



TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES



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

TIPS IMPORT TRACKER

THIRD QUARTER 2024

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TIPS TRACKERS

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Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)

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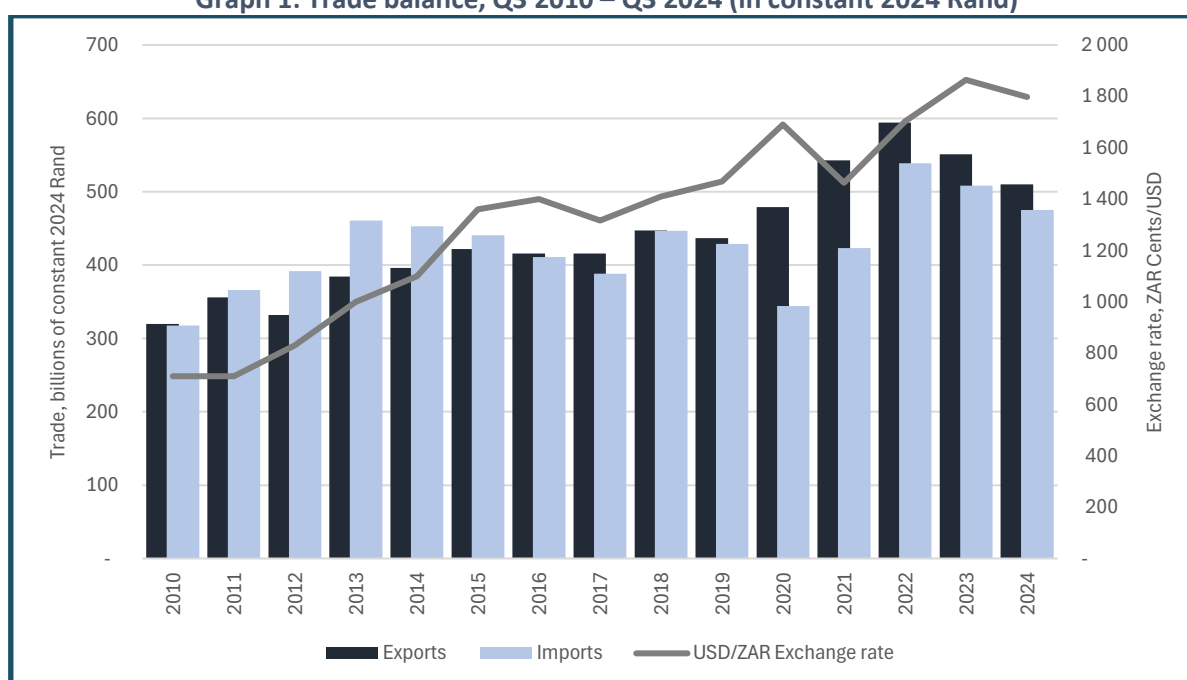
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Trade context

South Africa's trade surplus declined by 18% to R35 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2024. In real terms, the overall surplus declined by almost R8 billion over this period (in constant 2024 Rand). The decline in the surplus is more pronounced quarter-on-quarter, falling by just over a third from R54 billion between the second and third quarters of 2024. Even with the trade surplus, total exports and imports declined in the year to the third quarter of 2024, by almost 8% for exports, and almost 7% for imports. Total exports for the third quarter of 2024 amounted to R510 billion, while imports amounted to R475 billion (see Graph 1). The composition of the top five import products remains unchanged. Imports of diesel continued to fall, with a R14 billion decrease to R32 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2024. In contrast, imports of crude oil continue to grow, rising by R6 billion to R25 billion in the same period (see Graph 2).

Graph 1: Trade balance, Q3 2010 – Q3 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)



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

The composition of the top five import sources changed slightly from the second quarter of 2024, with India displacing Germany as the second largest source of imports, and Thailand replacing the United Arab Emirates as the fifth largest source of imports by value. In real terms, the value of imports from the five countries fell by R15 billion to R231 billion in the third quarter of 2024. With the exception of China and India, imports from the other countries declined year-on-year, with imports from the United States (US) falling by R14 billion to R33 billion, imports from Germany falling by R12 billion to R33 billion, and imports from Thailand falling by almost R300 million to R17 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2024. In contrast, imports from China grew by some R11 billion to R112 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2024, while imports from India grew by some R5 billion to R36 billion.

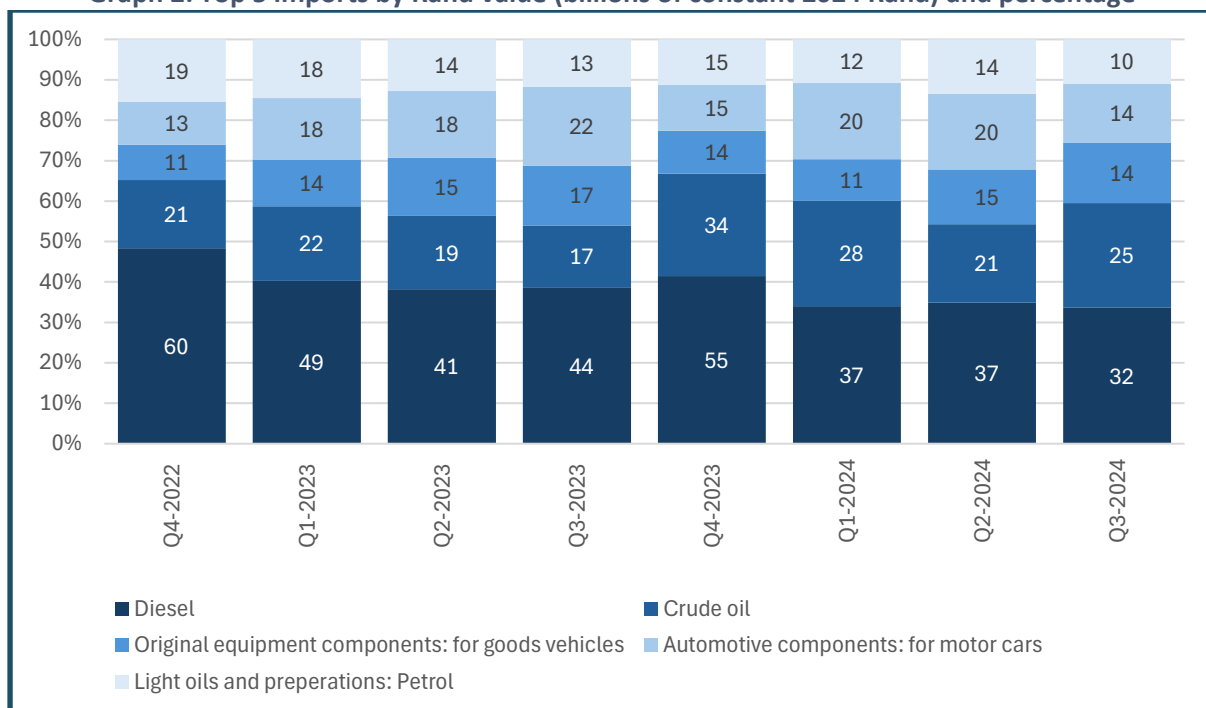
There is no singular product driving the growth in imports from China. Rather, the growth is happening across a range of products. These include smartphones and passenger vehicles, which grew by just over R1 billion and R972 million respectively. There was a notable shift in imports of renewable energy products like photovoltaic cells, lithium-ion accumulators and wind-powered generating sets from

China (which is the largest source of especially photovoltaic cells and related products). Some of the growth in imports of photovoltaic cells was driven by a surge in demand for renewables in response to the loadshedding crisis. As such, improvements in energy supply led to a notable fall in imports in the subsequent quarters. With the implementation of a temporary rebate on assembled photovoltaic cells in mid-2024, as of the third quarter of 2024, imports had declined to 2022 levels (in constant 2024 Rand). Additional to the decline in assembled photovoltaic cells imports, imports of lithium-ion accumulators declined by 80% to almost R2 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2024, while imports of static converters declined by almost 40% to just under R2 billion. In this period, imports of wind-powered generating sets from China grew noticeably from the third quarter of 2023, amounting to R1 billion, before reaching their highest point of almost R3 billion in the third quarter of 2024.

