



TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES



Tracking quarterly trends and analysing foreign direct investment, imports and exports

TIPS EXPORT TRACKER

FOURTH QUARTER 2020

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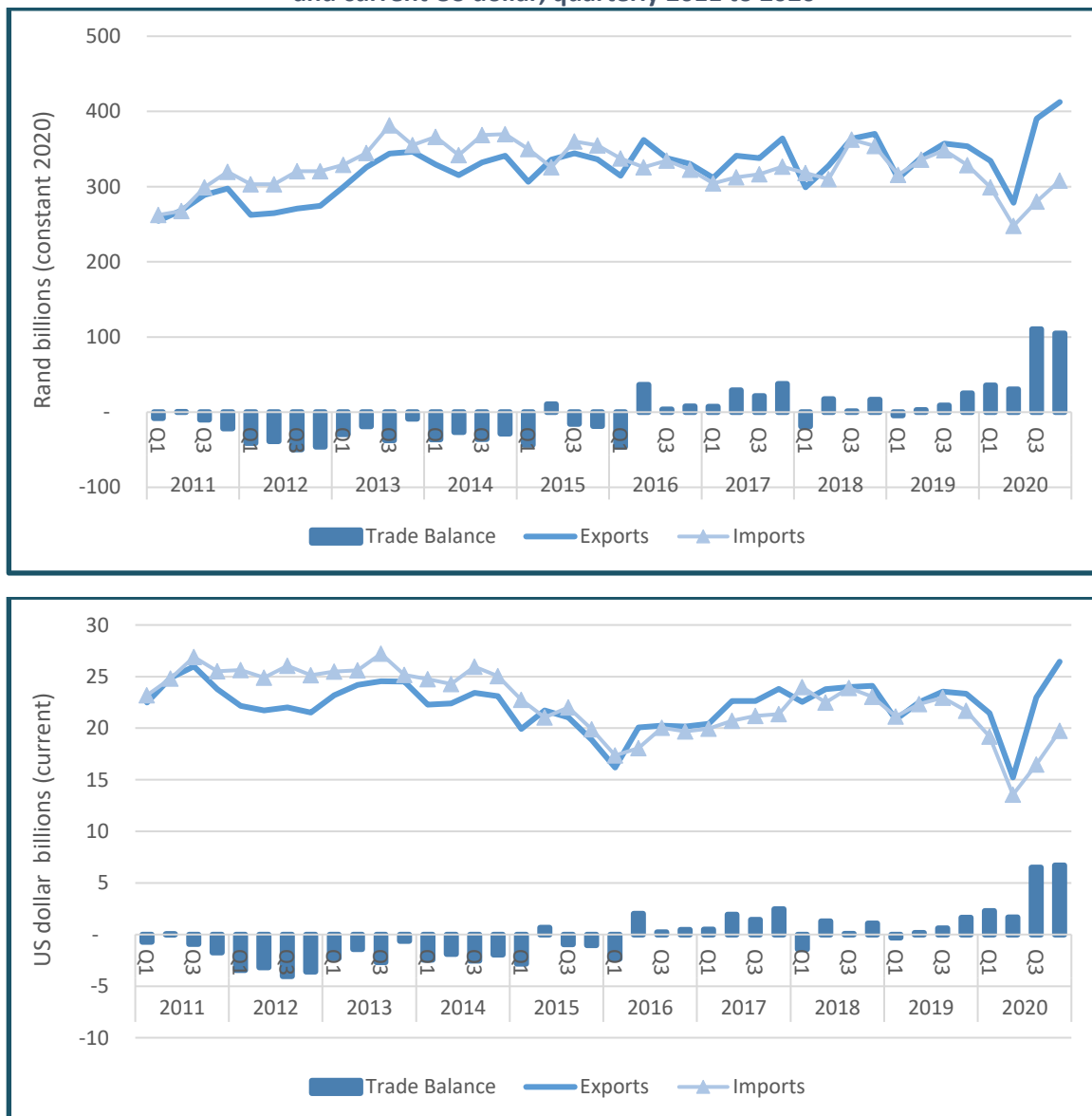
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OVERVIEW OF EXPORT PERFORMANCE

South Africa's robust third quarter recovery in merchandise exports continued in the fourth quarter of 2020, growing at an even faster pace by 16.6% (quarter-on-quarter), amounting to R412 billion. The decline in imports moderated to -6.3%, amounting to R307 billion, in constant rand terms compared to the -19.6% decline in Q3 2020 (quarter-on-quarter). The fourth quarter of 2020 recorded a trade balance of R104 billion (US\$6.7 billion), marking South Africa's seventh straight quarter trade surplus. In US dollar terms, merchandise exports were up by 13.4% (quarter-on-quarter) to US\$26.4 billion, while imports declined by 8.9% in Q4 2020 to US\$19.7 billion (See Graph 1). Taking into account the COVID-19 containment measures and possible effectiveness of the mass vaccination programmes being implemented in most countries globally, and the ongoing surge in metals prices, South Africa's export performance is expected to continue on a steady growth path.

Graph 1: Exports, imports and trade balance in constant (2020) rand value and current US dollar, quarterly 2011 to 2020



Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS) Statistics. Downloaded from sars.gov.za in February 2021.

The composition of South Africa's top 20 export products and their top market in Q4 2020 is presented in Table 1. The top 5 sectors remained virtually unchanged with precious stones, ores, vehicles, mineral fuels and oils and machinery (industrial) dominating South Africa's exports in Q4 2020. Amongst the top 20 export sectors, all except two experienced an increase in export demand in the fourth quarter of 2020. Exports of chemical products showed the highest growth, increasing by 71.7% (quarter-on-quarter), followed by wood pulp and precious stones which grew by 51.1% and 39.8%, respectively. Mineral fuels and oils, and paper and paper products are the two sectors in the top 20 that experienced a marginal decline in exports in Q4 2020, with exports falling by 13.8% and 1.5%, respectively.

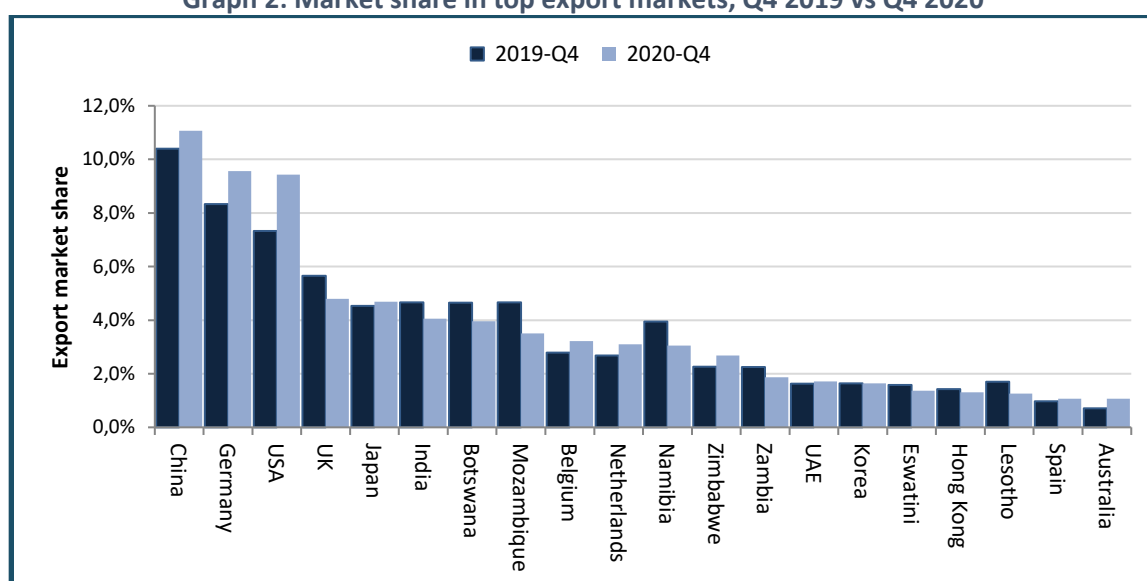
Table 1: Top 20 sectors, Q4 2019 to Q4 2020

HS Code	Sector	VALUE (R BILLIONS)		SHARE %		ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	TOP EXPORT MARKET
		Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2019-Q4 2020	
71	Precious stones	73.4	102.6	21,4%	24,9%	39,8%	USA
26	Ores	45.4	61.9	13,3%	15,0%	36,2%	China
87	Vehicles	39.5	47.0	11,5%	11,4%	19,0%	Germany
27	Mineral fuels and oils	33.4	28.8	9,7%	7,0%	-13,8%	India
84	Machinery (industrial)	20.4	25.4	5,9%	6,2%	24,7%	Germany
72	Iron and steel	17.8	19.1	5,2%	4,6%	7,5%	China
08	Fruits and nuts	7.7	9.1	2,2%	2,2%	17,9%	Netherlands
38	Chemical products	4.9	8.5	1,4%	2,1%	71,7%	USA
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	6.9	7.8	2,0%	1,9%	12,3%	Botswana
76	Aluminium	6.7	6.8	1,9%	1,7%	2,4%	USA
22	Beverages	5.1	5.9	1,5%	1,4%	15,8%	UK
73	Articles of iron and steel	4.5	5.5	1,3%	1,3%	21,3%	Rwanda
39	Plastics	5.0	5.4	1,4%	1,3%	9,1%	Zimbabwe
29	Organic chemicals	3.9	4.5	1,1%	1,1%	15,4%	Belgium
47	Pulp of wood	2.9	4.4	0,9%	1,1%	51,1%	India
28	Inorganic chemicals	3.4	3.8	1,0%	0,9%	13,2%	Belgium
74	Copper	2.4	3.1	0,7%	0,8%	28,3%	China
33	Essential oils	2.2	2.6	0,6%	0,6%	20,9%	Namibia
90	Medical equipment	2.4	2.6	0,7%	0,6%	8,8%	Namibia
48	Paper and paper products	2.4	2.4	0,7%	0,6%	-1,5%	Namibia

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in February 2021.

