

## Mission statement

The directorate sees itself contributing to the goal of the department in leading and supporting a sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector, by creating a supportive environment for international trade to contribute towards growth, employment and income of all participants in this sector.

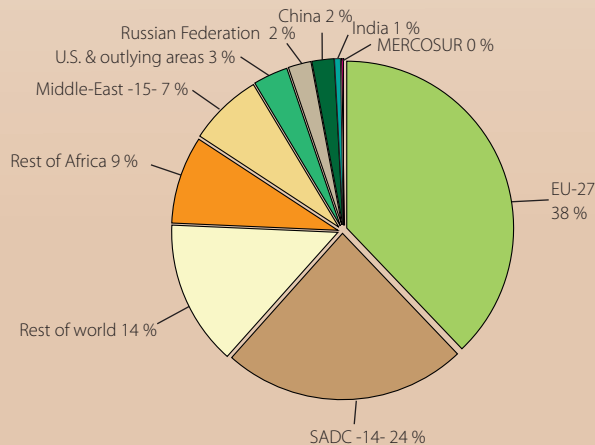
## Functions

The objectives are to improve international market access, fair trade conditions and trade-related competitiveness for South African agricultural producers, processors and exporters of all categories through negotiations, trade research and trade intelligence as well as to remove the constraints in utilising the trade opportunities. The directorate works closely with the Department of Trade and Industry (dti). It is responsible for the agricultural part of trade policy, while the dti is the lead department in initiating trade policy initiatives.

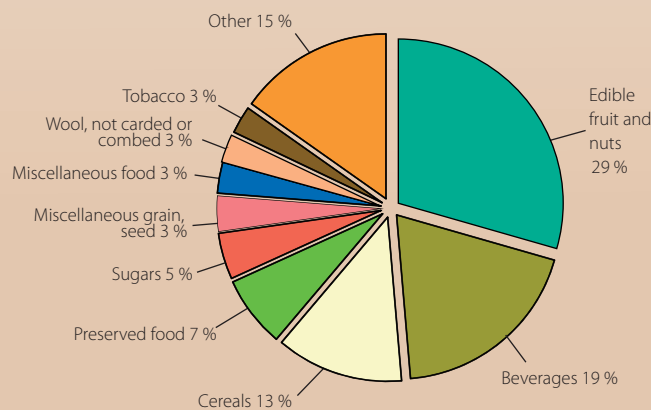
*The functions that enable the directorate to achieve its objectives are:*

- Develop and implement policies that improve access for South African agricultural products to international markets.
- Negotiate favourable and fair trade conditions for South African agricultural products in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.
- Provide trade-related information and advice to the departmental management and agricultural stakeholders.
- Represent SA in international trade-related organisations and forums.

**SA agricultural exports by destination (2008)**



**SA agricultural exports by product group (2008)**



*These functions are organised among the following five subdirectorates:*

### 1. Subdirectorate Bilateral Trade Relations—Africa

The Africa Desk is responsible for South Africa's trade relations with the African countries individually and through regional economic organisations such as the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It monitors agricultural trade with the continent, and develops and implements trade strategies that contribute to the South African trade presence in Africa as well as to the development of Africa, in line with the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme of NEPAD.

### 2. Subdirectorate Bilateral Trade Relations—Americas and Asia

This Desk participates in the trade negotiations with the countries of Asia-Pacific, the Far-East, and North, Central and South America. It was involved in the negotiations between South Africa and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), which are close to completion. It is currently engaged in trade negotiations with India with the aim of gaining improved market access for South African value added agricultural products.

### 3. Subdirectorate Bilateral Trade Relations—Europe, Russia and Middle East

The Desk is engaged with the negotiations towards an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU as part of the SADC group of countries combined with the mid-term review of the SA—EU Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) that has

been the legal framework of trade relations between South Africa and the EU since 2000. It is responsible for the implementation of the TDCA and SACU-EFTA (non-EU European countries) agreements. The Desk is also responsible for the trade aspects of economic relations with the Middle-East and Russia.

### 4. Subdirectorate Multilateral Trade Relations

The Multilateral Desk manages South Africa's membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO; trade-related aspects), International Grains Council (IGC), and various other multilateral organisations with the focus on agricultural trade and trade policy. It participates in the agricultural negotiations of the WTO Doha Round. It also engages with various alliance partners to work towards an equitable world trading system for agriculture with the focus on development.



## 5. Subdirectorates Trade Research

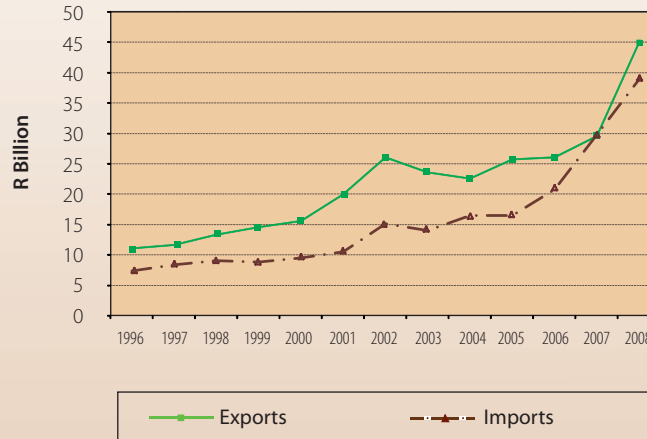
The Research Desk is responsible for optimising the benefits of trade to the South African economy and to the farmers. It identifies the export constraints of the various agricultural sectors and advises the management and the industries. Its key functions are:

- Trade policy review and advocacy to develop trade strategies.
- Facilitating the availability of databases and models to assess trade potential and the impact of trade agreements on the national economy.
- Trade potential analysis, market research, trade intelligence and information to promote the exports of agricultural products.
- Leveraging trade promotion support for agriculture, based on research outputs.

The Desk utilises some of the most advanced international techniques in trade analysis and facilitates national capacity building in these techniques among economists and trade analysts.



SA agricultural imports and exports  
(R Billion 1996–2008)



## Directorate International Trade

# Creating a global market for South African agriculture

### Contact

The directorate benefits from the expertise of more than 30 economists and agricultural economists specialised in trade policy and analysis at various levels.

*For information about the trade agreements, problems encountered in trade, or trade opportunities, contact the Directorate International Trade at + 27 12 319 8452  
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