



TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES



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

# TIPS EXPORT TRACKER

## SECOND QUARTER 2021

Compiled by Wendy Nyakabawo with contributions from  
Musa Mkhabela, Tshepo Semanya and Michael Phiri

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Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)  
info@tips.org.za | +27 12 433 9340 | www.tips.org.za

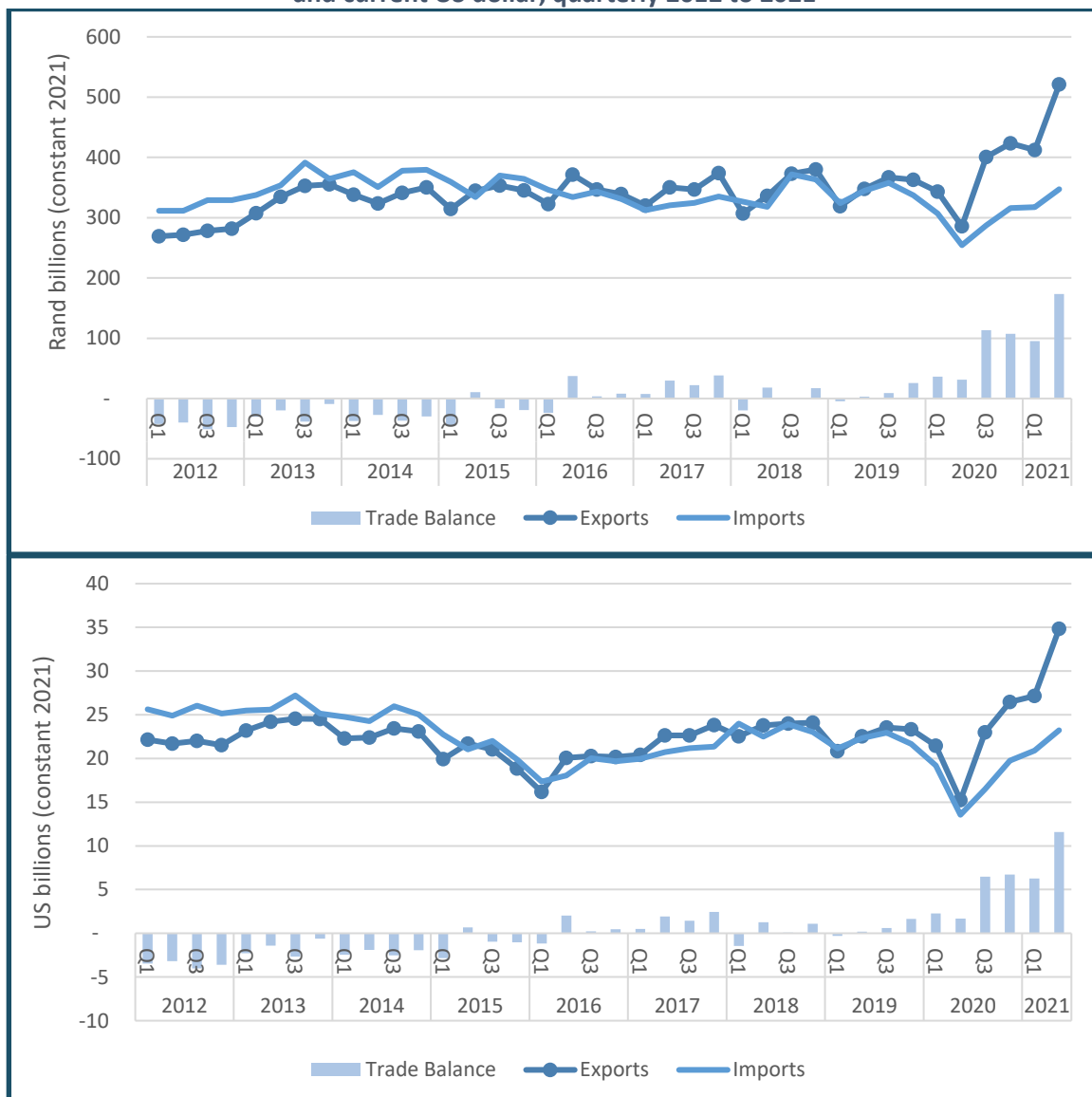
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## OVERVIEW OF EXPORT PERFORMANCE

South Africa’s merchandise exports reached a new high in the second quarter of 2021 amounting to R520 billion, an 80.2% increase from the same period last year and a 26.3% increase from the previous quarter (Q1 2021). Although the large year-on-year increase in export values is partially reflective of a low base in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is also a reflection of a large increase in prices rather than volumes. The second quarter of 2021 saw imports increase by 36.6%, amounting to R347 billion in constant rand terms, compared to Q2 2020, while they increased by 9.5% compared to the previous quarter. South Africa experienced a record high trade surplus of R173 billion (US\$11.6 billion) as the value of merchandise exports increased more than that of imports. In US\$ dollar terms, merchandise exports were up by 128% from Q2 2020 (the pandemic quarter), amounting to US\$34.8 billion, representing a 28.8% increase from the previous quarter. Imports increased by 71.4% to US\$23.3 billion, an 11.2% increase from Q1 2021 (see Graph 1).

**Graph 1: Exports, imports and trade balance in constant (2021) rand value and current US dollar, quarterly 2012 to 2021**



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

South Africa's top export products by value are presented in Table 1. Precious stones, ores, vehicles, mineral fuels and oils, and industrial machinery dominated South Africa's exports in Q2 2021 accounting for 68.1% of the country's total export value. Exports for all sectors within the Top 20 experienced an increase in demand in the second quarter of 2021. Among the Top 20 export products, vehicles, pharmaceutical products, precious stones, copper and chemical products experienced the biggest increase. Vehicle exports were up by 222% from R16 billion in Q2 2020 to R51.6 billion in Q2 2021, driven by an increase in demand by the US and Germany. Exports of pharmaceutical products came in second place, increasing by 215% from R1.7 billion in Q2 2020 to R5.2 billion in Q2 2021, followed by precious stones, which grew by 170% to R157 billion in the second quarter of 2021.

**Table 1: Top 20 sectors, Q2 2020 to Q2 2021**

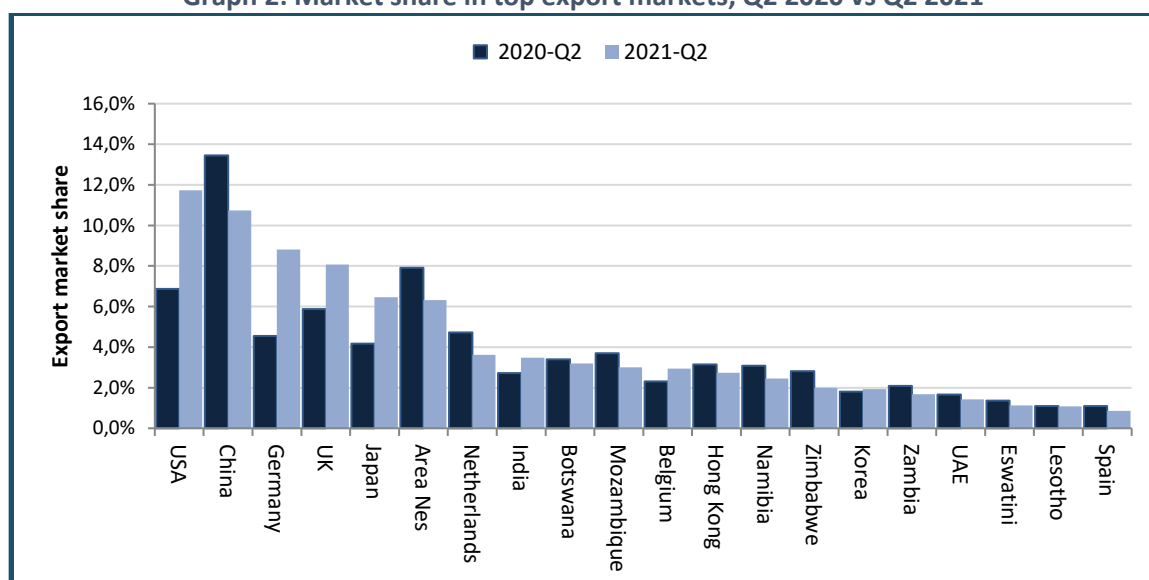
HS Code	Sector	VALUE (R BILLIONS)		SHARE %		ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	TOP EXPORT MARKET
		Q2 2020	Q2 2021	Q2 2020	Q2 2021	Q2 2020- Q2 2021	
'71	Precious stones	58.2	157.4	21.4%	30.2%	170.4%	US, Areas Not Elsewhere Specified
'26	Ores	43.0	80.7	15.8%	15.5%	87.6%	China
'87	Vehicles	16.0	51.6	5.9%	9.9%	221.7%	Germany
'27	Mineral fuels and oils	25.7	38.8	9.4%	7.5%	51.3%	India
'84	Machinery (industrial)	12.6	26.4	4.6%	5.1%	109.0%	Germany
'72	Iron and steel	13.8	21.6	5.1%	4.1%	56.7%	China
'08	Edible fruit and nuts	18.0	18.8	6.6%	3.6%	4.3%	Netherlands
'38	Chemical products	4.2	9.4	1.5%	1.8%	125.5%	US
'76	Aluminium	6.6	7.2	2.4%	1.4%	9.1%	US
'85	Electrical machinery and equipment	4.5	6.4	1.6%	1.2%	42.7%	Botswana, Namibia
'39	Plastics	4.3	6.2	1.6%	1.2%	43.7%	Zimbabwe
'28	Inorganic chemicals	3.3	5.8	1.2%	1.1%	76.1%	Belgium
'29	Organic chemicals	4.5	5.7	1.7%	1.1%	26.8%	Belgium
'22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	2.9	5.4	1.1%	1.0%	87.8%	UK
'30	Pharmaceutical products	1.7	5.2	0.6%	1.0%	214.5%	Kenya
'73	Articles of iron or steel	2.7	4.6	1.0%	0.9%	73.4%	Botswana, Namibia

