



TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES

TIPS
TRACKER



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

TIPS IMPORT TRACKER

FOURTH QUARTER 2023

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Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)

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CONTENTS

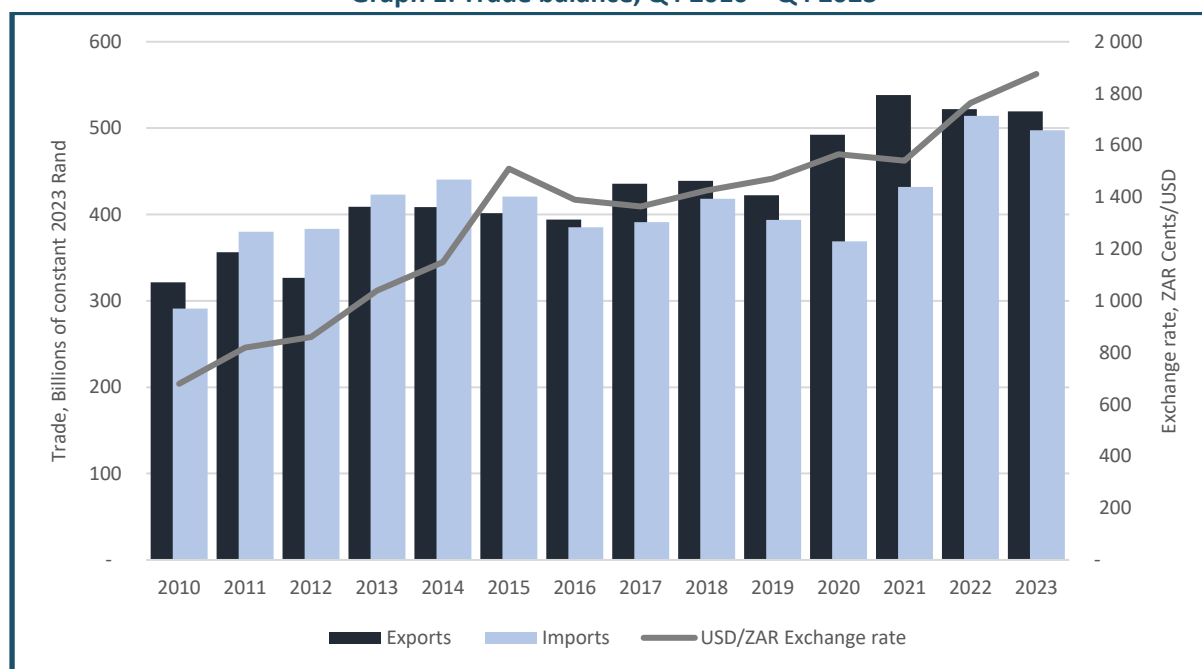
Section 1: Fourth quarter trade trends.....	3
Trade context.....	3
Continental trade.....	4
Major imports.....	7
Import surges.....	7
Explanation of import surges.....	9
Finding 1: Ongoing monitoring of previously identified surges.....	9
Finding 2: Grain sorghum (excluding for sowing).....	10
Finding 3: Data errors and other issues.....	12
Possible trade mispricing.....	12
Section 2: Summary of trends from 2023.....	13
Data annexures.....	16
Graph 1: Trade balance, Q4 2010 – Q4 2023.....	3
Graph 2: Top 5 imports by Rand value (billions of constant 2023 Rand) and percentage.....	4
Graph 3: Continental trade, Q4 2013 – Q4 2023, billions of constant 2023 Rand.....	5
Graph 4: Top 10 African countries from which South Africa imports goods (Q4 2013 – Q4 2023).....	5
Graph 5: South Africa’s imports by product group, Q4 2013 – Q4 2023 (in billions of constant 2023 Rand, and as a share of the total).....	6
Graph 6: Top 10 African countries to which South Africa exports goods (Q4 2013 – Q4 2023).....	6
Graph 7: South Africa’s exports by product group, Q4 2013 – Q4 2023 (in billions of constant 2023 Rand, and as a share of the total).....	7
Graph 8: Trade in grain sorghum (excluding seed for sowing), in millions of constant 2023 Rand, and in millions of kilograms, Q4 2013 – Q4 2023.....	11
Graph 9: (a) Sorghum grain deliveries, consumption and exports, and (b) production by province ...	12
Graph 10: Differences in reported volumes for HS 72123000, Q4 2013 – Q4 2022.....	13
Graph 11: Trade, Q1 2023 – Q4 2023 in billions of constant 2023 Rand.....	14
Table 1: Decline in imports between Q4 2022 and Q4 2023.....	8
Table 2: Ongoing monitoring of import surges of previously identified surges.....	9
Table 3: Possible data errors.....	12
Table 4: Status of surge for previously analysed items for 2023.....	15
Annexure 1: Top 100 import products by Rand value, Q4 2023.....	16
Annexure 2: Surges in import products by quantity Q4 2023.....	21

Section 1: Fourth quarter trade trends

Trade context

South Africa had a R21.7 billion trade surplus in the fourth quarter of 2023, up from R7.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 2022, but lower than the R41 billion registered in the third quarter of 2023. Imports declined by R17 billion to R498 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023, while exports declined by 0.5% to R519 billion in same period (see Graph 1). This was in part due to a R22 billion fall in coal exports in the fourth quarter of 2023. Graph 2 shows the top five import products by value.

Graph 1: Trade balance, Q4 2010 – Q4 2023



Source: Trade data from South African Revenue Service monthly merchandise trade statistics. Downloaded from <https://www.sars.gov.za/> in March 2024. Exchange rate data from South African Reserve Bank (SARB) downloaded from <https://www.resbank.co.za/>. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA, to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Aside from exports to Mozambique, and items destined to locations that are not elsewhere specified (Areas NES)¹, exports to the top five destinations – China, the United States (US), Germany, the United Kingdom, and India – amount to R177 billion, making up slightly over 34% of the total export value for the fourth quarter of 2023. Exports to the US and Germany declined by R11.4 billion and R2.5 billion respectively in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023. The decrease in exports to the US was in part due to a R4.1 billion decline in unwrought rhodium exports, along with a R1.3 billion decline apiece for platinum and semi-manufactured rhodium exports. In turn, the decline in exports to Germany was partly driven by the R3.8 billion decline in coin exports, along with a R2.3 billion decline in precious metal ore exports, and a R1 billion decline in coal exports. Exports to China increased by R11.8 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023, driven in part by a R13.2 billion increase in non-agglomerated iron ore exports, and a R5.7 billion increase in chromium ore exports.

