



TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES



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

TIPS IMPORT TRACKER

FIRST QUARTER 2025

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Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)

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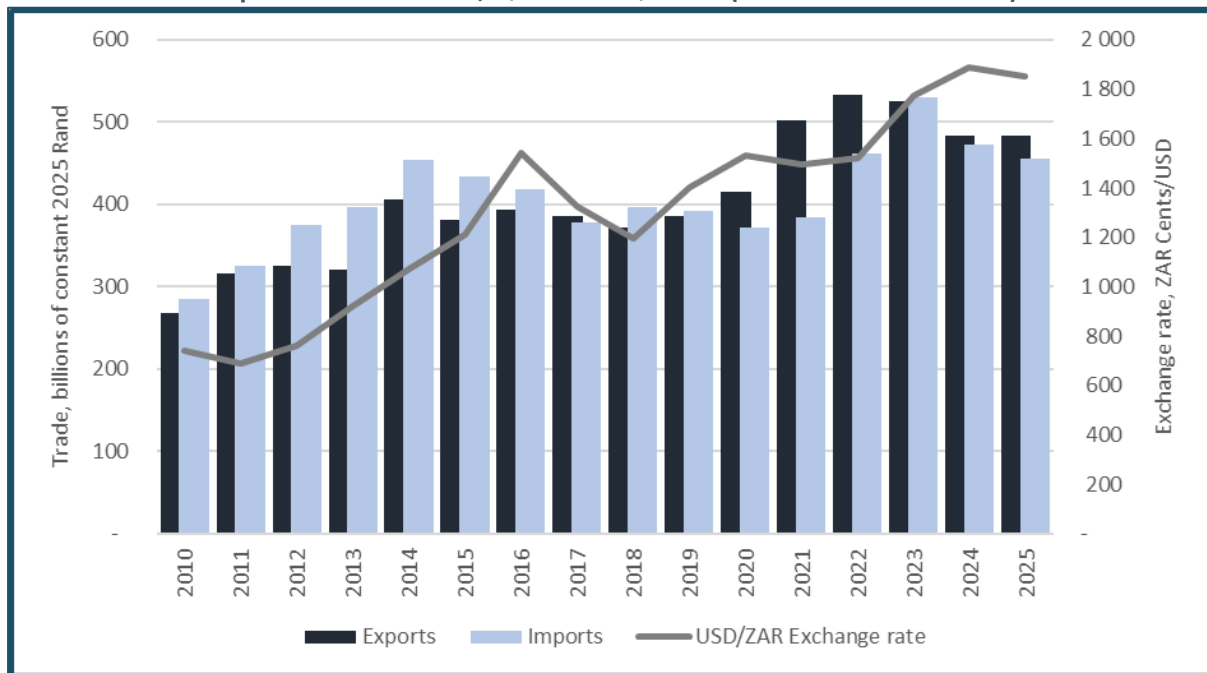
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Trade context

South Africa maintained a positive trade balance in the first quarter of 2025, though the surplus fell to R28 billion, from R64 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024. Year-on-year, the surplus grew from R11 billion from the first quarter of 2024, rebased by CPI to the first quarter of 2025. Exports increased by a marginal R1 billion year-on-year, while imports declined by R16 billion (see Graph 1). The decline in imports was in part due to an almost R9 billion decrease in crude oil imports, a R2 billion decline in components for motor vehicle imports, and another R2 billion cellphone imports. Year-on-year, the value of the top five imports declined by R7 billion (see Graph 2).

Graph 1: Trade balance, Q1 2010 – Q1 2025 (in constant 2025 Rand)



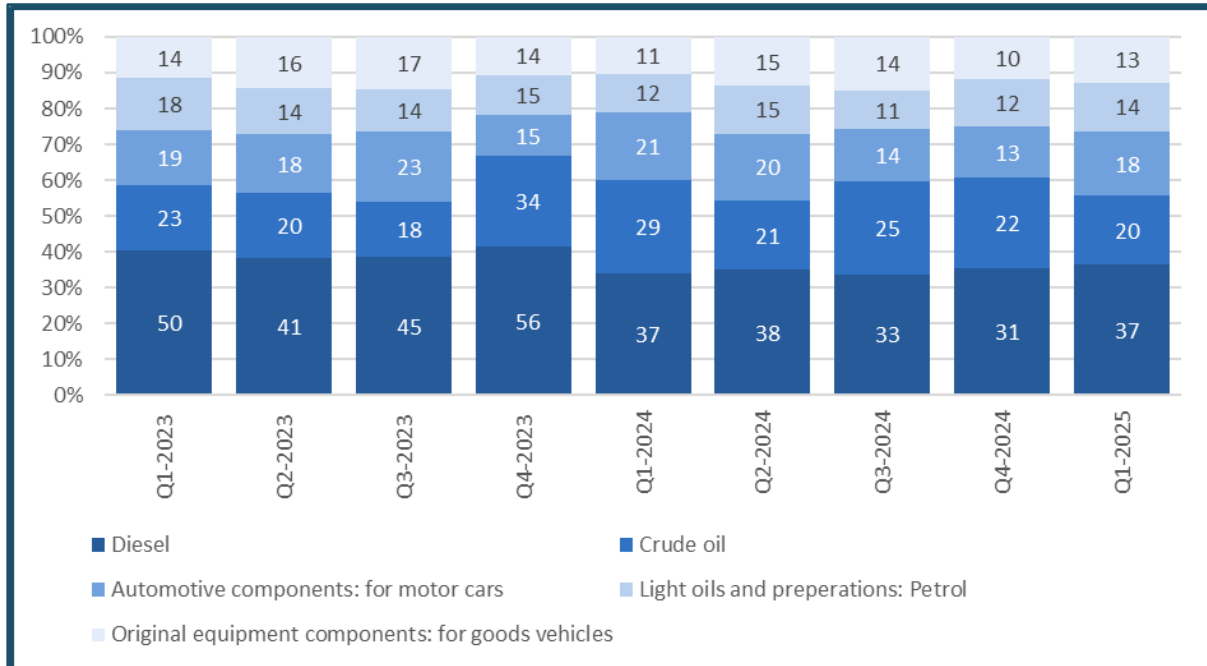
Source: Trade data from South African Revenue Service monthly merchandise trade statistics. Downloaded from <https://www.sars.gov.za/> in May 2025. Exchange rate data from South African Reserve Bank (SARB) downloaded from <https://www.resbank.co.za/> in May 2025. *Note:* Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the first quarter of 2025.

Imports from the top five sources (China, India, Germany, the United States (US) and Thailand) grew by R5 billion year-on-year, buoyed by an R8 billion increase in imports from India (mainly petroleum and vehicle imports), a R2 billion increase in imports from Thailand (mainly passenger vehicles and rice), and an almost R2 billion increase in imports from China (primarily passenger vehicles and photovoltaic ac generators). However, imports from both Germany (mainly passenger vehicles and related components) and the US (mainly crude oil) decreased by R6 billion and R1 billion respectively.

In this same period, year-on-year exports to the top five¹ destinations (China, the US, Germany, Japan and India) decreased by almost R6 billion. Aside for exports to Japan and India – which grew by R4 billion and R3 billion respectively – exports to China decreased by R4 billion, while exports to the US and Germany decreased by R6 billion and almost R3 billion respectively. The decrease in exports to China was mainly due to a decline in ore exports, while the decline in exports to the US was due to a decrease in exports of motor vehicles and platinum group metals like palladium and rhodium.

¹ Not including exports to areas not elsewhere specified and Mozambique, which amounted to R41 billion and R26 billion respectively. Much of the exports to Mozambique are for re-export.

