



**Statistics on Trade Volumes and Value Flowing Through  
South African Commercial Border Posts and Destination  
Countries**

**March 2022**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>BWP</b>	Botswana Pula
<b>CT</b>	Carat
<b>C-BRTA</b>	Cross-Border Road Transport Agency
<b>DTI</b>	Department of Trade and Industry
<b>KG</b>	Kilogram
<b>LDC</b>	Least Development Countries
<b>LI</b>	Liter
<b>MC</b>	Microgram
<b>ME</b>	Milligram
<b>MW</b>	Megawatt
<b>NO</b>	Number
<b>NTB's</b>	Non-Tariff Barriers
<b>NULL</b>	Unclassified goods
<b>PR</b>	Pair
<b>RSA</b>	South Africa
<b>RTMC</b>	Road Transport Management Corporation
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SARS</b>	South African Revenue Service
<b>SM</b>	Square meter



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides high-level statistics of trade volumes and commodities values, and where possible trade volumes passing through strategic commercial border posts between South Africa and neighbouring countries. The report also provides up to date information about trade with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states.

The objectives of the report are to support the cross-border road transport industry with meaningful data in order to;

- Understand the trade volumes and values carried by cross-border road transport between South Africa and neighbouring countries;
- Understand the cross-border road transport and trade opportunities and markets; and
- Support policy formulation to for purposes of developing sustainable and appropriate interventions required to enhance the performance of the cross-border road transport and trade system, amongst others.

The report was compiled through desktop research and using data from the South African Revenue Service (SARS). Secondary credible sources such as working papers, journals and trade statistics information from relevant member states from the internet were also used. The results of the report are presented in descriptive statistics in a form of tables, histograms and figures; and a comparative analysis was also used conducted in terms of these countries' performance in trade flows.

According to the findings:

- South Africa exported 27,2 billion units of goods to the neighbouring countries by road. South Africa exported the highest trade volumes to Mozambique that passed through the Lebombo border posts, claiming a 50% share compared to the neighbouring countries. Thus, Lebombo border post handled the highest number of total trade volumes (46%) that was an aggregate of both exports and imports volumes.
- Botswana became the second importer from South Africa by receiving about 24% (6,5 billion pieces of goods) of the total trade volumes exported by South Africa. Skilpadshek border post handled about 9% of the total trade volumes South Africa exported to the neighbouring countries, Kopfontein and Ramatlabama border posts recorded about 6% of South Africa's total trade volumes exported, separately.
- Botswana was found to be the major trade partner of South Africa in 2020 by listing the highest trade value of 29% (R81,3 billion) from the total trade value of R278,9 billion of all commercial

border posts under study. Zimbabwe and Mozambique became the second and third trade partners with 25% and 21% amounting to R70 billion and R58 billion, respectively.

- Zimbabwe registered the third importer of South Africa by importing approximately 12% (3,3 billion pieces of goods) of South Africa's total export volumes (27,2 billion pieces of goods) transported by road. Beitbridge border post processed the same amount of trade volumes imported by Zimbabwe excluding trade export volumes that transited to other countries.
- ESwatini was found to be the principal exporter to South Africa by exporting about 38% (1,4 billion pieces of goods) of the total trade volumes (3,7 billion pieces of goods), compared to the neighbouring countries. Oshoek border post administered about 18% (683 million pieces of goods) of the total trade volumes South Africa imported from the neighbouring countries, and it was found to be the foremost border post that processed eSwatini's exports destined to South Africa.
- Botswana was the second exporter to South Africa since South Africa imported around 27% (999 million pieces of goods) of its total import volumes (3,7 billion pieces of goods), transported by road.
- Grobler's bridge and Ramatlabama border post administered about 9% (349 million and 329 million pieces of goods, separately) of South Africa's total trade volumes imported from all neighbouring countries and this made them the highest in handling South Africa's imports compared to other commercial border posts of Botswana in 2020.
- Mozambique and Zimbabwe registered fourth and fifth exporting partners of South Africa by exporting around 15% and 12% to South Africa, separately. Lebombo and Beitbridge border posts administered the highest trade volumes imported by South Africa from Zimbabwe and Mozambique by 15% and 12% of the total trade volumes imported by South Africa. These results infer that the highest freight traffic flows incoming South Africa were from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
- Trade between South Africa and her neighbouring states in 2020 favoured South Africa since it exported R238 billion worth of goods and imported R40,9 billion worth of goods, ensuing a trade surplus of R197 billion.

The universal fall of international trade between South Africa and her neighbouring states has been exacerbated by coronavirus (COVID-19) that has resulted in mass production shutdowns and supply chain disruptions due to border posts and ports closures in these countries under study and globally, causing global ripple effects across all economic sectors in a rare "twin supply-demand shock" which is a sharp, sudden change in the supply and demand for a product or a service. As South Africa is one of

the neighbouring countries' biggest trading partners, the effects of COVID-19 are already being felt in the SADC region and in the continent.

This report can be used by the C-BRTA and fellow regulatory authorities to inform strategic decisions, prioritisation of interventions and for the deployment of law enforcement personnel along the cross-border corridors.

