



TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES



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

TIPS EXPORT TRACKER

THIRD QUARTER 2024

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TIPS TRACKERS

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In Q3 2024, exports from South Africa amounted to R511 billion, falling 5% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) and 2% quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q). The quarterly reduction is the result of reduced exports to a selection of markets across Europe, Asia, and North America. Although exports fell Q-o-Q in Q3 2024, it remained higher than imports (R475 billion), meaning that South Africa maintained a positive trade balance for a sixth consecutive quarter. However, the trade balance in Q3 2024 is R19 billion lower than it was in the second quarter of the year, having fallen from R55 billion to R36 billion.

On a yearly basis, the trade balance increased by 16%. While this paints a slightly more favourable picture, it is noted that this increase is not the result of increased exports over the period. It is, instead, due to falling imports.

Table 1 lists South Africa's key export product groups, by value, in Q3 2024, analyses their Y-o-Y growth from Q3 2023 to Q3 2024, and assesses their share in total exports in each period. The analysis shows mixed results, with the exports of nine product groups growing Y-o-Y, and 11 contracting. The top five product groups this quarter – precious stones and metals, ores, vehicles, mineral fuels and oils, and fruits and nuts – constitute nearly 60% of total exports, with the top 10 product groups accounting for more than 75%.

As in Q2, precious stones and metals was South Africa's top export product group in Q3 2024, accounting for around a sixth of total exports – up two percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year. This increase, of R8.4 billion from Q3 2023 to Q3 2024, is the largest absolute growth among South Africa's top 20 export sectors. Driving the increase is a 47% Y-o-Y increase in the quantity of gold exports to Area Not Elsewhere Specified (Area NES)² together with a 21% Y-o-Y increase in the price per kilogram of gold exported from South Africa. Exports of ores experienced the second-largest absolute growth over the period, and is up more than a percentage point in the share of total exports from Q3 2023. As in Q2 2024, the increase in export value is driven, primarily, by increases in the quantity of iron ore concentrates exported.

The largest absolute reduction within South Africa's top 20 export product groupings was in the automotives industry. Vehicle exports declined notably from Q3 2023 to Q3 2024, with the export value falling almost 23% Y-o-Y.³ In terms of products, motor vehicles for the transport of goods had the largest losses, in value terms, while for countries, reductions were registered in exports to Germany (the top export market in Q3 2024), Belgium, and Spain, also in value terms. The second-largest absolute reduction, among South Africa's top 20 export product groupings, was registered in exports of industrial machinery. Although gains were made in key markets, such as Namibia, Zambia, and Mozambique, losses also occurred in key markets, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the United States (US), and Germany.

In percentage terms, the largest increases in South Africa's top 20 export sectors were registered by essential oils, which increased by 36.2% Y-o-Y, to R4.2 billion, while the largest contraction (-30.4%) was registered by miscellaneous chemical products.

² Area NES refers to a partner that could not be identified or whose information is confidential.

³ This product includes vehicles as well as the associated parts and accessories.

Table 1: Top 20 product groups, 2024-Q3 and 2023-Q3

Rank	HS Code	Sector	VALUE (R BILLIONS)		SHARE (%)		ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (%)	TOP EXPORT MARKET
			2023-Q3	2024-Q3	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	2023-Q3 to 2024-Q3	2024-Q3
1	'71	Precious stones and metals	79.34	87.72	15.3%	17.2%	10.6%	Area NES
2	'26	Ores	74.71	80.10	14.4%	15.7%	7.2%	China
3	'87	Vehicles	72.70	56.20	14.0%	11.0%	-22.7%	Germany
4	'27	Mineral fuels and oils	49.42	49.07	9.6%	9.6%	-0.7%	India
5	'08	Fruit and nuts	31.04	33.04	6.0%	6.5%	6.5%	Netherlands
6	'84	Machinery (Industrial)	29.83	27.16	5.8%	5.3%	-8.9%	Germany
7	'72	Iron and steel	26.86	24.97	5.2%	4.9%	-7.1%	China
8	'85	Electrical machinery	9.68	11.12	1.9%	2.2%	14.9%	Zambia
9	'76	Aluminium and articles thereof	10.61	9.94	2.1%	1.9%	-6.3%	United States
10	'22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6.66	6.74	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	United Kingdom
11	'39	Plastics	6.97	6.72	1.3%	1.3%	-3.5%	Zambia
12	'73	Articles of iron or steel	6.32	6.65	1.2%	1.3%	5.2%	Zambia
13	'10	Cereals	7.24	5.80	1.4%	1.1%	-19.8%	Zimbabwe
14	'47	Pulp of wood	4.54	5.66	0.9%	1.1%	24.8%	India
15	'74	Copper	4.90	4.67	0.9%	0.9%	-4.7%	China
16	'28	Inorganic chemicals	5.24	4.55	1.0%	0.9%	-13.2%	Belgium
17	'20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	3.65	4.26	0.7%	0.8%	17.0%	Netherlands
18	'38	Miscellaneous chemical products	6.10	4.24	1.2%	0.8%	-30.4%	Zambia
19	'33	Essential oils and resinoids	3.11	4.24	0.6%	0.8%	36.2%	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
20	'29	Organic chemicals	4.52	4.16	0.9%	0.8%	-8.0%	Belgium

Note: Export values are in current rands, rounded-off. Shares and growth rates have also been rounded.

Annual growth rate calculations are conducted on the unrounded values. *Source:* Calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in December 2024.

Graph 2 examines changes in the export market share for South Africa's top 20 export destinations (countries), by comparing their share in the value of total exports in Q3 2024 with their share in Q3 2023. In terms of the top five destinations in Q3 2024, the market share of China, the US, and Mozambique remained relatively stable, while the market share for Area NES increased between periods, and the market share for Germany fell.

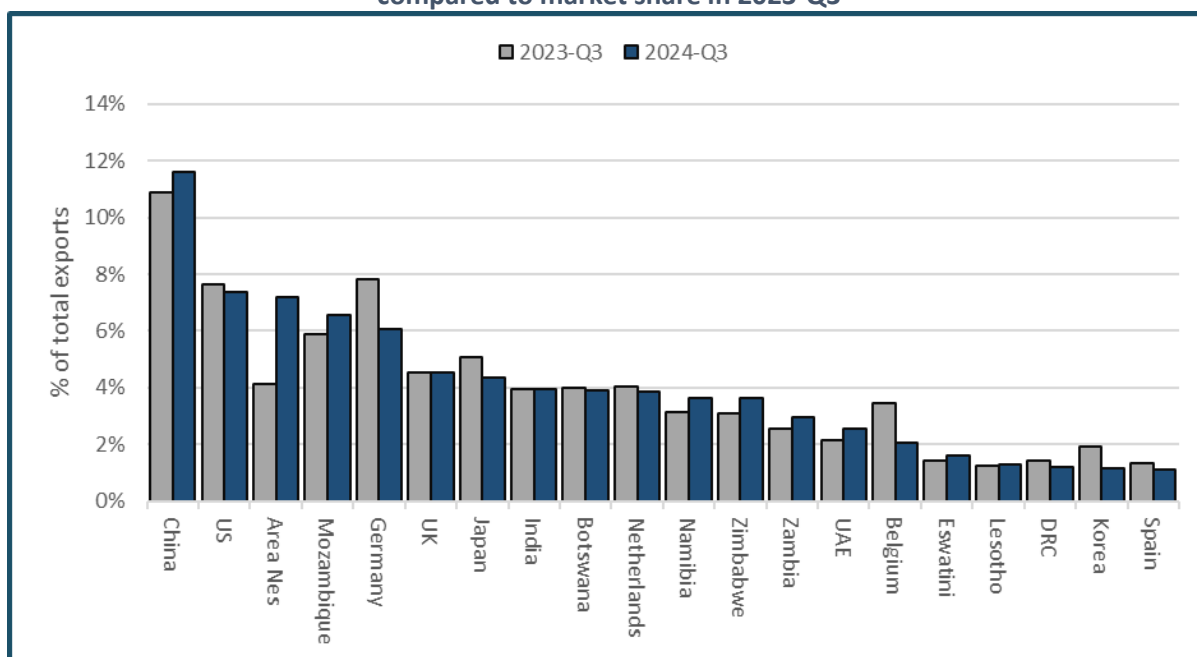
China remains South Africa's largest export destination, receiving 12% of total exports in Q3 2024, compared to 11% in the same quarter of the previous year. South Africa's exports to China continue to be dominated by products from the agricultural and extractives value chain, as ores, iron and steel, and fruit and nuts – the top three exports from South Africa to China – accounted for more than 80% of total exports in Q3 2024.