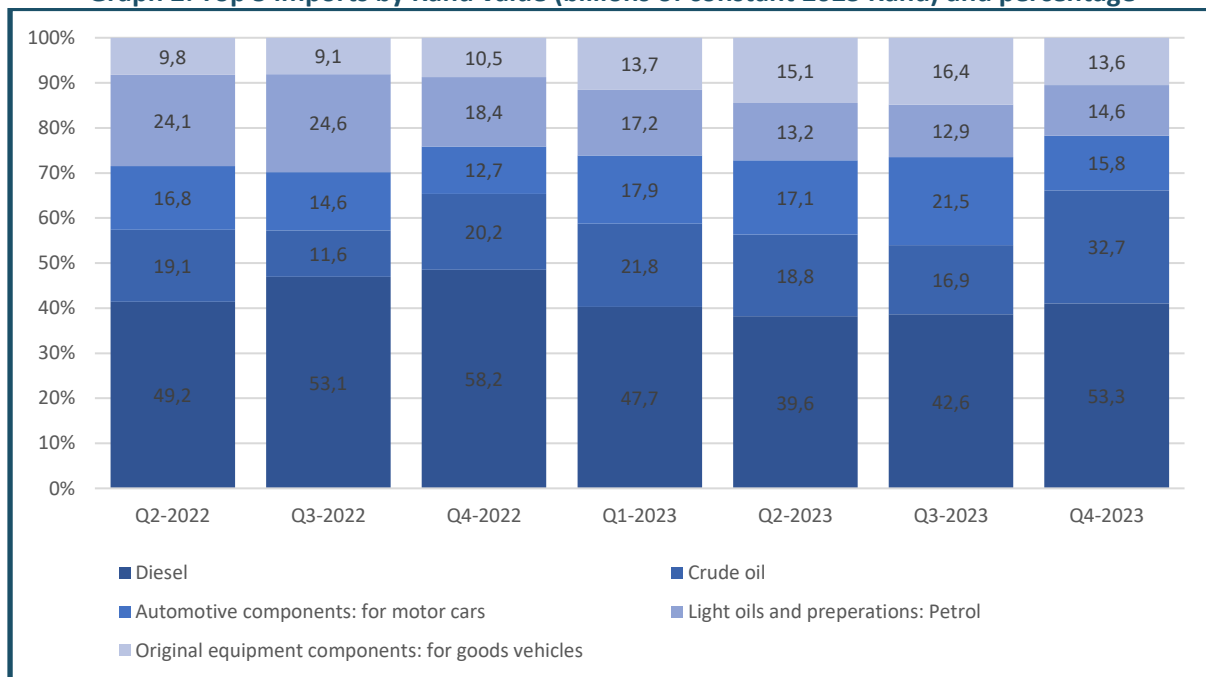
Imports from the top five sources amounted to R232.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023, up some R4.6 billion from the same period in 2022. Currency, crude oil, and heavy duty vehicles (tractors,

¹In real terms exports to Areas NES have the second highest value (R32.9 billion) among the top five destinations, followed by exports to Mozambique (R31.9 billion).

goods vehicles and off-highway dumpers) were the top imports from the US in the fourth quarter of 2023, amounting to R17.4 billion (38% of total imports from the US). In addition to the increase in imports from the US, imports from Germany and Saudi Arabia increased by a combined R3.5 billion. Imports from China and India declined by a combined R8.7 billion, with China accounting for virtually the entire decline. The decline in imports from China is due to a fall across a range of products. Notable among these is a R2 billion decline in diesel imports, a R1.5 billion decline in lithium-ion accumulators imports, and a R1.5 billion decline in static converter imports between the fourth quarters of 2022 and 2023.

The top 5 import products (Graph 2) accounted for 26% of the total import value for the fourth quarter of 2023. A decline in imports of diesel and petrol contributed to the overall decrease in the total value of imports for the current reporting period. There was a year-on-year decline in diesel imports (value and volume) from India, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, who are among the top suppliers for South Africa. Crude oil imports, however, surged to their highest level since early 2022, increasing by R12.5 billion to R32.7 billion (and 998 million kilograms) in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Graph 2: Top 5 imports by Rand value (billions of constant 2023 Rand) and percentage



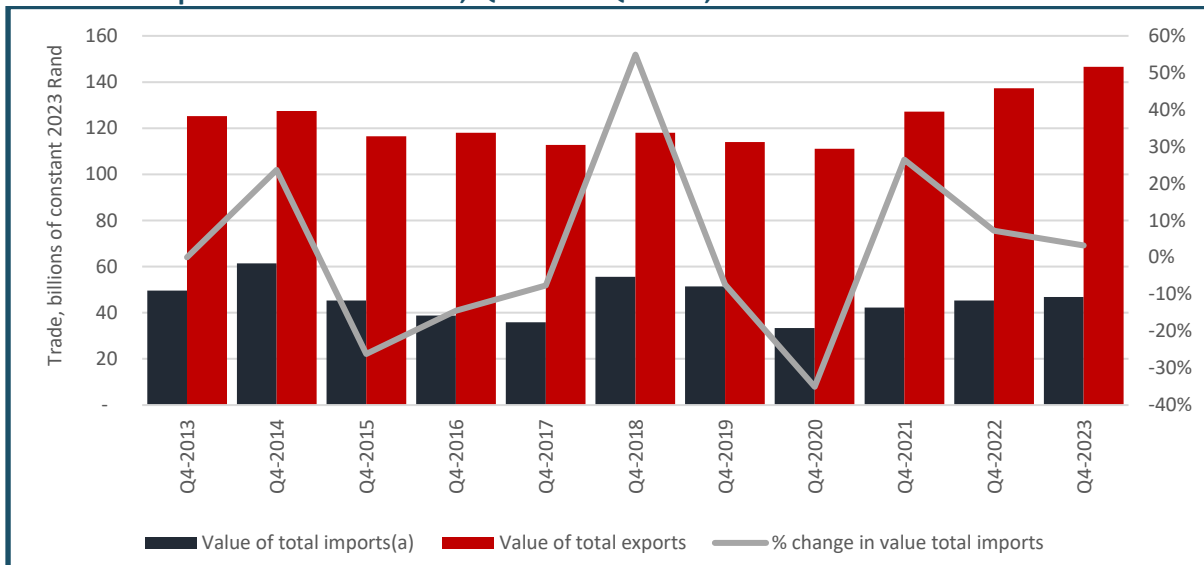
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA, to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Continental trade

Overall, South Africa's trade surplus with the rest of the continent grew to R99.7 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023, the highest level thus far (see Graph 3). Exports to the rest of the continent amounted to R146.5 billion in fourth quarter of 2023, up from R137.3 billion in the fourth quarter of 2022. Similarly, imports from the continent increased by R1.5 billion to R46.8 billion in the same period.

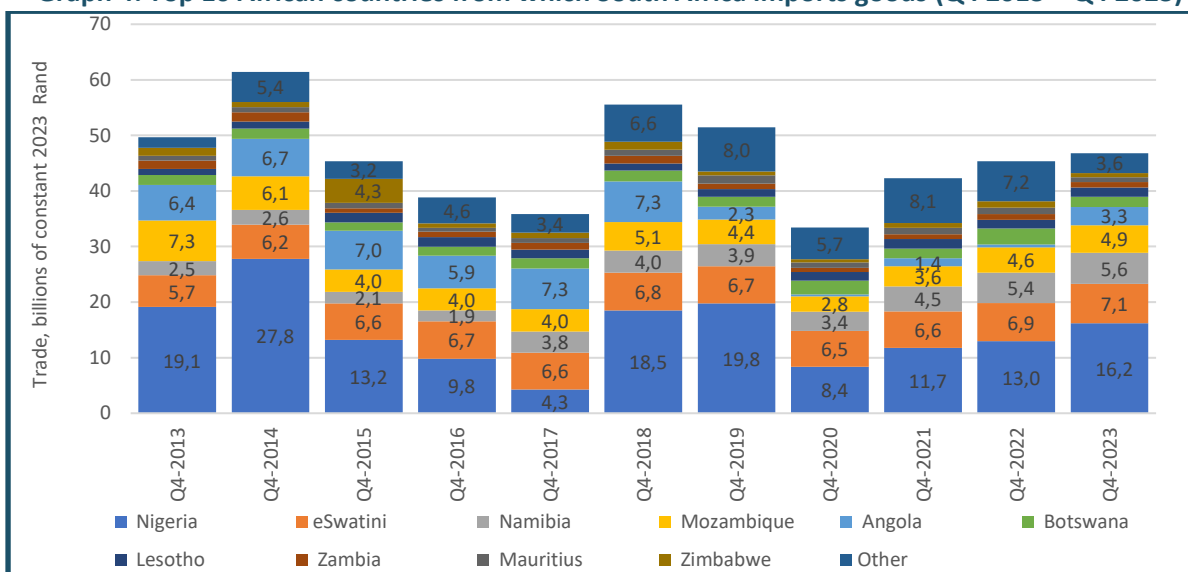
Graph 3: Continental trade, Q4 2013 – Q4 2023, billions of constant 2023 Rand



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.
 Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA, to the fourth quarter of 2023. (a): Excludes re-imports, which average about R1.5 billion per quarter.

