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Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO. 1043

**Mr A D Beesley (ActionSA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:**

- (1) What (a) are the names of the Republic's top 20 trading partners (i) in the 2023-24 financial year and (ii) since 1 April 2024 based on Rand values for (aa) imports and (bb) exports and (b) is the breakdown of the balance of trade for the Republic's top 20 trading partners in terms of surplus or deficit in each case;
- (2) what are the main goods and services exported to and imported from each of the specified trading partners;
- (4) what strategies are in place to reduce trade deficits and promote exports to these countries?

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#### REPLY:

- (1) Please see Annex A.

The data source, in all cases, is the International Trade Centre's TradeMap database, which obtains its data from SARS.

It should be noted that the total value of South Africa's gold exports is reported, but it is not allocated by country/destination. This might affect the value of exports to individual countries, particularly to countries that are important destinations for gold. In those cases, it will reflect in a less favourable trade balance for South Africa, than it in reality is.

- (2) Please see Annex B.

- (4) In order to promote exports and reduce trade deficits, including with these countries, the employment of a "butterfly approach" as a strategy will prioritise the

implementation of the AfCFTA and unlocking opportunities in the rest of Africa as the foundation of our global engagements, while targeted work programmes in the rest of the world will focus on leading and established markets as well as new and emerging market opportunities. Outside of Africa, export initiatives will target key markets such as the United States, Europe, Middle East and select BRICS partners in order to expand and diversify South African exports towards changing the structure of trade.

**ANNEX A**

**PQ 1043, part (1).**

**Part (1)(a)(i)(aa) and Part (1)(b)**

**South Africa's top 20 import suppliers in FY2023/24 (Rand '000)**

Suppliers	Import value Q2-2023 - Q1-2024	Trade Balance Q2-2023 - Q1-2024
<b>World</b>	<b>1 948 464 715</b>	<b>74 616 941</b>
China	397 853 774	-168 038 006
United States of America	170 912 081	-15 988 219
Germany	157 005 809	-17 398 558
India	134 104 042	-44 421 767
United Arab Emirates	67 555 522	-22 985 258
Thailand	60 637 811	-52 492 169
Saudi Arabia	56 499 968	-48 456 046
Oman	49 721 306	-48 571 230
Japan	48 231 277	47 566 273
Italy	45 673 186	-28 243 570
Nigeria	43 872 521	-37 704 894
France	38 372 936	-26 778 209
United Kingdom	33 976 533	65 976 747
Spain	29 582 751	-141 650
Bahrain	29 220 305	-28 833 168
Netherlands	28 631 907	51 876 022
Eswatini	26 116 895	3 410 025
Brazil	25 043 021	-16 666 173
Poland	24 818 178	-22 212 442
Belgium	21 738 971	44 644 328

Data source: International Trade Centre TradeMap

**Part (1)(a)(ii)(aa) and Part (1)(b)**

**South Africa's top 20 import suppliers in April-December 2024 (Rand '000)**

Suppliers	Import value Q2-Q4 of 2024	Trade Balance Q2-Q4 of 2024
<b>World</b>	<b>1 396 172 689</b>	<b>155 731 167</b>
China	305 967 624	-134 332 378
India	105 061 431	-37 730 477
Germany	93 204 895	13 320 144
United States of America	90 310 334	23 637 811
Thailand	47 272 390	-42 602 735
United Arab Emirates	41 360 593	-2 551 808
Oman	40 836 756	-40 051 102
Nigeria	33 608 418	-28 085 057
Italy	33 256 542	-20 912 238
Saudi Arabia	32 926 887	-27 344 876
Japan	32 664 485	38 197 681
France	27 076 290	-19 634 620
Spain	22 261 291	-4 936 991
United Kingdom	22 078 677	51 239 310
Brazil	20 951 846	-16 653 061
Eswatini	20 513 727	3 382 366
Poland	19 353 464	-17 897 101
Australia	17 387 494	-2 901 590
Namibia	17 044 866	38 270 250
Sweden	16 496 075	-14 861 230

Data source: International Trade Centre TradeMap

**Part (1)(a)(i)(bb) and Part (1)(b)**

**South Africa's top 20 export destinations in FY2023/24 (Rand '000)**

Destinations	Export value Q2-2023 - Q1-2024	Trade Balance Q2-2023 - Q1-2024
<b>World</b>	<b>2 023 081 656</b>	<b>74 616 941</b>
China	229 815 765	-168 038 006
United States of America	154 923 861	-15 988 219
Germany	139 607 249	-17 398 558
Mozambique	119 929 008	100 718 993
United Kingdom	99 953 282	65 976 747
Japan	95 797 552	47 566 273
India	89 682 274	-44 421 767
Netherlands	80 507 932	51 876 022
Botswana	79 698 033	70 012 630
Belgium	66 383 300	44 644 328
Zimbabwe	63 439 441	58 743 402
Namibia	63 402 765	43 649 295
Zambia	50 974 245	46 549 233
United Arab Emirates	44 570 262	-22 985 258
Korea, Republic of	35 511 619	18 331 252
Eswatini	29 526 924	3 410 025
Spain	29 441 103	-141 650
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	28 588 359	26 609 757
Hong Kong, China	27 952 627	26 361 451
Lesotho	25 903 418	20 016 882