Graph 2: Top 5 imports by Rand value (billions of constant 2025 Rand) and percentage

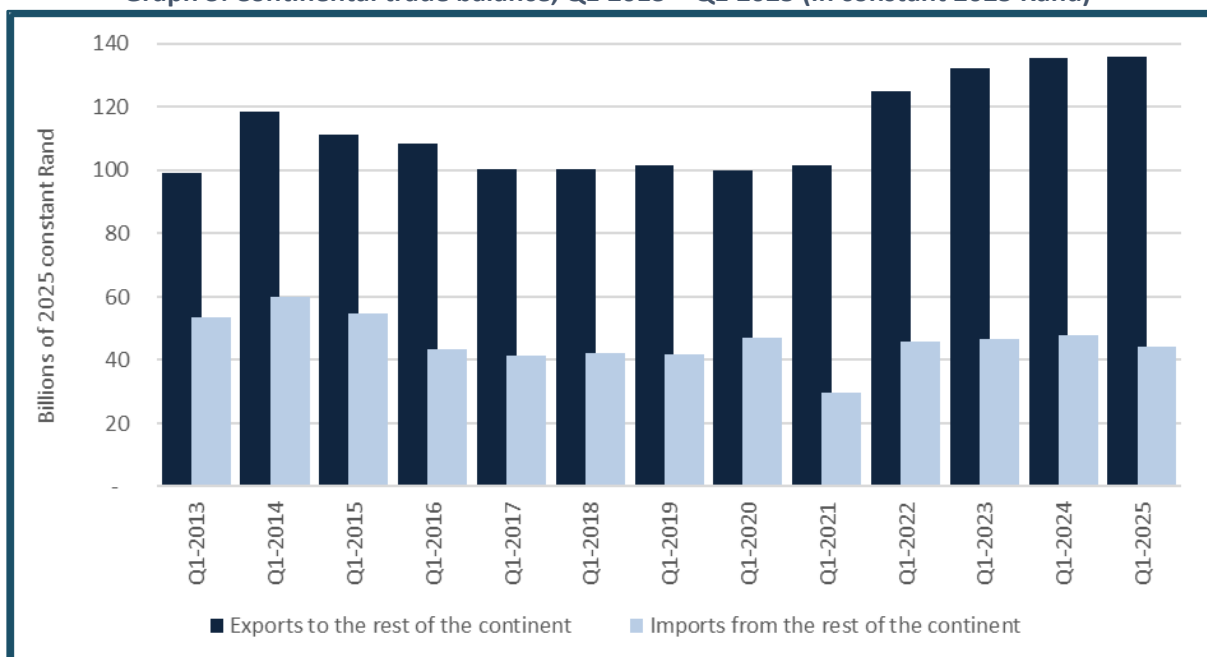


Source: Calculated based on data from Quantec EasyData online interactive database. Downloaded from <https://www.easydata.co.za/> in May 2025. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the first quarter of 2025.

Continental trade

South Africa’s trade surplus with the rest of the continent increased to R92 billion in the first quarter of 2025, up from R87 billion in the first quarter of 2024. In this period, imports decreased by R4 billion to R44 billion, while exports grew marginally to R136 billion in the first quarter of 2025, from R135 billion in the first quarter of 2024 (see Graph 3).

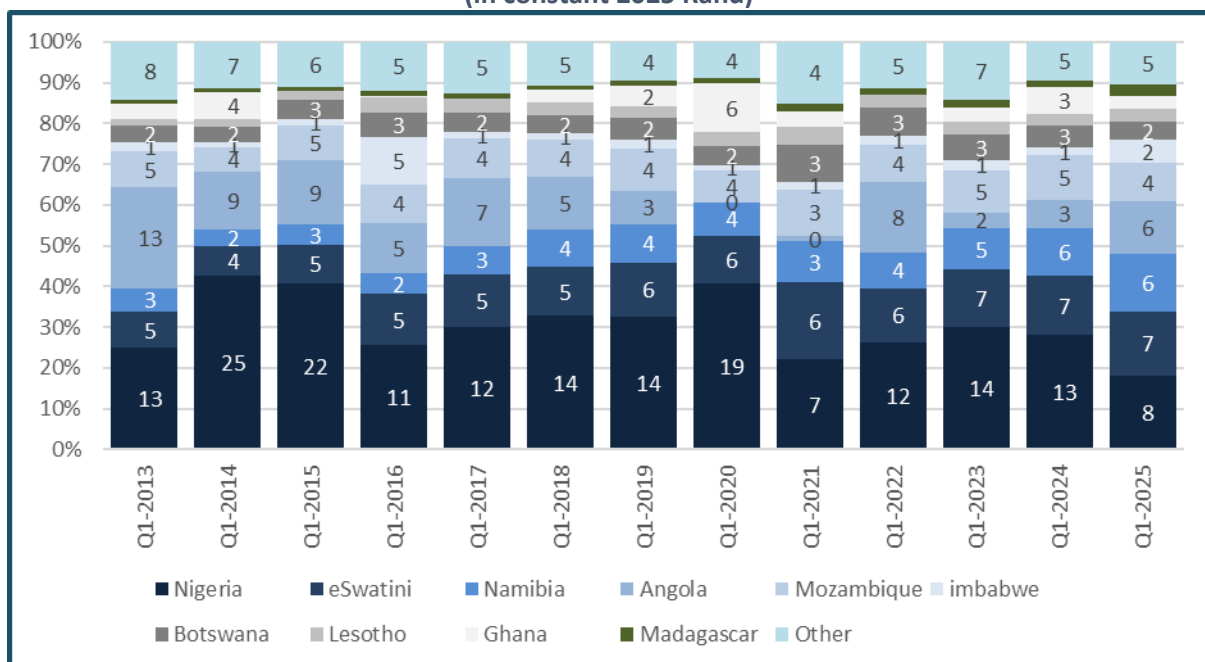
Graph 3: Continental trade balance, Q1 2013 – Q1 2025 (in constant 2025 Rand)



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

Graph 4 shows South Africa’s imports from the top 10 partners on the continent between the first quarters of 2013 and 2025. There was an overall fall in the share of imports from the top 10 continental sources – which accounted for an average of almost 90% of total imports from the continent per quarter between the first quarters of 2013 and 2025. Nigeria was the top import source at R8 billion. However, this is a R5 billion year-on-year decrease from the first quarter of 2024. Imports from Nigeria are mainly crude oil, which accounted for a 41% decrease in imports from the country. Imports from eSwatini also fell, by R175 million to R7 billion in the first quarter of 2025 due to a decrease in imports of odoriferous substances and mixtures used in food and beverages, among other industries. Other import sources from the continent include Namibia (R6 billion), Angola (R6 billion), Zimbabwe (R2 billion) and Madagascar (R1 billion), accounting for a combined R20 billion. Imports from Zimbabwe increased by 135% on account of higher imports of coke and semi-coke, lignite, peat or retort carbon and livestock.