'10	Cereals	3.4	4.3	1.3%	0.8%	25.5%	Vietnam
'74	Copper	1.6	4.2	0.6%	0.8%	164.9%	China
'47	Pulp of wood	2.7	3.2	1.0%	0.6%	20.3%	India
'33	Essential oils	2.1	2.6	0.8%	0.5%	25.0%	Namibia, US

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from [www.trademap.org](http://www.trademap.org) in September 2021.

The US overtook China to become South Africa’s top export market in the second quarter of 2021, accounting for 11.7% of South Africa’s total export value, which amounted to R61.1 billion. The Top 5 export products from South Africa to the US in Q2 2021 included precious stones, which claimed a share of 56% of South Africa’s total exports to the US by value, followed by vehicles (11.9%), chemical products (7.2%), iron and steel (4.3%) and industrial machinery (3.7%). All products in the Top 5 exports experienced positive growth on a year-on-year basis, although chemical products experienced a slight 6% decline compared to the previous quarter. Vehicle exports experienced exponential growth in Q2 2021 compared to all previous quarters, increasing by 453% to reach a record of R7.2 billion.

**Graph 2: Market share in top export markets, Q2 2020 vs Q2 2021**



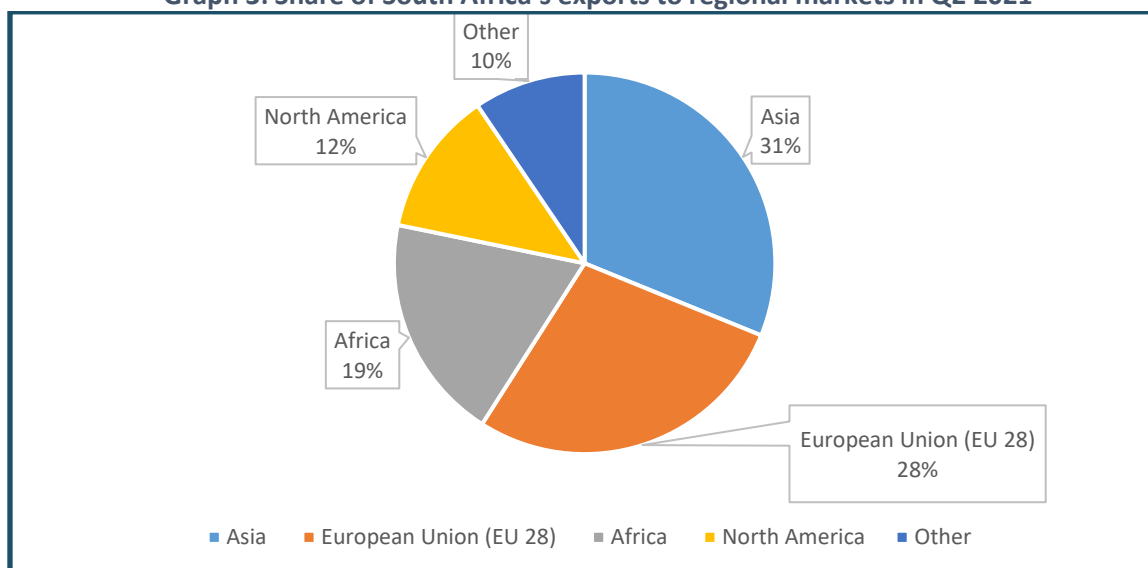
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and [sars.gov.za](https://sars.gov.za) in September 2021.

China moved down one place down to become South Africa’s second largest export market by value in the second quarter of 2021, with its market share decreasing from 13.4% in Q2 2020 to 10.7% of South Africa’s total exports by value in Q2 2021. The second quarter of 2021 saw South Africa’s exports to China amount to R55.9 billion. Ores remained the top export products to China, accounting for 56% of South Africa’s total export to China by value in Q2 2021, followed by mineral fuels and oils (8.5%), iron and steel (6.7%), copper (5.1%) and precious stones (3.2%). Among these Top 5 products all except iron and steel experienced significant positive growth in Q2 2021. Exports of iron and steel were down by 13% on quarter-on-quarter basis, dropping from R4.2 billion in Q2 2020 to R3.7 billion in Q2 2021, while it decreasing by 20% compared to the first quarter of 2021.

Germany remained South Africa’s third largest export market in Q2 2021, accounting for 8.8% of its total export value. South Africa’s exports to Germany grew by 270% from R12.4 billion in

Q2 2020 to R45.8 billion in Q2 2021. However, compared to the previous quarter, exports to Germany increased by 19.1% from R38.5 billion in Q1 2021. Among South Africa’s top export markets, Germany was one of most affected by the pandemic, with its economy experiencing a record contraction of 10.1% in the second quarter of 2020 (see [TIPS Export Tracker Q2 2020](#)). The high year-on-year growth therefore mainly reflects an increase from a low base in Q2 2020, although, compared to other previous quarters, Q2 2021 exports are higher than the average. The Top 5 export products to Germany together accounted for 93.5% of South Africa’s total exports to Germany in Q2 2021. Vehicles remain the top export product by value accounting for 33.4%, followed by precious stones (27.6%), ores (20.2%), industrial machinery (10.7%) and chemical products (1.7%). All of the Top 5 export products experienced growth, both on a year-on-year basis and also compared to the first quarter of 2021. Precious stones and industrial machinery had the biggest growth, with precious stones increasing from R1.4 billion in Q2 2020 to R12.6 billion in Q2 2021, and machinery up from R1 billion in Q2 2020 to R4.9 billion in Q2 2021.

**Graph 3: Share of South Africa’s exports to regional markets in Q2 2021**



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

Asia absorbed 31% of South Africa’s total regional exports by value in the second quarter of 2021, valued at R162 billion. South Africa’s exports to Asia grew by 72% (year-on-year) in Q2 2021 and by 23% from Q1 2021. The European Union (28), was the second largest market, with 28% of South Africa’s total exports by value, amounting to R145 billion, followed by Africa (19%) and North America (12%), valued at R99 billion and R63 billion, respectively.

South Africa’s exports to the rest of Africa grew by 58% from R63 billion in Q2 2020 to R99 billion in Q2 2021. The Top 5 African export markets for South African product remained the same in the second quarter of 2021, and these included Botswana, which accounted for 17% of South Africa’s total exports to the African regions, followed by Mozambique (16%), Namibia (13%), Zimbabwe (10%) and Zambia (9%). Exports to Botswana experienced the highest growth, increasing by 79% from R9.2 billion in Q2 2020 to R16.6 billion in Q2 2021.

