

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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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 2021. Bilateral agricultural trade between the United States and South Africa reached record levels of US\$860 million in 2021. Major agricultural products traded between the two countries include, poultry meat, animal feed, dairy products, tree nuts, planting seeds, fresh fruit, especially citrus, and wine.



South Africa

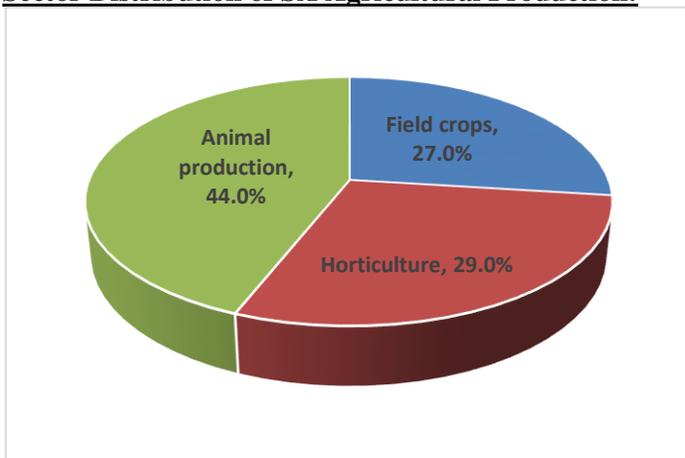
Agricultural Economic Fact Sheet

Foreign Agricultural Service
United States Embassy in South Africa
(Updated May 2022)

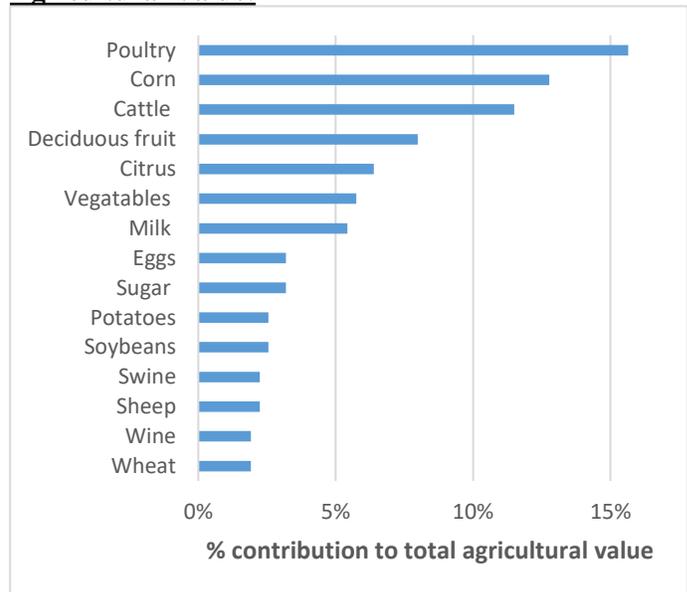
General

- ❖ 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\$426 billion**, and GDP/capita of US\$5,655, 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

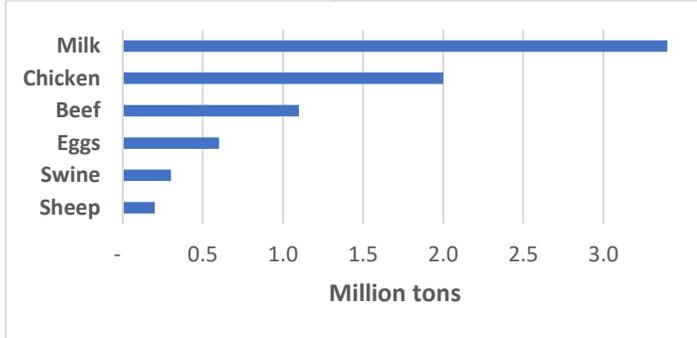
Strengths

- ❖ 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

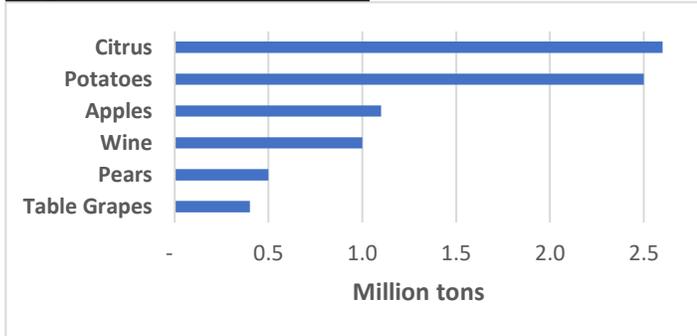
Challenges

- ❖ Rising input costs such as fertilizer, fuel.
- ❖ Deteriorating infrastructure (roads, rail, water, electricity).
- ❖ Farm safety and crime.
- ❖ Policy uncertainty and government's inability to maintain and support an enabling environment.
- ❖ Droughts, as 90% of production is rain fed.
- ❖ Land reform policy.
- ❖ High unemployment rate.