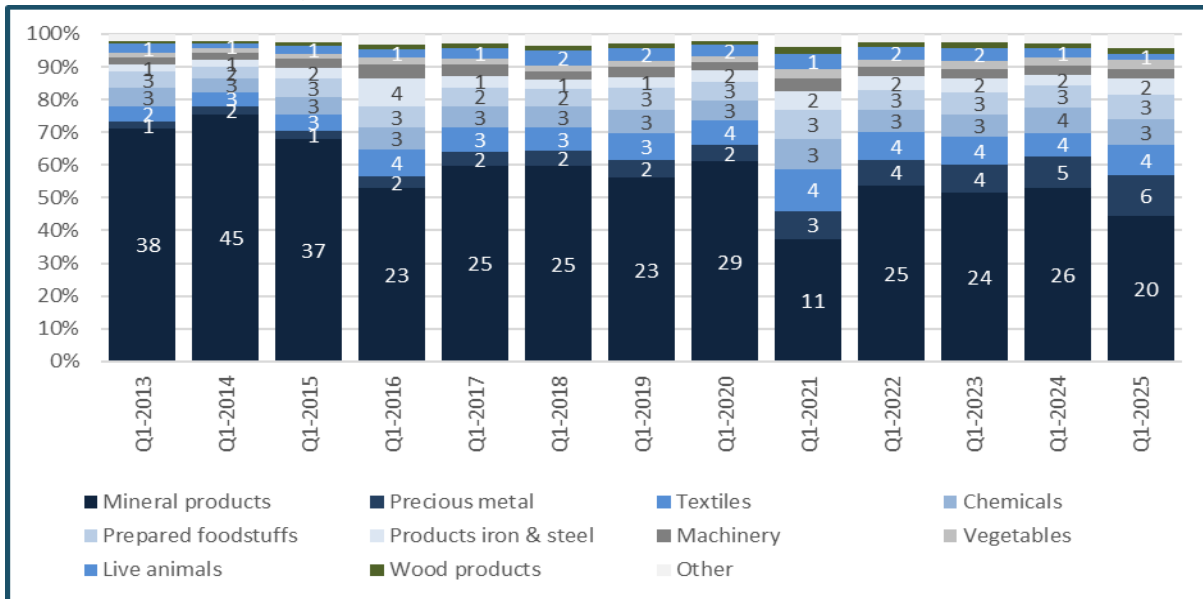
Graph 4: Top African countries from which South Africa imports goods, Q1 2013 – Q1 2025 (in constant 2025 Rand)



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

Graph 5 shows the top 10 imports by product group between the first quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2025. These imports amounted to R42 billion in the first quarter of 2025, from R52 billion in the first quarter of 2013 (in constant 2025 terms), and averaged around 97% of total imports from the continent per quarter over this period. Mineral products are the top import, averaging 57% of total imports per quarter between 2013 and 2025. Imports of this product from the continent reached their lowest first quarter level (R20 billion) in the first quarter of 2025, having recovered from the 2021 low of R11 billion. Other top imports from the continent include precious metals – mainly gold from Namibia – which reached R6 billion in the first quarter of 2025, from R1 billion in the first quarter of 2013. Live animals imports reached their lowest first quarter level in 2025, falling to R792 million from more than R1 billion in the first quarter of 2024.

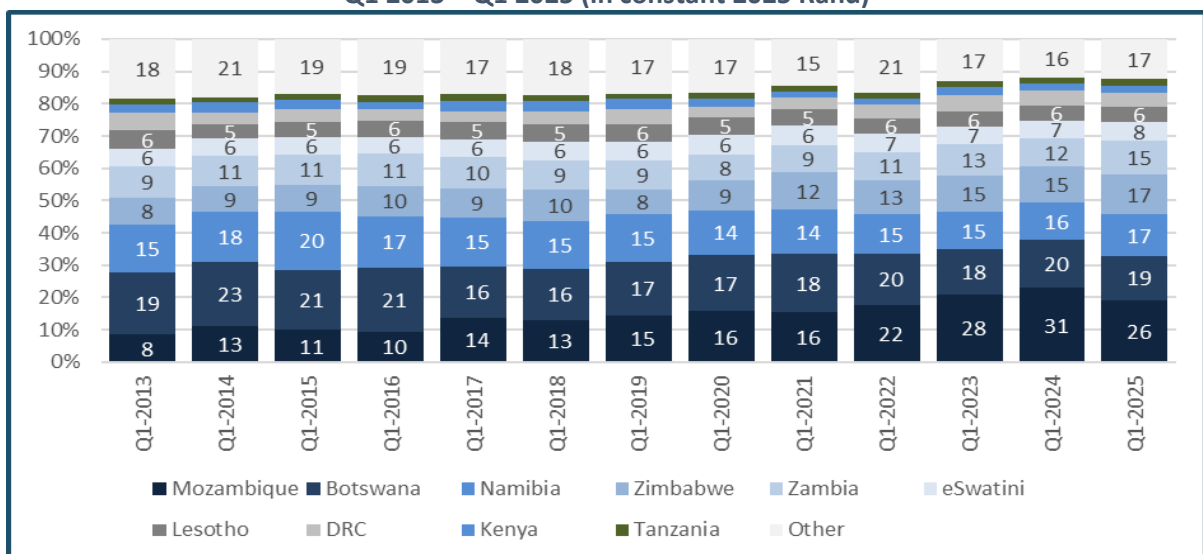
Graph 5: South Africa’s imports from the continent by product group, Q1 2013 – Q1 2025 (in constant 2025 Rand), and as a share of the total



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

Graph 6 shows the top 10 countries within the continent to which South Africa exported goods. Since the agreement between Transnet and Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique (Mozambique’s national rail company) to use the Port of Maputo for re-export of products like ores, Mozambique still appears as the top market for exports from South Africa. These exports amounted to R26 billion, down from R31 billion in the first quarter of 2024, but up from R16 billion in the first quarter of 2020 – prior to the 2021 agreement. Accounting for the impact of the ore re-exports, Botswana would be the top export destination for South Africa’s exports. Other top markets include Namibia and Zimbabwe, with exports amounting to R17 billion apiece.

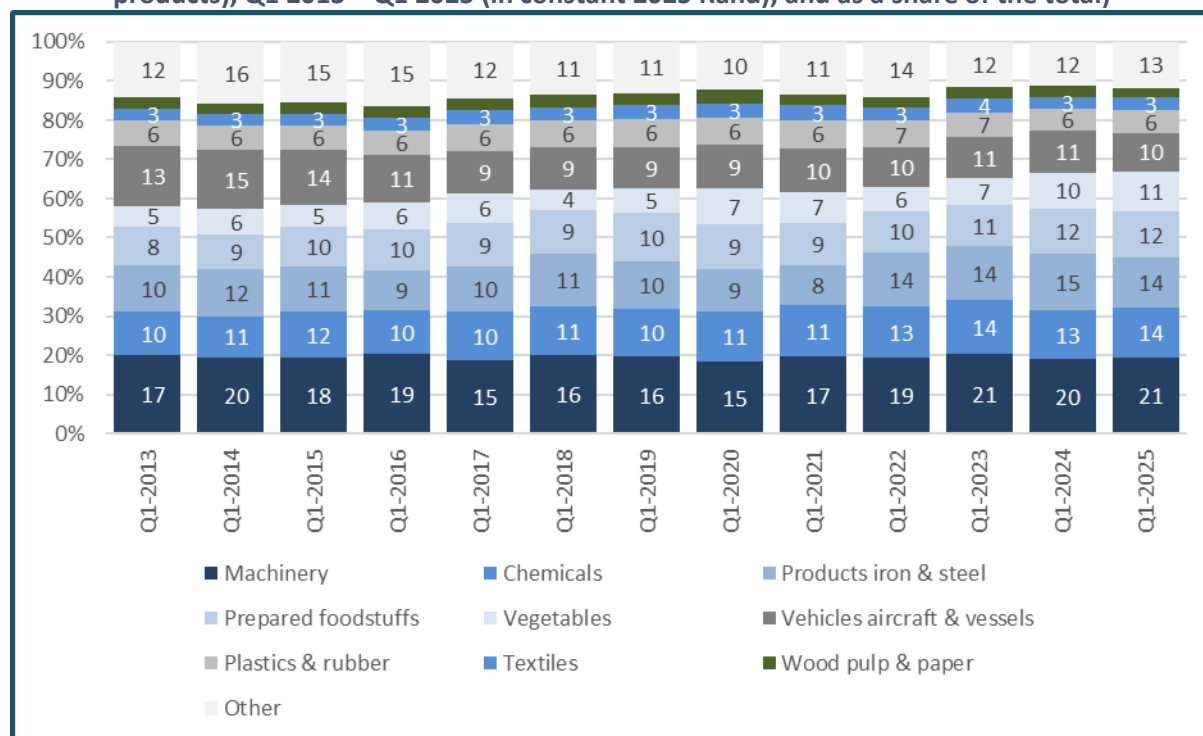
Graph 6: Top African countries to which South Africa exports goods, Q1 2013 – Q1 2025 (in constant 2025 Rand)



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

Exports of the top 10 product groups amounted to R123 billion in the first quarter of 2025, up from R87 billion in the first quarter of 2013 (in constant 2025 terms). The top 10 exports averaged around 89% of total exports to the rest of the continent per quarter between 2013 and 2025. Mineral product exports amounted to R29 billion in the first quarter of 2025, mainly made up of electricity, petrol and diesel exports. Other top exports included machinery and chemicals (see Graph 7).

