South Africa

What it produces, exports, imports and uses, among the commodities tracked here

Top-ten producer of

Commodity	World rank	Share of world	Year
Chromium	1	45%	2025
Manganese	1	38%	2025
Platinum	1	71%	2025
Palladium	2	37%	2025
Zirconium	2	23%	2025
Titanium	3	14%	2025
Fluorspar	4	4.1%	2025
Vanadium	4	4.4%	2025

And 7 more on the full page.

Top-ten exporter of

Commodity	World rank	Share of world exports	Export value
Chromium	1	85%	$7.2 billion
Iridium	1	48%	$1.1 billion
Manganese	1	49%	$3.1 billion
Platinum	1	36%	$5.3 billion
Rhodium	1	36%	$2.7 billion
Titanium	1	23%	$746.2 million

Commodity	World rank	Share of world exports	Export value
Zirconium	1	36%	$619.7 million
Feldspar	2	14%	$92 million

Of $75 billion of tracked-commodity exports, 39% is gold, then chromium (9.5%).

Top-ten importer of: sorghum (#4), wool (#7), chromium (#9).

What it uses (FAO food balances, 2023)

Commodity	Domestic supply	kg per person	Self-sufficiency	Imported
Corn	12.0 million tonnes	80	137%	3.6%
Milk	4.3 million tonnes	52	88%	28%
Wheat	4.3 million tonnes	54	48%	68%
Potatoes	2.3 million tonnes	32	105%	3.3%
Chicken	2.1 million tonnes	34	87%	15%
Soybeans	2.1 million tonnes	0.3	133%	0.2%

Single-supplier import markets

South Africa buys half or more of its imports from one country in 7 of 11 import markets of $250 million or more: gold from Tanzania (55%); natural gas from Mozambique (52%); rice from Thailand (77%); palm oil from Indonesia (62%); chicken from Brazil (80%).

Sources: FAOSTAT, USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, Energy Institute Statistical Review (production); CEPII BACI (trade); FAOSTAT Food Balances (use). Ranks count only the commodities on this site. Cite as: Commodity Origins, "South Africa", https://commodityorigins.com/countries/ZAF/ (CC BY 4.0). Full page, sources and downloads: https://commodityorigins.com/countries/ZAF/. Text is written with AI assistance and checked against the cited data; figures are computed from the sources (https://commodityorigins.com/about/#how-ai-is-used).