



TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES



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

# TIPS IMPORT TRACKER

## THIRD QUARTER 2020

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### TIPS TRACKERS

[TIPS Import Tracker](#) provides an overview of import patterns and looks at the causes of surges in imports, and their likely impact on industry.

[TIPS Export Tracker](#) provides updates on export trends and identifies sectors and products that are performing well and those that are lagging.

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[TIPS Tracker: The economy and the pandemic](#) highlights important trends in the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, and how they affect the economy.

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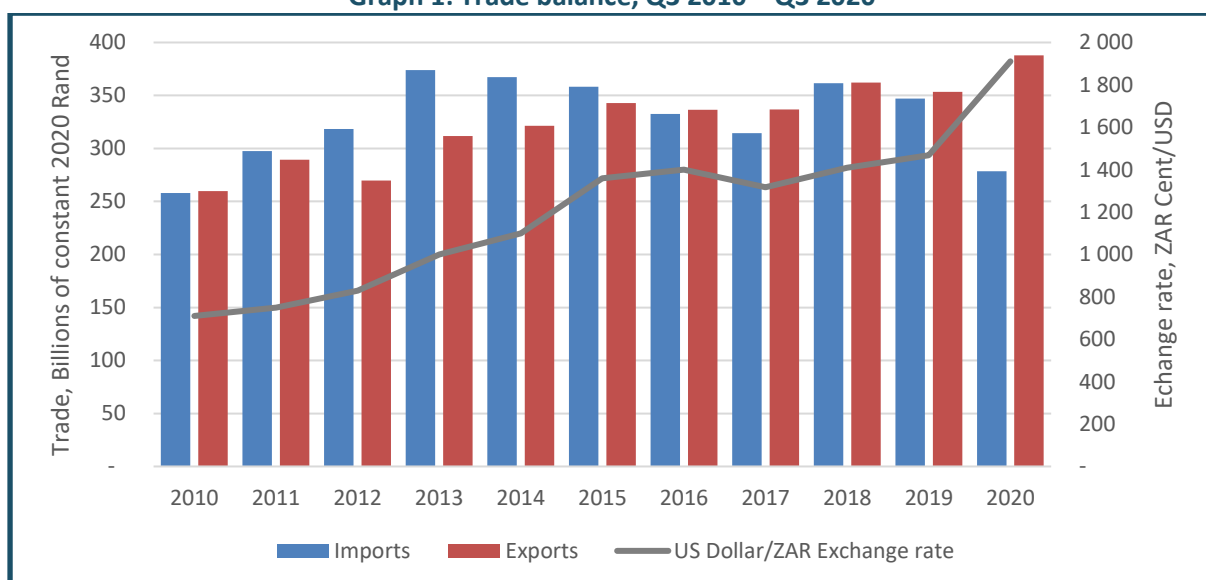
## IMPORT TRENDS

### Trade context

South Africa had a trade surplus of R109 billion in the third quarter of 2020, up from R6 billion in the third quarter of 2019. In constant 2020 Rand, this is the highest trade surplus South Africa has had in the past decade. The high surplus appears to be the result of low imports due to lower crude oil imports, as well as the increased spread of COVID-19 pandemic among major trade partners like Germany and the United States (US), while exports surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels due to high exports to China and the US. In the year to the third quarter of 2020, exports grew by 10% to R388 billion, from R353 billion in the third quarter of 2019. However, between the third quarter of 2010 and the third quarter of 2020, exports grew by 49%. In contrast, imports declined by 20% to R278 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2020, and grew just 8% between the third quarter of 2010 and the third quarter of 2020 (see Graph 1).

Imports of crude oil stabilised between the second and third quarters of 2020, at R16 billion, still lower than pre-COVID-19 levels. Diesel imports increased to R12 billion, and imports of automotive components for motor cars increased to R8.5 billion over the same period. There is improvement in the economy; and consequently, increased imports since local lockdown restrictions were lifted to allow for increased economic activity. The rise in exports is driven by high-value exports of gold, agglomerated iron ores, bituminous coal, rhodium and palladium. The value of gold exports grew by 94.1% in the year to the third quarter of 2020, compared to 19.4% for agglomerated iron ore, 6.8% for bituminous coal, 227.0% for unwrought and semi-manufactured rhodium, along with 72.7% for unwrought and semi-manufactured palladium. Exported quantities also grew for these five products, at 23.9% for gold, 10% for agglomerated iron ore, 13.3% for bituminous coal, and 50.4% for unwrought and semi-manufactured rhodium, and 16.1% for unwrought and semi-manufactured palladium.

**Graph 1: Trade balance, Q3 2010 – Q3 2020**

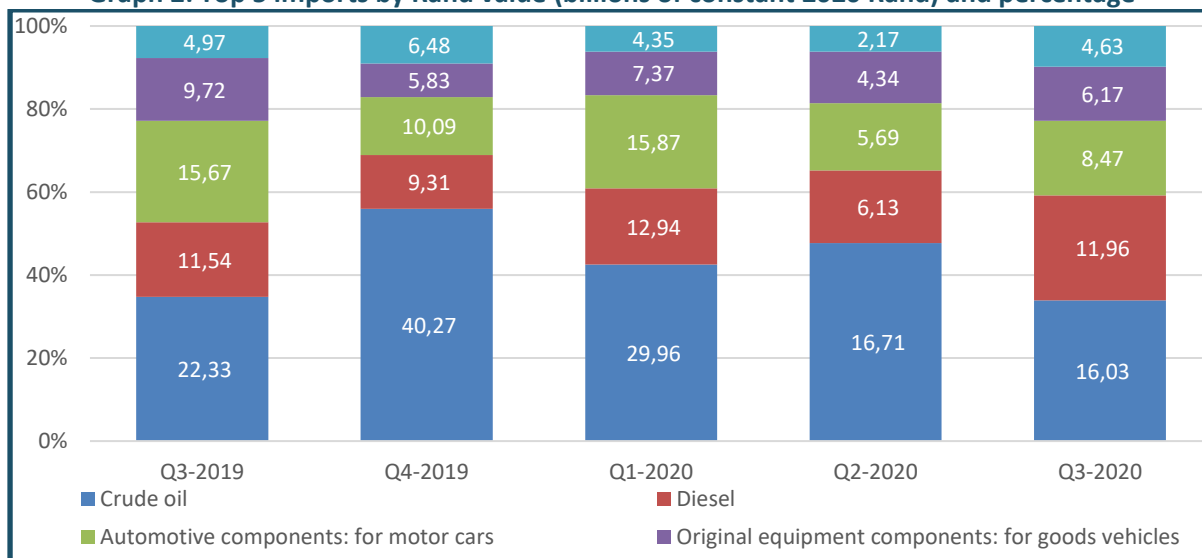


Source: Calculated from South African Reserve Bank (SARS) Trade Statistics and South African Reserve Bank (SARB).

Imports from South Africa's Top 5 import sources (China, Germany, the US, India and Saudi Arabia) declined by 11% from R154.3 billion to R135.4 billion between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020. At 28%, Germany shows the largest decline, from R37.5 billion in the third quarter of 2019 to R27.2 billion in the third quarter of 2020, followed by the US with a 20% decline from R22.5 billion to R18 billion over the same period.

Graph 2 shows the Top 5 imports by value as extracted from the Top 100 list. The Top 5 is based on imports for the present quarter, and includes import values for the preceding quarters to show the change over time. The labels within the graph show the Rand value of imports in billions of constant 2020 Rands. The value of the Top 5 imports declined by 26% between the third quarter of 2019 and the third quarter of 2020. Crude oil accounted for 34% of the value of the Top 5 imports, followed by diesel at 25%.