Graph 7: South Africa’s exports to the rest of the continent by product group (excluding mineral products), Q1 2013 – Q1 2025 (in constant 2025 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 May 2025. Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the first quarter of 2025.

Major imports

In constant 2025 Rand, the value of the Top 100 imports amounted to R249 billion in the first quarter of 2025, up from R240 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024. Annexure 1 shows the Top 100 import products by value and covers different sectors 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 volume for the first quarter of 2025, along with the changes in the trend of these volumes. Changes in the trend of imported volumes are classified into categories including not significant; selected for analysis; ongoing monitoring; data errors; surge is within usual variance; and decline in imports. Two products were selected for analysis in the first quarter of 2025, while 17 showed a year-on-year decline in imported volumes, with another eight being monitored after surges in previous quarters.

Table 1 shows the 17 products with a year-on-year decrease in imported volumes. All but one of these products also show a decrease in the Rand value of the imports, while sulphur shows a 38% decline in imported kilograms and 28% growth in the value of these imports.

Table 1: Decline in imports between Q1 2024 and Q1 2025

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	REAL DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT DECLINE, QUANTITY	PERCENT GROWTH/ DECLINE, VALUE	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
27090000	Crude oil	- 491 597 429	Kilograms	-21%	-31%	Free of duty
27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	- 30 024 185	Kilograms	-4%	-6%	Free of duty
27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	- 49 112 298	Kilograms	-18%	-52%	Free of duty
27101226	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals	- 64 801 058	Litres	-27%	-39%	0.183c/li
27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	- 71 893 617	Litres	-37%	-39%	Free of duty
25030000	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	- 58 845 375	Kilograms	-38%	28%	Free of duty
27101257	Light oils and preparations: Other base oils	- 10 348 339	Litres	-10%	-10%	0.1c/li with a maximum of 8%
98010030	Automotive components: For motor cars	- 1 403 251 363	Kilograms	-94%	-11%	20.0%
28362000	Disodium carbonate	- 10 213 466	Kilograms	-11%	-17%	5.5%
31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	- 44 464 761	Kilograms	-35%	-40%	Free of duty
25010010	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: Not for human consumption	- 7 199 554	Kilograms	-8%	-11%	Free of duty
31042000	Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser	- 20 406 280	Kilograms	-23%	-36%	Free of duty

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	REAL DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT DECLINE, QUANTITY	PERCENT GROWTH/DECLINE, VALUE	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	- 1 702 608	Kilograms	-3%	-10%	Free of duty
26180000	Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel	- 2 840 953	Kilograms	-5%	-52%	Free of duty
27131200	Petroleum coke, calcined	- 13 351 033	Kilograms	-19%	-26%	Free of duty
31022100	Ammonium sulphate (excl. that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	- 22 246 424	Kilograms	-29%	-56%	Free of duty
27111200	Propane, liquefied	- 10 887 999	Kilograms	-17%	-20%	Free of duty

Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in May 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	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
01064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	Significant year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter increase	Year-on-year imports more than doubled in the year to the first quarter of 2025. It is still unclear what is driving the surge. The bulk of these imports came from the Netherlands, the largest supplier of insects to South Africa. However, there was also 164 billion units of re-imports. The last time South Africa re-imported this product was in the fourth quarter of 2022, when 40 billion units were re-imported.	Free of duty

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	STATUS OF SURGE	EXPLANATION	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
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))	Significant year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter increase	Imports continued to surge in the first quarter of 2025, following the initial surge in the fourth quarter of 2024. Total imports surged by 212 million kilograms quarter-on-quarter, and by 275 million kilograms in the year to the first quarter of 2025. The bulk of imports come from Argentina, supplying almost 100% of imports prior to the initial surge in the fourth quarter of 2024. Between the fourth quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025, Argentina's share in total imports declined, falling from 78% of total volumes in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 58% of volumes in the first quarter of 2025, with the US supplying the balance. Even with the decline in share of the total, imports from Argentina continued to grow. This growth in imports has been to cover local shortages.	Free of duty
27101207	Light oils and preparations: aviation kerosene	Significant year-on-year increase, and a negligible quarter-on-quarter increase	Imports surged from 73 million litres (the lowest level since the fourth quarter of 2019) in the first quarter of 2024 to 255 million litres in the first quarter of 2025. However, quarter-on-quarter imports increased by less than five million litres.	Free of duty
10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): other	Significant year-on-year increase, but decline in quarter-on-quarter imports	Imports remain significantly higher year-on-year, in part due to the low base in the first quarter of 2024, when only 290 000 kilograms were imported. 145 million kilograms were imported in the first quarter of 2025, down from 173 million kilograms in the fourth quarter of 2024. The bulk of the imports (110 million kilograms) came from Argentina. There was also 35 million kilograms worth of re-imports during the first quarter of 2025, up from less than 40 000 kilograms in the first quarter of 2024.	Free of duty
85235210	Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits "smart cards": digital	Significant year-on-year increase, but decline in quarter-on-quarter imports	Imports increased by more than 20 million units in the year to the first quarter of 2025. However, quarter-on-quarter imports declined by more than 50 million units from the higher than average 150 million units imported in the fourth quarter of 2024.	5.0%

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	STATUS OF SURGE	EXPLANATION	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
23040000	Oilcake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil	Significant year-on-year increase, but decline in quarter-on-quarter imports	Imports surged from a low base of six million kilograms in the first quarter of 2024 to 81 million kilograms in the first quarter of 2025. However, quarter-on-quarter imports declined by about five million kilograms.	6.6%
12019000	Soya beans, whether or not broken (excluding seed for sowing)	Significant year-on-year increase, and a negligible quarter-on-quarter increase	Imports remained high in the first quarter of 2025, with the year-on-year surge mainly reflecting the low import base from the first quarter of 2024. However, imports remained stable at 58 million kilograms in the first quarter of 2025, from 57 million kilograms in the previous quarter. The bulk of the imports came from the US. There was also almost two million kilograms in re-imports.	8.0%
12011000	Soya bean seed, for sowing	Significant year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter increase	Imports surged between the fourth quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025, from 82 000 kilograms to 56 million kilograms. There were virtually no imports in the first quarter of 2024. Notably, 55 million kilograms of the 56 million kilograms was re-imports. Other imports came from Ukraine and Zambia.	8.0%