South Africa’s exports to China grew by 28.1% quarter-on-quarter in the fourth quarter of 2020, amounting to R45.6 billion. Ores continue to be the largest export product to China, accounting for 65.1% of South Africa’s total exports to China by value in Q4 2020. Iron and steel accounted for 11.4%, followed by copper (5.2%), wool (2.7%) and chemical products (2.4%). Among these top 5 export products, chemical product exports grew exponentially, increasing by 331% from R253 million in Q4 2019 to R1 billion in Q4 2020. The growth in chemical products was driven by an increase in demand for reaction initiators, reaction accelerators and catalytic preparations, (excluding rubber accelerators) (*HS3815*), which rose from R154 million in Q4 2019 to R1.1 billion in Q4 2020. This product is commonly used in the production of paints, polymers, plastics, detergents, pharmaceuticals and other chemicals.¹ Copper and iron and steel exports to China also saw positive growth, increasing by 79.4% and 53.3% respectively, from the same quarter last year. Wool exports were the only product among the top 5 export products to China to decline in Q4 2020, dropping by 11.4% to R1.2 billion.

Graph 2: Market share in top export markets, Q4 2019 vs Q4 2020



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021.

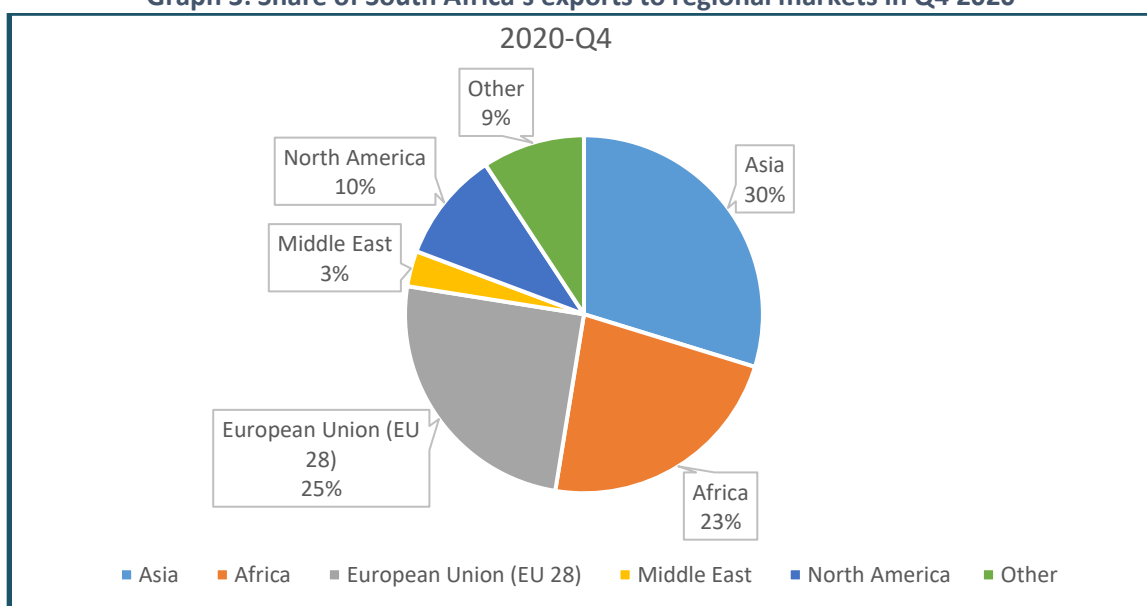
The fourth quarter of 2020 saw Germany come back to being South Africa’s second largest export market after being overtaken by the United States of America (USA) in the second and third quarters of 2020. South Africa’s exports to Germany grew by 38.2% from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020, amounting to R39.4 billion. This represents a 9.6% share of the South Africa’s total exports by value in Q4 2020. The top 5 export products to Germany claimed a 93.6% share of South Africa’s total exports to Germany by value, with vehicles remaining the top export product, accounting for 40.4%, followed by precious stones (24.3%), ores (17%), machinery (industrial) (9.5%) and chemical products (2.5%). All the top 5 export products experienced growth in Q4 2020, with chemical products showing the highest growth of 265% (quarter-on-quarter) amounting to R968 million. Growth in export of chemical products to Germany continue to be driven by increased demand for reaction initiators, reaction accelerators and catalytic preparations, (excluding rubber accelerators) (*HS3815*), which increased from RR232 million in Q4 2019 to R939 million in Q4 2020. Ores also saw high growth in Q4 2020, increasing by 198% from R2.2 billion in Q4

¹ <https://oec.world/en/profile/hs92/reaction-and-catalytic-products#:~:text=Description%3A%20The%20common%20uses%20of,%2C%20pharmaceuticals%2C%20and%20other%20chemicals.>

2019 to R6.6 billion in Q4 2020, driven by increased demand in precious metal ores and concentrates, and iron ore and concentrates.

South Africa’s exports to the USA accounted for 9.4% of its total export value, making it the third largest export market for South African products in Q4 2020. Exports to the USA grew by 58.4% (quarter-on-quarter) to R38.9 billion in Q4 2020. The Top 5 export products to the USA consisted of precious stones (51.7%), vehicles (10.5%), machinery (industrial) (5.2%), chemical products (4.7%) and iron and steel (4.5%). Of the Top 5 products, all except iron and steel, which dropped by 5.3%, experienced growth in the fourth quarter of 2020. As observed with exports to China and Germany, exports of chemical products to the USA showed exponential growth in Q4 2020, increasing by 514% from R298 million in Q4 2019 to R1.8 billion, driven by growth in exports of reaction initiators, reaction accelerators and catalytic preparations, (excluding rubber accelerators) (*HS3815*). Vehicle exports grew significantly in the fourth quarter of 2020, increasing by 130% (quarter-on-quarter) to R4.1 billion.

Graph 3: Share of South Africa’s exports to regional markets in Q4 2020



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> in February 2021.

In trade with global regions, Asia continues to be the biggest market for South African exports accounting for 30% of its total exports by value, amounting to R122 billion, representing a 17.3% quarter-on-quarter growth. The second largest regional market for South Africa’s exports in Q4 2020 was the European Union (EU-28), taking 25% of its total exports, amounting to R102 billion. Exports to EU-28 were up by 29.8% from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020. The African region accounted for 23%, followed by North America (10%) and the Middle East (3%).

South Africa’s exports to the rest of Africa were up by 1.2% from R79 billion in Q4 2019 to R94 billion in Q4 2020. The top export markets for South African products in the African region in Q4 2020 included Botswana (17.3%), Mozambique (15.2%), Namibia (13.4%), Zimbabwe (11.8%) and Zambia (8.2%). Exports to Zimbabwe showed the highest growth in Q4 2020 increasing by 43% to R11 billion from the same quarter last year, while exports to Mozambique and Namibia declined by 9.6% and 6.9% to R14.5 billion and R12.6 billion, respectively.