In the same quarter, the US received the second-largest share of South Africa's exports, at 7% – down a percentage point from Q3 2023. While products from the mining value chain featured, prominently, in South Africa's exports to the US, advanced products, including vehicles, and industrial machinery, were also among the top exports. While not representing a specific country or region, Area NES gained the most export share among South Africa's top 20 export destinations – three percentage points from

4% in Q3 2023 to 7% in Q3 2024. The largest reduction was registered in Germany, whose share in South African exports fell two percentage points.

It is noted that the share of exports to Mozambique gained approximately a percentage point over the period under consideration. Although Mozambique features among the top export destinations, some of South Africa’s exports to Mozambique are in-transit, en route to are other countries, like China.⁴

Graph 2: Market share for South Africa’s top export markets in 2024-Q3 compared to market share in 2023-Q3



Source: Calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in December 2024.

The regional share of South African exports is shown in Graph 3. Asia continues to receive the largest proportion of South Africa’s exports, with 31% of total exports destined for the region in Q3 2024. Although this proportion remains unchanged from the previous quarter, South Africa’s exports to Asia have declined 3% Y-o-Y and 2% Q-o-Q. At the country-level, China, India, and Japan, collectively, accounted for 65% of exports to Asia in Q3 2024. By value, most products exported from South Africa to Asia were from the agricultural and mining value chains.

South Africa’s second-largest regional export destination is Africa, which received 30% of the country’s total exports, by value, in Q3 2024. In addition to gaining three percentage points since Q2 2024, South Africa’s exports to the continent have grown 4% Y-o-Y and 7% Q-o-Q. Most exports are destined for the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with Mozambique (including products in-transit), Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe receiving 60% of South Africa’s continental exports. South Africa’s top exports to Africa, this quarter, comprised of a mix of minerals, iron and steel, machinery, and vehicles.

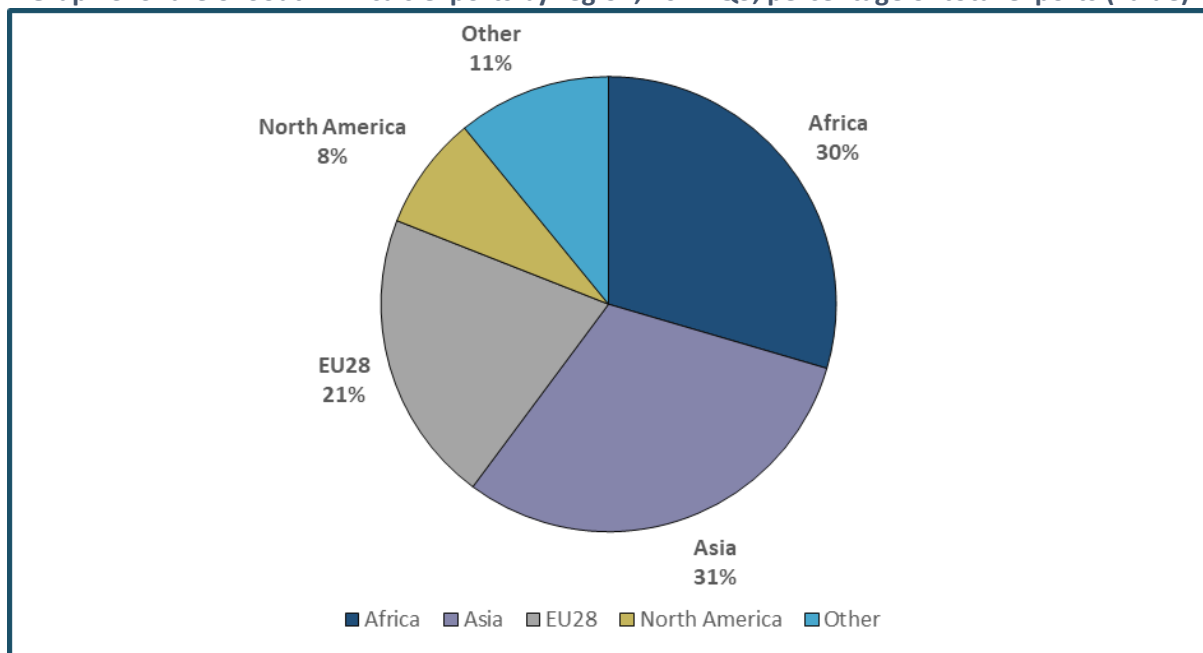
The European Union (EU28) was South Africa’s third largest regional export destination in Q3 2024, with its share at 21% of total exports – down two percentage points from Q2. In addition to losing share, South Africa’s exports to the EU28 have fallen 17% Y-o-Y and 10% Q-o-Q. The top four

⁴ According to reports, 53% of South Africa’s chrome ore concentrate exports, in 2023, were exported from Maputo (Magome, 2024).

destinations – Germany, the United Kingdom (UK), Netherlands, and Belgium – received 80% of the regional total. Although South African exports to the EU28 comprise a spread of products, vehicles constitute more than 30%.

The share of South Africa’s exports to North American countries (which, for the purposes of analysis in the Tracker, consists of the US, Mexico, and Canada), remains unchanged from Q2 2024, at 8%. This is despite exports to the region shrinking 5% Y-o-Y and 4% Q-o-Q. As expected, exports to the US outweigh exports to the other two countries, with the global powerhouse receiving 90% of South Africa’s exports to the region. Around half of South Africa’s exports to this region, in Q3 2024, were precious stones and metals, and vehicles.

Graph 3: Share of South Africa's exports by region, 2024-Q3, percentage of total exports (value)



Note: For the purpose of analysis in the Export Tracker, North America refers only to the US, Mexico, and Canada. EU28 is used, despite Brexit, to capture South Africa’s exports to the UK. Shares do not sum to 100% due to rounding. *Source:* Calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in December 2024.

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN EXPORTS AND ANALYSIS

Significant growth in anthracite

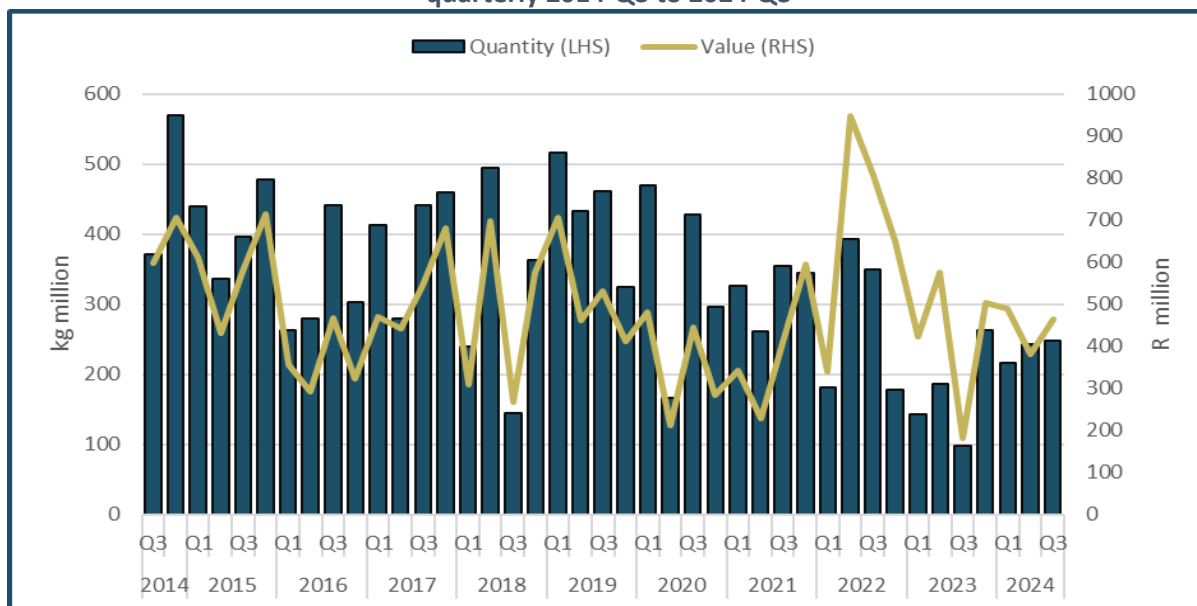
HS27011100 Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated

Anthracite is the highest energy density coal and used in industrial processes that require low-smoke fuel. It is the highest-ranked coal, compared to bituminous and lignite, due to having the highest fixed carbon content, a low moisture content, and low volatile material content (Mokoena et al., 2022). This product was analysed as a product of significant slump in the first quarter of 2022.