## SIGNIFICANT PRODUCT GROWTH IN EXPORTS AND ANALYSIS

Two products of significant export growth and two of significant decline have been identified for this quarter. These include articles of iron or steel and lead ores and concentrates products for growth; and copper ores and concentrates and vermiculite, perlite and chlorites products for

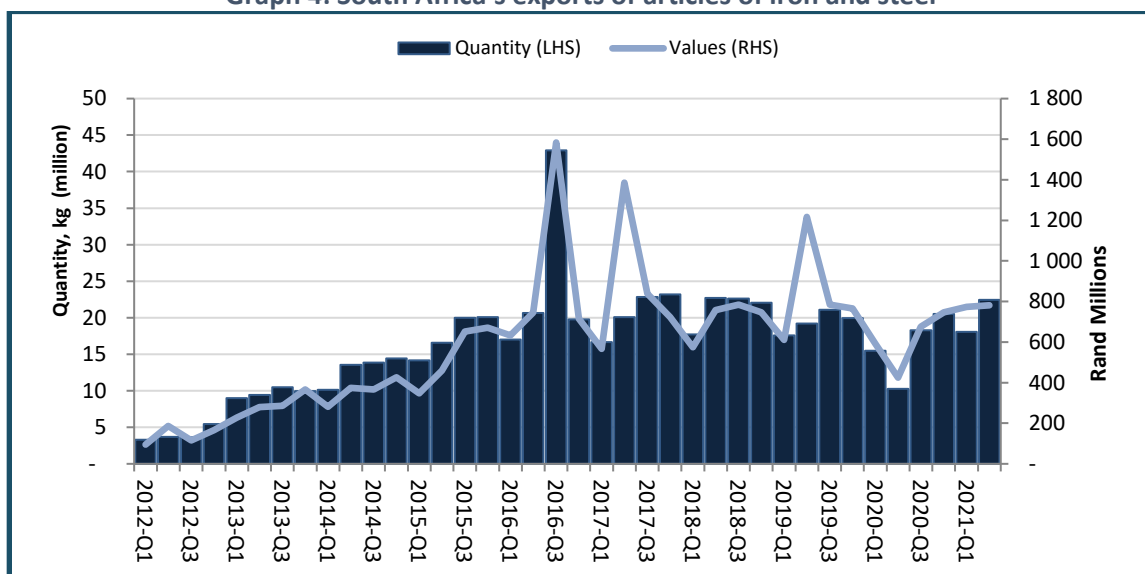
declines. The full list of top exports with growth or a decline are provided in the Annexure. In this quarter, the production selection has been expanded to other products outside the Top 50 exports, eliminating bias in the selection and overlooking other goods needing attention, as well as issues with data errors. The Annexure also provides a list of products for ongoing monitoring.

### Significant growth in articles of iron or steel

*HS 73269090: Articles of iron or steel, n.e.s. (excluding cast articles or articles of iron or steel wire)*

The articles of iron or steel product group includes iron or steel products<sup>1</sup> that are not elsewhere specified, but excludes cast articles or articles of iron or steel wire. Iron and steel are the two most commonly used materials in the manufacturing industry. Increased use of iron and steel in manufacturing is not only from the benefits of its physical properties of being extremely strong, less brittle and relatively easy to shape into various forms, but also because of its financial and environmental benefits. Recycled iron and steel is environmentally friendly as it uses approximately 75% less energy, consumes less water and also reduces the levels of carbon emission.

**Graph 4: South Africa’s exports of articles of iron and steel**

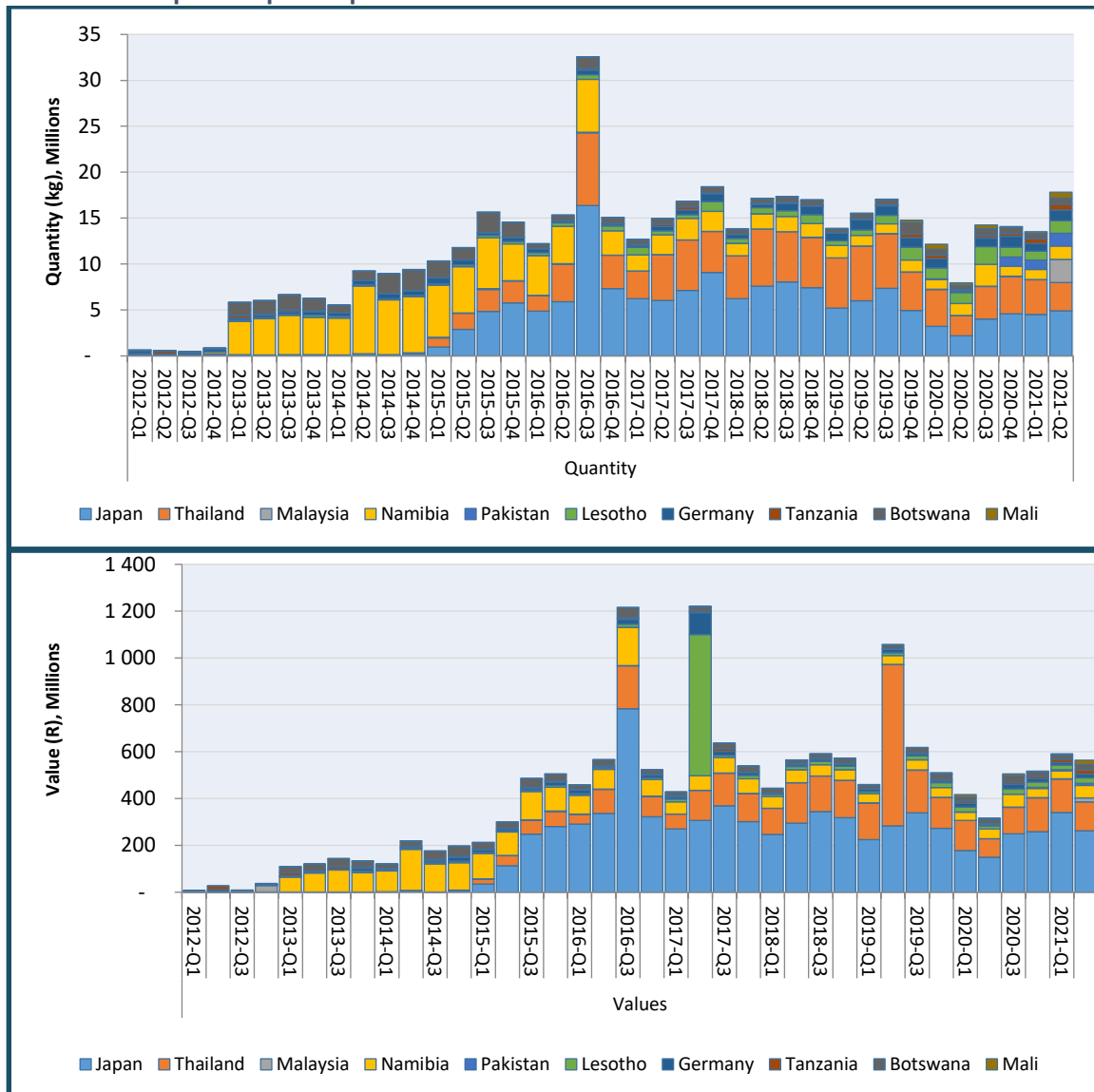


Source: Author’s. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and [sars.gov.za](https://sars.gov.za) in September 2021.

South Africa’s top export markets for articles of iron or steel include Japan, which accounted for a share of 22% of South Africa’s export quantity in Q2 2021, followed by Thailand (14%) and Malaysia (11%). The second quarter of 2021 saw South Africa’s exports of articles of iron or steel increase by 118% from 10.2 million kg valued at R424 million in Q2 2020 to 22.4 million kg worth R781 million in Q2 2021. The decline in the unit prices by 15% from R41.33/kg in Q2 2020 to R34.82 could be one of the contributing factors in the growth in exports. There was an increase in demand for South Africa’s exports of articles of iron or steel by all of its top export markets, with Malaysia showing an abnormally high increase from demanding 10 429 kg valued at R465 000 in Q2 2020 to 2.5 million kg worth R15.6 million. Exports to Japan were up 124% from 2.1 million kg worth R149 million in Q2 2020 to 4.9 million kg valued at R262 million in Q2 2021.

<sup>1</sup> Products that are forged or stamped, but not further worked.

