



TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES



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

TIPS EXPORT TRACKER

THIRD QUARTER 2023

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with a contribution from Rapula Diale

TIPS TRACKERS

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Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)

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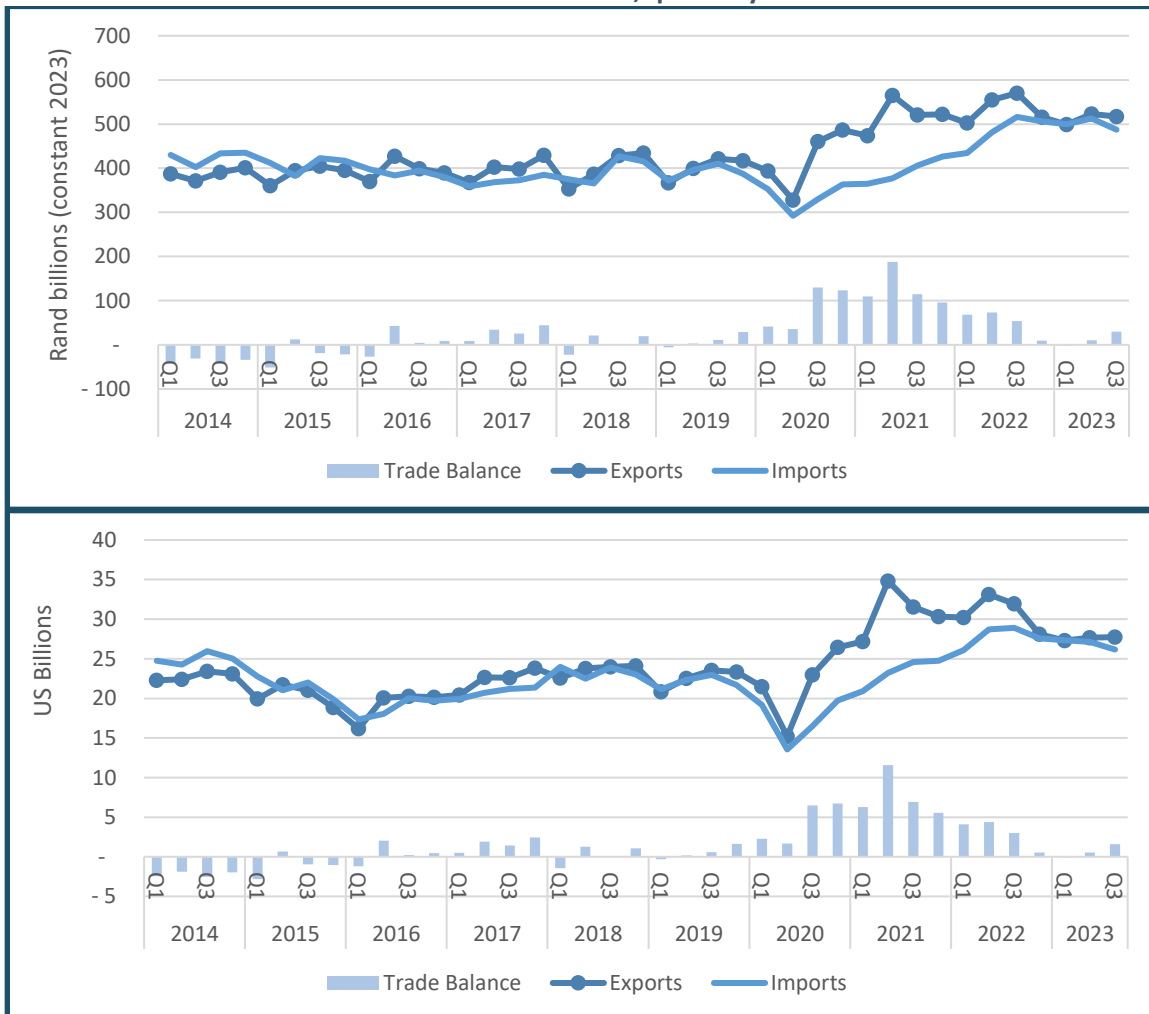
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OVERVIEW OF EXPORT PERFORMANCE

South Africa’s merchandise exports experienced a 9.2% year-on-year decline from R570 billion in Q3 2022 to R517 billion (constant rand terms) in Q3 2023. Imports also saw a downturn in the third quarter of 2023, falling by 5.5% year-on-year, amounting to R478 billion. Despite the 9.2% decline in exports, South Africa managed to maintain a second consecutive trade surplus from the previous quarter, due to a less significant decline in imports, recording a trade balance of R29.8 billion.

**Graph 1: Exports, imports, and trade balance in constant (2022)
Rand value and current US dollar, quarterly 2014 to 2023**



Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS) Statistics.
Downloaded from sars.gov.za in January 2024.

In dollar terms, the value of merchandise exports declined by 13.1% year-on-year, amounting to US\$27.7 billion in the third quarter of 2023, dropped by 9.5% to US\$26.2 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of US\$1.5 billion.

South Africa’s Top 20 export product groups for the third quarter of 2023 are presented in Table 1. Precious stones, ores, vehicles, mineral fuels and oils, and fruit and nuts continued to dominate South Africa’s exports in Q3 2023, accounting for 53.4% of the country’s total exports in value terms. Among the Top 20 export products, oil seeds, vehicles and aluminium grew the most in export value in the third quarter of 2023. Oil seed exports were up by 132% from R1.7 billion in Q3 2022 to R4 billion in Q3 2023, driven by an increase in demand from Bangladesh and

India, which are the two main export markets. Vehicle exports grew by 53.8% from R47.3 billion in Q3 2022 to R72.7 billion in Q3 2023, with the growth mainly attributed to a 74% increase in exports to Germany. Exports of aluminium increased by 40% to R10.6 billion in Q3 2023.

Conversely, inorganic chemicals, mineral fuels and oils, wood pulp, precious stones and organic chemicals experienced declines in the third quarter of 2023. Inorganic chemicals exports saw the highest drop, as they decreased by 45.5% from R9.6 billion in Q3 2022 to R5.2 billion in Q3 2023 as a result of persistent decline in exports to the main market, Belgium, which fell by 71% from R2.6 billion in Q3 2022 to R776 million in Q3 2023. Mineral fuels and oils dropped by 43% to R49 billion, while precious stones declined by 22% to R79 billion over the period under review.

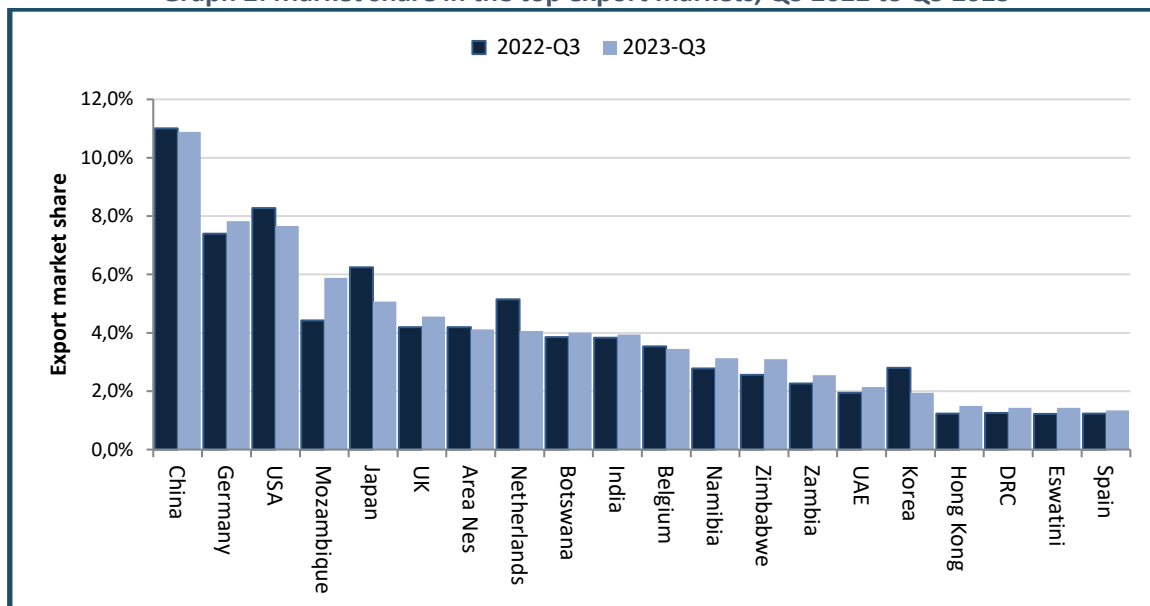
Table 1: Top 20 sectors, Q3 2022 to Q3 2023

