

Africa is not SA's biggest market

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“No African country was among South Africa’s top ten export markets in 2007. While six of South Africa’s top ten export markets were European Union member states, seven out of ten of South Africa’s top export markets in Africa were SADC member states.

In 2007, approximately 15% of South Africa’s exports were to Africa,” says Hilda Moja, deputy director: export promotion – Africa & Middle East of the Department of Trade & Industry (dti).

She further notes that the fastest-growing regions in terms of South African exports were the Caribbean with 516% and Eastern Europe with 77.1%. The increased export to the Caribbean was largely attributed to increased exports in agro-processed and food products.

“Over 21 of the regions to which South Africa exports showed export growth rates exceeding 20% in 2007. Exports are largely dominated by manufactured products. The top export products in 2007 were platinum products, ferro-alloys, coal, centrifuges, vehicles, diamonds, aluminium, stainless steel, iron and iron ore, petroleum oils, wine, and citrus fruit,” notes Moja.

COMPOSITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS TO AFRICA

Chapter (HS)	Description	2007		Proportion % Total
		Value R'000	Rank	
84	Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances	9 117 510	1	13.40%
27	Mineral Fuels, Mineral oils and products of their distillation	8 194 094	2	12.05%
87	Vehicles (excluding railway or tramway rolling-stock) and parts	6 800 707	3	10.00%
72	Iron and Steel	5 809 326	4	8.54%
85	Electrical Machinery and Equipment & Parts	4 631 289	5	6.81%
73	Articles of iron or steel	4 347 549	6	6.39%
39	Plastics and articles thereof	2 852 259	7	4.19%
48	Paper and Paperboard, Articles of paper pulp	1 909 698	8	2.81%
38	Miscellaneous Chemical Products	1 632 477	9	2.40%
31	Fertilisers	1 233 691	10	1.81%
17	Sugars and Sugar Confectionery	1 141 859	11	1.68%
90	Optical Photographic, Cinematographic, Measuring, Instruments	1 129 272	12	1.66%
40	Rubber and Articles thereof	1 111 383	13	1.63%
22	Beverages, Spirits and Vinegar	1 086 794	14	1.60%
76	Aluminium and Articles thereof	1 059 489	15	1.56%

SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Rank	Country	Exports R'000 2007	Imports R'000 2007	Surplus / Deficit 2007
1	Zambia – (SADC)	10 084 381	2 490 076	7 594 305
2	Mozambique – (SADC)	9 015 890	2 388 346	6 627 544
3	Zimbabwe – (SADC)	8 501 124	6 036 490	2 464 634
4	Angola – (SADC)	5 501 653	11 584 443	(6 082 790)
5	Nigeria – (West Africa)	4 833 688	12 480 199	(7 646 511)
6	Kenya – (East Africa)	4 600 662	205 794	4 394 868
7	Dem Rep of Congo – (SADC)	4 438 167	54 741	4 383 426
8	Tanzania – (SADC)	2 742 005	371 387	2 370 618
9	Ghana – (West Africa)	2 242 463	98 890	2 143 573
10	Malawi – (SADC)	2 169 542	647 182	1 522 360
11	Mauritius – (SADC)	1 921 827	437 510	1 484 317
12	Morocco – (North Africa)	1 498 373	60 822	1 437 551
13	Madagascar – (Indian Ocean)	1 161 202	42 326	1 118 876
14	Uganda – (East Africa)	1 093 250	120 922	972 328
15	Algeria – (North Africa)	931 919	9 660	922 259
16	Sudan – (East Africa)	718 412	6 970	711 442
17	Mali – (West Africa)	576 229	4 044	572 185
18	Ref of Congo – (Central Africa)	499 049	24 686	474 363
19	Egypt – (North Africa)	467 803	207 082	260 721
20	Ivory Coast – (West Africa)	452 340	186 192	266 148