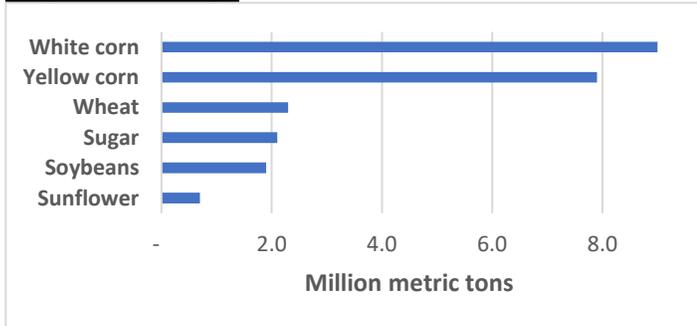
Major Animal Production



Major Horticultural Products



Major Field Crops

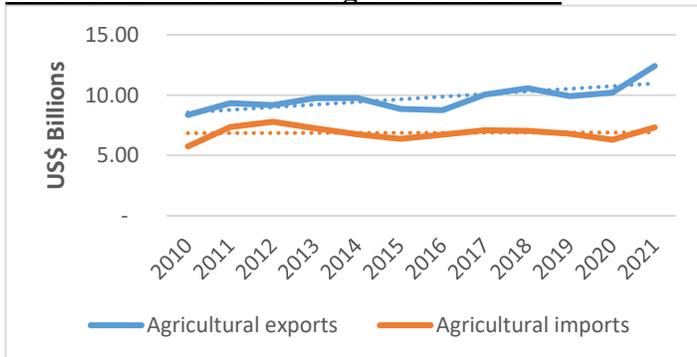


Agricultural Trade

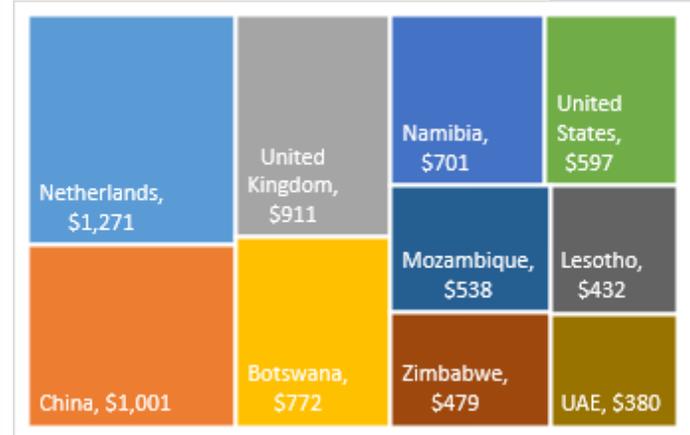
(US\$ billions)	2019	2020	2021
Agricultural exports	\$9.9	\$10.2	\$12.4
% of total SA exports	11.0%	11.9%	10.0%
Agricultural imports	\$6.8	\$6.3	\$7.3
% of total SA imports	7.7%	9.1%	7.8%

Source: Trade Data Monitor

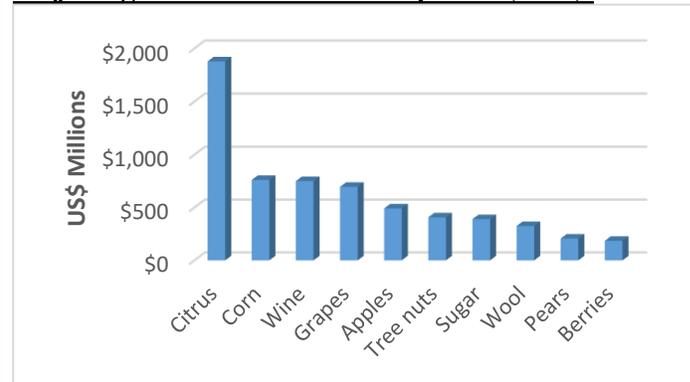
Trends in South Africa's Agricultural Trade:



Major Export Destinations 2021 (millions):



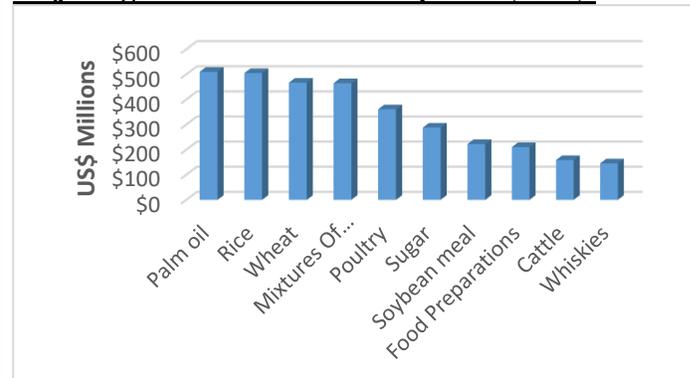
Major Agricultural Products Exported (2021):



Major Import Countries 2021 (millions):



Major Agricultural Products Imported (2021):