HS Code	Sectors	VALUE (R BILLIONS)		SHARES %		ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	TOP EXPORT MARKET
		2022-Q3	2023-Q3	2022-Q3	2023-Q3	2022-Q3 to 2023-Q3	
'71	Precious stones	101.9	79.3	1.8%	15.3%	-22.1%	Area NES*; Japan
'26	Ores	69.4	74.7	12.8%	14.4%	7.7%	China
'87	Vehicles	47.3	72.7	8.7%	14.0%	53.8%	Germany
'27	Mineral fuels and oils	87.0	49.4	16.0%	9.6%	-43.2%	India
'08	Fruit and nuts	27.3	31.0	5.0%	6.0%	13.9%	Netherlands
'84	Machinery (industrial)	29.1	29.8	5.4%	5.8%	2.6%	Germany
'72	Iron and steel	28.8	26.9	5.3%	5.2%	-6.7%	China
'76	Aluminium	7.6	10.6	1.4%	2.1%	40.4%	United States
'85	Electrical machinery	8.1	9.7	1.5%	1.9%	18.9%	Namibia
'10	Cereals	6.5	7.2	1.2%	1.4%	11.9%	Japan
'39	Plastics	7.7	7.0	1.4%	1.3%	-9.9%	Zambia
'22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6.4	6.7	1.2%	1.3%	4.5%	United Kingdom
'73	Articles of iron or steel	5.8	6.3	1.1%	1.2%	9.0%	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
'38	Chemical products	6.0	6.1	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	Germany
'28	Inorganic chemicals	9.6	5.2	1.8%	1.0%	-45.5%	Belgium
'74	Copper	5.3	4.9	1.0%	0.9%	-7.5%	China
'47	Pulp of wood	7.5	4.5	1.4%	0.9%	-39.8%	India
'29	Organic chemicals	5.3	4.5	1.0%	0.9%	-14.0%	Belgium
'25	Salt; sulphur; earths and stone	4.1	4.1	0.8%	0.8%	-0.2%	China
'12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	1.7	4.0	0.3%	0.8%	132.9%	Bangladesh

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from www.trademap.org. Accessed January 2024. Note: *Area Not Elsewhere Specified.

In terms of key export markets, China remains South Africa’s top market, accounting for a 10.9% share of South Africa’s total exports in value terms. Exports to China experienced a year-on-year drop of 5.8% from R59.8 billion in Q3 2022 to R56.3 billion in Q3 2023 (see Graph 2). The top five export products from South Africa to China were ores, which claimed a 63% share of South Africa’s total exports to China by value, followed by iron and steel (10%), fruit and nuts (7.4%), copper (6.8%) and wood pulp (2.1%). These top five products together accounted for 90% of South Africa’s total exports to China, in value terms. Of the top five products, wood pulp had the highest growth, increasing by 53.5% year-on-year from R758 million in Q3 2022 to R1.2 billion in Q3 2023. The two mineral exports saw declines in the quarter, with iron and steel exports dropping by 23% to R5.6 billion, while copper exports fell by 5.4% to R3.8 billion in the third quarter of 2023.

Graph 2: Market share in the top export markets, Q3 2022 to Q3 2023



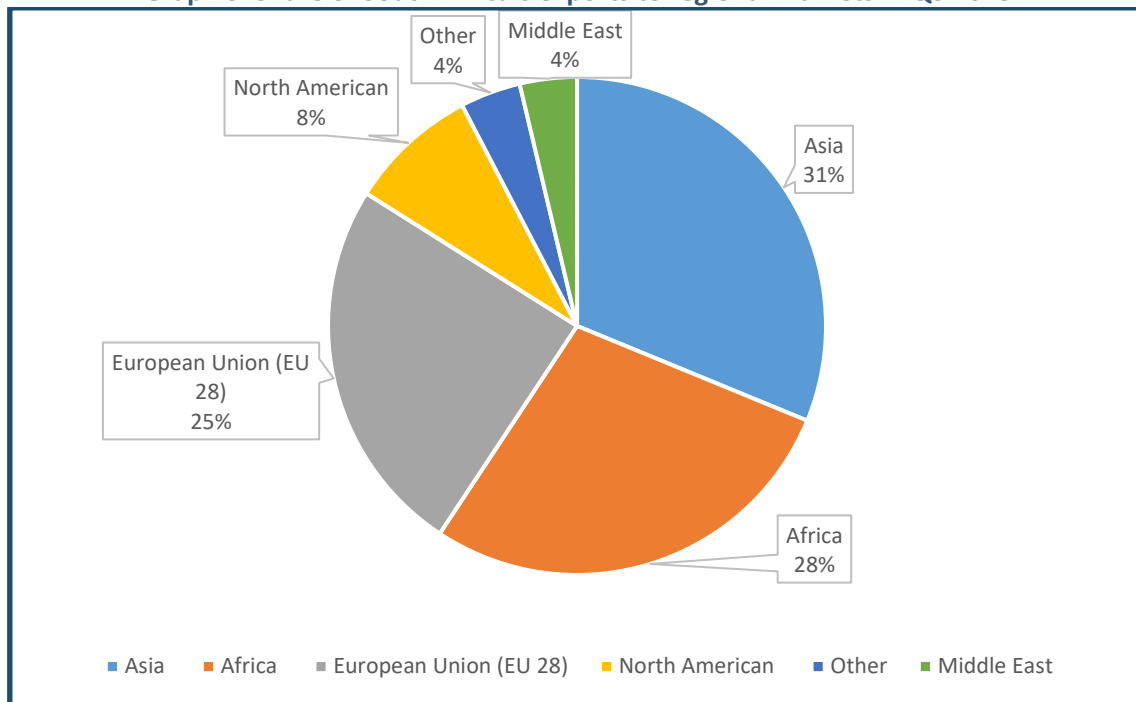
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map Data. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in January 2024.

The third quarter of 2023 saw Germany overtake the United States (US) to become South Africa’s second largest export market. It accounted for 7.8% of South Africa’s total exports in value terms, amounting to R40.5 billion, an increase in market share from a 7.4% share in the same quarter last year. South Africa’s exports to Germany grew by 0.7% year-on-year. Of the top five export products to Germany, vehicles continue to dominate, accounting for a 58.6% share of South Africa’s total exports to Germany, followed by precious stones (13.8%), ores (8.2%), machinery – industrial (8.1%), and chemical products (3%). Among these top five exports, vehicles and chemical products experienced growth while the others saw a decrease in exports. Vehicle exports from South Africa to Germany grew by 74.5% from R13.6 billion in Q3 2022 to R23.7 billion in Q3 2023, while chemical product exports increased by 54.9% to R1.2 billion in the third quarter of 2023.

The US moved one position down to become South Africa’s third largest export market in the third quarter of 2023. Its market share dropped from 8.3% in Q3 2022 to 7.7% in Q3 2023. South Africa’s exports to the US saw a notable year-on-year drop of 11.8%, decreasing from R44.9 billion in Q3 2022 to R39.6 billion in Q3 2023. Precious stones remain the top export product from South Africa to the US market, taking a 31.4% share of exports in value terms, followed by vehicles (17.1%), aluminium (8.1%), machinery (industrial) (6.4%) and iron and steel (5.6%). Vehicle and aluminium exports experienced the highest growth, increasing by 74.5% each. Vehicle exports rose from R3.8 billion in Q3 2022 to R6.8 billion in Q3 2023, while

aluminium exports grew from R1.8 billion in Q3 2022 to R3.2 billion in Q3 2023 as South Africa continues to supply specialised aluminium sheets, tubes and pipes for the US’s automotive, battery and aerospace industries.¹ Mineral exports saw the largest drop as precious stone exports declined by 34.9% from R19.1 billion in Q3 2022 to R12.4 billion in Q3 2023, while iron and steel dropped by 18.2% from R2.7 billion in Q3 2022 to R2.2 billion in Q3 2023.

Graph 3: Share of South Africa’s exports to regional markets in Q3 2023



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> in January 2024.

The share of South Africa’s export to regional markets in the third quarter of 2023 is presented in Graph 3. The Asian region accounted for 31% of South Africa’s total exports, in value terms, amounting to R162 billion in Q3 2023, after a 11.2% decrease from the same quarter last year. The African region was the second largest regional export market for South Africa in the third quarter of 2023, claiming a share of 28% of the country’s total exports to the value of R145 billion. South Africa’s exports to the EU-28 region amounted to R127 billion, which represented an 11.3% year-on-year decline in Q3 2023. North America absorbed 8% of South Africa’s total exports, amounting to R43 billion, while the Middle East claimed 4%, which amounted to R19 billion in Q3 2023.