**Graph 5: Top 10 export markets for South Africa's articles of iron or steel**



Source: Authors. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and [sars.gov.za](https://sars.gov.za) in September 2021.

## Significant growth in lead ores and concentrates

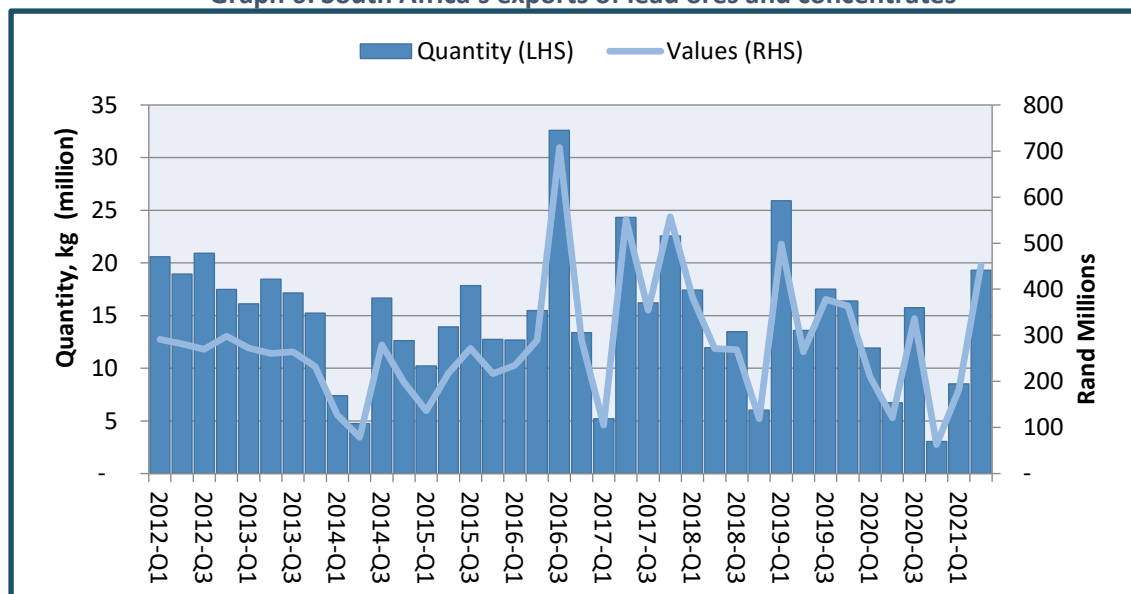
### HS 26070000 Lead ores and concentrates

Lead is one of the most widely used metals and more than 80% of all lead produced is used in lead–acid batteries for the storage of energy.<sup>2</sup> It is a relatively soft, malleable, blue-grey, heavy metal and is probably the earliest discovered metal that does not occur naturally in its pure state and is among one of the most important metals in the modern world. Other significant uses of lead include plumbing, lead foil, sound proofing, ammunition and as an addition to glass to block harmful radiation from television and computer screens and as an ultraviolet ray protector in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics. South Africa is just below the Top 20 global exporters of lead ores and concentrates, ranking 21st by both value and quantity.

<sup>2</sup> [https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mineral\\_commodities/lead\\_-\\_zinc](https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mineral_commodities/lead_-_zinc)



**Graph 6: South Africa's exports of lead ores and concentrates**



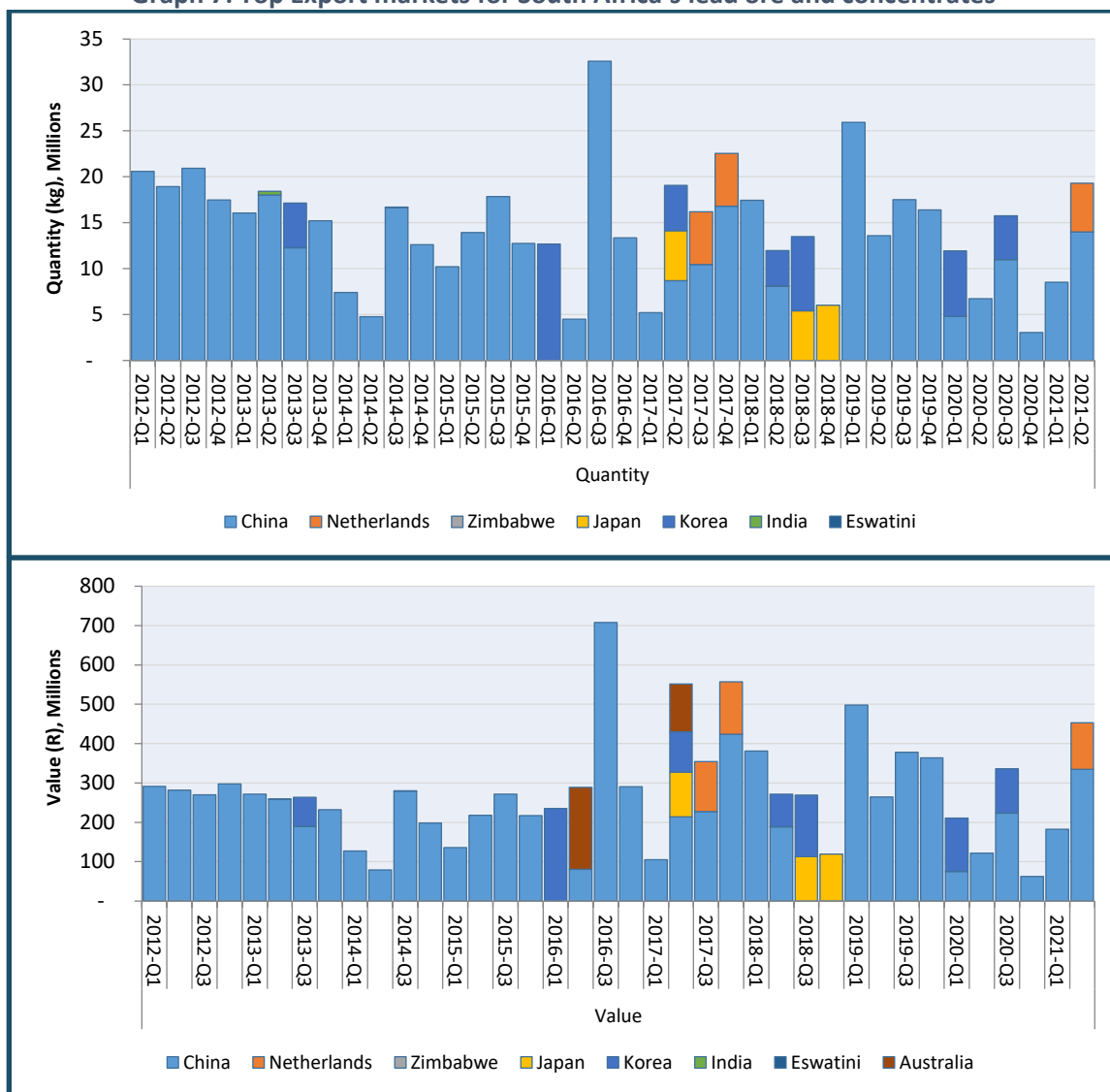
Source: Author's. Calculated from ITC TradeMap data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and [sars.gov.za](https://sars.gov.za) in September 2021.

South Africa's lead ores and concentrates exports fluctuated over the observed time period, with periods of significant decline followed by a period of sharp increases, such as that observed in Q3 2016 when exports reached a peak of 32 million kg valued at R707 million. After significant declines in the second and fourth quarters of 2020, South Africa's lead ores and concentrates exports showed steady growth in 2021, growing by 186% in the Q2 2021 amounting to 19.3 million kg valued at R452 million compared to 6.7 million kg (R121 million) in Q2 2020. China is by far the top export market for South Africa's lead ores and concentrates, accounting for 73% of South Africa's total lead ores and concentrates exports, followed by the Netherlands which claimed the remaining 27%.

Growth in South Africa's lead ores and concentrates exports in the second quarter of 2021 was mainly driven by the increase in demand from its top export market, China, regardless of the 30% increase in unit price from R18/kg in Q2 2020 to R24/kg in Q2 2021. South Africa's lead ore and concentrates exports to China were up by 108% from R6.7 million kg, valued at R121 million in Q2 2020 to 14 million kg worth R334 million in Q2 2021.

