



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

# TIPS IMPORT TRACKER

## FOURTH QUARTER 2024

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### TIPS TRACKERS

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

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

[TIPS FDI Tracker](#) monitors inward foreign direct investment projects. It reports on new FDI projects, analyses these, and adds them to an ongoing list of investment projects.

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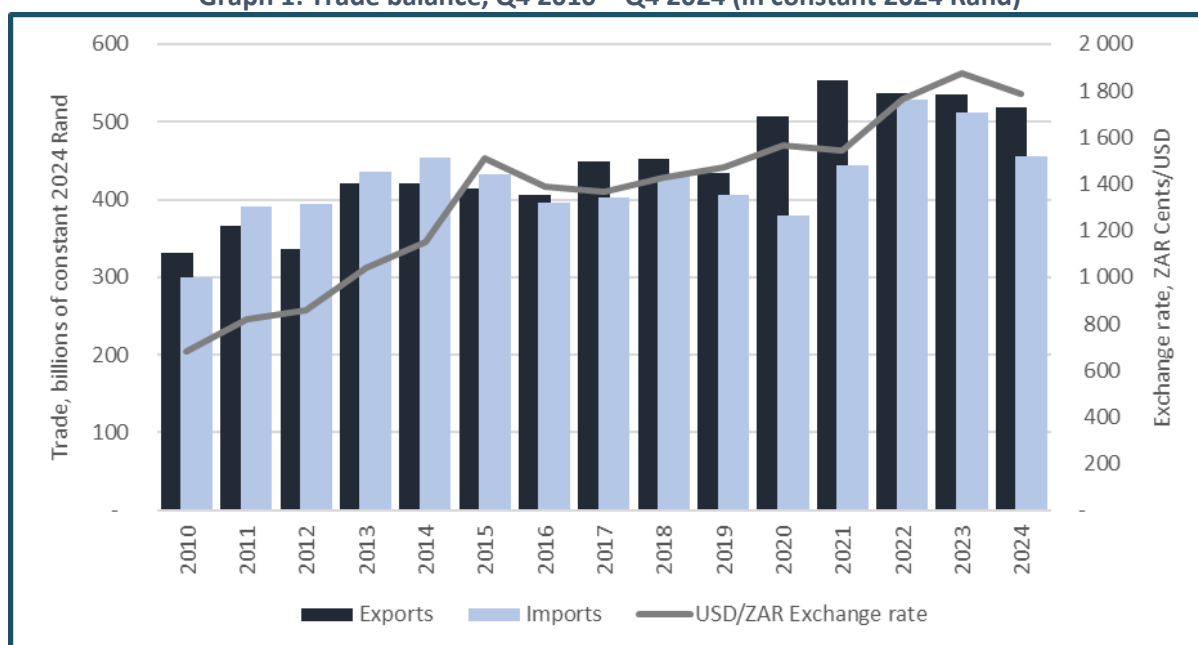
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## SECTION 1: TRADE CONTEXT AND IMPORTS ANALYSIS

### Trade context

South Africa maintained a trade surplus in the fourth quarter of 2024. At R64 billion, the surplus was more than double the surplus from the fourth quarter 2023, which amounted to R22 billion in real terms. The surplus was also higher than the third quarter of 2024, which amounted to R35 billion. Nevertheless, overall trade declined in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024, with exports declining by 3% to R519 billion, and imports declining by 11% to R455 billion in the same period (see Graph 1). The decline in imports was mainly due to a decline in imports of petroleum products, with diesel and crude oil imports declining by R24 billion and R12 billion respectively (see Graph 2). The value of the top five import products declined by R46 billion to R87 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. Due to this decline, the value of the top five import products declined as a share of total imports, falling from 26% in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 19% in the fourth quarter of 2024.

**Graph 1: Trade balance, Q4 2010 – Q4 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 February 2025. Exchange rate data from South African Reserve Bank (SARB) downloaded from <https://www.resbank.co.za/> in February 2024. *Note:* Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

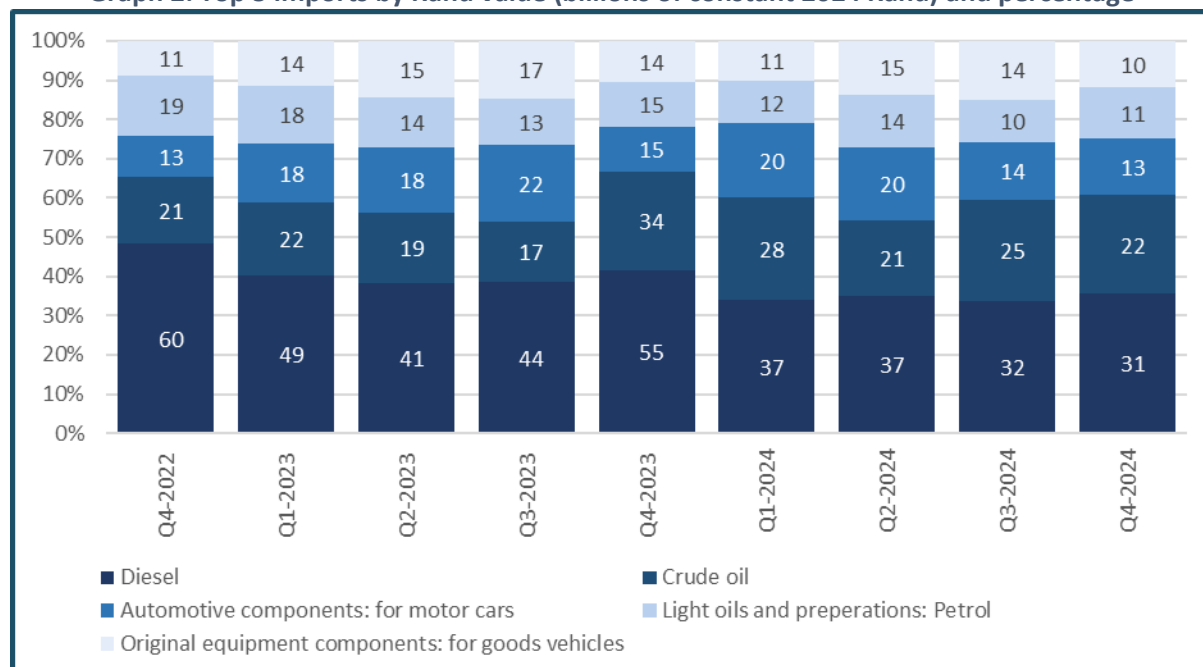
Aside from China, imports from the top five partners declined in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. Imports from China grew by R11 billion to R106 billion over this period. In contrast, imports from the United States (US) and Germany fell by a combined R19 billion – evenly split, while imports from Thailand declined by R167 million to R16 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024. The year-on-year decline in imports from the US was driven, in part, by a R3 billion decline in crude oil imports, a R552 million decline in imports of components for goods vehicles as well as a R602 million decline in imports of components for passenger vehicles.

Although there was a decrease across a wide range of products, the decline in imports from Germany was mainly driven by decreased imports components for goods and passenger vehicles. The decline in imports from Thailand was mainly driven by a R866 million decline in components for passenger vehicles, as well as a decline in imports of rice.

While there were decreases in automotive imports from main sources like Germany and the US, imports of vehicles from China increased by R2 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024.

Aside from the R2 billion decline in imports of lithium-ion accumulators, imports of renewable energy products like solar panels and wind-powered generating sets from China increased in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024.

**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 February 2025. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

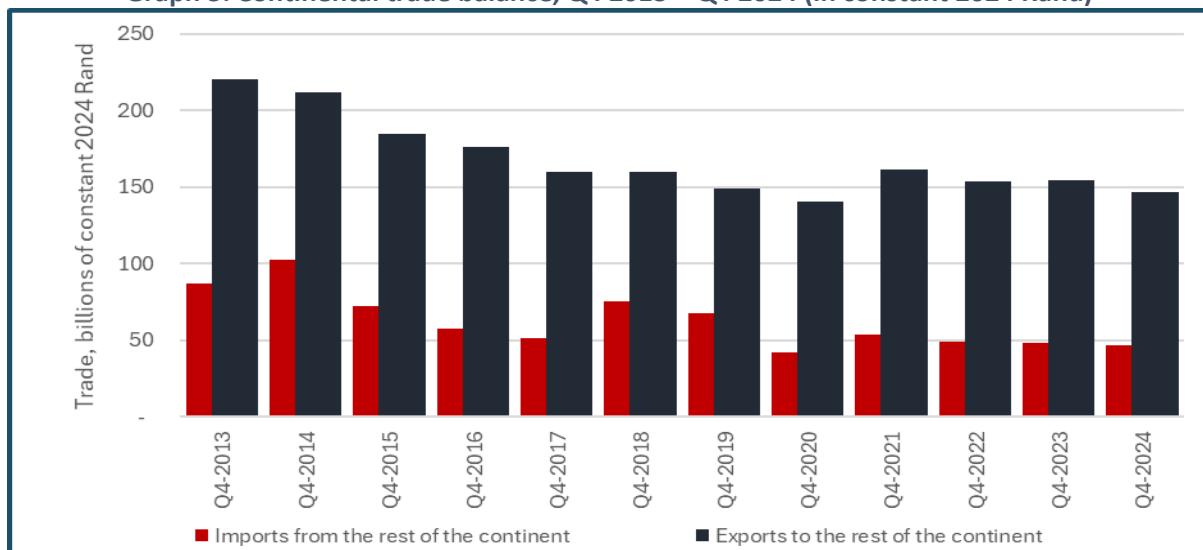
Excluding exports to Mozambique and exports to areas not elsewhere specified (Areas NES)<sup>1</sup>, exports to the top five destinations declined by a combined R15 billion to R174 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. In this period, only exports to Japan increased (by R2 billion to R27 billion). Exports to China – dominated by ores – declined by almost R6 billion to R52 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2025. Exports to the US, Germany, and the United Kingdom (UK) declined by a combined R12 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024, falling to R37 billion, R35 billion, and R23 billion respectively. This decrease was driven by lower automotive exports to all three countries, with palladium exports also contributing to the decline in exports to the UK and US.

