

South Africa

Imports: CIF, by origin

Exports: FOB, by last known destination

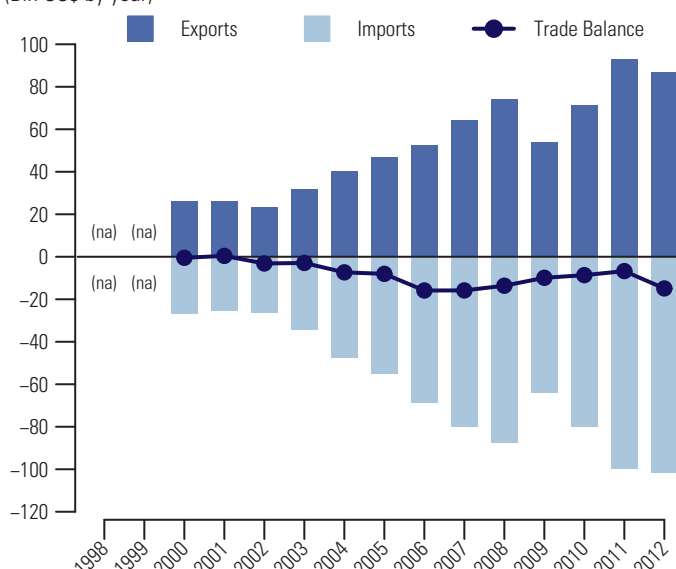
Trade System: General

Overview:

South Africa's exports increased on average by 4.1 percent per year for the past 5 years and amounted to 86.7 bln US\$ in 2012 (see table 1 and graph 1). Similarly, imports grew by 3.8 percent each year and reached 101.6 bln US\$ (see table 2 and graph 1). This resulted in a trade deficit of 14.9 bln US\$ in 2012 (see graph 1). The trade balance recorded deficits with MDG regions such as Developed Europe (-10.8 bln US\$), Western Asia (-7.7 bln US\$), Eastern Asia (-4.0 bln US\$) and South-eastern Asia (-3.7 bln US\$) (see graph 2). Surpluses were recorded with Sub-Saharan Africa (+5.9 bln US\$), Northern Africa (+0.4 bln US\$) and Developed Asia-Pacific (+0.2 bln US\$). South Africa's trade was diversified across partners: in 2012, 23 and 22 major partners accounted for 80 percent of exports and imports respectively (see graph 3).

Graph 1: Total imports, exports and trade balance

(Bln US\$ by year)



Exports Profile:

The majority of exports in 2012 were accounted for by manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (SITC section 6) which represented 24.6 percent. Inedible crude materials (except fuels), animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (SITC sections 2+4) and machinery and transport equipment (SITC section 7) accounted for respectively 18.9 and 18.4 percent of total exports (see table 1). Major markets for exports were China, USA and Japan (see table 4). More than two-thirds (68.8 percent) of exports to China were inedible crude materials (except fuels), animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (SITC sections 2+4). Over the last three years, South Africa's main commodities for exports were platinum, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form (HS code 7110), iron ores and concentrates, including roasted iron pyrites (HS code 2601), and coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal (HS code 2701) (see table 3).

Table 1: Exports by SITC sections

(Value in million US\$, growth and shares in percentage)

SITC	2012	Avg. Growth rates (%)		2012 share
		2008-2012	2011-2012	
Total	86 712.0	4.1	-6.7	100.0
0+1	6 245.4	4.7	-5.1	7.2
2+4	16 420.1	11.2	-11.5	18.9
3	9 781.4	8.3	0.8	11.3
5	6 196.1	2.0	0.8	7.1
6	21 311.8	-5.7	-20.9	24.6
7	15 992.7	-0.4	0.4	18.4
8	1 771.1	-0.1	-1.1	2.0
9	8 993.4	150.1	22.5	10.4

Table 2: Imports by SITC sections

(Value in million US\$, growth and shares in percentage)