**Graph 2: Top 5 imports by Rand value (billions of constant 2020 Rand) and percentage**

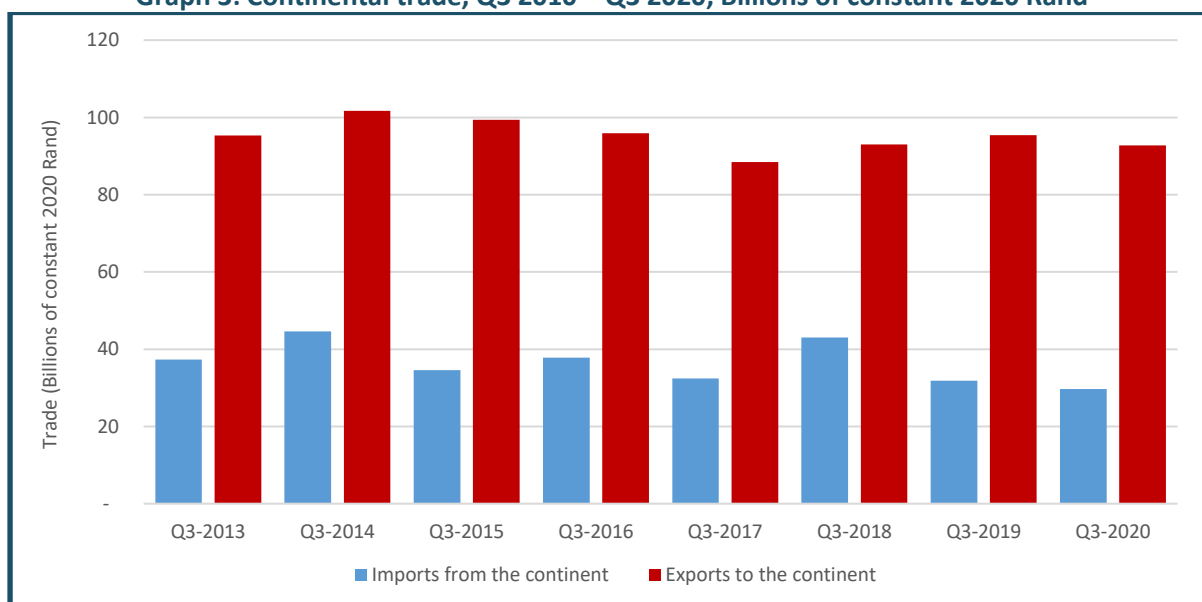


Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in November 2020.

## Continental trade

With the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement set to begin in January 2021, South Africa and the rest of the continent stand to gain from increased production and trade. However, these gains cannot be realised if manufacturing capacity is not improved, and some of the bottlenecks – such as infrastructure and reducing red tape – are not addressed within the continent. Currently, South Africa trades more with the rest of the world than it does with the rest of the continent. Graph 3 shows South Africa's imports from, and exports to, the rest of the continent.

**Graph 3: Continental trade, Q3 2010 – Q3 2020, Billions of constant 2020 Rand**

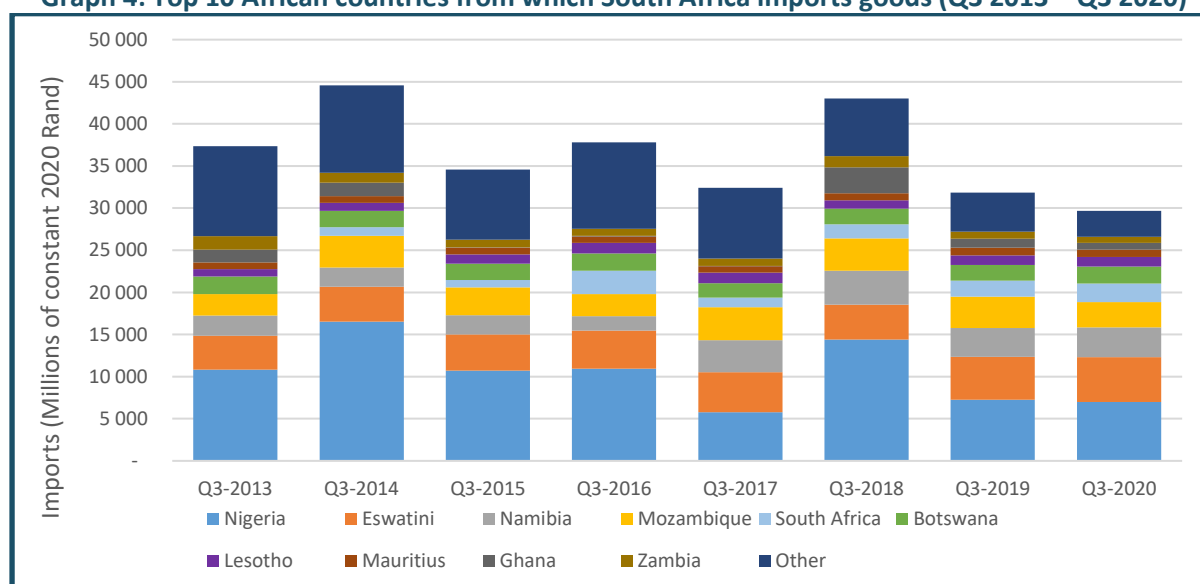


Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in November 2020.

As a result of trade with Southern African Customs Union (SACU) member states (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and eSwatini) not being recorded in South Africa’s trade statistics for the period before 2013, South Africa’s trade with the continent appears to be low over that period (see Graph 3). These amounts were not representative of trade with these countries. In its media release<sup>1</sup> announcing that trade with SACU member states would be included in future trade statistics, SARS provided trade estimates for the period between 2010 and 2012. Imports from these countries amounted to R17.7 billion in 2010, R18.7 billion in 2011 and R21.4 billion in 2012. Exports amounted to R80.7 billion in 2010, R87.3 billion in 2011, and R103.6 billion in 2012. These amounts were not disaggregated by country. For the sake of comparing like with like, the analysis begins in the third quarter of 2013.

Total imports from the continent declined by 21% between the third quarter of 2013 and the third quarter of 2020. In the third quarter of 2013, total imports from the continent were valued at R37.3 billion in constant 2020 Rand, and accounted for 9.8% of total imports. As at the third quarter of 2020, imports had declined to R29.7 billion, and accounted for 10.1% of total imports. Nigeria continues to lead the continent in the value of imports by South Africa, followed by eSwatini, Namibia and Mozambique (see Graph 4). Nevertheless, imports from Nigeria declined from 29% of total continental imports in 2013 to 23.5% in the third quarter of 2020. The share of imports from eSwatini grew over the same period, from 10.8% to 18%. The share of imports from Namibia and Mozambique has also grown. Mineral fuels accounted for 99.2% of total imports from Nigeria, while 52.1% of imports from eSwatini were sugars and sugar confectionary, as well as essential oils. Similar to Nigeria, imports from Mozambique were dominated by mineral fuels such as electrical energy and liquefied natural gas (75%), while imports from Namibia were dominated by natural or cultured pearls and precious stones (62%). About 7.4% (or R2.2 billion) of the total imports were re-imports back to South Africa, with printed books and other products of the printing industry accounting for 70% of total re-imports in the third quarter of 2020.