Combined, imports from the top ten African sources amounted to R43.2 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023, up by R5.1 billion from the fourth quarter of 2022. A recovery in crude production in Nigeria repositions the country as South Africa’s top source of imports from the continent, having fallen to third place in the third quarter of 2023 due to decreased crude supply. Imports from Nigeria increased to R16.1 billion (see Graph 4). Similarly, imports from eSwatini and Namibia increased to R7.1 billion and R5.6 billion respectively. Essential oils and resinoid, along with sugar and confectionary continue to lead imports from eSwatini, jointly valued at R3.4 billion. Imports from Namibia are dominated by non-monetary gold. Namibia was followed by Mozambique with imports increasing to R5 billion, dominated by liquified natural gas and electrical energy. Further, imports from Angola surged to R3.3 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023, driven by crude imports.

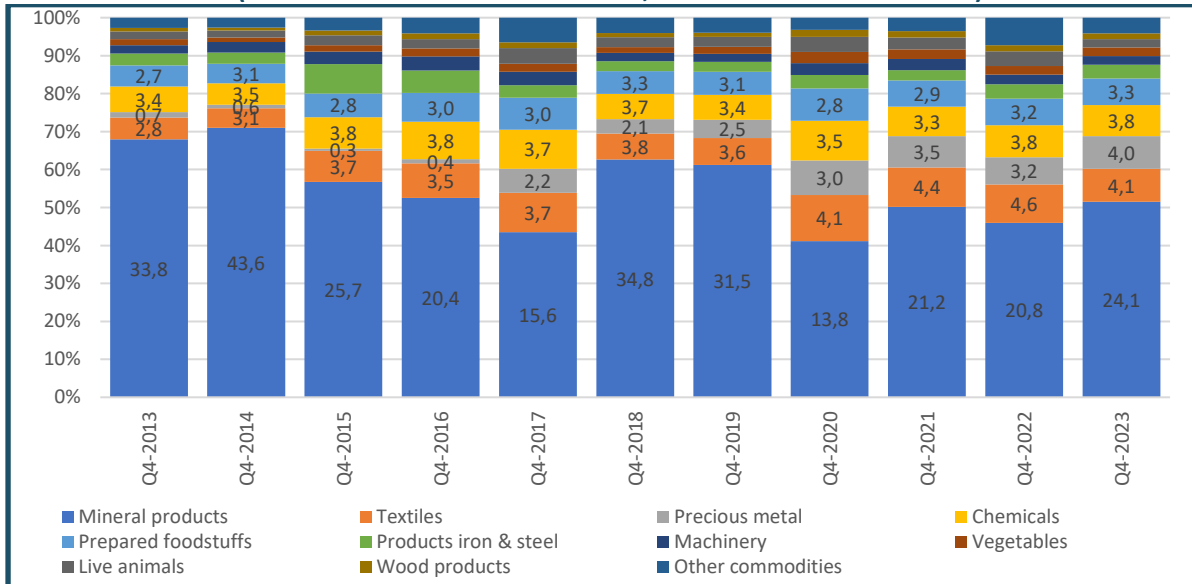
Graph 4: Top 10 African countries from which South Africa imports goods (Q4 2013 – Q4 2023)



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.
 Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA, to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Mineral products account for over half of the goods imported from the continent by South Africa (see Graph 5), and amounted to R24.1 billion. Textiles had the second highest value, followed by precious metals with each commodity valued just above R4 billion. While imports of precious metals increased, textiles declined by 12% from R4.6 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023. In addition to textiles there was a decrease in imports of iron and steel products, machinery, and live animals in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Graph 5: South Africa's imports by product group, Q4 2013 – Q4 2023
(in billions of constant 2023 Rand, and as a share of the total)

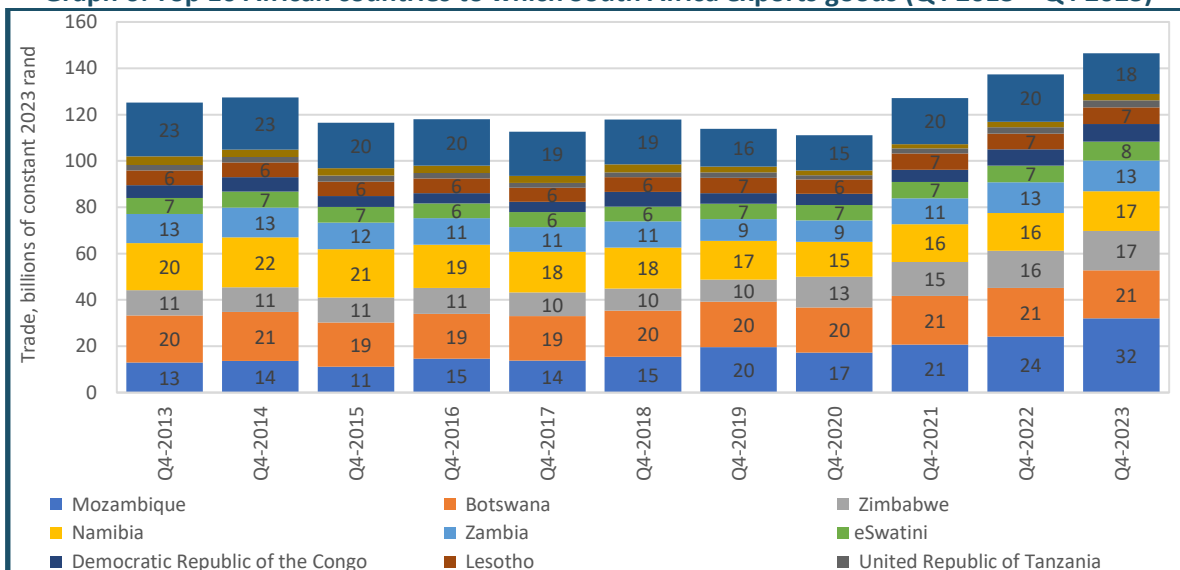


Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA, to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Exports to the rest of the continent (see Graph 6) increased to R146.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023. Excluding Mozambique (which include a significant share of products for re-export), the largest share of exports went to Botswana, amounting to R20.7 billion. Other top destinations for exports include Zimbabwe and Namibia, at about R17 billion apiece, along with Zambia at R13.2 billion.

Graph 6: Top 10 African countries to which South Africa exports goods (Q4 2013 – Q4 2023)