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

Finding 2: Anhydrous ammonia

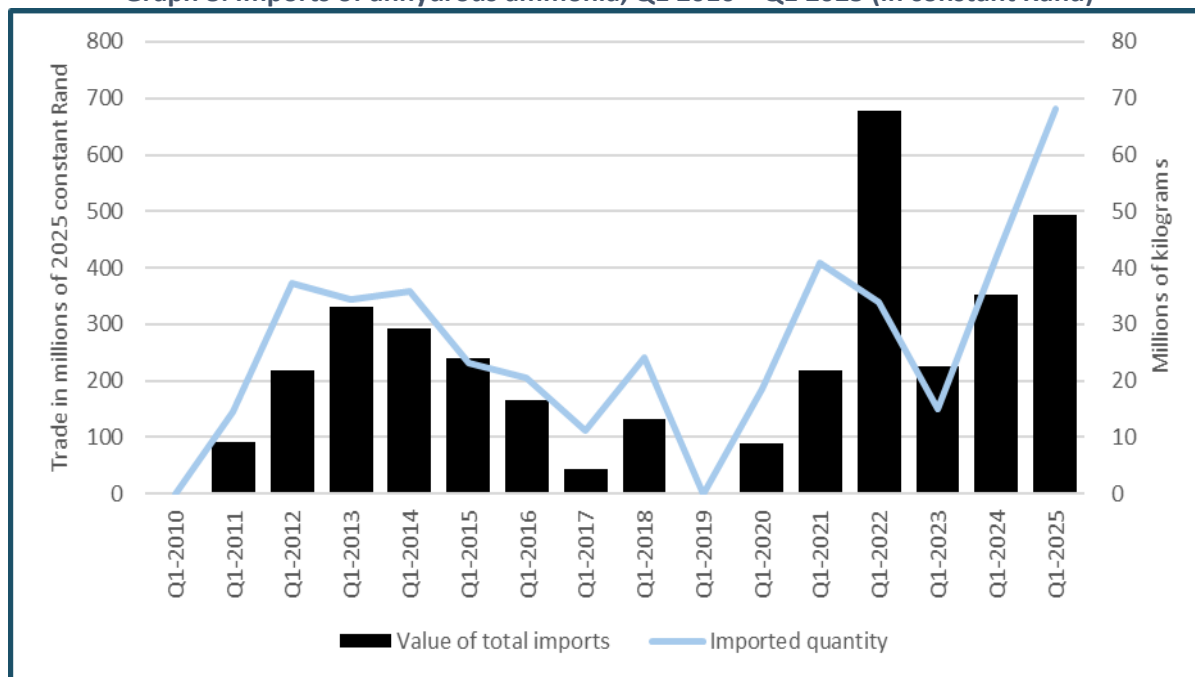
Anhydrous ammonia (HS28141000) is a clear, colourless gas at room temperature and standard pressure conditions and has a pungent odour. It is liquid when compressed or cooled and stored under pressure, allowing large volumes to be used (Nowatzki, 2021). Sasol produces anhydrous ammonia through two main methods at its Secunda and Sasolburg facilities. The first is the Haber-Bosch process, which combines nitrogen and hydrogen at high pressure and temperatures in the presence of a catalyst such as iron. The second is as a by-product during the processing of coal to liquid fuels (Sasol, n.d.). Sasol manufactures more than 540 000 tonnes of ammonia in Sasolburg and Secunda.

Anhydrous ammonia is used to manufacture nitrogen fertilisers like urea, ammonium sulphate, and ammonium nitrate. The agricultural sector uses nitrogen fertilisers to grow crops. Industries including food processing, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals use anhydrous ammonia as a refrigerant. Anhydrous ammonia also has use in the production of plastics, cleaning products and explosives. It is also used in water treatment processes within the mining and agricultural sectors.

South Africa is a net importer of anhydrous ammonia. In volumes, imports surged from 42 million kilograms to 68 million kilograms in the year to the first quarter of 2025 (see Graph 8), amounting to R493 million, from R352 million in the first quarter of 2024. Saudi Arabia was the main import source

in both value and volumes, accounting for 68% of imported kilograms in the first quarter of 2025. Other import sources include Indonesia and Oman, accounting for 28% and 4% of imported volumes respectively, in the first quarter of 2025. There is no singular main import source for this product, with countries like Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Qatar sometimes supplying the largest volumes.

Graph 8: Imports of anhydrous ammonia, Q1 2010 – Q1 2025 (in constant Rand)



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

Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the first quarter of 2025.

While there is no singular identifiable cause for the surge, it did coincide with South Africa’s planting season for various crops like maize, wheat, and barley. In addition, prices dropped monthly in the first quarter of 2025 due to lower natural gas costs (Grain SA, 2025).

There were other developments in the global environment impacting on ammonia supply. Supply chain disruptions in the Middle East and Indonesia along with export restrictions in Russia in 2022 led to higher international ammonia prices over the years. Locally, the ammonia supply chain faces several challenges, including inefficient rail transport. To address this challenge, Sasol announced a five-year partnership with Transnet Freight Rail in February 2024. The agreement indicates that Transnet will deliver ammonia from Sasol’s Secunda and Sasolburg facilities to Sasol’s customers through a fleet of 128 ammonia tankers, while Sasol will fund Transnet’s maintenance and repairs for the fleet in turn (Sasol, 2024). These supply chain disruptions required contingency planning for ammonia consumers. For instance, AECI – the mining and chemicals group and one of Sasol’s largest customers – noted that while the agreement between Sasol and Transnet will improve the reliability of deliveries between Secunda and its Modderfontein facility in Gauteng, the company would continue its hybrid sourcing strategy (AECI, 2024). AECI sources ammonia from Sasol and imports through the Richards Bay port to diversify its ammonia suppliers (Creamer, 2024).

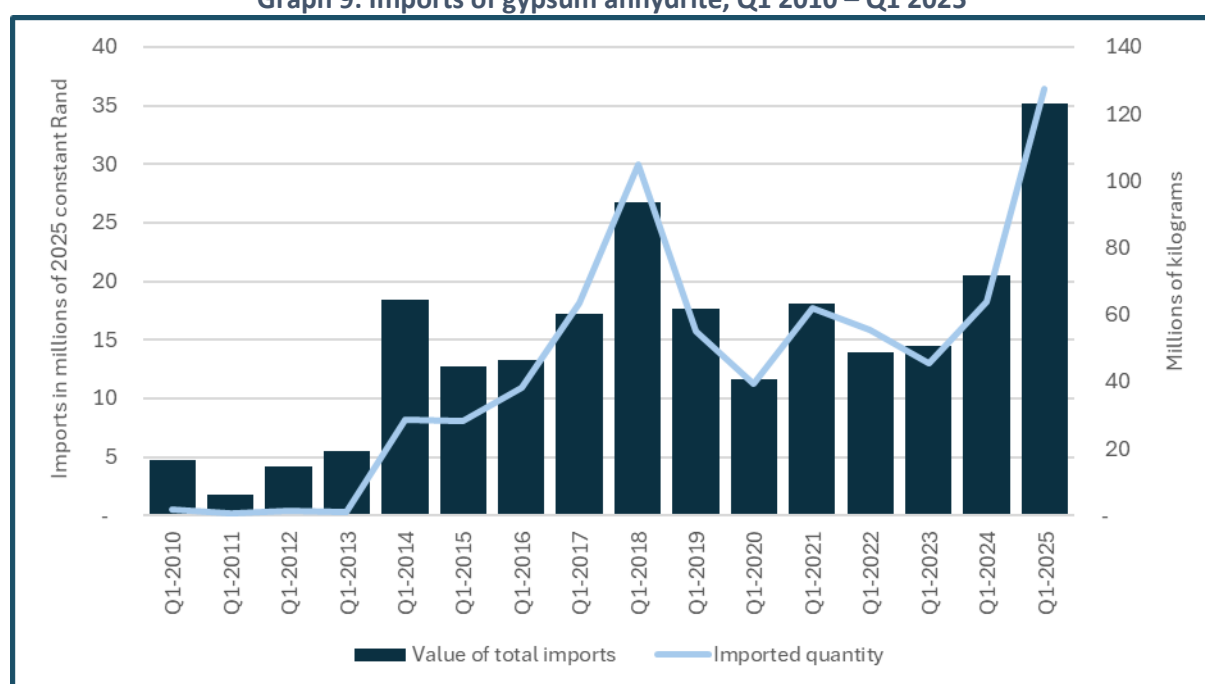
Finding 3: Gypsum and anhydrite

Gypsum and anhydrite (HS25201000) are closely related minerals formed through the evaporation of ancient seawater in restricted basins. Anhydrite can transform into gypsum on exposure to water, while gypsum can revert to anhydrite through dehydration. Anhydrite is slightly denser and harder than gypsum. Both are commonly used as soil amendments and in cement production. These minerals

are widely utilised across various industries, particularly in the production of building materials like cement, ceramics, and screed, and in agriculture for fertilisers and sulphuric acid. Anhydrite is also used in small quantities as a drying agent in products like plaster, paint, and varnish (Oreworld Trade, n.d.). In cement, gypsum plays a crucial role in delaying setting time, which facilitates proper mixing, transport, and placement of concrete. Crushed forms of gypsum and anhydrite are used in soil treatment, with anhydrite offering a higher calcium yield per tonne due to gypsum’s 21% water content by weight (Chemical Book, 2019).