**Graph 4: Top 10 African countries from which South Africa imports goods (Q3 2013 – Q3 2020)**



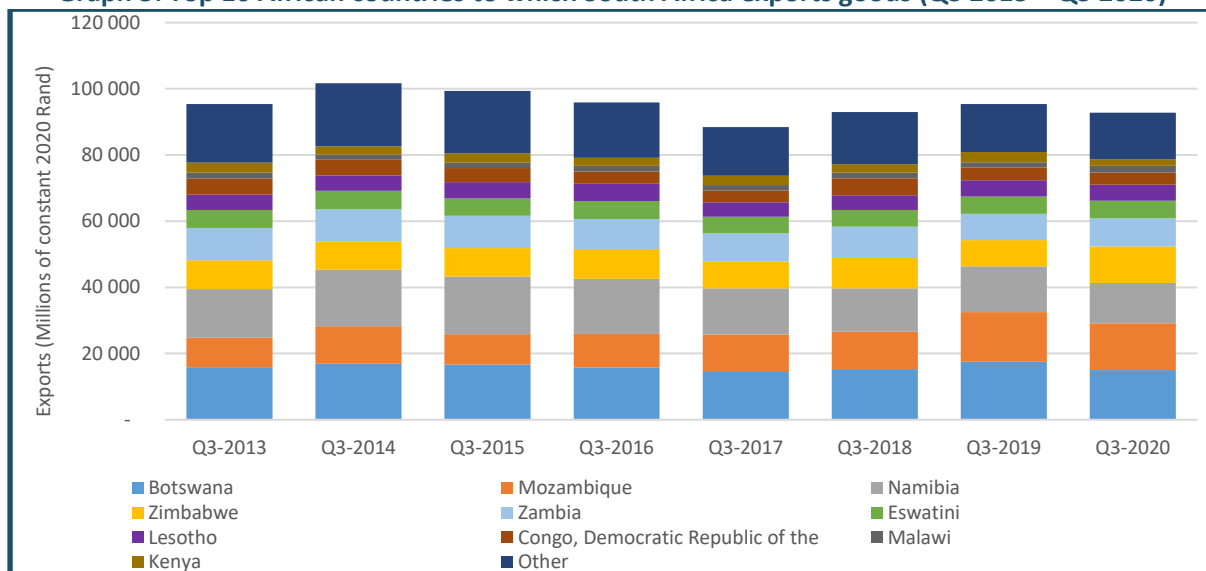
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in November 2020.

South Africa is a net exporter to the continent. Additionally, its share of exports to the continent have declined against its total exports, from 27.9% in the third quarter of 2013 to 22.5% in the third quarter of 2020 (see Graph 5). Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia were the Top 5 countries for South Africa’s exports within the continent, amounting to a combined 65.6% of total

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sars.gov.za/Media/MediaReleases/Pages/14-November-2013---Inclusion-of-new-data-in-SA-Trade-Stats.aspx>

continental exports in the third quarter of 2020. The share of exports to Botswana declined slightly as a share of total continental exports, from 16.7% in the third quarter of 2013 to 16.2% in the third quarter of 2020. Similarly, exports to Namibia and Zambia also declined over the same period. Exports to Botswana were largely dominated mineral fuels, machinery and mechanical appliances; and exports to Mozambique were dominated by ores, slag and ash, and machinery and mechanical appliances.

**Graph 5: Top 10 African countries to which South Africa exports goods (Q3 2013 – Q3 2020)**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in November 2020.

## Major imports

The Top 100 imports by Rand value amounted to R125.7 billion in the third quarter of 2020, down 22% from R161.8 billion in the third quarter of 2019. Annexure 1 shows the Top 100 imports by Rand value for the third quarter of 2020. The Top 100 import items can be classified into seven broad categories: 1) petroleum and other liquid fuels; 2) information and communications technology (ICT) equipment; 3) food and beverage products; 4) production metals; 5) medical equipment; 6) aircraft and aircraft components; and 7) automotive (including automotive components).

Various import products showed significant changes in rank in the third quarter of 2020 (see Annexure 1). These products include, but are not limited to superheated water boilers (R1.8 billion); flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel (R0.68 billion); rhodium, unwrought or in powder form (R0.54 billion); made-up articles of textile materials (R0.36 billion); and parts for use solely or principally with transmission and reception apparatus for radio broadcasting or television (R0.33 billion).

## Import surges

Annexure 2 provides a list of the Top 50 imports by quantity for the third quarter. This Annexure distinguishes between trends that are not significant, data errors, and increases that require further analysis. Three products were selected for analysis, while six were flagged as data errors. Of the Top 50 imports by quantity, 20 show a decline in quantities imported (see Table 1), making this the fourth consecutive quarter in which products in the Top 50 showed a decline in quantities imported. All but one of the products that show a decline in imported quantities saw an increase in the Rand value. Imported quantities of mechanical appliances for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders declined by 12% in the year to the third quarter of 2020, while the Rand value of the imports increased by 100%.

**Table 1: Decline in imports between Q3 2019 and Q3 2020**

| HS CODE         | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | REAL DECLINE, QUANTITY | UNIT      | PERCENT DECLINE, QUANTITY | PERCENT DECLINE, RAND |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>27090000</b> | Crude oil   | - 408 110 820          | Kilograms | -12%                      | -28%                  |
| <b>27101202</b> | Light oils and preparations: Petrol   | - 23 773 653           | Litres    | -5%                       | -26%                  |
| <b>31021000</b> | Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution  | - 44 917 283           | Kilograms | -13%                      | -13%                  |
| <b>27101207</b> | Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene  | - 38 678 874           | Litres    | -22%                      | -47%                  |
| <b>25030000</b> | Sulphur of all kinds  | - 65 558 455           | Kilograms | -35%                      | -48%                  |
| <b>27011100</b> | Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated                                 | - 31 353 843           | Kilograms | -26%                      | -32%                  |
| <b>23040000</b> | Oilcake and other solid residues resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil         | - 24 978 335           | Kilograms | -23%                      | -6%                   |
| <b>27011900</b> | Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated                                       | - 177 452 326          | Kilograms | -73%                      | -82%                  |
| <b>27131200</b> | Petroleum coke, calcined  | - 8 905 955            | Kilograms |                           | -22%                  |
| <b>90183140</b> | Syringes, with or without needles   | - 16 352 121           | Units     | -23%                      | -17%                  |
| <b>28151200</b> | Sodium hydroxide in aqueous solution  | - 49 283 987           | Kilograms | -52%                      | -54%                  |
| <b>84248900</b> | Mechanical appliances for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders, n.e.s. | - 5 113 794            | Units     | -12%                      | 100%                  |
| <b>98010030</b> | Automotive components: for motor cars   | - 38 290 877           | Kilograms | -52%                      | -46%                  |
| <b>17019900</b> | Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form                           | - 4 530 046            | Kilograms | -12%                      | -6%                   |
| <b>28365000</b> | Calcium carbonate   | - 16 512 735           | Kilograms | -34%                      | -13%                  |
| <b>98010040</b> | Original equipment components: for goods vehicles                                       | - 38 520 274           | Kilograms | -55%                      | -37%                  |
| <b>85411000</b> | Diodes (excluding photosensitive or light emitting diodes "LED")                        | - 8 917 337            | Units     | -22%                      | -22%                  |
| <b>44029000</b> | Wood charcoal, incl. shell or nut charcoal, whether or not agglomerated                 | - 1 176 558            | Kilograms | -4%                       | -1%                   |
| <b>85423900</b> | Electronic integrated circuits  | - 13 160 731           | Kilograms | -32%                      | -19%                  |
| <b>17031000</b> | Cane molasses resulting from the extraction or refining of sugar                        | - 3 344 029            | Kilograms | -11%                      | -2%                   |

The next section provides explanations for the surges in Annexure 2.

## Explanation of import surges

### Finding 1: Ongoing monitoring of previously identified surges

Table 2 shows products that have previously been selected for analysis, and are now monitored for changes in the trend. Two items selected for ongoing monitoring for this quarter are listed as ongoing because imported quantities either declined or no imports were reported during the second quarter of 2020; but surged once again in the third quarter to levels reported during the first quarter of 2020.