SIGNIFICANT PRODUCT GROWTH IN EXPORTS AND ANALYSIS

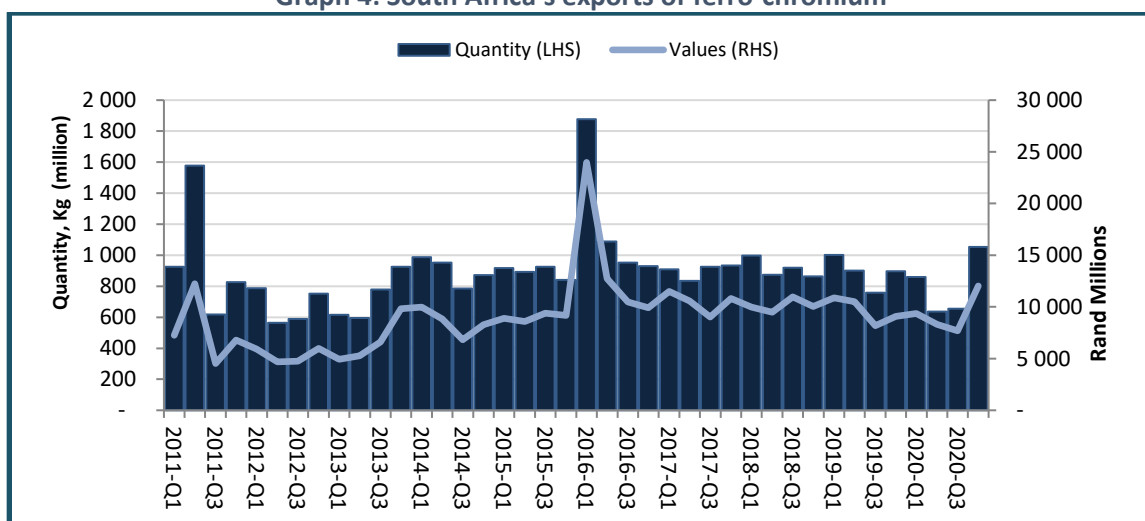
Three products of significant export growth and two of significant decline have been identified for this quarter. These include iron and steel products, ores and mineral fuels, and oils products for growth; and wood pulp and aluminium products for declines. The full list of top exports with growth or a decline are provided in the Annexure. In this quarter, the production selection has been expanded to other products outside the top 50 exports, eliminating bias in the selection and overlooking other goods needing attention, as well as issues with data errors. The Annexure also provides a list of products for ongoing monitoring.

Significant growth in ferro-chromium

HS 72024100: Ferro-chromium, containing by weight > 4% of carbon

Ferro-chromium is an alloy of chromium containing 30% to 40% iron, used to make stainless steel. It is produced in an electric furnace using chromium ore, iron or iron ore, and carbon, usually anthracite coal. Over 80% of the world's ferro-chromium is used in the production of stainless steel and is responsible for its appearance and resistance to corrosion. South Africa is the world's largest producer and exporter of ferro-chromium by volume and value. In the fourth quarter of 2020, South Africa's ferro-chromium exports grew by 17.4% from 872 million kg valued at R9.4 billion in Q4 2019 to 1.1 billion kg worth R12 billion in Q4 2020. This is the fourth highest export record over the observed period, after reaching a peak of 1.8 billion kg in Q1 2016.

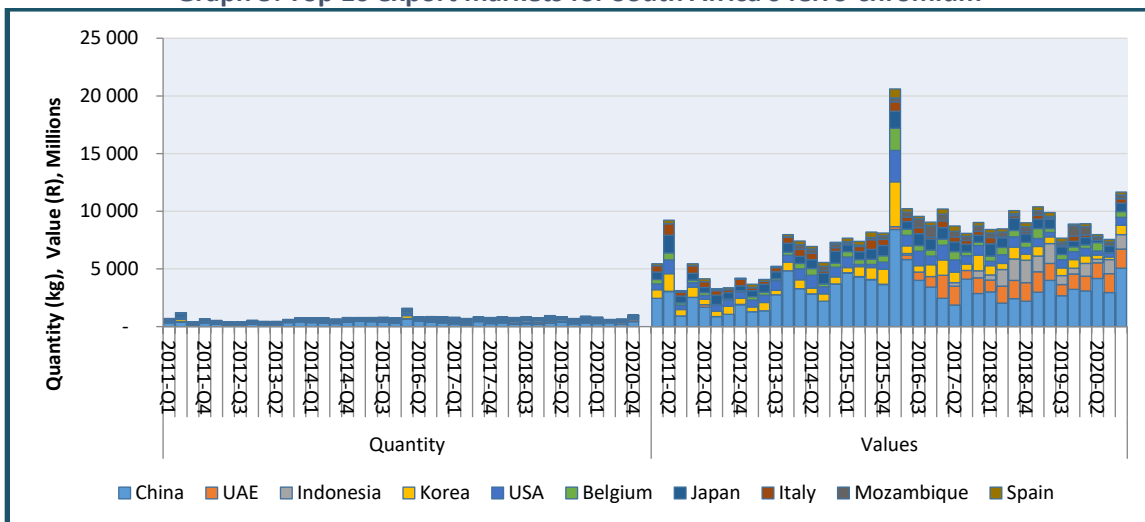
Graph 4: South Africa's exports of ferro-chromium



Source: Author's. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2020.

South Africa's ferro-chromium exports have experienced a declining trend since Q1 2020. This can be attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mining activities, as well as the general slowdown in the global economy as a result of restricted economic activities. The rebound in South Africa's ferro-chromium exports was supported by an increase in demand from its top three ferro-chromium markets, China, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Indonesia. Exports to China grew by 38.9% from 313 million kg in Q4 2020 to 435 million kg, after having experiencing declines in the second quarter of 2020 owing to COVID-19 related lockdown measures. Exports to the UAE and Indonesia were up by 20.8% and 48.7 %, amounting to 147 million kg and 109 million kg, respectively in Q4 2020.

Graph 5: Top 10 export markets for South Africa’s ferro-chromium



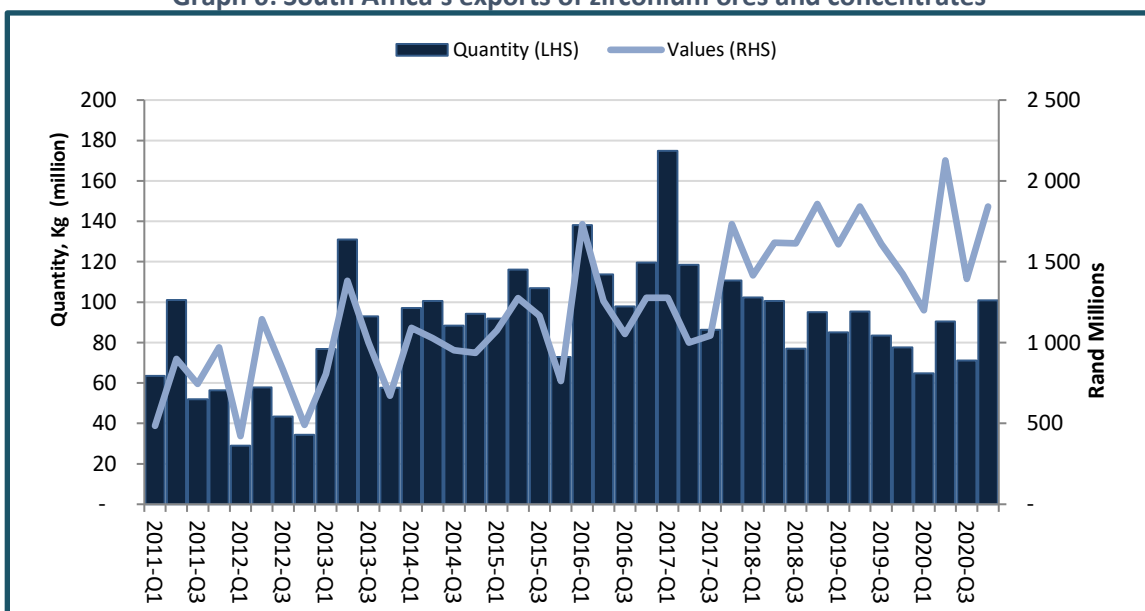
Source: Authors. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021

Significant growth in zirconium ores and concentrates

HS 26151000: Zirconium ores and concentrates

Zirconium is a silver-gray, hard ductile metallic element that easily forms stable compounds. Zirconium ores and concentrates are a by-product of the mining and processing of the titanium minerals ilmenite and rutile, as well as tin mining. It is highly resistant to corrosion and is used to make steel alloys, catalytic converters, bricks, ceramics, abrasives, flashbulbs and lamp filaments. South Africa is by far the top global exporter of zirconium ores and concentrates, followed by Mozambique and Kazakhstan.