As the global leader in lead production, China's demand for lead ores and concentrates has significantly influenced the fluctuations of South Africa's export volumes of this product group, and continuous monitoring over time will be done to analyse if any new markets arise for South Africa's lead ore and concentrates exports.

**Graph 7: Top Export markets for South Africa's lead ore and concentrates**



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

## SIGNIFICANT SLUMPS AND ANALYSIS

### Significant slump in copper ores and concentrates

#### HS 26030000 Copper ores and concentrates

Copper minerals are found in over one hundred varieties, with only a few having been worked for copper on a large scale. The most abundant ores are chalcopyrite and bornite, which contain both copper and iron sulphides.<sup>3</sup> Copper is an extremely useful industrial metal because it is ductile, meaning that it is capable of being drawn into wire, malleable (capable of being hammered and moulded) and an excellent conductor of electricity.

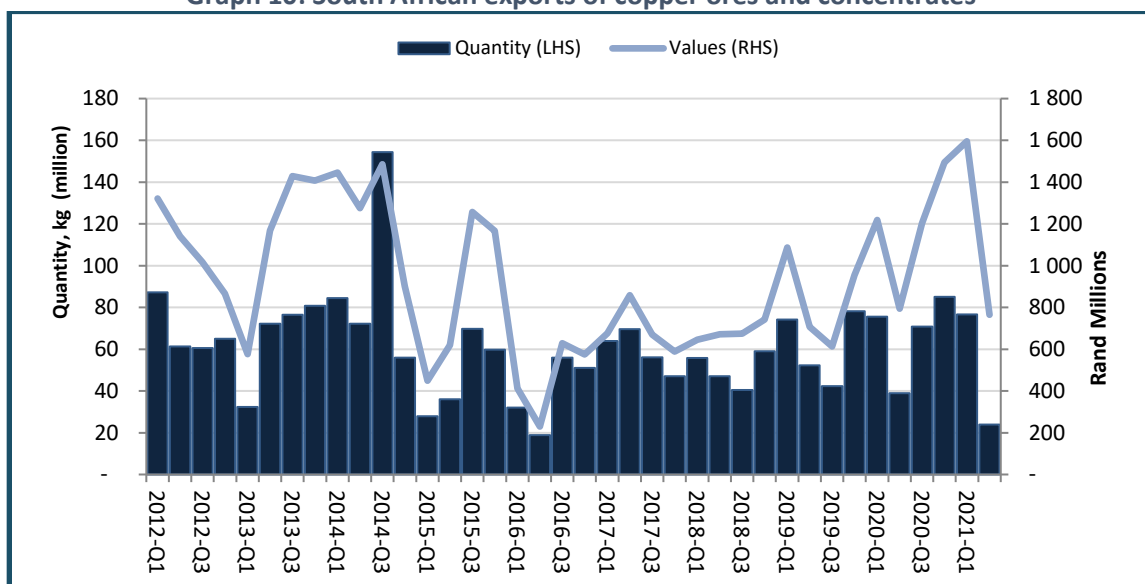
Copper is widely used in its pure form as well as its many applications in its alloy form. In its pure form, copper is used to produce wires or cables for power transmission, building wiring, motor and transformer wiring, wiring in commercial and consumer electronics and equipment; telecommunication cables; electronic circuitry; plumbing, heating and air conditioning tubing; roofing, flashing and other construction applications and many others. As an alloy with tin, zinc,

<sup>3</sup> <https://copperalliance.eu/about-copper/copper-and-its-alloys/processes/>

lead and other metals, it is used in extruded, rolled or cast forms in plumbing fixtures, commercial tubing, electrical contacts, automotive and machine parts, decorative hardware, coinage, ammunition, and miscellaneous consumer and commercial uses. Copper is also an essential micronutrient used in animal feeds and fertilisers.<sup>4</sup>

The second quarter of 2021 saw South Africa’s exports of copper ores and concentrates decline significantly, reaching the second lowest export quantities over the observed time period of 23 million kg valued at R764 million. After experiencing a deep decline in the pandemic quarter (Q2 2020), South Africa’s copper ore and concentrates rebounded from 38 million kg worth R794 million in Q2 2020 to 85 million kg valued at R1.4 billion in Q4 2020 before starting the steady decline in first quarter of 2021.

**Graph 10: South African exports of copper ores and concentrates**



Source: Authors. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and [sars.gov.za](https://sars.gov.za) in September 2021.

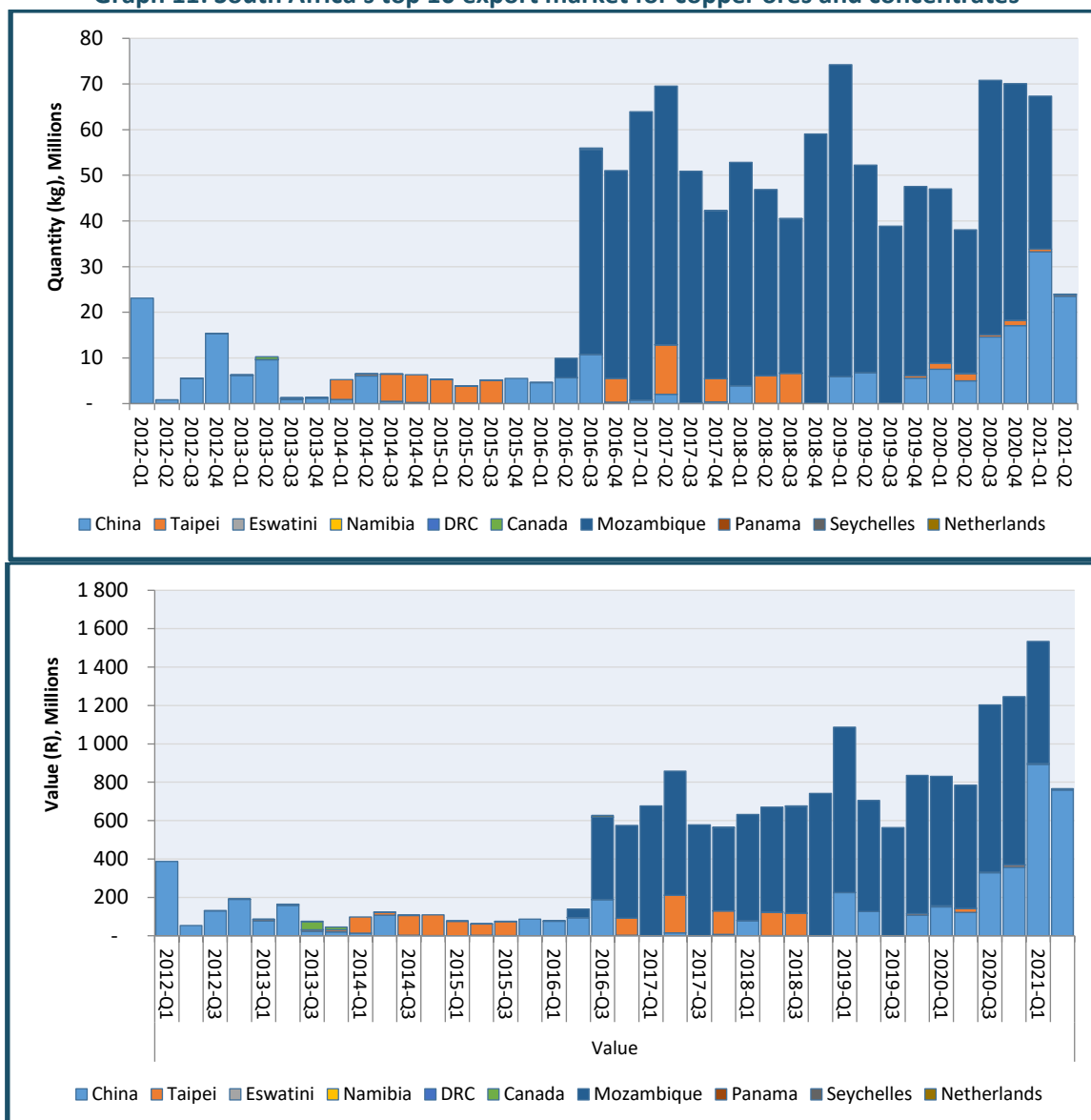
China is again by far the top export market for South Africa’s copper ores and concentrates exports, claiming 98% of the country’s copper ores and concentrates exports in Q2 2021. Graph 11 shows that the significant decline in export quantities of copper ores and concentrates is solely due to the drop in exports to Mozambique. These exports were presumably for onward shipping given the capacity issues at some of South Africa’s ports.<sup>5</sup> Copper exports via Mozambique declined from 31 million kg in Q2 2020 valued at R641 million to no exports in the second quarter of 2021.

