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**Import Tracker  
Quarter 1 2018**

**Report prepared for the Department of Trade and  
Industry**

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## Introduction to the Import Tracker

The Import Tracker is a quarterly report produced in partnership between the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) and Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS). The Import Tracker aims to offer up-to-date analysis of import trends, and to identify surges in manufacturing imports. Each quarterly report will offer both an overview of changing import patterns, and detailed analysis of the causes of surges and their likely impact on industry. As the first report, the report for Quarter 1 2018 includes additional details on the approach taken in the Import Tracker, as provided below.

### Methodology

The Import Tracker identifies import surges with reference to three variables. First is year-on-year growth in import quantities. Year-on-year figures are used to account for the high level of seasonality in trade data, while quantity figures are preferred over value figures to account for fluctuations in commodity prices. Second is percentage change in year-on-year import quantities. Percentage changes are used as a contextual factor, but are secondary to absolute growth, in order to account for the high level of volatility in goods with low traded volumes. Third, is a measure of volatility, which is a simple average of growth from 2010 until the present. Products that regularly experience surges and falls in imports may not be included for analysis, provided the current surge does not seem unusual for the broader trend.

The Import Tracker does not give a weighting to the three measures, and for the analysis is selected at the discretion of the report authors. Additional factors, such as policy relevant sectors, notable policy changes, or surges in high-risk industries are also considered when determining industries for further analysis. Similarly, industries that experience surges in consecutive months will be flagged but will not be re-analysed, unless the circumstances facing the industry changes considerably.

Trade data is analysed using a R script named ImportTrackerTool. This code is open and free to download at this [link](#).

Following on the analysis of the trade data, analysis of import surges is completed by the dti and TIPS researchers. If the import surge has a specific explanation, then this will be briefly detailed. If the surge has no clear explanation, a broader industry analysis may then be undertaken to explore the underlying drivers of the change and the possible impact on industry. This analysis makes use of some common data points (detailed below), but primarily consists of a flexible research approach involving desktop research, data analysis, and interviews with companies.

Reports will typically be released one month after the release of final South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) data for the quarter, which is released one month after the end of the quarter. Exceptions to this timeline may occur early in the project, as monitoring processes are tested and adapted.

### Notes on data

The Import Tracker's trade analysis uses SARS trade data at the HS (Harmonised System) 8 level. The data is received on a monthly basis, and does not include SARS revisions, which generally arrive at a month lag from the core data. Value data is denominated in South African Rands, while quantity data is typically denominated in kilograms, litres or units (with some exceptions). Unless otherwise stated, import surges are measured in quantity terms, to avoid uncertainty generated by swings in the value of

imported commodities. The SARS dataset range is from January 2010, due to shifts in the treatment of Southern African Customs Union (SACU) trade data before 2010. For historical data earlier than 2010, the (International Trade Centre (ITC) Trade Map tool – which uses COMTRADE data derived from SARS and partner countries – is used.

While trade data is typically of high quality, caution should be exercised with certain aspects of this data. Trade data is vulnerable to human error (incorrect capturing of information at customs), misclassification (items classified by different HS codes dependent on the decisions of officials and clearance agents), and incorrect categorisation of destination (with some items destined for re-export captured as being imported into South Africa). Legacy issues in South Africa’s trade data system complicate some HS codes, notably for commodities such as gold (which is generally assigned to its own partner country) and liquid fuels (which is often split among multiple HS codes). Trade data from different sources may differ, particularly depending on occasional reclassification of HS codes to account for differences in systems internationally, in the use of mirror data (which aggregates data from importer and exporter countries), or through the currency conversion methodology used.

Outside of trade data, a number of additional data sets are used for core policy variables and for information on the structure of industry. These are detailed in Figure 1. Additional data used in industry reports will be separately referenced in the industry study in question.

**Figure 1: Data used in the Import Tracker**

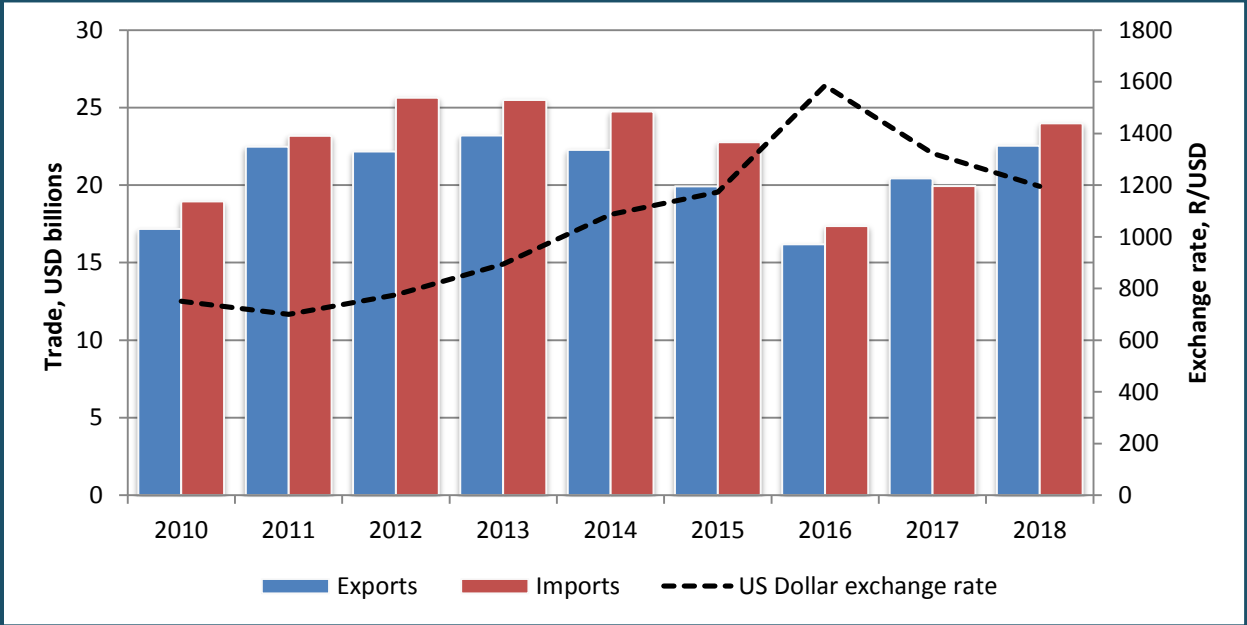
Data	Source
South African trade data (2010 - current)	South African Revenue Service
South African trade data (prior to 2010) and world trade data	ITC Trade Map
South African tariffs	Market Access Map, as reported by SARS
Compulsory specifications	National Regulatory for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)
Local content designation	Department of Trade and Industry
Trade in value add (TiVA)	OECD TiVA Dataset
Industry company profiles	Who Owns Whom