Graph 6: South Africa’s exports of zirconium ores and concentrates

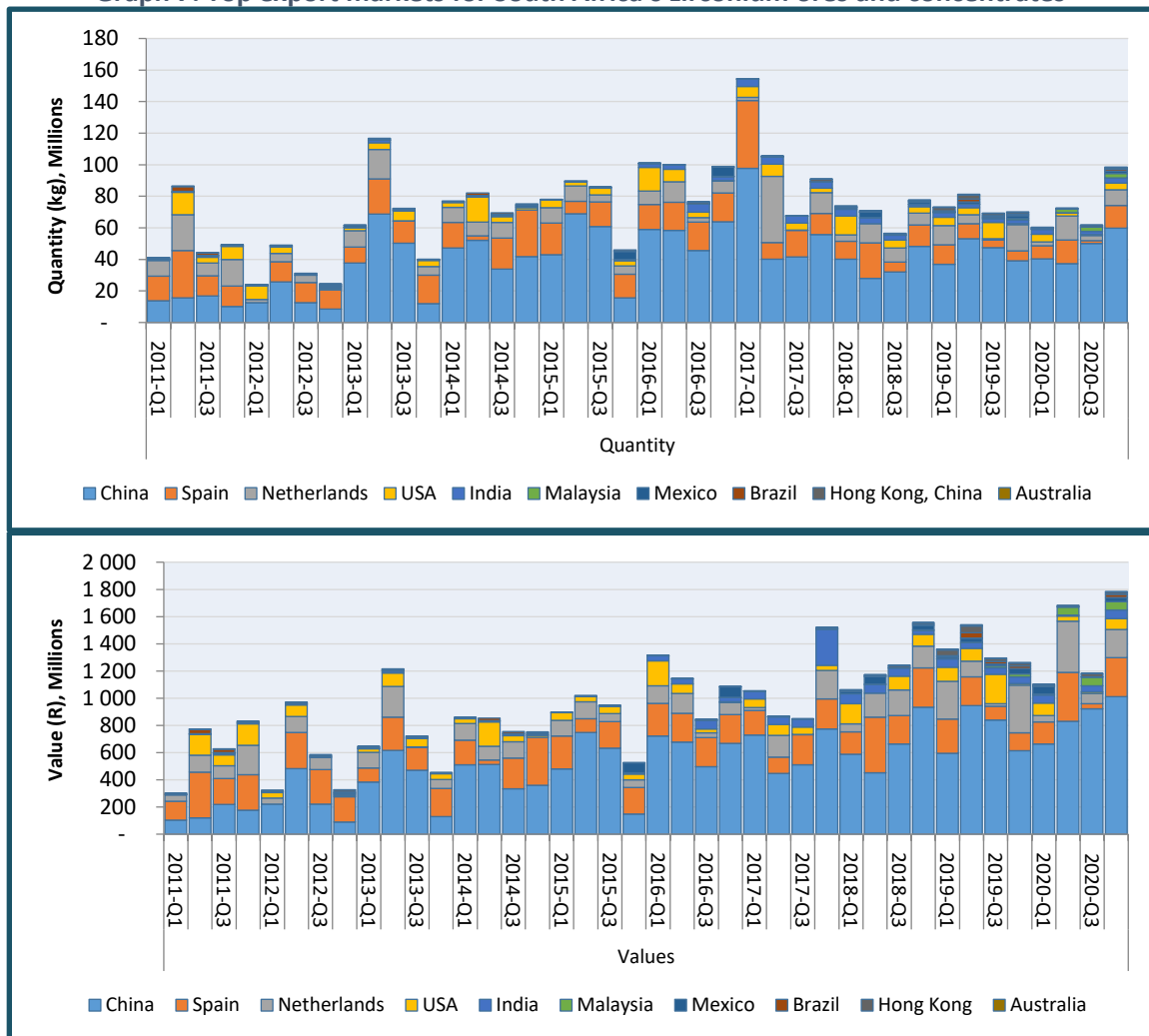


Source: Author’s. Calculated from ITC TradeMap data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021.

The fourth quarter of 2020 saw South Africa exporting 101 million kg of zirconium ores and concentrates worth R1.8 billion compared with 77 million kg valued at R1.4 billion in Q4 2019, a year-on-year growth of 30.1%. The top export markets for South Africa’s zirconium ores and

concentrates are China, which absorbed 59.2%, followed by Spain (14.3%), Netherlands (9.9%), USA (4.2%) and India (3.1%)

Graph 7: Top export markets for South Africa's zirconium ores and concentrates



Source: Author's. Calculated from ITC TradeMap data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021.

Exports to China grew from 39 million kg valued at R613 million in Q4 2019 to 59 million kg worth R1 billion, representing a 52.7% quarter-on-quarter growth. The driving factors behind the increase in demand for zirconium ores and concentrates by China is the consistent growth in foundries and refractories, and growth in nuclear power stations for which zirconium is a major input.² Based on secondary sources, China's demand for zirconium is expected to grow as the country continues to increase its focus on developing nuclear power resources, expand its production of ceramic tiles as well as the steady growth in its iron and steel industry, which is the largest consumer of refractories. Therefore, the growth in China's foundry, refractories and ceramic industries is likely to continue driving its demand for zirconium ores and concentrates.³

South Africa's zirconium ores and concentrates exports to Spain and USA experienced exponentially growth in the fourth quarter of 2020, increasing by 128% and 600%, respectively.

² <http://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2020/11/20/2130842/0/en/Worldwide-Zirconium-Industry-to-2025-Increasing-Demand-from-Zircon-Flour-Sand.html>

³ Research and Markets, Worldwide-Zirconium Industry to 2025.

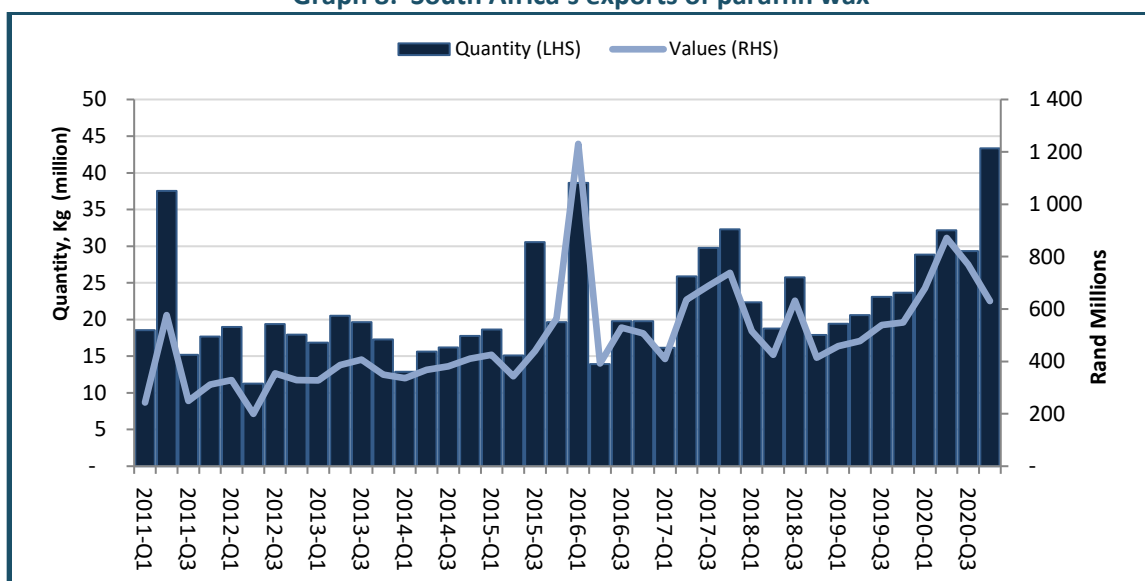
Exports to Spain increased from 6.3 million kg, worth R131 million in Q4 2019, to 14.4 million kg (R287 million) in Q4 2020, while exports to the USA rose from 600 000 kg, worth R12.5 million in Q4 2019, to 4.4 million kg valued at R80.7 million in Q4 2020. With Spain being among the top three global exporters of ceramic tiles, the increase in demand for zirconium ores and concentrates can be attributed to the growth in its ceramic tile production. It is not clear what is driving the increase in demand for zirconium in the USA, although the country uses it as a main input in nuclear fuel cladding, chemical piping in corrosive environment and in the production of specialty alloys.

Significant growth in paraffin wax

HS 27122000: Paraffin wax containing < 0,75% by weight of oil

South Africa is the top global exporter of paraffin wax by both quantity and value. Paraffin wax is a soft colourless solid derived from petroleum, coal or oil shale that consists of a mixture of hydrocarbon molecules. It is commonly used for lubrication, electrical insulation and the production of candles. South Africa’s paraffin wax exports have steadily increased since the first quarter of 2019. In Q4 2020, the country’s exports of paraffin wax grew significantly, increasing by 83.4% from 23.1 million kg, worth R548 million in Q4 2019, to 43.4 million kg valued at R630 million. This significant rise in exports can be attributed to a drop in unit price by 37% from R23.20 per kg in Q4 2019 to R14.55 per kg in Q4 2020, the lowest price recorded since Q3 2015, and increased demand from the USA market.