Exports via Mozambique will be monitored in the following quarters to see if it will make a return as an export markets for the country’s copper ores and concentrates exports.

<sup>4</sup> <https://mineralseducationcoalition.org/minerals-database/copper/>

<sup>5</sup> More information on issues of port capacity: <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-africa-ports-idINL8N2BU438>

**Graph 11: South Africa's top 10 export market for copper ores and concentrates**



Source: Authors. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and [sars.gov.za](https://sars.gov.za) in September 2021.

## Significant slump in Vermiculite, perlite and chlorites

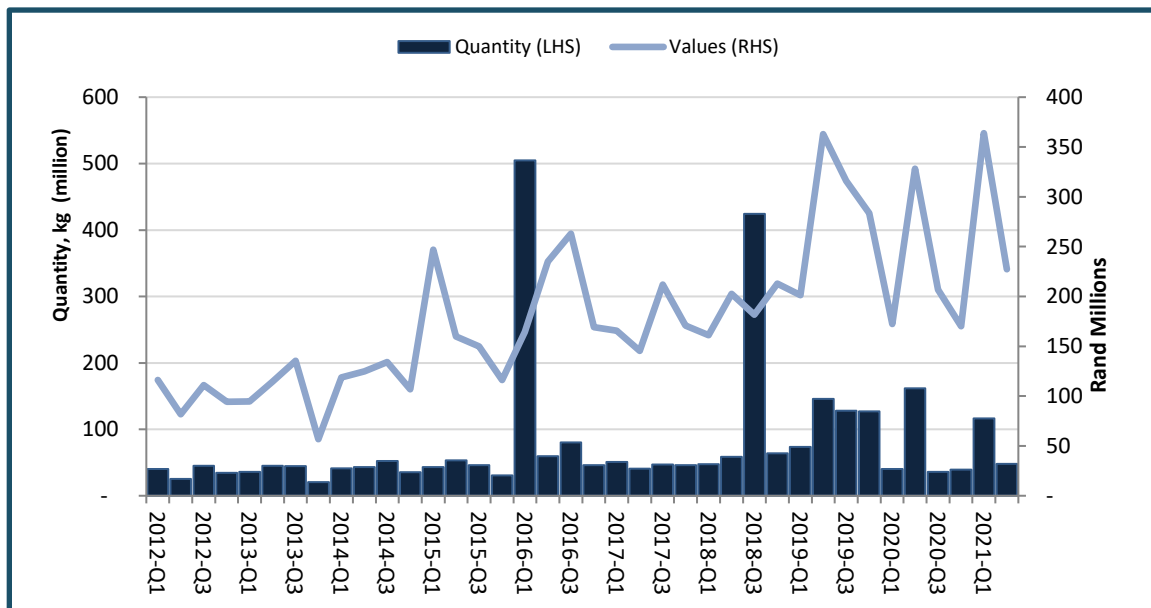
*HS 25301000 Vermiculite, perlite and chlorites, unexpanded*

Vermiculite is a hydrous phyllosilicate mineral which undergoes significant expansion when heated, which is moulded into shapes that are mainly used in open fireplaces, high-temperature or refractory insulation and fireproofing of structural steel and pipes. South Africa is among the known countries that have large commercial vermiculite mines, with others being the US, China, Russia and Brazil. Perlite is a naturally occurring mineral, which exists in nature as a type of volcanic glass, created when the volcanic obsidian glass gets saturated with water over a long time. It is a relatively cheap mineral and is often used for industrial purposes such as construction and in the manufacture of plasters, masonry, and ceiling tiles, as well as in gardening and hydroponics.<sup>6</sup> Chlorites are regular secondary ingredients of igneous rocks, resulting from

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.trees.com/gardening-and-landscaping/perlite#What-is-Perlite>

hydrothermal modifications at temperatures ranging between 50°C and 400°C from primary iron-magnesium minerals, mainly mica, pyroxene, amphibole, garnet, and olivine.

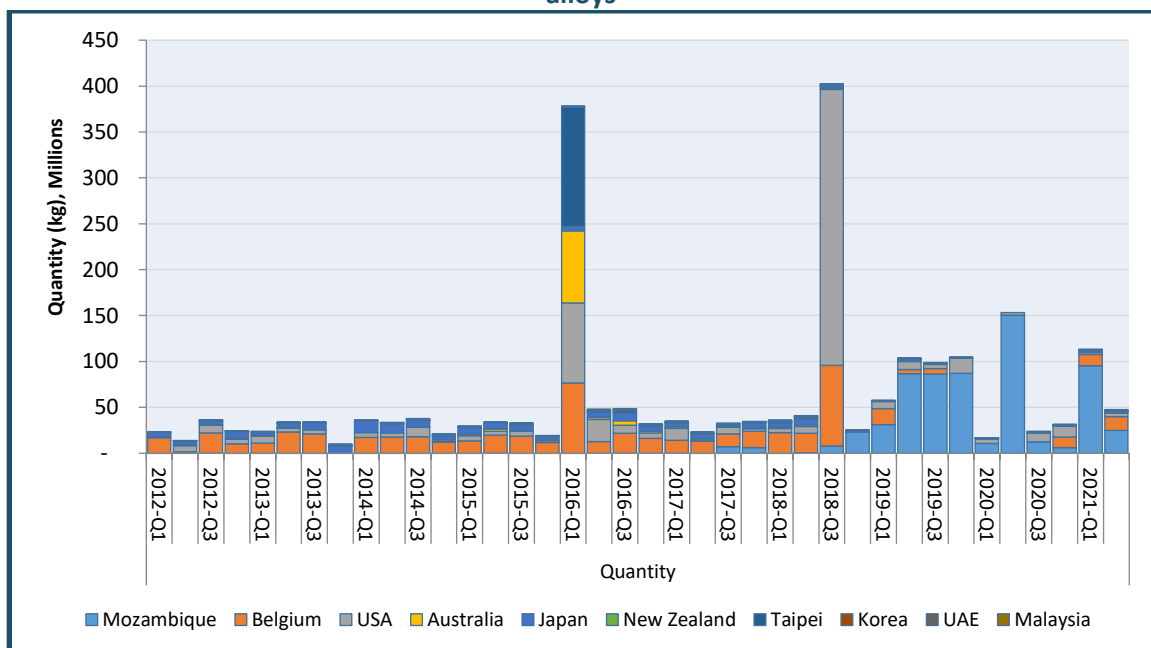
**Graph 12: South Africa’s exports of Vermiculite, perlite and chlorites**



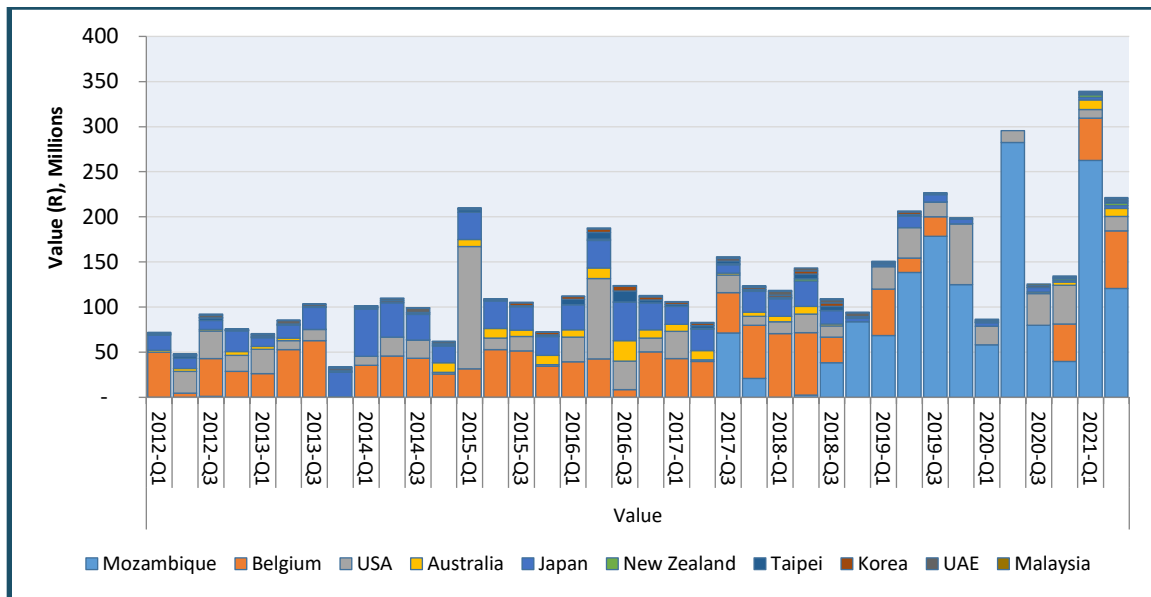
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and [sars.gov.za](https://sars.gov.za) in September 2021.