As shown in Graph 4, South Africa’s anthracite exports have been volatile over the last decade, and have trended in an overall downwardly direction. South Africa exported a quarterly average of 387 million kg of anthracite between Q3 2014 and Q3 2019, whereas the quarterly average between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024 was 282 million kg. In addition, the decade-wide peak was in the first half of the decade – in the fourth quarter of 2014 – while the decade-wide low was registered in quarter three

of 2023. Nevertheless, South Africa’s anthracite exports grew 152% Y-o-Y in Q3 2024, from 98 million kg valued at R181 million in Q3 2023 to 248 million kg valued at R463 million.

Graph 4: South Africa's exports of anthracite, quantity and value (constant 2024 (a) rand), quarterly 2014-Q3 to 2024-Q3

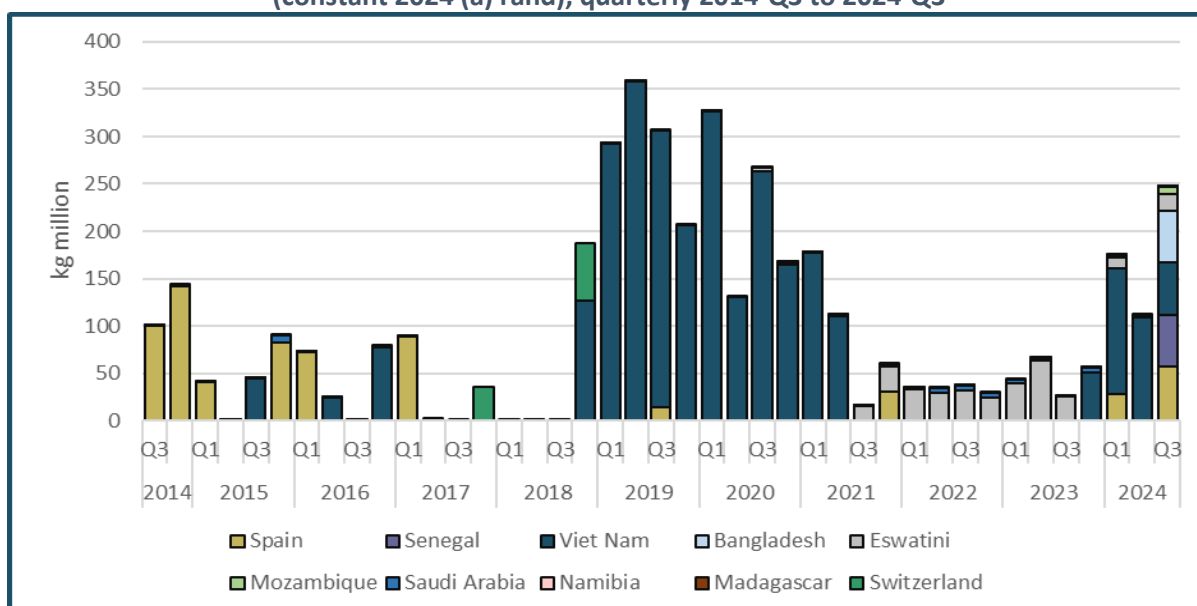


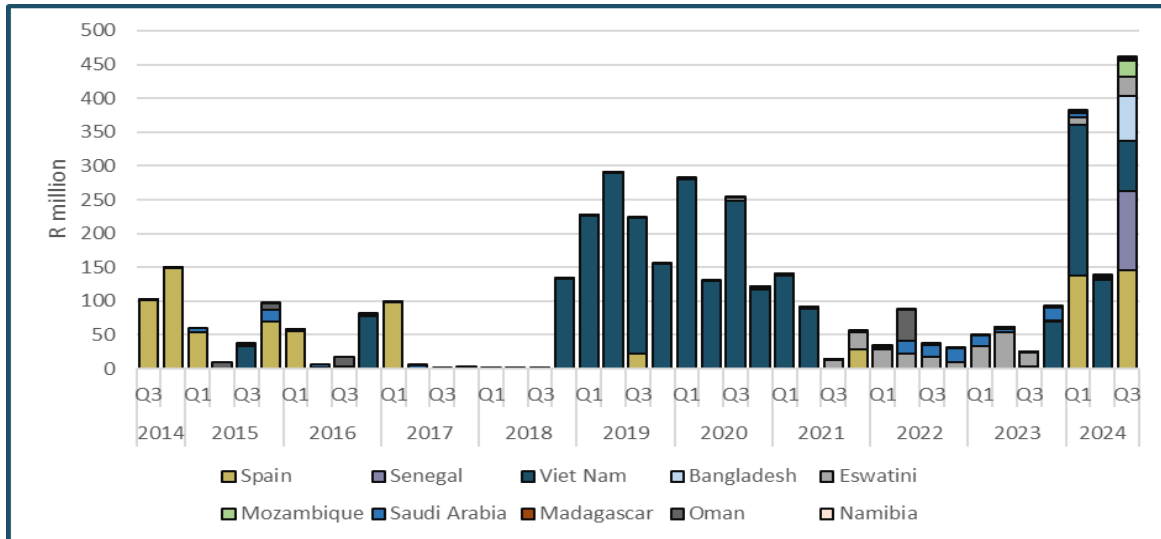
Note: (a) Rand values are reflat using implicit GDP deflator, rebased to the third quarter of 2024.

Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in January 2025; GDP deflator calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2024Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov in December 2024.

As shown in Graph 5, the top 10 destinations for South Africa’s anthracite exports, in the third quarter of 2024, were in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Spain, Senegal, Vietnam, and Bangladesh each received approximately one fifth of anthracite exports, while Eswatini and Mozambique received a combined 10%. The Y-o-Y growth in exports of anthracite, in Q3 2024, is attributed to the notable increase in exports to Spain (from less than half a million kg in Q3 2023), as well as the emergence of Senegal, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, which did not receive exports of this product from South Africa in Q3 2023.

Graph 5: Top 10 export markets for South Africa's anthracite in 2024-Q3, in quantity and value (constant 2024 (a) rand), quarterly 2014-Q3 to 2024-Q3





Note: (a) Rand values are reflat using implicit GDP deflator, rebased to the third quarter of 2024.