South Africa’s exports to the rest of Africa were up by 12.5% from R129 billion in Q3 2022 to R145 billion in Q3 2023. The increase pushed Africa one spot up to become South Africa’s second largest export region as its export share increased from 23.8% in Q3 2022 to 28.1% in Q3 2023. In the third quarter of 2023, South Africa’s top five export markets included Mozambique² claiming a share of 20.6% of South Africa’s total exports to the African region in value terms, followed by Botswana (14.3%), Namibia (11.2%), Zimbabwe (11%) and Zambia (9.1%). All top

¹ <https://agoa.info/news/article/15486-sa-minister-davies-steel-and-aluminium-exports-to-us-no-threat-to-national-security.html>

² R18.5 billion of exports to Mozambique are commodities that are assumed to pass through the Port of Maputo and not Mozambique as a final destination. Excluding these exports would reduce the share of South Africa’s exports to Mozambique to 8.2% in Q3 2023. The following minerals are considered as destined for the Chinese market: HS2610 Chromium ores and concentrate (R8.9 billion); HS7202 Ferro-alloys (R4.9 billion); HS2701 Coal briquettes (R1.8 billion); and HS2601 Iron ore and concentrates (R2.8 billion).

African export markets experienced an increase in demand for South African exports, with the exception of Botswana which saw a marginal 1% year-on-year decline in Q3 2023. Mozambique and Zimbabwe had the biggest year-on-year increases of 26.7% and 15.3%, respectively. Mozambique continues to lead as South Africa’s top African export market, as a result of exports of mineral ores and concentrates passing through to China, as observed and mentioned in previous publications (see Footnote 2). Growth in exports to Zimbabwe was driven an increase in demand for the following top export products, iron and steel, mineral fuels and oils and vehicles in Q3 2023.

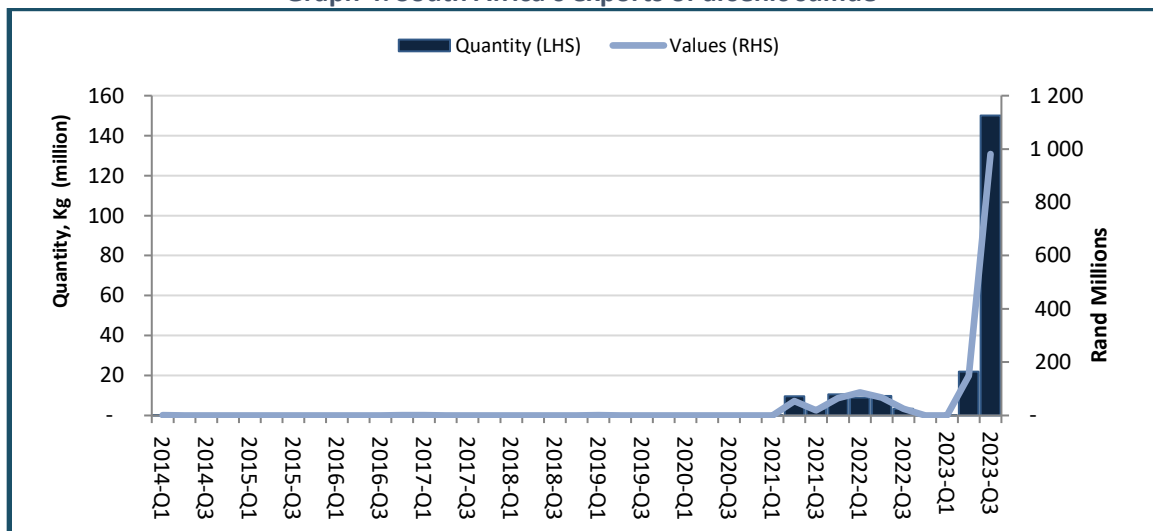
SIGNIFICANT PRODUCT GROWTH IN EXPORTS AND ANALYSIS

Significant product arsenic sulfides

HS 25309000 Arsenic sulfides, alunite, pozzuolana, earth colours and other mineral substances, n.e.s.

Arsenic sulfides are chemical compounds composed of arsenic and sulfur, which are black in colour and insoluble in water. They are commonly used in the production of semi-conductors, catalysts in the production of polymers and as a pigment in inks and paints.³ South Africa is the third largest global exporter of arsenic sulfide after Australia and Brazil.

Graph 4: South Africa’s exports of arsenic sulfide

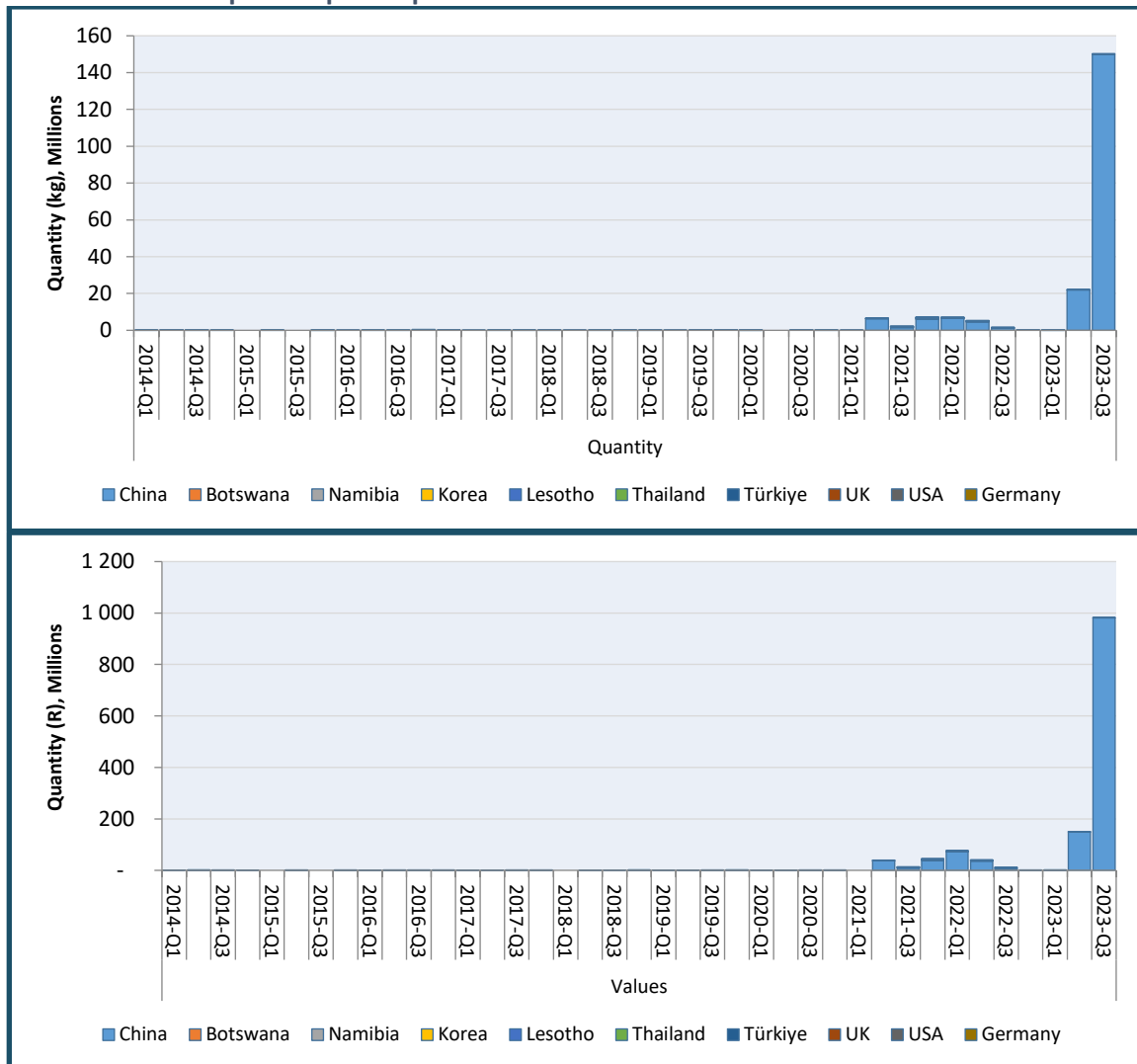


Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded <https://trademap.org>, sars.gov.za in January 2024.