South Africa’s exports of vermiculite, perlite and chlorites fell by 70.2% from 161 million kg valued at R328 million in Q2 2020 to 48 million kg worth R227 million in Q2 2020<sup>1</sup>. The top export markets for this product group for South Africa include Mozambique, presumably for onward shipping<sup>7</sup> to other export markets and Belgium accounting 52% and 31% respectively of the country’s total exports quantity of this product group.

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



<sup>7</sup> Refer to link on ports in the copper section.



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and [sars.gov.za](https://sars.gov.za) in September 2021.

The decline in vermiculite, perlite and chlorites exports in the second quarter of 2021 was driven by a significant reduction in exports to Mozambique. In Q2 2021, South Africa’s vermiculite, perlite and chlorite exports via Mozambique dropped by 84% from 150 million kg valued at R282 million in Q2 2020, to 24 million kg worth R120 million in Q2 2021, while experiencing a 74% decline compared to the first quarter of 2021. Export trends shows that the exports via Mozambique have been fluctuating since the first quarter of 2020. This product will also be monitored in the following quarters.

## Annexure

**Table A1: South Africa's Top 50 exports by value, Q2 2021**

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPORT VALUE (RAND THOUSANDS)		GROWTH RATE (%)
			2020-Q2	2021-Q2	
1	'71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad ...	58 211 727	157 406 124	170.4%
2	'26	Ores, slag and ash	42 998 622	80 664 448	87.6%
3	'87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	16 028 608	51 557 812	221.7%
4	'27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	25 652 819	38 810 856	51.3%
5	'84	Machinery, mechanical appliances, nuclear reactors, boilers; parts thereof	12 620 050	26 373 097	109.0%
6	'72	Iron and steel	13 781 943	21 594 071	56.7%
7	'08	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	17 987 350	18 767 628	4.3%
8	'38	Miscellaneous chemical products	4 187 432	9 441 574	125.5%
9	'76	Aluminium and articles thereof	6 569 420	7 166 078	9.1%
10	'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	4 491 825	6 411 883	42.7%
11	'39	Plastics and articles thereof	4 295 061	6 170 132	43.7%
12	'28	Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...	3 266 038	5 750 277	76.1%
13	'29	Organic chemicals	4 506 773	5 714 572	26.8%
14	'22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	2 868 392	5 387 830	87.8%
15	'30	Pharmaceutical products	1 664 196	5 233 913	214.5%
16	'73	Articles of iron or steel	2 669 015	4 628 399	73.4%
17	'10	Cereals	3 406 481	4 276 618	25.5%
18	'74	Copper and articles thereof	1 596 668	4 229 844	164.9%
19	'47	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or ...	2 662 570	3 202 321	20.3%
20	'33	Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations	2 082 107	2 603 389	25.0%

21	'75	Nickel and articles thereof	629 516	2 572 082	308.6%
22	'20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	2 129 727	2 524 322	18.5%
23	'03	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	1 805 749	2 245 056	24.3%
24	'48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	2 114 742	2 243 890	6.1%
25	'25	Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	1 638 685	2 134 756	30.3%
26	'90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical ...	1 580 646	2 102 731	33.0%
27	'44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	1 374 609	2 102 357	52.9%
28	'21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1 671 804	2 054 656	22.9%
29	'51	Wool, fine or coarse animal hair; horsehair yarn and woven fabric	886 807	1 781 599	100.9%
30	'40	Rubber and articles thereof	1 078 487	1 697 011	57.4%
31	'34	Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial ...	1 729 414	1 655 683	-4.3%
32	'17	Sugars and sugar confectionery	2 489 258	1 518 473	-39.0%
33	'15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal ...	1 154 804	1 477 937	28.0%
34	'23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	1 450 156	1 477 084	1.9%
35	'31	Fertilisers	938 455	1 432 345	52.6%
36	'32	Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring ...	759 970	1 365 872	79.7%
37	'94	Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; ...	575 093	1 222 081	112.5%
38	'12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal ...	1 065 544	1 155 727	8.5%
39	'19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	931 169	1 132 483	21.6%
40	'88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	510 072	1 014 180	98.8%
41	'02	Meat and edible meat offal	1 101 241	1 009 783	-8.3%
42	'04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere ...	776 619	955 575	23.0%
43	'99	Commodities not elsewhere specified	739 454	942 292	27.4%
44	'07	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	929 952	930 565	0.1%
45	'11	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	1 050 971	838 364	-20.2%



46	'61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	393 761	834 744	112.0%
47	'89	Ships, boats and floating structures	201 168	797 664	296.5%
48	'82	Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal	424 123	764 621	80.3%
49	'62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	404 985	739 088	82.5%
50	'69	Ceramic products	408 387	737 817	80.7%

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

**Table A2: Top 50 exports of goods, by quantity, with explanations, Q2 2021**

NO.	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	MAJOR IMPORTER	EXPLANATION	QUANTITY Q2 2020	QUANTITY Q2 2021	UNIT	PERCENT GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK
1.	'27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	India	Decline in export quantity is within normal variance. No change in rank.	16 746 127 708	15 541 275 505	Kilograms	-7.2%	0
2.	'26011200	Agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excluding roasted iron pyrites)	China	Increase in export quantity is within normal variance. No change in rank.	8 512 314 576	9 606 599 004	Kilograms	12.9%	0
3.	'26011100	Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excluding roasted iron pyrites)	China	Export quantity increased by just over 50%. No change in rank, but will monitor changes in the next quarter.	4 719 662 219	7 231 048 103	Kilograms	53.2%	0
4.	'26020000	Manganese ores and concentrates, incl. ferruginous manganese ores and	China	Export quantity increased by just over 50%. No change in rank, but will monitor changes in the next quarter.	3 488 448 631	5 564 622 785	Kilograms	59.5%	0

		concentrates, with a ...							
5.	'26100000	Chromium ores and concentrates	China	Increase in export quantity is within normal variance. No change in rank.	2 695 544 333	3 840 346 196	Kilograms	42.5%	0
6.	'72024100	Ferro-chromium, containing by weight > 4% of carbon	China	Increase in export quantity is within normal variance. No change in rank.	636 977 810	945 707 112	Kilograms	48.5%	0
7.	'27090000	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	China	Possible data error.	35 038	793 065 689	Kilograms	2263344.5%	2264
8.	'10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): other	Spain	Decrease in export quantity within normal variance.	583 124 650	433 494 025	Kilograms	-25.7%	-1
9.	'10059010	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): dried kernels or grains fit for human consumption, not further ...	Vietnam	Significant increase in export quantity to Vietnam. Product analysed in previous quarters.	220 225 283	410 713 726	Kilograms	86.5%	6

10.	'44012200	Wood in chips or particles (excluding those of a kind used principally for dyeing or tanning ...	Japan	Increase within normal variance. No change in rank from previous quarter.	273 815 701	374 849 794	Kilograms	36.9%	0
11.	'71039900	Precious and semi-precious stones, worked, whether or not graded, but not strung, mounted or ...	US	Export quantity has been fluctuating since Q1 2020, with significant increases being followed by quarters of significant declines. On-going monitoring.	161 791 110	289 287 312	Carats	78.8%	13
12.	'27101202	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "including ...	Botswana	Not significant	253 783 282	269 813 859	Litres	6.3%	-1
13.	'27011100	Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Vietnam	Large increase reflecting the low base of Q2 2020, with the impact of COVID-19. Export quantities have returned to normal since Q4 2020.	166 672 858	261 558 330	Kilograms	56.9%	9
14.	'25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	Botswana	Increase in export quantity on Q2 2021. Product has been analysed in previous quarters.	178 588 597	254 298 738	Kilograms	42.4%	5