# Imports trends

## Trade context

Quarter 1 2018 marked the first trade deficit since Quarter 1 2016, but nevertheless featured a continued recovery in general trade volumes following a contraction in trade after the end of the commodity super cycle, as can be seen in Figure 2. Imports grew 20,2% year-on-year (YOY) in quarter one, while exports grew 10,4%. Changes in commodity prices played a significant role in both export and import values, with a surge in petroleum imports accounting for 30% of the YOY import growth in Q1, and growth in gold in platinum accounting for 23% of YOY export growth over the same period. The deficit may have been accentuated by both a strengthening currency and seasonality in the trade data, which means that on average the first quarter of each year tends to feature a poorer balance of trade than all other quarters.

Figure 2: Trade balance, Quarter 1 2010 - 2018



Source: ITC Trade Map, SARB

Changes in mineral oils accounted for the largest share of growth in imports, at 30% of the change; while growth in machinery (13%), electronics (7%), and plastics (5%) were the second, fourth and fifth largest contributor. Growth in imports of paper products were the third largest import growth area (accounting for 8% of total growth), but much of this growth is attributable to an ongoing problem with the trade data for HS 49070010, a code used for paper products with a face value, such as travellers cheques or stamps.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The full title for HS 49070010 is “Unused postage, revenue or similar stamps of current or new issue in the country in which they have, or will have, a recognised face value; stamp-impressed paper; banknotes; cheque forms; stock, share or bond certificates and similar documents of title: unused postage, revenue stamps and banking notes.”

## Major imports

A list of South Africa's 50 largest import commodities by value is included as Annex 1. The ranking is dominated by seven categories of products: petroleum and other liquid fuels, ICT equipment (including cellphones and computers), automotive and automotive components, aircrafts and aircraft components, medical equipment, major production metals (such as copper and aluminium), and select food and beverage products (such as rice and chemical inputs).

Quarter 1 2018 saw few shifts in the ranking of major imports, with the largest five imports remaining unchanged since Quarter 1 2017. Two major surges in the ranking are notable: those of paper products with a face value, such as cheques or postage stamps (which moved up 1 874 places) and that of palladium in semi-manufactured forms (which moved up 4 679 places).

The extremely high levels of imports of HS 49070010 reflects an ongoing challenge with the trade data, and appears to be a data error. The HS code is a rarely used category to classify the movement of paper notes with a face value, such as cash, postage stamps, or travellers cheques. Trade in such instruments does not usually involve the movement of physical goods across the border, but rather involves movements through the financial system. As such, the scale of South African imports of this HS code is unprecedented both locally and internationally. Imports for 2017 were more than double the value of imports for the previous 15 years and well above those of any other country. TIPS has previously flagged the issue with this HS code with both SARS and the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), and has been informed it is likely a data error. However, it should be noted that the HS code does not follow typical patterns for data errors (in which only one of value or volume is wrong, or a categorisation has changed), and the repeated appearance of the data suggests it is cause for concern. From an industrial policy perspective, the HS code is not significant; but ongoing monitoring is necessary, particularly for a product line that appears as a priority concern in some money laundering literature.

The spike in imports of processed palladium is also highly unusual. There is no previous history of South Africa importing products on this HS code in any substantial quantity. A large share of the imports (39%) appear to be reimports, but even accounting for this, the volume of imports remains unusually high. The imports originate from a mix of four countries – Russia, Germany, Canada, Belgium – that are not typically associated with palladium. The spike is currently unexplained.

While both HS lines rose rapidly in the ranking of the large import products by value, neither were identified as significant in the surge analysis below, likely due to the small volumes of trade in both cases. Both have, however, been flagged for further observation, and will be further assessed in the report for Quarter 2 2018.

## Import surges

The product lines that experienced the most rapid growth in import quantity are listed in Annex 2. The table summarises the reason for the surges, and highlights where further analysis will be completed. Analysis of import surges can be found in the following section.

## Explanation of import surges

### Finding 1: Surges in specialist paper imports result from restructuring at Mondi

Two specialist products of the pulp and paper industry – bleached chemical wood pulp and newsprint – both surged to their historic largest import levels in Quarter 1 of 2018. In both cases, the surge is almost entirely attributable to imports from Russia, which until the recent surge was not a significant source of either commodity.