## Continental trade

South Africa's trade balance with the rest of the continent decreased by 6% to R100 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024 from R106 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023. In the same period, exports declined by 5% (R8 billion) to R146 billion. Imports continued to fall year-on-year, declining by 3% (R1 billion) to R47 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024. Graph 3 shows South Africa's trade balance with the rest of the continent.

<sup>1</sup> In real terms, exports to Areas NES were the highest in the fourth quarter of 2024, at R53 billion, and exports to Mozambique were the sixth highest, and amounted to R25 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.

**Graph 3: Continental trade balance, Q4 2013 – Q4 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)**

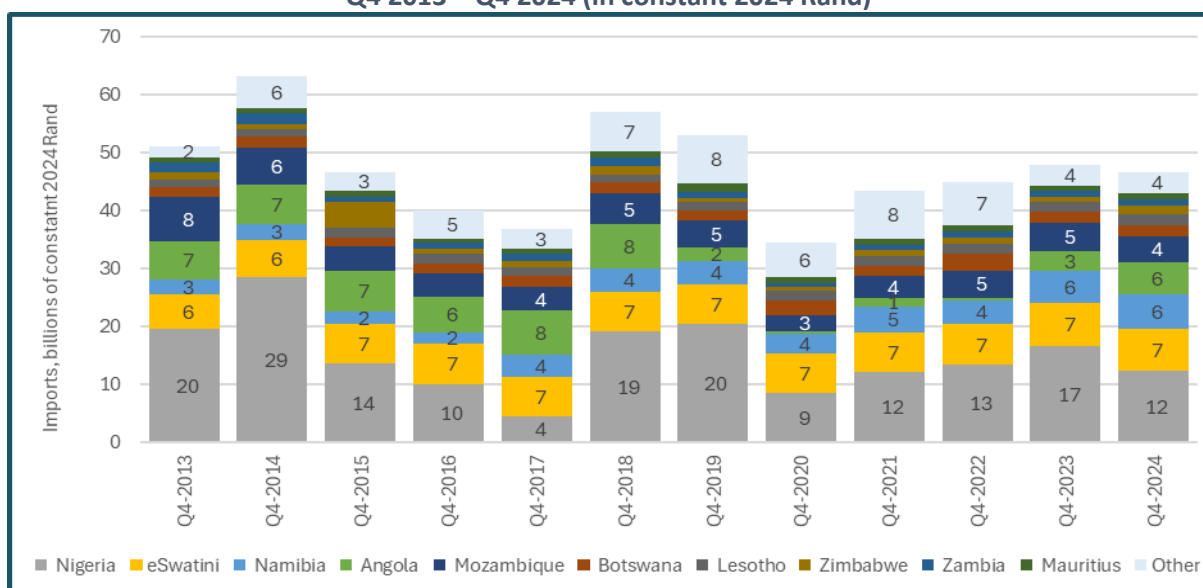


Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

Note(a): Rebased, using CPI data from StatsSA, to the fourth quarter of 2024. Note(b): Excludes re-imports.

Imports from the top 10 sources within the continent declined by 3% to R43 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024 (see Graph 4). This decline was mainly due to lower imports of crude oil from Nigeria. Overall crude oil imports from Nigeria declined by R5 billion (142 million kilograms) in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. With more than 90% of imports from Nigeria being crude oil, this decline accounted for much of the R4 billion net decrease in imports from Nigeria in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. Imports from Mozambique also declined year-on-year, from about R5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023 to just over R4 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024. Imports from the rest of the top 10 countries increased in this period, with imports from Angola showing the largest growth (R2 billion or 68% growth) to almost R6 billion. Although the value of imports from the top 10 countries declined year-on-year, the share of imports from these countries remained stable, accounting for 92% of total imports from the rest of the continent.

**Graph 4: Top 10 African countries from which South Africa imports goods, Q4 2013 – Q4 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)**

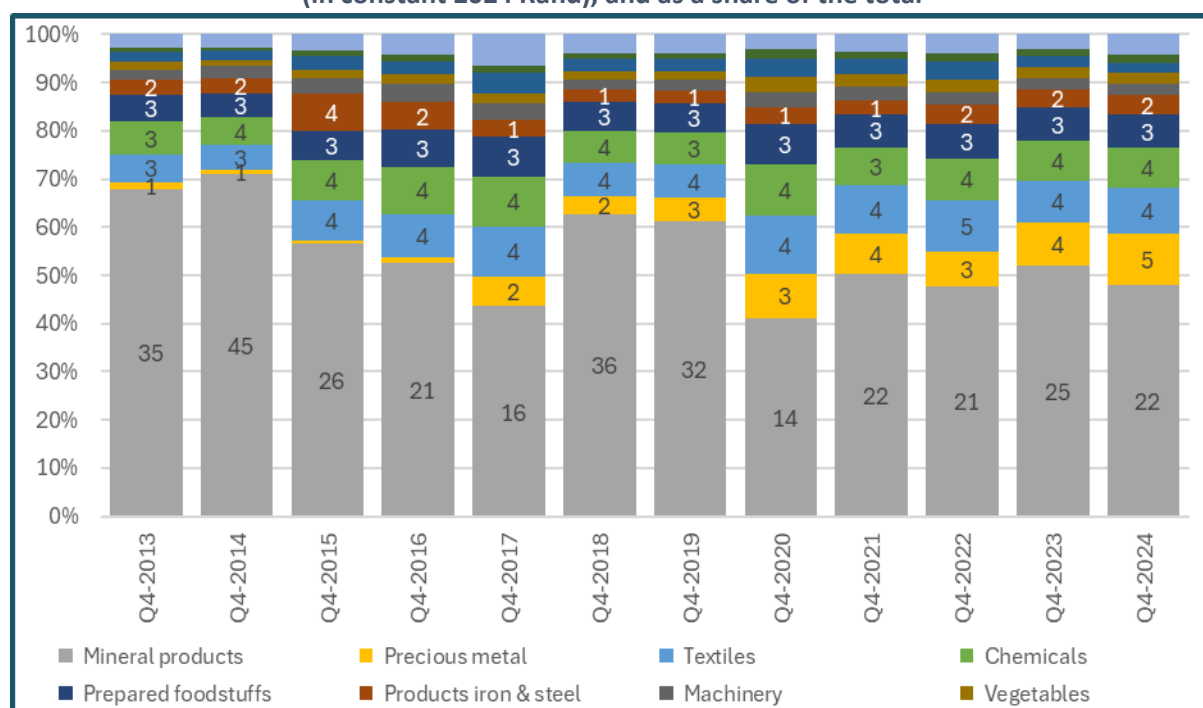


Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in February 2025. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

Graph 5 shows the top 10 products imported by South Africa from the rest of continent between 2013 and 2024. At 48%, mineral products make up the bulk of imported goods, which largely comprise crude oil. Nevertheless, imports of mineral products decreased to R22 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024 from R25 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023. Total imported crude oil imports declined by almost R12 billion (and by 353 million kilograms) in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. Precious metals had the second largest import value, at R5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024, up from just over R4 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Notably, imports of prepared foodstuffs and live animals declined by a combined R333 million to just over R4 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe were the main contributors to the decline in live animal imports, while the fall in prepared foodstuffs imports was driven by decreased imports from Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Zambia. For both product groups, the decline appears to be driven by droughts in the countries from which imports declined.

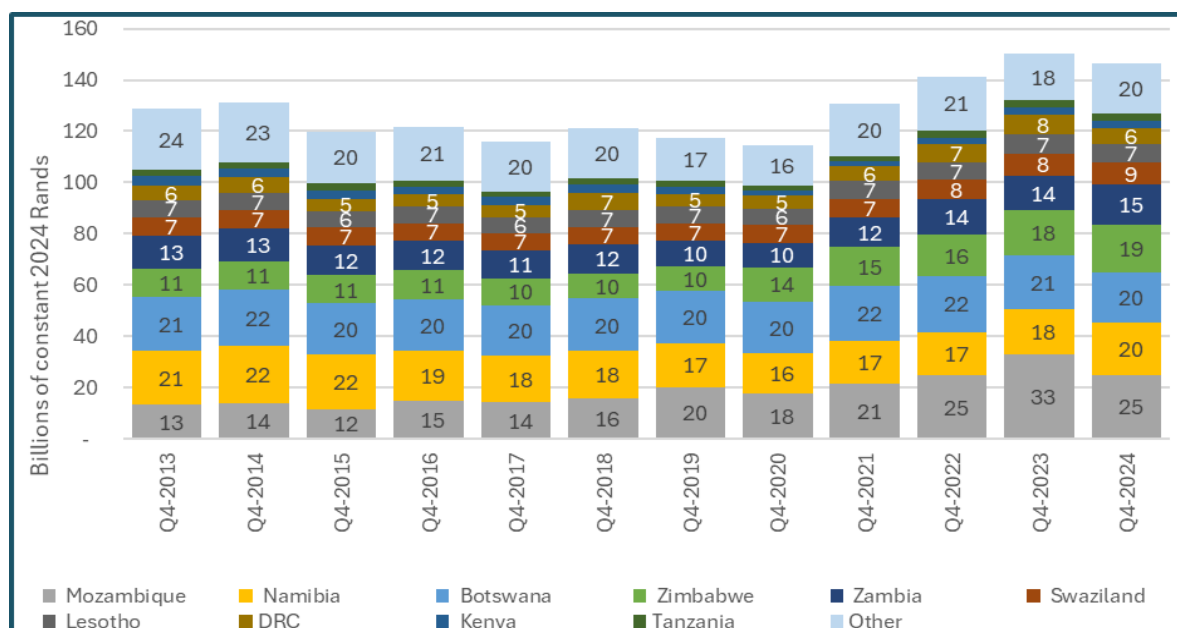
**Graph 5: South Africa's imports from the continent by product group, Q4 2013 – Q4 2024**  
(in constant 2024 Rand), and as a share of the total



Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in February 2025. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

Graph 6 shows goods exported by South Africa to the top 10 trade partners on the continent. Exports to Mozambique, a notable share of which are destined for re-export via the port of Maputo, declined in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024, falling by almost R8 billion to R25 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. Exports to Botswana and the Democratic Republic of Congo also declined, by just over R1 billion and R1.5 billion, respectively.