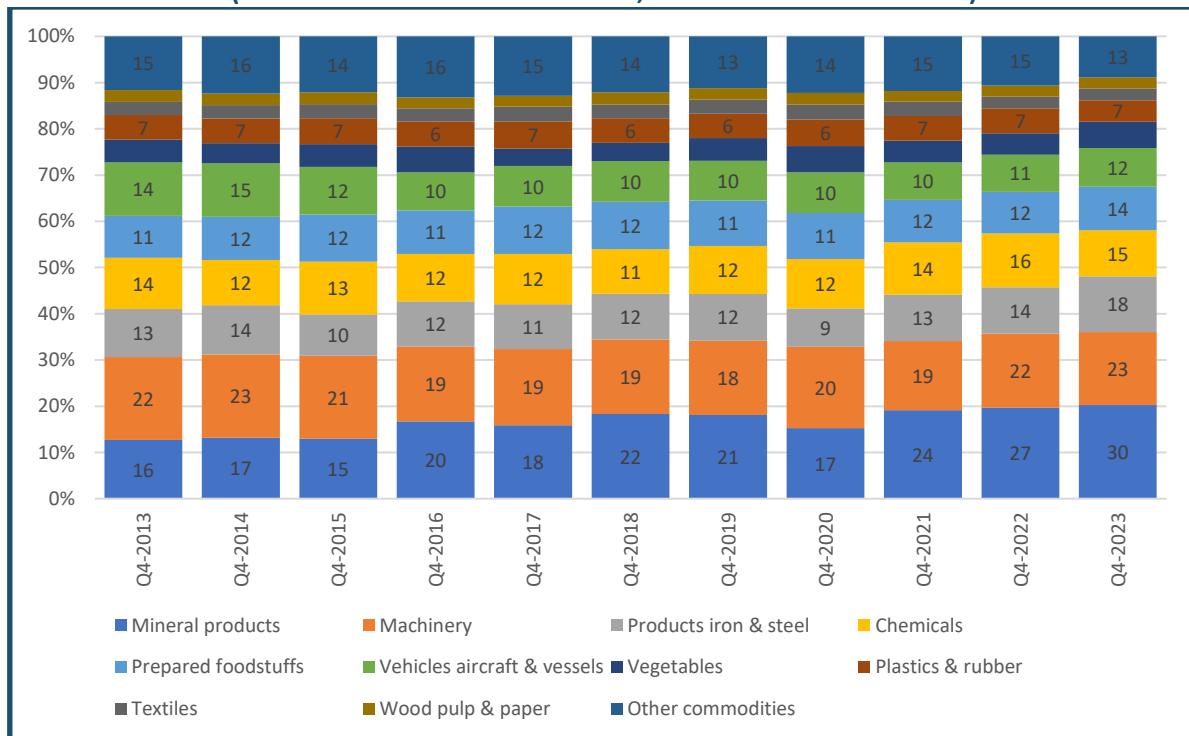


Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA, to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Mineral products – mainly comprising petrol, diesel, coal and electrical energy – were the leading goods exported, at R29.7 billion. Exports of machinery and iron and steel products increased to R23.1 billion and R17.7 billion respectively in fourth quarter of 2023. In this period exports of chemicals, and plastic and rubber goods, declined to R14.6 billion (down 8%) and R6.6 billion (down 9%) respectively (see Graph 7).

Graph 7: South Africa’s exports by product group, Q4 2013 – Q4 2023
(in billions of constant 2023 Rand, and as a share of the total)



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.
Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA, to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Major imports

The value of the Top 100 imports amounted to R288.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023, up slightly from R276.4 billion in the third quarter. Annexure 1 shows the Top 100 products by value, which can be classified into broad categories such as: 1) petroleum and other liquid fuels; 2) renewable energy-related equipment; 3) information and communications technology (ICT) equipment; 4) food and beverages; 5) production metals; 6) automotives and components; 7) medical equipment; 8) aircraft and aircraft components.

Import surges

Annexure 2 shows the Top 50 imports by volumes for the fourth quarter of 2023. Changes in the trend of imported volumes are classified into categories like: not significant; selected for analysis; ongoing monitoring; data errors; surge is within usual variance; and decline in imports. For the current quarter, one product was selected for analysis. An additional 18 products show a decline in imported volumes, while another four products included potential data errors.

Among the 18 products for which was a decline in imported volumes, 15 also saw a decline in value, with the balance showing an increase in the import value (see Table 1)

Table 1: Decline in imports between Q4 2022 and Q4 2023

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	REAL DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT DECLINE, QUANTITY	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE, VALUE
10064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	- 11 192 887 781	Units	-2%	3%
27101230	Diesel	- 26 904 411	Litres	-1%	-8%
27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	- 237 751 016	Litres	-18%	-21%
28182000	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	- 10 954 301	Kilograms	-3%	-4%
44123900	Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood <= 6 mm thick	- 103 031 426	Cubic metres	-28%	-31%
31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	- 15 440 750	Kilograms	-6%	-50%
44079100	Oak "Quercus spp.", sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled	- 198 764 709	Cubic metres	-45%	-38%
27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	- 35 344 924	Litres	-13%	-23%
27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	- 129 396 214	Kilograms	-52%	-53%
44011200	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, non-coniferous	- 59 988 462	Kilograms	-35%	-37%
27101207	Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene	- 159 695 723	Litres	-61%	-64%
31042000	Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser	- 15 578 207	Kilograms	-14%	-52%
25201000	Gypsum; anhydrite	- 60 783 692	Kilograms	-42%	-72%
17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter	- 4 013 687	Kilograms	-6%	4%
85235210	Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits "smart cards": Digital	- 11 781 996	Units	-15%	-16%
28362000	Disodium carbonate	- 47 363 218	Kilograms	-42%	-41%
27111200	Propane, liquefied	- 3 586 099	Kilograms	-6%	-9%

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

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.

Table 2: Ongoing monitoring of import surges of previously identified surges

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	STATUS OF SURGE	EXPLANATION
27101226	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals	Small increase from the previous quarter	Imports of this product have stabilised to a range of 180-230 million litres for the first time since South Africa began importing this product in high volumes in the third quarter of 2020.
27011100	Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Declined notably from the third quarter	Imports declined by more than 50million kilograms between the third and fourth quarter of 2023. There was a 29% decline in volumes from Russia, which was supplemented – in part – by growth in imports from China, Vietnam and the US, who are all sporadic suppliers to South Africa.
25010010	Salts, including table salt and denatured salt, and pure sodium chloride: Not for human consumption	Significant increase from previous quarter	Imports surged to 74 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2023, from 11 million kilograms in the previous quarter. This increase to 74 million kilograms is another sporadic surge, with imports often around 30 million kilograms per quarter.
27132000	Petroleum bitumen	Significant increase from previous quarter	Imports increased to 70 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2023, from 42 million kilograms in the previous quarter. The trend for these imports has been inconsistent since imports surged in 2022.
27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	Significant increase from previous quarter	Imports reached their highest level (70 million kilograms) in the fourth quarter of 2023, from 46 million kilograms in the prior quarter. Since the surge in the first quarter of 2021, imports had remained below 35 million kilograms, only breaching 45 million kilograms beginning in the second quarter of 2023.

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	STATUS OF SURGE	EXPLANATION
11072020	Roasted malt: Of barley	Small increase from the previous quarter	Imports continued to decline in the fourth quarter of 2023, falling to 10.5 million kilograms from 15 million kilograms in the previous quarter. This continues the downward trend seen since imports surged to 74 million kilograms.
25231000	Cement clinkers	Small increase from the previous quarter	Imports increased to 61.2 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2023, from 56.6 million kilograms in the prior quarter. Virtually all reported imports for the quarter came from Saudi Arabia (some 72 kilograms were imported from Lesotho and Namibia), while almost all the imports from the third quarter came from the UAE (with some 21 010 kilograms from France).

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

Finding 2: Grain sorghum (excluding for sowing)

Grain sorghum (HS 10079000) is a grain crop with about 28 subspecies. South Africa cultivates sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench, ranging from white to red.² South Africa principally produces grain sorghum for human consumption, with about 20% processed for animal feed and exports in 2023. White sorghum seeds are used to make flour and red sorghum seeds are used as inputs in animal feed production and as malt for brewing or distilling.³ Other uses include making silage, stover, cover crops, and ethanol.⁴ South Africa's sorghum production averaged around 170 286 tonnes per annum between 2010 and 2023, down from an annual average of about 282 545 between 2000 and 2010.

Globally, sorghum is considered the fifth most important cultivated crop after maize, rice, wheat, and barley.⁵ The biggest global exporter of sorghum is the US, accounting for more than half of exported volumes. China is the largest importer of sorghum, often accounting for more than half of total global imports of the product.

Grain sorghum imports surged by more than 66 million kilograms to 66.1 million kilograms in the year to the fourth quarter of 2023 (see Graph 8). The source of the import surge is Brazil, with imports from the country amounting to 65.3 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2023, from a base of zero in the fourth quarter of 2022. Imports from Brazil were valued at over R275 million, accounting for 98% of the value in the fourth quarter of 2023. Brazil has been an inconsistent source of grain sorghum imports for South Africa. However, when the country has exported to South Africa, it has been at higher volumes than South Africa usually imports. For instance, Brazil exported 27.5 million kilograms of grain sorghum to South Africa in the fourth quarter of 2015 and did not export this product to the country until the surge in the fourth quarter 2023. In the years since 2015, imports have generally remained

² Pereira, L.M. 2023. Follow the 'Ting: Sorghum in South Africa. *Food, Culture & Society*, 26(1), pp.116-144.