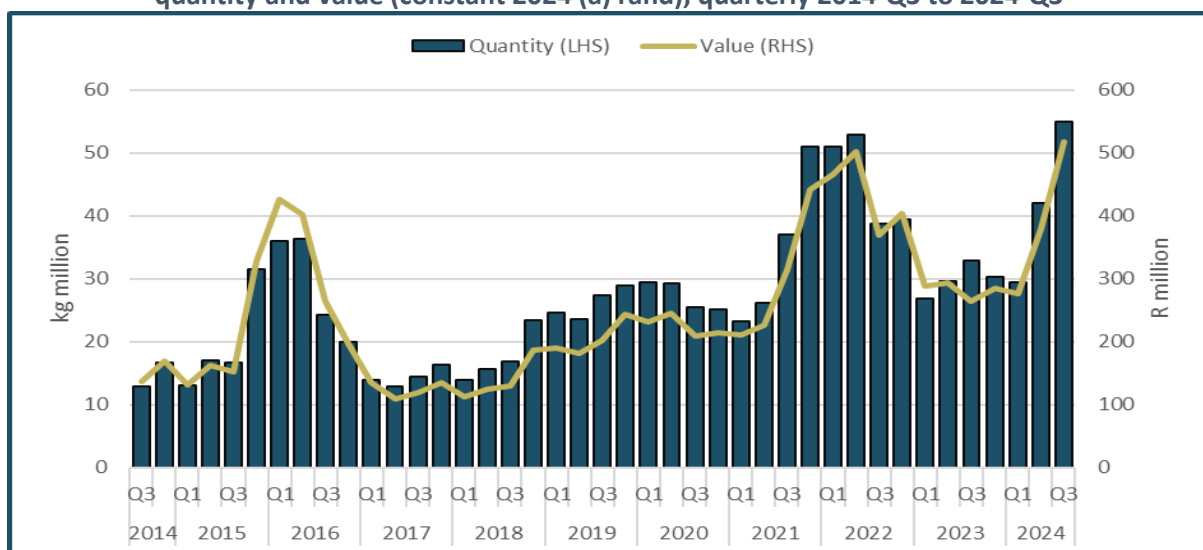
Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in January 2025; GDP deflator calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2024Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov in December 2024.

Significant growth in soya-bean oilcake

HS23040000 Oilcake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil

Soya-bean oilcake is the by-product of soya beans that have had the oil extracted. It is used in animal feed, where it serves as a protein source. This product was analysed as a product of significant growth in the fourth quarter of 2021, and significant slump in the first quarter of 2023. Graph 6 depicts this seasonality and also evidences the overall growth of soya-bean oilcake exports. Average quarterly exports between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024 are 71% higher than it was between Q3 2014 and Q3 2019. In addition, the decade-wide peak in South Africa's exports occurred in the third quarter of 2024, while 10-year lows were registered before 2018.

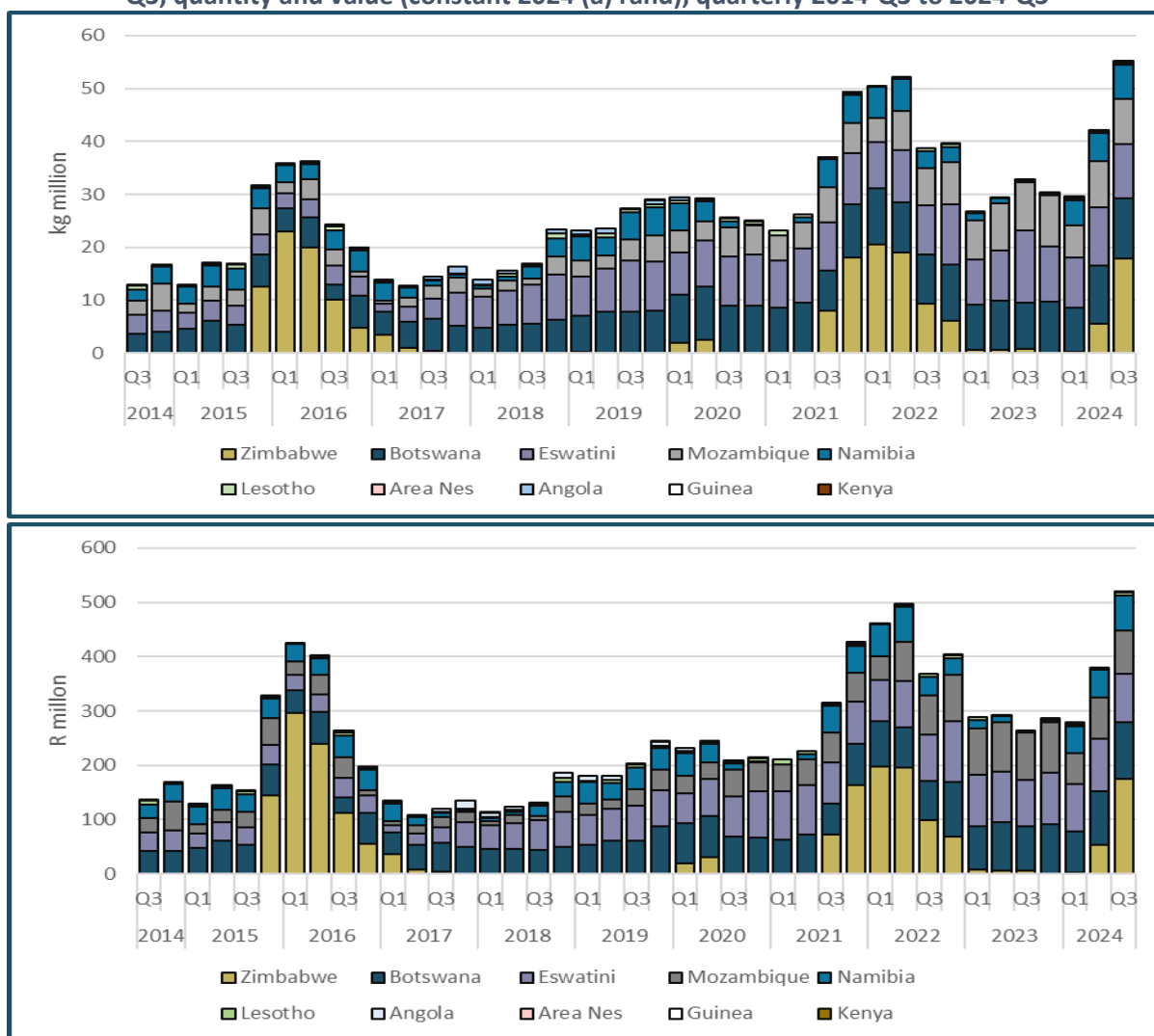
Graph 6: South Africa's exports of soya-bean oilcake and other solid residues, quantity and value (constant 2024 (a) rand), quarterly 2014-Q3 to 2024-Q3



Note: (a) Rand values are reflat using implicit GDP deflator, rebased to the third quarter of 2024. Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in February 2025; GDP deflator calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2024Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov in December 2024.

In Q3 2024, South Africa was the 13th largest exporter of soya-bean oilcake, exporting 55 million kg, valued at R518 million – a decade-wide high in quantity and value. This comes after exports grew 68% Y-o-Y, from 33 million kg valued at R264 million in the third quarter of 2023. Exports also grew 31% Q-o-Q, from 42 million kg valued at R379 million in quarter two of 2024. As shown in Graph 7, SADC countries featured, prominently, in the top 10 destinations for South African exports of soya-bean oilcake and have done so for, at least, the last decade. In the third quarter of 2024, the top five destinations – Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique and Namibia – accounted for 99% of exports, with Zimbabwe receiving a third. Graph 7 also provides evidence of Zimbabwe’s role in the volatility of exports, as significant growth was registered in the quarters in which South Africa’s soya-bean oilcake exports to Zimbabwe spiked, while slumps were evident in the quarters in which exports to Zimbabwe fell.⁵

Graph 6: Top 10 export markets for South Africa's soya-bean oilcake and other residues in 2024-Q3, quantity and value (constant 2024 (a) rand), quarterly 2014-Q3 to 2024-Q3



Note: (a) Rand values are reflat using implicit GDP deflator, rebased to the third quarter of 2024. Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in February 2025; GDP deflator calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2024Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov in December 2024.

⁵ While the seasonality remains when excluding Zimbabwe from the analysis, the trend follows a smoother pattern.

