



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 652

Dr K Litchfield-Tshabalala (MK) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

- (1) What efforts have been made in the past two years to strengthen South Africa's intra-BRICS trade;
- (2) whether he will furnish Dr K Litchfield-Tshabalala with the relevant details regarding the specified trade; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?
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REPLY

- (1) Over the past two financial years, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**) has implemented a series of bilateral Export Promotion Initiatives with BRICS countries:

Brazil

An Outward Selling Mission was undertaken to São Paulo on the margins of the BRICS Summit from 30 June to 3 July 2025. During this mission, twenty-three companies in the agro-processing sector, including wine suppliers, were supported to showcase their products and expand their market access.

Russia

No export promotion activities were undertaken due to the prevailing sanctions. However, Deputy President Paul Mashatile participated in the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) from 18 to 21 June 2025, where he engaged both South African and Russian business delegates who expressed keen interest in resuming commercial ties once sanctions are lifted. Furthermore, in February 2026, Russian businesses indicated their interest in sourcing minerals from South Africa, pending the easing of restrictions.

India



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An Outward Selling Mission was led to Mumbai from 23 to 27 September 2025. Thirteen companies were supported during this mission, representing sectors such as cosmetics, agro-processing, rail, aerospace, and defence.

China

South African companies were supported in three multi-sector trade shows through National Pavilions:

- China Africa Economic and Trade Expo (CAETE), Changsha (12 – 15 June 2025)
- China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), Beijing (16 – 20 July 2025)
- China International Import Expo (CIIE), Shanghai (5 – 10 November 2024 and 2025)

Egypt

An Outward Selling Mission was led to Cairo from 26 to 27 January 2026, supporting seventeen companies in the automotive, mining, electrotechnical, and cosmetics sectors.

United Arab Emirates

South African companies participated in the Gulfood trade fair in February 2024 and February 2025 through a National Pavilion.

Indonesia

An Outward Selling Mission was led to Jakarta from 3 to 4 February 2025, supporting thirteen companies in agro-processing, rail, aerospace, marine, and chemicals.

Ethiopia

An Outward Selling Mission will take place in Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 March 2026. Twelve companies in the agro-processing, ICT, and metal fabrication sectors will be supported.

Additionally, **the dtic** continues to support the South African Chapter of the BRICS Business Council (BBC). Beyond its annual report to BRICS governments, the BBC has published global projects and corporate procurement opportunities offered by the New Development Bank (NDB), enabling South African businesses to participate in BRICS-aligned initiatives.



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- (2) The original five members (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) were joined, in 2024, by Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Indonesia became a member in 2025, bringing the membership to 10 countries.

South Africa's trade in 2021 and 2025 with these countries is summarised below.

	SA exports to BRICS in 2021 (Rand values)	SA exports to BRICS+ in 2025 (Rand values)	SA imports from BRICS in 2021 (Rand values)	SA imports from BRICS+ in 2025 (Rand values)
World	1 826 177 817	2 139 836 049	1 381 642 904	1 922 497 434
BRICS+ aggregation	327 576 841	397 353 517	445 159 583	683 674 631
Brazil	6 784 708	5 343 792	19 219 269	28 099 836
China	204 259 620	234 708 053	284 256 873	431 768 329
Egypt	1 451 921	1 655 314	1 801 766	2 773 880
Ethiopia	702 228	1 193 135	108 611	230 577
India	63 220 847	85 835 094	78 969 178	139 965 931
Indonesia	10 909 170	6 570 458	14 906 395	18 201 261
Iran, Islamic Republic of	71 920	103 065	84 111	108 668
Russian Federation	6 079 395	7 050 528	9 203 042	9 412 535
United Arab Emirates	34 097 032	54 894 078	27 978 894	47 856 168
SA trade with BRICS as % of SA global trade	18%	19%	32%	36%

Data source: ITC TradeMap

Looking at data of 2021 and 2025, South Africa has grown the value of its trade with the BRICS countries. BRICS has also grown in importance in South Africa export and import baskets.

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