From the first quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2021, there was a notable absence of significant exports of arsenic sulfide. This period witnessed minimal activity in exports, indicating a substantial lack of demand or market penetration. Following this stagnancy, there was a noticeable upturn in exports, which increased from 3180kg valued at R14 000 in Q1 2021 to 9.5 million kg worth R53.4 million in Q2 2021, followed by quarters of steady growth before dropping again in Q3 2022. Thereafter, South Africa’s arsenic sulfide exports experienced exponential growth in the third quarter of 2023, increasing by over 4000% over the year from 3.3 million kg worth R25 million in Q3 2022 to 150 million kg valued at R981 million in Q3 2023.

³ <https://www.digicomply.com/restricted-substances/arsenic-sulfide#:~:text=is%20arsenic%20sulfide%3F-,Arsenic%20sulfide%20is%20a%20chemical%20compound%20composed%20of%20arsenic%20and,in%20the%20production%20of%20polymers>

Graph 5: Top 10 export markets for South Africa’s arsenic sulfide



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in January 2024.

South Africa’s arsenic sulfide exports mainly target the Chinese market, which has been the prominent destination for these exports since the second quarter of 2021. Between Q2 2021 to Q3 2022, other significant markets included Korea and Germany with exports to these two markets having stopped since then. In the third quarter of 2023, China accounted for almost all of South Africa’s arsenic sulfide exports, claiming 99.8% of South Africa’s total export volumes of the product. Exports to China grew by just over 13 000% from 1.1 million kg valued at R7.9 million in Q3 2022 to 149.8 million kg worth R980 million in Q3 2023. According to secondary sources, China’s demand for arsenic sulfide is for its use as the main component for producing realgar, which is a traditional Chinese medicine used to treat several tumour types, particularly acute promyelocytic leukemia.⁴ Given the abnormal increase in exports to this single market, the product will be monitored to assess if the trend persists in the following quarters.

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4274045/>

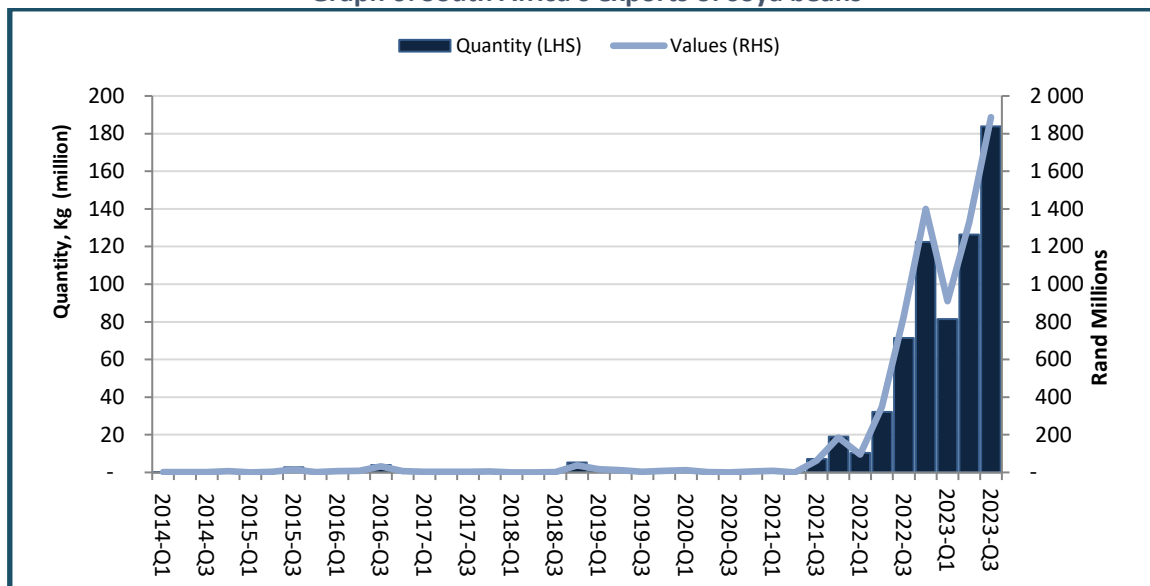
Significant product growth in soya beans

HS 12019000 Soya beans, whether or not broken (excluding seed for sowing)

Soya beans, also commonly referred to as soybean, are a legume which has its origins in East Asia, but is cultivated worldwide for its edible seeds.⁵ It is a versatile crop used for various purposes including food production, animal feed and industrial applications. Within the food industry, soya beans are commonly processed into soybean oil, soy milk, tofu and other soy-based foods. This specific classification (HS 12019000) typically refers to soya beans intended for processing into various food products and industrial uses.

South Africa is the sixth largest global exporter of soya beans in both volume and value terms, with Brazil being by far the largest global exporter. South Africa recorded very low exports of soya beans between Q1 2014 to Q2 2021, thereafter experiencing a steady growth trend for the next three quarters. From the first quarter of 2022, South Africa's soya bean exports grew exponentially from 10 million kg valued at R94.5 million to 122 million kg worth R1.4 billion in Q4 2022, before declining again in Q1 2023.

Graph 6: South Africa's exports of soya beans



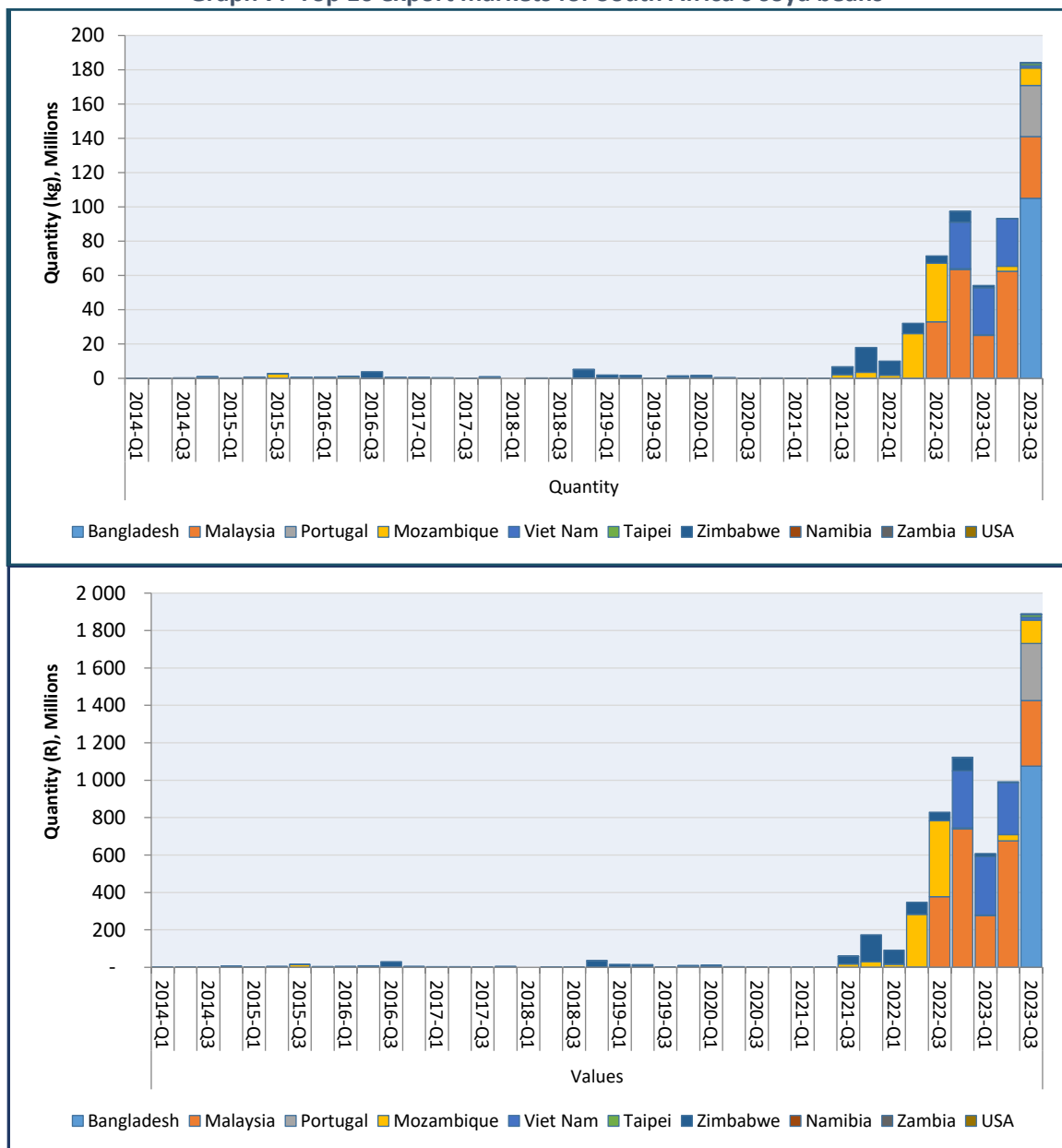
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in January 2024