In both cases, the shift is likely attributable to restructuring at Mondi. In the case of newsprint, Mondi's Merebank plant discontinued production of that type of paper at the end of 2017, a decision that the company attributed to "the accelerated rate of local demand decline."<sup>2</sup> The closure of production at Merebank coincided with the refurbishment of Mondi's Syktyvkar plant, which has significant capacity to produce newsprint and aligns well with the surge from Russia.<sup>3</sup> The Syktyvkar plant also saw a revitalisation of bleached chemical wood pulp production, which likely displaced some production from Mondi's Richard's Bay plant, which specialises in the production of Mondi's proprietary Baycel bleached wood pulp.<sup>4</sup>

While the import surge is therefore likely to be a permanent trend in the near term, the overall shift is not a major cause for concern. Mondi's scaling back of production of newsprint was accompanied by the scaling up of idle production capacity in uncoated fine paper, which "will produce annually around 70 000 tons of uncoated fine paper to serve the local market, displacing imports".<sup>5</sup> While Mondi has been under pressure from a combination of rising input costs and a strong Rand, the company remains strong, and in March 2018 announced a special payout to shareholders as a result of higher than expected profits.<sup>6</sup>

### Finding 2: Surges in a selection of chemicals reflect growth in the fertiliser industry

A selection of chemicals products saw a surge in year-on-year growth, as can be seen in Figure 3. All seven chemicals have a wide variety of uses but are linked by their role in the manufacture of different types of fertiliser. Some of the chemicals do have other common uses – notably in the pharmaceutical, cosmetics, detergent, and construction industries – but the common thread throughout is their role in fertiliser production. While the chemicals are common imports, and do often see instability in the trade data, the alignment of so many chemicals with a common purpose seems to indicate a possible trend.

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<sup>2</sup> Mondi Group, 11 October 2017, "Trading update", <https://www.mondigroup.com/media/8544/mondi-trading-update-october-2017-10-oct-vfinal.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Mondi Group, 7 October 2017, presentation entitled "Uncoated fine paper: sustaining superior performance", [https://www.mondigroup.com/media/8567/5\\_ufp-v-final.pdf](https://www.mondigroup.com/media/8567/5_ufp-v-final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Mondi group, 2 – 4 November 2010, presentation entitled "Mondi Syktyvkar", [https://www.mondigroup.com/media/4522/1900\\_mondi-investor-site-visit-syktyvkar-overview.pdf](https://www.mondigroup.com/media/4522/1900_mondi-investor-site-visit-syktyvkar-overview.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Mondi Group, 11 October 2017, "Trading update", <https://www.mondigroup.com/media/8544/mondi-trading-update-october-2017-10-oct-vfinal.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> BusinessReport, 2 March 2018, "Mondi announced special payout as annual profit climbs", <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/mondi-announces-special-payout-as-annual-profit-climbs-13559991>

**Figure 3: Surges in select chemicals products, Quarter 1 2018**

HS Codes	Product	Growth, Q1 2017 to Q1 2018
25201000	Gypsum; anhydrite	65%
28020000	Sulphur, sublimed or precipitated; colloidal sulphur	78%
28365000	Calcium carbonate (limestone)	195%
28342900	Nitrates (excluding of potassium and of mercury)	166%
28141000	Anhydrous ammonia	113%
31042000	Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	36%
31025000	Sodium nitrate (excluding that in pellet or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	22 49%

Possible explanations for the coordinate surge across fertiliser inputs include an ongoing recovery in prices for fertiliser, which spiked dramatically in 2008 and crashed shortly thereafter. Alternatively, a generalised uptick in industry demand, which tends to be closely linked to the agricultural sector, could simply highlight a continued recover of agricultural in the post-drought period, although this is disputed by significant swings in GDP data on agriculture, including a 24,2% contraction in Quarter 1 2018.

All seven chemicals are typically imported, and the growth reflects a strengthening trend rather than any major shift. Nevertheless, the fertiliser inputs space is perhaps worth further examination, as by-products or niche chemical outputs from other sectors could serve as inputs to fertilisers, strengthening both sectors. As can be seen in Figure 4, the chemicals in question are a mixture of organically-derived from mined sources that are not plentifully available in South Africa, and by-products of the petroleum sector, which may have some potential for local production.

**Figure 4: Sources for chemical import surges**

Product	Largest source
Sulphur, sublimed or precipitated; colloidal sulphur	By-product of fossil fuel industry
Anhydrous ammonia	Processing of fossil fuels
Calcium carbonate (limestone)	Mining – no commercial quantities found in South Africa
Gypsum; anhydrite	Mining – no commercial quantities found in South Africa
Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser (excluding tablets or similar forms, or packages gross weight <= 10 kg)	Mining – no commercial quantities found in South Africa
Sodium nitrate (excluding that in pellet or similar forms)	Mining – no commercial quantities found in South Africa
Nitrates (excluding of potassium and of mercury)	Various

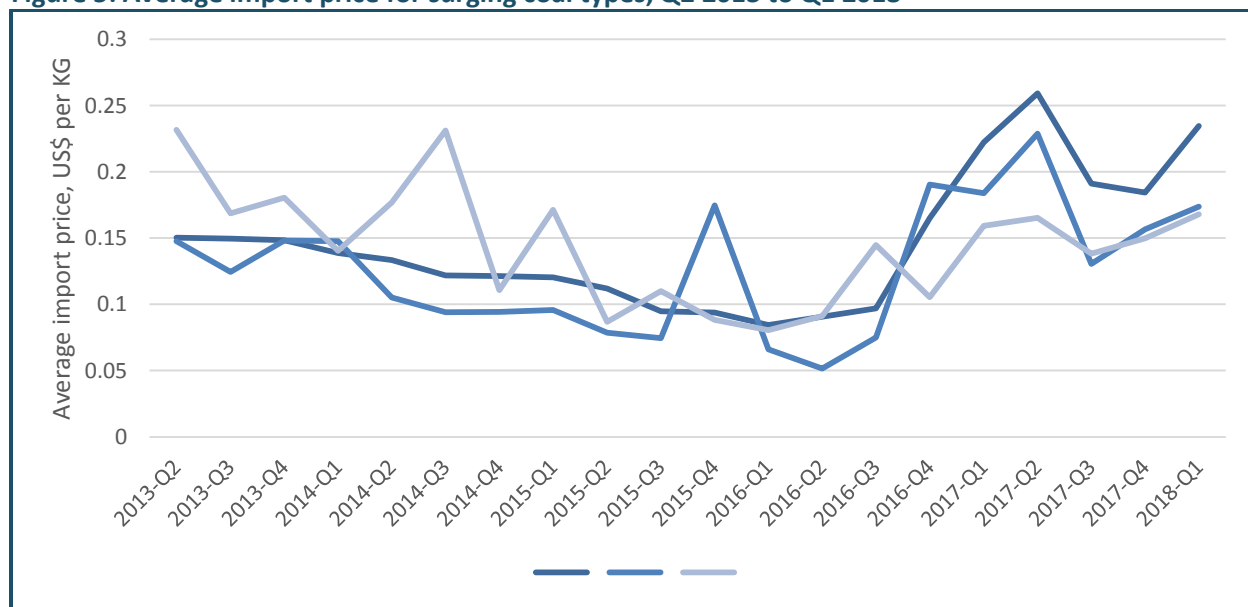
Source: Author's compilation, based on US Geological Survey (USGS) mineral reports and other sources