The decline in imports from Germany was driven by notable decreases in imports of both goods and passenger vehicles, while the decline in imports from the US was due to decreases across a range of products, rather than a singular product.

Except for exports to Mozambique, and exports to areas not elsewhere specified (Areas NES)¹, exports to the top five countries (China, the US, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan) declined by a combined R12 billion to R182 billion in the third quarter of 2024. While year-on-year exports to China grew, by almost R4 billion (driven by exports non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates, manganese ores and chemical wood pulp, among other products), exports to the other countries declined. Exports to Germany fell by almost R10 billion, followed by a R4 billion decline in exports to Japan, as well as a R2 billion fall in exports to the US. Exports to the UK show the lowest decline, falling by R276 million.

Graph 2: Top 5 imports by Rand value (billions of constant 2024 Rand) and percentage

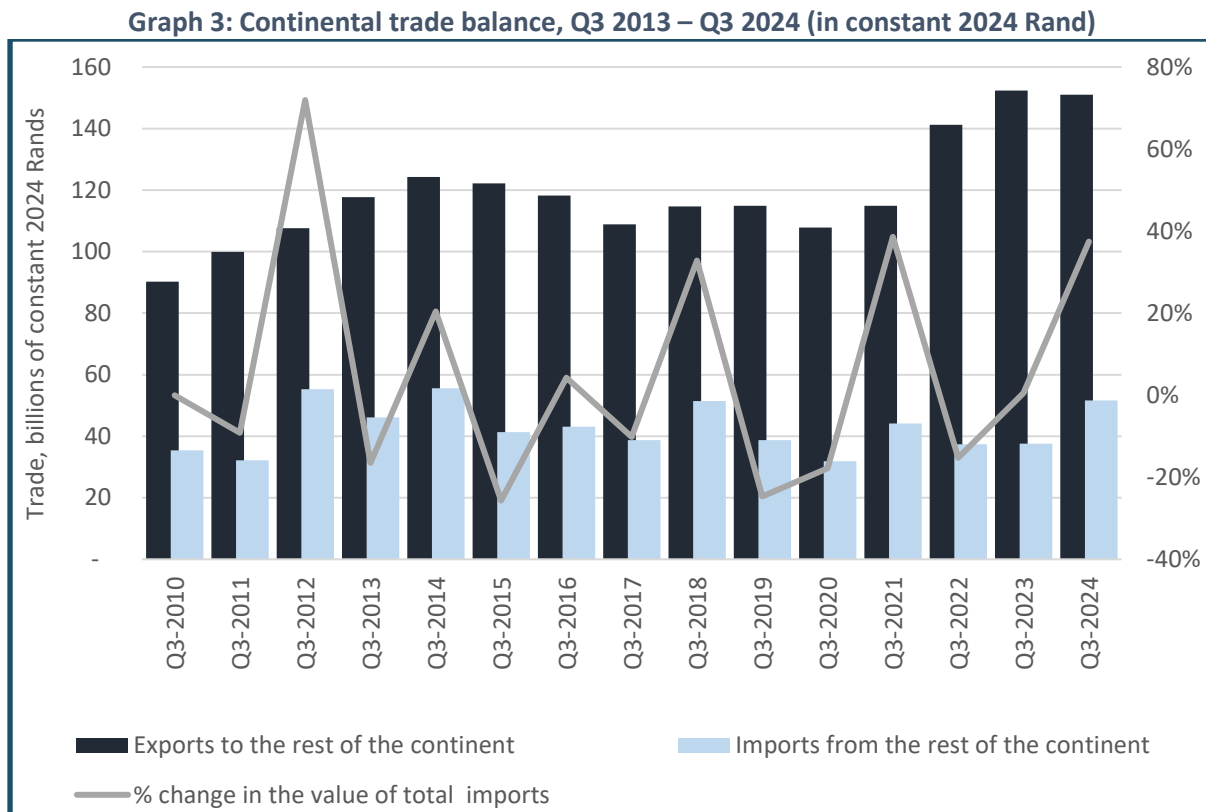


Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in December 2024. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the third quarter of 2024.

¹ In real terms, exports to Areas NES were the third highest in the third quarter of 2024, at R39 billion, and exports to Mozambique were the fourth highest, and amounted to R35 billion. These are excluded from the top five as exports to Areas NES cover a range of territories, and exports to Mozambique include products meant for re-export – mainly ores.

Continental trade

South Africa’s trade with the rest of the continent contracted by some 13% to R99 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2024. Exports declined to R151 billion in the third quarter of 2024, falling marginally by just under 1%. In contrast, imports from the continent increased by 37%, growing to R52 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2024. This growth can be attributed to increases in imports of mineral products and precious metals. Graph 3 shows South Africa’s trade balance with the rest of the continent.



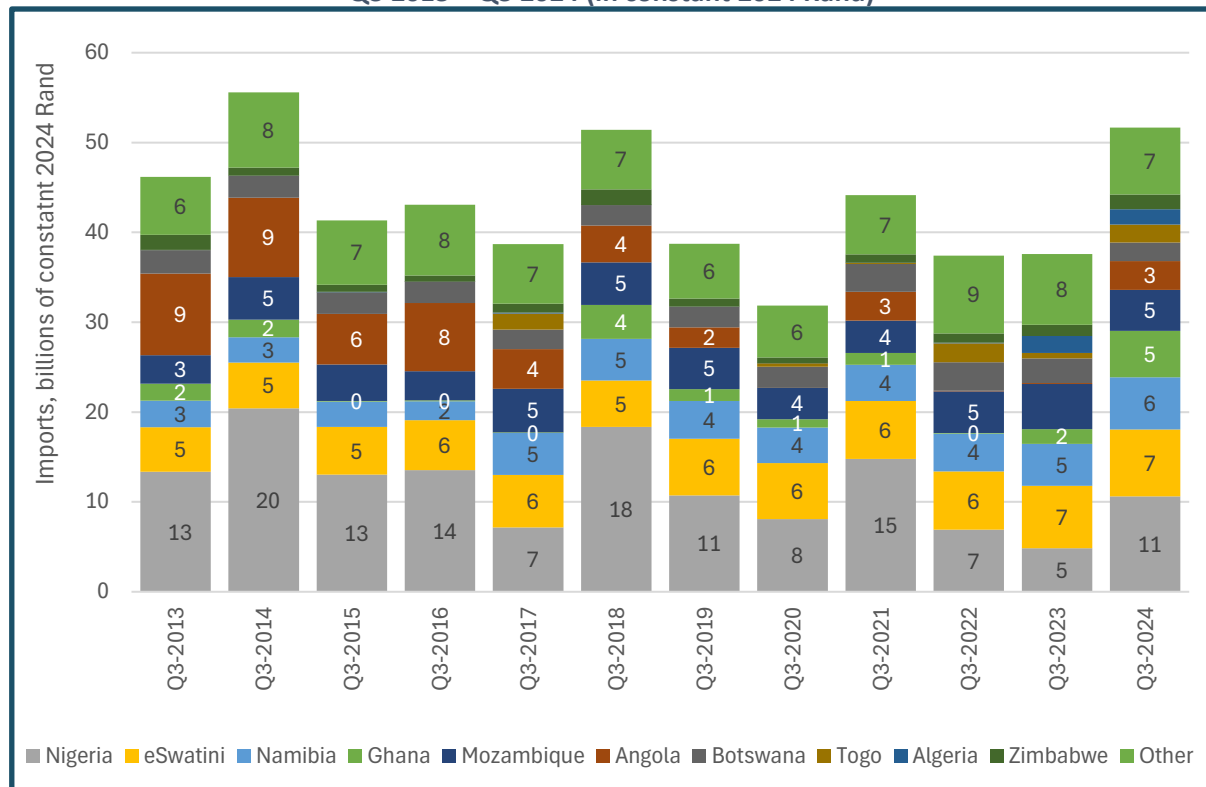
Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in December 2024. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the third quarter of 2024.