³ AGT Foods Africa. n.d. Grain Sorghum – sorghum bicolor. Available at: <https://agtfoods.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/4.-Grain-Sorghum.pdf>

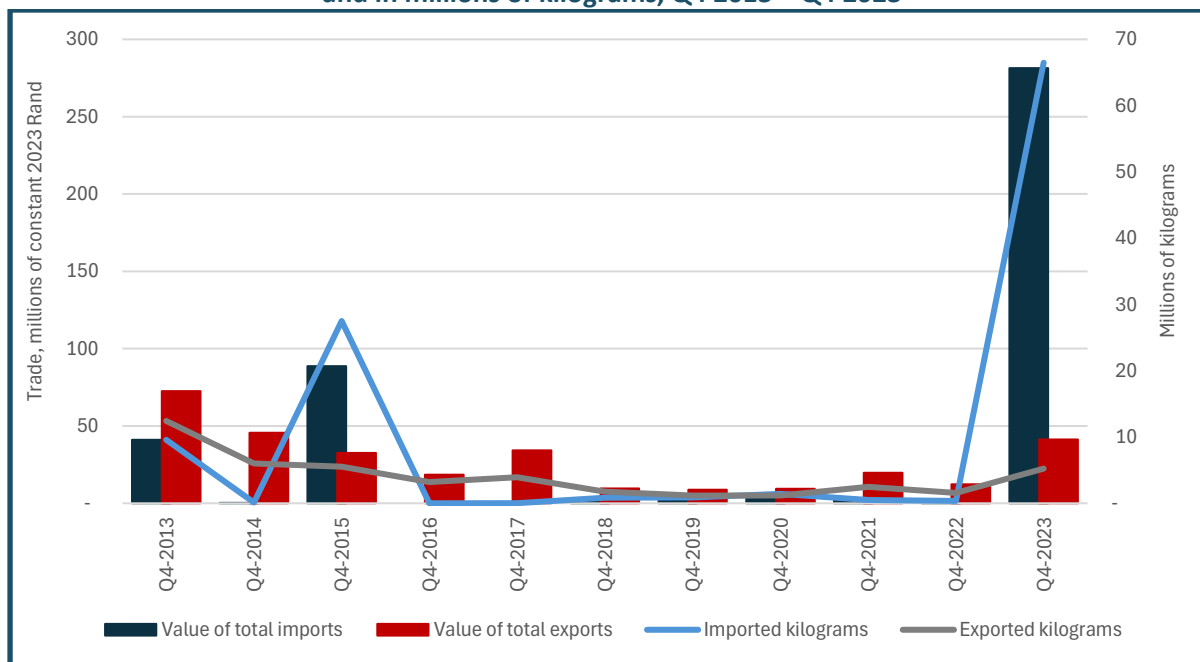
⁴ Ibid.

⁵ The Southern African Grain Laboratory. 2022. Sorghum quality report 2021-2022. Available at: <https://sagl.co.za/wp-content/uploads/Sorghum-Crop-Quality-Report-2021-2022.pdf>

below three million kilograms per quarter, except for high imports from the US in the first two quarters of 2019. Other import sources include Zimbabwe, Malawi and Botswana.

Total grain sorghum exports amounted to 5.2 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2023. Botswana was the main destination for South African exports. With the exception of the fourth quarters of 2016, 2019 and 2020, exports to Botswana usually exceed 40% of total exported volumes, and can reach as high as 85% of the total. Other export destinations were eSwatini and Namibia, accounting for 15.6% and 0.8% share of exports in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Graph 8: Trade in grain sorghum (excluding seed for sowing), in millions of constant 2023 Rand, and in millions of kilograms, Q4 2013 – Q4 2023



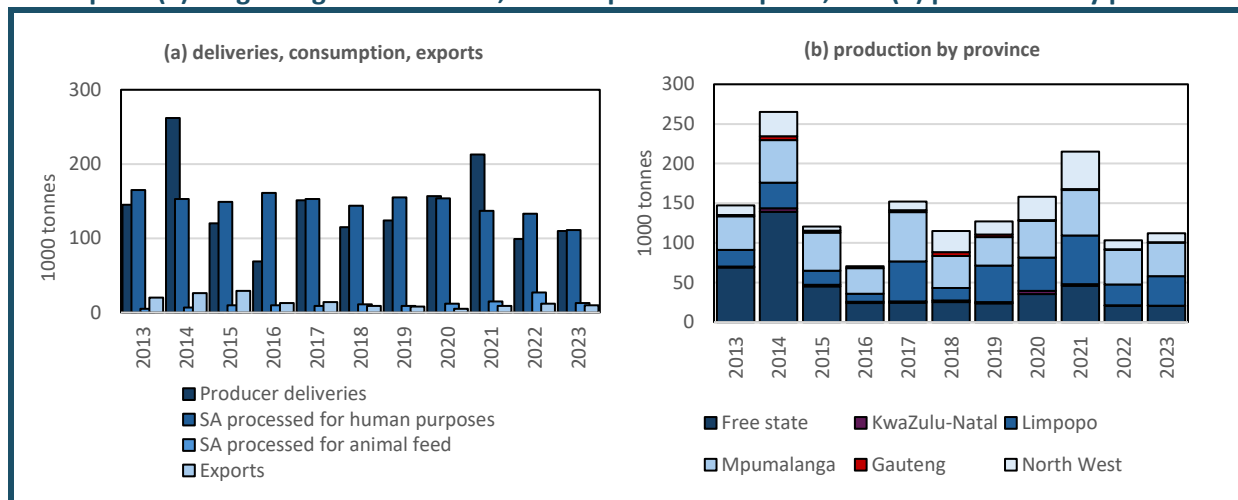
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA, to the fourth quarter of 2023.

The data from the Abstract of Agricultural Statistics from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development show that domestic grain sorghum production has been declining for the past 20 years. Declining production has been accompanied by a 76% decline in total area planted, from 142 000 hectares in 2000 to 34 000 hectares by 2023. The largest contributors to total production in 2023 were Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Free State, and North West. This has led to production sometimes being insufficient to meet local and export demand (see Graph 9 for deliveries and production by province). The decrease in total production is attributed to farmers switching to planting corn and oilseeds due to higher yields and profits.⁶

⁶ Esterhuizen, D. 2023. Sorghum Imports to Raise on Low Stocks and Production. United States Department of Agriculture. Available: <https://fas.usda.gov/data/south-africa-sorghum-imports-raise-low-stocks-and-production>

Graph 9: (a) Sorghum grain deliveries, consumption and exports, and (b) production by province



Source: Adapted from Abstract of Agricultural Statistics using data provided by Quantec EasyData online database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in March 2024.

Finding 3: Data errors and other issues

Table 3: Possible data errors

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION
98010030	Automotive components: For motor cars	Error in reporting quantity imported from Germany in December 2023. The surge in reported imported volumes corresponds with a decline in value, which adds weight to the view that this is a data error.
44079500	Ash “fraxinus spp.”, sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness of > 6 mm	Error in converting quantity imported from Italy (which is reported by Italy in kilograms, and by South Africa in cubic metres).
44071100	Pine “pinus spp.” sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness of > 6 mm	Similar to HS 44079500, there is an error in converting imported quantities, this time from Türkiye, which reports in kilograms (and South Africa in cubic metres).
72123000	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of < 600 mm, hot-rolled or cold-rolled	Error in reporting quantity imported from China. Imported volumes from China are reported to have surged to 56 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2023, from 134 638 kilograms in the previous quarter. The reported volumes are far higher than what China reported as exports to South Africa (2.2 million kilograms). Moreover, there are notable discrepancies in the reported data for the two countries (see Graph 10)).