SIGNIFICANT SLUMP IN EXPORTS AND ANALYSIS

Significant slump in soya beans

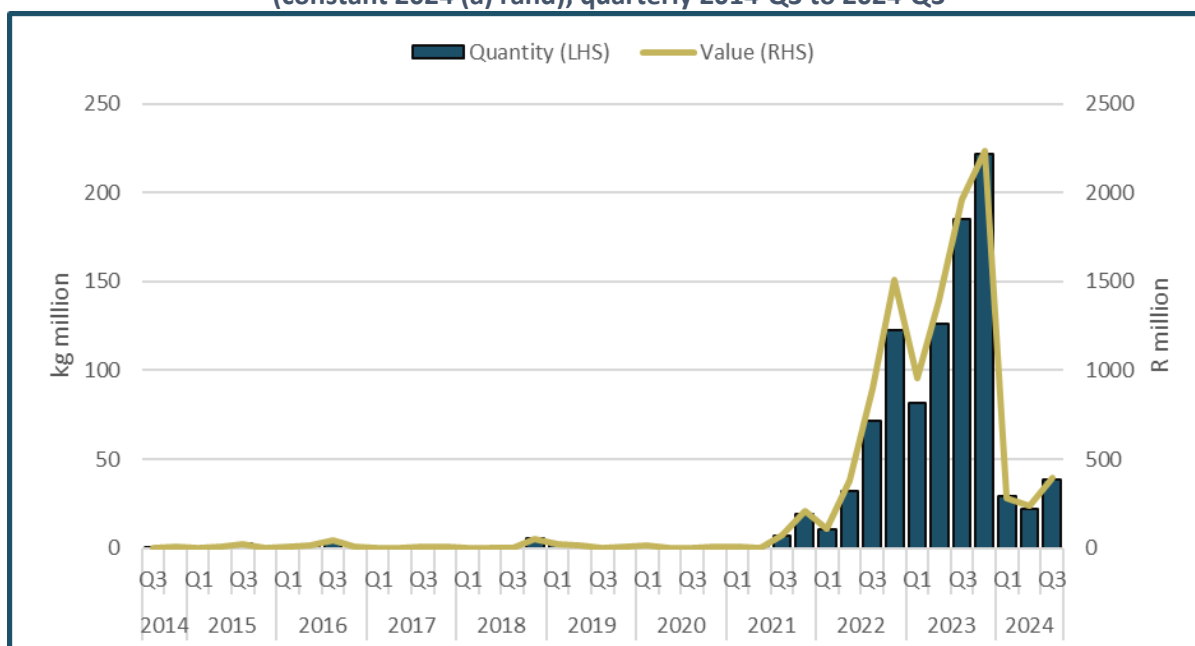
HS12019000 Soya beans, whether or not broken (excluding seed for sowing)

Soya beans are a type of legume that is used in the production of foods, for human consumption, and its by-product, following the extraction of its oil, is used in animal feed (oilcake). Their by-products are also used in the production of lubricants, adhesives, and fuels (New Jersey Soy Bean Board, no date). This product was analysed as a product of significant growth in the third quarter of 2022 and 2023. Although it does not fall within South Africa’s top 50 exports, by quantity, in Q3 2024, it did Q3 2023, and has fallen outside the top 50, this quarter, due to the slump.

South Africa’s exports of soya beans from Q3 2014 to Q3 2024 follow a peculiar pattern. For the first 28 quarters of the 10-year timeframe, South African exports of soya beans were negligible, averaging less than one million kg per quarter. In the latter 13 quarters, however, average quarterly exports amounted to 74 million kg.

In the third quarter of 2024, South Africa was the 9th largest soya-bean exporter, with exports amounting to 39 million kg valued at R399 million – falling 79% Y-o-Y, from 185 million kg valued at R1 963 million. The Q3 2024 export quantity is also significantly lower than the decade-wide peak, of 222 million kg valued at R2 234 million. On a more positive note, however, it is 74% higher than it was in Q2 2024.

Graph 7: South Africa's exports of soya beans, whether or not broken, quantity and value (constant 2024 (a) rand), quarterly 2014-Q3 to 2024-Q3

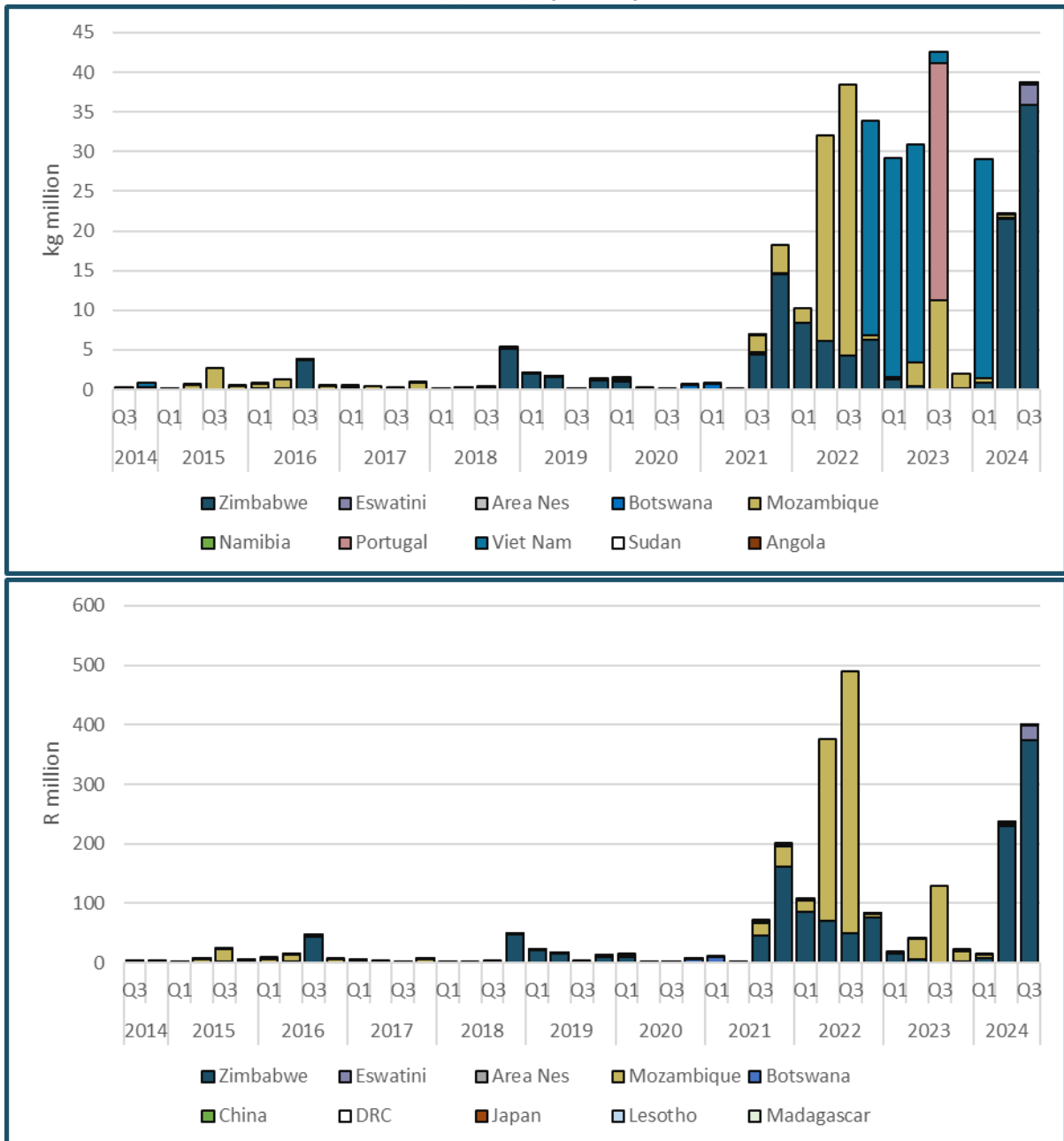


Note: (a) Rand values are reflatd using implicit GDP deflator, rebased to the third quarter of 2024. Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in February 2025; GDP deflator calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2024Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov in December 2024.

As shown in Graph 9, SADC countries are key destinations for South Africa’s soya bean exports. Like soya-bean oilcake, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Eswatini are within the top five destinations. Unlike soya-bean oilcake, however, more than 90% of South Africa’s soya bean exports were destined for

Zimbabwe in Q3 2024, with another 7% destined for Eswatini. Although exports to the top destinations in Q3 2024 have grown Y-o-Y, a large reduction in exports to Mozambique, and the dropping off of key markets, like Vietnam, Portugal, Bangladesh, and Malaysia have contributed to the decline.⁶

Graph 8: Top 10 export markets for South Africa's soya bean exports in 2024-Q3, in quantity and value (constant 2024 (a) rand), quarterly 2014-Q3 to 2024-Q3



Note: (a) Rand values are reflatd using implicit GDP deflator, rebased to the third quarter of 2024. Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in February 2025; GDP deflator calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2024Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov in December 2024.