Graph 4 shows the top 10 countries for South Africa’s imports from the continent. In the third quarter of 2024 imports from the top 10 countries accounted for 86% of total imports from the continent. Imports from these countries amounted to R44 billion in the third quarter of 2024, up from R30 billion in the third quarter of 2023. At R11 billion, Nigeria was the largest source of imports by value, accounting for 21% of total continental imports, followed by eSwatini with 14% (R7 billion) of total imports from the continent. South Africa’s imports from Nigeria doubled year-on-year due to an increase in crude oil imports. Imported volumes also increased in the year to the third quarter of 2024. The growth marks a return to normal levels² from a lower than usual base in the third quarter of 2023 (390 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2023 compared to 904 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2024). Production decreases in Nigeria in the third quarter of 2023 saw South Africa’s imports from Nigeria fall to R5 billion in the third quarter of 2023 from about R10 billion in the second quarter of 2023. For that period, Ghana and Algeria supplied part of South Africa’s demand.

² About 1.2 billion kilograms per quarter.

Imports from eSwatini amounted to just over R7 billion, with mixtures of odoriferous substances for the food and beverage industry, and raw cane sugar in solid form amounting to a combined almost R3 billion in the third quarter of 2024. There was also notable growth in imports from Angola, which mainly exported crude oil to South Africa. Crude oil imports from Angola are sporadic, and seemingly aimed at meeting excess demand when they do occur.

Graph 4: Top 10 African countries from which South Africa imports goods, Q3 2013 – Q3 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)

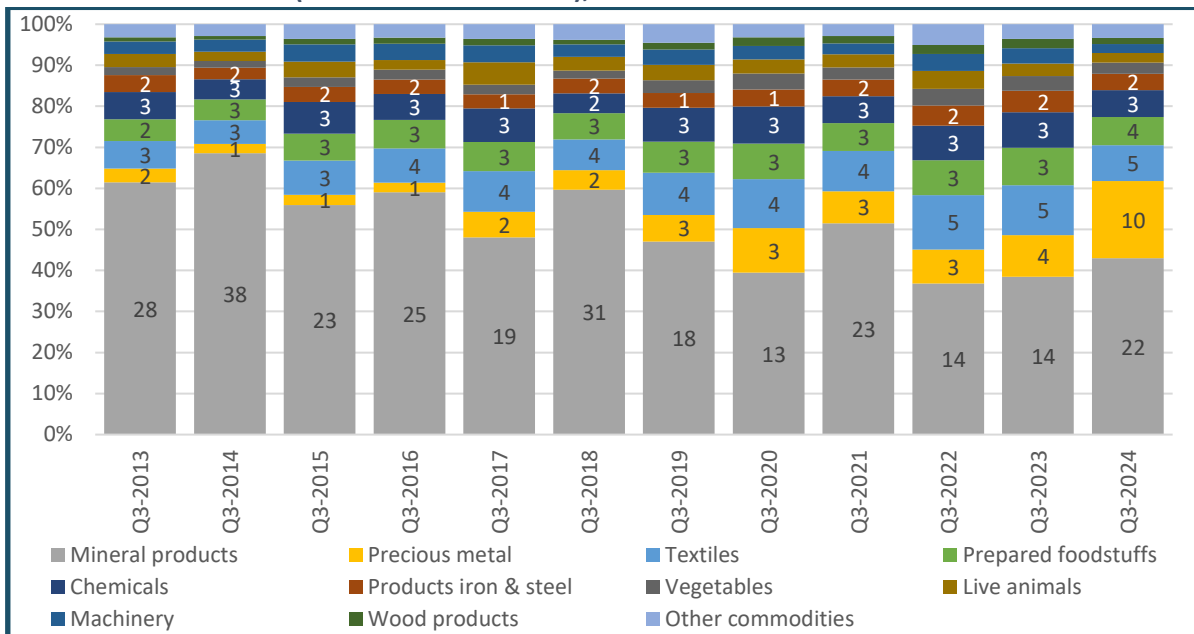


Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in December 2024. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the third quarter of 2024.

Graph 5 shows imports based on the product group. Mineral products constitute the largest share of goods imported from the rest of the continent, accounting for almost 45% of the total value of imports, followed by precious metals at 19% and textiles at 9% of total imports for the third quarter of 2024. Total mineral products imports amounted to R22 billion in the third quarter of 2024, an increase of about 55% year-on-year. The largest share of these imports – R15 billion, or just over two thirds – was crude oil.

Second to mineral products, precious metals showed the most growth, increasing by 157% to R10 billion in the year to the third quarter of 2024. This was largely due to non-monetary unwrought gold that has industrial uses in industries like electronics and jewellery production, and semi-manufactured gold which includes gold bars and coins. The unwrought gold was predominantly from Ghana with an amount of R5 billion, and the semi-manufactured gold was mainly from Namibia at a sum of R4 billion in the third quarter of 2024.

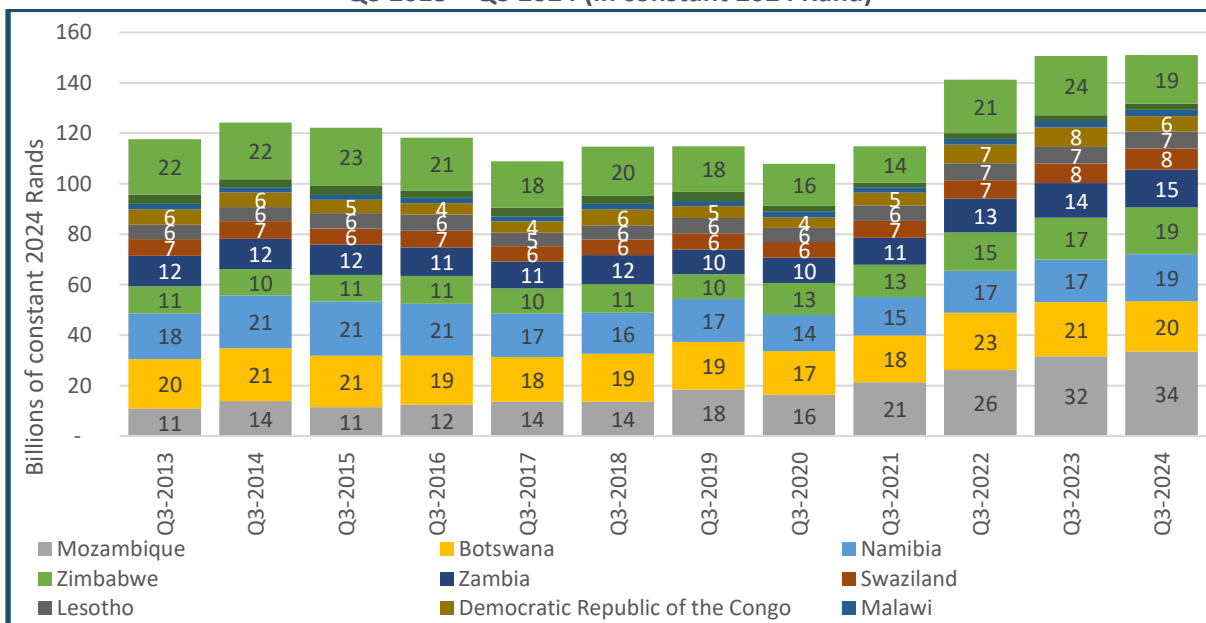
Graph 5: South Africa’s imports from the continent by product group, Q3 2013 – Q3 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand), and as a share of the total



Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in December 2024. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the third quarter of 2024.