# 1. OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

## 1.1. Introduction

The aim of the study is to provide a high-level statistics of trade volumes, values, commodities and, where possible, trade volumes passing through strategic commercial border posts between South Africa and neighbouring countries. The development of this report is informed by the mandate and responsibilities of the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) where it is required to generate reliable intelligence with respect to cross-border operations in order to respond to challenges encountered and enhance data collection.

## 1.2. Background

South Africa has fifty-three (53) official border ports, nineteen (19) of which are for commercial purposes. Most of the trade between and among SADC member states takes place across the nineteen border posts. There is also the subjective evidence, which postulates that trade has over the years continued to increase to exponential levels. In some cases, it has been suggested that traffic has even doubled, particularly at border posts such as Beitbridge (between South Africa and Zimbabwe) and Lebombo (between South Africa and Mozambique). Be that as it may, there is the reality that the C-BRTA is not armed with data that relates and reflects such growth to better inform its cross-border road transport operations. This current reality has subsequently resulted in the following challenges:

- Limiting the ability of the C-BRTA to advice the Minister of Transport, road transport operators, and industry role players on trade and traffic movement per border posts;
- Limiting the participation of the C-BRTA in infrastructure planning and development to better respond to the needs of the road transport industry;
- Limiting the ability of the C-BRTA in terms of appreciating the value that cross-border trade contributes towards the domestic and regional economy; and
- Limiting the ability of the C-BRTA to plan appropriately for activities relating to border operations (law enforcement inspection and traffic counts), due to the absence of data that relates to trade and transport movements at these facilities.

Based on the above, it is therefore key that updated information be obtained with respect to trade and traffic data passing through commercial border posts for purposes of ensuring the C-BRTA is better positioned to advice the Minister of Transport and improve its operations, especially those that relate to border posts. Therefore, the study covers five countries with their commercial border posts neighbouring South Africa.

### **1.3. Objectives**

The objectives of the report are as follows:

- To support the cross-border road transport industry with meaningful data to increase knowledge of market trends
- To support policy formulation, develop sustainable means for data collection, data management and data storage of the trade statistics
- To create an integrated knowledge base of trade with SADC Member States to serve the industry's stakeholders in improving economic trends and competitiveness.

### **1.4. Methodology**

The methodology adopted by this study was primarily desktop research and used data sources from the South African Revenue Services (SARS). Secondary sources such as working papers, journals and trade statistics information from relevant member states from the internet were also used.

The Report is structured as follows:

- Introduction and background;
- Country overview and trade analysis; and
- Identified Border posts trade statistics and analysis.

## 2. COUNTRY ANALYSIS

### 2.1. Trade Value and volume by Border Posts

Tables below show the trade volumes in different units of measure and values in Rands from 2018 to 2018 that passed across Botswana/South Africa commercial border posts. These tables also show the value and volume in terms of exports and imports.

South African Revenue Service (SARS) used the following different units of measure used to allow consistency and communication of measures as International System of Units (SI units) is a comprehensive and practical system of units of measurement of all physical quantities for technical, scientific and general use:

- CT      Carat              e.g. Diamonds
- KG      Kilogram              e.g. Processed meat
- LI      Liter                      e.g. Fuel or liquids
- MC      Microgram              e.g. Chemical compounds
- ME      Milligram              e.g. medicinal products
- MW      Megawatt              e.g. electricity
- NO      Number                e.g. Live animals
- NULL    Unclassified goods
- PR      Pair                      e.g. Footwear
- SM      Square meter        e.g. Carpets or tiles

## 2.2. Trade with Botswana

### 2.2.1. Overview

Botswana is a small, landlocked country in Southern Africa, bordered by South Africa to the south and southeast, Namibia to the west and north, and Zimbabwe to the northeast. At 581,730 km<sup>2</sup> (224,607 square miles) Botswana is the world's 48th largest country and one of the most sparsely populated nations in the world. Botswana has a population of 2,351,054 which is equivalent to 0.03% of the total world population.

Botswana has several border posts that allow the country to link up with South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The report, however, only displayed border post that link Botswana and South Africa. The operating hours of the border posts are outlined in Table 1 below. Rates for crossing the borders are as follows:

- BWP50 for a single entry and BWP90 for a return trip
- BWP20 for road fund tax (disc must be displayed, valid for one year)
- BWP20 per trailer and BWP50 for third-party insurance.

**Table 1: South Africa/Botswana border posts and operating times**

Border Post	Operating Times
Pont Drift / Mashatu	08:00 – 16:00
Platjan / Platjan	08:00 – 16:00
Zanzibar / Zanzibar	08:00 – 16:00
Groblersbrug / Martin's Drift	06:00 – 22:00
Stockpoort / Parr's Halt	08:00 – 18:00
Derdepoort / Sikwane	06:00 – 19:00
Kopfontein / Tlokweng Gate	06:00 – 24:00
Swartkoppie / Ramotswa	06:00 – 22:00
Skilpadshek / Pioneer Gate	06:00 – 24:00
Twee Rivieren / Two Rivers	07:30 – 16:00
Gemsbok / Bokspits	08:00 – 16:30
Ramatlabama / Ramatlabama	06:00 – 22:00
Makgobistad / Phitshane Molopo	07:00 – 16:00
Bray / Bray	07:00 – 16:00
Makopong / Makopong	08:00 – 16:00
McCarthy's Rest / McCarthy's Rest	06:00 – 18:00
Middleputs / Middleputs	07:30 – 16:30