⁶ In Q3 2023, South Africa exported a cumulative 172 million kg of soya beans to Vietnam, Portugal, Bangladesh, and Malaysia.

Significant slump in fuel wood

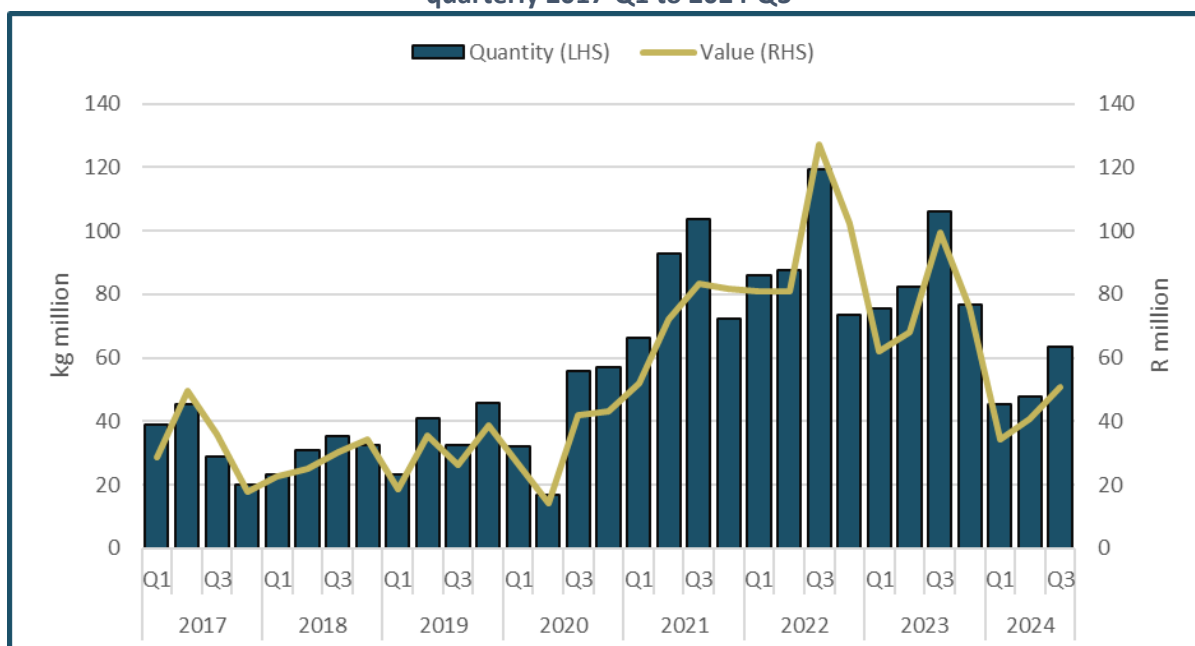
HS44011100 Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, coniferous

This product refers to wood, used for energy, harvested from trees that do not shed leaves during the winter season. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), wood represents approximately 40% of renewable energy supply, providing more energy than solar, wind, or hydroelectric (FAO, 2023). The wood is used as fuel in both household and industrial settings.

As is the case with some of South Africa's other exports examined in this report, exports of fuel wood are notably higher in the latter part of the timeframe than at the earlier part (Graph 10). In the first instance, exports, by quantity, averaged 35 million kg per quarter from Q1 2017 to Q4 2020, while averaging 78 million kg from Q4 2020 to Q3 2024. In the second instance, the low of 17 million kg valued at R14 million was registered in the first half of the timeframe, while the peak, of 119 million kg valued at R127 million, was in Q3 2022. Moreover, although fluctuations in exports remain a feature, troughs and peaks are notably higher towards the end of the timeframe.

South Africa is currently among the world's top coniferous fuel wood exporters, ranking first in Q3 2023. In the third quarter of 2024, however, South Africa's exports of this product fell 40% Y-o-Y, from 106 million kg valued at R99 million to 64 million kg valued at R51 million – costing South Africa a ranking point among global exporters.

Graph 9: South Africa's exports of fuel wood, quantity and value (constant 2024 (a) rand), quarterly 2017-Q1 to 2024-Q3

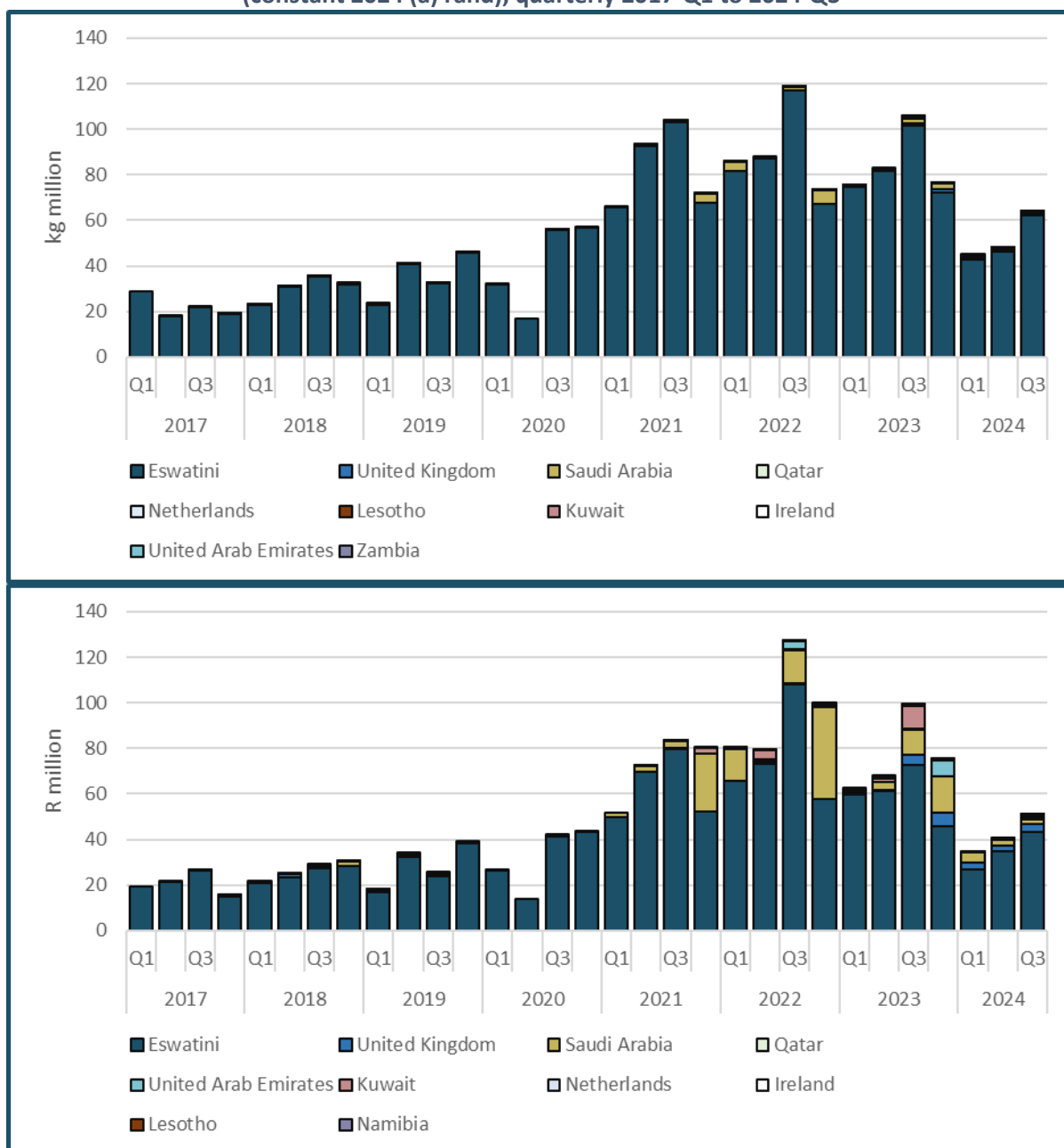


Note: (a) Rand values are reflatd using implicit GDP deflator, rebased to the third quarter of 2024. The six-digit HS code (440111) for this product was added as part of the 2017 revision. The corresponding HS code, prior to the 2017 revision, is 440110. Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in February 2025; GDP deflator calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2024Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov in December 2024.