Graph 6 shows goods exported by South Africa to the top 10 trade partners on the continent. In the third quarter of 2024 exports to these countries amount to R132 billion, an increment of 4% year-on-year. Mozambique, Botswana and Namibia are among the top destinations with exports to these countries amounting to R34 billion, R20 billion and R19 billion respectively. Close to a third (R10 billion) of exports to Mozambique consists of chromium ores and concentrates which are mainly for re-export.

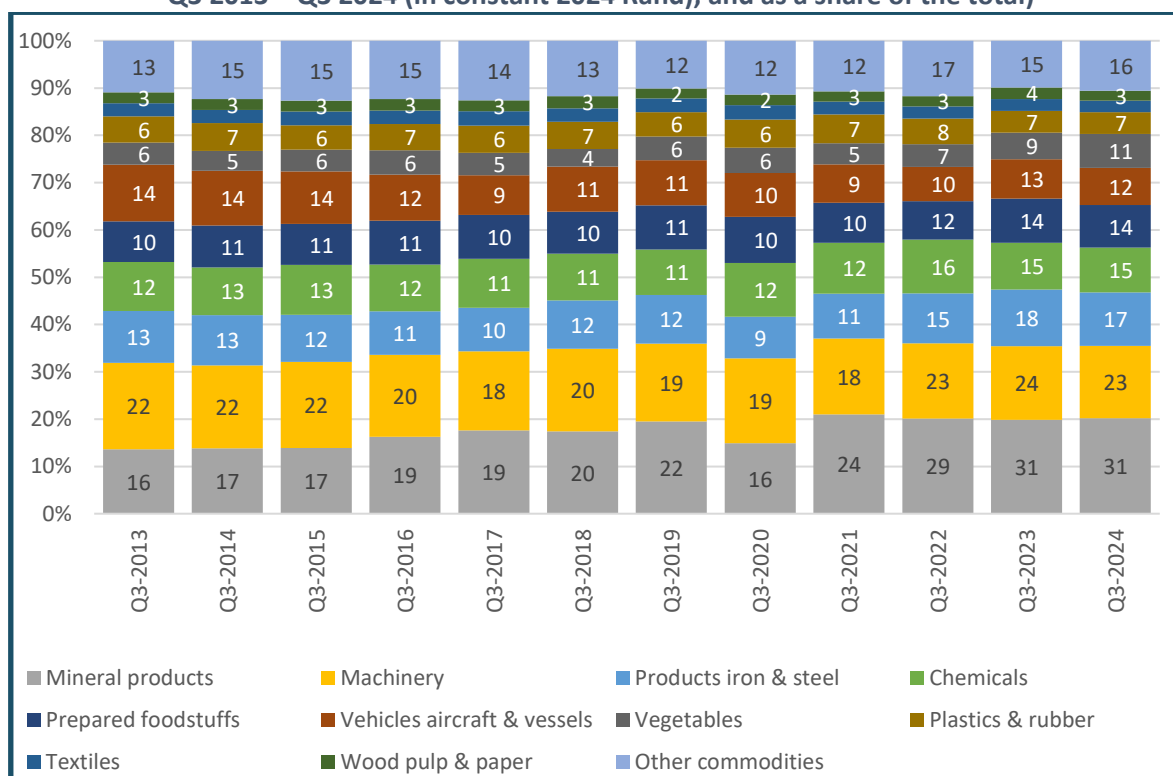
Graph 6: Top 10 African countries to which South Africa exports goods, Q3 2013 – Q3 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)



Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in December 2024. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the third quarter of 2024.

As shown, South Africa’s largest exports by product group are shown in Graph 7. Mineral products make up the largest share of exports to the continent. In the third quarter 2024 these amounted to R31 billion, an increase of 1% year-on-year. Machinery is another top export commodity; though with a decline of 4% in the year to the third quarter of 2024, exports amounted to R23 billion. Exports of prepared food stuff, vehicles aircraft and vessels, and vegetables also declined this quarter.

Graph 7: South Africa’s exports to the rest of the continent by product group, Q3 2013 – Q3 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand), and as a share of the total



Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in December 2024. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the third quarter of 2024.

Major imports

In constant 2024 Rand, the value of the Top 100 imports amounted to R253 billion in the third quarter of 2024, down from R271 billion in the second quarter of 2024. Annexure 1 shows the Top 100 import 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; and 8) aircraft and aircraft components.

Import surges

Annexure 2 shows the Top 50 imports by volumes for the third quarter of 2024. Changes in the trend of imported volumes are classified into various categories such as not significant; selected for analysis; ongoing monitoring; data errors; surge is within usual variance; and decline in imports. For the third quarter of 2024 three products were selected for analysis. In addition, 18 products show a decline in imported volumes, while another seven are being monitored due to prior surges (one product was in the Top 50 in the second quarter of 2024 but does not feature in the Top 50 for the third quarter of 2024). Three products were flagged as containing data errors. Of the 18 products for which imported volumes decreased, 16 show a decrease in value, with the other two showing a slight increase in the import value (see Table 1).

Table 1: Decline in imports between Q3 2023 and Q3 2024

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	REAL DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH/ DECLINE, QUANTITY	PERCENT GROWTH/ DECLINE, VALUE
27101230	Diesel	- 493 584 535	Litres	-16%	-27.1%
27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	- 78 913 428	Litres	-8%	-22.1%
27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	- 73 654 272	Kilograms	-9%	-10.2%
10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	- 24 882 809	Kilograms	-3%	-16.3%
31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	- 86 366 729	Kilograms	-18%	-30.9%
27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated; retort carbon	- 8 784 172	Kilograms	-3%	-35.6%
10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	- 35 957 184	Kilograms	-12%	0.1%
27101226	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals	- 91 227 021	Liters	-31%	-40.0%
44011200	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, non-coniferous	- 20 056 264	Kilograms	-11%	-13.3%
15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined (excluding chemically modified and crude): Other	- 6 071 610	Kilograms	-4%	-2.1%
27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	- 78 266 005	Liters	-40%	-24.7%
31022100	Ammonium sulphate (excluding that in pellet or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	- 3 564 535	Kilograms	-3%	-4.1%
25231000	Cement clinkers	- 6 093 134	Kilograms	-6%	-33.2%
17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter, obtained without centrifugation, with sucrose content 69° to 93°, containing only natural anhydrous microcrystals (see subheading note 2.)	- 1 196 970	Kilograms	-2%	0.3%
27132000	Petroleum bitumen	- 614 092	Kilograms	-1%	-21.8%
28362000	Disodium carbonate	- 22 376 780	Kilograms	-25%	-15.9%
98010040	Automotive components: for motor vehicles for the transport of goods of heading 87.04, of a vehicle mass not exceeding 2 000 kg or of a g.v.m. not exceeding 3 500 kg, or of a mass not exceeding 1 600 kg or of a g.v.m. not exceeding 3 500 kg per chassis fitted with a cab (excluding dumpers designed for	- 8 502 635	Kilograms	-12%	-15.8%

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	REAL DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH/ DECLINE, QUANTITY	PERCENT GROWTH/ DECLINE, VALUE
	off-highway use, shuttle cars and low construction flame-proof vehicles, for use in underground mines and off-the-road logging trucks)				
98010030	For motor cars (including station wagons) of heading 87.03	- 23 653 033	Kilograms	-34%	-37.4%

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in December 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
25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	Significant year-on-year increase	Imports increased by almost 60 million kilograms in the year to the third quarter of 2024. Vietnam continued to dominate imports, accounting for 89% of imported volumes, followed by Mozambique and Namibia at 7% and 3% respectively.
31042000	Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Slight year-on-year increase	Imports increased by some 5% to 163 million kilograms in the year to the third quarter of 2024, with Russia (50%) and Germany (24%) accounting for the bulk of imported volumes.
31054000	Ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate "monoammonium phosphate", whether or not mixed with diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate "diammonium phosphate" (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Significant year-on-year increase	Imported volumes more than doubled to 148 million kilograms in the year to the third quarter of 2024, with Russia accounting for two thirds of the volumes, followed by Saudi Arabia at 26% of imported volumes.
25030000	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	Slight year-on-year increase	Imports increased slightly from the third quarter of 2023, from 111 million kilograms to 116 million kilograms, with Russia (a sporadic but high volumes exporter of the product to South Africa) accounting for 47% of imported volumes.