### 2.2.2. RSA/Botswana commercial border posts

Botswana has 4 commercial border posts which are:

- Groblersbrug/Martin's Drift Border posts: connects South Africa in the Limpopo province to Botswana;
- Tlokweng Gate/ Kopfontein Border posts: busiest commercial port of entry in the North West area, located between South Africa and Botswana;

- Pioneer Gate/Skilpadshak Border posts: located 52 kilometres north-west of Zeerust in North West province. The Trans-Kalahari Corridor passes through Skilpadshak and it operates until midnight; and
- Ramatlabama Border posts: This port of entry is approximately 25 kilometres north of Mafikeng in the North West.

### 2.2.2.1. Grobler's Bridge border post

Table 2 below discloses South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Grobler's bridge/Martin's Drift border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports processed in Grobler's bridge border posts to Botswana documented about R15,8 billion in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R24,8 billion resulting to an increase of 56%. From January to March are the months that experienced a decline in exports when associating Year-to-Year.

Regarding goods imported from Botswana to South Africa through Grobler's bridge border in 2021, South Africa imported about R2,7 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports registered about R1,9 billion which is a surge of 41% (Table 2 below). During the first quarter of 2021, South Africa's imports decreased on Year-to-Year comparative basis.

**Table 2: Trade values of the RSA/Botswana Grobler's Bridge border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2020	2021	Year-to-Year	2020	2021	Year-to-Year
Jan	1,281,585,039	1,139,957,057	-11%	209,352,765	200,364,039	-4%
Feb	1,630,053,539	557,273,623	-66%	346,007,020	48,551,251	-86%
Mar	1,693,870,604	1,661,014,802	-2%	370,589,729	148,806,537	-60%
Apr	205,155,353	1,629,870,606	694%	25,311,286	124,111,533	390%
May	684,840,020	1,908,353,609	179%	68,152,884	133,619,539	96%
Jun	1,040,733,692	2,095,841,766	101%	110,824,197	217,515,205	96%
Jul	1,220,988,441	2,230,236,103	83%	125,188,408	261,923,685	109%
Aug	1,405,006,569	2,345,075,622	67%	126,282,442	308,833,706	145%
Sep	1,650,399,724	2,853,900,726	73%	124,742,931	277,655,184	123%
Oct	1,752,694,080	2,850,847,009	63%	148,079,062	360,325,554	143%
Nov	1,559,632,366	2,643,385,856	69%	128,116,880	329,082,685	157%
Dec	1,724,807,384	2,859,309,892	66%	122,595,136	270,949,871	121%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,849,766,811</b>	<b>24,775,066,671</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>1,905,242,740</b>	<b>2,681,738,789</b>	<b>41%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.2.2.2. Kopfontein border posts

Table 3 below reveals South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that crossed through Kopfontein/Tlokweng border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports handled in Kopfontein border posts to Botswana documented about R24,9 billion in 2020 and the total exports in



2021 treasured about R29,6 billion ensuing to an increase of 19%. On the Year-to-Year comparison, annuary and June recorded a decline in exports to Botswana that traversed Kopfontein border post.

Regarding goods imported from Botswana to South Africa through Kopfontein/Tlokweng border posts in 2020, South Africa imported around R2,2 billion worth of goods whereas in 2021, South Africa's imports registered about R2,7 billion which is a hike of 22% (Table 3 below).

**Table 3: Trade values of the RSA/Botswana Kopfontein border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S		Year -to-Year	I M P O R T S		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2020	2021	
Jan	1,879,243,391	1,677,701,179	-11%	205,985,881	234,096,143	14%
Feb	2,249,778,834	2,521,806,576	12%	257,852,332	261,499,058	1%
Mar	2,372,057,621	2,460,697,302	4%	198,702,737	258,803,553	30%
Apr	600,609,502	1,969,920,693	228%	16,664,736	253,806,493	1423%
May	1,644,339,863	2,334,336,580	42%	97,883,063	226,674,261	132%
Jun	2,432,261,394	2,254,212,374	-7%	155,798,552	201,755,029	29%
Jul	2,216,478,158	2,212,003,438	0%	160,948,066	228,323,959	42%
Aug	2,082,149,321	2,563,540,023	23%	222,331,320	251,682,907	13%
Sep	2,264,929,226	2,422,086,797	7%	278,771,916	272,808,996	-2%
Oct	2,496,944,171	3,005,717,448	20%	275,320,332	205,017,483	-26%
Nov	2,530,401,421	3,349,495,730	32%	262,903,383	229,198,151	-13%
Dec	2,126,534,609	2,847,470,291	34%	109,494,300	118,788,724	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,895,727,511</b>	<b>29,618,988,431</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>2,242,656,618</b>	<b>2,742,454,757</b>	<b>22%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.2.2.3. Ramatlabama border posts

Table 4 below divulges South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that traversed through Ramatlabama border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports administered in Ramatlabama border posts to Botswana recognized about R6,9 billion in 2020 and exports valued about R8,4 billion resulting to an increase of 1% in 2021.