### Finding 3: Surges in coal imports result from Eskom’s emergency procurement

Ongoing problems with Eskom’s supply of coal, notably from issues at the Tegeta-owned Optimum mine, have meant the National Treasury has granted the utility special permission to purchase coal outside of typical procurement processes.<sup>7</sup> This was expected to result in higher prices from new coal providers, and a short-term shift in coal purchasing patterns as Eskom seeks alternate sources of supply. As can be seen in Figure 52, average import prices have been above trend across 2017 and the first quarter of 2018, although further data also illustrates that import quantities have been growing as well.

Figure 5: Average import price for surging coal types, Q2 2013 to Q1 2018



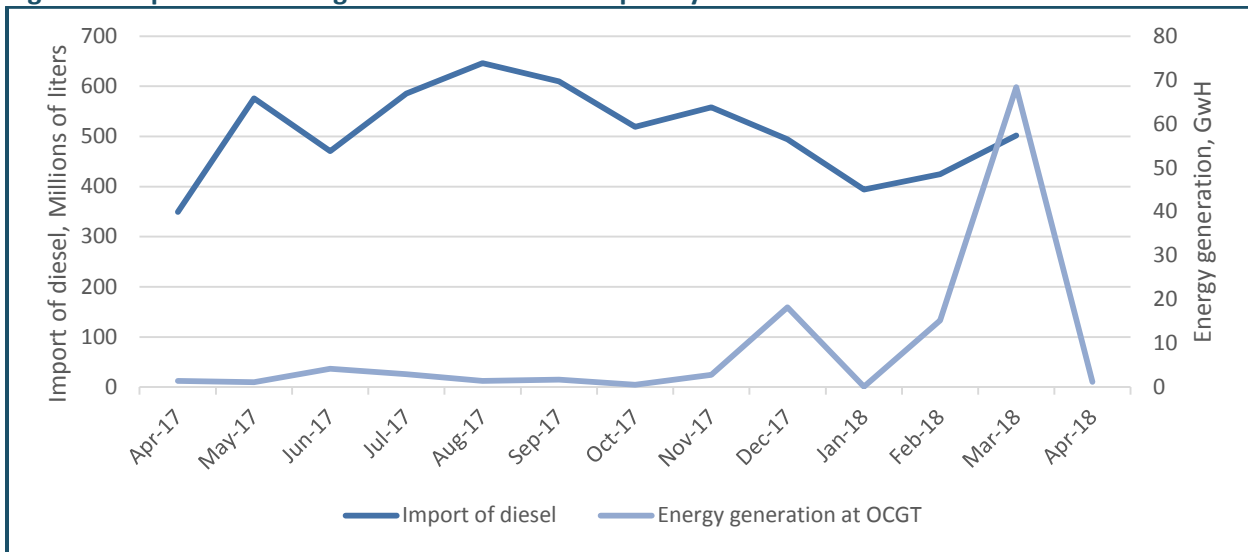
Source: ITC Trade Map

While the ongoing crisis at Eskom is cause for concern, the underlying issues are not a major problem for the trade balance, as the surge in imports of coal is likely to be a relatively short-term phenomenon. Coal imports are likely less of a cost than the continued operation of diesel-fire open cycle gas turbines (OCGTs), which are very expensive and reinforce the need to import liquid fuels. Resolving the coal contracts at Eskom with local mines would result in lower imports of coal.

While it was expected that increased usage of the OCGTs could account for the surge in diesel (HS 27101230), the trend is not clear in the data, as can be seen in Figure 6. This may be due to the storage of fuel by Eskom, and other complications in the purchasing arrangements for diesel.

<sup>7</sup> BusinessDay, 18 April 2018, “Alternative coal producers set to benefit from Eskom shortage of coal”, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/companies/mining/2018-04-18-eskom-slaps-optimum-with-r105m-penalty/>