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	STATUS OF SURGE	EXPLANATION
31026000	Double salts and mixtures of calcium nitrate and ammonium nitrate (excluding those in pellet or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Significant year-on-year increase	Imports increased by slightly more than 34 million kilograms (52%) to 100 million kilograms in the year to the third quarter of 2024, with Russia accounting for more than two thirds of imported volumes.
10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Other	Significant year-on-year increase	Import continued to grow from the second quarter of 2024. This maintained the year-on-year surge, with imported volumes growing from almost 70 000 kilograms in the third quarter of 2023 to 96 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2024.
25201000	Gypsum; anhydrite	Slight year-on-year increase	Imports increased by some four million kilograms to 14 million kilograms in the year to the third quarter of 2024. However, this marks a significant decline from the 113 million kilograms reported in the second quarter of 2024.

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

Finding 2: Potassium sulphate (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)

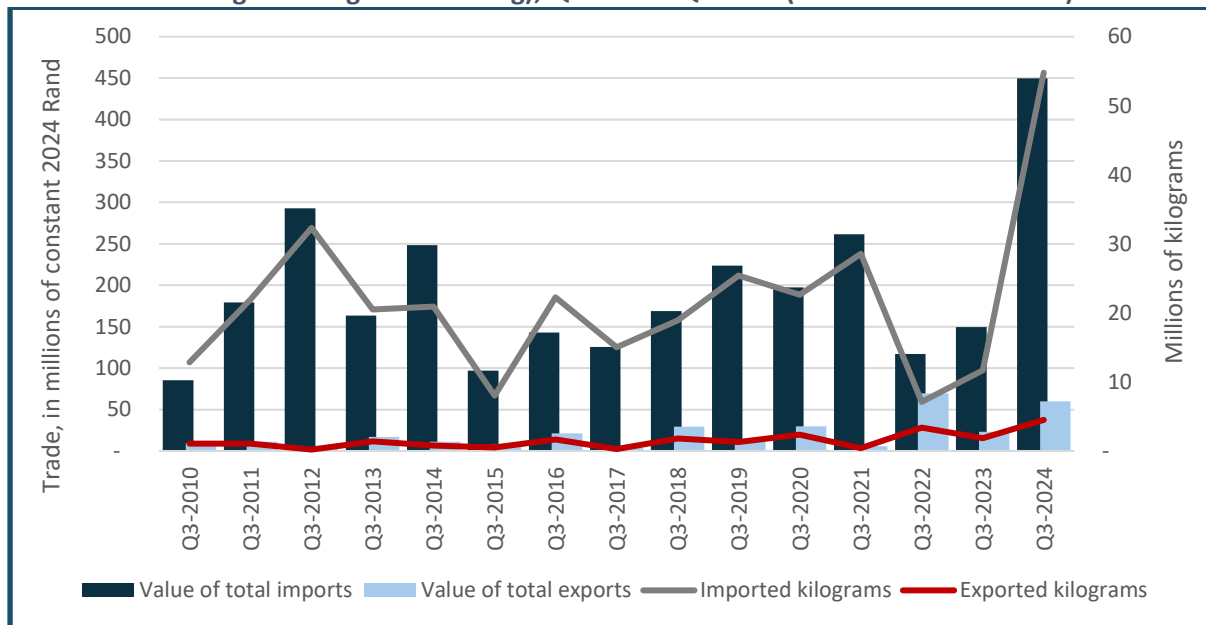
This quarter sees a continued increase in imports of fertiliser products, with a 369% surge in potassium sulphate fertiliser in the year to third quarter of 2024. Potassium (K) is one of three primary nutrients – together with nitrogen and phosphate – essential for plant growth; it increases crop yield and quality and, enhances resistance against disease and weather stressors such as drought. There are two main types of potassium fertilisers, potassium chloride (muriate of potash) and potassium sulphate (HS 31043000) also known as sulphate of potash. Potassium sulphate is composed of two nutrients, about 50% potassium and 18% sulphur. Production methods for the fertiliser include chemical reactions of different crude salts or, potassium chloride (KCl) reacted with sulphuric acid. In addition, there are industrial waste products, such as dust from cement production, that can be used as potassium fertiliser.

Potassium sulphate is less common than potassium chloride which is more widely used and costs less. The choice between the two fertilisers is informed by crop tolerance to chloride, to the extent that quality is not impaired by the chloride content. Potassium sulphate is recommended for plants sensitive to high chloride including potatoes, tobacco and various other horticultural crops. The fertiliser can also be useful for soils deficient of sulphate and crops that require high levels of sulphur as a nutrient (Roy, et al., 2006). South Africa’s fertiliser industry comprises vertically integrated companies and those only undertaking distribution or retail of fertiliser. Sasol, Kynoch, Yara and Omnia are major players in the industry.

South Africa is a net importer of potassium sulphate (see Graph 8). Between the third quarter of 2010 and the third quarter of 2024, imports averaged about 22 million kilograms, while export volumes averaged just under two million kilograms in the same period. Imports for the third quarter of 2024 surged to 55 million kilograms, from 12 million kilograms in the third quarter of the prior year. The value of these imports increased from R150 million to R450 million in this same period.

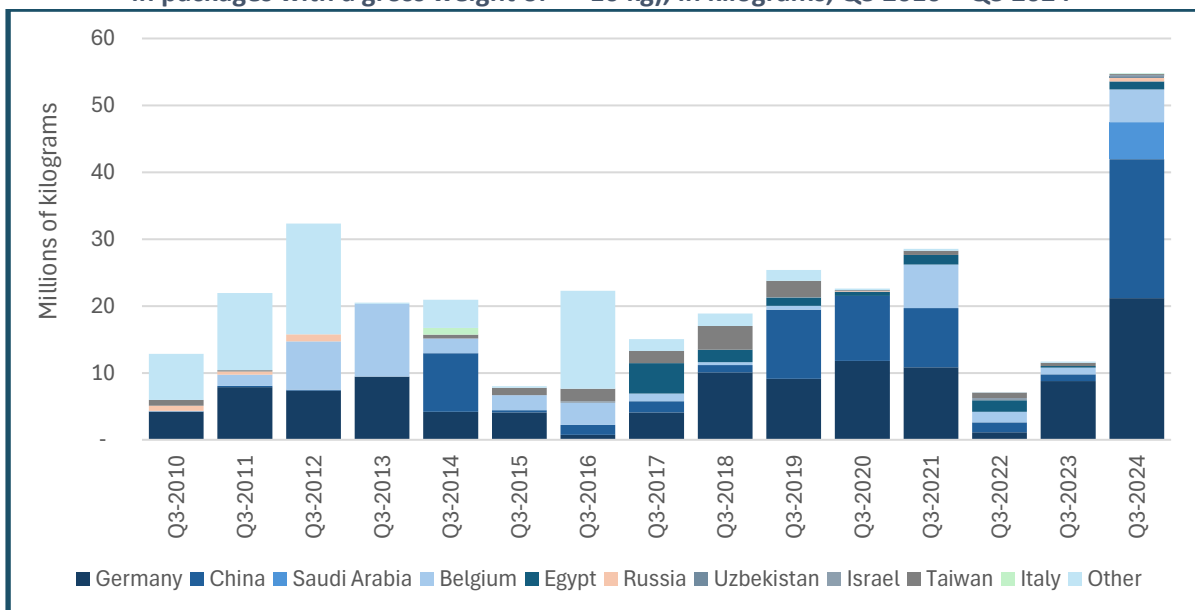
Germany and China are generally South Africa’s main source of potassium sulphate, with variation in some quarter (see Graph 9). In the third quarter of 2024, about 77% of volumes were imported from these two countries, down from 84% in the third quarter of 2023. While on average, the highest volumes originate from Germany (averaging about 8 million kilograms between the third quarters of 2010 and 2024), the surge was driven by imports from China which surged by 2028% in the year to the third quarter of 2024. In absolute terms, imports from China grew from 976 000 kilograms in the third quarter of 2023 to 21 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2024.

