

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** May 11, 2023

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**Report Name:** Agricultural Economic Fact Sheet

**Country:** South Africa - Republic of

**Post:** Pretoria

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

The South African Agricultural Economic Fact Sheet has been updated to include calendar year 2022. Bilateral agricultural trade between the United States and South Africa reached a record value of nearly \$1 billion in 2022. Major agricultural products traded between the two countries include fresh fruit, tree nuts, animal feed, poultry meat, dairy products, processed fruit and vegetables and wine.



# South Africa

## Agricultural Economic Fact Sheet



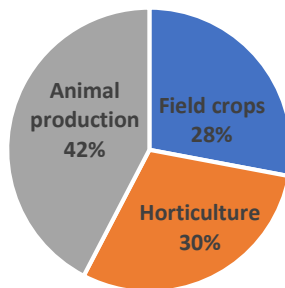
Foreign Agricultural Service  
 United States Embassy in South Africa  
 (Updated April 2023)

### OVERVIEW OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

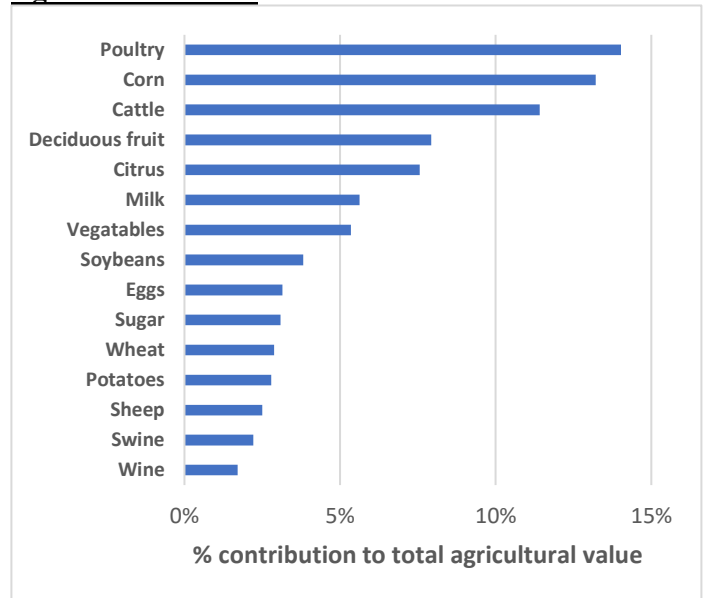
#### General

- ❖ Covering 1.2-million square kilometers of land, South Africa is the **24th-largest country** in the world and **one-eighth the size of the United States**.
- ❖ With a population of 60 million, **GDP of US\$405 billion**, and GDP/capita of US\$6,690, South Africa is the **largest economy in Southern Africa**.
- ❖ South Africa has a **highly diversified** agricultural sector which includes the production and value-added activities of all the major grains (except rice), oilseeds, deciduous and subtropical fruits, sugar, citrus, wine, vegetables, cattle, dairy, pigs, sheep, broilers, ostriches, and eggs.
- ❖ The agricultural sector consists of about **40,000 commercial farmers**, **200,000 smallholder farmers** and **two million subsistence farmers**.
- ❖ South Africa is the largest agricultural producer on the African continent and is also a **net food exporter**.
- ❖ Agricultural output increased by more than 50% the past 20 years and contribute almost **3% to the country's GDP**.
- ❖ South Africa has **14 million hectares of arable land** available (13% of total land area) of which about 1.5 million hectares (or 10%) is under irrigation.
- ❖ The **primary limitation** to the agricultural sector is the **availability of water**, with uneven and unreliable rainfall and regular occurrences of drought.
- ❖ South Africa is the **biotechnology leader on the African continent** and among the **top ten largest producer** of Genetically Engineered (GE) crops in the world.