**Table 2: Ongoing monitoring of import surges from Q1 2019**

| HS CODE         | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | STATUS OF SURGE | EXPLANATIONS  |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <b>28331100</b> | Disodium sulphate   | Ongoing         | Although imported quantities declined in the second quarter of 2020, third quarter imports rose once again due to high imports from China.  |
| <b>26180000</b> | Granulated slag “slag sand” from the manufacture of iron or steel | Ongoing         | The surge in imports of granulated slag began in the first quarter of 2020. However, there were no reported imports of granulated slag in the second quarter of 2020. As of the third quarter, imports surged again to similar levels seen in the first quarter. These imports are coming from India.   |
| <b>25232900</b> | Portland cement   | Normalising     | Previously, the bulk of South Africa’s Portland cement imports came from Pakistan, which supplied between 3.4 million kilograms and 425.2 million kilograms between the fourth quarter of 2009 and the fourth quarter of 2014. However, beginning in the first quarter of 2015, these imports began to decline. This saw the entry of Vietnam into the local market, initially supplying 19 833 kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2017. Imports from Vietnam continue to increase, reaching 220 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2020, having peaked at 301.9 million kilograms in the second quarter of 2019. These Vietnamese imports, combined with fluctuating imports from Pakistan, have essentially set a new trend level for imports of this product. |
| <b>25231000</b> | Cement clinkers   | Fluctuating     | Imports of cement clinkers tend to fluctuate, largely influenced by imports from the UAE and Saudi Arabia. During quarters when there are no imports from these countries, the total quantity imported ranges from as low as 273 530 kilograms to a high of 3.5 million kilograms. However, with imports from these two countries, quantities surge, from anywhere between 30 million kilograms and 106.3 million kilograms, as was the case in the third quarter of 2020.  |

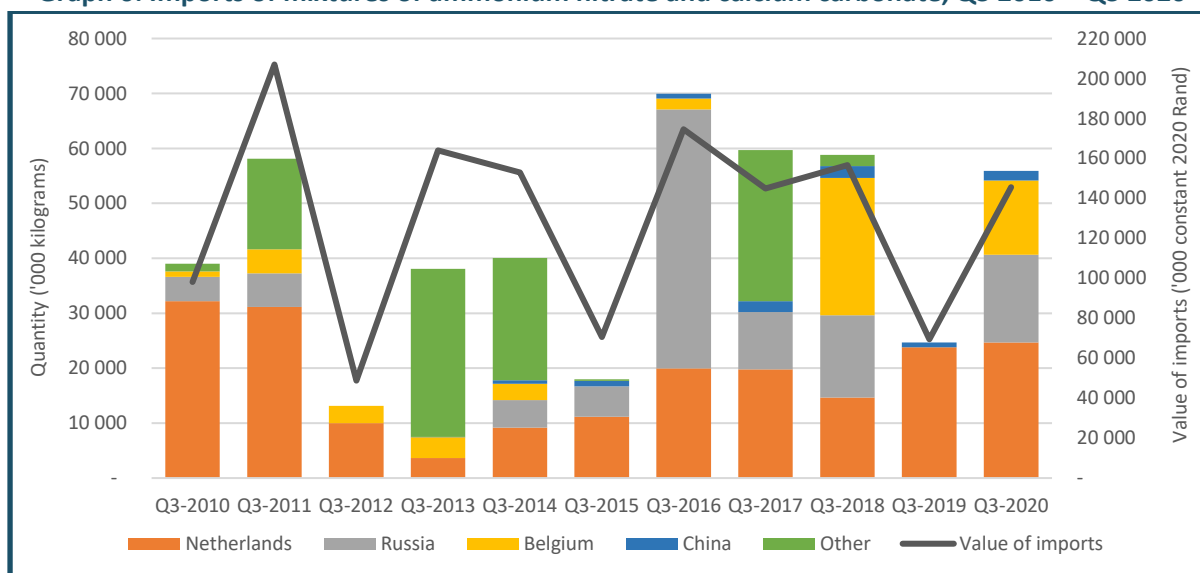


## Finding 2: Mixtures of ammonium nitrate with calcium carbonate or other inorganic non-fertilising substances for use as fertilisers

Ammonium nitrate, which is produced by mixing ammonia gas and nitric acid, is a chemical fertiliser commonly used in agriculture due to its high nitrogen content. However, it tends to be hygroscopic, and often cakes due to exposure to heat and moisture. To get the required nitrogen concentration and prevent ammonium nitrate from caking, it is mixed with chemicals such as calcium carbonate and other inorganic non-fertilising substances<sup>2</sup>. Nitrogen fertiliser is necessary for plant growth, and is often applied during planting and after planting, depending on the crops being planted.

Imports of mixtures of ammonium nitrate with calcium carbonate (HS 31024000) exceeded 50 million kilograms for the first time since the third quarter of 2018 (see Graph 6). Imports rose from 38.9 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2010 to 55.9 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2020. The growth in imports due to high exports from Russia and Belgium, both of which sporadically export this product to South Africa. In Rand terms, imports grew from R98 million to R145.7 million over the same period.

**Graph 6: Imports of mixtures of ammonium nitrate and calcium carbonate, Q3 2010 – Q3 2020**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in November 2020.

The surge in imports appears to be driven by domestic demand due to the summer planting season. While COVID-19 regulations effectively shut down large parts of the economy during the second quarter of the year, agriculture was, however, one of the sectors that continued to operate and with the good rains saw growth taking place. This growth coincides with the summer planting season for major field crops like maize<sup>3</sup>. With good weather expected to continue, farmers are likely to increase the amount of hectares farmed with commercial crops like maize and soya beans. Reports show that 2.61 million hectares of maize have been planted for the year, while estimates from the Abstract of Agricultural Statistics<sup>4</sup> suggest that up to 2.9 million hectares of maize could be farmed, up from 2.5 million in 2019. With an increase in planting area, the growth in imports of products used in fertilisers is likely to continue.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7109416/#:~:text=Calcium%20carbonate%20forms%20CO2,the%20ammonium%20nitrate%20dilution%20process>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/358/206461.html>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Portals/0/Statistics%20and%20Economic%20Analysis/Statistical%20Information/Abstract%202020\\_organized.pdf](https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Portals/0/Statistics%20and%20Economic%20Analysis/Statistical%20Information/Abstract%202020_organized.pdf)

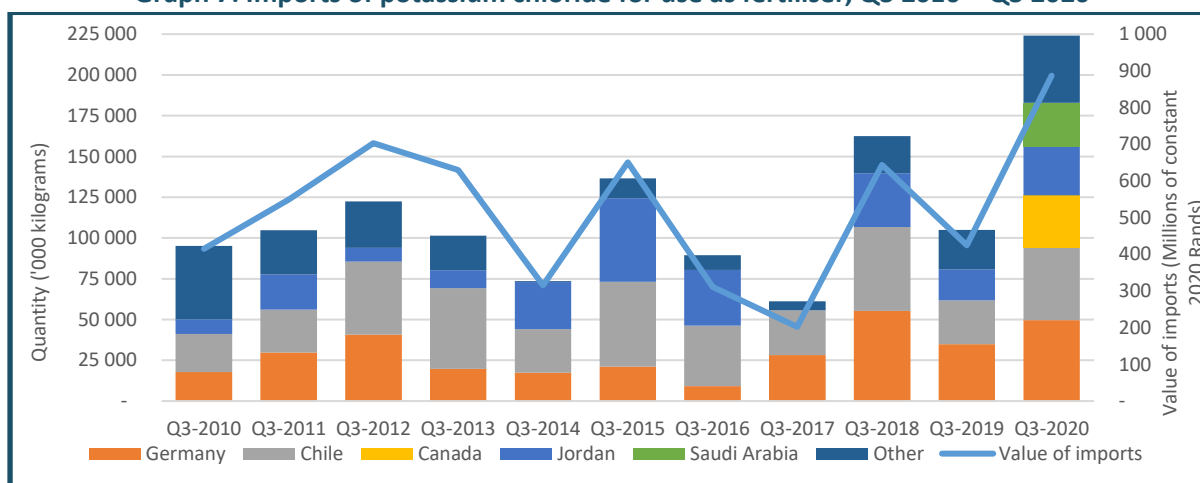
### Finding 3: Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser

Potassium chloride, or muriate of potash (HS 31042000), is commonly used as fertiliser in agriculture, and represents about 86% of the potassium fertiliser market. This product is mined from underground ore of ancient marine deposits, and is refined through a crystallisation processes to produce fertiliser<sup>5</sup>. While it has various applications, approximately 95% of globally produced potassium chloride is used in fertiliser production. The balance is used in sectors such as food as a salt substitute, in medicine to treat low blood potassium, and in industry as a feedstock in the production of other chemicals. In addition to its low cost, potassium chloride fertiliser is favoured due to its high potassium content, and ability to help plants retain water, fight disease, and develop strong roots<sup>6</sup>.