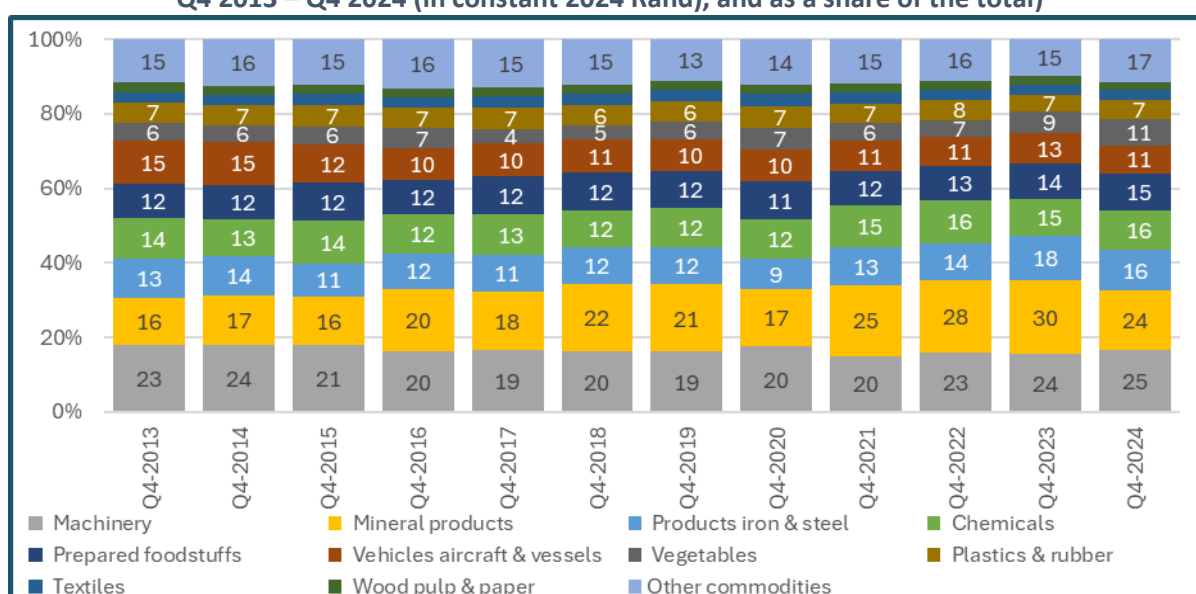
**Graph 6: Top 10 African countries to which South Africa exports goods, Q4 2013 – Q4 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)**



Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in February 2025. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

South Africa's exports to the rest of the continent declined by almost R4 billion in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. In real terms, the largest decline was in mineral products, exports of which fell by R6 billion in the year to the fourth quarter (see Graph 7). Petrol and diesel were the main contributors to the decline in petroleum exports. Other product groups with lower exports in the same period include products of iron and steel (with an almost R2 billion decline to R16 billion), vehicles (a more than R1 billion decline to R11 billion), as well as products of wood and paper (with a R557 million decrease to R3 billion).

**Graph 7: South Africa's exports to the rest of the continent by product group, Q4 2013 – Q4 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 February 2025. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

## Major imports

In constant 2024 Rand, the value of the Top 100 imports amounted to R240 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024, down from R253 billion in the third quarter of 2024, and also down from R277 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023. Annexure 1 shows the Top 100 import products by value, with goods classifiable under categories like: 1) petroleum and other liquid fuels; 2) renewable energy-related equipment; 3) information and communications technology 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 fourth 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 fourth quarter of 2024, five products were selected for analysis. In addition, 15 products show a decline in import volumes, while another five are being monitored due to prior surges. Potential data errors were flagged for seven products, with some of these errors appearing to be due to conversions in units of measurement. Table 1 shows products for which there was a year-on-year decline in import volumes. Of these 15 products, three show an increase in the import value, even as volumes declined.

**Table 1: Decline in imports between Q4 2023 and Q4 2024**

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	REAL DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT DECLINE, QUANTITY	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE, VALUE
<b>27101230</b>	Diesel	- 556 020 685	Litres	-16%	-44%
<b>27090000</b>	Crude oil	- 353 203 151	Kilograms	-14%	-35%
<b>27101202</b>	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	- 11 928 318	Litres	-1%	-23%
<b>10063000</b>	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	- 32 120 538	Kilograms	-10%	-21%
<b>31021000</b>	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	- 1 731 283	Kilograms	-1%	-17%
<b>27040000</b>	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated; retort carbon	- 46 668 879	Kilograms	-18%	-36%
<b>27101226</b>	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals	- 29 724 176	Litres	-13%	-44%
<b>10019900</b>	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	- 207 845 632	Kilograms	-55%	-64%
<b>27101235</b>	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	- 102 591 775	Litres	-44%	-53%
<b>31054000</b>	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)	- 24 136 468	Kilograms	-16%	-1%



HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	REAL DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT DECLINE, QUANTITY	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE, VALUE
27101257	Light oils and preparations: Other base oils	- 7 693 025	Litres	-7%	1%
01069000	Live animals (excluding mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and	- 189 005 992	Units	-68%	122%
31022100	Ammonium sulphate (excl. that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	- 48 052 480	Kilograms	-39%	-47%
25010090	Salts, including table salt and denatured salt, and pure sodium chloride, whether or not in aqueous solution or containing added anti-caking or free-flowing agents; sea water: Other	- 557 894	Kilograms	-1%	3%
10039000	Barley (excluding seed for sowing)	- 2 361 160	Kilograms	-4%	-3%

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

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 surged by 115 million kilograms in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. However, between the third and fourth quarters of 2024, imports declined by 20 million kilograms. Vietnam remains the main source of imports, accounting for 92% of imported volumes in the fourth quarter of 2023, and 80% of the volumes in the fourth quarter of 2024. There we also some re-imports in the fourth quarter of 2024, amounting for 29 million kilograms, while Mozambique and Namibia accounted for a large portion of the balance.
10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Other	Significant year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter increase	Continued increase in imports from Argentina, with another 106 million kilograms from Brazil.

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	STATUS OF SURGE	EXPLANATION
<b>25231000</b>	Cement clinkers	Significant year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter increase	Imports surged by 110 million kilograms in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024. Between the third and fourth quarters of 2024 imports surged by 73 million kilograms. While the UAE was the only supplier of imported volumes in the fourth quarter of 2024 (accounting for all 172 million kilograms), the country supplied 48 million kilograms in the third quarter of 2024, with Pakistan supplying the other 51 million kilograms.
<b>25030000</b>	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	Significant year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter increase	Import volumes generally vary across quarters. However, in the year and quarter to the fourth quarter of 2024 saw imported volumes trend significantly up. Though still within the surge variance, this increase is due to the re-entry of Saudi Arabia as the top supplier to South Africa following almost a year of low or no import volumes from that country.
<b>10059010</b>	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): dried kernels or grains fit for human consumption, not further prepared or processed and not packaged as seeds (excluding popcorn)	Significant year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter increase	Continued increase in imports from Argentina, with some 21 million kilograms also imported from the US.

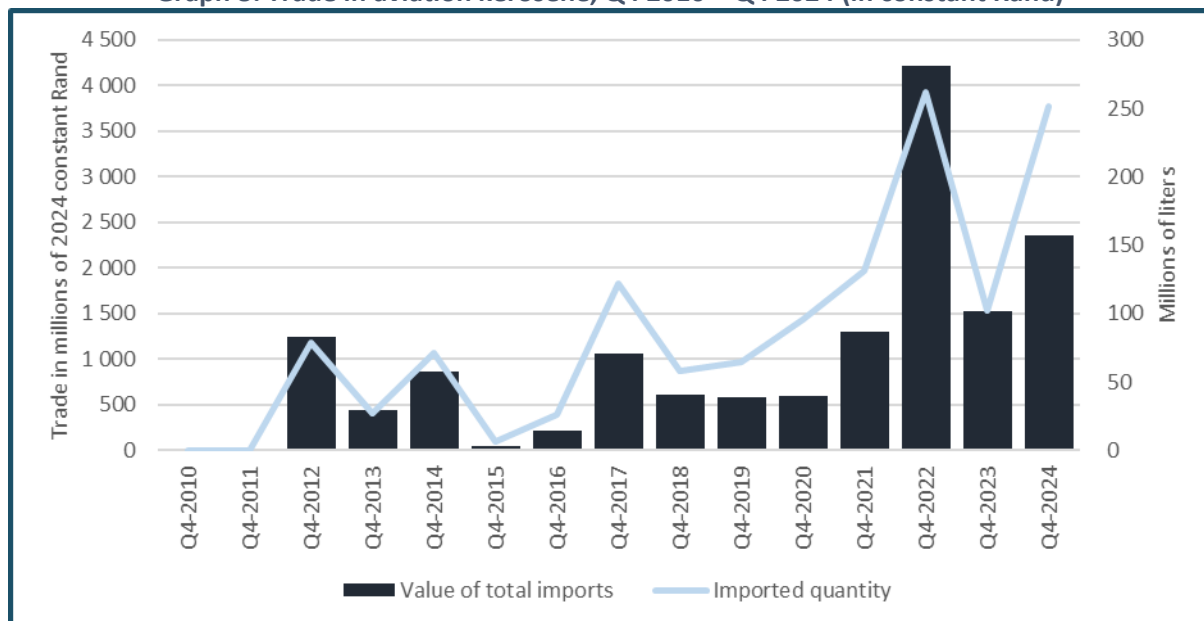
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in December 2024.