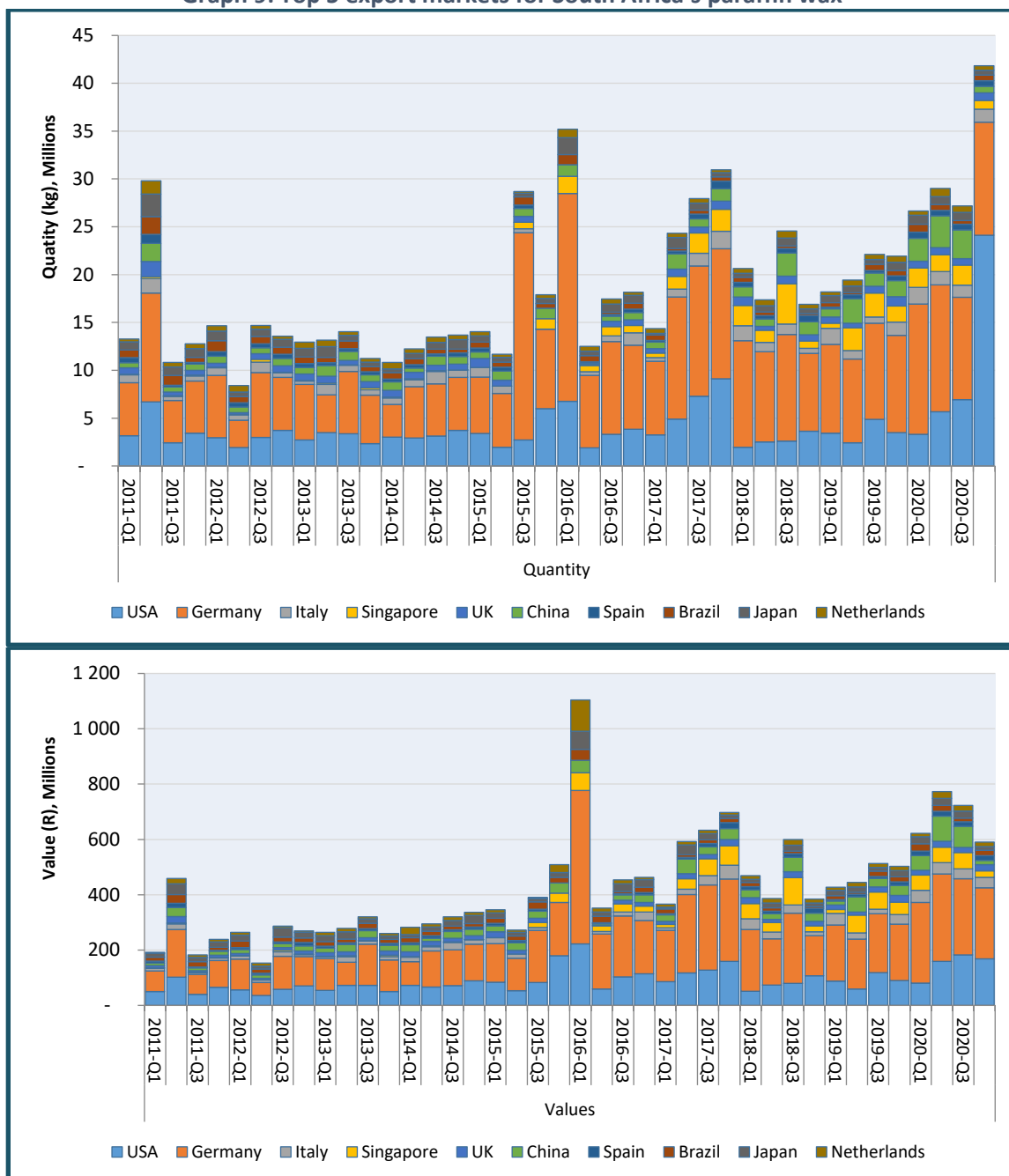
Graph 8: South Africa’s exports of paraffin wax



Source: Author’s. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021.

The USA and Germany are the top export markets for South Africa’s paraffin wax, accounting for 55.6% and 27.3% of the country’s total paraffin wax exports in Q4 2020. Exports to the USA grew exponentially, increasing by 594% from 3.4 million kg valued at R90 million in Q4 2019, to 24.1 million kg worth R167 million in Q4 2020. It is not clear what is driving this significant increase in demand for paraffin wax by the USA, but the decrease in price could be an influencing factor. Exports to Germany grew by 15% from 10.2 million kg, valued at R204 million in Q4 2019, to 11.8 million kg worth R257 million in Q4 2020.

Graph 9: Top 5 export markets for South Africa's paraffin wax



Source: Authors. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021

SIGNIFICANT SLUMPS AND ANALYSIS

Significant slump in semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp

HS 47032900: Semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp, soda or sulphate (excluding dissolving grades)

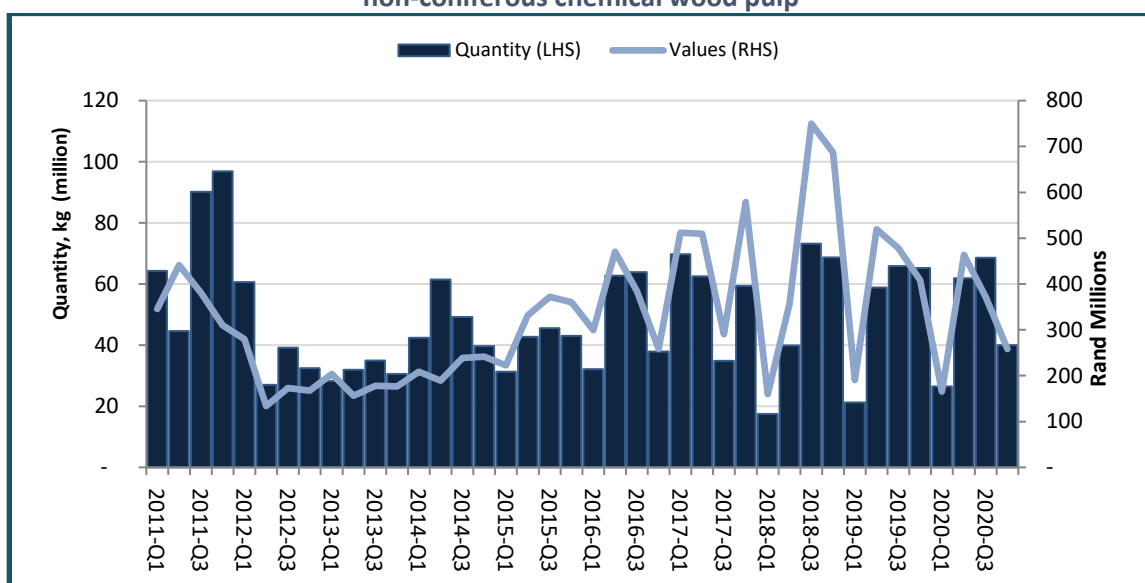
Semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp (*HS 47032900*) is produced from the digestion or cooking of wood with solutions of various chemicals, specifically soda and sulphate, to lighten its colour and whiten the pulp. Its main uses include the production of shipping containers, paper bags, printing and writing papers, and other paper and packaging

products that require strength.⁴ South Africa is in the top 20 global exporters of semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp, ranking 11th by export quantity in the fourth quarter of 2020.

South Africa’s semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp exports have fluctuated between 2011 and 2020, reaching a peak of 94 million kg, valued at R310 million in Q4 2011, which was followed by a period of significant decline, to levels as low as 26 million kg in the second quarter of 2012. In the fourth quarter of 2020, South Africa’s exports of semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp dropped by 38.7% from 65.2 million kg in Q4 2019 worth R408 million to 39.9 million kg valued at R257 million in Q4 2020.

The top three export markets accounted for 75% of South Africa’s total export quantity of semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp, with Thailand, China and Indonesia accounting for 35%, 24% and 16%, respectively in Q4 2020. There was a significant decline in demand by China, resulting in South Africa’s exports of semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp to the country dropping by 47% from 17.7 million kg in Q4 2019 to 9.4 million kg in Q4 2020. According to secondary sources, there has been a general decline in demand for printing and writing paper as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the migration of exhibitions, conferences, advertising and education to digital and online platforms, as many people are working from home.⁵ A similar paper industry product experienced a significant decline in 2020, and was analysed in the previous quarter publication (see [TIPS Export Tracker Third Quarter 2020](#)), showing how the effects of the pandemic affected the industry. Findings from an analysis of the global paper industry suggest a need to adjust pulp manufacturers towards the increase in demand for paper packaging.

