:* It is allowable for citizens to practice traditional mining.
4. *Conditions for Practicing Traditional Mining:* It is a must for whoever wants to practice traditional mining to register his name with the authorized mining committee of the state or locality. Issue of licenses for traditional mining: The state is authorized to issue licenses to individuals and other legal entities with fees.
5. *Supervision of Mining Offices in States on Mining Operations:* Mining should be under the supervision

of the offices of the Ministry of Minerals in the states where mining activity is practiced within the allocated areas.

6. *Safeguarding the Environment:* It is essential to consider the safety of the environment in its broad sense, including vegetation and trees, water, animals, air, solids, etc.
7. *Considering the Investment Licenses and the Protection of Investors in the Field of Non-Traditional Mining:* Considering the investment license granted to investors by the Ministry through its authorized committees and protecting them from trespassing.
8. *Demarcation of Specific Areas of Land for Traditional Mining:* The ministry can allocate specific areas for traditional mining in the states so that traditional miners cannot cross over to other areas.
9. *Surveying Land Suitable for Traditional Mining:* Registration of land specified by the ministry for mining after surveying and ensuring that it is free of any third-party rights and other restrictions. These areas are then registered in the name of the Sudan government (Ministry of Mining).
10. *Depth of Traditional Mining Pits:* The depth of such pits should not exceed 10 meters inside the earth or mountains. What goes beyond this should be surrendered to the ministerial authority.
11. *Grouping of Workers in Mining:* The state may group the individuals practicing traditional mining into specified locations where there are grinding mills and other necessities for the extraction of gold.
12. *Licenses for Gold Traders:* It is permissible to provide licenses to traders specialized in gold selling and buying for practicing trading under the supervision of the state. No licensed traders are allowed to practice buying or selling gold.
13. *Traders in Gold:* Traders authorized to deal in gold should sell it to one of the banks or companies identified by the Bank of Sudan.
14. *Share of Ministry and State from the Extracted Gold:* The ministry of minerals and the state where mining is taking place deserve 5 percent of the gold obtained, and this is equally shared between the ministry and the state.
15. *Insurance of People Working in Mining:* Safety and security measures must be in place to safeguard the community and workers. All individuals undertaking this profession should be insured against hazards that can occur to them in the field of mining. This insurance is compulsory and a precondition of licensing for mining in the state.
16. *Application of Labor Law:* The articles of the Labor Law for 1997 or any subsequent amendments to it should be strictly observed about the recruitment of women and children.
17. *Penalties:* Anyone who breaches the articles of this regulation will be subjected to penalties stipulated in Article No. 24 of the Mineral Wealth Development Law for 2007. *(http://www.minerals.gov.sd, 2025).*

Conflict of Interest Statement: The author declares that there are no conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, that could have influenced the research, analysis, or conclusions presented in this manuscript.

Funding Information: This research received no specific grant or financial support from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or non-profit sectors.

Data Availability Statement: The data used in this study were obtained from publicly available secondary sources, including reports and publications of the Central Bank of Sudan, the Sudan Ministry of Minerals, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, international organizations, and other publicly accessible sources cited in the manuscript. The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding publicly accessible sources and references cited in the manuscript.

Ethical Approval Statement: Ethical approval was not required for this study because it is based exclusively on secondary data and publicly available information. The study did not involve human participants, human subjects, personal data, interviews, surveys, or experimental procedures.

Acknowledgement Section: The author acknowledges the Central Bank of Sudan, the Sudan Ministry of Minerals, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, and other institutions whose published reports and statistical information contributed to this study. The author also acknowledges the contribution of publicly available research, reports, and publications that informed the analysis presented in this manuscript.

References

1. The Altaghyeer Newspaper, Issue 112. January 23, 2026
2. Alyoum Altali Newspaper. February 17, 2026
3. Sudanese Central Bank, Annual Reports

4. Abdalatif Hassan & Getachew Tahir, "Update on Macroeconomic Developments in Sudan," UNDP Sudan. July, 2025
5. IMF, Country Report No. 13/317. October 2025
6. Sudan Ministry of Minerals. 2026
7. Sudan Ministry of Human Resources and Labor, Labor Force Survey. 2011
8. Seminar on Geological and Mineral Resource Management, Ministry of Minerals, Mohammed Elmbarak Hamed and Fathalla Hussein Hamed, Geologists
9. Mohammed Sir Alkhatim Mohammed, "The Mining Sector's Contribution to Gross Domestic Product," (unpublished study). August 2013
10. Sudan Vision. February 18, 2026, 3(18)
11. Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Sudan, "Poverty in Northern Sudan." 2025
12. Internet Websites:
    a. Sudan's Gold Rush (4805)' 2025: www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/d/
    b. Sudan's Gold Rush (duplicate entry)' April 2025: www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/d/
    c. Ministry of Minerals, Sudan' January 2026: www.minerals.gov.sd/Eng/Minstery_issue.htm
    d. In Depth News' January 2026:www.indepthnews.info/index.php/the-world/africa/1568-sudan-targets-gold-to-soften-loss-f-oil-money
    e. Enough Projects, "Sudan's Gold Rush," May 2025:www.enoghproject.org/files/darfur_gold_rush.pdf
    f. Gold Investing News' January 2026: Gold Investignews.com