#### Sector Distribution of SA Agricultural Production:



#### Contribution of Individual Commodities to Total Agricultural Value:



Source: SA Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

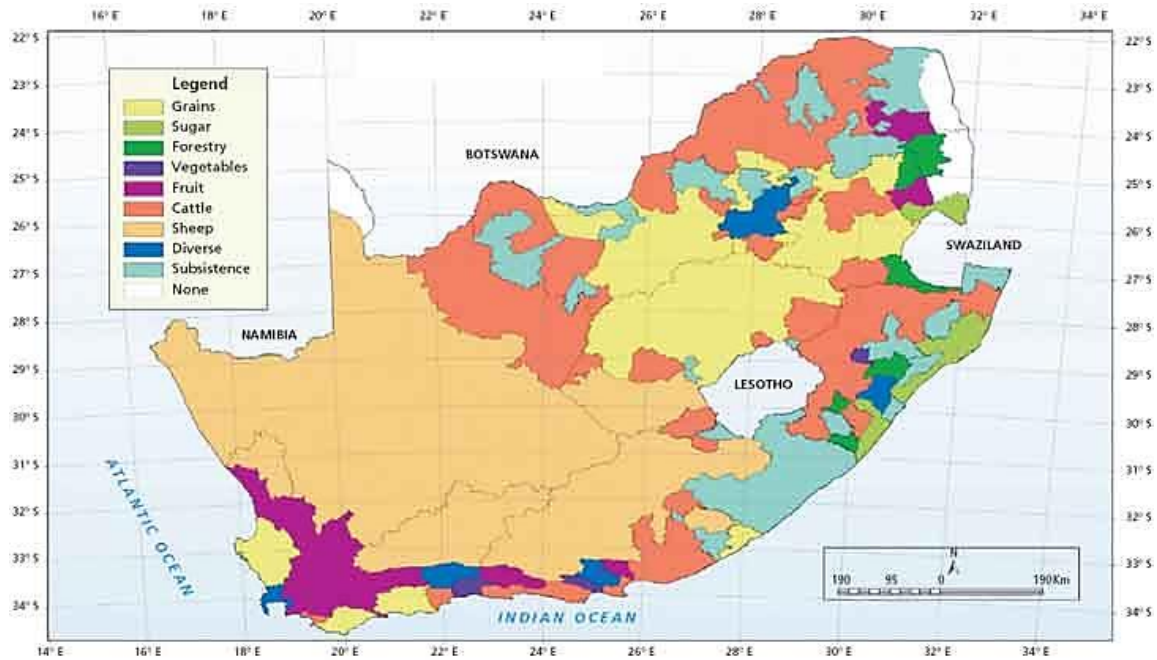
#### Strengths

- ❖ Advanced commercial farming sector
- ❖ Adoption of new farming technologies including biotechnology, precision, and conservation agricultural practices.
- ❖ Resilience to changing climate, political, and social environments.
- ❖ Strong agribusinesses and supply chains.
- ❖ Well-developed retail sector.
- ❖ Market-orientated agricultural economy

#### Challenges

- ❖ Deteriorating infrastructure (roads, rail, water, electricity).
- ❖ Safety and crime.
- ❖ Rising input costs
- ❖ Policy uncertainty especially trade.
- ❖ Droughts, as 90% of production is rain fed.
- ❖ Land reform policy.
- ❖ High unemployment rate.

### Agricultural Production Areas in South Africa:



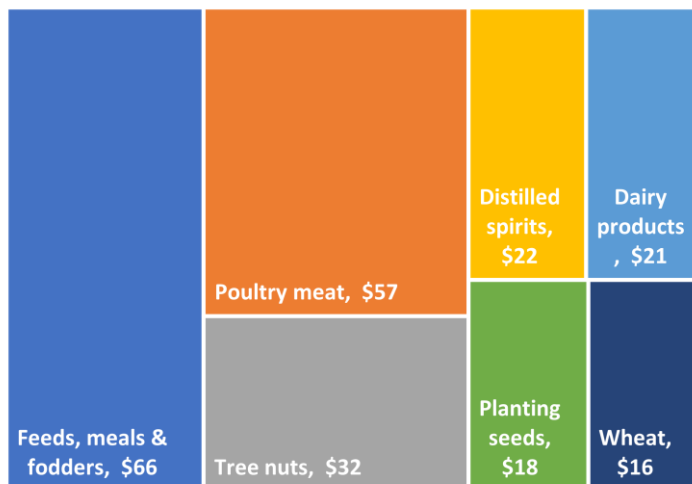
## BILATERAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE – UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA

### US – SA Agricultural Trade

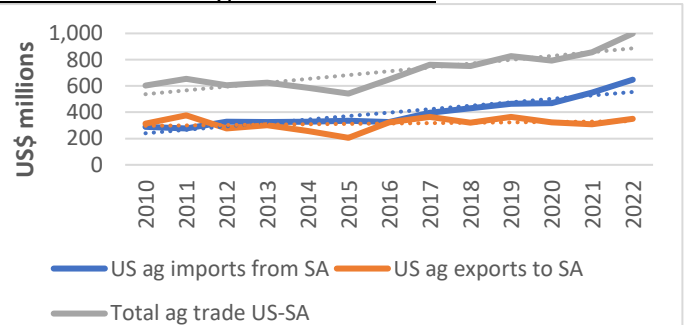
(US\$ millions)	2020	2021	2022
US ag exports to SA	\$324	\$308	\$351
% of total exports from US	7.3%	4.7%	4.3%
US ag imports from SA	\$468	\$549	\$648
% of total imports from SA	6.5%	4.2%	6.0%

Source: USDA

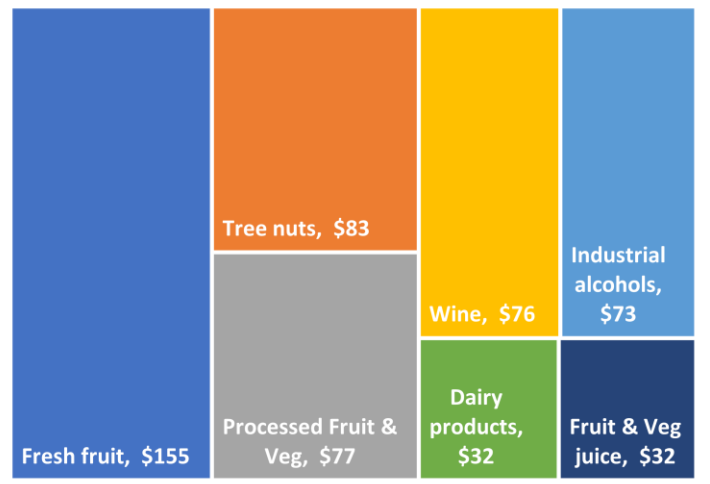
### Major Ag Products exported by the US to SA (2022)



### Trends in US-SA Agricultural Trade:



### Major Ag Products exported by SA to the US (2022)



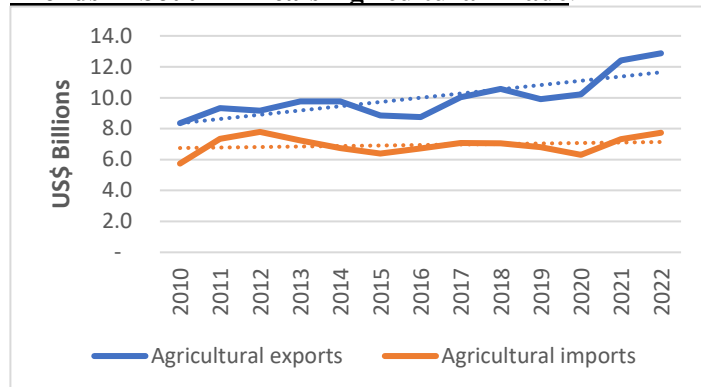
## SOUTH AFRICA'S GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE

### Agricultural Trade

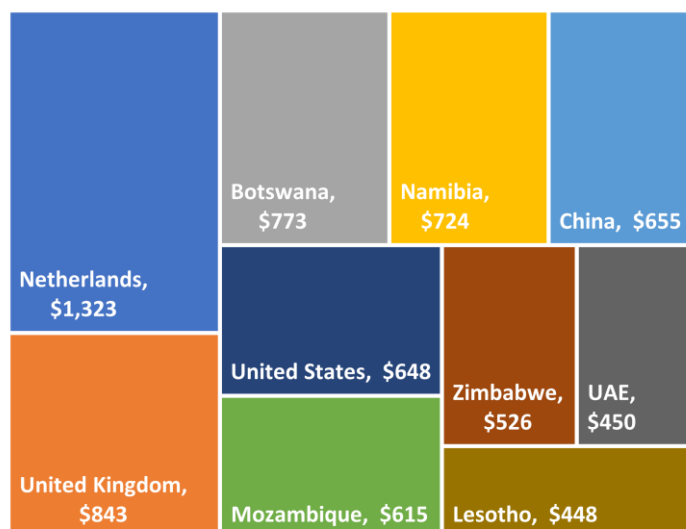
(US\$ billions)	2020	2021	2022
Agricultural exports	\$10.2	\$12.4	\$12.9
% of total SA exports	11.9%	10.0%	10.5%
Agricultural imports	\$6.3	\$7.3	\$7.7
% of total SA imports	9.1%	7.8%	6.9%

Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC

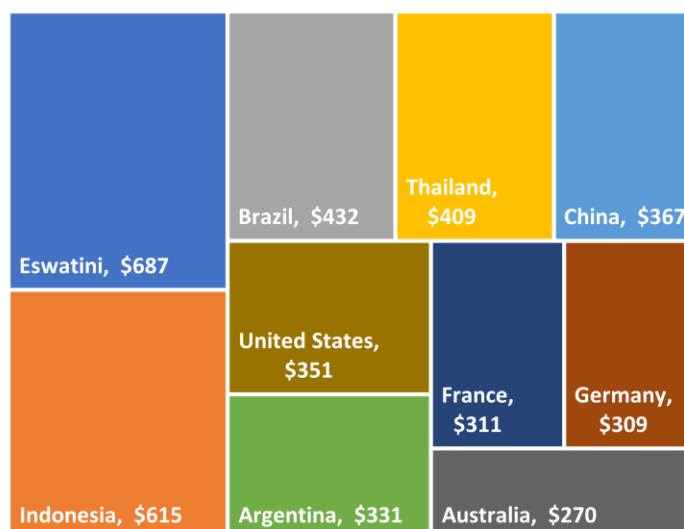
### Trends in South Africa's Agricultural Trade:



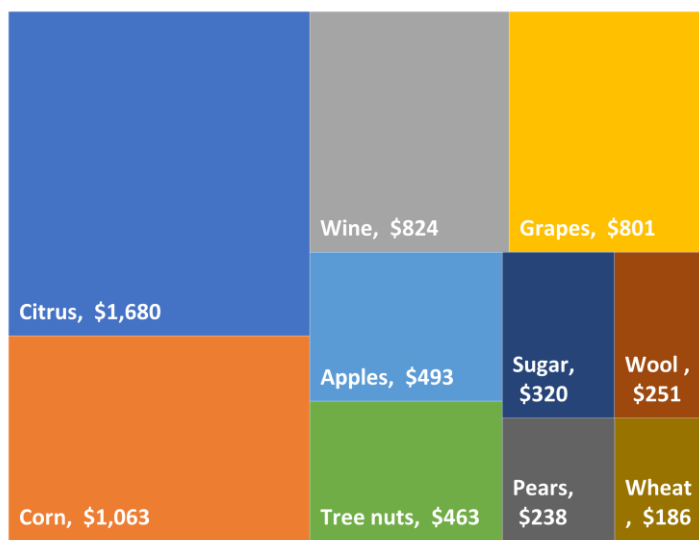
### Major Export Destinations 2022 (millions):



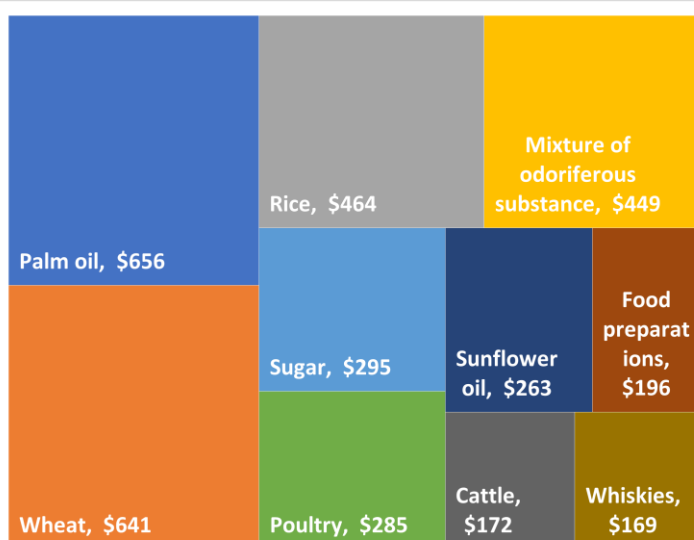
### Major Import Countries 2022 (millions):



### Major Agricultural Products Exported (2022):



### Major Agricultural Products Imported (2022):



**Attachments:**

No Attachments.