Concerning goods imported from Botswana to South Africa through Ramatlabama borders in 2021, South Africa imported around R2,4 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, South Africa's imports registered almost the same R1,3 million which is a drastic increase of 82% and the first quarter recorded a decline on Year-to-Year comparison (Table 4 below).

**Table 4: Trade values of the RSA/Botswana Ramatlabama border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S		Year -to-Year	I M P O R T S		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2020	2021	
Jan	673,291,960	644,549,873	-4%	126,969,602	115,492,850	-9%
Feb	625,051,329	661,952,383	6%	218,300,919	141,322,526	-35%
Mar	687,676,187	758,761,854	10%	255,439,822	190,681,857	-25%

Apr	429,492,101	633,279,517	47%	46,317,726	166,712,232	260%
May	463,563,996	627,498,500	35%	32,799,842	200,798,089	512%
Jun	450,927,297	539,610,912	20%	25,578,442	227,802,918	791%
Jul	622,890,967	748,375,763	20%	32,085,740	231,276,214	621%
Aug	501,935,385	669,392,994	33%	49,684,192	231,803,803	367%
Sep	570,560,417	689,124,158	21%	49,545,476	228,037,856	360%
Oct	587,210,572	744,667,180	27%	151,759,276	199,822,253	32%
Nov	667,440,217	847,207,674	27%	158,997,643	234,439,879	47%
Dec	638,608,924	789,361,422	24%	149,944,943	197,113,666	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,918,649,352</b>	<b>8,353,782,230</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>1,297,423,623</b>	<b>2,365,304,143</b>	<b>82%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

#### 2.2.2.4. Skilpadshek border posts

Table 5 depicts South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that crossed Skilpadshek border posts in 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports administered in Skilpadshek border posts to Botswana documented about R6,3 billion in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R35,3 billion resulting to a hike of 34%. The rate of change from 2019 to 2020 shows that only January and February recorded a decline in exports on Year-to-Year comparative basis.

Regarding imports from Botswana to South Africa through Skilpadshek border posts, South Africa imported around R1,9 billion worth of goods in 2020 whereas in 2021, South Africa's imports registered about R2,1 billion which is a surge of 16% (Table 5 below).

**Table 5: Trade values of the RSA/Botswana Skilpadshek border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S		Year -to-Year	I M P O R T S		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2020	2021	
Jan	3,077,593,431	2,056,527,943	-33%	301,506,614	76,332,356	-75%
Feb	3,614,575,247	2,934,279,331	-19%	247,148,286	101,864,680	-59%
Mar	3,125,228,937	3,524,790,080	13%	221,472,076	180,605,821	-18%
Apr	934,758,185	3,031,184,294	224%	78,446,986	228,286,648	191%
May	1,526,369,750	2,769,582,181	81%	79,177,116	133,057,906	68%
Jun	1,467,270,151	2,640,869,859	80%	58,223,710	202,313,980	247%
Jul	1,830,404,776	2,252,314,093	23%	219,364,624	157,808,662	-28%
Aug	1,927,183,991	2,896,088,602	50%	160,620,025	244,686,602	52%
Sep	1,903,727,863	3,098,796,039	63%	125,628,098	219,361,424	75%
Oct	2,311,366,802	3,382,058,505	46%	190,031,406	234,742,559	24%
Nov	2,409,404,864	3,798,614,426	58%	105,679,211	209,968,971	99%
Dec	2,162,768,568	2,956,916,700	37%	71,852,916	160,253,090	123%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,290,652,565</b>	<b>35,342,022,053</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>1,859,151,068</b>	<b>2,149,282,699</b>	<b>16%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

## 2.2.2.5. RSA's exports and imports through Botswana commercial border posts

### 2.2.2.5.1. South Africa's exports to Botswana

Table 6 below discloses South Africa's total value of exports and imports that passed through four commercial border posts of Botswana (Grobler's bridge, Kopfontein, Ramatlabama and Skilpadshek) from 2020 to 2021. South Africa's total exports processed in these 4 commercial border posts to Botswana documented about R74,0 billion in 2020 whereas in 2021, exports valued about R98,1 billion resulting to an increase of 33%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Botswana through four commercial border posts documented about 6,6 billion pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, exports documented about 8,8 billion pieces of goods resulting to a surge of 33% (Table 6 below).