Graph 10: South African exports of semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp

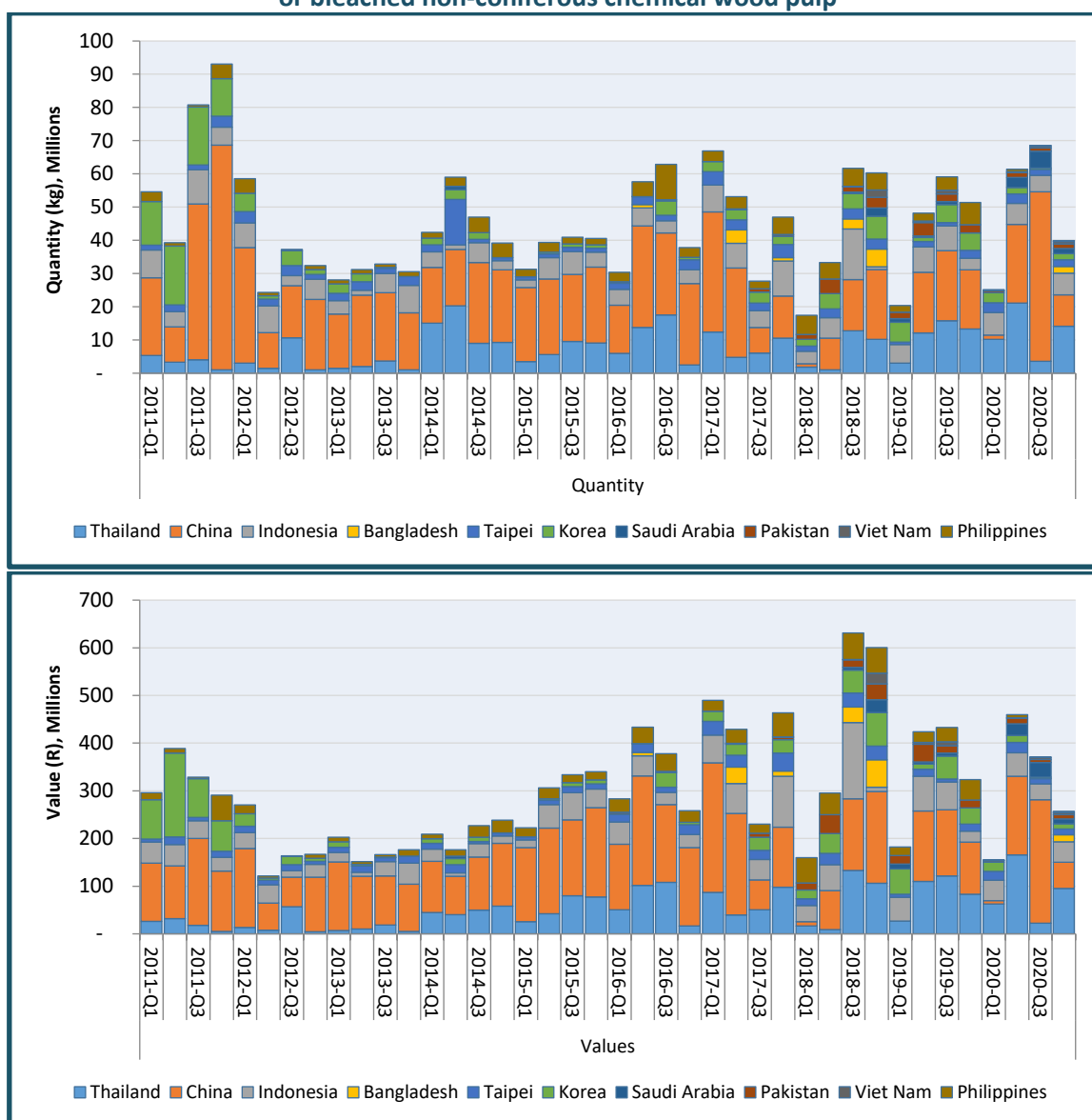


Source: Authors. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021.

⁴ <https://www.afandpa.org/our-products/pulp>.

⁵ <https://www.pulpapernews.com/20210322/12368/rising-paper-packaging-demand-mitigate-adverse-pandemic-effects-global-pulp-market>

Graph 11: South Africa's top 10 export market for semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp



Source: Authors. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021.

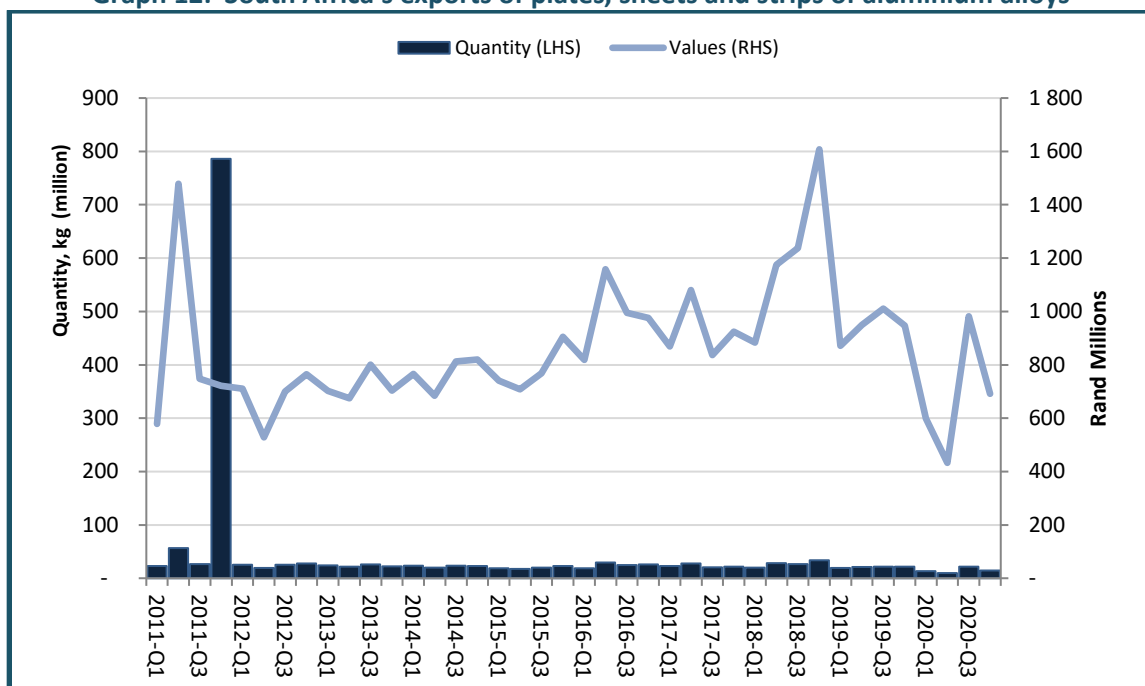
Significant slump in plates, sheets and strip of aluminium alloys

HS 76061217: Plates, sheets and strip, of aluminium alloys, of a thickness of > 0,2 mm, square or rectangular (excluding expanded plates, sheets and strip)

Aluminium alloys are a chemical composition where other elements such as iron, silicon, copper, magnesium, manganese and zinc are added to pure aluminium to increase its properties, particularly to increase its strength.⁶ In its various forms, aluminium alloys are widely used in several industries including electric module packing, electronic technology, automotive body structure, and wind and solar management, because of their high specific strength, excellent workability, anti-erosion, increased conductivity and eco-friendly nature.

⁶ <https://www.aluminum.org/resources/industry-standards/aluminum-alloys-101>.

Graph 12: South Africa's exports of plates, sheets and strips of aluminium alloys



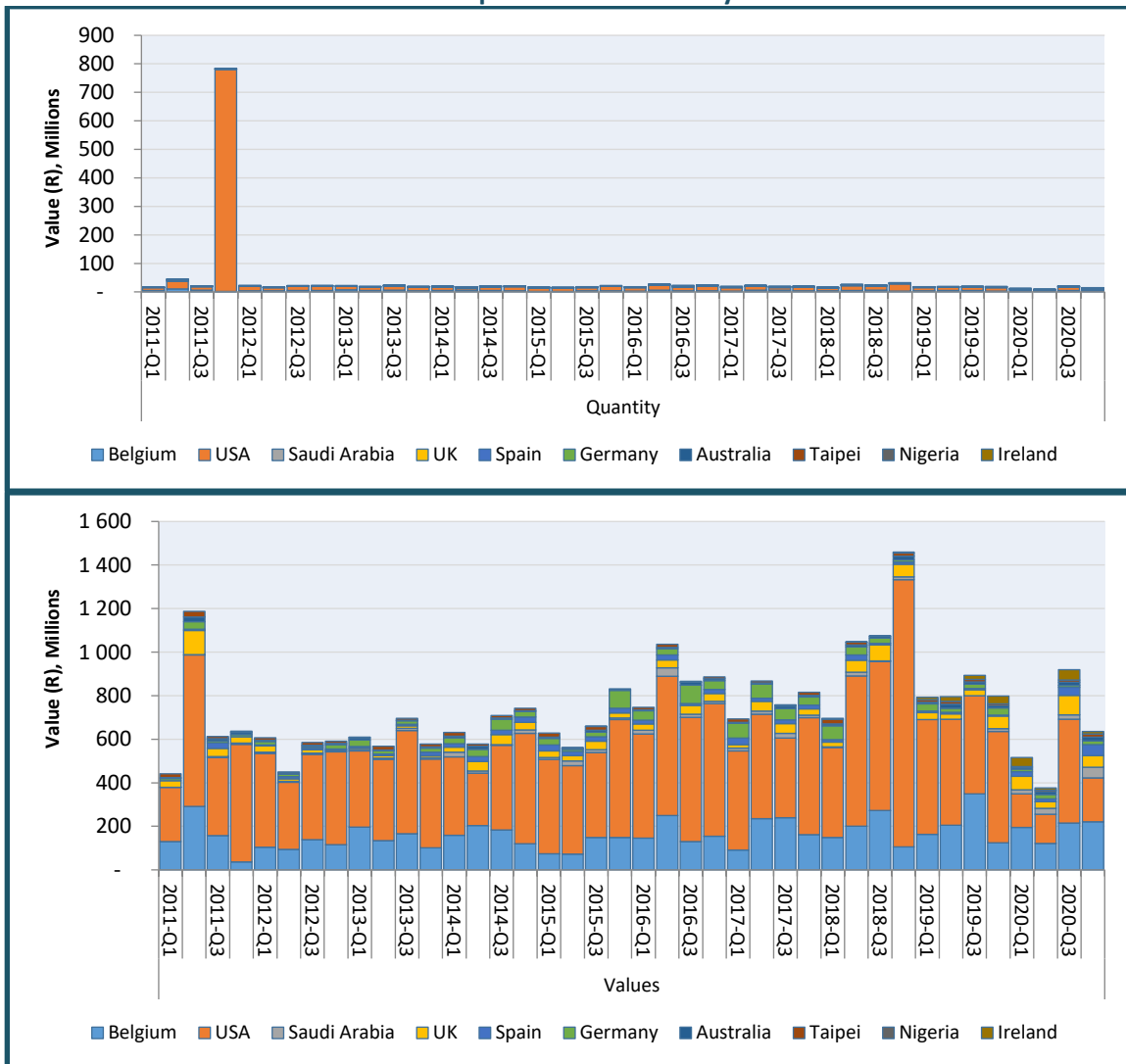
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021.