South Africa is a net importer of gypsum anhydrite. Imports surged to 128 million kilograms in the first quarter of 2025, from 64 million kilograms in the first quarter of 2024 (see Graph 9). Oman is the main source of these imports, accounting for 99% of imported volumes in the first quarter of 2025. The United Kingdom was the other source of imports, accounting for almost 1% of the volumes, with Thailand, Germany and the Netherlands accounting for the balance.

Graph 9: Imports of gypsum anhydrite, Q1 2010 – Q1 2025



Source: Calculated from ITC Trade Map data. Downloaded from <https://www.trademap.org> in May 2025.
 Note: Rebased, using CPI data from Stats SA to the first quarter of 2025.

The exact cause of this surge is uncertain. Gypsum and anhydrite play a vital role in key sectors of the South African economy, particularly construction (specifically the cement industry) and agriculture. Cement is essential for infrastructure development, including buildings, roads, and public works. PPC Ltd is South Africa’s largest cement producer, reported revenue of R10 billion in its 2024 financial year, a 21% increase from 2023. In January 2025, the company noted further improvements, including stabilised sales volumes and additional price increases (Phillips, 2025). The agriculture sector was the largest positive contributor to gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter of 2025, increasing by almost 16% and contributing 0.4% to the positive GDP growth (Stats SA, 2025).

Finding 4: Data errors and other issues

Table 3 outlines some potential data errors as outlined in Annexure 2. The table also provides explanation as to why the imports have been flagged as potential data errors.

Table 3: Potential data errors, Q1 2025

HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
72155000	Bars and rods, of iron or non-alloy steel, not further worked than cold-formed or cold-finished	Error in reporting volumes from Türkiye. Reported import volumes far exceed what Türkiye reported as total global exports for the first quarter of 2025.	10.0%
69029000	Refractory bricks, blocks, tiles and similar refractory ceramic constructional goods	Error in reporting volumes imported from Belgium. Although first quarter 2025 data is not yet available for Belgium, analysis of reported export volumes from past quarters far exceed the average for Belgium's quarterly exports (around 350 000kg).	Free of duty
68118200	Sheets, panels, paving, tiles and similar articles, of cellulose fibre-cement or the like	Error in reporting volumes imported from Vietnam. Vietnam export data cannot be verified. Nevertheless, while there is an increase in the value of imports from Vietnam, it does not match the surge. Moreover, reported import volumes for the first quarter of 2025 exceed total reported imports from the first quarter of 2010 to the fourth quarter of 2024 by some 36 million kilograms.	Free of duty
23099020	Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding (excluding dog or cat food put up for retail)	Error in reporting volumes imported from eSwatini. Import volumes from eSwatini show a surge of more than 80 million kilograms, while the value declined by almost R40 million. In addition, the reported import volumes far exceed eSwatini's average quarterly exports of the product.	Free of duty
84385000	Machinery for the industrial preparation of meat or poultry	Error in converting volumes imported from China. China's exports are reported in kilograms, while South Africa reports these imports in units.	Free of duty
48102930	Paper and paperboard used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes	Error in reporting volumes from Finland. Surge in volumes not matched by a corresponding surge in value.	Free of duty
47032100	Semi-bleached or bleached coniferous chemical wood pulp, soda or sulphate	Error in reporting volumes imported from the US. Imported volumes from the US reportedly surged by more than 400% year-on-year, while the value of these imports declined by 1% in the same period.	Free of duty
39031900	Polystyrene, in primary forms (excluding expansible)	Error in reporting volumes imported from Taiwan. Taiwan reports just over three million kilograms as exports to South Africa, valued at R70 million. In contrast, South Africa reported 59 million kilograms in imports from Taiwan, valued at R57 million.	Free of duty

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

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DATA ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Top 100 import products by Rand value, Q1 2025

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q1 2024 - Q1 2025	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
1	27101230	Diesel	37.04	No change	Not designated	0.183c/li
2	27090000	Crude oil	19.59	No change	Not designated	Free of duty
3	98010030	Automotive components: For motor cars	18.29	No change	Not designated	20.0%
4	27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	13.89	No change	Not designated	0.091 c/li
5	98010040	Original equipment components: For goods vehicles	13.02	No change	Not designated	20%
6	87032290	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity 1 000 cm3 to 1 500 cm3	8.58	2	Not designated	25.0%
7	85171310	Smartphones for wireless networks	7.91	-1	Not designated	Free of duty
8	30049099	Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes	6.29	-1	Not designated	Free of duty
9	28182000	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	4.97	10	Not designated	Free of duty
10	71081300	Gold, in semi-manufactured forms, for non-monetary purposes	4.97	3	Not designated	Free of duty
11	84713090	Data-processing machines, automatic, portable, weighing <= 10 kg	4.74	-2	Not designated	Free of duty
12	85176290	Routers and set-top boxes (STB): Other	4.15	-1	Routers not designated; STB 30% designated	Free of duty
13	98010045	Original equipment components: For goods vehicles	3.21	-3	Not designated	20.0%
14	84715000	Processing units for automatic data-processing machines	3.11	-2	Not designated	Free of duty
15	27101207	Light oils and preparations: Aviation kerosene	3.10	31	Not designated	Free of duty
16	15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	2.73	7	Not designated	10.0%
17	10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	2.68	3	Not designated	18.35 c/kg
18	10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	2.55	4	Not designated	Free of duty
19	85018000	Photovoltaic ac generators	2.40	5557	Not designated	Free of duty
20	87032390	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity 1 500 cm3 to 3 000 cm3	2.24	10	Not designated	25.0%

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q1 2024 - Q1 2025	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
21	87033390	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity exceeding 2 500 cm3	2.24	21	Not designated	25.0%
22	33021000	Mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures, incl. alcoholic solutions of a kind used in the food and drink industries	2.14	-5	Not designated	Free of duty
23	87033290	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity 1 000 cm3 to 2 500 cm3	2.14	28	Not designated	25.0%
24	85023100	Generating sets: wind-powered	2.07	-6	Not designated	Free of duty
25	27101226	Light oils and preparations: illuminating kerosene	1.93	-10	Not designated	0.183 c/li
26	27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	1.93	-2	Not designated	Free of duty
27	85076000	Lithium-ion accumulators (excluding spent)	1.91	No change	Not designated	Free of duty
28	84295200	Self-propelled bulldozers, etc: With 360-degree revolving superstructure	1.84	5	Not designated	Free of duty
29	85044000	Static converters	1.82	-15	Inverters 40% designated	Free of duty
30	84013000	Fuel elements (cartridges), non-irradiated	1.72	6671	Not designated	Free of duty
31	38249999	Chemical products and preparations of the chemical or allied industries	1.71	5	Not designated	Free of duty
32	90189000	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, not elsewhere specified	1.71	-3	Not designated	Free of duty
33	88024000	Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen mass exceeding 15 000 kg	1.61	272	Not designated	Free of duty
34	84314990	Parts of machinery of heading 8426, 8429 and 8430, not elsewhere specified: Other	1.53	1	Not designated	Free of duty
35	27101257	Light oils and preparations: other base oils	1.52	-1	Not designated	0.1 c/li with max of 8%
36	98010015	Automotive components: for tractors and buses	1.47	-8	Not designated	20.0%
37	87089990	Parts and accessories for tractors and buses	1.43	-5	Bus bodies 80% designated	20.0%
38	87032190	Cars and related vehicles: cylinder capacity not exceeding 1 000 cm3	1.41	3	Not designated	25.0%
39	88073000	Parts of aeroplanes, helicopters or unmanned aircraft, not elsewhere specified (excluding those for gliders)	1.37	6	Not designated	Free of duty
40	74081100	Wire of refined copper, with a maximum cross-sectional dimension of > 6 mm	1.35	-3	Not designated	Free of duty