**Table 6: RSA exports (value and volume) to Botswana**

	V A L U E		Year	V O L U M E		Year
	2020	2021	-to-Year	2020	2021	-to-Year
Jan	6,911,713,821	5,518,736,052	-20%	593,579,161	1,039,070,531	75%
Feb	8,119,458,949	6,675,311,913	-18%	583,262,224	405,790,158	-30%
Mar	7,878,833,349	8,405,264,038	7%	587,417,006	492,635,671	-16%
Apr	2,170,015,141	7,264,255,110	235%	253,210,951	440,308,526	74%
May	4,319,113,629	7,639,770,870	77%	349,656,463	434,471,099	24%
Jun	5,391,192,534	7,530,534,911	40%	555,822,576	411,102,434	-26%
Jul	5,890,762,342	7,442,929,397	26%	443,438,544	945,334,137	113%
Aug	5,916,275,266	8,474,097,241	43%	444,525,919	979,709,462	120%
Sep	6,389,617,230	9,063,907,720	42%	462,130,125	461,436,661	0%
Oct	7,148,215,625	9,983,290,142	40%	506,666,106	480,366,252	-5%
Nov	7,166,878,868	10,638,703,686	48%	1,338,373,510	2,254,049,241	68%
Dec	6,652,719,485	9,453,058,305	42%	499,595,293	465,008,256	-7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,954,796,239</b>	<b>98,089,859,385</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>6,617,677,878</b>	<b>8,809,282,428</b>	<b>33%</b>

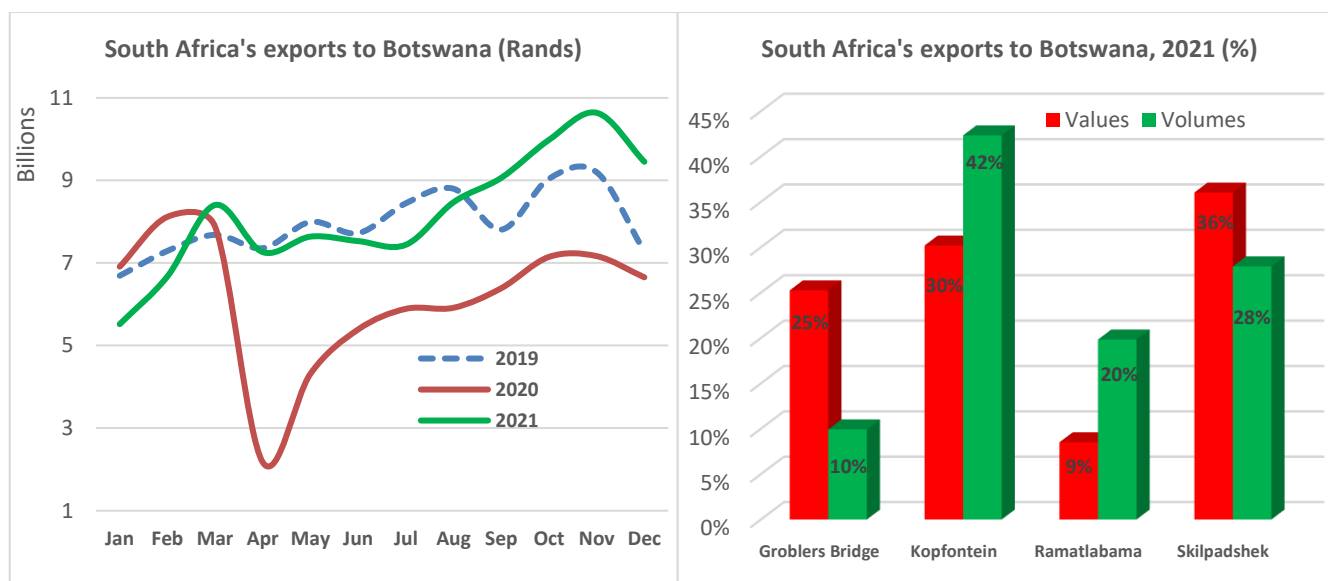
Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

In 2021, Kopfontein border posts processed the highest export volumes that constitute about 42% (3,7 billion pieces of goods) followed by Skilpadshek, Ramatlabama and Grobler's bridge border posts with 28% (2,5 billion pieces of goods), 20% (1,7 billion pieces of goods) and (875 million pieces of goods), respectively. These figures emphasise that close to half of the freight volumes from South Africa to Botswana were processed at Kopfontein border post.

Figure 1 below depicts that Botswana commercial border posts that recorded the highest total value of South Africa's exports in 2021 are Skilpadhek with about R35,3 billion recording 36%, followed by Kopfontein with R29,6 billion (30%), Grobler's bridge with 24,8 billion (25%) and lastly, Ramatlabama with R8,4 billion (9%).

Finally, Figure 1 demonstrates how the introduction of Covid-19 lockdown in April 2019 has affected South Africa's exports to Botswana and it also shows the rate at which South Africa's exports to Botswana improved from 2020 to 2021 on a monthly basis.

**Figure 1: South Africa's exports (value and volume) to Botswana**



The highest volumes of South Africa's exports to Botswana that traversed all Botswana commercial border posts in 2021 were (Table 7):

- i. Dairy produce with 2,9 billion pieces documenting 33%;
- ii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 1,2 billion litres contributing 13%; and
- iii. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 1,0 billion kilograms registering 12%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Botswana in 2021 through all Botswana commercial border posts in 2021 were (Table 7):

- i. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with R13,3 billion registering around 14%; and
- ii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about R10,1 billion recording 10%; and
- iii. Vehicles and accessories valued R9,8 billion documenting 10%.