South Africa is a net importer of potassium chloride, with the price subject to international demand and supply drivers. There are no commercially viable deposits of potassium in the country. However, potential sources of locally produced potassium are phlogopite and vermiculite ore, which are found in the Phalaborwa complex, although these contain less potassium than is found in other sources. Another potential source is seawater, but this would have to be subjected to chemical treatment to be water soluble.

Potassium chloride imports surged from 105.2 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2019 to 221.1 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2020. This saw an increase in the value of the imports from R425 million to R887 million over the same period, in constant 2020 Rand. About 71% (or 158.4 million kilograms) of the imported quantity came from five countries which – with the exception of Canada and Saudi Arabia – sporadically export potassium chloride to South Africa. Canada and Saudi Arabia are new entrants to the local market (see Graph 7). As with mixtures of ammonium nitrate and calcium carbonate, the surge in imports of potassium chloride appears to be driven by demand from the local agriculture sector, which has already begun preparing for and planting for the summer crops season. The surge in quantities imported was also aided by a global decline in the price of potassium chloride, which resulted in import quantities growing about 55% between the second and third quarters of 2020 while price per kilogram declined by about 11%.

**Graph 7: Imports of potassium chloride for use as fertiliser, Q3 2010 – Q3 2020**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in November 2020.

### Finding 4: Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed

Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed (HS 10063000) ranked seventh in the Top 100 list of imports by value, totalling R2.9 billion in the third quarter of 2020. Imported

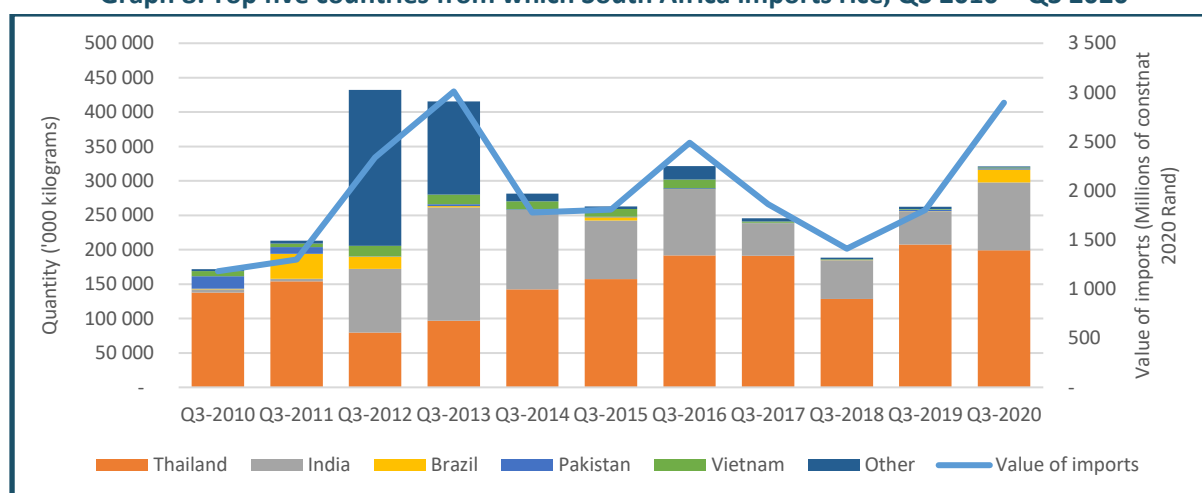
<sup>5</sup> In some cases, potassium chloride is produced by injecting hot water deep into the ground to dissolve the mineral

<sup>6</sup> <https://homeguides.sfgate.com/advantages-potassium-fertilizer-75526.html>

quantities surged by 58.8 million kilograms (or 22%). Although rice imports generally fluctuate, they increased to 321.1 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2020, the highest quantity since the third quarter of 2012 when 432.1 million kilograms were imported. Overall, rice imports grew by 87% between the third quarter of 2010 and the third quarter of 2020.

Thailand is the largest supplier of rice to South Africa, although its share of quarterly imports declined from 80.2% in the third quarter of 2010 to 62% in the third quarter of 2020. Over the same period, imported volumes from Thailand grew by 44.6%. India has become the second largest rice supplier to South Africa, and has grown from 2.6% of total rice imports in the third quarter of 2010 to 30.7% in the third quarter of 2020. Imports from India have grown by more than 2000%, from 4.5 million kilograms to 98.6 million kilograms over the same period. Other countries that make up the Top 5 include Brazil, Pakistan and Vietnam. As with India, rice imports from Brazil show considerable growth, from one million kilograms to 18.6 million kilograms. In contrast, imports from Pakistan and Vietnam declined by 89.6% and 83.7% respectively over this period. As a result, these two countries have also seen their share of total rice imports by South Africa decline from 10.6% and 4.4% respectively in the third quarter of 2010 to 0.6% and 0.4% as at the third quarter of 2020 (see Graph 8). Combined, the Top 5 countries accounted for 99.5% of total rice imports in the third quarter of 2020, a slight increase from 98.4% in the third quarter of 2010.

**Graph 8: Top five countries from which South Africa imports rice, Q3 2010 – Q3 2020**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in December 2020.

Notably, rice imports were low in the first quarter of 2020, but began to grow in the second quarter. This was due to low imports from Thailand and India. As COVID-19 began to spread, rice exporters like Vietnam and India restricted their rice export volumes. These countries were concerned with supply for domestic consumers, with India also noting that it would not be able to meet its contractual obligations due to labour shortages following its COVID-19 lockdown, as well as disruptions to global supply chains. Although Thailand did not impose restrictions, forecasts for its rice exports were revised down to 6.5 million<sup>7</sup> tonnes for 2020 due a drought in the country, as well as the Baht gaining strength against other currencies, thus increasing import costs. Local analysts indicated that export restrictions would not have much of a short-term impact for South Africa. Nevertheless, the prices of various staple foods have increased over the past few months, particularly in urban areas. For instance, the price of two kilograms of rice increased by R3.58 to R43.22 in July 2020, and the price of 2.5 kilograms of maize increased by R0.64 to R25.52 during the same period.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-rice/thai-rice-exporters-cut-2020-forecast-to-6-5-million-t-lowest-in-20-years-idUSKCN24N0BD>

South Africa has no commercial rice farms, although there have been talks of attempting to create a commercial rice value chain going back to the early 2000s. However, concerns were raised regarding water scarcity in the country, particularly as rice is a water-intensive crop. Others noted that there is a certain rice cultivar that requires roughly the same amount of water as wheat and maize<sup>8</sup>, and pilots showed that the crop could be grown in the country. Nevertheless, to date, no commercial rice farms exist in the country.

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

Table 3 provides a list of possible data errors for the third quarter of 2020.