## Finding 2: Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene

Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which  $\geq 90\%$  by volume “including losses” distil at  $210^{\circ}\text{C}$  “astm d 86 method” (excluding containing biodiesel): Aviation kerosene (HS27101207) is the fuel that powers aeroplanes and helicopters equipped with jet turbines, turboprops, or turbo-fans (Petrobas, n.d.) Aviation kerosene is a by-product of crude oil refining, where, following initial processing and distillation, several petroleum products are produced, including aviation kerosene, petrol and diesel, among others.

Sasol has refineries in Secunda and Sasolburg that produce aviation fuel. Nevertheless, South Africa is a net importer of aviation kerosene. In volumes, imports surged from 102 million litres to 251 million litres in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024 (see Graph 8). These imports amounted to R2 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024, from R1.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023. Saudi Arabia comprised the bulk of imported volumes and value, accounting for 45% of imported litres. In the year to the fourth quarter of 2024, imports from Saudi Arabia surged by 84 million litres to 114 million litres.

**Graph 8: Trade in aviation kerosene, Q4 2010 – Q4 2024 (in constant Rand)**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

The South African aviation industry has faced several challenges, including delays in the importation of crude oil, a lack of buffer stock, and other issues that have caused fuel shortages since March 2022. Over the years, particularly since 2021 when a spate of fires broke out at two refineries, the country lost significant jet fuel production capacity, increasing its reliance on imports (Felton, 2024). Although some refineries were able to secure temporary Special Shortage Warehouse (SOS) licenses in April 2024 for storage and distribution of imported aviation kerosene (SARS, 2024), these were time-bound (Ginindza, 2024), and were set to expire in October 2024. The issuing of permanent licences has been delayed. This delay was attributed to limited progress in the South African Revenue Service (SARS) issuing licences, with SARS citing refinery limitations in adhering to the provisions of the Customs and Excise Act No. 91 of 1964 (SARS, 2024). SARS insists these refineries license their facilities under the Customs and Excise Act No. 91 of 1964, noting that is necessary for state revenue collection (Ginindza, 2024; Fuels Industry Association of South Africa, 2024).

On 10 October 2024, the Fuels Industry Association of South Africa (2024) raised concerns about a potential shortage of aviation kerosene that could disrupt operations at O.R. Tambo International Airport and King Shaka International Airport. In response, the SARS Commissioner granted special permission for the importation of kerosene from 21 October 2024 to 20 October 2025. This permission allows refineries to deregister manufacturing warehouses and reregister affected storage facilities (SA News, 2024).

### **Finding 3: Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits “smart cards”: Digital**

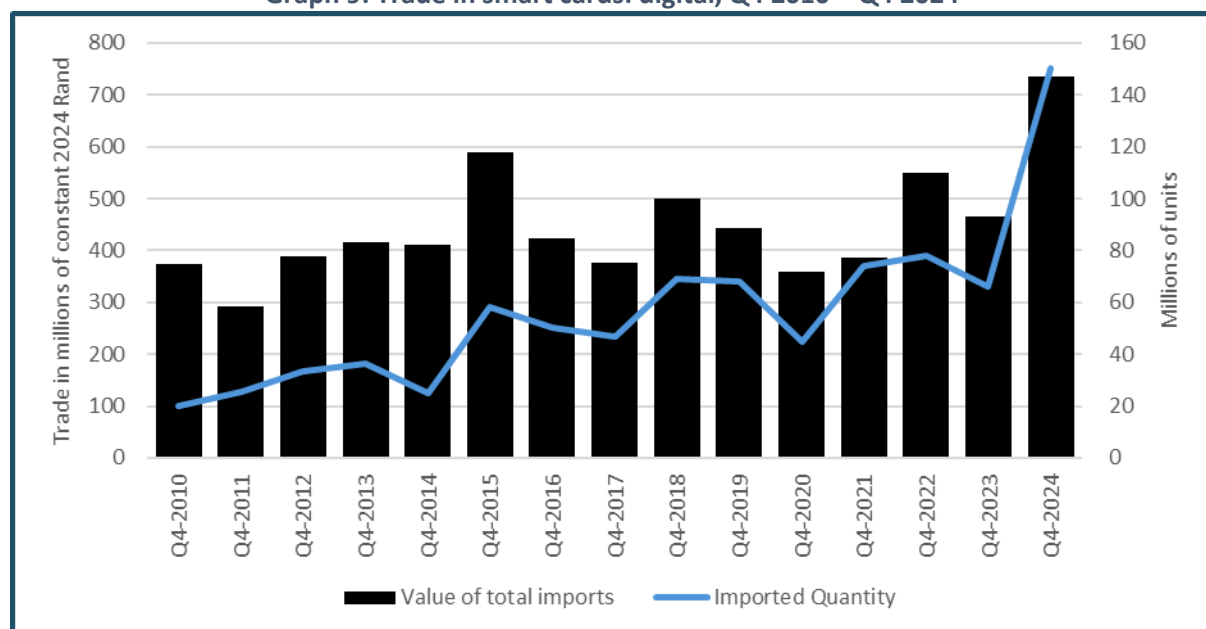
Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits “smart cards”: Digital (HS85235210) are physical cards with a built-in memory chip that allows for electronic data transfer (Mercieca, 2025). Smart cards contain an implanted integrated circuit, either a microcontroller or a memory chip. They connect to a reader through physical contact or contactless radio frequency (Secure Technology Alliance, n.d.). The microcontroller enables the card to perform operations like encryption, calculation, and data processing. Smart cards are used in various industries, including smart identity cards issued by the Department of Home Affairs, bank cards provided by banks, SIM cards in telecommunications,

and rewards cards offered by retailers. Smart cards are used for identity verification, payments, network connections, data storage, and granting access to facilities and systems.

South Africa is a net importer of digital smart cards. In volumes, imports surged from 66 million units to 150 million units in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024 (see Graph 9). These imports amounted to R735 million in the fourth quarter of 2024, from R464 million in the fourth quarter of 2023. China comprised the bulk of imported volumes and value, accounting for 49% of imported units. In the year to the fourth quarter of 2024, imports from China surged by 40 million units to 74 million units.

While there is no clear reason for the significant surge in imports of smart cards, the Department of Home Affairs (2025) issued 970 543 smart identity cards between 1 October and 31 December 2024, an 8% increase from the previous quarter. Moreover, cards for receiving social security payments from the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) were set to be invalid by 28 February 2025 following changes aimed at moving beneficiaries to new Postbank cards rather SASSA branded cards. This move began in September 2024, and thus likely contributed to the surge in smart card imports in the fourth quarter of 2024.

**Graph 9: Trade in smart cards: digital, Q4 2010 – Q4 2024**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

#### **Finding 4: Agriculture and agro-processing products**

##### **Soyabeans (excluding seed for sowing) (HS 12019000)**

Soyabeans (excluding seed for sowing) (HS 12019000) are legumes also known as oilseeds due to high oil concentration in the seed. Soyabeans are a summer crop that is relatively challenging to cultivate, sensitive to water shortages and high temperatures. Cultivation generally occurs under warm dry land conditions, and in fertile soil. Local production takes place countrywide – excluding the Western Cape and primarily in the Free State and Mpumalanga. The local industry is characterised by few large farms backed by corporate investment in farming and vertical integration. It is dominated by agricultural service companies and grower associations. Notable companies include Pannar Seed, Pioneer Seed, AFGRI Agri services and Senwes and Olam Agri (Phillips, 2023; DALRRD, 2024).

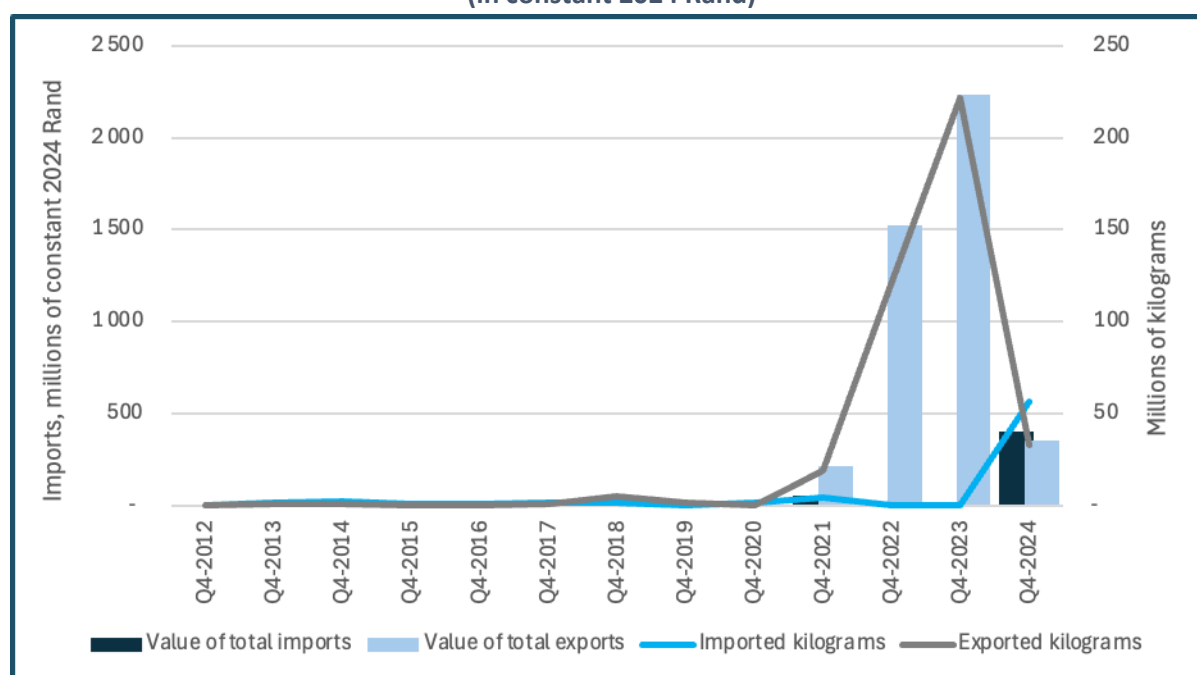
Soyabeans are processed into various products for human consumption and animal feed. Demand for soybeans largely comes from the crushing and processing industries which convert the soyabeans into

products such as oilcake. Globally, Brazil and the US are the largest soyabeans producers, contributing 40% and 28% respectively. South Africa is not a significant producer holding less than 1% of global production. While local producers can meet local demand, imports supplement periods of shortages.