South Africa is among the top 20 global exporters of plates, sheets and strips of aluminium alloys, ranking 15th in the fourth quarter of 2020. South Africa's exports of plates, sheets and strips of aluminium alloys declined in the fourth quarter of 2020, falling by 33.6% from 21.6 million kg, worth R947 million in Q4 2019, to 14.4 million kg valued at R691 million.

As presented in Graph 12, exports of plates, sheets and strips of aluminium alloys reached their lowest level recorded over the past decade in the second quarter of 2020, amounting to 9.4 million kg, as a result of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Although there was an improvement in the third quarter, exports fell again the fourth quarter, and could be as a result of an increase in the unit price of aluminium alloy. The fourth quarter of 2020 recorded the highest unit price of plates, sheets and strips of aluminium over the past 10 years of R48.08 per unit, an increase of 10% from Q4 2019.

The top three export markets for South Africa's plates, sheets and strips of aluminium alloy include Belgium, USA and Saudi Arabia, with a market share of 35%, 27% and 9%, respectively. The decline in aluminium alloy exports in the fourth quarter of 2020 was driven by a significant reduction in demand by the USA market. In Q4 2020, South Africa's aluminium alloy exports to the USA dropped by 68% from 11.9 million kg, valued at R511 million in Q4 2019, to 3.8 million kg valued at R201 million in Q4 2020. The USA market has been focused on reviving its domestic production of alloy sheets having increased investments to boost local industry.

Graph 13: Top 10 export markets for South Africa's plates, sheets and strips of aluminium alloys



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in February 2021.

Annexure

Table A1: South Africa's top 50 exports by value, Q4 2020

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPORT VALUE (RAND THOUSANDS)		GROWTH RATE (%)
			2019-Q4	2020-Q4	
1	'71	Precious stones	73 411 442	102 631 648	39.8%
2	'26	Ores	45 440 996	61 869 254	36.2%
3	'87	Vehicles	39 478 126	46 960 860	19.0%
4	'27	Mineral fuels and oils	33 407 945	28 809 403	-13.8%
5	'84	Machinery (industrial)	20 375 368	25 401 683	24.7%
6	'72	Iron and steel	17 773 643	19 112 286	7.5%
7	'08	Fruits and Nuts	7 683 314	9 055 655	17.9%
8	'38	Chemical products	4 945 239	8 488 575	71.7%
9	'85	Electrical machinery and equipment	6 924 128	7 774 149	12.3%
10	'76	Aluminium	6 669 400	6 831 054	2.4%
11	'22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5 123 811	5 930 819	15.8%
12	'73	Articles of iron or steel	4 524 563	5 488 345	21.3%
13	'39	Plastics	4 965 578	5 417 159	9.1%
14	'29	Organic chemicals	3 888 001	4 484 920	15.4%
15	'47	Pulp of wood	2 930 550	4 427 522	51.1%
16	'28	Inorganic chemicals	3 383 072	3 829 139	13.2%
17	'74	Copper	2 413 218	3 094 998	28.3%
18	'33	Essential oils and cosmetics	2 175 552	2 629 970	20.9%
19	'90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical ...	2 367 145	2 575 193	8.8%
20	'48	Paper and paper products	2 395 362	2 358 643	-1.5%
21	'20	Vegetable products	2 261 436	2 357 083	4.2%

22	'21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1 906 937	2 307 640	21.0%
23	'10	Cereals	1 556 420	2 220 234	42.7%
24	'99	Commodities not elsewhere specified	1 571 954	2 112 458	34.4%
25	'25	Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	2 008 678	1 975 484	-1.7%
26	'03	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	1 821 538	1 942 870	6.7%
27	'44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	1 578 229	1 894 831	20.1%
28	'30	Pharmaceutical products	1 623 537	1 712 517	5.5%
29	'34	Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial ...	1 698 208	1 702 160	0.2%
30	'51	Wool, fine or coarse animal hair; horsehair yarn and woven fabric	2 083 202	1 682 913	-19.2%
31	'40	Rubber and articles thereof	1 726 366	1 677 470	-2.8%
32	'75	Nickel and articles thereof	2 082 805	1 592 965	-23.5%
33	'17	Sugars and sugar confectionery	2 390 159	1 486 265	-37.8%
34	'94	Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; ...	1 411 384	1 481 477	5.0%
35	'31	Fertilisers	1 249 183	1 457 426	16.7%
36	'89	Ships, boats and floating structures	547 092	1 274 253	132.9%
37	'02	Meat and edible meat offal	1 226 787	1 272 694	3.7%
38	'23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	1 061 279	1 265 113	19.2%
39	'88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	1 335 185	1 221 738	-8.5%
40	'32	Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring ...	1 011 885	1 156 495	14.3%
41	'19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	1 079 076	1 099 176	1.9%
42	'15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal ...	835 518	1 055 161	26.3%
43	'12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal ...	954 144	1 013 875	6.3%
44	'04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere ...	921 313	1 012 362	9.9%

45	'62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	879 268	947 821	7.8%
46	'24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	871 523	937 730	7.6%
47	'11	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	817 985	898 799	9.9%
48	'69	Ceramic products	700 828	817 211	16.6%
49	'61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	815 149	801 848	-1.6%
50	'64	Footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles	737 171	734 733	-0.3%

Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS) trade statistics. February 2021.

Table A2: Top 50 exports of goods, by quantity, with explanations, Q4 2020

NO.	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	MAJOR IMPORTER	EXPLANATION	QUANTITY: Q4 2019	QUANTITY: Q4 2020	UNIT	PERCENT GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK
1.	27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	India	Not significant	20 885 237 943	19 768 253 936	Kilograms	-5%	-
2.	26011200	Agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excluding roasted iron pyrites)	China	Not significant	10 430 139 629	11 204 265 653	Kilograms	7%	-
3.	01064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	Zimbabwe	Significant. Abnormal increase. Export quantity has been fluctuating since Q3 2018 experiencing periods of very high growth and slumps. Ongoing monitoring since Q3 2020 (Export value too low to	13 118 566	8 006 744 006	Units	60934%	124

				warrant analysis in this quarter)					
4.	26011100	Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excluding roasted iron pyrites)	China	Not significant	6 707 162 909	6 317 451 486	Kilograms	-6%	-1
5.	26020000	Manganese ores and concentrates, incl. ferruginous manganese ores and concentrates, with a ...	China	Significant increase. Analysed in the previous quarters. Continuing on a growth trend.	4 698 447 944	5 918 633 003	Kilograms	26%	-1
6.	26100000	Chromium ores and concentrates	China and Mozambique	Not significant	4 010 405 022	3 936 317 246	Kilograms	-2%	-1
7.	72024100	Ferro-chromium, containing by weight > 4% of carbon	China	Product selected for analysis Significant growth. Analysed in the previous quarters. Continuing on a growth trend.	897 278 780	1 053 762 209	Kilograms	17%	-
8.	85232900	Magnetic media for the recording of sound or of other	Botswana	Abnormal growth since Q3 2020. Unit price at	185 593	830 778 965	Units	447535%	1 468

		phenomena (excluding cards incorporating ...		R0.01 is below average price of R169/unit. Possible data error. Continue monitoring in the next quarter.					
9.	71039900	Precious and semi-precious stones, worked, whether or not graded, but not strung, mounted or ...	USA	Significant decrease. Analysed in the previous quarters.	773 121 427	547 210 402	Carats	-29%	-1
10.	16025090	Prepared or preserved meat or offal of bovine animals (excluding sausages and similar products, ...	Botswana	Abnormal growth in Q4 2020. Unit price at R0.12 is below average price of R31/kg. Continue monitoring in the next quarter, as export quantity has been fluctuating over since Q3 2016.	624 558	398 661 196	Kilograms	63731%	830
11.	27101235	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "incl. ...	Ship stores and bunkers	Significant. Although export quantity declined on a year-on-year basis, the last two consecutive quarters have seen an improvement in exports. Ongoing monitoring.	482 516 641	367 151 133	Litres	-24%	-2

