



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 4434

Mr T M Langa (IFP) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

With regard to the financial difficulties facing the steel and metals industry in the Republic and his department's ongoing implementation of the Steel and Metal Fabrication Master Plan, what (a) total number of steel and metal-manufacturing companies have ceased operations and/or significantly reduced production since 2020, (b) total number of jobs have been affected and (c) practical measures has his department implemented to protect and expand domestic steel-production capacity? NW4767E

REPLY:

The Steel and Metals Industry remain a strategic industrial sector, supporting mining, construction, automotive, rail, energy, infrastructure and broader manufacturing. Since 2020, the sector has been affected by weak domestic demand, high electricity and logistics costs, global steel overcapacity, increased low-priced imports, ageing plant and operational constraints in parts of the local value chain.

a) **the dtic** does not maintain a statutory registry of every steel and metal-manufacturing company that has ceased operations or significantly reduced production. Such information is usually reported through company announcements, industry bodies, labour-market processes and engagements under the Steel and Metal Fabrication Master Plan. A consolidated company-by-company number will therefore have to be verified with the relevant industry bodies and public entities before it can be submitted as a final audited figure.



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Selected major companies: AMSA Saldanha Works, AMSA Newcastle Works, AMSA Vereeniging Works, SA Steel Mills (business rescue), Naledi Foundry, Goodyear and Continental.

b) Employment in the metals and engineering sector declined from 365 143 employees in 2020 to 361 072 employees in 2025, according to the State of the Metals and Engineering Sector 2026. This reflects a loss of 4 071 jobs over the period, or approximately 1,1%.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of employees	365 143	359 483	360 853	360 371	362 210	361 072

Source: State of the Metals and Engineering sector 2026

c) Trade Measures Implemented and Under Consideration:

To date, a number of trade measure reports, ranging from safeguards, tariff investigations, rebates and anti-dumping measures, have been processed, with some being implemented and others under consideration. It must also be noted that competition in the steel industry continues to suffer from a lack of a level playing field; hence, the need for **the dtic** to collaborate with National Treasury and SARS to identify additional measures that can be provided to reduce price distortions.

Enhancing Trade Remedies and Addressing Circumvention Weaknesses:

the dtic has implemented and is considering a range of measures to protect and expand domestic steel-production capacity. These include trade measures such as safeguard, tariff, rebate and anti-dumping investigations; the accelerated Global Steel Tariff Review; the introduction of an import surveillance system for identified high-risk products; and the use of import controls under Section 6 of the International Trade Administration Act, consistent with South Africa's international trade obligations.

Strengthening Localisation through Public Infrastructure Procurement:

The Department is further strengthening localisation through public infrastructure procurement by working with procuring entities, National Treasury and relevant departments



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to improve compliance with existing localisation and designation requirements and to assess binding minimum local-content thresholds in key infrastructure programmes.

Coordinated Industrial Support and Enhancing Cost Competitiveness:

In addition, **the dtic** participates in coordinated industrial-support forums with the IDC, the Department of Electricity and Energy, Eskom, the Department of Transport and Transnet to address energy security and pricing, logistics performance and targeted industrial financing.

Positioning the Steel Industry for the Green Industrial Transition:

Government is also positioning the sector for the green industrial transition by pursuing opportunities in green steel production, leveraging South Africa's mineral-resource advantages and working with industry stakeholders to identify priority investments that can anchor a competitive, low-carbon steel value chain.

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