Given the local production capacity to supply almost all local demand, imports are generally low, surging above five million kilograms in only a few instances since the mid-2010s. Nevertheless, imports surged by 56 million kilograms to almost 57 million kilograms in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024, amounting to more than R400 million in 2024, from R5 million in the fourth quarter of 2023 (see Graph 10). The US supplied 99% of the imported volumes in the fourth quarter of 2024, with Canada, eSwatini and China among the countries supplying the balance.

The drought experienced by Southern Africa and the high temperatures from November to December put a strain on soyabean yields. The Crop Estimates Committee's final total area planted in the 2023/24 production year showed a minimal increase of 0.2% to about 1.2 million hectares. However, total production declined from almost three million tonnes to less than two million tonnes between the 2022/23 and 2023/24 planting seasons. KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape and the Eastern Cape were the only provinces where total soyabean production grew. Free State and North-West saw significantly lower production, falling by a combined 840 000 tonnes (Grain SA, 2025).

**Graph 10: Imports of soyabeans (excluding seed for sowing), Q4 2010 – Q4 2024**  
(in constant 2024 Rand)



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

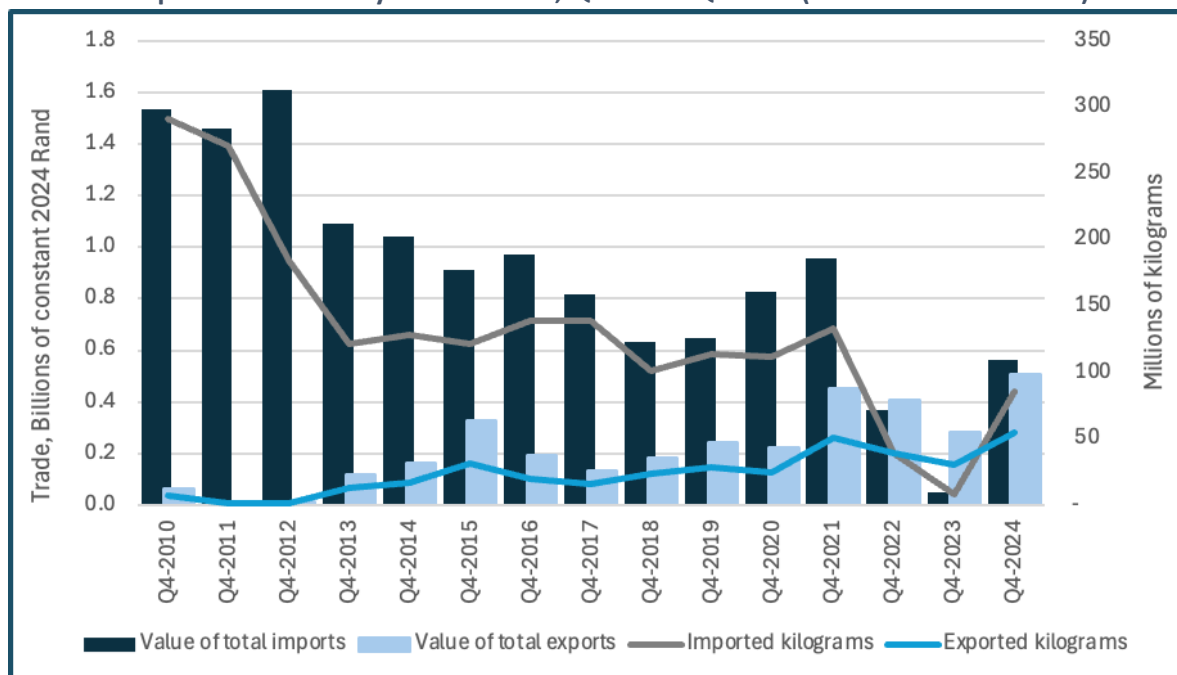
Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

### Soyabean oilcake and other solid residues

Soyabean oilcake (HS 23040000) is a byproduct from soyabean oil extraction. This product is largely used as an input into animal feed, particularly for poultry. Globally, Brazil, Argentina and the US are the main exporters of the product, while Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand are the main importers. South Africa is a net importer of soya oilcake, although imports have been on a downward trajectory in both value and volumes since the mid-2010s (see Graph 11). Most oilcake for the domestic market is supplied locally. Overall, the share of oilcake supplied through domestic production grew from about a fifth in the 2000s to more than 80% in 2022 (Protein Research Foundation, 2022).

South Africa's soyabean oilcake imports surged by 78 million kilograms to 87 million kilograms in the year to the fourth quarter of 2024, with the value rising from R49 million to R562 million in the same period. At approximately eight million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2023, imports continued a downward trend that began in the second quarter of 2023 and reached its lowest point (almost six million kilograms) in the first quarter of 2024. The reason for the decline in imports in 2023, and the resulting surge in the fourth quarter of 2024 was a decline in oilcake production in Argentina in 2023 (USDA, 2023), which saw the country's total exports decline in 2023, before rising again in 2024. Given that Argentina supplies more than 90% of South Africa's import volumes for oilcake, lower supply from Argentina impacts South Africa's total imports.

**Graph 11: Trade in soyabean oilcake, Q4 2010 - Q4 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

The majority of locally produced soyabeans are processed into oilcake, a large share of which is for the animal feed industry. However, the 2024 drought led to decreased production of soyabeans, which in turn led to lower production of oilcake. According to Sihlobo (2025), decreased local production of soyabeans generally results in increased imports of oilcake because importing soyabeans would still require processing into oilcake. This accounts for the notable increase in oilcake imports. Further, as the drought resulted in lower soyabeans production, South Africa increased its imports to meet local demand, with a portion of which was for re-export, mainly to Zimbabwe.

### Live insects - excluding bees

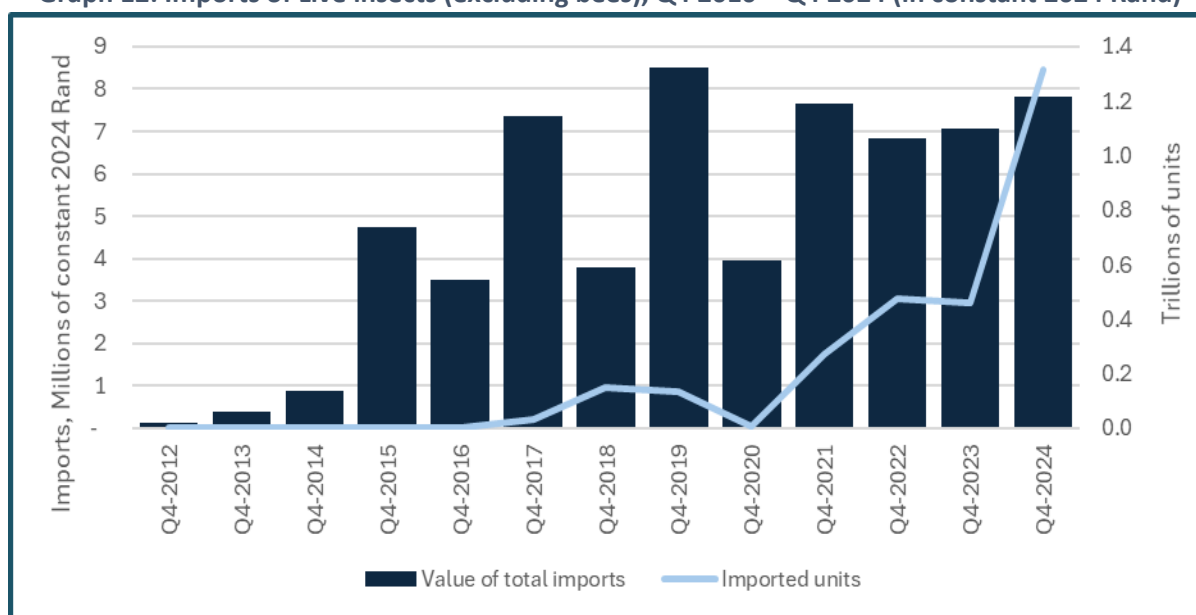
Live insects (excluding bees) comprise a range of insects including crickets, ants and grasshoppers. These insects have applications in different industries, including in research, industrial processes and animal feed. Use in animal feed is mainly for poultry, pets and in aquaculture, as an alternative source of protein and other nutritional value. Increasing interest in insects as an alternative to conventional sources of protein such as soyabeans can in part be attributed to the increasing demand for animal protein and the need to respond to concerns such as food insecurity considering a growing global population. This is further encouraged by the rising prices of soyabeans and other sources of animal feed such as yellow maize. In addition, climate change challenges such as drought place pressure on protein sources such as soyabeans. The main species in the insect farming industry include the black

soldier fly, yellow mealworm and crickets. The most common insect used in animal feed is the black soldier fly (Kolobe, et al., 2024; IPIFF, n.d.; NAMC, n.d.).

South Africa has insect farms like Inseco, which uses black soldier flies to convert organic waste into fertiliser oil and insect protein. Another company with similar operations is Maltento.

Imports of live insects (excluding bees) increased by 185% to more than one trillion kilograms in the year to the fourth quarter 2024, valued at almost R8 million. About 99% of fourth quarter 2024 imported volumes came from the Netherlands, up from 96% in the fourth quarter of 2023. Live insects imported from the Netherlands include species such as mealworms, lesser mealworms, fly larvae, crickets and grasshoppers. It is not clear what drove the surge in imports over this period.

**Graph 12: Imports of Live insects (excluding bees), Q4 2010 – Q4 2024 (in constant 2024 Rand)**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the fourth quarter of 2024.