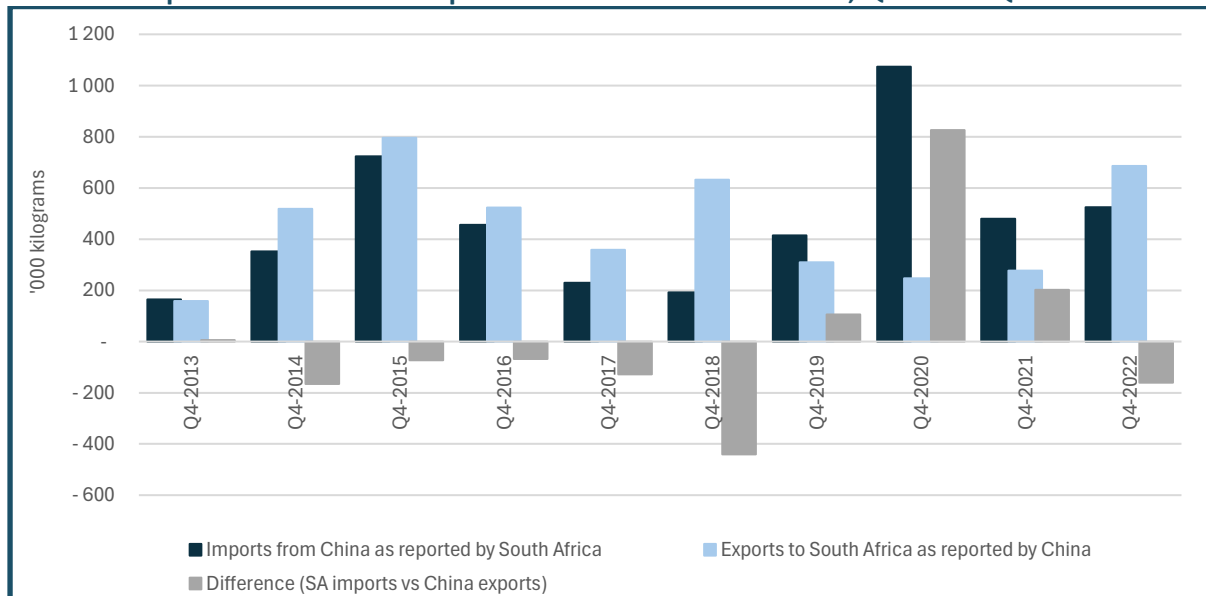
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.

Possible trade mispricing

Graph 10 shows imported volumes reported by South Africa for Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of < 600 mm, hot-rolled or cold-rolled (HS 72123000), and exports from China to South Africa as reported on ITC Trade Map. The graph shows clear discrepancies in what South Africa has been reporting as imports from China and what China reports as exports to South Africa. Between the fourth quarters of 2014 and 2018 South Africa reported lower imported volumes from China compared to what China reported as exports, with this trend shifting between the fourth quarters of

2019 and 2021. It is not clear what is driving the data discrepancies. Similar such discrepancies were noted in South Africa’s exports. See TIPS report [Measures to prevent theft of scrap metal](#).

Graph 10: Differences in reported volumes for HS 72123000, Q4 2013 – Q4 2022⁷



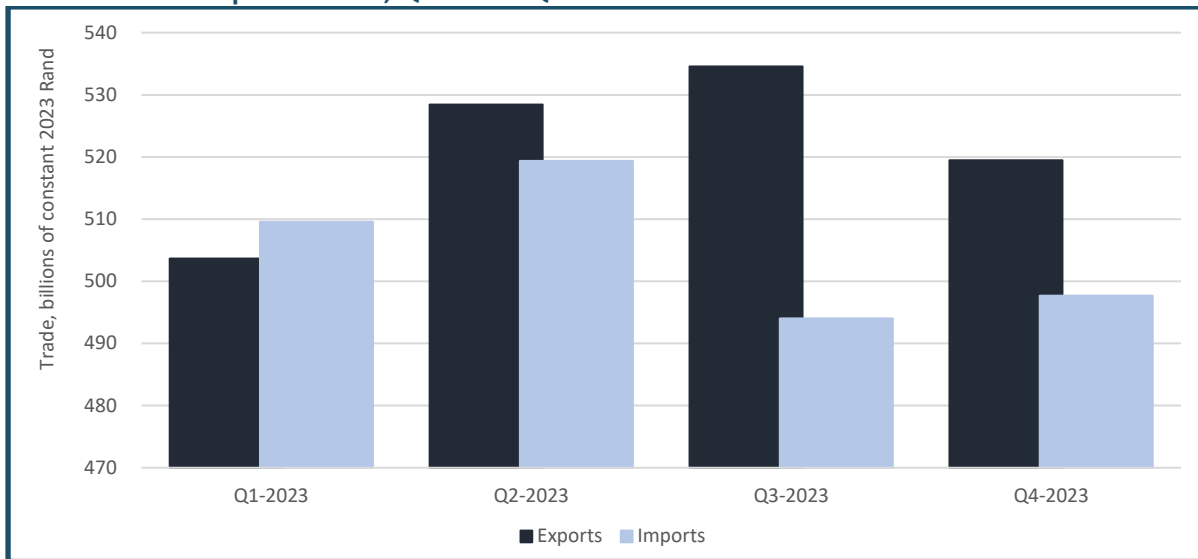
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2024.

Section 2: Summary of trends from 2023

South Africa maintained a trade surplus throughout 2023, except for the first quarter when there was a trade deficit for the first time since the first quarter of 2019 (see Graph 11). Falling minerals prices were the main cause of the deficit – with coal prices in particular falling throughout the year, leading to at least R80 billion in lost revenue from coal exports. Nevertheless, improvements in other mineral prices and improvements in global logistics saw South Africa’s exports grow during the year, peaking at R535.7 billion in the third quarter of 2023 (while imports were at their lowest for the year, at R494 billion). Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates, chromium ores, goods vehicles and gold were some of the main contributors to South Africa’s export growth. In turn, diesel imports, which drove import growth throughout 2022, saw notable declines in 2023, along with petrol imports. In addition crude imports, which had declined significantly since the loss of local refinery capacity in 2021, have been growing since the third quarter of 2023, due to the improvement in refinery capacity.

⁷ Excludes Q4-2023 as the data error significantly skews the graph such that data for other quarters become unclear.

Graph 11: Trade, Q1 2023 – Q4 2023 in billions of constant 2023 Rand



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

Five products were selected for additional analysis between the first and third quarters of 2023, with three of them in the first quarter. These included ball-point pens and roasted malt of barley, for which the trend has returned to normal (see Table 4). Additional analysis revealed no clear reason for what was a once-off surge in ball-point pen imports, which were driven by surges from Tunisia and Brazil. In addition, there was no surge in exports, which would have indicated importing for re-export. For barley, which is a key input for the food and beverage industries, crop failure was found to be the reason for the surge in imports. Imports of this product also returned to normal following the surge.

Further, of the 150 products covered in the Top 50 list of imports by volumes between the first and third quarters of 2023, some 48 products showed decreases in imported volumes year-on-year (14 of these 48 products showed decreased year-on-year volumes, but increases in the value of imports). In addition, some 24 products were flagged for potential data errors over the same period. Most of the identified errors were due to problems converting from the unit of measurement used by the source of the imports to the unit used by South Africa. For instance, 15 of the identified data errors were of wood items, which the exporting countries mainly report in kilograms, while South Africa reports the quantities in cubic metres.