**Figure 6: Import of diesel against Eskom’s use of Open Cycle Gas Turbines**

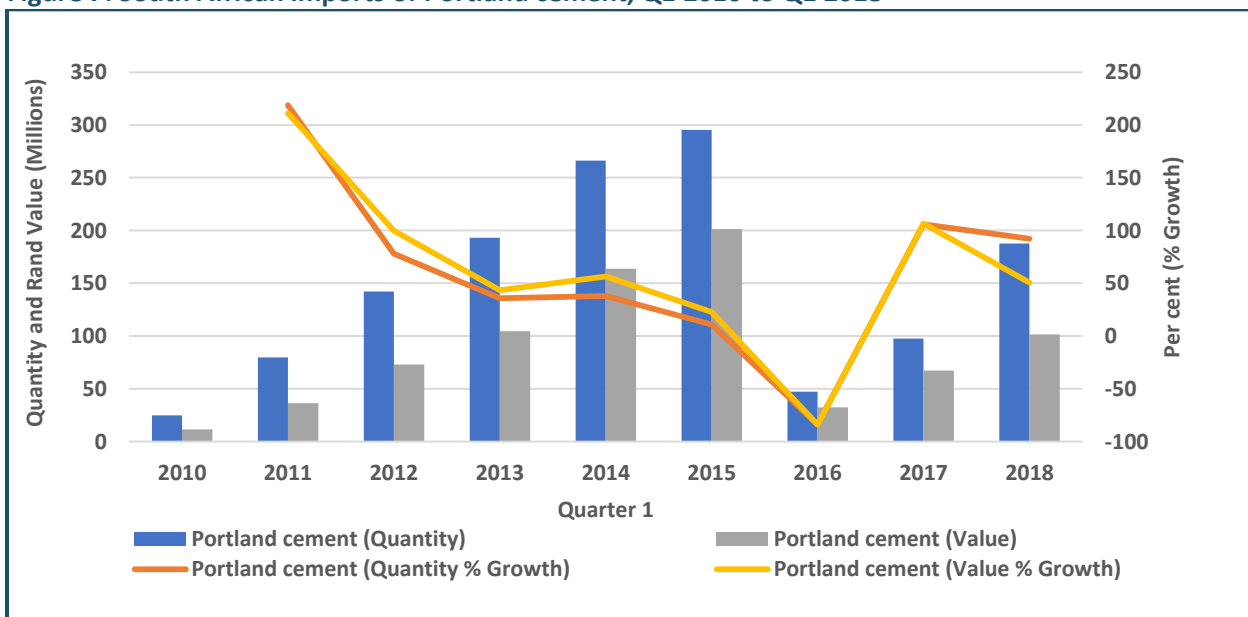


Source: ITC Trade Map, and Eskom, 2 May 2018, System Status Briefing

**Finding 4: Industry analysis – Portland cement**

A surge in Portland cement in the first quarter of 2018 follows a long-established trend of spiking volumes, as can be seen in Figure 7. Cement import growth to South Africa fell in Q1 2018, from a 106% increase between Q1 2017 and Q1 2016. Imports were down to 92.3% in the first quarter of 2018 (YOY). This data reflects industry trends, with South Africa’s cement market leader PPC’s total cement imports from its operations increasing by 23% in 2017. With a persistent trend of sharp growth, the product and broader cement sector have been further analysed.

**Figure 7: South African imports of Portland cement, Q1 2010 to Q1 2018**



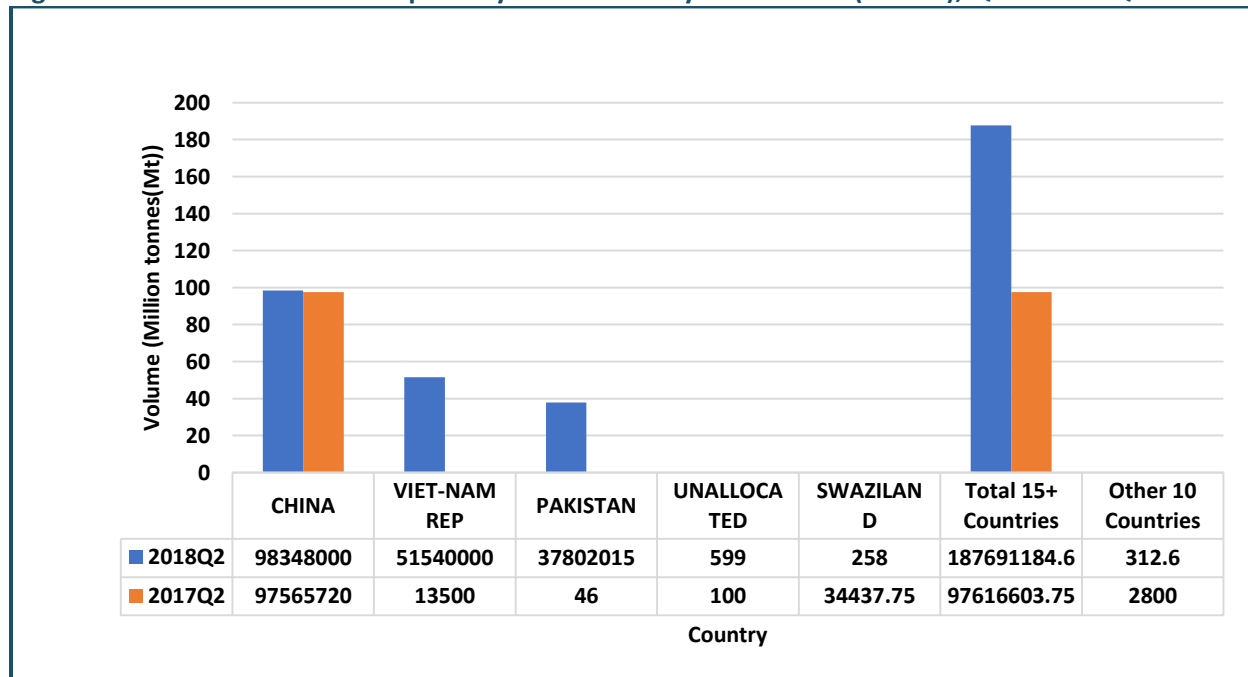
Source: Author’s calculations based on SARS data

The largest driver of surging cement imports is the removal of an export tax on cement products by Vietnam, which is likely to see part of the country’s vast surplus capacity entering the global market. The shift in Vietnamese production is a very significant change for the global industry – and must be closely monitored locally.

The cement imports market as measured by volumes (quantity) is dominated by three countries, namely: China, Vietnam and Pakistan. China moved to become the leading exporter of cement to South Africa in Q1 2018; but grew slowly, at 1% (YOY). Previously, Pakistan was the number one source of imported cement by South Africa, partly due to below market prices the country charged to South African importers, which were claimed to be about 50% lower than the value (price) in Pakistan.<sup>8</sup>

The 2015 enforcement of cement import duties of 14.29% to 77.15% marginally reduced its market share, but nonetheless, cement imports from Pakistan surged significantly in Q1 2018 compared to the very low 46 mt imported in the same quarter in 2017. While other sources<sup>9</sup> claim that Vietnam started exporting cement to South Africa in March 2018, the historic data suggests the country was already trading with South Africa in Q1 2017. It is notable that the country’s cement export surged remarkably in the first quarter of 2018, to announce its dominance among the top four spots.