Graph 8: Trade in potassium sulphate (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg), Q3 2010 – Q3 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)



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

Graph 9: Top import sources for potassium sulphate (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg), in kilograms, Q3 2010 – Q3 2024



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

Though there was an overall decline in the Rand per kilogram for potassium sulphate – with the cost declining from almost R13 in the third quarter of 2023 to just over R8 in the third quarter of 2024 – imports from China show the largest unit cost decline in this period. These imports show a 40% drop in the unit cost, falling from just under R12 to slightly less than R7 in the year to the third quarter of 2024.

Broadly, fertiliser demand is subject to the performance of the agricultural sector, it is impacted by overall economic conditions, crop planting seasons, prices and weather conditions. Since early 2024 the Southern African region has been experiencing a drought, which contributed to a 29% decline in agricultural production for South Africa in the third quarter of 2024. The higher temperatures and lower rainfall are a result of the El Niño phenomenon and these conditions have affected various types of crops such as maize. Notably, it is South Africa’s planting season for certain crops including potatoes and maize, and this is another possible driver for the increase in imports.

Finding 3: Semiconductor media, unrecorded, for the recording of sound or of other phenomena

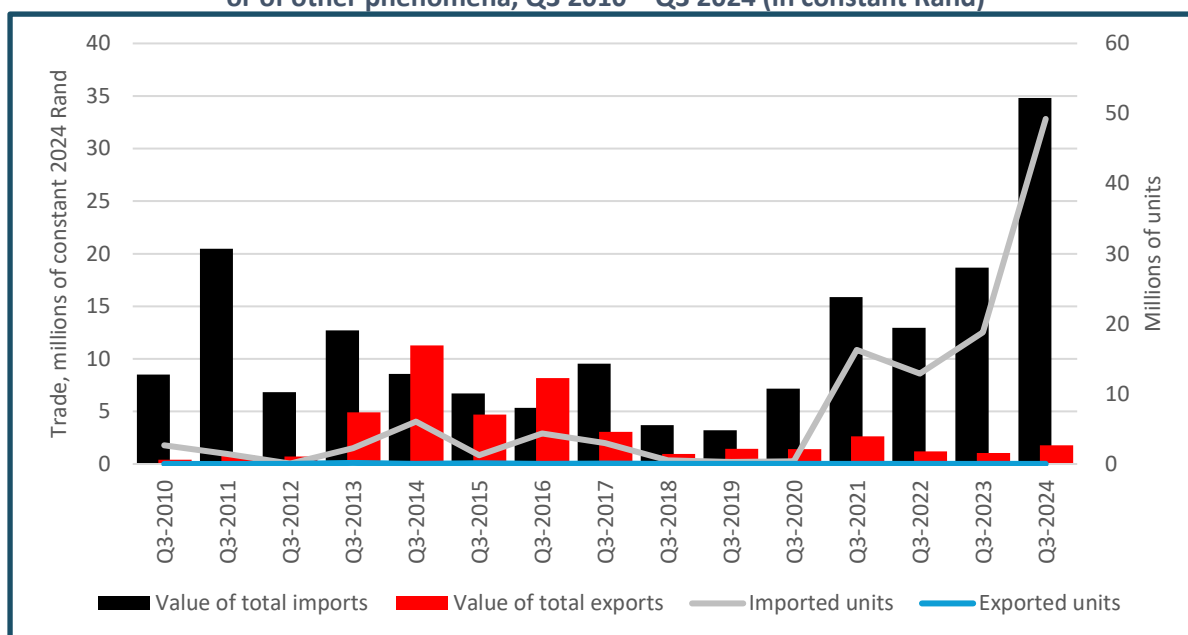
Semiconductor media, unrecorded, for the recording of sound or of other phenomena (excluding solid-state non-volatile data storage devices, smart cards and goods of chapter 37), HS 85235900, are essential inputs in the manufacture of electronic products. These products are used in industries such as music production and information communication technology, and in various other applications to facilitate sound recording. Key players include electronic products manufacturers. South Africa has several authorised distributors that import semiconductors from international manufacturers.

South Africa is a net importer of semiconductors. In volumes, imports surged from 19 million units to 49 million units in the year to the third quarter of 2024 (see Graph 10). These imports amounted to R35 million in the third quarter of 2024, from R19 million in the third quarter of 2023. France comprised the bulk of imported volumes and value, accounting for 84% of total imported units. In the year to the third quarter of 2024, imports from France surged by 24 million units to 41 million units. There is no distinct reason for the surge in semiconductor imports from France. South Africa previously imported most semiconductor media units from China. In 2021, however, the country began importing these units in large volumes from France.

The global semiconductor supply chain continues to face challenges that have also impacted South Africa. These include supply chain disruptions, national security concerns, and lack of competitiveness, which have prompted the restructuring of the global supply chain. The United States Chips and Science Act of 2022 and the European Chips Act of 2023 support semiconductor production, mainly through financing. Both Acts seek to limit supply dependency from global competitors while promoting national and regional competitiveness. Citing national security concerns, the US Chips Act restricts recipients of federal incentives from investing in semiconductor manufacturing in specific countries, including China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea. Restrictions hinder collaboration between companies in the US and China. The Act further strengthens the stringent export controls on semiconductor equipment from the United States to China imposed in October 2022 (Shivakumar, et al., 2023).

The European Chips Act subsidy disbursement has been concentrated in Germany and France (Varadarajan, et al., 2024). In June 2023, the French government announced €2.9 billion in state funds to support an almost €8 billion investment by STMicroelectronics and GlobalFoundries to build a semiconductor factory in Crolles, France (Vidalon and Kar-Gupta, 2023). The factory is expected to operate at full capacity by 2028, producing up to 620 000 wafers per year.

Graph 10: Trade in semiconductor media, unrecorded, for the recording of sound or of other phenomena, Q3 2010 – Q3 2024 (in constant Rand)



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

Finding 4: Data errors and other issues

Table 3: Potential data errors, Q3-2024

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION
85392125	Tungsten halogen filament lamps (excluding sealed beam lamp units): quartz iodide lamps identifiable for use solely or principally with motor vehicles	Error in converting volumes imported from China. China reports its exports in kilograms, while South Africa reports imports of the product in units.
85392925	Filament lamps, electric (excluding tungsten halogen lamps, lamps of a power <= 200 w and for a voltage > 100 v and ultraviolet or infra-red lamps): Torch lamps	Error in converting volumes imported from China. China reports its exports in kilograms, while South Africa reports imports of the product in units.
85011000	Electric motors and generators of an output <= 37,5 w	Error in reporting volumes imported from Hong Kong. Reported imported volumes exceed what Hong Kong reports as its total global exports. Moreover, Hong Kong reports to have exported some 550 units to South Africa, at a value of R302 000, while South Africa reported imports of 85 million units valued at R19 000 from Hong Kong. This not only suggests an error in the data, but possible trade misclassification.