Table 4: Status of surge for previously analysed items for 2023

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	QUARTER ANALYSED	STATUS OF SURGE	QUANTITY AT QUARTER OF ANALYSIS	QUANTITY AS OF Q4 2023	UNITS
96081000	Ball-point pens	Q1	Returned to normal trend	90 810 678	47 431 675	Units
11072020	Roasted malt: Of barley	Q1	Returned to normal trend	74 314 396	10 522 079	Kilograms
25010010	Salts, including table salt and denatured salt, and pure sodium chloride: Not for human consumption	Q1	Fluctuating	71 233 038	73 729 110	Kilograms
27011100	Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Q2	Slowing	187 759 591	130 197 275	Kilograms
25231000	Cement clinkers	Q3	Fluctuating	56 603 061	61 231 118	Kilograms

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

DATA ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Top 100 import products by Rand value, Q4 2023

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2022 – Q4 2023	DESIGNATION STATUS
1	27101230	Diesel	53.33	No change	Not designated
2	27090000	Crude oil	32.66	1	Not designated
3	98010030	Automotive components: For motor cars	15.80	-1	Not designated
4	27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	14.60	1	Not designated
5	98010040	Original equipment components: For goods vehicles	13.63	-1	Not designated
6	85171310	Smartphones for wireless networks	8.58	2	Not designated
7	49070014	Foreign currency, in circulation, imported	8.42	-1	Not designated
8	30049099	Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes	6.24	1	Not designated
9	87032290	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 000 cm ³ to 1 500 cm ³	5.22	2	Not designated
10	85076000	Lithium-ion accumulators (excluding spent)	4.63	-3	Not designated
11	84713090	Data-processing machines, automatic, portable, weighing <= 10 kg	4.20	7	Not designated
12	71081300	Gold, in semi-manufactured forms, for non-monetary purposes	3.99	9	Not designated
13	85176290	Routers and set-top boxes: Other	3.97	No change	Routers not designated; STB 30% designated
14	10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	3.88	6	Not designated
15	98010045	Original equipment components: for goods vehicles	3.49	-5	Not designated
16	27101226	Light oils and preparations: illuminating kerosene	3.47	No change	Not designated
17	87041090	Dumpers for off-highway use: Other	2.85	11	Not designated
18	33021000	Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures, incl. alcoholic solutions of a kind used in the food and drink industries	2.47	12	Not designated
19	85044000	Static converters	2.41	-5	Not designated
20	28182000	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	2.39	7	Not designated
21	27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	2.38	13	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2022 – Q4 2023	DESIGNATION STATUS
22	85023100	Generating sets: Wind-powered	2.30	32	Not designated
23	98010015	Automotive components: For tractors and buses	2.28	24	Not designated
24	87032190	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity not exceeding 1000 cm3	2.22	5	Not designated
25	87019500	Tractors, of an engine power > 130 kw	2.21	18	Not designated
26	87032390	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity 1500 cm3 to 3000 cm3	2.18	-9	Not designated
27	87033390	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity exceeding 2500 cm3	2.03	-2	Not designated
28	15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	2.02	-2	Not designated
29	10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	1.98	-14	Not designated
30	90189000	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, n.e.s.	1.92	1	Not designated
31	31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	1.87	-12	Not designated
32	27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	1.86	3	Not designated
33	27101257	Light oils and preparations: Other base oils	1.84	15	Not designated
34	84314990	Parts of machinery of heading 8426, 8429 and 8430, n.e.s.: Other	1.83	4	Not designated
35	38249999	Chemical products and preparations of the chemical or allied industries	1.76	6	Not designated
36	84715000	Processing units for automatic data-processing machines	1.74	1	Not designated
37	27160000	Electrical energy	1.65	-4	Not designated
38	87033290	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity 1000 cm3 to 2 500 cm3	1.53	-14	Not designated
39	87089990	Parts and accessories for tractors and buses	1.52	-3	Not designated
40	38151200	Supported catalysts with precious metal or a precious-metal compound as the active substance, n.e.s.	1.50	86	Not designated
41	27101207	Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene	1.49	3	Not designated
42	84718000	Units for automatic data-processing machines (excluding processing units, input or output units and storage units)	1.48	105	Not designated
43	84295200	Self-propelled bulldozers, etc: With 360 degree revolving superstructure	1.46	-21	Not designated
44	74081100	Wire of refined copper, with a maximum cross-sectional dimension of > 6 mm	1.36	-12	Not designated
45	87082900	Parts and accessories of bodies for tractors and goods and passenger vehicles	1.32	-6	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2022 – Q4 2023	DESIGNATION STATUS
46	31054000	Ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate and mixtures thereof with diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate	1.31	78	Not designated
47	84439900	Parts and accessories of printers, copying machines and facsimile machines, n.e.s.	1.29	3	Not designated
48	38089399	Herbicides, anti-sprouting products and plant-growth regulators	1.22	12	Not designated
49	71023100	Non-industrial diamonds unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted	1.21	-26	Not designated
50	84335100	Combine harvester-threshers	1.19	75	Not designated
51	85177900	Parts of telephone sets, telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks	1.19	20	Not designated
52	15121190	Crude sunflower-seed or safflower oil: Other	1.14	7	Not designated
53	88073000	Parts of aeroplanes, helicopters or unmanned aircraft, n.e.s. (excluding those for gliders)	1.14	5	Not designated
54	27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	1.12	-9	Not designated
55	27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated	1.11	-15	Not designated
56	38221900	Prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing	1.11	-4	Not designated
57	98010025	Original equipment components: For buses and taxis	1.01	-6	Bus bodies 80% designated
58	88024000	Aeroplanes and other powered aircraft of an of an unladen weight > 15000 kg	0.99	-16	Not designated
59	84089090	Compression-ignition internal combustion piston "diesel or semi-diesel engine": Other	0.99	-10	Not designated
60	84717000	Storage units for automatic data-processing machines	0.94	29	Not designated
61	84291100	Self-propelled bulldozers and angledozers, track laying	0.93	12	Not designated
62	17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter	0.92	-7	Not designated
63	39269090	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s.: Other	0.91	-2	Not designated
64	85414300	Photovoltaic cells assembled in modules or made up into panels	0.89	-52	Solar PV components 70% designated
65	27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): other	0.88	35	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2022 – Q4 2023	DESIGNATION STATUS
66	87019400	Tractors, of an engine power > 75 kw but <= 130 kw (excl. those of heading 8709, pedestrian-controlled tractors, road tractors for semi-trailers and track-laying tractors)	0.88	-1	Not designated
67	94019990	Parts of seats, not of wood, n.e.s.: Other	0.87	-10	Not designated
68	27101215	Light oils and preparations: Illuminating kerosene	0.86	8	Not designated
69	87032490	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity exceeding 3 000 cm3	0.85	-16	Not designated
70	39011000	Polyethylene having a specific gravity of less than 0,94	0.83	129	Not designated
71	61091000	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	0.81	-5	100% designated
72	84798990	Machines and mechanical appliances, n.e.s.: Other	0.80	2	Not designated
73	48115990	Paper and paperboard, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed, coated, impregnated or covered with artificial resins or plastics, in rolls or in square or rectangular sheets, of any size (excluding bleached and weighing > 150 g/m ² , and adhesives): Other	0.80	15	Not designated
74	74031100	Copper, refined, in the form of cathodes and sections of cathodes	0.79	-18	Not designated
75	33049990	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin: Other	0.79	12	Not designated
76	31042000	Potassium chloride	0.76	-30	Not designated
77	84219990	Parts of machinery and apparatus for filtering or purifying liquids or gases, n.e.s.: Other	0.75	73	Not designated
78	84834000	Gears and gearing for machinery ball or roller screws; gear boxes and other speed changers	0.75	16	Not designated
79	30021500	Immunological products, put up in measured doses, or in forms or packings for retail	0.74	-11	Not designated
80	27132000	Petroleum bitumen	0.73	3	Not designated
81	88021200	Helicopters of an unladen mass exceeding 2 000 kg	0.72	2480	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	0.72	-13	Insulated MV Switchgear housing 25% designated
83	84071000	Spark-ignition reciprocating or rotary internal combustion piston engine, for aircraft	0.72	128	Not designated
84	27111200	Propane, liquefied	0.71	No change	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2022 – Q4 2023	DESIGNATION STATUS
85	39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of $\geq 0,94$, in primary forms	0.69	-23	Not designated
86	22083010	Whiskies: in containers holding 2 li or less	0.68	-16	Not designated
87	84749000	Parts of machinery for working mineral substances of heading 8474, n.e.s.	0.67	-1	Not designated
88	27011100	Anthracite	0.67	8	Not designated
89	95030090	Tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys: Other	0.65	2	Not designated
90	84433100	Printers and fax machines	0.64	56	Not designated
91	84314300	Parts for boring or sinking machinery of subheading 8430.41 or 8430.49	0.64	4	Not designated
92	21069090	Food preparations, n.e.s.: Other	0.64	9	Not designated
93	87012120	Road tractors for semi-trailers, with only compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine: of a vehicle mass exceeding 1 600 kg	0.64	-14	Not designated
94	27101900	Medium oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals, not containing biodiesel, n.e.s.	0.63	-14	Not designated
95	85443000	Ignition wiring sets and other wiring sets of a kind used in vehicles, aircraft or ships	0.63	-32	Not designated
96	27131200	Petroleum coke, calcined	0.63	-24	Not designated
97	38170010	Mixed alkylbenzenes and mixed alkylnaphthalenes produced by the alkylation of benzene and naphthalene	0.62	47	Not designated
98	38112100	Prepared additives for oil lubricants containing petroleum oil or bituminous mineral oil	0.62	-17	Not designated
99	84304100	Self-propelled boring or sinking machinery for boring earth or extracting minerals or ores	0.60	4	Not designated
100	87085085	Drive-axles with differential, whether or not provided with other transmission components	0.59	-23	Not designated