In Q3 2023, South Africa's soya bean exports grew by 157.6% from 71 million kg valued at R828 million in Q3 2022 to 183 million kg worth R1.9 billion. The top export markets for South Africa's soya bean exports comprised Bangladesh, accounting for a 57.1% share of South Africa's total export volumes of soya beans, followed by Malaysia (19.6%), Portugal (16.2%), Mozambique (5.5%) and Viet Nam (0.8%). Bangladesh emerged as a new market for South Africa's soya bean exports in the third quarter of 2023 with 105 million kg worth R1.1 billion exported to the country, with no previous records of soya bean exports to the country over the observed period. Since it claimed the largest share of export volumes of South Africa's soya beans in the quarter, it is assumed that it was the main driving factor of the increase in export volumes in Q3 2023. Exports to Malaysia were up by 9% from 36 million kg valued at R350 million. The 12% decrease in unit price from R11.61/kg in Q3 2022 to R10.26/kg could also be a contributing

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/t0532e/t0532e02.htm>

factor to the increase in export volumes. The product will continue to be monitored in the following quarters to see if Malaysia remains a promising market for South Africa's soya bean exports.

Graph 7: Top 10 export markets for South Africa's soya beans



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in January 2024.

SIGNIFICANT SLUMP AND ANALYSIS

Significant in chemical wood pulp

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

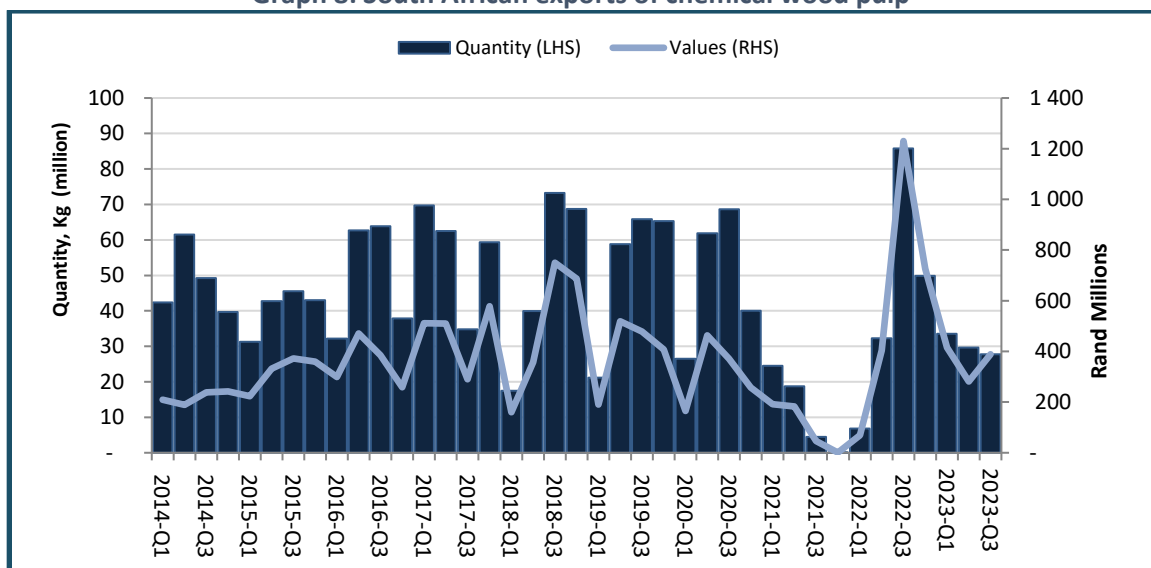
Semi-bleached or bleached non-coniferous chemical wood pulp produced through soda or sulphate processes involves treating hardwood with specific chemicals to break down fibres, and in the case of bleached pulp, additional processes to remove colour. Sulphate wood pulp is

produced by combining sodium hydroxide and sodium sulphide as cooking agents. The action of the sodium hydroxide solution is to gently erode the fibre, resulting in strong bleached or semi-bleached wood pulp. Consequently, the paper derived from this pulp exhibits exceptional flexural, breaking, and tearing strength.⁶ These types of pulp find applications in various industries, including paper manufacturing, where specific qualities like brightness and purity are essential for the end product.⁷

South Africa’s exports of chemical wood pulp have fluctuated over the past decade, presenting a cyclical trend characterised by a consistent drop in export volumes during the first quarter, followed by an upswing in the subsequent quarter. For instance, in Q1 2020 exports fell by 68% and 39% in Q1 2021. It is worth noting, however, that Q2 2021 and Q2 2023 deviated from this cyclic pattern.

As presented in Graph 8, the year 2021 posed significant challenges for the export of chemical wood products. Exports declined sharply, ultimately reaching zero in Q4 2022. This decline was attributed to various factors, including extensive flooding caused by Cyclone Eloise impacting provinces such as Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and KwaZulu-Natal, affecting pulp material production in South Africa.⁸ In addition, widespread civil unrest, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal, compounded the challenges. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and logistical bottlenecks affecting Transnet’s transportation capabilities further intensified the obstacles faced in exporting during that year.

Graph 8: South African exports of chemical wood pulp



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in January 2024.

The top five export markets for South Africa’s chemical wood pulp all together account for 86% of the country’s total chemical wood pulp exports by volume, with China claiming 44.9%, followed by Thailand (18.3%), India (10.3%), Taipei (6.4%) and Philippines (6.3%). In the third quarter of 2023, South Africa’s chemical wood pulp exports fell by 68% from 85 million kg valued at R1.2 billion in Q3 2022 to 27 million kg worth R389 million. Of the top five export markets, all except China experienced a fall in exports. Chemical exports to the Philippines saw the largest

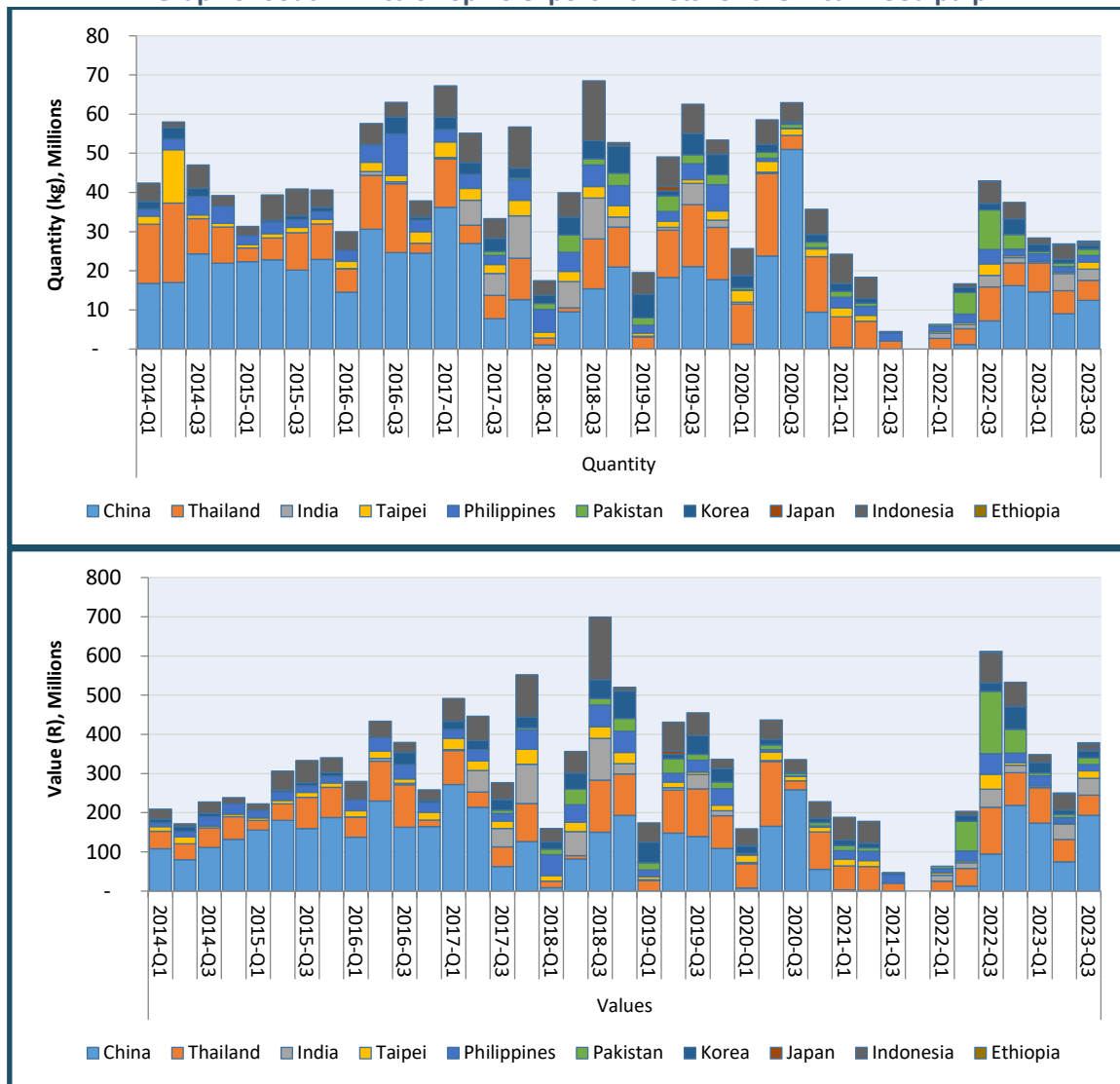
⁶ <http://www.paperpulp.com/news/what-is-the-type-and-process-of-pulp.htm>