**Table 7: RSA exports (value and volume) through commercial border posts to Botswana, 2021**

	V O L U M E S				
	Grobler's Bridge	Kopfontein	Ramatlabama	Skilpadshok	Botswana
CT	800	2		73	<b>875</b>
KG	742,059,386	2,808,538,696	1,664,258,727	1,495,474,802	<b>6,710,331,611</b>
LI	123,125,701	231,196,598	60,949,268	926,362,578	<b>1,341,634,146</b>
MC	461,766	646,046,665	78,732	1,531,792	<b>648,118,955</b>
ME			2	628	<b>630</b>

NO	7,619,141	35,722,337	21,924,122	27,067,539	<b>92,333,139</b>
PR	931,855	5,848,677	92,027	4,802,330	<b>11,674,889</b>
SM	702,774	1,595,642	228,037	2,661,731	<b>5,188,184</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>874,901,423</b>	<b>3,728,948,617</b>	<b>1,747,530,915</b>	<b>2,457,901,473</b>	<b>8,809,282,428</b>
<b>V A L U E (Rands)</b>					
CT	26,200	2,000		306,472	<b>334,672</b>
KG	17,576,855,741	16,653,205,299	6,934,363,351	18,752,260,095	<b>59,916,684,486</b>
LI	1,191,314,968	2,272,360,147	505,539,600	8,160,394,807	<b>12,129,609,522</b>
MC	182,369,437	111,438,541	50,877,583	360,444,292	<b>705,129,853</b>
ME			1,153	57,207	<b>58,360</b>
NO	5,646,617,248	9,949,196,104	832,766,809	7,437,264,746	<b>23,865,844,907</b>
PR	105,925,272	495,762,189	9,425,165	458,914,166	<b>1,070,026,792</b>
SM	71,957,805	137,024,151	20,808,569	172,380,268	<b>402,170,793</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>24,775,066,671</b>	<b>29,618,988,431</b>	<b>8,353,782,230</b>	<b>35,342,022,053</b>	<b>98,089,859,385</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.2.2.5.2. South Africa's imports from Botswana

Table 8 below discloses South Africa's total value and volume of imports that passed through four commercial border posts of Botswana (Grobler's bridge, Kopfontein, Ramatlabama and Skilpadshek) from 2020 to 2021. South Africa's total imports processed in these 4 commercial border posts from Botswana documented about R7,3 billion in 2020 while in 2021, imports valued about R9,9 billion resulting to an increase of 36%.

South Africa's total volumes imported from Botswana through four commercial border posts documented about 999 million pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, imports registered about 1,2 billion pieces of goods resulting to a hike of 22% (Table 8 below).

Table 8 below depicts that the highest decline in import value and volume were realized in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the first three months of 2020.

**Table 8: RSA imports (value and volume) from Botswana**

	V A L U E		Year -to-Year	V O L U M E		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2020	2021	
Jan	843,814,862	626,285,388	-26%	113,340,141	79,145,111	-30%
Feb	1,069,308,557	553,237,515	-48%	120,791,109	77,144,197	-36%
Mar	1,046,204,364	778,897,768	-26%	113,972,081	110,814,143	-3%
Apr	166,740,734	772,916,906	364%	39,527,281	113,690,984	188%
May	278,012,905	694,149,795	150%	53,457,955	123,145,358	130%
Jun	350,424,901	849,387,132	142%	61,102,836	134,397,656	120%
Jul	537,586,838	879,332,520	64%	73,454,258	130,709,358	78%
Aug	558,917,979	1,037,007,018	86%	97,028,047	114,614,693	18%
Sep	578,688,421	997,863,460	72%	91,759,207	123,771,684	35%

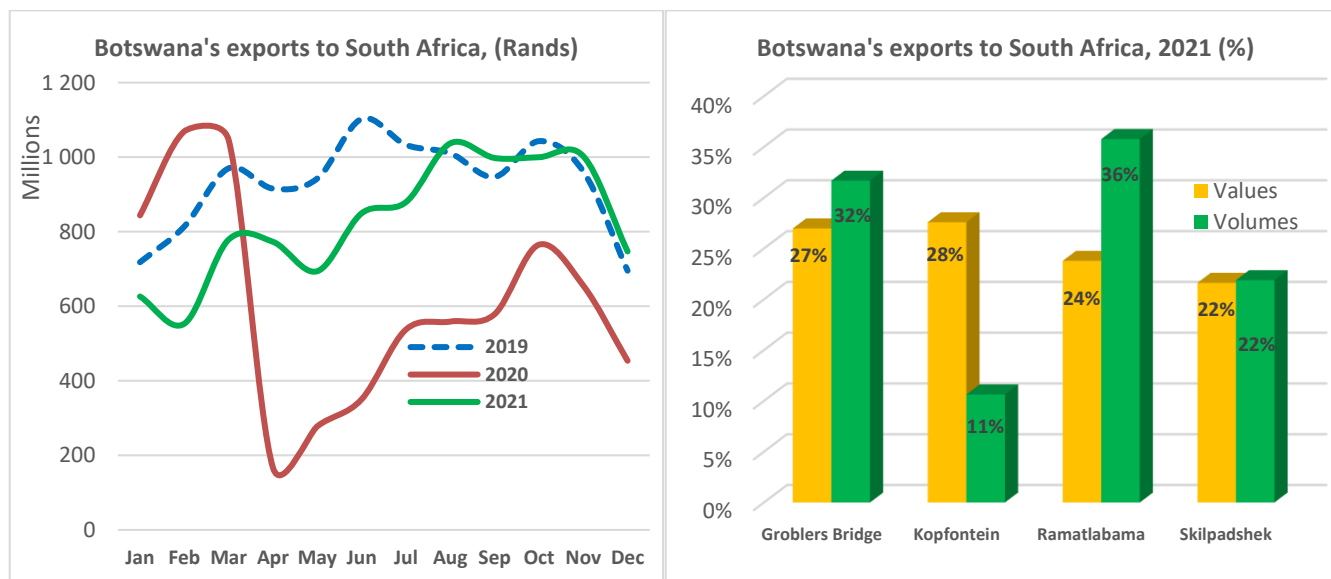
Oct	765,190,076	999,907,849	31%	80,243,588	130,815,741	63%
Nov	655,697,117	1,002,689,686	53%	85,790,719	124,757,658	45%
Dec	453,887,295	747,105,351	65%	68,202,809	105,891,830	55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,304,474,049</b>	<b>9,938,780,388</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>998,670,032</b>	<b>1,222,630,051</b>	<b>22%</b>