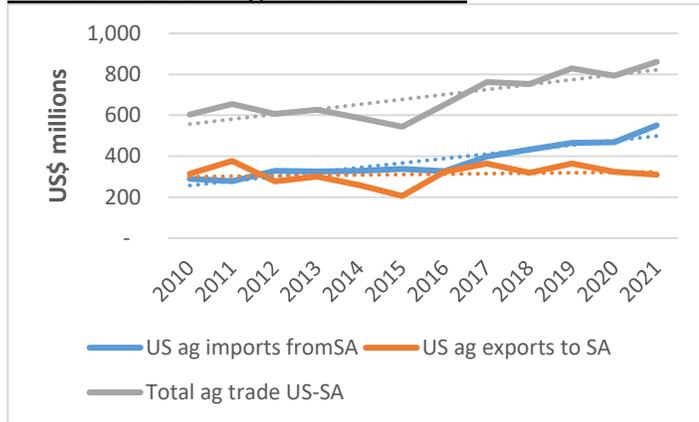


US – SA Agricultural Trade

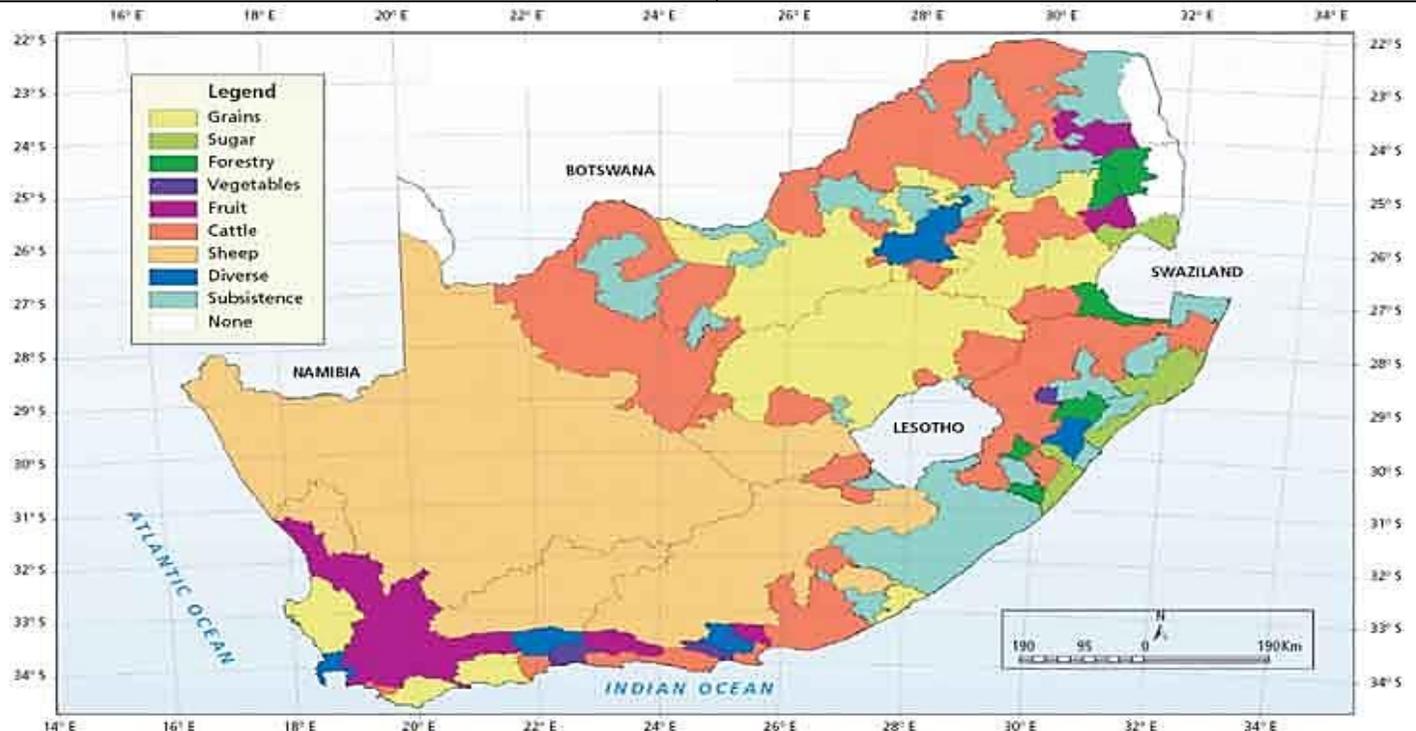
(US\$ millions)	2019	2020	2021
US ag exports to SA	\$364	\$324	\$310
% of total exports from US	6.2%	6.0%	4.8%
US ag imports from SA	\$464	\$468	\$550
% of total imports from SA	6.9%	6.1%	4.6%

Source: USDA

Trends in US-SA Agricultural Trade:



Agricultural Production Areas in South Africa:



Major Ag Products exported by the US to SA (2021, millions):



Major Ag Products exported by SA to the US (2021, millions):



Attachments:

No Attachments.