Data source: International Trade Centre TradeMap

**Part (1)(a)(ii)(bb) and Part (1)(b)**

**South Africa's top 20 export destinations in April-December 2024 (Rand '000)**

Destinations	Export value Q2-Q4 of 2024	Trade Balance Q2-Q4 of 2024
<b>World</b>	<b>1 551 903 857</b>	<b>155 731 167</b>
China	171 635 244	-134 332 378
United States of America	113 948 146	23 637 811
Germany	106 525 039	13 320 144
Mozambique	89 992 589	75 531 573
United Kingdom	73 317 989	51 239 310
Japan	70 862 169	38 197 681
India	67 330 954	-37 730 477
Botswana	59 696 749	53 468 218
Netherlands	55 879 691	40 245 453
Namibia	55 315 117	38 270 250
Zimbabwe	54 402 610	49 909 426
Zambia	44 437 162	40 779 638
Belgium	41 781 214	26 484 914
United Arab Emirates	38 808 784	-2 551 808
Eswatini	23 896 094	3 382 366
Korea, Republic of	22 359 341	11 318 670
Lesotho	20 502 823	15 767 755
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	18 870 492	17 585 655
Hong Kong, China	18 535 320	17 571 241
Spain	17 324 299	-4 936 991

Data source: International Trade Centre TradeMap

## ANNEX B

### PQ 1043, part (2).

#### Main goods imported from top-20 import suppliers, 2023 – 2024

Suppliers	Main imports
China	Cell phones and a variety of electrical equipment; computers and machinery; passenger cars and parts
United States of America	Computers, machinery and parts; petroleum oil; passenger cars and parts; tractors
Germany	Commodities not elsewhere specified; mechanical machinery and parts thereof; vehicles; components for electrical installations
India	Petroleum oil; vehicles; pharmaceutical products; earth moving machinery; cell phones
United Arab Emirates	Petroleum oil; copper wire
Thailand	Commodities not elsewhere specified; rice; vehicles; computers and printers
Saudi Arabia	Petroleum oil; plastics; fertilizers; organic chemicals; miscellaneous chemicals
Oman	Petroleum oil; fertilizers; inorganic chemicals
Japan	Commodities not elsewhere specified; earth moving machinery; vehicles; electrical machinery and parts; rubber and articles thereof
Italy	Appliances and machinery; petroleum oil; electrical equipment and parts; vehicles; pharmaceuticals
Nigeria	Petroleum oil
France	Refrigerators, earth moving equipment and parts; pharmaceuticals; spirits and wine
United Kingdom	Diesel engines, machinery; passenger cars, tractors; commodities not elsewhere specified; cell phones, components for electrical installations; whiskies
Spain	Commodities not elsewhere specified; passenger cars and parts; machinery and parts; components for electrical installations; miscellaneous chemical products
Bahrain	Petroleum oil; aluminium and articles thereof
Netherlands	Petroleum oil; computers, appliances; commodities not elsewhere specified; plastics
Eswatini	Essential oils; sugar and sugar confectionery; miscellaneous chemical products; apparel; sawn wood and wood for fuel
Brazil	Commodities not elsewhere specified; poultry meat; earth moving and harvesting equipment; zinc and articles thereof; electrical transformers, converters, generators; grain sorghum, maize; vehicles and parts
Poland	Commodities not elsewhere specified; computers, centrifuges; vehicles and parts; miscellaneous chemical products
Belgium	Petroleum oil; miscellaneous chemical products; plastics; iron and steel; pharmaceutical products; machinery and parts

Data source: International Trade Centre TradeMap

## Main goods exported to top-20 export destinations, 2023 – 2024

Destinations	Main exports
China	Ores of iron, chromium and manganese; iron and steel; copper; macadamia nuts and citrus fruit; wood pulp
United States of America	Platinum; passenger vehicles; aluminium; iron and steel; titanium ores and concentrates automotive components
Germany	Vehicles; platinum and other PGM metals; precious metal ores and concentrates; catalytic converters used in motor vehicles
Mozambique	Chromium and iron ores and concentrates; iron and steel; electricity; coal; machinery and mechanical appliances, and parts thereof; Motor vehicles for the transport of goods
United Kingdom	Platinum and other PGM metals; vehicles; grapes and citrus fruit
Japan	Rhodium and other PGM metals; ores of iron, manganese and titanium; coal; aluminium and articles thereof
India	Coal; ores and concentrates of iron, manganese and titanium; wood pulp
Netherlands	Citrus fruit, grapes and avocados; iron ores and concentrates; iron and steel; aluminium and articles thereof; coal; nickel and articles thereof
Botswana	Petroleum oil; machinery and mechanical appliances; vehicles; diamonds
Belgium	Vehicles; organic chemicals; diamonds; iron and steel
Zimbabwe	Maize; machinery; petroleum gas and oil; vehicles; plastics and articles thereof
Namibia	Machinery and parts; vehicles; electrical machinery and equipment; electricity and petroleum oil
Zambia	Machinery and parts; vehicles; electrical machinery and equipment; petroleum oil and electricity; wine and undenatured alcohol
United Arab Emirates	Diamonds; citrus fruit; essential oil;
Korea, Republic of	Ores of iron, lead, manganese, zinc; coal; iron and steel
Eswatini	Petroleum oil, electricity; vehicles and parts; computers, refrigerating equipment; maize; plastics
Spain	Vehicles; fish and molluscs; iron and steel; ores and concentrates of Niobium, tantalum, vanadium or zirconium, manganese and chromium
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Pumps; machinery and parts for machinery; maize meal; components for electrical installations; petroleum oil
Hong Kong, China	Platinum and other PGM metals; diamonds; chromium ores and concentrates; citrus and other fruit
Lesotho	Petroleum oil, electricity; components for electrical installations; cell phones; vehicles

Data source: International Trade Centre TradeMap

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