the dtic
Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 2464

Ms H Ismail (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

(1) Regarding the economic impact of trade between the Republic and Taiwan in the past 10 years, (a) what South African sectors, such as mining, manufacturing and agriculture have lost the most export value to Taiwan;

(2) whether bilateral trade with Taiwan has been steadily decreasing; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what is the top three identified causes for such a decrease;

(3) using SA Revenue Service and Statistics South Africa methodology, what is the estimated (a) direct and (b) indirect contribution of the trade between the Republic and Taiwan to the gross domestic product;

(4) what total number of South African jobs (a) are linked to exports to Taiwan, divided by (i) sector and (ii) province and (b) have been lost due to declining exports to Taiwan in the past five financial years? NW2526E

REPLY:

(1) **(a)** South African sectors that contributed the most export value to Taiwan were primarily the mining, agriculture and manufacturing sectors. Mining products, particularly bituminous coal and precious-metal ores, accounted for a significant share of exports and remained the dominant export category to Taiwan. Agricultural exports such as maize, raw cane sugar and maize starch also contributed substantially, while manufacturing exports included electrical machinery, semiconductor-related products, polypropylene and poultry-keeping machinery.

(2) Bilateral trade with Taiwan has not steadily declined over the past 10 years. Total bilateral trade has shown periods of growth and fluctuation, peaking during 2021–2023 due to higher commodity prices, stronger demand for mineral products, and increased import demand for machinery and electronic equipment. However, trade moderated after 2022. Bilateral trade is presented in **Annex A**, in Rand and US$ values.

The top three identified causes for the recent moderation in bilateral trade include:

- Lower global commodity prices, particularly affecting the value of South Africa's mineral exports such as coal and ores, even if the volumes did not change as significantly;
- Weakening global demand and slower economic growth in key international markets, including Asia; and
- Supply chain disruptions and shifting industrial demand patterns, particularly in the electronics and manufacturing sectors, following the post-pandemic recovery period.

(3) **(a) (b)** While the South African Revenue Service (SARS) provides export and import values linked to trade with specific countries, and Statistics South Africa supplies aggregate data on the contribution of exports to gross domestic product (GDP), there are no readily available and independently published South African data on the (a) direct and (b) indirect contribution to GDP of trade with individual countries.

(4) **(a) (i)** As explained in point 3 above.

(a) (ii) South Africa's exports in the official trade data are not reported by Province.

(4) **(b)** As explained in point 3 above.

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ANNEX A

Bilateral Trade between South Africa and Taiwan

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Rand '000									
SA exports to Taiwan	6 697 588	11 696 096	10 375 599	5 560 834	6 500 531	11 577 858	19 550 359	17 268 958	10 544 366	8 870 406
SA imports from Taiwan	10 595 762	10 028 197	10 639 288	10 480 054	9 310 327	10 741 785	15 119 062	13 268 995	12 506 302	11 658 322
SA trade with Taiwan	17 293 350	21 724 293	21 014 887	16 040 888	15 810 858	22 319 643	34 669 421	30 537 953	23 050 668	20 528 728
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
	US$ '000									
SA exports to Taiwan	456 742	878 319	789 005	385 185	397 188	784 428	1 200 323	936 828	575 670	496 433
SA imports from Taiwan	722 578	753 068	809 057	725 927	568 869	727 782	928 257	719 833	682 782	652 459
SA trade with Taiwan	1 179 320	1 631 387	1 598 062	1 111 112	966 057	1 512 210	2 128 580	1 656 661	1 258 452	1 148 892

Data source: ITC TradeMap

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