



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 697

Mr G E Kobane (MK) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Given the accelerating shift toward a multipolar global order and the Republic's deepening participation in alliances such as BRICS+, (a) what concrete economic gains such as (i) trade expansion, (ii) investment inflows and (iii) job creation can be directly attributed to the alignments and (b) how does the Government justify continued participation while ordinary South Africans continue to experience worsening poverty, unemployment and economic exclusion?

REPLY

(a)(i) 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



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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 its trade with the BRICS countries in value. BRICS has also grown in importance in South Africa export and import baskets.

(a)(ii) As part of our diversification efforts, the department has been intensifying its investment mobilisation efforts to high growth markets, including the BRICS+ countries. Recent investment promotion drives to Türkiye, India, China, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, some of which are BRICS members, have yielded an investment pipeline of opportunities that InvestSA and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) are working to realise. These also include expansions and building of plants for Chery, Mahindra, Defy amongst others. These investment promotion visits also provide an opportunity to collaborate and partner in skills development, capacity building and technology transfer.

InvestSA supports the investor throughout the entire lifecycle of the investment, from the initial pledge to the materialisation of the investment on the ground.

(a)(iii) Job creation and retention figures can be reported as and when investments are completed.

(b) While DIRCO leads SA's participation at BRICS platform, **the dtic's** approach to the bloc is built on existing strong bilateral relations with all members, including the newer members. South Africa's membership of BRICS places it in a globally influential group and provides a platform from which the interests of developing countries could be pursued.



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

the dtic would continue to participate and pursue its interests from a practical level to:

- Increase value-added exports to BRICS countries;
- Facilitate Foreign Direct Investment into the productive sectors and pursuing opportunities for localisation;
- Identify and realize space for SA manufacturing in BRICS value chains;
- Attract technology from BRICS countries and pursuing opportunities for innovation, technology transfer, skills building, research and development, and leveraging BRICS support for the AfCFTA;
- Utilize New Development Bank (NDB) funding for industrial and infrastructure projects;
- Identifying access to trade finance for MSMEs in the BRICS export markets including access to markets through AfCFTA;
- Coordinated approach to Developed Countries policies and legislation that impede socio-economic development and policy space in Developing Countries; and
- Agree to multilateral principles such as equity, Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) within national circumstances, and Special and Differentiated Treatment (SDT).

The BRICS Contact Group for Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) trade agenda has focused on the reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and strengthening of the Multilateral Trading System, the update of the Strategy for BRICS economic partnership 2030 which aimed at improving trade and investment facilitation, and bridging digital divides in the Global South. Following the expansion to include new members (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, and recently Indonesia), in general, the bloc has deepened economic ties and rapid growth in intra-BRICS trade.

South Africa's objectives for its participation are in services of economic development, which will benefit the population of the country.

-END-