**Table 3: Possible data errors and other issues**

| HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | DESCRIPTION OF ERROR  |
|----------|---|---|
| 01069000 | Live animals  | Error in reporting quantity from the Netherlands. Based on the reported data, 107 billion units of live animals were imported to the value of R1.5 million. In contrast, 809 million units of live animals were imported in the first quarter 2020 at a value of about R1.2 million. It is not clear what these animals are. While the product description notes that this excludes insects, the tariff book lists these animals under insects. One possibility is an error in converting the quantity from kg as reported by Netherland on TradeMap, to units as reported by South Africa. |
| 28363000 | Sodium hydrogencarbonate "sodium bicarbonate"                 | Error in reporting quantity from Turkey. The surge in quantities is not matched by a corresponding increase in the value of imports. Further, trade data from Trade Map shows that Turkey exported 113.8 million kg of this product, far greater than the 409 million kg reported as imports by SARS.   |
| 84821000 | Ball bearings   | Error in reporting quantity from Germany. The surge in quantities is not matched by a corresponding increase in the value of imports. This is likely an error resulting from a conversion from tonnes as reported by Germany, to units as reported by South Africa.   |
| 31023000 | Ammonium nitrate, whether or not in aqueous solution          | Error in reporting quantity from Norway. The surge in quantities imported is not matched by a corresponding increase in the value of the imports. Based on the data, 214.5 million kg were imported from Norway at a value of R1.1 million.   |
| 44121000 | Plywood, veneered panel and similar laminated wood, of bamboo | Error in reporting quantity from China. The surge in quantities is not matched by a corresponding increase in the value of imports. The data show that 80.5 million cubic metres were imported at a value of R1.5 million; compared to 9.4 million cubic metres imported in the fourth quarter of 2019 at a value of R661 000.  |
| 28043000 | Nitrogen  | Error in reporting quantity from the United Kingdom. The surge is quantities imported is not matched by a corresponding increase in the value of the imports. Further, the reported imported quantity far exceeds the exported quantities reported by the UK.   |

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/lifestyle/2012-01-22-rice-cultivation-in-sa-hailed-as-feasible/#:~:text=South%20Africa%20at%20present%20imports,rice%20farming%20to%20commercial%20level.>

## DATA ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Top 100 import products by Rand value, Q3 2020

| RANK | HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION | CHANGE IN RANK Q3 2019 - Q3 2020 | DESIGNATION STATUS |
|------|----------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1    | 27090000 | Crude oil   | 16.03                      | No change                        | Not designated     |
| 2    | 27101230 | Diesel  | 11.96                      | 1                                | Not designated     |
| 3    | 98010030 | Automotive components: for motor cars   | 8.47                       | -1                               | Not designated     |
| 4    | 98010040 | Original equipment components: for goods vehicles   | 6.17                       | No change                        | Not designated     |
| 5    | 49070010 | Postage stamps, revenue stamps and banknotes  | 4.63                       | 1                                | Not designated     |
| 6    | 85171210 | Cellphones  | 4.33                       | 5                                | Not designated     |
| 7    | 10063000 | Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed                        | 2.89                       | 10                               | Not designated     |
| 8    | 85176290 | Routers and set-top boxes: Other  | 2.58                       | 4                                | Not designated     |
| 9    | 27101202 | Light oils and preparations: Petrol   | 2.50                       | -1                               | Not designated     |
| 10   | 87032290 | Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity 1 000 cm <sup>3</sup> to 1 500 cm <sup>3</sup> | 2.46                       | -5                               | Not designated     |
| 11   | 85023100 | Generating sets, wind-powered   | 2.29                       | 3                                | Not designated     |
| 12   | 71081300 | Gold, in semi-manufactured forms, for non-monetary purposes                                 | 2.14                       | 12                               | Not designated     |
| 13   | 28182000 | Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)   | 1.83                       | 7                                | Not designated     |
| 14   | 84022000 | Superheated water boilers   | 1.75                       | 4285                             | Not designated     |
| 15   | 87032390 | Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 500 cm <sup>3</sup> to 3 000 cm <sup>3</sup> | 1.74                       | -8                               | Not designated     |
| 16   | 98010045 | Original equipment components: for goods vehicles   | 1.69                       | -7                               | Not designated     |
| 17   | 33021000 | Alcoholic and other solutions used in the food and drink industries                         | 1.67                       | 1                                | Not designated     |
| 18   | 71023100 | Non-industrial diamonds unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted                          | 1.41                       | 8                                | Not designated     |
| 19   | 90189000 | Medical instruments and appliances, n.e.s.  | 1.34                       | 2                                | Not designated     |
| 20   | 38220000 | Diagnostic or laboratory reagents (pharmaceutical chemicals)                                | 1.34                       | 17                               | Not designated     |
| 21   | 84314990 | Parts of machinery of heading 8426, 8429 and 8430, n.e.s.: Other                            | 1.34                       | 4                                | Not designated     |
| 22   | 84715000 | Processing units for automatic data-processing machines                                     | 1.31                       | -12                              | Not designated     |

| RANK | HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | IMPORT VALUE,<br>RAND BILLION | CHANGE IN RANK<br>Q3 2019 - Q3<br>2020 | DESIGNATION STATUS |
|------|----------|---|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 23   | 87041090 | Dumpers for off-highway use: Other  | 1.23                          | 42                                     | Not designated     |
| 24   | 85044000 | Static converters   | 1.22                          | 3                                      | Not designated     |
| 25   | 87032190 | Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity not exceeding 1 000 cm <sup>3</sup>            | 1.20                          | -9                                     | Not designated     |
| 26   | 31021000 | Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution  | 1.16                          | 2                                      | Not designated     |
| 27   | 87033290 | Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 000 cm <sup>3</sup> to 2 500 cm <sup>3</sup> | 1.09                          | -12                                    | Not designated     |
| 28   | 27160000 | Electrical energy   | 1.01                          | 12                                     | Not designated     |
| 29   | 74081100 | Wire of refined copper, with a maximum cross-sectional dimension of > 6 mm                  | 0.98                          | 5                                      | Not designated     |
| 30   | 85177090 | Parts for telephones, routers and other telecoms devices                                    | 0.97                          | -1                                     | Not designated     |
| 31   | 84439900 | Parts and accessories of printers, copying machines and facsimile machines, n.e.s.          | 0.96                          | -8                                     | Not designated     |
| 32   | 27111100 | Natural gas, liquefied  | 0.94                          | No change                              | Not designated     |
| 33   | 30022000 | Vaccines for human medicine   | 0.91                          | 28                                     | Not designated     |
| 34   | 31042000 | Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser  | 0.84                          | 50                                     | Not designated     |
| 35   | 84798990 | Machines and mechanical appliances, n.e.s: Other  | 0.76                          | 8                                      | Not designated     |
| 36   | 84283900 | Continuous-action elevators and conveyors, for goods or materials                           | 0.75                          | 5                                      | Not designated     |
| 37   | 28439000 | Inorganic or organic compounds of precious metals   | 0.74                          | 53                                     | Not designated     |
| 38   | 87033390 | Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity exceeding 2 500 cm <sup>3</sup>                | 0.68                          | -16                                    | Not designated     |
| 39   | 84733000 | Parts and accessories of automatic data-processing machines                                 | 0.68                          | 14                                     | Not designated     |
| 40   | 72083900 | Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of >= 600 mm                    | 0.68                          | 984                                    | 100% designated    |
| 41   | 27101207 | Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene  | 0.67                          | -11                                    | Not designated     |
| 42   | 87089990 | Parts and accessories for tractors and buses  | 0.66                          | -7                                     | Not designated     |
| 43   | 87082900 | Parts and accessories of bodies for tractors and buses                                      | 0.64                          | -12                                    | Not designated     |
| 44   | 84717000 | Storage units for automatic data-processing machines  | 0.64                          | 13                                     | Not designated     |
| 45   | 21069090 | Food preparations, n.e.s.: Other  | 0.60                          | 19                                     | Not designated     |
| 46   | 27101235 | Light oils and preparations: Residual fuel oils   | 0.59                          | 39                                     | Not designated     |
| 47   | 61091000 | T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted                          | 0.59                          | 5                                      | 100% designated    |