⁷ <http://www.utipulp.org/definitions.php>

⁸ <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/sappi-loses-r220m-production-due-to-riots-in-kwazulu-natal-b40d3006-8226-4cee-b66d-36c93cf184be>

drop, declining by 52% from 3.6 million kg worth R52 million to 1.7 million kg valued at R15 million, while exports to Thailand dropped by 41% to five million kg worth R51 million. The subdued demand from the other top markets, excluding China, has been the driving factor in the significant fall in export volumes of South Africa’s chemical wood pulp in the third quarter of 2023.

Graph 9: South Africa’s Top 10 export markets for chemical wood pulp



Source: Authors. Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org> and sars.gov.za in January 2024.

Significant slump zirconium ores and concentrates

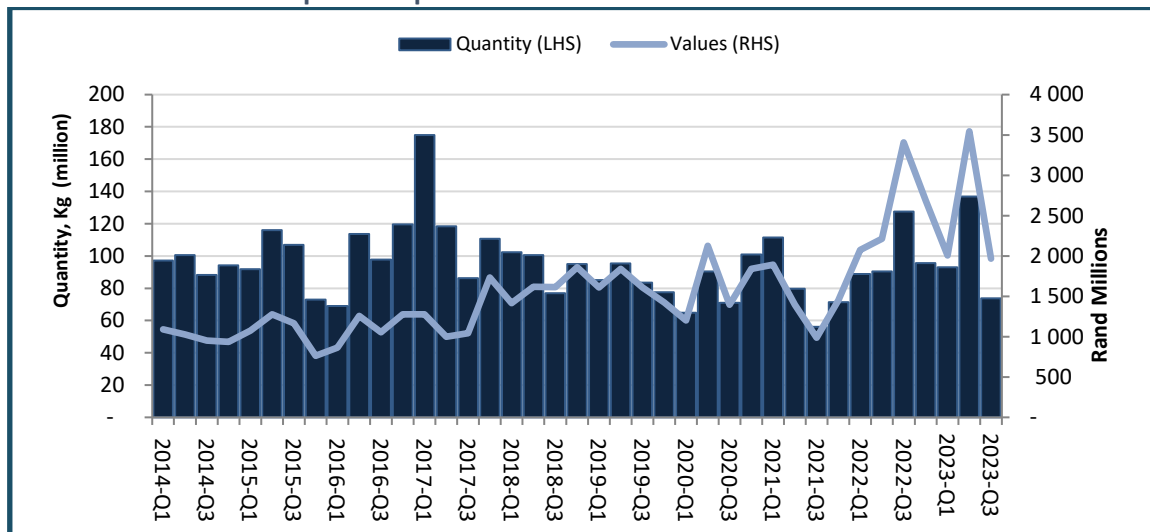
HS 26151000 Zirconium ores and concentrates

Zirconium ores are natural mineral deposits containing the zirconium element in various compounds, commonly found in nature as zircon (zirconium silicate), found in beach sands, and other minerals like ilmenite, rutile, and monazite. While zirconium concentrates refer to processed forms of zirconium ores where the content of zirconium has been concentrated or extracted through various combinations of mechanical processes such as gravity separation, magnetic separation, and electrostatic separation. These concentrates are enriched in zirconium

content, making them suitable for further industrial applications such as ceramics, refractories, foundry sands, and nuclear reactors.

In the third quarter of 2023, South Africa was the leading global exporter of zirconium ores and concentrates by both volumes and values, surpassing key competitors such as Indonesia and Australia. Over the past decade, zirconium ores and concentrate exports have fluctuated, maintaining an average level of about 95 million kg. However, exports reached their highest record in Q1 2017, when South Africa's zirconium ores and concentrates exports peaked at 174 million kg worth R1.3 billion. In Q3 2023, zirconium ores and concentrates from South Africa dropped by 42.2% from 127 million kg valued at R3.4 billion in Q3 2022 to 73 million kg worth R1.9 billion in Q3 2023.

Graph 10: Exports of zirconium ores and concentrates

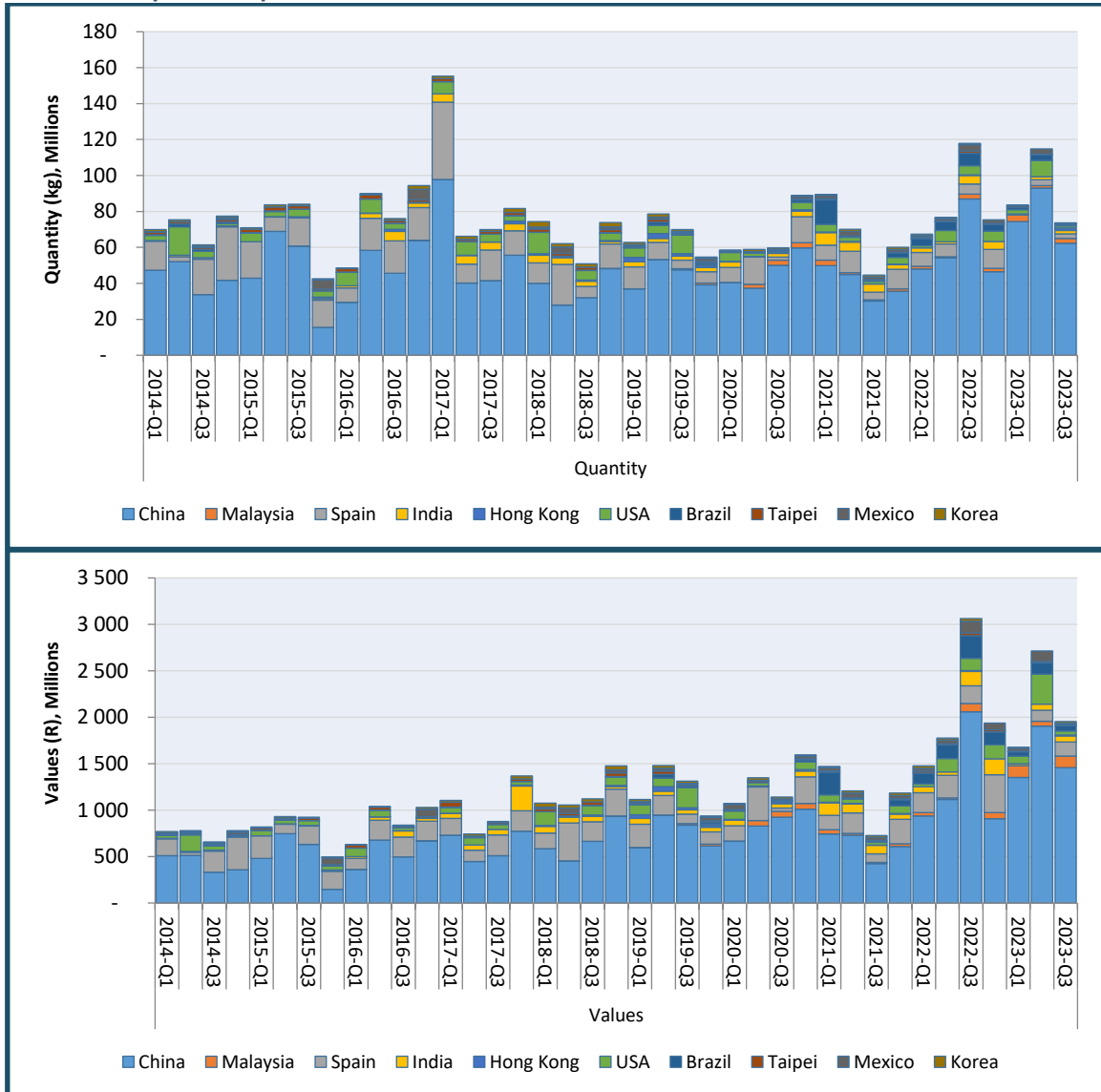


Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://trademap.org>, sars.gov.za in January 2024.