In Q3 2024, the main destination for exports of South African fuelwood (from coniferous trees) was Eswatini (62 million kg valued at R43 million), which has featured prominently as an export destination for the last decade. Considering that the unit price of South Africa's fuel wood exports has remained

relatively stable over time, contributors to the Y-o-Y contraction include the seasonality in exports to Eswatini, and, to a lesser extent, Saudi Arabia, as well as the drop in exports to Kuwait.

Graph 10: Top 10 export markets for South Africa's fuel wood, in quantity and value (constant 2024 (a) rand), quarterly 2017-Q1 to 2024-Q3



Note: (a) Rand values are reflatd using implicit GDP deflator, rebased to the third quarter of 2024. Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in February 2025; GDP deflator calculated from Statistics South Africa. GDP quarterly figures. GDP P0441 – 2024Q3. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov in December 2024.

APPENDIX

Table A1: South Africa's top 50 exports by value, 2024-Q3

RANK	HS CODE	SECTOR	EXPORT VALUE (R BILLIONS)		GROWTH RATE (%)
			2023-Q3	2024-Q3	2023-Q3 TO 2024-Q3
1	'71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals	79.34	87.72	10.6%
2	'26	Ores, slag and ash	74.71	80.10	7.2%
3	'87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	72.70	56.20	-22.7%
4	'27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral	49.42	49.07	-0.7%
5	'08	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	31.04	33.04	6.5%
6	'84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	29.83	27.16	-8.9%
7	'72	Iron and steel	26.86	24.97	-7.1%
8	'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television	9.68	11.12	14.9%
9	'76	Aluminium and articles thereof	10.61	9.94	-6.3%
10	'22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6.66	6.74	1.3%
11	'39	Plastics and articles thereof	6.97	6.72	-3.5%
12	'73	Articles of iron or steel	6.32	6.65	5.2%
13	'10	Cereals	7.24	5.80	-19.8%
14	'47	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper	4.54	5.66	24.8%
15	'74	Copper and articles thereof	4.90	4.67	-4.7%
16	'28	Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals	5.24	4.55	-13.2%
17	'20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	3.65	4.26	17.0%
18	'38	Miscellaneous chemical products	6.10	4.24	-30.4%
19	'33	Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations	3.11	4.24	36.2%
20	'29	Organic chemicals	4.52	4.16	-8.0%
21	'25	Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	4.07	3.95	-3.0%
22	'48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	2.99	3.11	4.0%
23	'90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical	2.85	3.01	5.5%
24	'21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2.72	2.92	7.3%
25	'34	Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial	2.99	2.82	-5.6%
26	'75	Nickel and articles thereof	3.88	2.54	-34.6%
27	'30	Pharmaceutical products	2.27	2.52	11.3%
28	'44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	2.50	2.51	0.3%
29	'17	Sugars and sugar confectionery	2.68	2.48	-7.5%
30	'40	Rubber and articles thereof	2.36	2.31	-2.2%
31	'23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	1.80	2.15	19.6%

RANK	HS CODE	SECTOR	EXPORT VALUE (R BILLIONS)		GROWTH RATE (%)
			2023-Q3	2024-Q3	2023-Q3 TO 2024-Q3
32	'32	Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring	1.62	2.11	30.3%
33	'15	Animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats	1.79	2.03	13.4%
34	'03	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	1.88	1.98	5.7%
35	'12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal	4.01	1.97	-50.8%
36	'02	Meat and edible meat offal	1.43	1.94	35.5%
37	'31	Fertilisers	1.85	1.88	1.5%
38	'19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	1.73	1.84	6.3%
39	'88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	1.60	1.80	12.6%
40	'94	Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	1.67	1.74	3.9%
41	'89	Ships, boats and floating structures	1.33	1.73	30.1%
42	'11	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	1.36	1.56	14.3%
43	'04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin	1.27	1.35	5.8%
44	'99	Commodities not elsewhere specified	1.11	1.21	8.4%
45	'61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	0.88	1.05	18.9%
46	'62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	0.92	0.98	6.7%
47	'82	Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal	0.84	0.92	9.9%
48	'64	Footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles	0.77	0.90	15.5%
49	'96	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0.94	0.89	-5.9%
50	'24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; products, whether or not containing nicotine	0.70	0.85	20.5%

Note: Values have been rounded. Growth rates calculated on unrounded values. *Source:* Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database.

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Table A2: Top 50 exports of goods, by quantity with explanations, 2024-Q3

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
1	'01064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	23623240	20510034146	Units	Zambia	86721%	92	Thought to be a data error in Q2 2024. However, live insect exports to Zambia have grown only 21% Q-o-Q.
2	'26011100	Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates (excluding roasted iron pyrites)	11567749672	16409730727	Kilograms	China	42%	0	Substantial increase to major export destination, China.
3	'27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	14620293885	14384926936	Kilograms	India	-2%	-2	Change within the normal variance.
4	'26020000	Manganese ores and concentrates, including ferruginous manganese ores and concentrates, with a manganese content of >= 20%, calculated on the dry weight	6337847588	6933264055	Kilograms	China	9%	-1	Gains made in China, India, and Indonesia.
5	'26100000	Chromium ores and concentrates	4838576314	5354597778	Kilograms	China	11%	-1	Increased exports to various Asian markets.
6	'47020000	Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades	240853727	1808287708	Kilograms	India	651%	16	Abnormal increase in exports to India (+1235%), for which 94% of South African exports of this product were destined in Q3 2024, compared to 53% in Q3 2023.
7	'27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding	2687203587	1350120615	Kilograms	India	-50%	-1	Significant decrease in exports to India (-67%).

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
		anthracite and bituminous coal)							
8	'04069099	Cheese (excluding fresh cheese, including whey cheese, curd, processed cheese, blue-veined cheese	1386348	1121911698	Kilograms	Botswana	80826%	553	Possible data error. Exports to Botswana have been abnormally high since Q1 2024. Exports to Botswana are usually between 150 000 kg to 230 000kg. Exports to Botswana in Q3 2024 were 1.1 billion kg.
9	'72024100	Ferro-chromium, containing by weight > 4% of carbon	847553367	889260398	Kilograms	China	5%	3	Increase within normal variance.
10	'08051010	Fresh or dried oranges: fresh	945284833	831058788	Kilograms	Netherlands	-12%	-1	Decrease within normal variance.
11	'27101235	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "including losses" distil at 210°c "astm d 86 method" (excluding containing biodiesel): residual fuel oils, as defined in additional note 1(h)	215709787	558391050	Liters	Ship stores and bunkers, Liberia	159%	14	Increases to various countries. Possibly driven by a fall in the price per litre, from R22 in Q3 2023 to R9.71 in Q3 2024 (price of SA exports to the world).
12	'10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Other	1077242496	557888070	Kilograms	Zimbabwe	-48%	-4	This notable decrease is the result of decrease in exports to various Asian markets between Q3 2023 and Q3 2024.
13	'71039900	Precious and semi-precious	404572334	460882796	Carats	US	14%	2	Increase within the normal variance.

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
		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)							
14	'08052110	Fresh or dried mandarins incl. tangerines and satsumas (excluding clementines): Fresh	374672836	405518036	Kilograms	Netherlands	8%	3	Increase within the normal variance.
15	'44012200	Wood in chips or particles (excluding those of a kind used principally for dyeing or tanning	452013361	334959117	Kilograms	Japan	-26%	-1	Notable reduction in exports to Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Netherlands over the period. Despite this, product lost only one ranking point.