SITC	2012	Avg. Growth rates (%)		2012 share
		2008-2012	2011-2012	
Total	101 610.6	3.8	1.9	100.0
0+1	5 356.2	9.4	8.9	5.3
2+4	3 118.1	-4.3	-7.5	3.1
3	22 833.0	4.0	7.5	22.5
5	10 482.0	5.2	2.2	10.3
6	10 313.7	3.3	-1.6	10.2
7	34 854.1	3.2	-0.7	34.3
8	8 337.2	6.6	1.0	8.2
9	6 316.5	2.0	3.7	6.2

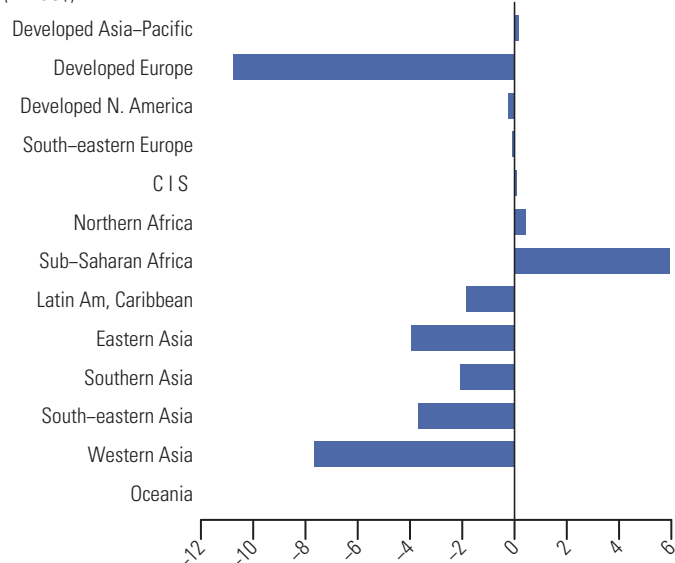
Table 3: Top 10 export commodities 2010 to 2012

(Value in million US\$)

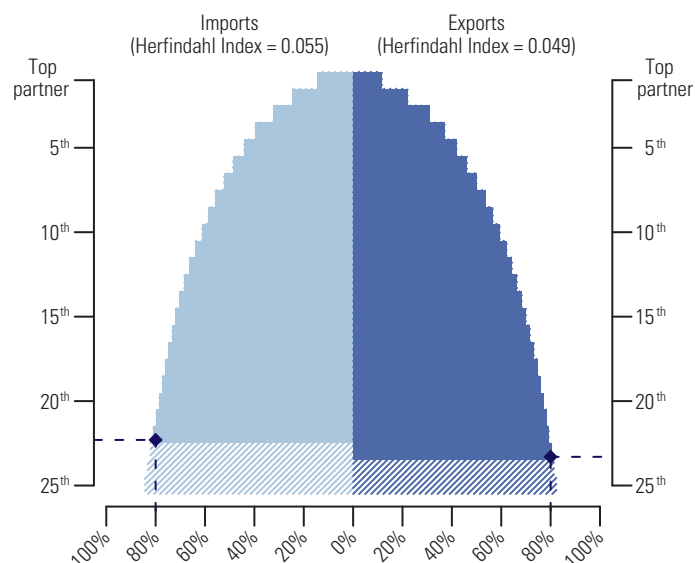
HS code	4-digit heading of Harmonized System 2007	Value (million US\$)			Unit value			SITC code
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	
All Commodities.....		71 484.3	92 975.6	86 712.0				
7110 Platinum, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form.....		9 377.1	10 990.5	7 939.2	25.5	37.1	7.3 thsd US\$/kg	681
2601 Iron ores and concentrates, including roasted iron pyrites.....		5 408.4	9 001.8	7 509.9	0.1	0.2	0.1 US\$/kg	281
2701 Coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal.....		5 468.6	7 523.8	7 004.3	0.1	0.1	0.1 US\$/kg	321
7108 Gold (including gold plated with platinum).....		...	6 936.8	8 671.8	...	96.4	thsd US\$/kg	971
7202 Ferro-alloys.....		4 670.8	4 652.5	3 561.8	1.1	1.1	1.0 US\$/kg	671
8703 Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport.....		4 116.9	4 284.6	3 591.4	19.9	20.5	21.1 thsd US\$/unit	781
8421 Centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers.....		2 185.1	2 846.1	2 165.9				743
7102 Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set.....		1 952.1	2 249.1	1 738.9	186.5	286.3	US\$/carat	667
8704 Motor vehicles for the transport of goods.....		1 169.2	1 701.1	2 713.2	10.2	9.4	19.9 thsd US\$/unit	782
2710 Petroleum oils, other than crude.....		1 209.2	1 430.7	1 887.7	0.6	0.7	0.8 US\$/kg	334