Annexure 2: Surges in import products by quantity Q4 2023

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
1	10064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	Decline in imports	- 11 192 887 781	Units	-2%	Not designated
2	27101230	Diesel	Decline in imports	- 26 904 411	Litres	-1%	Not designated
3	27090000	Crude oil	Import commodity	998 947 283	Kilograms	69%	Not designated
4	27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	Decline in imports	- 237 751 016	Litres	-18%	Not designated
5	98010030	Automotive components: For motor cars	Data error	668 436 817	Kilograms	1316%	Not designated
6	27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	Not significant	46 186 766	Kilograms	7%	Not designated
7	10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	Surge within usual variance	166 881 295	Kilograms	80%	Not designated
8	28182000	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	Decline in imports	- 10 954 301	Kilograms	-3%	Not designated
9	10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	Not significant	56 533 241	Kilograms	20%	Not designated
10	01069000	Live animals (excluding mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates and cultures of micro-organisms, etc.)	Apparent decline due to error in base year ⁸	- 9 319 206 002	Units	-97%	Not designated
11	44123900	Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood <= 6 mm thick	Decline in imports	- 103 031 426	Cubic metres	-28%	Not designated
12	31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	Decline in imports	- 15 440 750	Kilograms	-6%	Not designated
13	27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated	Surge within usual variance	103 207 207	Kilograms	68%	Not designated
14	44079100	Oak "Quercus spp.", sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled	Decline in imports	- 198 764 709	Cubic metres	-45%	Not designated
15	27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	Decline in imports	- 35 344 924	Litres	-13%	Not designated
16	27101226	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals	Ongoing monitoring	71 559 219	Litres	45%	Not designated
17	27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Not significant	2 938 140	Kilograms	1%	Not designated
18	25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	Surge within usual variance	88 988 436	Kilograms	74%	100% designated

⁸ The apparent decline is due to a data error in the fourth quarter of 2022 when volumes imported from Germany were converted incorrectly from tonnes to units.

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
19	31054000	Ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate, whether or not mixed with diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate	Surge within usual variance	87 160 715	Kilograms	141%	Not designated
20	25030000	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	Surge within usual variance	69 912 669	Kilograms	102%	Not designated
21	27011100	Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Ongoing monitoring	6 138 446	Kilograms	5%	Not designated
22	15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined (excluding chemically modified and crude)	Not significant	15 280 237	Kilograms	14%	Not designated
23	31022100	Ammonium sulphate (excluding that in pellet or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Not significant	34 003 471	Kilograms	38%	Not designated
24	27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Decline in imports	- 129 396 214	Kilograms	-52%	Not designated
25	44079500	Ash "fraxinus spp.", sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness of > 6 mm	Data error	119 999 790	Cubic metres	17518218%	Not designated
26	44123300	Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood <= 6 mm thick, with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood of the species alder, ash etc.	Surge within usual variance	55 176 256	Cubic metres	86%	Not designated
27	27101257	Light oils and preparations: Other base oils for prepared lubricating oil	Not significant	28 683 456	Litres	33%	Not designated
28	44011200	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, non-coniferous	Decline in imports	- 59 988 462	Kilograms	-35%	Not designated
29	44071100	Pine "pinus spp", sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness of > 6 mm	Data error	105 991 286	Cubic metres	54185%	Not designated
30	27101207	Light oils and preparations: aviation kerosene	Decline in imports	- 159 695 723	Litres	-61.1%	Not designated
31	28151200	Sodium hydroxide "caustic soda" in aqueous solution "soda lye or liquid sod"	Surge within usual variance	62 352 414	Kilograms	167%	Not designated
32	31042000	Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser	Decline in imports	- 15 578 207	Kilograms	-14%	Not designated
33	25201000	Gypsum; anhydrite	Decline in imports	- 60 783 692	Kilograms	-42%	Not designated
34	25010010	Salts, including table salt and denatured salt, and pure sodium chloride: Not for human consumption	Ongoing monitoring	46 701 185	Kilograms	173%	Not designated
35	27132000	Petroleum bitumen	Ongoing monitoring	46 404 810	Kilograms	196%	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
36	27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	Ongoing monitoring	37 541 236	Kilograms	116%	Not designated
37	17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter	Decline in imports	- 4 013 687	Kilograms	-6%	Not designated
38	10079000	Grain sorghum (excluding for sowing)	Selected for analysis	66 098 343	Kilograms	18054%	Not designated
39	85235210	Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits "smart cards": Digital	Decline in imports	- 11 781 996	Units	-15%	Not designated
40	28362000	Disodium carbonate	Decline in imports	- 47 363 218	Kilograms	-42%	Not designated
41	15121190	Crude sunflower-seed or safflower oil: other	Surge within usual variance	40 411 578	Kilograms	168%	Not designated
42	10039000	Barley (excluding seed for sowing)	Not significant	18 024 163	Kilograms	40%	Not designated
43	25010090	Salts, including table salt and denatured salt, and pure sodium chloride: Other	Not significant	17 615 161	Kilograms	40%	Not designated
44	25231000	Cement clinkers	Ongoing monitoring	61 186 590	Kilograms	137411%	Not designated
45	27131200	Petroleum coke, calcined	Not significant	7 458 979	Kilograms	14%	Not designated
46	27111200	Propane, liquefied	Decline in imports	- 3 586 099	Kilograms	-6%	Not designated
47	98010040	Original equipment components: for goods vehicles	Not significant	7 104 743	Kilograms	14%	Not designated
48	72123000	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of < 600 mm, hot-rolled or cold-rolled	Data error	55 452 285	Kilograms	9295%	100% designated
49	27101215	Light oils and preparations: Illuminating kerosene	Not significant	6 171 448	Litres	12%	Not designated
50	02071210	Frozen fowls of the species gallus domesticus, not cut in pieces: Mechanically deboned meat	Not significant	6 814 930	Kilograms	15%	Not designated