**Figure 8: South Africa cement imports by source country and volume (tonnes), Q1 2017 vs Q1 2018**



Source: Author’s calculations based on SARS data

<sup>8</sup> Cape Business News, 10 September 2014, “Cement exporters unlikely to concede South African markets”, <https://www.cbn.co.za/property/building-construction/cement-exporters-unlikely-to-concede-south-african-markets>

<sup>9</sup> Industry insight, 4 July 2018, “South Africa becomes net importer of cement in 2018 – with imports from Vietnam surging”, <http://industryinsight.co.za/wp/south-africa-becomes-net-importer-of-cement-in-2018-with-imports-from-vietnam-surging/>

Vietnam's entry into the market is the most significant driver of import growth, with the most recently available trade data indicating this is an ongoing and growing trend. Vietnam's cement industry has very large surplus production, with producers described as being "swamped by chronic overcapacity and very low prices".<sup>10</sup> Despite this, the country has not been able to convert excess supply to export success, mainly because of regulatory barriers to export. This includes a 5% export tax on cement, and a VAT-refund programme that excluded cement producers. Both regulatory barriers were removed in January 2018, opening up the global market to Vietnamese exports. While the average export price of Vietnamese cement remained higher than that of China and Pakistan in the quarter, ongoing entry into the market will likely see Vietnam become a significant player in the global, and South African, cement market.

Possible drivers of growth in cement imports to South Africa includes harsh weather conditions such as the drought (leading to water shortages) that still lingers in the Western Cape, and subsequently the higher than expected rainfall across the country that affected the cement production. Moreover, cement maker PPC said South Africa's trading and regulatory environment "remains challenging and will impact the revenue prospects" for most of its product lines<sup>11</sup>.

However, PPC revealed that cement manufacturing is not water intensive and that "water conservation and augmentation measures" have been put in place since mid-2017 to counteract drought effects<sup>12</sup>. A Lafarge UK 2011 report supported this view, showing how more than 80% of water drawn from a particular water source is returned to the source and the net-withdrawal is on par (comparable) and sometimes lower than that used by aggregates<sup>13</sup>. Nonetheless, proper measures are needed to de-risk the sector and ensure sustainability in times of adverse weather and minimise net effects of importation.

Some imports are tailored for re-exportation. In the first quarter of 2018, export sales and export order volumes were better than expected, despite persistent weaker domestic demand. The building materials sector's confidence grew during Q1 2018, as can be seen in Figure 9. This contributed to broad-based improvement in business conditions and sector activities, which also saw private building plans passed on the municipal level growing in the first quarter of 2018.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Global Cement, 26 July 2017, "Cement overload in Vietnam", <http://www.globalcement.com/news/item/6379-cement-overload-in-vietnam>

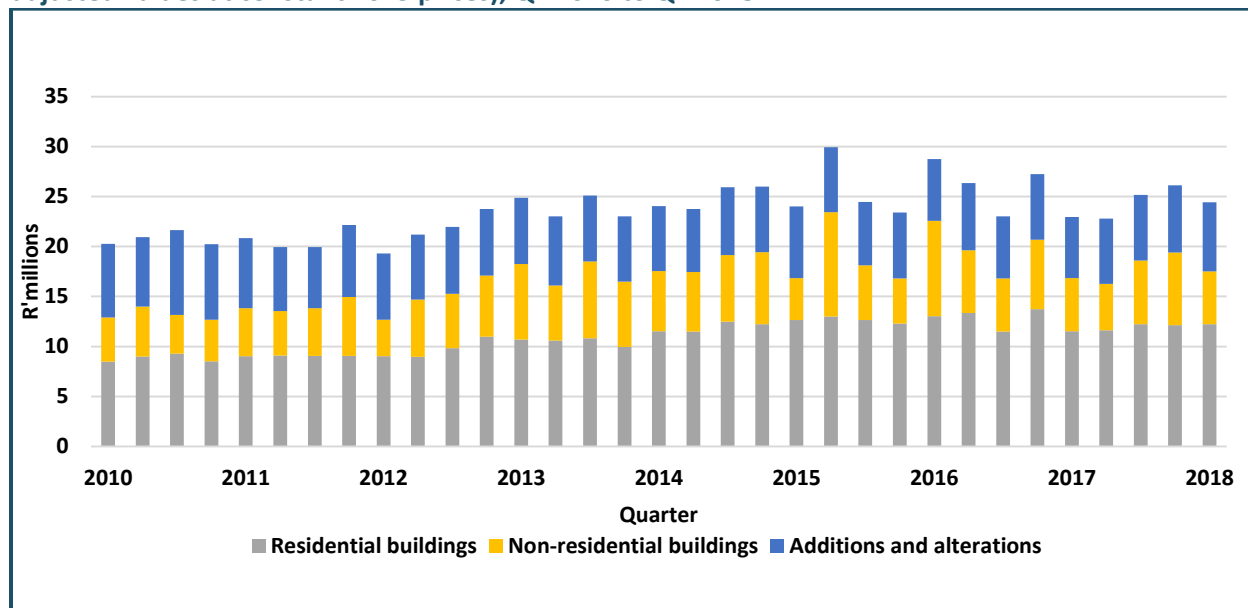
<sup>11</sup> Fin24, 19 June 2018, "Regional operations carry PPC despite 'challenging' SA conditions", <https://m.fin24.com/Companies/Industrial/regional-operations-carry-ppc-despite-challenging-sa-conditions-20180619>

<sup>12</sup> PPC Merrill Lynch Sun City Conference March 2018 Presentation.

