



SOUTH AFRICA

Fact Sheet

General Information¹:							
Capital:	Pretoria (administrative), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (judicial)						
Surface area:	1,219,090 sq km		Head of State and Government:				
Official language:	Afrikaans and English		President H.E. Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma				
Population:	55.30 million (2015)						
Exchange rate¹:	1 US Dollar (USD) = 12.9242 South Africa Rand (ZAR) , 1 Thai Baht = 0.390125 ZAR (11 September 2017)						
Recent economic indicators²:							
	2013 (a)	2014 (a)	2015 (a)	2016 (b)	2017 (c)		
GDP (US\$bn) (current prices):	368.0	351.5	314.6	311.3	308.6		
GDP per capita (US\$):	6,889	6,513	5,773	5,663	5,568		
Real GDP growth (% change yoy):	2.3	1.6	1.3	0.5	1.2		
Current account balance (US\$bn):	-21.6	-18.6	-13.7	-12.9	-13.1		
Current account balance (% GDP):	-5.9	-5.3	-4.3	-4.1	-4.2		
Goods & services exports (% GDP):	30.8	31.2	30.7	32.9	32.5		
Inflation (% change yoy):	5.8	6.1	4.5	6.6	5.6		
South Africa's global merchandise trade relationships³ (2016)							
Principal export destinations		Principal import destinations		Major South African Exports (US\$bn)		Major South African Imports (US\$bn)	
1. China	9.2 %	1. China	18.1 %	Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc	11.99	Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers, etc	10.25
2. USA	7.4 %	2. Germany	11.8 %	Vehicles other than railway, tramway	9.15	Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products	10.04
3. Germany	7.1 %	3. USA	6.7 %	Ores, slag and ash	7.6	Electrical, electronic equipment	8.08
4. Botswana	5.0 %	4. India	4.2 %	Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc	7.10	Commodities not elsewhere specified	6.09
5. Namibia	4.8 %	5. Saudi Arabia	3.8 %	Iron and steel	5.27	Vehicles other than railway, tramway	5.78
27. Thailand	0.7 %	9. Thailand	2.9 %	Total	74.11	Total	74.74
Thailand's trade with South Africa⁴ (2016)							
	Value (US\$m)	Share (%)	Rank (World)	Rank (Africa)			
Total trade (exports + imports)	2,835.16	0.69	27	1			
Export to South Africa	2,102.08	0.98	24	1			
Import from South Africa	733.08	0.38	30	1			
Trade balance with South Africa	1,369.00	6.63					
Major Thai goods export to South Africa (US\$m)				Major Thai goods import from South Africa (US\$m)			
Motor and cars, parts and accessories	604.0			Jewelry including silver bars and gold	178.7		
Spark-ignition reciprocating internal combustion piston engines and parts thereof	362.9			Other metal ores, metal waste scrap	149.3		
Rice	234.0			Machinery and parts	133.3		
Rubber products	100.7			Chemicals	99.7		
Iron and steel	77.4			Pulp, waste and scrap of paper	79.8		

Note: (a) Actual (b) Economist Intelligence Unit estimates (c) Economist Intelligence Unit forecasts

Source:

¹ **Exchange Rate:** <http://www.xe.com>

² **Recent economic indicators:** <http://viewswire.eiu.com/>

³ **South Africa's global trade relationship:** International Trade Center (<http://www.trademap.org>)

⁴ **Thailand trade with South Africa:** <http://www.moc.go.th/>