Graph 2: Trade Balance by MDG Regions in 2012

(Bln US\$)


Graph 3: Partner concentration of trade in 2012

(Cumulative share by ranked partners)


Table 4: Exports by principal countries and SITC sections in 2012

(Value in million US\$, percentages of country total)

Country	Total	Shares by SITC sections (%)								
		0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5	6	7	8	9	Total
World.....	86712.0	7.2	18.9	11.3	7.1	24.6	18.4	2.0	10.4	100
China.....	10139.1	0.9	68.8	13.3	2.5	11.9	2.4	0.1	0.0	100
Areas, nes.....	9017.6	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.2	100
USA.....	7586.1	2.8	9.5	1.5	10.3	35.9	36.9	3.1	0.1	100
Japan.....	5413.5	3.1	24.3	1.1	2.8	61.3	7.3	0.1	0.0	100
Germany.....	4174.5	5.2	8.5	1.6	1.8	25.5	52.3	5.0	0.1	100
India.....	3674.8	0.3	29.1	53.7	6.0	7.0	3.8	0.1	0.0	100
United Kingdom.....	3358.1	17.4	9.3	1.8	2.5	50.0	15.9	2.2	0.8	100
Netherlands.....	3042.9	21.4	29.1	13.5	9.8	17.5	8.3	0.4	0.0	100
Zambia.....	2685.8	6.4	3.7	5.5	16.6	21.9	40.5	5.4	0.1	100
Zimbabwe.....	2439.6	16.6	8.6	4.2	18.8	19.5	26.7	5.5	0.1	100

Imports Profile:

Despite a slight decrease of 0.7 percent in imports of machinery and transport equipment (SITC section 7), this section still accounted for over a third (34.3 percent) of imported goods in 2012 (see table 2). Imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (SITC section 3) increased by 7.5 percent and represented 22.5 percent of imports. Over the last three years, top products for imports were petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude (HS code 2709), petroleum oils, other than crude (HS code 2710) and motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport (HS code 8703) (see table 5).

Table 5: Top 10 import commodities 2010 to 2012

(Value in million US\$)

HS code	4-digit heading of Harmonized System 2007	Value (million US\$)			Unit value				SITC code
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	Unit	
All Commodities.....		80139.3	99726.0	101610.6					
2709 Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude.....		11199.5	14085.6	15757.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	US\$/kg	333
9999 Commodities not specified according to kind.....		5241.6	6078.7	6311.4					931
2710 Petroleum oils, other than crude.....		3364.0	5737.8	5858.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	US\$/kg	334
8703 Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport.....		4067.2	5078.5	5176.1	15.3	16.3	16.0	thsd US\$/unit	781
8517 Electrical apparatus for line telephony or line telegraphy.....		3000.9	3377.3	3069.8					764
8471 Automatic data processing machines and units thereof.....		1623.9	1941.8	1996.8	173.5	189.8	167.0	US\$/unit	752
3004 Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06).....		1588.1	1726.7	1854.4	58.1	51.4	61.7	US\$/kg	542
8708 Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05.....		1192.6	1375.1	1280.6	9.3	9.7	9.6	US\$/kg	784
8704 Motor vehicles for the transport of goods.....		793.4	1398.9	1618.6	24.7	29.2	5.5	thsd US\$/unit	782
8443 Printing machinery used for printing by means of the printing type, blocks.....		977.4	1079.0	1003.3					726