In 2021, Ramatlabama border posts processed the highest imports volumes that recorded about 36% (490 million pieces of goods) associated with other Botswana commercial border posts (Figure 2 and Table 9), seconded by Grobler's highest total volumes amounting to 26% (R1,9 billion) after Kopfontein border post which processed the lowest volumes of goods border post with approximately high value of R2,2 billion (31%). Skilpadshek border post followed Grobler's bridge with 33% of volumes of goods that were cleared, and these goods valued about 25% amounting to R1,9 billion compared to other commercial border posts in Botswana (Figure 2).

Ramatlabama border post registered the third South Africa's importing passage in 2020 by processing volumes of goods equaling to 20% (329 million pieces of goods) from Botswana. The total value of goods that were administered in Ramatlabama during 2020 was approximately R1,3 billion scoring the lowest with 18% after Skilpadshek (Figure 2).

Finally, Figure 2 depicts how Botswana's exports to South Africa improved from April 2020 of the introduction of hard Covid-19 lockdown vis-à-vis exports of April 2020 onwards and from April 2021 to December of both calendar years.

**Figure 2: South Africa's imports (value and volume) from Botswana**



The highest volumes of South Africa's imports from Botswana that traversed all Botswana commercial border posts in 2021 were (Table 9 below):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 573 million kilograms contributing 42%;

- ii. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 190 million kilograms registering 14%; and
- iii. Inorganic chemical compounds with 184 million kilograms documenting 13%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Botswana in 2021 through all Botswana commercial border posts were (Table 9):

- i. Live animals with R1,9 billion recording 19%;
- ii. Cell phones, Electrical Equipment and Machinery with approximately R1,8 billion registering 18%; and
- iii. Copper and Articles Thereof with about R971 million contributing 10%.

**Table 9: RSA imports (value and volume) through commercial border posts from Botswana, 2021**

V O L U M E					
	Grobler's Bridge	Kopfontein	Ramatlabama	Skilpadshek	Botswana
CT				41,008	<b>41,008</b>
KG	433,281,626	144,806,142	486,815,920	267,821,235	<b>1,332,724,924</b>
LI	47,988	239,782	2,733,314	31,477,800	<b>34,498,885</b>
MC	79,699	692	55	60,512	<b>140,959</b>
NO	109,184	543,273	285,306	227,156	<b>1,164,919</b>
PR	304	19,063	1,038	18,128	<b>38,533</b>
SM	268,585	19,714	12	876	<b>289,187</b>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>433,787,387</b>	<b>145,628,666</b>	<b>489,835,645</b>	<b>299,646,716</b>	<b>1,368,898,414</b>
V A L U E (Rands)					
CT				850,811	<b>850,811</b>
KG	2,522,184,959	2,367,130,763	414,059,331	1,352,454,549	<b>6,655,829,602</b>
LI	6,700,997	7,821,505	27,157,042	479,152,319	<b>520,831,863</b>
MC	7,844,849	436,023	244,923	14,931,262	<b>23,457,057</b>
NO	132,372,911	364,698,248	1,923,804,510	298,863,754	<b>2,719,739,423</b>
PR	34,948	2,070,729	31,179	2,928,402	<b>5,065,258</b>
SM	12,600,125	297,489	7,158	101,602	<b>13,006,374</b>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>2,681,738,789</b>	<b>2,742,454,757</b>	<b>2,365,304,143</b>	<b>2,149,282,699</b>	<b>9,938,780,388</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.2.3. Conclusion

In 2020, South Africa's exports to Botswana valued about R74,0 billion which was 22% lower than the exports of 2019. The value of South Africa's imports in 2020 declined 35% to R7,3 billion from R11,2 billion in 2019. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R66,6 billion in 2020 although it experienced 21% decrease from R84,1 billion in 2019.