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

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DATA ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Top 100 import products by Rand value, Q3 2024

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q3 2023 - Q3 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
1	27101230	Diesel	32.03	No change	Not designated
2	27090000	Crude oil	24.51	1	Not designated
3	98010040	Original equipment components: For goods vehicles	14.17	1	Not designated
4	98010030	Automotive components: for motor cars	13.85	-2	Not designated
5	27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	10.42	No change	Not designated
6	87032290	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity 1 000 cm3 to 1 500 cm3	7.18	4	Not designated
7	85171310	Smartphones for wireless networks	7.07	1	Not designated
8	30049099	Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes	6.47	-1	Not designated
9	71081200	Gold, including gold plated with platinum, unwrought, for non-monetary purposes (excluding gold in powder form)	5.18	1033	Not designated
10	98010045	Original equipment components: For goods vehicles	5.07	-1	Not designated
11	84713090	Data-processing machines, automatic, portable, weighing <= 10 kg	4.56	6	Not designated
12	85176290	Routers and set-top boxes: Other	4.27	No change	Routers not designated; STB 30% designated
13	71081300	Gold, in semi-manufactured forms, for non-monetary purposes	3.96	7	Not designated
14	85023100	Generating sets: wind-powered	3.43	39	Not designated
15	28182000	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	3.39	11	Not designated
16	10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	3.37	-2	Not designated
17	87032390	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 500 cm3 to 3 000 cm3	3.11	-1	Not designated
18	10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	2.90	1	Not designated
19	85044000	Static converters	2.81	-6	Not designated
20	71023100	Non-industrial diamonds unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted	2.40	2	Not designated
21	27101226	Light oils and preparations: Illuminating kerosene	2.36	-6	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q3 2023 - Q3 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
22	31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	2.35	-4	Not designated
23	33021000	Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures, including alcoholic solutions of a kind used in the food and drink industries	2.33	6	Not designated
24	15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	2.25	1	Not designated
25	84715000	Processing units for automatic data-processing machines	2.23	11	Not designated
26	84295200	Self-propelled bulldozers, etc: With 360-degree revolving superstructure	2.12	-5	Not designated
27	74081100	Wire of refined copper, with a maximum cross-sectional dimension of > 6 mm	2.07	4	Not designated
28	85414300	Photovoltaic cells assembled in modules or made up into panels	1.99	-17	Solar PV components 70% designated
29	84219990	Parts of machinery and apparatus for filtering or purifying liquids or gases, n.e.s: other	1.94	120	Not designated
30	87033290	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 000 cm ³ to 2 500 cm ³	1.93	-7	Not designated
31	84314990	Parts of machinery of heading 8426, 8429 and 8430, not elsewhere specified: Other	1.92	6	Not designated
32	90189000	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, n.e.s.	1.84	-2	Not designated
33	27101207	Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene	1.81	7	Not designated
34	98010015	Automotive components: For road tractors	1.80	12	Not designated
35	87033390	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity exceeding 2 500 cm ³	1.80	-11	Not designated
36	27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	1.73	-2	Not designated
37	87032190	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity not exceeding 1 000 cm ³	1.69	-9	Not designated
38	38249999	Chemical products and preparations of the chemical or allied industries	1.65	3	Not designated
39	85076000	Lithium-ion accumulators (excluding spent)	1.62	-33	Not designated
40	27101257	Light oils and preparations: other base oils	1.62	7	Not designated
41	31054000	Ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate and mixtures thereof with diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate	1.54	82	Not designated
42	87089990	Parts and accessories for tractors and buses	1.50	-7	Not designated
43	27101235	Residual fuel oils, as defined in additional note 1(h)	1.47	-10	Not designated
44	84439900	Parts and accessories of printers, copying machines and facsimile machines, n.e.s.	1.43	5	Not designated
45	88024000	Aeroplanes and other powered aircraft of an of an unladen weight > 15000 kg	1.41	-3	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q3 2023 - Q3 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
46	38089399	Herbicides, anti-sprouting products and plant-growth regulators	1.32	12	Not designated
47	27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	1.30	-3	Not designated
48	27160000	Electrical energy	1.26	-16	Not designated
49	87082900	Parts and accessories motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05	1.24	-11	Bus bodies 80% designated
50	88073000	Parts of aeroplanes, helicopters or unmanned aircraft, n.e.s. (excluding those for gliders)	1.15	10	Not designated
51	38221900	Prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing	1.13	No change	Not designated
52	27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	1.11	46	Not designated
53	17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter	1.07	1	Not designated
54	87041090	Dumpers for off-highway use: Other	1.05	-27	Not designated
55	39269090	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	1.04	4	Plastic wheelie bins 100% designated
56	61091000	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	1.03	8	100% designated
57	74031100	Copper, refined, in the form of cathodes and sections of cathodes	1.03	-2	Not designated
58	38089199	Insecticides (excluding goods of subheading 3808.50): Other	1.02	33	Not designated
59	27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated	1.02	-20	Not designated
60	99999999	Commodities not elsewhere specified	1.00	5617	Not designated
61	84834000	Gears and gearing for machinery (excluding toothed wheels, chain sprockets and other transmission elements presented separately); ball or roller screws; gear boxes and other speed changers including torque converters	1.00	32	Not designated
62	64029990	Footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics: other	0.97	19	100% designated
63	27111200	Propane, liquefied	0.92	20	Not designated
64	33049990	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin: Other	0.92	23	Not designated
65	87032490	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity exceeding 3 000 cm3	0.91	-13	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q3 2023 - Q3 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
66	64039990	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics or composition leather, with uppers of leather: other	0.89	26	100% designated
67	95030090	Tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys: Other	0.88	23	Not designated
68	21069090	Food preparations, n.e.s: other	0.86	31	Not designated
69	94019990	Parts of seats, not of wood, n.e.s: Other	0.81	-13	Not designated
70	31042000	Potassium chloride	0.80	-25	Not designated
71	39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0,94, in primary forms	0.80	-10	Not designated
72	27101900	Medium oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals, not containing biodiesel, n.e.s.	0.80	7	Not designated
73	84433100	Printers and fax machines	0.79	72	Not designated
74	15121190	Crude sunflower-seed or safflower oil: Other	0.77	-17	Not designated
75	84089090	Compression-ignition internal combustion piston "diesel or semi-diesel engine": Other	0.77	-27	Not designated
76	30021500	Immunological products, put up in measured doses, or in forms or packings for retail	0.77	-11	Not designated
77	84749000	Parts of machinery for working mineral substances of heading 8474, n.e.s.	0.76	8	Not designated
78	27131200	Petroleum coke, calcined	0.75	-7	Not designated
79	02071210	Frozen fowls of the species gallus domesticus, not cut in pieces: mechanically deboned meat	0.75	143	Not designated
80	85371090	Boards, cabinets and similar combinations of apparatus for electric control or the distribution of electricity, for a voltage <= 1.000 V: Other	0.74	-13	Not designated
81	30024190	Vaccines for human medicine: other	0.74	305	Not designated
82	84798990	Machines and mechanical appliances, not elsewhere specified: Other	0.73	-9	Not designated
83	40112026	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber, of a kind used for buses and lorries: having a rim size exceeding 51cm (20inches)	0.73	25	Not designated
84	29173600	Terephthalic acid and its salts	0.71	35	Not designated
85	84717000	Storage units for automatic data-processing machines	0.71	3	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q3 2023 - Q3 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
86	87042183	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods of a gross vehicle weight <= 5 t (excluding dumpers for off-highway use of subheading 8704.10 and special purpose motor vehicles of heading 8705): other	0.69	21	Not designated
87	22083010	Whiskies: in containers holding 2 li or less	0.68	-19	Not designated
88	38112100	Prepared additives for oil lubricants containing petroleum oil or bituminous mineral oil	0.67	-8	Not designated
89	85437000	Electrical machines and apparatus, having individual functions, n.e.s. in chapter 85	0.67	7	Not designated
90	84099990	Milling machines for metals, not numerically controlled (excluding way-type unit head machines, boring-milling machines, knee-type milling machines and gear cutting machines)	0.66	19	Not designated
91	33029090	Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures, including alcoholic solutions, based on one or more of these substances, of a kind used as raw materials in industry (excluding food or drink industries): Other	0.65	6	Not designated
92	84111200	Turbojets of a thrust > 25kn	0.64	194	Not designated
93	64029920	Footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	0.63	45	100% designated
94	84304100	Self-propelled boring or sinking machinery for boring earth or extracting minerals or ores	0.62	8	Not designated
95	87083090	Brakes and servo-brakes and their parts, for tractors, motor vehicles for the transport of goods or persons, n.e.s.	0.61	-6	Not designated
96	84291100	Self-propelled bulldozers and angledozers, track laying	0.61	-24	Not designated
97	22030090	Beer made from malt: other	0.61	38	Not designated
98	84129000	Parts of non-electrical engines and motors, n.e.s.	0.61	346	Not designated
99	89040000	Tugs and pusher craft	0.61	6149	Not designated
100	84224000	Other packing or wrapping machinery (including heat-shrink wrapping machinery)	0.60	183	Not designated