<sup>13</sup> LaFarge, 18 May 2012, "Water footprint", [http://www.lafarge.com/05182012-publication\\_sustainable\\_development-Sustainable\\_report\\_2011-water-uk.pdf](http://www.lafarge.com/05182012-publication_sustainable_development-Sustainable_report_2011-water-uk.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Stats SA (2018). P5041.1 - Selected building statistics of the private sector as reported by local government institutions, March 2018. [http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page\\_id=1854&PPN=P5041.1&SCH=7209](http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1854&PPN=P5041.1&SCH=7209)

**Figure 9: Recorded building plans passed by larger municipalities, by type of building (Seasonally adjusted values at constant 2015 prices), Q1 2010 to Q1 2018**



Source: Author's calculations based on Stats SA data

Another driver of increased imports, yet taken cautiously, may be the global over-supply of cement which has pushed down import prices. Recent history suggests that South Africa may be viewed as a market for major trading partners with excess supply strive to offload (“dump”) their cement. In March 2015, following cement dumping protests by domestic cement manufacturers, South Africa's International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) imposed temporary anti-dumping duties between over 14.29% to 77.15% (which were enforced in December 2015 for a period of five years) on Portland cement made in or imported from Pakistan.<sup>15</sup> By September 2015, the cement imported from Pakistan fell by about 30%.<sup>16</sup>

Outside of specific factors related to imports, the South African cement market is currently constrained by structural factors, including the subdued GDP growth (which cement demand is said to be highly correlated to) and weaker domestic cement demand.<sup>17</sup>

It likely that the increase in imports are impacting on South African cement producers. Other countries that have seen an increase in imports have reacted with tariffs or quota to protect their industry. For example, Botswana announced in April 2018 that it will implement regulatory and control measures via The Control of Goods, Prices and Other Charges Act on imports from South Africa (and other trading partners). This will require 70% of cement sources from domestic market and only 30% of cement to be imported into Botswana. Although the effect of such measures on curbing imports is not yet obvious, further studies needed to look at successes and failures of such or related measures.

<sup>15</sup> ITAC, 19 May 2015, “Stiff anti-dumping duties imposed on Pakistani cement”, <http://www.itac.org.za/news-headlines/itac-in-the-media/stiff-anti-dumping-duties-imposed-on-pakistani-cement>

<sup>16</sup> Business Report, 24 December 2015, “New duties curb cement imports to SA”, <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/new-duties-curb-cement-imports-to-sa-1963708>

<sup>17</sup> AfriSam, “Civils and building unlikely to boost cement demand soon”, <https://afrisamcampaign.com/mediazone/projects/civils-and-building-unlikely-to-boost-cement-demand-soon/>

## **Finding 5: Data errors and other issues**

Surges in a number of products appear to result from complications in the data, or to reflect normal trends for the product in question. In these cases, no further analysis is undertaken, but the products may be flagged for ongoing monitoring.

Data issues account for at least four surges for the quarter. Import surges for live animals (HS 01069000) largely reflect the way this data is captured, with the diversity of animal types under the HS code meaning the import data counts the number of animals imported, rather than more comparable figures such as kilograms. Because of this, shifts in imports do not necessarily reflect a worrying change in real imports. Surges in radio control apparatus (85269200), pumps (84135000), and processed oak (44079100) all have patterns consistent with data errors. The Import Tracker identifies possible data errors when growth in either quantity or value differ significantly from growth in the other measure. While high volume or high value products may sometimes reflect as a surge in only one of volume or value, the magnitude of the difference in these cases suggests a data capture error is more likely. All three products have been flagged for further monitoring.

Surges in rails of iron and steel (73021000, used in the railways industry), aluminium (28182000), pen nibs and nib points (96089100), and flat-rolled steel (72259200) are in line with typical import trends for the products, which feature occasional surges and declines. As such, the products were not selected for further analysis. The strategic importance of steel and rails means that both products have been flagged for further monitoring.

Finally, three products were identified as surging, but did not have clearly attributable causes. These were disodium carbonate (28362000, typically baking soda), specialist industrial acids (38231900, used in the product of soap and other products), and disodium sulphate (28331100, typically used in the production of cleaning products). All three are flagged for further analysis, should the import trend continue.

## Data Annex

Annex 1: Top 50 import products, by value, Quarter 1 2018

HS Code	Product Description	Import value, Rand billions	Change in rank, Q1 2017 - Q1 2018
27090000	Crude oil	33,27	No change
98010030	Automotive components: for motor cars	10,14	No change
27101230	Diesel	8,35	No change
98010040	Original equipment components: for goods vehicles	7,42	No change
85176290	Telecoms equipment (excluding cellphones): other	4,88	No change
27101202	Light oils and preparations: petrol	4,13	1
49070010	Postage stamps, revenue stamps and banknotes	3,86	1874
85171210	Cellphones	3,19	2
87032390	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 500 cm <sup>3</sup> to 3 000 cm <sup>3</sup>	2,80	-3
87032290	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 000 cm <sup>3</sup> to 1 500 cm <sup>3</sup>	2,74	-2
84713000	Laptops, and similar	2,54	-2
98010045	Original equipment components: for goods vehicles	2,47	No change
87033290	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 000 cm <sup>3</sup> to 2 500 cm <sup>3</sup>	1,94	-2
28182000	Aluminium oxide	1,84	-1
33021000	Alcoholic and other solutions used in the food and drink industries	1,49	-1
10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice	1,46	No change
71023100	Unworked non-industrial diamonds	1,28	4
87033390	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity exceeding 2 500 cm <sup>3</sup>	1,26	No change
85044000	Static converters	1,21	7
85177090	Parts for telecoms equipment	1,19	11
84439900	Parts and accessories of printers, copiers and fax machines	1,16	1
27011900	Coal (excl. anthracite and bituminous coal)	1,16	12
84314990	Parts for industrial machinery, eg. Cranes, bulldozers	1,15	2
90189000	Medical instruments and appliances	1,15	-5
84715000	Computer CPUs, and related	1,12	4
87032490	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity exceeding 3 000 cm <sup>3</sup>	1,09	2
98010015	Automotive components: for motor cars	1,04	14
87032190	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity not exceeding 1 000 cm <sup>3</sup>	0,94	-11
87082900	Automotive components: for taxis, buses, and some industrial equipment	0,94	1
88024000	Aeroplanes and other powered aircraft: weight > 15.000 kg	0,94	-7
64041990	Footwear with soles of rubber or plastics and uppers of textile materials	0,92	11
87041090	Dumpers for off-highway use	0,91	1
74081100	Copper wire, > 6 mm	0,89	-13
71081300	Gold	0,83	20
27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	0,82	No change