## Finding 5: Data errors and other issues

**Table 3: Potential data errors, Q4 2024**

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate, in primary forms, having a viscosity number of $\geq 78$ ml/g: other	Error in reporting volumes imported from China. Reported imported volumes by South Africa far exceed what China reports as its total global exports of this product.
71039900	Precious and semi-precious stones, worked, whether or not graded, but not strung, mounted or set, precious and semi-precious stones, worked, ungraded, temporarily strung for convenience of transport (excluding precious and semi-precious stones, simply sawn or roughly shaped, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, imitation precious stones and semi-precious stones)	Error in reporting volumes imported from India. Prior to the first quarter of 2022, India reported its exports of this product in carats but has since begun using kilograms. In contrast, South Africa continues to report its trade in carats. As such, this appears to be a conversion error.



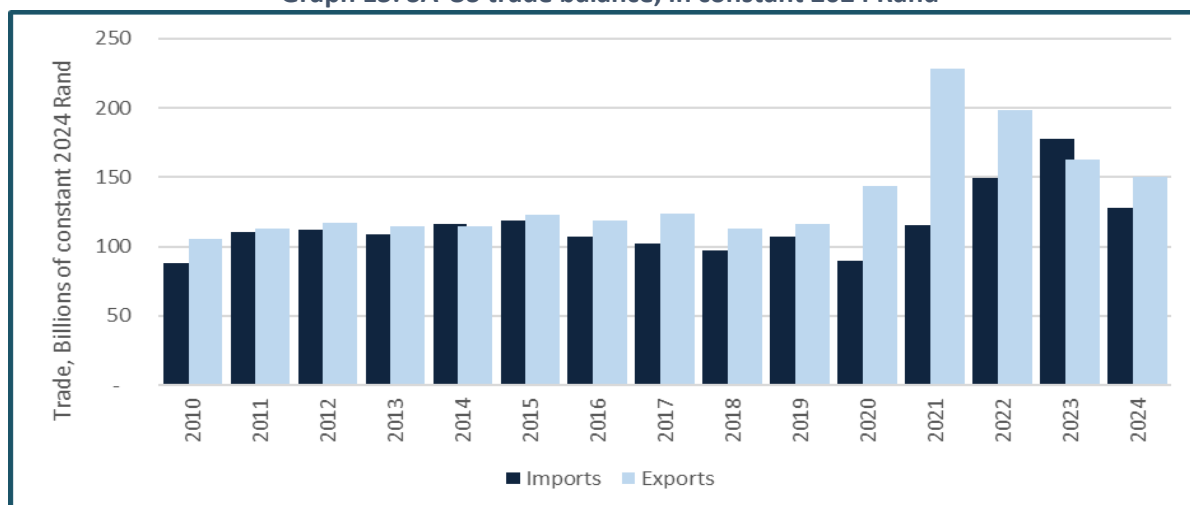
HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION
<b>39233000</b>	Carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics	Error in reporting volumes imported from South Korea. South Africa's reported imports far exceed what South Korea reported as its total global exports of this product.
<b>29336990</b>	Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero atom[s] only, containing an unfused triazine ring, whether or not hydrogenated, in the structure (excluding melamine): Other	Error in reporting volumes imported from China. Reported imported volumes by South Africa far exceed what China reports as its total global exports of this product.
<b>84715000</b>	Processing units for automatic data-processing machines	Error in converting volumes imported from Poland, which reports exports in kilograms, while South Africa reports in units.
<b>72072000</b>	Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel containing, by weight, $\geq$ 0.25% of carbon	Error in reporting volumes imported from China. The surge in volumes is not matched by a corresponding increase or surge in the value of the imports.
<b>72142000</b>	Bars and rods, of iron or non-alloy steel, with indentations, ribs, grooves or other deformations produced during the rolling process	Error in reporting volumes imported from China. The surge in volumes is not matched by a corresponding increase or surge in the value of the imports.

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

## SECTION 2: SOUTH AFRICA'S TRADE WITH THE US

South Africa maintained a trade surplus, in real terms, with the US in all but two of the last 15 years. For the most part, this surplus has been buoyed by exports of platinum group metals like palladium, rhodium and platinum. In constant 2024 Rand, imports from the US grew from R88 billion in 2010 to R128 billion in 2024. Over the same period, exports grew from R106 billion to R151 billion (see Graph 13). Exports particularly surged from 2020 and remained high (although on a downward trend) after 2021, following a surge in global mineral prices sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Graph 13: SA-US trade balance, in constant 2024 Rand**



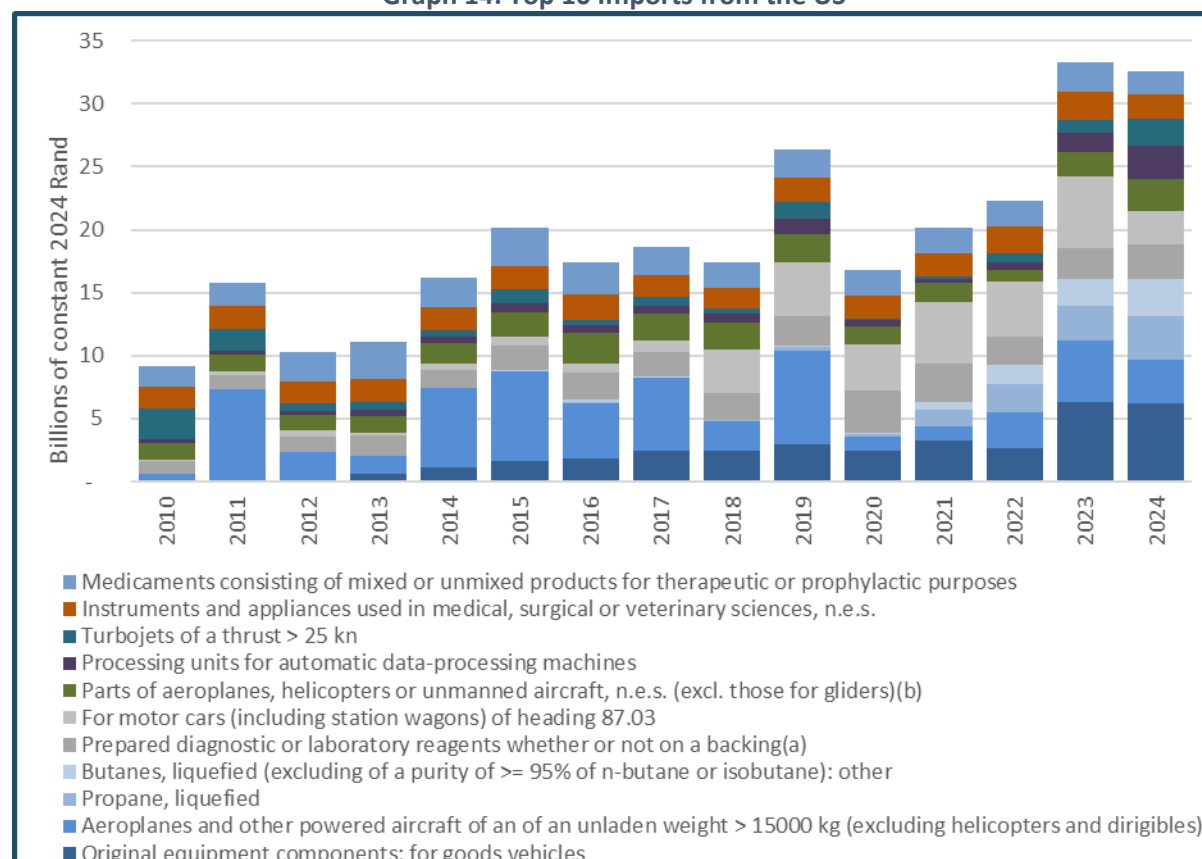
Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2025.



Excluding crude oil (imports of which are sporadic at best, surging only when supply from traditional sources such as Nigeria and Saudi Arabia is disrupted) and foreign currency, the top 10 imports from the US grew from R9 billion in 2010 (10% of total imports from the US) to R33 billion in 2024 (26% of total imports from the US). The growth has been driven by growing imports of automotive products, as well as medical and diagnostic equipment (see Graph 14).

Imports of other petroleum like liquefied propane have also grown. Aside from the automotive imports, ICT equipment and medical equipment, the US has been the top source of other products within the top 10, supplying anywhere between 50% and 98% of products such as turbo jets, petroleum products and diagnostic reagents to South Africa.

**Graph 14: Top 10 Imports from the US**

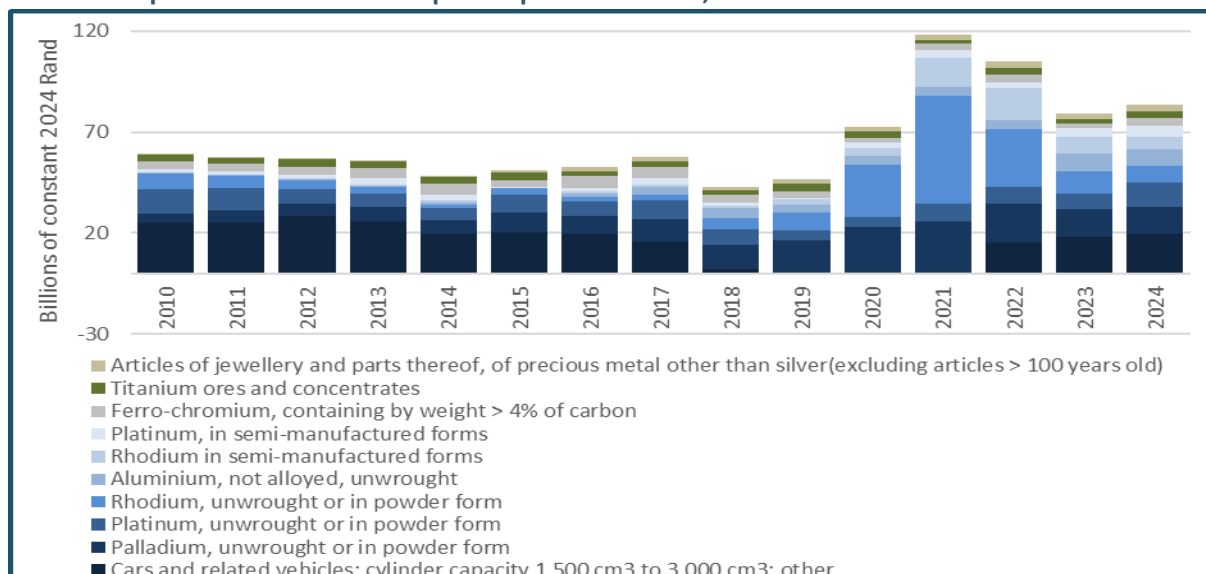


Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2025.