South Africa's exports of zirconium ores and concentrates were primarily directed to China, which accounts for an 84.5% share of South Africa's total export volumes of this product. The rest of the top five markets accounting for the lesser share comprise of Malaysia (3.7%), Spain (3.6%), India (1.5%) and Hong Kong (1.8%).

The fall in South Africa's zirconium exports has been primarily driven by a drop in demand from these key export markets. In Q3 2023, zirconium exports from South Africa to China fell by 28% from 82 million kg worth R2 billion to 62 million kg valued at R1.5 billion. Exports to Spain dropped by 53.2% from 5.6 million kg valued at R190 million in Q3 2022 to 2.6 million kg worth R150 million in Q3 2023, while exports to India saw a 61.3% decline amounting to 1.8 million kg worth R67 million in the third quarter of 2023. It is not clear what is driving the subdued demand from key markets, as the unit price of zirconium has remained fairly stable, with a negligible decrease of 0.2% from R26.73/kg in Q3 2022 to R26.69/kg in Q3 2023.

Graph 11: Top 20 Markets for South Africa's zirconium ores and concentrates



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded <https://trademap.org>, sars.gov.za in January 2024.

Annexure

Table A1: South Africa's Top 50 exports by value, Q3 2023

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPORT VALUE (RAND THOUSANDS)		GROWTH RATE (%)
			2022-Q3	2023-Q3	
1	'71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad ...	101 907 587	79 343 332	-22.1%
2	'26	Ores, slag and ash	69 352 535	74 705 098	7.7%
3	'87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	47 267 285	72 695 260	53.8%
4	'27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	87 039 609	49 420 559	-43.2%
5	'08	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	27 252 502	31 041 988	13.9%
6	'84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	29 059 703	29 829 028	2.6%
7	'72	Iron and steel	28 804 025	26 860 473	-6.7%
8	'76	Aluminium and articles thereof	7 552 609	10 607 295	40.4%
9	'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	8 140 613	9 675 364	18.9%
10	'10	Cereals	6 466 652	7 235 426	11.9%
11	'39	Plastics and articles thereof	7 728 527	6 965 786	-9.9%
12	'22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6 372 399	6 656 032	4.5%
13	'73	Articles of iron or steel	5 796 931	6 317 644	9.0%
14	'38	Miscellaneous chemical products	6 023 420	6 097 943	1.2%
15	'28	Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...	9 620 727	5 244 025	-45.5%
16	'74	Copper and articles thereof	5 290 235	4 895 888	-7.5%
17	'47	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or ...	7 541 773	4 536 921	-39.8%
18	'29	Organic chemicals	5 256 453	4 522 493	-14.0%
19	'25	Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	4 077 298	4 068 234	-0.2%
20	'12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal ...	1 720 994	4 008 435	132.9%
21	'75	Nickel and articles thereof	4 235 474	3 881 714	-8.4%

22	'20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	3 215 686	3 645 907	13.4%
23	'33	Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations	2 871 590	3 113 077	8.4%
24	'48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	2 782 134	2 993 254	7.6%
25	'34	Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial ...	2 543 176	2 988 594	17.5%
26	'90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical ...	2 617 765	2 854 361	9.0%
27	'21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2 213 300	2 724 639	23.1%
28	'17	Sugars and sugar confectionery	2 748 573	2 676 378	-2.6%
29	'44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	3 006 616	2 498 731	-16.9%
30	'40	Rubber and articles thereof	2 355 725	2 364 256	0.4%
31	'30	Pharmaceutical products	2 180 453	2 269 355	4.1%
32	'03	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	1 886 757	1 875 735	-0.6%
33	'31	Fertilisers	2 758 098	1 850 887	-32.9%
34	'23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	1 879 392	1 797 817	-4.3%
35	'15	Animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; ...	1 858 470	1 792 877	-3.5%
36	'19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	1 545 144	1 730 523	12.0%
37	'94	Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; ...	1 524 375	1 671 711	9.7%
38	'32	Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring ...	1 608 336	1 620 784	0.8%
39	'88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	1 426 958	1 602 311	12.3%
40	'02	Meat and edible meat offal	1 199 261	1 430 294	19.3%
41	'11	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	1 083 355	1 362 590	25.8%
42	'89	Ships, boats and floating structures	787 158	1 332 466	69.3%
43	'04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere ...	1 161 380	1 272 872	9.6%
44	'99	Commodities not elsewhere specified	1 648 871	1 112 225	-32,5%
45	'86	Railway or tramway locomotives, rolling stock and parts thereof; railway or tramway track fixtures ...	754 006	961 775	27,6%
46	'96	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	828 186	942 705	13,8%
47	'62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	906 501	916 701	1,1%

48	'61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	923 171	882 458	-4.4%
49	'36	Explosives; pyrotechnic products; matches; pyrophoric alloys; certain combustible preparations	559 750	836 079	49.4%
50	'82	Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal	796 310	835 483	4.9%

Table A2: Top 50 exports of goods, by quantity with explanations, Q3 2023

NO	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	MAJOR IMPORTER	EXPLANATION	Q3-2022 QUANTITY	Q3 -2023 QUANTITY	UNIT	PERCENT GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK
1	'27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	India	Decrease in quantity is within normal variance. No change in rank.	16 400 590 466	10 080 703 018	Kilograms	-38.5%	0
2	'26011100	Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excluding roasted iron pyrites)	China	Increase in export quantities to China which accounts for 64% of South Africa's total exports of the product.	4 991 881 966	8 342 747 765	Kilograms	67.1%	2
3	'26020000	Manganese ores and concentrates, incl. ferruginous manganese ores and concentrates, with a ...	China	Decrease in quantity within the normal variance, with no substantial change in ranking.	5 407 679 996	4 295 348 608	Kilograms	-20.6%	1
4	'26100000	Chromium ores and concentrates	China	Decrease in quantity exported is within normal variance, with no substantial change in rank.	3 557 569 463	3 405 899 428	Kilograms	-4.3%	1
5	'27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	India	Decrease in quantity exported is within normal variance. No change in rank.	1 843 652 984	1 841 412 339	Kilograms	-0.1%	1
6	'26011200	Agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excluding roasted iron pyrites)	China	Significant drop in export volumes to main market, China down by 92% from five billion kg in	9 607 125 253	1 029 079 772	Kilograms	-89.3%	-4

				Q3 2022 to 382 million kg in Q3 2023. Monitoring product to see if trend persists.					
7	'44034900	Tropical wood specified in the subheading note 1 to this chapter in the rough, whether or not ...	India	Increase in export quantities to India from 678 million cubic meters in Q3 2022 to 1.1 billion cubic meters in Q3 2023. Value too low to warrant product selection.	678 598 518	1 005 250 195	Cubic meters	48.1%	6
8	'44039800	Eucalyptus "eucalyptus spp." in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly ...	India	Abnormal increase in export quantity to India and Vietnam, accounting for 99% of total exports. Possible data error.	31 302	848 870 737	Cubic meters	2711773.8%	2799
9	'08051010	Fresh or dried oranges: fresh	Netherlands	Decrease in quantity within normal seasonal variance. No substantial change in rank.	949 748 626	706 357 526	Kilograms	-25.6%	-1
10	'72024100	Ferro-chromium, containing by weight > 4% of carbon	China	Increase in quantity exported is within normal variance with no substantial slight change in rank.	897 209 604	607 973 140	Kilograms	-32.2%	-1
11	'10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Other	Korea	Decrease in quantity exported is within normal variance with no change in rank.	817 119 940	595 053 533	Kilograms	-27.2%	0
12	'44071100	Pine "pinus spp." sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded ...	Maldives	Abnormal increase in exports to Maldives, accounting for 98% of exports. Possible data error in quantities	331 657	395 954 364	Cubic meters	119286.7%	1113