| RANK | HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION  | IMPORT VALUE,<br>RAND BILLION | CHANGE IN RANK<br>Q3 2019 - Q3<br>2020 | DESIGNATION STATUS |
|------|----------|--|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 48   | 27011200 | Bituminous coal  | 0.59                          | 12                                     | Not designated     |
| 49   | 84295200 | Self-propelled bulldozers, etc.: With 360 degree revolving superstructure  | 0.58                          | -16                                    | Not designated     |
| 50   | 64039990 | Footwear with outer soles: Other   | 0.58                          | 4                                      | 100% designated    |
| 51   | 98010025 | Original equipment components: for buses and taxis   | 0.58                          | -15                                    | Not designated     |
| 52   | 84223000 | Machinery for filling, closing, sealing or labelling bottles, cans, boxes, bags or other containers                  | 0.57                          | 4                                      | Not designated     |
| 53   | 95030090 | Tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys; dolls' carriages: Other                                    | 0.57                          | -9                                     | Not designated     |
| 54   | 31054000 | Ammonium dihydrogenorthophosphate  | 0.55                          | 24                                     | Not designated     |
| 55   | 84291100 | Self-propelled bulldozers and angle dozers, track laying   | 0.54                          | 21                                     | Not designated     |
| 56   | 71103100 | Rhodium, unwrought or in powder form   | 0.54                          | 3021                                   | Not designated     |
| 57   | 22083010 | Whiskies: In containers holding 2 li or less   | 0.53                          | -10                                    | Not designated     |
| 58   | 87032490 | Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity exceeding 3 000 cm <sup>3</sup>   | 0.52                          | -13                                    | Not designated     |
| 59   | 71129990 | Waste and scrap of silver, including metal clad with silver: Other   | 0.49                          | 103                                    | Not designated     |
| 60   | 29349900 | Nucleic acids and their salts, whether or not chemically defined   | 0.49                          | 92                                     | Not designated     |
| 61   | 23040000 | Oilcake and other solid residues from the extraction of soya-bean oil  | 0.48                          | 6                                      | Not designated     |
| 62   | 74031100 | Refined copper   | 0.48                          | 37                                     | Not designated     |
| 63   | 84314300 | Parts for boring or sinking machinery  | 0.48                          | 46                                     | Not designated     |
| 64   | 39269090 | Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, not elsewhere specified (n.e.s): Other | 0.47                          | -13                                    | Not designated     |
| 65   | 33049990 | Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin: Other                                      | 0.47                          | -10                                    | Not designated     |
| 66   | 84433100 | Printers and fax machines  | 0.47                          | -28                                    | Not designated     |
| 67   | 84099990 | Parts suitable for use solely or principally with diesel or semi-diesel engine, n.e.s.: Other                        | 0.47                          | 12                                     | Not designated     |
| 68   | 84834000 | Gears and gearing for machinery  | 0.45                          | 14                                     | Not designated     |
| 69   | 85443000 | Ignition wiring sets and other wiring sets for vehicles, aircraft or ships   | 0.44                          | -21                                    | 90% designated     |
| 70   | 21011190 | Extracts, essences and concentrates, of coffee: Other  | 0.44                          | 63                                     | Not designated     |

| RANK | HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | IMPORT VALUE,<br>RAND BILLION | CHANGE IN RANK<br>Q3 2019 - Q3<br>2020 | DESIGNATION STATUS |
|------|----------|---|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 71   | 84089090 | Compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine "diesel or semi-diesel engine": Other  | 0.43                          | -3                                     | Not designated     |
| 72   | 33029090 | Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures, including alcoholic solutions: Other   | 0.43                          | 44                                     | Not designated     |
| 73   | 28362000 | Disodium carbonate  | 0.43                          | 57                                     | Not designated     |
| 74   | 88033000 | Parts of aeroplanes or helicopters, n.e.s. (excluding those for gliders)  | 0.42                          | -32                                    | Not designated     |
| 75   | 84749000 | Parts of machinery for working mineral substances of heading 8474, n.e.s.   | 0.42                          | -6                                     | Not designated     |
| 76   | 38112100 | Additives for oil lubricants containing petroleum oil or bituminous mineral oil   | 0.41                          | -10                                    | Not designated     |
| 77   | 48115990 | Paper and paperboard (excluding bleached and weighing > 150 g/m <sup>2</sup> , and adhesives): Other  | 0.40                          | 6                                      | Not designated     |
| 78   | 90318000 | Instruments, appliances and machines for measuring or checking (excluding optical)  | 0.39                          | 19                                     | Not designated     |
| 79   | 84729000 | Office machines, n.e.s.   | 0.39                          | 68                                     | Not designated     |
| 80   | 69091900 | Ceramic wares for chemical or other technical uses  | 0.39                          | -41                                    | Not designated     |
| 81   | 85437000 | Electrical machines and apparatus, having individual functions, n.e.s. in chapter 85  | 0.38                          | 5                                      | Not designated     |
| 82   | 85371090 | Boards, cabinets and similar combinations of apparatus for electric control or the distribution of electricity, for a voltage <= 1.000 V: Other | 0.37                          | -1                                     | Not designated     |
| 83   | 73269090 | Articles of iron or steel, n.e.s: Other   | 0.37                          | -8                                     | 100% designated    |
| 84   | 84224000 | Packing or wrapping machinery, including heat-shrink wrapping machinery   | 0.36                          | -11                                    | Not designated     |
| 85   | 90192000 | Ozone therapy, oxygen therapy, aerosol therapy, artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus                               | 0.36                          | 200                                    | Not designated     |
| 86   | 63079010 | Made-up articles of textile materials, including dress patterns, n.e.s.   | 0.36                          | 736                                    | 100% designated    |
| 87   | 98010015 | Automotive components: for tractors and buses   | 0.36                          | -68                                    | Not designated     |
| 88   | 84219990 | Parts of machinery and apparatus for filtering or purifying liquids or gases: Other   | 0.35                          | 16                                     | Not designated     |
| 89   | 85235210 | Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits "smart cards": Digital   | 0.35                          | 22                                     | Not designated     |
| 90   | 5040010  | Guts, bladders and stomachs of animals (other than fish): Sausage casings   | 0.34                          | -13                                    | Not designated     |



| RANK | HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | IMPORT VALUE,<br>RAND BILLION | CHANGE IN RANK<br>Q3 2019 - Q3<br>2020 | DESIGNATION STATUS                                |
|------|----------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 91   | 85299020 | Parts suitable for use solely or principally with transmission and reception apparatus for radio-broadcasting or television | 0.33                          | 1492                                   | 30%-60% designated,<br>20%-100% for<br>components |
| 92   | 84807100 | Injection or compression-type moulds for rubber or plastics   | 0.33                          | 128                                    | Not designated                                    |
| 93   | 94019090 | Parts of seats, n.e.s.: Other   | 0.33                          | -43                                    | 85%-100% designated                               |
| 94   | 84139100 | Parts of pumps for liquids, n.e.s.  | 0.32                          | -3                                     | Not designated                                    |
| 95   | 84799000 | Parts of machines and mechanical appliances, n.e.s.   | 0.32                          | 30                                     | Not designated                                    |
| 96   | 27112990 | Hydrocarbons in gaseous state, n.e.s. (excluding natural gas): Other  | 0.32                          | 108                                    | Not designated                                    |
| 97   | 84839000 | Toothed wheels, chain sprockets and other transmission elements presented separately  | 0.32                          | 21                                     | Not designated                                    |
| 98   | 84082000 | Compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine "diesel or semi-diesel engine"                                       | 0.31                          | 41                                     | Not designated                                    |
| 99   | 87042183 | Motor vehicles for the transport of goods, with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine                      | 0.31                          | 1                                      | Not designated                                    |
| 100  | 90183900 | Needles, catheters, cannulae and the like   | 0.30                          | -8                                     | Not designated                                    |