<b>71102900</b>	Palladium in semi-manufactured forms	0,76	4 679
<b>38220000</b>	Diagnostic or laboratory reagents (pharmaceutical chemicals)	0,76	7
<b>64029900</b>	Footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	0,74	9
<b>27040000</b>	Coke and semi-coke of coal	0,72	-15
<b>84295200</b>	Self-propelled bulldozers, etc: with 360 degree revolving superstructure	0,70	8
<b>69091900</b>	Ceramic wares for chemical or other technical uses	0,68	14
<b>88033000</b>	Parts of aeroplanes or helicopters, not elsewhere specified	0,68	-10
<b>84733000</b>	Parts and accessories of automatic data-processing machines	0,66	9
<b>87089990</b>	Automotive components: for taxis, buses, and some industrial equipment	0,65	5
<b>84717000</b>	Storage units for automatic data-processing machines	0,63	No change
<b>84741000</b>	Sorting, screening, separating or washing machines for mineral substances	0,63	161
<b>98010025</b>	Original equipment components: for buses and taxis	0,62	-7
<b>27160000</b>	Electrical energy	0,57	9
<b>84291100</b>	Self-propelled bulldozers and angledozers	0,56	96



**Annex 2: Surges in import products, by quantity, with explanation, Quarter 1 2018 (sorted by explanation)**

HS Code	Product Description	Explanation	Real Growth, Quantity	Percent Growth
85269200	Radio remote control apparatus	Data error	60489546	29235,56142
84135000	Reciprocating positive displacement pumps for liquids, power-driven (excluding those of subheading 8413.11 and 8413.19, fuel, lubricating or cooling medium pumps for internal combustion piston engine and concrete pumps)	Data error	60037049	114570,1481
44079100	Oak "Quercus spp.", sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness of > 6 mm	Data error	18848059,53	486973,3372
1069000	Live animals (excluding mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates and cultures of micro-organisms, etc.)	Denomination of item (units) is highly volatile	36418466962	497,4966865
25201000	Gypsum; anhydrite	<b>Fertiliser input</b>	41437482,16	65,29029534
28020000	Sulphur, sublimed or precipitated; colloidal sulphur	<b>Fertiliser input</b>	35409372,96	78,46843135
28365000	Calcium carbonate	<b>Fertiliser input</b>	24601069,6	194,9125035
28342900	Nitrates (excluding of potassium and of mercury)	<b>Fertiliser input</b>	17683082,83	165,608119
28141000	Anhydrous ammonia	<b>Fertiliser input</b>	12798244	113,1510926
31042000	Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	<b>Fertiliser input</b>	12078996,11	35,59553053
31025000	Sodium nitrate (excluding that in pellet or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	<b>Fertiliser input</b>	10502087,47	2248,838111
26011200	Agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excluding roasted iron pyrites)	Import commodity – Iron	16024861	11,48635604
27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	<b>Import commodity – Coal (Eskom supply problems)</b>	153274107,5	58,39020397
27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	<b>Import commodity – Coal (Eskom supply problems)</b>	91018608,97	43,05782651
27011100	Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	<b>Import commodity – Coal (Eskom supply problems)</b>	37168786,02	225,2027894
27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	Import commodity – Natural gas	16348753,64	3,246554633
27101230	Diesel	Import commodity – Liquid fuel	89890960,93	7,31571088

<b>27101202</b>	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	Import commodity – Liquid fuel	81452695,53	13,83769213
<b>27090000</b>	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	Import commodity – Liquid fuel	575713673,8	12,40343566
<b>10064000</b>	Broken rice	Import commodity – Rice	31348062,3	1352,715685
<b>10063000</b>	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	Import commodity – Rice	15733165,92	7,111174772
<b>48010000</b>	Newsprint as specified in Note 4 to Chapter 48, in rolls of a width > 28 cm or in square or rectangular sheets with one side > 28 cm and the other side > 15 cm in the unfolded state	<b>Mondi restructuring</b>	14861269,18	3537,434147
<b>47032100</b>	Semi-bleached or bleached coniferous chemical wood pulp, soda or sulphate (excluding dissolving grades)	<b>Mondi restructuring</b>	18477402,12	83,87224878
<b>28182000</b>	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	Not significant – low percentage growth	23007054,87	6,776542906
<b>73021000</b>	Rails of iron or steel, for railway or tramway track (excluding check-rails)	Not significant – not unusual for trend	9245470,77	201,3883704
<b>96089100</b>	Pen nibs and nib points	Not significant – not unusual for trend	9475164	75,39120795
<b>72259200</b>	Flat-rolled products of alloy steel other than stainless, of a width of >= 600 mm, hot-rolled or cold-rolled “cold-reduced” and plated or coated with zinc (excl. electrolytically plated or coated and products of silicon-electrical steel)	Not significant – not unusual for trend	10400145,15	39,32038917
<b>25232900</b>	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	<b>Selected for further analysis</b>	90073877,35	92,27234651
<b>85423900</b>	Electronic integrated circuits (excluding such as processors, controllers, memories and amplifiers)	<b>Selected for further analysis in forthcoming report</b>	16946424	50,31053345
<b>28362000</b>	Disodium carbonate	Unclear – Baking soda	15292790,29	15,77313508
<b>38231900</b>	Fatty acids, industrial, monocarboxylic; acid oils from refining (excluding stearic acid, oleic acid and tall oil fatty acids)	Unclear – Soap, other applications	10741240,32	131,4275423
<b>28331100</b>	Disodium sulphate	Unclear – Used in cleaning products, pulp, and other applications	13715172,01	698,451703