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
16	'27011100	Anthracite, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	98475535	247827639	Kilograms	Spain	152%	25	Significant growth in exports, due to increases to Spain, Senegal, Vietnam and Bangladesh. Product selected for analysis.
17	'25101000	Natural calcium phosphates and natural aluminium calcium phosphates, natural and phosphatic ...	206812107	241147750	Kilograms	Netherlands	17%	10	Growth driven by exports to countries that did not receive South African exports of this product in Q3 2023, including Lithuania, New Zealand, and Australia.
18	'27101202	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "including losses" distil at 210°c "astm d 86 method" (excluding containing biodiesel): Petrol, as defined in additional note 1(b)	269463340	239593389	Liters	Botswana	-11%	2	Reduction in exports to various SADC markets.
19	'25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	242080578	239210265	Kilograms	Botswana	-1%	2	Slight decrease. Nevertheless, gained a two ranking positions.
20	'08055010	Fresh or dried lemons "citrus limon, citrus limonum" and limes "citrus	225037875	225085615	Kilograms	Netherlands	0%	4	Negligible increase.

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
		aurantifolia, citrus ...							
21	'27101230	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >= 90% by volume "including losses" distil at 210°c "astm d 86 method" (excluding containing biodiesel): Distillate fuel, as defined in additional note 1(g)	234459316	207357693	Liters	Botswana	-12%	2	Notable reduction in exports to Botswana.
22	'25309000	Arsenic sulfides, alunite, pozzuolana, earth colours and other mineral substances, n.e.s.	192089523	203076555	Kilograms	China	6%	6	Increase within normal variance.
23	'08081000	Fresh apples	174724172	169554083	Kilograms	UK	-3%	7	Decrease within normal variance.
24	'26140000	Titanium ores and concentrates	208193183	163077573	Kilograms	US	-22%	2	Notable reduction in exports to China, Japan, Mexico, and Netherlands. The unit price for exports to China is significantly higher in Q3 2024 than it was in Q3 2023. Unit prices for other countries remained relatively stable, with a significant reduction registered for Netherlands.
25	'27101207	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals which >=	103015675	153411364	Liters	Ship stores and bunkers, Botswana	49%	14	Significant increase in quantity exported to the top destinations.

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
		90% by volume "including losses" distil at 210°c "astm d 86 method" (excluding containing biodiesel): Aviation kerosene, as defined in additional note 1(d)							
26	'76011000	Aluminium, not alloyed, unwrought	160202394	149505163	Kilograms	US	-7%	5	Decrease within the normal variance.
27	'72011000	Non-alloy pig iron in pigs, blocks or other primary forms, containing, by weight, <= 0,5% of phosphorous	152697025	135009234	Kilograms	Italy	-12%	5	Reduction in exports to Spain, and the US.
28	'10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	119780986	133463415	Kilograms	Zambia	11%	6	Increase in export quantity to Zambia and Lesotho. Stable prices over time.
29	'17011400	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter (excluding cane sugar of 1701 13)	109222750	120850595	Kilograms	Malaysia	11%	8	Increase due to exports to Malaysia and UK. The price per kg for exports to the UK is much lower (R4.75 per kg) than the unit price of exports to Malaysia (R7.87 per kg) which is closer to the price of exports to the world (R7.95).
30	'26151000	Zirconium ores and concentrates	111557826	113288994	Kilograms	China	2%	6	Growth within the normal variance.

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
31	'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))	61117600	112778696	Kilograms	Mozambique	85%	17	Increase in exports to top 10 export destinations, many of which are SADC countries. Substantial increase in exports to Zimbabwe. Unit price of exports to Zimbabwe fell moderately, but not enough to warrant the registered increase. Prices to other countries, like Mozambique, increased.
32	'26180000	Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel	59333549	98311178	Kilograms	Netherlands	66%	18	Notable increases to Netherlands and the US, with increases also noted in smaller markets. Price per kg remained stable over the period under consideration, ranging between R11 per kg and R14 per kg.
33	'25132000	Emery; natural corundum, natural garnet and other natural abrasives, whether or not heat-treated	50226985	84109888	Kilograms	US	67%	21	Growth driven by increases in exports to the US, for whom the unit price of South African exports is the lowest at R3.38 per kg in Q3 2024.
34	'26080000	Zinc ores and concentrates	144034178	77811167	Kilograms	China	-46%	-1	Reduction driven by decrease in exports to China, from 144 million kg in Q3 2023 to 56 million kg in Q3 2024. Unit price increased notably, from R12 per kg in Q3 2023 to R17 per kg in Q3 2024.
35	'25292200	Fluorspar containing by weight > 97% calcium fluoride	50181422	70157400	Kilograms	Italy	40%	20	Substantial growth due to increases to major export destinations, including Italy and UAE.
36	'11031390	Groats and meal of maize "corn": Other	63287174	66653226	Kilograms	DRC	5%	11	Increase within normal variance.

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
37	'44011100	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, coniferous	105965519	63615501	Kilograms	Eswatini	-40%	1	Significant slump resulting from decrease in exports to main destination. Product selected for further analysis.
38	'72071900	Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel containing, by weight, < 0,25% of carbon, of circular cross-section, or of a cross-section other than square or rectangular	87808613	61412211	Kilograms	Ghana	-30%	6	Decrease in exports to major destinations, including Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.
39	'08054010	Fresh or dried grapefruit: Fresh	67924483	60231538	Kilograms	Netherlands	-11%	6	Decrease in exports to main destination, countered by increase in exports to smaller markets.
40	'25231000	Cement clinkers	39941830	60114340	Kilograms	Lesotho	51%	23	Notable increases in volumes to Lesotho and Eswatini despite relative stability in prices between periods.
41	'72139100	Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of iron or non-alloy steel, of circular ... from the extraction of soya-bean oil	30679343	56618634	Kilograms	Ghana	85%	34	Significant increase in quantity exported to the top destination, and exports, in Q3 2024, to markets that did not receive exports in Q3 2023.
42	'23040000	Oilcake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil	32814195	54974136	Kilograms	Zimbabwe	68%	29	Significant increase in exports, gaining 29 ranking positions. Product selected for analysis.

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
43	'72142000	Bars and rods, of iron or non-alloy steel, with indentations, ribs, groves or other deformations	53167872	52835380	Kilograms	Mozambique	-1%	10	Unremarkable decrease in exports.
44	'31023000	Ammonium nitrate, whether or not in aqueous solution (excluding that in pellet or similar forms)	42147212	52518922	Kilograms	Zambia	25%	18	Growth in exports driven by increases to Zambia, Zimbabwe, and DRC.
45	'39021090	Polypropylene, in primary forms: other	97127677	50691947	Kilograms	Nigeria	-48%	-3	Decrease in exports to former top destinations, including European countries.
46	'25291000	Feldspar	24819137	50681633	Kilograms	India	104%	45	Increase in quantity exported to India and Spain. Slight decrease in unit price for exports to these countries noted.
47	'29012900	Hydrocarbons, acyclic, unsaturated (excluding ethylene, propene "propylene", butene "butylene"	55966772	49435799	Kilograms	Singapore	-12%	4	Decrease within normal variance.
48	'17019900	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form (excluding cane and beet sugar)	61103253	46961659	Kilograms	Namibia	-23%	1	Decrease is the result of reduced exports to once-prominent markets, UK, and Zimbabwe.
49	'25161100	Granite, crude or roughly trimmed (excluding already	64252521	46426047	Kilograms	China	-28%	-3	Notable decrease in exports to key markets, including China, Poland, Italy, and Germany.

NO.	CODE	PRODUCT LABEL	2023-Q3	2024-Q3	UNIT	MAJOR IMPORTER	Y-ON-Y GROWTH	CHANGE IN RANK	EXPLANATION
			Quantity	Quantity					
		with the characteristics of setts, curbstones							
50	'11031310	Groats and meal of maize "corn": Maize meal not further processed other than by the addition of minerals and vitamins not exceeding one percent by mass of the final product, solely for the purpose of increasing the nutritional value	54908065	46360524	Kilograms	Mozambique	-16%	2	Decrease due to reduction in exports to Lesotho.

Source: Trade data calculated from ITC. Trade Map. Interactive database. Downloaded from www.trademap.org in December 2024

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