15.	'27101230	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "including ...	Botswana	Significant increase in Q2 2021, but missing data for most quarters.	154 661 482	251 673 940	Litres	62.7%	10
16.	'08081000	Fresh apples	UK	Increase in export quantity within normal variance.	192 206 575	245 728 969	Kilograms	27.8%	1
17.	'47020000	Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades	India	Increase in export quantity within normal variance.	182 612 301	228 447 830	Kilograms	25.1%	1
18.	'08055010	Fresh or dried lemons "citrus limon, citrus limonum" and limes "citrus aurantifolia, citrus ...	Netherlands	Not significant	246 888 698	225 902 355	Kilograms	-8.5%	-6
19.	'26140000	Titanium ores and concentrates	Netherlands	Export quantities have been fluctuating over time. Product analysed in previous quarters.	150 810 156	219 290 013	Kilograms	45.4%	7
20.	'08054010	Fresh or dried grapefruit: fresh	Netherlands	Not significant.	175 869 454	202 814 615	Kilograms	15.3%	1
21.	'08051010	Fresh or dried oranges: fresh	Netherlands	Not significant.	220 895 104	201 161 169	Kilograms	-8.9%	-7

22.	'27101235	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "including ...	Ship stores and bunkers	Not significant.	208 263 557	195 377 501	Litres	-6.2%	-6
23.	'08052110	Fresh or dried mandarins including tangerines and satsumas (excluding clementines): fresh	UK	Not significant.	148 629 043	158 453 558	Kilograms	6.6%	4
24.	'26080000	Zinc ores and concentrates	China	Export quantity has been steadily increasing since Q3 2020, and product was selected for analysis in previous quarters.	66 520 063	158 402 144	Kilograms	138.1%	17
25.	'27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	China	Large increase reflecting the low base of Q2 2020, with the impact of COVID-19. Export quantities have returned to normal since Q1 2021.	43 221 319	140 680 390	Kilograms	225.5%	25
26.	'76011000	Aluminium, not alloyed, unwrought	US	Decrease in export quantity showing normal fluctuation trend.	176 007 061	124 562 696	Kilograms	-29.2%	-6
27.	'28352690	Phosphates of calcium (excluding calcium hydrogenorthosp	Netherlands	Large increase reflecting the low base of Q2 2020, with the impact of	55 138 621	107 212 930	Kilograms	94.4%	17

		hate “dicalcium phosphate”): other		COVID-19. Export quantities have returned to normal since Q1 2021.					
28.	'26180000	Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel	US	Large increase reflecting the low base of Q2 2020, with the impact of COVID-19. Export quantities have returned to normal since Q1 2021.	45 215 232	98 083 829	Kilograms	116.9%	20
29.	'08083000	Fresh pears	Russia	Seasonal increase in export quantities. Product analysed in previous quarters.	74 598 749	96 706 612	Kilograms	29.6%	10
30.	'17019900	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form (excluding cane and beet sugar ...	Mozambique	Decrease in export quantity within normal variance. Negligible change in rank in Q2 2021.	106 220 519	93 378 045	Kilograms	-12.1%	-1
31.	'44011100	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, coniferous	Eswatini	Significant increase in quantity, but missing data for most quarters.	16 908 544	92 978 335	Kilograms	449.9%	65
32.	'25161100	Granite, crude or roughly trimmed (excluding already with the characteristics of setts, curbstones ...	Poland	Product exports increased from Q2 2021, after experiencing significant decline in the previous quarter On-going monitoring.	54 439 742	91 871 520	Kilograms	68.8%	14
33.	'72011000	Non-alloy pig iron in pigs, blocks or other primary forms, containing, by weight, <= 0,5% of ...	Netherlands	Increase in export quantity within normal variance. Negligible change in rank in Q2 2021.	98 395 005	85 183 266	Kilograms	-13.4%	-2

34.	'44121000	Plywood, veneered panel and similar laminated wood, of bamboo, not containing particle board ...	Eswatini	Possible data error in export quantity reported.	430	80 521 071	Cubic meters	18725730.5 %	5158
35.	'26151000	Zirconium ores and concentrates	China	Decrease in export quantity within normal variance. Negligible change in rank in Q2 2021.	90 482 823	79 701 882	Kilograms	-11.9%	-3
36.	'29012900	Hydrocarbons, acyclic, unsaturated (excluding ethylene, propene "propylene", butene "butylene" ...	US	Decrease in export quantity within normal variance. Negligible change in rank in Q2 2021.	81 826 764	76 124 634	Kilograms	-7.0%	1
37.	'25030000	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	Zambia	Export quantity has been fluctuating since Q3 2019. On-going monitoring to see if increasing trend persists in the following quarters.	56 969 757	75 892 693	Kilograms	33.2%	6
38.	'17011400	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter (excluding ...	Bulgaria and Romania	Export quantity has been fluctuating since Q3 2017. Product has been analysed in previous quarters.	282 806 075	75 054 371	Kilograms	-73.5%	-29

39.	'25231000	Cement clinkers	Lesotho	Significant increase in export quantity, but value does not warrant analysis.	31 124 759	69 548 437	Kilograms	123.5%	22
40.	'39021090	Polypropylene, in primary forms: other	Nigeria	Decrease in quantity within normal variance.	87 100 554	66 949 824	Kilograms	-23.1%	-6
41.	'26190000	Slag, dross, scalings and other waste from the manufacture of iron or steel (excluding granulated ...	India	Possible data error in reporting export quantity.	256 924	63 191 212	Kilograms	24495.3%	1006
42.	'22042941	Wine of fresh grapes, incl. fortified wines, and grape must whose fermentation has been arrested ...	UK	Large increase reflecting the low base of Q2 2020, with the impact of COVID-19. Export quantities have returned to normal since Q3 2020.	31 311 452	62 390 566	Litres	99.3%	18
43.	'62111200	Women's or girls' swimwear (excluding knitted or crocheted)	Lesotho	Possible data error in reporting export quantity.	758	62 113 814	Units	8194334.6%	4860
44.	'10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	Zambia	Increase in quantity within normal variance.	54 609 673	60 584 583	Kilograms	10.9%	1
45.	'25132000	Emery; natural corundum, natural garnet and other natural abrasives,	US	Export quantity has been fluctuating since Q3 2017. On-going monitoring to see if increasing trend persists.	3 081 325	58 719 743	Kilograms	1805.7%	241



		whether or not heat-treated							
46.	'01069000	Live animals (excluding mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and ...	Zimbabwe	Increase in export quantity, but value too low to warrant analysis (R5 million).	62	57 766 528	Units	93171719.4 %	5788
47.	'27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated; retort carbon	Mozambique	On-going monitoring. Product has been on an increasing trend since Q1 2021.	16 451 938	56 533 125	Kilograms	243.6%	51
48.	'72104990	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of >= 600 mm, hot-rolled or cold-rolled ...	US	Limited data on product group.	13 543 872	54 873 368	Kilograms	305.2%	64
49.	'25291000	Feldspar	India	Large increase due to low base of Q2 2020. Export quantities have returned to normal since Q1 2021.	30 922 258	49 837 476	Kilograms	61.2%	13
50.	'25301000	Vermiculite, perlite and chlorites, unexpanded	Mozambique	Significant decrease in export quantity. Product selected for analysis.	161 808 635	48 208 472	Kilograms	-70.2%	-27

ONGOING 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
<b>Ongoing monitoring and trends to watch</b>			
71039900	Precious and semi-precious stones, worked, whether or not graded, but not strung, mounted or ...	Export quantity has been fluctuating since Q1 2020, with significant increases being followed by quarters of significant declines.	Monitoring product to see if the significant increase experienced in Q2 2021 will persist.
<b>Data errors or issues and updates</b>			
01064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	Abnormal increases have persisted for the past few quarters. More research needs to be done to understand what is causing the abnormally high increases in export quantities or the data errors.	N/A
44121000	Plywood, veneered panel and similar laminated wood, of bamboo, not containing particle board ...	Abnormal increase (18725730.5%) in Q2 2021. Possible data error in reporting exports quantity to Eswatini taking 99% of exports, with quantity reaching 80 million kg in Q2 2021, making Eswatini the top export market by quantity, with a low value of R89 000 showing possibility of data error.	N/A