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q1 2024 - Q1 2025	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
41	10059010	Dried kernels or grains fit for human consumption, not further prepared or processed and not packaged as seeds (excluding popcorn (zea mays everta))	1.35	5919	Not designated	Free of duty
42	87082900	Parts and accessories of bodies for tractors and goods and passenger vehicles	1.27	-4	Not designated	20.0%
43	27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	1.22	-17	Not designated	Free of duty
44	84291100	Self-propelled bulldozers and angledozers, track laying	1.21	39	Not designated	Free of duty
45	38221900	Prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing	1.17	-2	Not designated	Free of duty
46	27160000	Electrical energy	1.16	-21	Not designated	Free of duty
47	84219990	Parts of machinery and apparatus for filtering or purifying liquids or gases, n.e.s: Other	1.12	18	Not designated	Free of duty
48	71023100	Non-industrial diamonds unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted	1.09	-32	Not designated	Free of duty
49	17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter	1.08	8	Not designated	286.25 c/kg
50	85177900	Parts of telephone sets, telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks	1.08	-6	Not designated	Free of duty
51	88023000	Aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen mass exceeding 2 000 kg but not exceeding 15 000 kg	1.05	145	Not designated	Free of duty
52	84439900	Parts and accessories of printers, copying machines and facsimile machines, not elsewhere specified	1.02	-12	Not designated	Free of duty
53	39269090	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	0.98	-3	Not designated	20.0%
54	87041090	Dumpers for off-highway use: Other	0.98	-33	Not designated	Free of duty
55	87032490	Cars and related vehicles: Cylinder capacity exceeding 3 000 cm3	0.96	47	Not designated	25.0%
56	94019990	Parts of seats, not of wood, n.e.s: Other	0.93	-2	Not designated	25.0%
57	87042181	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods, with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine "diesel or semi-diesel engine" of a gross vehicle weight <= 5 t: Other, double-cab, of a vehicle mass not exceeding 2 000 kg or a gross vehicle mass (g.v.m.) not exceeding 3 500 kg, or of a mass not exceeding 1 600 kg or a g.v.m. not exceeding 3 500 kg per chassis fitted with a cab	0.93	55	Not designated	25.0%
58	27101215	Light oils and preparations: Illuminating kerosene	0.92	-10	Not designated	Free of duty

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q1 2024 - Q1 2025	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
59	74031100	Copper, refined, in the form of cathodes and sections of cathodes	0.91	14	Not designated	Free of duty
60	30043990	Medicaments containing hormones or steroids used as hormones but not antibiotics, put up in measured doses "incl. 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	0.89	35	Not designated	Free of duty
61	30021500	Immunological products, put up in measured doses, or in forms or packings for retail	0.87	7	Not designated	Free of duty
62	84798990	Machines and mechanical appliances, not elsewhere specified: Other	0.84	14	Not designated	Free of duty
63	84717000	Storage units for automatic data-processing machines	0.81	16	Not designated	Free of duty
64	84749000	Parts of machinery for working mineral substances of heading 8474, not elsewhere specified	0.81	24	Not designated	Free of duty
65	27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated	0.81	-16	Not designated	Free of duty
66	85414300	Photovoltaic cells assembled in modules or made up into panels	0.79	-2	Solar PV components 70% designated	10.0%
67	79011100	Unwrought zinc, not alloyed: Containing by mass 99,99 per cent or more of zinc	0.79	52	Not designated	Free of duty
68	27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): other	0.76	-7	Not designated	Free of duty
69	84111200	Turbojets: Of a thrust exceeding 25 kn	0.75	49	Not designated	Free of duty
70	61091000	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	0.75	22	100% designated	45.0%
71	39011000	Polyethylene having a specific gravity of less than 0.94	0.74	-19	Not designated	Free of duty
72	39012000	Polyethylene having a specific gravity of 0.94 or more	0.74	-14	Not designated	Free of duty
73	40111009	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber, of a kind used for motor cars, incl. station wagons and racing cars: having a rim size of 43 cm (17 inches) or more	0.74	16	Not designated	30.0%
74	33049990	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin: Other	0.74	-5	Not designated	20.0%
75	31054000	Ammonium dihydrogen orthophosphate (mono-ammonium phosphate) and mixtures thereof with diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate (diammonium phosphate)	0.73	894	Not designated	Free of duty
76	21069090	Food preparations, n.e.s: Other	0.72	-16	Not designated	20.0%

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q1 2024 - Q1 2025	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
77	22082011	Brandy as defined in additional Note 7 to Chapter 22	0.72	33	Not designated	154 c/li
78	27111200	Propane, liquefied	0.72	-22	Not designated	Free of duty
79	84834000	Gears and gearing for machinery ball or roller screws; gear boxes and other speed changers	0.70	3	Not designated	Free of duty
80	87083090	Brakes and servo-brakes and their parts, for tractors, motor vehicles for the transport of goods or persons, not elsewhere specified	0.70	18	Not designated	20.0%
81	85371090	Boards, cabinets and similar combinations of apparatus for electric control or the distribution of electricity, for a voltage <= 1.000 V: Other	0.70	-9	Not designated	5.0%
82	85437000	Other machines and apparatus	0.69	38	Not designated	Free of duty
83	90183900	Needles, catheters, cannulae and the like, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences (excluding syringes, tubular metal needles and needles for sutures)	0.68	33	Not designated	Free of duty
84	84433100	Printers and fax machines	0.67	-17	Not designated	Free of duty
85	87085085	Drive-axles with differential, whether or not provided with other transmission components	0.66	-11	Not designated	20.0%
86	21011190	Extracts, essences and concentrates, of coffee: Other	0.65	55	Not designated	25.0%
87	85443000	Ignition wiring sets and other wiring sets of a kind used in vehicles, aircraft or ships	0.65	-16	Not designated	5.0%
88	27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	0.65	-49	Not designated	Free of duty
89	87042183	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods, with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine "diesel or semi-diesel engine" 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 (excluding double-cab), of a vehicle mass not exceeding 2 000 kg or a g.v.m. not exceeding 3 500 kg, or of a mass not exceeding 1 600 kg or a g.v.m. not exceeding 3 500 kg per chassis fitted with a cab	0.63	73	Not designated	25%
90	38112100	Prepared additives for oil lubricants containing petroleum oil or bituminous mineral oil	0.63	-9	Not designated	Free of duty
91	27132000	Petroleum bitumen	0.62	8	Not designated	10%

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IMPORT VALUE, RAND BILLION	CHANGE IN RANK, Q1 2024 - Q1 2025	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
92	61103000	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted (excluding wadded waistcoats)	0.62	32	100% designated	20.0%
93	10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): Other	0.62	4826	Not designated	Free of duty
94	84099990	Parts suitable for use solely or principally with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine "diesel or semi-diesel engine", n.e.s: Other	0.62	7	Not designated	Free of duty
95	84733000	Parts and accessories of automatic data-processing machines or for other machines of heading 8471, not elsewhere specified	0.61	2	Not designated	Free of duty
96	22083010	Whiskies: In containers holding 2 li or less	0.61	12	Not designated	154 c/li
97	29173600	Terephthalic acid and its salts	0.60	-11	Not designated	Free of duty
98	87041030	Articulated dumpers with a g.v.m. exceeding 50t, as defined in Additional Note 7 to Chapter 87	0.59	6947	Not designated	10.0%
99	84314300	Parts for boring or sinking machinery of subheading 8430.41 or 8430.49	0.59	4	Not designated	Free of duty
100	02071210	Frozen fowls of the species gallus domesticus, not cut in pieces: mechanically deboned meat	0.59	40	Not designated	Free of duty

