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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1679

MP Mr S Thambo (EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Question Whether the Republic has any trade relations in the agricultural sector with Russia; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) in which agricultural products and (b) what is the value of the trade on an annual basis? NW2071E

REPLY:

Yes, South Africa exports agricultural products to Russia. SA and Russia also have a *Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Agriculture*, signed on 26 July 2018. The main objectives of the MOU are:

- To encourage regular exchange of information in Research and Development in Agriculture between the two countries.
- Work together in Agricultural Products marketing in each other's markets.
- Encourage investment in agricultural projects in each other's economies

(a) South Africa's agricultural trade with Russia

South Africa's exports to Russia are dominated by agricultural exports, accounting for over 80% to South Africa's total exports to Russia. In 2023 the value of SA agricultural exports to Russia amounted to R4 545 491 000.

The following are the main products:

- Citrus fruit exports accounted for 53% of overall exports and a 59% share of agricultural exports. Exports grew by 18% in 2023.
- Exports of apples, pears and quinces accounted for 13% to overall exports and a 15% share of agricultural exports. Exports declined by 32% in 2023.

- Other nuts, fresh and dried exports accounted for 7% to overall exports and an 8% share of agricultural exports. Exports increased by 59% in 2023.
- Jams and fruit jellies accounted for 4% of overall exports and a 4% share of agricultural exports. Exports declined by 80% in 2023.
- Grapes fresh or dried exports accounted for 3% of overall exports and a 4% share of agricultural exports. Exports increased by 36% in 2023.
- Other products, holding a lower share, are listed in the table below.

(b) The value of agricultural exports to Russia reflect in the table below.

Table: SA agricultural Exports to Russia, 2023

Customs code	Description	Export Value (R'000; 2023)	% Share in Total SA Exports to Russia (R'000; 2023)	% Share in SA Agricultural Exports to Russia (R'000; 2023)
	Total: all products from SA to Russia	5 218 519		
	Total SA agricultural exports to Russia			4 545 491
0805	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	2 695 924	52	59
0808	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	687 238	13	15
0802	Other nuts, fresh or dried, whether or not shelled or peeled (excl. coconuts, Brazil nuts and ...	346 974	7	8
2007	Jams, fruit jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut purée and fruit or nut pastes, obtained by cooking, ...	197 752	4	4
0806	Grapes, fresh or dried	174 491	3	4
0804	Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, fresh or dried	112 746	2	2
0809	Apricots, cherries, peaches incl. nectarines, plums and sloes, fresh	110 405	2	2
2204	Wine of fresh grapes, incl. fortified wines; grape must, partly fermented and of an actual ...	67 939	1	1
2009	Fruit juices, incl. grape must, and vegetable juices, unfermented, not containing added spirit, ...	62 815	1	1
2008	Fruits, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved, whether or not containing ...	58 188	1	1
0810	Fresh strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, back, white or red currants, gooseberries and ...	7 981	0.2	0.2

1212	Locust beans, seaweeds and other algae, sugar beet and sugar cane, fresh, chilled, frozen or ...	5 382	0.1	0.1
0603	Cut flowers and flower buds of a kind suitable for bouquets or for ornamental purposes, fresh, ...	4 811	0.1	0.1
0511	Animal products n.e.s.; dead animals of all types, unfit for human consumption	4 755	0.1	0.1
2001	Vegetables, fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved by vinegar ...	2 544	0.05	0.1
1005	Maize or corn	1 843	0.04	0.04
0709	Other vegetables, fresh or chilled (excl. potatoes, tomatoes, alliaceous vegetables, edible ...	1 419	0.03	0.03
2308	Acorns, horse-chestnuts, marc and other vegetable materials and vegetable waste, vegetable ...	424	0.01	0.01
1806	Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	405	0.01	0.01
1704	Sugar confectionery not containing cocoa, incl. white chocolate	405	0.01	0.01
0813	Dried apricots, prunes, apples, peaches, pears, papaws "papayas", tamarinds and other edible ...	387	0.01	0.01
0714	Roots and tubers of manioc, arrowroot, salep, Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes and similar	332	0.01	0.01
0803	Bananas, incl. plantains, fresh or dried	276	0.01	0.01
2203	Beer made from malt	55	0.001	0.001

Data source: ITC TradeMap; author's calculations. <https://www.trademap.org/>, accessed on 4 November 2024.

In 2023, South Africa imported wheat to the value of R1 740 084 000 from Russia. This represented 18% of South Africa's total imports from Russia. It represented 17% of South Africa's total wheat imports from the world, and made Russia the 3rd largest supplier of SA imports of wheat.

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