Between 2010 and 2014, South Africa's top 10 exports to the US were on a downward trend, before increasing in 2015. These exports reached their lowest point in 2018, falling to just over R40 billion, impacted by a decrease in automotive exports, particularly light vehicles and catalytic converters.

The US is not an insignificant market for South Africa's exports (in Rand terms), especially critical minerals. Between 2021 and 2024 for instance, South Africa's exports of palladium to the US accounted for an average 34% of the country's total exports of this product, down slightly from 39% between 2015 and 2018. Similarly, rhodium exports to the US averaged 29% of South Africa's total exports of this product, down from 37% between 2015 and 2018.

**Graph 15: South Africa's top 10 exports to the US, in billions of constant 2024 Rand**



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2025.

Table 4 shows South Africa's top 10 imports from the US based on 2024 data. The table also shows the share of imports from the US against South Africa's total imports of each product, along with an alternative source of imports for each product based on share of total imports by country. As noted, the US is a major source of various petroleum products. A smaller share of automotive imports come from the US, accounting for 12% of components for goods vehicles compared to Thailand's 42%.

**Table 4: Top 10 imports from the US, and share of imports from alternative source (a)(b)**

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	SHARE OF IMPORTS FROM US (2024)	ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF IMPORTS	SHARE OF IMPORTS FROM ALTERNATIVE SOURCE (2024)
<b>98010040</b>	Original equipment components: For goods vehicles	12%	Thailand	42%
<b>88024000</b>	Aeroplanes and other powered aircraft of an of an unladen weight > 15000 kg (excluding helicopters and dirigibles)	67%	Canada	19%
<b>27111200</b>	Propane, liquefied	98%	Nigeria	2%
<b>27111390</b>	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	74%	Areas NES	12%
<b>38221900</b>	Prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing (a)	57%	Germany	9%
<b>98010030</b>	For motor cars (including station wagons) of heading 87.03	4%	Germany	37%
<b>88073000</b>	Parts of aeroplanes, helicopters or unmanned aircraft, n.e.s. (excluding those for gliders) (b)	56%	France	29%

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	SHARE OF IMPORTS FROM US (2024)	ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF IMPORTS	SHARE OF IMPORTS FROM ALTERNATIVE SOURCE (2024)
<b>84715000</b>	Processing units for automatic data-processing machines	22%	China	22%
<b>84111200</b>	Turbojets of a thrust > 25 kn	95%	UK	4%
<b>90189000</b>	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, n.e.s.	27%	China	14%

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2025. Notes: (a) alternative is the second-largest source based on 2024 Rand value, (b) HS 9801 data downloaded from Quantec EasyData interactive online database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za> in March 2025.

Table 5 shows South Africa's exports to the US as a share of total exports. Similar to Table 4, this table also shows alternative countries for South Africa's exports based on a country's share of total exports for each product. At least five of the top 10 products exported to the US are critical minerals, including for instance platinum, rhodium and palladium. South Africa is by far the largest producer of these minerals and holds the bulk of the world's reserves.

**Table 5: Top 10 exports to the US, and share of exports to alternative destination (a)**

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	SHARE OF EXPORTS TO US (2024)	ALTERNATIVE DESTINATION FOR EXPORTS	SHARE OF EXPORTS TO ALTERNATIVE DESTINATION (2024)
<b>87032390</b>	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons: other	49%	Germany	26%
<b>71102100</b>	Palladium, unwrought or in powder form	36%	Japan	26%
<b>71101100</b>	Platinum, unwrought or in powder form	34%	Japan	29%
<b>71103100</b>	Rhodium, unwrought or in powder form	27%	Japan	38%
<b>76011000</b>	Aluminium, not alloyed, unwrought	32%	Netherlands	20%
<b>71103900</b>	Rhodium in semi-manufactured forms	59%	UK	17%
<b>71101900</b>	Platinum, in semi-manufactured forms	13%	UK	30%
<b>72024100</b>	Ferro-chromium, containing by weight > 4% of carbon	6%	China	36%
<b>26140000</b>	Titanium ores and concentrates	34%	Belgium	29%
<b>71131900</b>	Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal other than silver, whether or not plated or clad with precious metal (excluding articles > 100 years old)	94%	UK	3%

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in March 2025. Notes: (a) alternative is the second-largest destination based on 2024 Rand value.

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## DATA ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Top 100 import products by Rand value, Q4 2024

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2023 - Q4 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
1	27101230	Diesel	30.88	No change	Not designated
2	27090000	Crude oil	21.85	No change	Not designated
3	98010030	Automotive components: for motor cars	12.51	No change	Not designated
4	27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	11.49	No change	Not designated
5	98010040	Original equipment components: For goods vehicles	10.24	No change	Not designated
6	87032290	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 000 cm3 to 1 500 cm3	9.76	2	Not designated
7	85171310	Smartphones for wireless networks	8.63	-1	Not designated
8	30049099	Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes	6.19	-1	Not designated
9	71081300	Gold, in semi-manufactured forms, for non-monetary purposes	4.65	2	Not designated
10	84713090	Data-processing machines, automatic, portable, weighing <= 10 kg	4.37	No change	Not designated
11	28182000	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	3.82	8	Not designated
12	85176290	Routers and set-top boxes: Other	3.81	No change	Routers not designated; STB 30% designated
13	98010045	Original equipment components: for goods vehicles	3.61	1	Not designated
14	84715000	Processing units for automatic data-processing machines	3.24	20	Not designated
15	10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	3.13	-2	Not designated
16	15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	2.86	11	Not designated
17	88024000	Aeroplanes and other powered aircraft of an of an unladen weight > 15000 kg	2.69	40	Not designated
18	87032390	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 500 cm3 to 3 000 cm3	2.58	7	Not designated
19	85076000	Lithium-ion accumulators (excluding spent)	2.46	-10	Not designated
20	87032190	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity not exceeding 1 000 cm3	2.41	3	Not designated
21	33021000	Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures, including alcoholic solutions of a kind used in the food and drink industries	2.37	-4	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2023 - Q4 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
22	27101207	Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene	2.36	19	Not designated
23	85044000	Static converters	2.27	-5	Inverters 40% designated
24	87033290	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity 1 000 cm3 to 2 500 cm3	2.17	13	Not designated
25	85414300	Photovoltaic cells assembled in modules or made up into panels	2.16	38	Solar PV components 70% designated
26	74081100	Wire of refined copper, with a maximum cross-sectional dimension of > 6 mm	2.01	17	Not designated
27	85023100	Generating sets: wind-powered	2.01	-6	Not designated
28	27101226	Light oils and preparations: Illuminating kerosene	1.99	-13	Not designated
29	27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	1.98	2	Not designated
30	99999999	Commodities not elsewhere specified	1.96	1637	Not designated
31	27101257	Light oils and preparations: other base oils	1.90	1	Not designated
32	90189000	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, not elsewhere specified	1.86	-3	Not designated
33	84314990	Parts of machinery of heading 8426, 8429 and 8430, not elsewhere specified: Other	1.81	No change	Not designated
34	84295200	Self-propelled bulldozers, etc: With 360-degree revolving superstructure	1.80	8	Not designated
35	87033390	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity exceeding 2 500 cm3	1.67	-9	Not designated
36	71023100	Non-industrial diamonds unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted	1.66	12	Not designated
37	98010015	Automotive components: For road tractors	1.66	-15	Not designated
38	38249999	Chemical products and preparations of the chemical or allied industries	1.59	-3	Not designated
39	31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	1.59	-9	Not designated
40	84439900	Parts and accessories of printers, copying machines and facsimile machines, not elsewhere specified	1.40	6	Not designated
41	85177900	Parts of telephone sets, telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks	1.36	9	Not designated
42	31054000	Ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate and mixtures thereof with diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate	1.33	3	Not designated
43	87089990	Parts and accessories for tractors and buses	1.27	-5	Not designated
44	27160000	Electrical energy	1.26	-8	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2023 - Q4 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
45	38221900	Prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing	1.24	10	Not designated
46	87082900	Parts and accessories motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05	1.19	-2	Not designated
47	88073000	Parts of aeroplanes, helicopters or unmanned aircraft, not elsewhere specified (excluding those for gliders)	1.17	5	Not designated
48	27101235	Residual fuel oils, as defined in additional note 1(h)	1.14	-28	Not designated
49	87041090	Dumpers for off-highway use: Other	1.12	-33	Not designated
50	27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	1.06	14	Not designated
51	17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter	1.06	10	Not designated
52	27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	1.05	1	Not designated
53	15121190	Crude sunflower-seed or safflower oil: Other	1.01	-2	Not designated
54	39269090	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	0.97	8	Not designated
55	84219990	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	0.94	20	Plastic wheelie bins 100% designated
56	61091000	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	0.92	14	100% designated
57	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	0.90	20	Not designated
58	20097900	Apple juice, unfermented, brix value > 20 at 20°C, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter (excluding containing spirit)	0.90	321	Not designated
59	27101900	Medium oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals, not containing biodiesel, not elsewhere specified	0.89	35	Not designated
60	30043990	Medicaments containing hormones or steroids used as hormones but not antibiotics, put up in measured doses "including those in the form of transdermal administration" or in forms or packings for retail sale (excluding medicaments containing insulin or corticosteroid hormones, their derivatives or structural analogues): Other	0.88	130	Not designated
61	64039990	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics or composition leather, with uppers of leather: Other	0.87	56	100% designated
62	02071210	Frozen fowls of the species gallus domesticus, not cut in pieces: Mechanically deboned meat	0.87	82	Not designated
63	27111200	Propane, liquefied	0.86	20	Not designated



RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2023 - Q4 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
64	40112026	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber, of a kind used for buses and lorries: having a rim size exceeding 51cm (20inches)	0.85	39	Not designated
65	84717000	Storage units for automatic data-processing machines	0.84	-6	Not designated
66	74031100	Copper, refined, in the form of cathodes and sections of cathodes	0.83	7	Not designated
67	39011000	Polyethylene having a specific gravity of less than 0.94	0.82	2	Not designated
68	21069090	Food preparations, n.e.s: Other	0.82	24	Not designated
69	22083010	Whiskies: in containers holding 2 li or less	0.82	18	Not designated
70	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	0.81	37	Not designated
71	33049990	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin: Other	0.78	3	Not designated
72	84749000	Parts of machinery for working mineral substances of heading 8474, not elsewhere specified	0.77	13	Not designated
73	84111200	Turbojets of a thrust > 25 kn	0.76	164	Not designated
74	03035300	Frozen sardines "Sardina pilchardus, Sardinops spp", sardinella "Sardinella spp.", brisling or sprats "Sprattus sprattus"	0.75	192	Not designated
75	85235210	Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits "smart cards": Digital	0.74	66	Not designated
76	27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated	0.73	-22	Not designated
77	10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	0.73	-49	Not designated
78	28362000	Disodium carbonate	0.73	107	Not designated
79	87032490	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity exceeding 3 000 cm3	0.73	-11	Not designated
80	38089399	Herbicides, anti-sprouting products and plant-growth regulators	0.71	-33	Not designated
81	64029990	Footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics: Other	0.71	33	100% 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	0.71	No change	Not designated
83	79011100	Unwrought zinc, not alloyed, containing by weight >= 99,99% of zinc	0.69	43	Not designated
84	88023000	Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen mass exceeding 2 000 kg but not exceeding 15 000 kg	0.69	59	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q4 2023 - Q4 2024	DESIGNATION STATUS
85	90183900	Needles, catheters, cannulae and the like, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences	0.69	16	Not designated
86	84291100	Self-propelled bulldozers and angledozer, track laying	0.69	-26	Not designated
87	38112100	Prepared additives for oil lubricants containing petroleum oil or bituminous mineral oil	0.69	10	Not designated
88	39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of $\geq 0,94$ , in primary forms	0.68	-4	Not designated
89	38089199	Insecticides (excluding goods of subheading 3808.50): Other	0.67	23	Not designated
90	84314300	Parts for boring or sinking machinery of subheading 8430.41 or 8430.49	0.65	-1	Not designated
91	27101215	Light oils and preparations: Illuminating kerosene	0.65	-24	Not designated
92	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	23	Not designated
93	10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Other	0.64	4028	Not designated
94	84798990	Machines and mechanical appliances, not elsewhere specified: Other	0.63	-23	Not designated
95	95030090	Tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys: Other	0.63	-7	Not designated
96	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)	0.62	13	Not designated
97	40111009	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber, of a kind used for motor cars, including station wagons and racing cars: having a rim size of 43 cm (17 inches) or more	0.62	7	Not designated
98	72101210	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of $\geq 600$ mm, hot-rolled or cold-rolled "cold-reduced", tinned, of a thickness of $< 0,5$ mm: containing by mass 0,6 per cent or more of carbon, not corrugated	0.62	47	100% designated
99	30021500	Immunological products, put up in measured doses, or in forms or packings for retail	0.62	-21	Not designated
100	27132000	Petroleum bitumen	0.62	-21	Not designated

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.

## Annexure 2: Surges in import products by quantity Q4 2024

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH/DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH/DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
1	01064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	Selected for analysis	855 674 565 388	Units	185%	Not designated
2	27101230	Diesel	Decline in imports	- 556 020 685	Litres	-16%	Not designated
3	27090000	Crude oil	Decline in imports	- 353 203 151	Kilograms	-14%	Not designated
4	27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	Decline in imports	- 11 928 318	Litres	-1%	Not designated
5	27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	Not significant	19 965 129	Kilograms	3%	Not designated
6	39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate, in primary forms, having a viscosity number of >= 78 ml/g: Other	Data error	703 983 417	Kilograms	15058%	Not designated
7	28182000	Aluminium oxide (excl. artificial corundum)	Not significant	14 278 069	Kilograms	4%	Not designated
8	25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	Ongoing monitoring	115 041 047	Kilograms	55%	100% designated
9	10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	Decline in imports	- 32 120 538	Kilograms	-10%	Not designated
10	27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	Not significant	69 093 901	Kilograms	31%	Not designated
11	27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Surge within usual variance	137 450 730	Kilograms	113%	Not designated
12	31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	Decline in imports	- 1 731 283	Kilograms	-1%	Not designated
13	27101207	Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene	Selected for analysis	149 502 627	Litres	147%	Not designated
14	27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated; retort carbon	Decline in imports	- 46 668 879	Kilograms	-18%	Not designated
15	27101226	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals	Decline in imports	- 29 724 176	Litres	-13%	Not designated
16	71039900	Precious and semi-precious stones, worked, whether or not graded, but not strung, mounted or set, precious and semi-precious stones, worked, ungraded, temporarily strung for convenience of transport (excluding precious and semi-precious stones, simply sawn or roughly shaped, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, imitation precious stones and semi-precious stones)	Data error	186 606 631	Carats	3029%	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH/DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH/DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
17	10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Other	Ongoing monitoring	172 554 500	Kilograms	880650%	Not designated
18	25231000	Cement clinkers	Ongoing monitoring	110 842 989	Kilograms	181%	Not designated
19	10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	Decline in imports	- 207 845 632	Kilograms	-55%	Not designated
20	44011200	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, non-coniferous	Not significant	46 788 093	Kilograms	41%	Not designated
21	25030000	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	Ongoing monitoring	20 939 031	Kilograms	15%	Not designated
22	85235210	<b>Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits “smart cards”: Digital</b>	<b>Selected for analysis</b>	<b>84 218 321</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>127%</b>	<b>Not designated</b>
23	39233000	Carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics	Data error	146 249 619	Kilograms	3808%	Not designated
24	28362000	Disodium carbonate	Surge within usual variance	80 034 317	Kilograms	123%	Not designated
25	15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined (excluding chemically modified and crude): Other	Not significant	16 414 805	Kilograms	13%	Not designated
26	29336990	Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero atom[s] only, containing an unfused triazine ring, whether or not hydrogenated, in the structure (excluding melamine): other	Data error	140 263 653	Kilograms	7540%	Not designated
27	27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	Decline in imports	- 102 591 775	Litres	-44%	Not designated
28	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)	Decline in imports	- 24 136 468	Kilograms	-16%	Not designated
29	10079000	Grain sorghum (excluding for sowing)	Not significant	43 452 114	Kilograms	65%	Not designated
30	27101257	Light oils and preparations: other base oils	Decline in imports	- 7 693 025	Litres	-7%	Not designated
31	84715000	Processing units for automatic data-processing machines	Data error	100 041 693	Units	151544%	Not designated
32	84248900	Mechanical appliances, whether or not hand-operated, for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders, n.e.s.	Surge within usual variance	63 193 850	Units	190%	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH/DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH/DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
33	10059010	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): dried kernels or grains fit for human consumption, not further prepared or processed and not packaged as seeds (excluding popcorn (zea mays everta))	Ongoing monitoring	95 993 140	Kilograms	899486%	Not designated
34	72072000	Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel containing, by weight, >= 0,25% of carbon	Data error	62 900 854	Kilograms	236%	100% designated
35	01069000	Live animals (excluding mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and	Decline in imports	- 189 005 992	Units	-68%	Not designated
36	23040000	<b>Oilcake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil</b>	<b>Selected for analysis</b>	<b>77 968 850</b>	<b>Kilograms</b>	<b>1014%</b>	<b>Not designated</b>
37	27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	Not significant	14 934 143	Kilograms	21%	Not designated
38	25010010	Salts, incl. table salt and denatured salt, and pure sodium chloride, whether or not in aqueous solution or containing added anti-caking or free-flowing agents; sea water: Not for human consumption	Not significant	8 085 971	Kilograms	11%	Not designated
39	31022100	Ammonium sulphate (excl. that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Decline in imports	- 48 052 480	Kilograms	-39%	Not designated
40	27132000	Petroleum bitumen	Not significant	3 767 718	Kilograms	5%	Not designated
41	17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter	Not significant	6 361 644	Kilograms	9%	Not designated
42	27111200	Propane, liquefied	Not significant	10 078 850	Kilograms	17%	Not designated
43	02071210	Frozen fowls of the species gallus domesticus, not cut in pieces: mechanically deboned meat	Not significant	15 206 514	Kilograms	30%	Not designated
44	27131200	Petroleum coke, calcined	Not significant	5 841 990	Kilograms	10%	Not designated
45	25010090	Salts, incl. table salt and denatured salt, and pure sodium chloride, whether or not in aqueous solution or containing added anti-caking or free-flowing agents; sea water: Other	Decline in imports	- 557 894	Kilograms	-1%	Not designated

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH/DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH/ DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS
46	72142000	Bars and rods, of iron or non-alloy steel, with indentations, ribs, groves or other deformations produced during the rolling process	Data error	61 164 847	Kilograms	191920%	100% designated
47	10039000	Barley (excluding seed for sowing)	Decline in imports	- 2 361 160	Kilograms	-4%	Not designated
48	12019000	<b>Soya beans, whether or not broken (excluding seed for sowing)</b>	<b>Selected for analysis</b>	<b>56 281 873</b>	<b>Kilograms</b>	<b>11224%</b>	<b>Not designated</b>
49	27101215	Light oils and preparations: Illuminating kerosene	Not significant	338 136	Liters	1%	Not designated
50	90189000	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, n.e.s.	Not significant	16 886 182	Units	44%	Not designated

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in February 2025.