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

Annexure 2: Surges in import products by quantity Q3 2024

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
1	01064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	Surge within usual variance	98 334 764 191	Units	23%	Not designated
2	27101230	Diesel	Decline in imports	- 493 584 535	Liters	-16%	Not designated
3	27090000	Crude oil	Import commodity	652 079 951	Kilograms	46%	Not designated
4	27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	Decline in imports	- 78 913 428	Liters	-8%	Not designated
5	01069000	Live animals (excluding mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates and cultures of micro-organisms, etc.)	Surge within usual variance	767 539 124	Units	1036%	Not designated
6	27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	Decline in imports	- 73 654 272	Kilograms	-9%	Not designated
7	10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	Decline in imports	- 24 882 809	Kilograms	-3%	Not designated
8	28182000	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	Not significant	67 139 178	Kilograms	21%	Not designated
9	31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	Decline in imports	- 86 366 729	Kilograms	-18%	Not designated
10	27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	Not significant	48 434 677	Kilograms	16%	Not designated
11	25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	Ongoing monitoring	57 752 529	Kilograms	20%	100% designated
12	27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated; retort carbon	Decline in imports	- 8 784 172	Kilograms	-3%	Not designated
13	10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	Decline in imports	- 35 957 184	Kilograms	-12%	Not designated
14	27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Not significant	28 963 865	Kilograms	13%	Not designated
15	27101226	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals	Decline in imports	- 91 227 021	Liters	-31%	Not designated
16	31042000	Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Ongoing monitoring	8 243 196	Kilograms	5%	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
17	44011200	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, non-coniferous	Decline in imports	- 20 056 264	Kilograms	-11%	Not designated
18	27101207	Light oils and preparations: aviation kerosene	Surge within usual variance	38 093 334	Liters	34%	Not designated
19	31054000	Ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate "monoammonium phosphate", whether or not mixed with diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate "diammonium phosphate" (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Ongoing monitoring	80 884 473	Kilograms	120%	Not designated
20	15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined (excluding chemically modified and crude): other	Decline in imports	- 6 071 610	Kilograms	-4%	Not designated
21	85392125	Tungsten halogen filament lamps (excluding sealed beam lamp units): quartz iodide lamps identifiable for use solely or principally with motor vehicles	Data error	120 860 365	Units	11875%	Not designated
22	85392925	Filament lamps, electric (excluding tungsten halogen lamps, lamps of a power <= 200 w and for a voltage > 100 v and ultraviolet or infra-red lamps): torch lamps	Data error	118 901 924	Units	74165%	Not designated
23	27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	Decline in imports	- 78 266 005	Liters	-40%	Not designated
24	25030000	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	Ongoing monitoring	4 814 059	Kilograms	4%	Not designated
25	28151200	Sodium hydroxide "caustic soda" in aqueous solution "soda lye or liquid soda"	Not significant	7 421 490	Kilograms	7%	Not designated
26	31022100	Ammonium sulphate (excluding that in pellet or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Decline in imports	- 3 564 535	Kilograms	-3%	Not designated
27	31026000	Double salts and mixtures of calcium nitrate and ammonium nitrate (excluding those in pellet or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Ongoing monitoring	34 091 726	Kilograms	52%	Not designated
28	25231000	Cement clinkers	Decline in imports	- 6 093 134	Kilograms	-6%	Not designated
29	10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Other	Ongoing monitoring	96 582 264	Kilograms	142985%	Not designated
30	27131200	Petroleum coke, calcined	Surge within usual variance	28 462 306	Kilograms	43%	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
31	27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	Surge within usual variance	25 183 862	Kilograms	39%	Not designated
32	27101257	Light oils and preparations: other base oils	Not significant	3 600 919	Liters	4%	Not designated
33	85011000	Electric motors and generators of an output <= 37,5 w	Data error	85 588 966	Units	13290%	Not designated
34	85235210	Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits "smart cards": digital	Not significant	11 575 458	Units	17%	Not designated
35	27111200	Propane, liquefied	Not significant	1 279 307	Kilograms	2%	Not designated
36	84248900	Mechanical appliances, whether or not hand-operated, for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders, n.e.s.	Surge within usual variance	34 949 772	Units	87%	Not designated
37	17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter, obtained without centrifugation, with sucrose content 69° to 93°, containing only natural anhydrous microcrystals (see subheading note 2.)	Decline in imports	- 1 196 970	Kilograms	-2%	Not designated
38	27132000	Petroleum bitumen	Decline in imports	- 614 092	Kilograms	-1%	Not designated
39	28362000	Disodium carbonate	Decline in imports	- 22 376 780	Kilograms	-25%	Not designated
40	98010040	For motor vehicles for the transport of goods of heading 87.04, of a vehicle mass not exceeding 2 000 kg or of a g.v.m. not exceeding 3 500 kg, or of a mass not exceeding 1 600 kg or of a g.v.m. not exceeding 3 500 kg per chassis fitted with a cab (excluding dumpers designed for off-highway use, shuttle cars and low construction flame-proof vehicles, for use in underground mines and off-the-road logging trucks)	Decline in imports	- 8 502 635	Kilograms	-12%	Not designated
41	02071210	Frozen fowls of the species gallus domesticus, not cut in pieces: mechanically deboned meat³	Selected for analysis	17 677 313	Kilograms	39%	Not designated
42	96081000	Ball-point pens	Surge within usual variance	21 138 905	Units	53%	Not designated
43	90183140	Syringes, with or without needles, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences: disposable hypodermic syringes of plastics	Surge within usual variance	18 737 893	Units	51%	Not designated

³ Analysis for this product will be covered in the fourth quarter of 2024, and will focus on imports for the year.

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
44	31043000	Potassium sulphate (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Selected for analysis	43 095 081	Kilograms	369%	Not designated
45	90189000	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, n.e.s.	Not significant	2 781 506	Units	5%	Not designated
46	22030090	Beer made from malt: other	Surge within usual variance	16 148 589	Liters	47%	Not designated
47	85235900	Semiconductor media, unrecorded, for the recording of sound or of other phenomena (excluding solid-state non-volatile data storage devices, smart cards and goods of chapter 37)	Selected for analysis	30 445 676	Units	162%	Not designated
48	29173600	Terephthalic acid and its salts	Not significant	13 221 831	Kilograms	37%	Not designated
49	08039010	Fresh or dried bananas (excluding plantains): fresh	Surge within usual variance	7 813 824	Kilograms	20%	Not designated
50	98010030	For motor cars (including station wagons) of heading 87.03	Decline in imports	- 23 653 033	Kilograms	-34%	Not designated

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