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

Annexure 2: Surges in import products by quantity Q1 2025

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
1	01064900	Live insects (excluding bees)	Ongoing monitoring	1 115 957 218 503	Units	109%	Not designated	Free of duty
2	27101230	Diesel	Surge within usual variance	384 707 958	Litres	15%	Not designated	0.183c/li
3	27090000	Crude oil	Decline in imports	- 491 597 429	Kilograms	-21%	Not designated	Free
4	27101202	Light oils and preparations: Petrol	Surge within usual variance	351 806 900	Litres	39%	Not designated	0.091 c/li
5	27111100	Natural gas, liquefied	Decline in imports	- 30 024 185	Kilograms	-4%	Not designated	Free
6	10019900	Wheat and meslin (excluding seed for sowing, and durum wheat)	Not significant	149 892 427	Kilograms	35%	Not designated	54.95c/kg

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
7	28182000	Aluminium oxide (excluding artificial corundum)	Surge within usual variance	35 652 093	Kilograms	11%	Not designated	Free of duty
8	25232900	Portland cement (excluding white, whether or not artificially coloured)	Not significant	16 451 567	Kilograms	5%	100% designated	Free of duty
9	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	307 852 014	Kilograms	859898%	Not designated	Free of duty
10	10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	Surge within usual variance	76 440 237	Kilograms	43%	Not designated	Free of duty
11	27101207	Light oils and preparations: aviation kerosene	Ongoing monitoring	181 675 761	Litres	247%	Not designated	Free of duty
12	72155000	Bars and rods, of iron or non-alloy steel, not further worked than cold-formed or cold-finished	Data error	248 357 040	Kilograms	41994%	100% designated	10%
13	69029000	Refractory bricks, blocks, tiles and similar refractory ceramic constructional goods	Data error	246 161 712	Kilograms	9500%	Not designated	Free of duty
14	27011200	Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated	Surge within usual variance	117 989 447	Kilograms	103%	Not designated	Free of duty
15	27040000	Coke and semi-coke of coal, of lignite or of peat, whether or not agglomerated; retort carbon	Not significant	517 788	Kilograms	0.2%	Not designated	Free of duty
16	27011900	Coal, whether or not pulverised, non-agglomerated (excluding anthracite and bituminous coal)	Decline in imports	- 49 112 298	Kilograms	-18%	Not designated	Free of duty
17	68118200	Sheets, panels, paving, tiles and similar articles, of cellulose fibre-cement or the like	Data error	189 936 519	Kilograms	6536%	Not designated	Free of duty

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
18	27101226	Light oils and preparations, of petroleum or bituminous minerals	Decline in imports	- 64 801 058	Litres	-27%	Not designated	0.183c/li
19	44011200	Fuel wood, in logs, billets, twigs, faggots or similar forms, non-coniferous	Not significant	19 179 043	Kilograms	13%	Not designated	Free of duty
20	10059090	Maize (excluding seed for sowing): other	Ongoing monitoring	144 293 032	Kilograms	49936%	Not designated	Free of duty
21	25201000	Gypsum; anhydrite	Selected for analysis	63 813 830	Kilograms	100%	Not designated	Free of duty
22	15119090	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined (excluding chemically modified and crude): Other	Not significant	5 070 997	Kilograms	4%	Not designated	10%
23	27101235	Light oils and preparations: Residual fuels	Decline in imports	- 71 893 617	Litres	-37%	Not designated	Free of duty
24	23099020	Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding (excluding dog or cat food put up for retail)	Data error	99 579 359	Kilograms	1058%	Not designated	Free of duty
25	28151200	Sodium hydroxide "caustic soda" in aqueous solution "soda lye or liquid soda"	Surge within usual variance	52 816 754	Kilograms	97%	Not designated	20%
26	84385000	Machinery for the industrial preparation of meat or poultry	Data error	100 262 144	Units	1854646%	Not designated	Free of duty
27	85235210	Cards incorporating one or more electronic integrated circuits "smart cards": Digital	Ongoing monitoring	38 497 698	Units	65%	Not designated	5%
28	25030000	Sulphur of all kinds (excluding sublimed sulphur, precipitated sulphur and colloidal sulphur)	Decline in imports	- 58 845 375	Kilograms	-38%	Not designated	Free of duty
29	27101257	Light oils and preparations: Other base oils	Decline in imports	- 10 348 339	Litres	-10%	Not designated	0.1c/li with a maximum of 8%
30	98010030	Automotive components: For motor cars	Decline in imports	- 1 403 251 363	Kilograms	-94%	Not designated	20%

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
31	28362000	Disodium carbonate	Decline in imports	- 10 213 466	Kilograms	-11%	Not designated	5.5%
32	31021000	Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution	Decline in imports	- 44 464 761	Kilograms	-35%	Not designated	Free of duty
33	23040000	Oilcake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil	Ongoing monitoring	75 718 117	Kilograms	1369%	Not designated	6.6%
34	48102930	Paper and paperboard used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes	Data error	79 927 167	Kilograms	166120%	Not designated	Free of duty
35	27132000	Petroleum bitumen	Not significant	19 596 222	Kilograms	33%	Not designated	10%
36	25010010	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: not for human consumption	Decline in imports	- 7 199 554	Kilograms	-8%	Not designated	Free of duty
37	47032100	Semi-bleached or bleached coniferous chemical wood pulp, soda or sulphate	Data error	39 962 334	Kilograms	111%	Not designated	Free of duty
38	27101215	Light oils and preparations: Illuminating kerosene	Not significant	4 750 097	Litres	7%	Not designated	Free of duty
39	17011300	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter	Not significant	13 094 900	Kilograms	21%	Not designated	282.85c/kg
40	31042000	Potassium chloride for use as fertiliser	Decline in imports	- 20 406 280	Kilograms	-23%	Not designated	Free of duty
41	28141000	Anhydrous ammonia	Selected for analysis	26 158 853	Kilograms	62%	Not designated	Free of duty
42	39031900	Polystyrene, in primary forms (excluding expansible)	Data error	54 870 468	Kilograms	464%	Not designated	Free of duty

RANK	HS CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION	REAL GROWTH / DECLINE, QUANTITY	UNITS	PERCENT GROWTH / DECLINE	DESIGNATION STATUS	APPLICABLE GENERAL DUTY
43	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)	Surge within usual variance	60 319 035	Kilograms	1481%	Not designated	Free of duty
44	27111390	Butanes, liquefied (excluding of a purity of >= 95% of n-butane or isobutane): Other	Decline in imports	- 1 702 608	Kilograms	-3%	Not designated	Free of duty
45	26180000	Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel	Decline in imports	- 2 840 953	Kilograms	-5%	Not designated	Free of duty
46	12019000	Soya beans, whether or not broken (excluding seed for sowing)	Ongoing monitoring	57 081 055	Kilograms	9620%	Not designated	8%
47	27131200	Petroleum coke, calcined	Decline in imports	- 13 351 033	Kilograms	-19%	Not designated	Free of duty
48	12011000	Soya bean seed, for sowing	Ongoing monitoring	56 487 145	Kilograms	176522328%	Not designated	8%
49	31022100	Ammonium sulphate (excluding that in tablets or similar forms, or in packages with a gross weight of <= 10 kg)	Decline in imports	- 22 246 424	Kilograms	-29%	Not designated	Free of duty
50	27111200	Propane, liquefied	Decline in imports	- 10 887 999	Kilograms	-17%	Not designated	Free of duty

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