12.	44012200	Wood in chips or particles (excluding those of a kind used principally for dyeing or tanning ...	Japan and China	Significant. Analysed in the previous quarters.	224 858 016	325 303 563	Kilograms	45%	5
13.	27101202	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "incl. ...	Botswana	Not significant	316 670 278	318 397 922	Litres	1%	-
14.	10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): other	Zimbabwe	Significant. Analysed in the previous quarters.	210 985 944	315 623 914	Kilograms	50%	4
15.	27011100	Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Vietnam and Brazil	Not significant.	324 247 623	296 705 344	Kilograms	-8%	-4
16.	25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	Botswana	Significant increase. Product analysed in previous quarters.	166 920 797	266 551 963	Kilograms	60%	3
17.	27101230	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "incl. ...	Botswana	Significant decrease Product analysed in previous quarters	319 778 842	255 807 231	Litres	-20%	-5

18.	01069000	Live animals (excluding mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and ...	Zimbabwe	Abnormal increase. Unit price at R0.02 in Q4 2020 below average price of R6108. Possible data error. Ongoing monitoring.	507	250 023 036	Units	49314108%	5 548
19.	27090000	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	India	Possible data error. Abnormal increase in Q4 2020, with very low unit price of R4.23/kg, which is below average price of R114/kg. Ongoing monitoring.	240 755	246 498 166	Kilograms	102285%	1 300
20.	26140000	Titanium ores and concentrates	Netherlands and China	Not significant	234 451 816	232 831 304	Kilograms	-1%	-4
21.	47020000	Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades	India and China	Not significant	237 737 624	217 304 527	Kilograms	-9%	-6
22.	76011000	Aluminium, not alloyed, unwrought	USA and Netherlands	Not significant	139 398 715	143 023 788	Kilograms	3%	-
23.	72011000	Non-alloy pig iron in pigs, blocks or other primary forms, containing, by weight, <= 0,5% of ...	USA and Italy	Not significant	128 691 500	135 293 302	Kilograms	5%	-

24.	17011400	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter (excluding ...	Korea	Significant decrease. Product analysed in previous quarter and continues on a declining trend.	341 316 019	118 375 484	Kilograms	-65%	-14
25.	28352690	Phosphates of calcium (excluding calcium hydrogenorthophosphate “dicalcium phosphate”): other	Netherlands and Lithuania	Significant increase. Product analysed in previous quarters.	75 065 911	108 417 123	Kilograms	44%	14
26.	26151000	Zirconium ores and concentrates	China	Product selected for analysis. Significant growth, and continues on a growth trend.	77 617 989	100 967 430	Kilograms	30%	11
27.	10059010	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): dried kernels or grains fit for human consumption, not further ...	Mozambique	Not significant	92 196 803	99 162 964	Kilograms	8%	3
28.	26180000	Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel	USA	Ongoing monitoring. Exports have fluctuated over the past year.	76 988 969	94 721 624	Kilograms	23%	10
29.	25132000	Emery; natural corundum, natural garnet and other natural abrasives, whether or not heat-treated	USA	Abnormal increase. Ongoing monitoring.	6 477 043	87 119 833	Kilograms	1245%	181

30.	29012900	Hydrocarbons, acyclic, unsaturated (excluding ethylene, propene "propylene", butene "butylene" ...	USA and Singapore	Not significant	92 884 604	86 377 731	Kilograms	-7%	-1
31.	26030000	Copper ores and concentrates	Mozambique	Not significant	78 225 815	85 104 649	Kilograms	9%	4
32.	39021090	Polypropylene, in primary forms: other	Nigeria	Not significant	91 198 011	84 288 355	Kilograms	-8%	-1
33.	26080000	Zinc ores and concentrates	China	Significant. Product has been analysed in the previous quarters.	68 256 796	80 169 990	Kilograms	17%	10
34.	08051010	Fresh or dried oranges: fresh	Netherlands	Not significant	73 686 559	79 840 586	Kilograms	8%	6
35.	25161100	Granite, crude or roughly trimmed (excluding already with the characteristics of setts, curbstones ...	China	Significant growth. Exports have shown steady growth for the past two quarters. If growth trend continues, product will be selected for	51 965 803	78 430 206	Kilograms	51%	17

				analysis in the next quarter					
36.	08081000	Fresh apples	Nigeria	Not significant	66 494 151	74 155 642	Kilograms	12%	8
37.	49090000	Printed or illustrated postcards; printed cards bearing personal greetings, messages or announcements, ...	Mozambique	Abnormal growth. Possible data error. Unit price of R0.16/kg in Q4 2020 below average unit price of R76.58/kg. Ongoing monitoring.	177 710	69 226 372	Kilograms	38855%	1 467
38.	25030000	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	Zambia	Not significant	77 971 013	68 717 990	Kilograms	-12%	-2
39.	17019900	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form (excluding cane and beet sugar ...)	Namibia	Significant decline. Exports have been fluctuating in most quarters in 2020. This product group has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic.	80 429 784	65 027 076	Kilograms	-19%	-5
40.	08061000	Fresh grapes	Netherlands	Not significant	73 686 485	64 672 140	Kilograms	-12%	1
41.	44011100	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, coniferous	Eswatini	Significant increase. Product analysed in previous quarters	45 617 066	56 934 014	Kilograms	25%	16

42.	11031390	Groats and meal of maize "corn": other	Zimbabwe	Not significant	59 372 650	51 675 796	Kilograms	-13%	5
43.	22042941	Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines, and grape must whose fermentation has been arrested ...	UK and Germany	Significant. Product flagged for analysis in the next quarter if it continues on a growth trend	37 628 276	51 032 499	Litres	36%	23
44.	25231000	Cement clinkers	Lesotho	Not significant	44 547 106	49 630 294	Kilograms	11%	15
45.	27074000	Naphthalene containing > 50% of naphthalene (excluding chemically defined)	UAE	Limited data for comprehensive analysis. Continue monitoring	49 543 446	47 357 358	Litres	-4%	8
46.	11031310	Groats and meal of maize "corn": maize meal not further processed other than by the addition ...	Lesotho	Ongoing increase. Product analysed in previous quarters	48 071 563	46 066 791	Kilograms	-4%	8
47.	25291000	Feldspar	India	On-going monitoring. Increased in Q4 2020, but exports have fluctuated over the observed period.	18 459 089	45 559 775	Kilograms	147%	63
48.	31023000	Ammonium nitrate, whether or not in aqueous solution	Zambia	Significant increase. Product	34 321 950	43 959 379	Kilograms	28%	22

		(excluding that in pellet or similar forms, ...		analysed in previous quarters.					
49.	25292100	Fluorspar containing by weight <= 97% calcium fluoride	China	Ongoing monitoring	11 449 970	43 945 096	Kilograms	284%	89
50.	27101207	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "incl. ...	Ship stores and bunkers	Significant. Product analysed in previous quarters.	82 953 246	43 743 730	Litres	-47%	-18

ON-GOING MONITORING, DATA ERRORS, OTHER ISSUES AND TRENDS TO WATCH			
HS Code	Product Description	Description of increase-decrease in quantity, and error or issue	Trends to watch
On-going monitoring and trends to watch			
27090000	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	Abnormal increase in export quantity going to India. Petroleum oils exports to India amounted to 246 million kg accounting for almost 99% of South Africa's total petroleum oil exports in the fourth quarter. We cannot conclude this as a possible data error because the export value corresponds to the high increase at R1.2 billion in terms of exports to India.	If a second straight quarter increase occurs, product will be considered for analysis in the next quarter.
Data errors or issues and updates			
85232900	Magnetic media for the recording of sound or of other phenomena (excluding cards incorporating..)	Abnormal increase (447534%) in Q4 2020, with all increases going to Botswana. Exports to Botswana surged from 3 904 units in Q4 2019 to 830 million units in Q4 2020. The unit price in Q4 2020 is very low at R0.01 which is below the average price of R169/unit indicating a possible data error in reporting quantity exported to Botswana.	N/A
16025090Tr	Prepared or preserved meat or offal of bovine animals (excluding sausages and similar products, ...)	Abnormal increase (63730%) in Q4 2020. Possible data error in reporting exports quantity. The abnormal increase is to Botswana, taking 99% of exports, with quantity reaching 398 million kg in Q4 2020 vs 34 thousand in Q4 2019. The unit price was also very low at R0.12/kg, which is below the average of R31.	N/A
01069000	Live animals (excluding mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and ..)	Abnormal increase (49314108%) in Q4 2020. The abnormal increase is export to Zimbabwe, taking 99% share, with quantity amounting to 250 million units in Q4 2020 vs 507 units in Q4 2019, placing Zimbabwe as the top export market in terms of quantity. However by export value, Zimbabwe occupies fifteenth position, with a value of R15 000, making it a possible data error.	N/A