**Annexure 2: Surges in import products, by quantity, Q3 2020**

| HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION  | EXPLANATION                  | REAL GROWTH, QUANTITY | UNIT      | PERCENT GROWTH | DESIGNATION STATUS |
|----------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| 01069000 | Live animals   | Data error                   | 105 139 593 625       | Units     | 3762%          | Not designated     |
| 27090000 | Crude oil  | Decline in imports           | - 408 110 820         | Kilograms | -12%           | Not designated     |
| 27101230 | Diesel   | Import commodity             | 590 237 233           | Litres    | 39%            | Not designated     |
| 27111100 | Natural gas, liquefied   | Not significant              | 37 682 999            | Kilograms | 5%             | Not designated     |
| 27101202 | Light oils and preparations: Petrol                                      | Decline in imports           | - 23 773 653          | Litres    | -5%            | Not designated     |
| 28363000 | Sodium hydrogencarbonate "sodium bicarbonate"                            | Data error                   | 397 508 792           | Kilograms | 3416%          | Not designated     |
| 84821000 | Ball bearings  | Data error                   | 399 969 559           | Units     | 6851%          | Not designated     |
| 27011200 | Bituminous coal  | Not significant              | 126 189 563           | Kilograms | 47%            | Not designated     |
| 25232900 | Portland cement  | Ongoing monitoring           | 133 716 794           | Kilograms | 66%            | Not designated     |
| 28182000 | Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)                          | Not significant              | 33 692 936            | Kilograms | 11%            | Not designated     |
| 10063000 | Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed     | <b>Selected for analysis</b> | 58 767 938            | Kilograms | 22%            | Not designated     |
| 31021000 | Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution                                 | Decline in imports           | - 44 917 283          | Kilograms | -13%           | Not designated     |
| 31042000 | Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser                                 | <b>Selected for analysis</b> | 119 117 656           | Kilograms | 113%           | Not designated     |
| 31023000 | Ammonium nitrate, whether or not in aqueous solution                     | Data error                   | 220 890 925           | Kilograms | 937567595%     | Not designated     |
| 28362000 | Disodium carbonate   | Not significant              | 25 700 869            | Kilograms | 22%            | Not designated     |
| 27101207 | Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene                           | Decline in imports           | - 38 678 874          | Litres    | -22%           | Not designated     |
| 25030000 | Sulphur of all kinds   | Decline in imports           | - 65 558 455          | Kilograms | -35%           | Not designated     |
| 31022100 | Ammonium sulphate (excluding that in pellet or similar forms)            | Not significant              | 21 297 561            | Kilograms | 24%            | Not designated     |
| 25231000 | Cement clinkers  | Ongoing monitoring           | 45 876 024            | Kilograms | 76%            | Not designated     |
| 31054000 | Ammonium dihydrogenorthophosphate  | Not significant              | 17 810 873            | Kilograms | 22%            | Not designated     |
| 27011100 | Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated                  | Decline in imports           | - 31 353 843          | Kilograms | -26%           | Not designated     |
| 72083900 | Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of >= 600 mm | Surge within usual variance  | 81 606 146            | Kilograms | 1728%          | 100% designated    |

| HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | EXPLANATION                  | REAL GROWTH, QUANTITY | UNIT         | PERCENT GROWTH | DESIGNATION STATUS |
|----------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 23040000 | Oilcake and other solid residues resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil                   | Decline in imports           | - 24 978 335          | Kilograms    | -23%           | Not designated     |
| 44121000 | Plywood, veneered panel and similar laminated wood, of bamboo                                     | Data error                   | 64 840 498            | Cubic meters | 414%           | Not designated     |
| 85235210 | Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits "smart cards": Digital             | Not significant              | 3 396 904             | Units        | 5%             | Not designated     |
| 27101235 | Light oils and preparations: Residual fuel oils   | Not significant              | 485 306               | Litres       | 1%             | Not designated     |
| 27011900 | Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated   | Decline in imports           | - 177 452 326         | Kilograms    | -73%           | Not designated     |
| 28331100 | Disodium sulphate   | Ongoing monitoring           | 41 678 953            | Kilograms    | 275%           | Not designated     |
| 27131200 | Petroleum coke, calcined  | Decline in imports           | - 8 905 955           | Kilograms    | -14%           | Not designated     |
| 26180000 | Granulated slag "slag sand" from the manufacture of iron or steel                                 | Ongoing monitoring           | 56 191 158            | Kilograms    | 631361%        | Not designated     |
| 31024000 | Mixtures of ammonium nitrate with calcium carbonate or other inorganic non-fertilising substances | <b>Selected for analysis</b> | 31 196 881            | Kilograms    | 126%           | Not designated     |
| 90183140 | Syringes, with or without needles   | Decline in imports           | - 16 352 121          | Units        | -23%           | Not designated     |
| 27112990 | Hydrocarbons in gaseous state, n.e.s: Other   | Not significant              | 15 465 066            | Kilograms    | 42%            | Not designated     |
| 28043000 | Nitrogen  | Data error                   | 48 981 590            | Cubic meters | 43363%         | Not designated     |
| 02071210 | Frozen fowls of the species Gallus domesticus: Mechanically deboned meat                          | Not significant              | 5 740 415             | Kilograms    | 14%            | Not designated     |
| 28151200 | Sodium hydroxide in aqueous solution  | Decline in imports           | - 49 283 987          | Kilograms    | -52%           | Not designated     |
| 90189000 | Medical instruments and appliances, n.e.s.  | Not significant              | 3 599 211             | Units        | 8%             | Not designated     |
| 25201000 | Gypsum; anhydrite   | Not significant              | 3 111 649             | Kilograms    | 8%             | Not designated     |
| 28141000 | Anhydrous ammonia   | Surge within usual variance  | 22 408 232            | Kilograms    | 111%           | Not designated     |
| 84248900 | Mechanical appliances for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders, n.e.s.           | Decline in imports           | - 5 113 794           | Units        | -12%           | Not designated     |
| 27040000 | Coke and semi-coke of coal  | Not significant              | 11 526 324            | Kilograms    | 46%            | Not designated     |



| HS CODE  | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION   | EXPLANATION        | REAL GROWTH, QUANTITY | UNIT      | PERCENT GROWTH | DESIGNATION STATUS |
|----------|---|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| 98010030 | Automotive components: For motor cars                                       | Decline in imports | - 38 290 877          | Kilograms | -52%           | Not designated     |
| 17019900 | Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form               | Decline in imports | - 4 530 046           | Kilograms | -12%           | Not designated     |
| 28365000 | Calcium carbonate   | Decline in imports | - 16 512 735          | Kilograms | -34%           | Not designated     |
| 98010040 | Original equipment components: For goods vehicles                           | Decline in imports | - 38 520 274          | Kilograms | -55%           | Not designated     |
| 23023000 | Bran, sharps and other residues of wheat                                    | Not significant    | 4 972 629             | Kilograms | 19%            | Not designated     |
| 85411000 | Diodes (excluding photosensitive or light emitting diodes "LED")            | Decline in imports | - 8 917 337           | Units     | -22%           | Not designated     |
| 44029000 | Wood charcoal, including shell or nut charcoal, whether or not agglomerated | Decline in imports | - 1 176 558           | Kilograms | -4%            | Not designated     |
| 85423900 | Electronic integrated circuits  | Decline in imports | - 13 160 731          | Kilograms | -32%           | Not designated     |
| 17031000 | Cane molasses resulting from the extraction or refining of sugar            | Decline in imports | - 3 344 029           | Kilograms | -11%           | Not designated     |