				recorded for Maldives.					
13	'44072900	Tropical wood specified in subheading note 1 to this chapter, sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced ...	Tanzania	Abnormal increase in exports to Maldives, accounting for 99% of exports. Possible data error in quantities recorded for Tanzania.	2 780	300 008 292	Cubic meters	10791565.2%	4702
14	'44032100	Pine "pinus spp." in the rough, of which any cross-sectional dimension is =>15 cm, whether ...	India	Abnormal increase in exports to Maldives, accounting for 99% of exports. Possible data error in quantities recorded for India.	725	287 651 408	Cubic meters	39675956.3%	5511
15	'44012200	Wood in chips or particles (excluding those of a kind used principally for dying or tanning ...	Japan	Significant decrease in exports to Japan from 412 million kg in Q3 2022 to 222 million kg. Monitoring product in the following quarters.	718 020 660	266 997 410	Kilograms	-62.8%	-3
16	'08052110	Fresh or dried mandarins incl. tangerines and satsumas (excl. clementines): fresh	Netherlands	Decrease in export quantity within normal seasonal variance.	325 582 896	253 719 939	Kilograms	-22.1%	2
17	'71039900	Precious and semi-precious stones, worked, whether or not graded, but not strung, mounted or ...	Germany	Decrease in quantity exported to the US, which used to be the top market. Exports to the US fell by over 50%, from 123 million carats in Q3 2022 to 66 million carats in Q3 2023.	380 206 076	224 281 849	Carats	-41.0%	-1
18	'12019000	Soya beans, whether or not broken (excluding seed for sowing)	Bangladesh	Significant increase in export quantities and rank. Product selected for analysis.	71 404 662	183 927 626	Kilograms	157.6%	25

19	'27101202	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "incl. ...	Botswana	Decrease in quantity exported within normal variance. Slight change in rank.	202 031 562	173 764 426	Liters	-14,0%	6
20	'25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	Botswana	Decrease in export quantity to Botswana from 132 million kg in Q3 2022 to 96 million kg in Q3 2023.	201 524 154	165 798 296	Kilograms	-17.7%	6
21	'47020000	Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades	India	Decrease in export quantity within normal variance. No substantial change in rank	254 930 703	159 462 803	Kilograms	-37.4%	1
22	'25309000	Arsenic sulfides, alunite, pozzuolana, earth colours and other mineral substances, n.e.s.	China	Significant increase in export quantities to China over the quarters. Product selected for analysis.	3 329 693	150 089 523	Kilograms	4407.6%	315
23	'27101230	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "incl. ...	Botswana	Decrease in export quantity within normal variance. Slight change in rank.	276 402 201	149 875 644	Liters	-45.8%	-3
24	'26140000	Titanium ores and concentrates	China	Decrease in quantities exported to Belgium the third largest market from 43 million kg in Q3 2022 to 17 million kg in Q3 2023.	234 489 060	139 106 973	Kilograms	-40,7%	-1
25	'27101235	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "incl. ...	Shipstores and bunkers	Increase in exports within normal variance.	115 199 252	137 679 048	Liters	19.5%	8
26	'76011000	Aluminium, not alloyed, unwrought	USA	Increase in quantity exported is within normal variance.	114 553 857	115 949 516	Kilograms	1.2%	8
27	'72011000	Non-alloy pig iron in pigs, blocks or other primary	Italy	Decrease in export quantities to the US which is the third	155 467 980	110 011 135	Kilograms	-29.2%	2

		forms, containing, by weight, <= 0,5% of ...		largest market, from 44 million kg to 19 million kg					
28	'25101000	Natural calcium phosphates and natural aluminium calcium phosphates, natural and phosphatic ...	Netherlands	Significant decline in export quantities to the Netherlands from 198 million kg in Q3 2022 to 70 million kg in Q3 2023. Monitoring product to see if declining trend persists in the following quarters.	208 277 967	103 460 104	Kilograms	-50.3%	-4
29	'08081000	Fresh apples	UK	Decrease in export quantity within normal seasonal decreases	176 031 109	99 030 833	Kilograms	-43.7%	-1
30	'08055010	Fresh or dried lemons "citrus limon, citrus limonum" and limes "citrus aurantifolia, citrus ...	Netherlands	Decrease in quantities within normal seasonal decreases.	268 052 654	98 611 370	Kilograms	-63.2%	-9
31	'26080000	Zinc ores and concentrates	China	Decrease within normal variance. No substantial change in rank.	133 291 045	88 505 946	Kilograms	-33.6%	-1
32	'27011100	Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Brazil	Significant decrease in export quantities to Eswatini, the second largest market, from 32 million kg in Q3 2022 to seven million kg in Q3 2023. Product has been analysed in previous quarters.	349 127 805	79 981 571	Kilograms	-77.1%	-15
33	'44011100	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, coniferous	Eswatini	Decrease within normal variance. No substantial change in rank.	119 205 228	78 121 601	Kilograms	-34.5%	-1

34	'17011400	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter (excluding ...	US	Continued decrease in export quantities to Bulgaria, the second largest market.	197 534 858	77 292 588	Kilograms	-60.9%	-7
35	'10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	Zimbabwe	Decrease in export quantities to top markets. No substantial change in rank.	102 092 052	74 366 778	Kilograms	-27.2%	1
36	'26151000	Zirconium ores and concentrates	China	Significant decrease in export quantity. Product selected for analysis.	127 488 870	73 664 338	Kilograms	-42.2%	-5
37	'27012000	Briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	Mozambique	Increase in export quantities to Mozambique which accounts for 99% of all exports. Monitoring product.	1 613 449	70 137 805	Kilograms	4247.1%	504
38	'39021090	Polypropylene, in primary forms: Other	Nigeria	Decrease in export quantities to Nigeria from 23 million kg in Q3 2022 to 14 million kg. No substantial change in rank. Product has been analysed in previous quarters.	95 586 111	62 959 317	Kilograms	-34.1%	-1
39	'27101207	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "including ...	Shipstores and bunkers	Decrease in export quantities within normal variance.	88 272 613	62 844 375	Liters	-28.8%	2
40	'72071900	Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel containing, by weight, < 0,25% of carbon, ...	Tanzania	Increase in export quantities to Tanzania. Severe data gaps for Q3 2022 for most markets.	32 376 563	60 360 011	Kilograms	86.4%	42

41	'25132000	Emery; natural corundum, natural garnet and other natural abrasives, whether or not heat-treated	US	Decrease within normal variance.	60 028 482	50 226 076	Kilograms	-16.3%	10
42	'28092090	Phosphoric acid; polyphosphoric acids, whether or not chemically defined: Other	Bangladesh	Increase within normal variance. Product analysed in previous quarters	41 726 812	49 490 295	Kilograms	18.6%	25
43	'10059010	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Dried kernels or grains fit for human consumption, not further ...	Mozambique	Increase in quantity exported is within normal seasonal increases.	40 471 621	48 983 904	Kilograms	21.0%	27
44	'11031390	Groats and meal of maize "corn": other	DRC	Significant increase in export quantities to top market, the DRC. Exports increased from one million kg in Q3 2022 to 36 million kg in Q3 2023. This product was analysed in previous quarters.	15 339 990	45 973 936	Kilograms	199.7%	76
45	'17019900	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form (excluding cane and beet sugar ...	UK	Decrease in export quantities to Namibia the second largest market from 21 million kg in Q3 2022 to six million kg in Q3 2023.	52 047 663	40 665 851	Kilograms	-21.9%	11
46	'26180000	Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel	Netherlands	Decrease in export quantities to top export markets. Monitoring product	90 029 899	39 851 243	Kilograms	-55.7%	-6
47	'11031310	Groats and meal of maize "corn": maize meal not further processed other than by the addition ...	Mozambique	Decrease in export quantities to Lesotho, the second largest market from 19 million kg in Q3 2022 to 9 million kg in Q3 2023.	57 400 829	39 793 029	Kilograms	-30.7%	6

48	'29012900	Hydrocarbons, acyclic, unsaturated (excluding ethylene, propene "propylene", butene "butylene" ...	USA	Decrease in export quantity to top export markets, the US and Singapore.	55 087 202	38 751 013	Kilograms	-29.7%	6
49	'08054010	Fresh or dried grapefruit: Fresh	Netherlands	Decrease in quantity within normal seasonal variance.	61 298 602	35 717 025	Kilograms	-41.7%	1
50	'26030000	Copper ores and concentrates	China	Increase in export quantities to China. which accounts for 97% of total exports. Product analysed in previous quarters.	26 751 688	34 988 260	Kilograms	30.8%	39