South Africa's exports to Botswana in 2021 valued about R98,1 billion which was 33% higher than the exports of 2020 (R74,0 billion). The value of South Africa's imports in 2021 increased by 36% to R9,9 billion from R7,3 billion in 2020. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R88,2 billion in 2021 and it experienced 32% increase from 66,6 billion in 2020.

In 2021, the highest volumes exported to Botswana by type of commodity were Dairy produce, Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, and Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material.

The highest valued exports to Botswana were Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances, Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, and Vehicles and accessories valued R9,8 billion documenting 10%.

In 2021, the highest volumes imported from Botswana by type of commodity were Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material, and Inorganic chemical compounds.

The highest valued imports from Botswana in 2012 were Live animals, Cell phones, Electrical Equipment and Machinery, and Copper and Articles Thereof.

On a year-on-year basis, volumes of South Africa's exports to Botswana and South Africa's imports from Botswana both increased immensely signifying that international trade between these countries went back to normality when Covid-19 cross-border regulations were narrowed.



## 2.3. Trade with eSwatini

### 2.3.1. Overview

eSwatini is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, bordered to the north, south, and west by South Africa and to the east by Mozambique. eSwatini is one of the smallest countries in Africa, with a total area size of 17,364 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>). The current population of eSwatini is 1,145 million which is equivalent to 0.02% of the total world population. eSwatini has several border posts that allow the country to link up with South Africa and Mozambique as shown in Table 10 below.

**Table 10: South Africa/eSwatini border posts and operating times**

<b>Border posts</b>	<b>Operating times</b>
Ngwenya / Oshoek	07:00 – 00:00
Bulembu / Joseffsdal	08:00 – 16:00
Matsamo / Jeppes Reef	07:00 – 20:00
Golela / Lavumisa	07:00 – 22:00
Sicunusa / Houtkop-Emahlathini	08:00 – 18:00
Mananga / Mananga	07:00 – 18:00
Gege / Bothashoop	08:00 – 16:00
Lundzi / Waverly	08:00 – 16:00
Mahamba / Mahamba	07:00 – 22:00
Salitjie / Onverwacht	08:00 – 16:00
Sandlane / Nerston	08:00 – 18:00
<b>Mozambique</b>	
Lomahasha / Namaacha	07:00 – 20:00
Mhlumeni / Goba	24 hours

Source: Road Reform in ESwatini

### 2.3.2. RSA/eSwatini commercial border posts

The commercial border posts that link South Africa and eSwatini are:

- Golela/Lavumisa border posts
- Jeppes Reef/Matsomo border posts
- Mahamba border posts
- Mananga border posts
- Nerston /Sandlane border posts
- Oshoek/Ngwenya border posts.

#### 2.3.2.1. Golela border posts

Table 11 below unveils South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Golela/Lavumisa border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports processed in Golela border posts to eSwatini documented about R5,8 billion in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R6,9 billion resulting to an increase of 19%.

The highest increase in South Africa's exports to eSwatini recorded of 124% was realized on a year-to-year comparison in April 2020 (R253 million) during the introduction of hard Covid-19 lockdown vis-à-vis April 2021 (R566 million) when Covid-19 regulations were eased.

Concerning eSwatini's exports to South Africa that traversed Golela border post in 2020 valued R4,5 billion worth of goods whereas in 2021, South Africa's imports registered in Golela border post from eSwatini amounted to R5,4 billion which is a hike of 18% (Table 11 below).

The highest increase in South Africa's imports from eSwatini documented around 373% when comparing trade transactions of April 2020 amounting to R86 million with respect to R408 million worth of goods of April 2021. This drastic increase signifies that international trade between these countries went back to normalcy.

**Table 11: Trade values of the RSA/eSwatini Golela border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	463,682,304	417,716,975	-10%	346,866,588	363,432,238	5%
Feb	476,340,901	463,637,414	-3%	292,262,785	384,979,943	32%
Mar	567,385,325	603,495,745	6%	505,683,247	440,910,796	-13%
Apr	252,967,303	567,510,906	124%	86,147,183	407,505,164	373%
May	424,850,283	599,026,081	41%	207,243,528	440,512,726	113%
Jun	466,411,676	594,404,742	27%	337,132,002	373,094,200	11%
Jul	485,166,695	419,975,811	-13%	373,788,806	415,428,069	11%
Aug	508,869,625	627,870,059	23%	442,893,973	518,933,025	17%
Sep	479,508,820	665,845,798	39%	467,463,579	496,558,675	6%
Oct	577,932,865	583,479,613	1%	529,041,835	523,144,449	-1%
Nov	567,388,478	735,226,351	30%	544,052,924	621,045,150	14%
Dec	567,459,093	666,478,023	17%	389,243,154	370,108,402	-5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,837,963,368</b>	<b>6,944,667,518</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>4,521,819,604</b>	<b>5,355,652,837</b>	<b>18%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.3.2.2. Jeppes Reef border posts

Table 12 divulges South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that crossed Jeppes Reef/Matsomo border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports handled in Jeppes Reef border posts to eSwatini recorded about R404 million in 2020 and in 2021, South Africa's exports that transited Jeppes border posts valued about R511 million resulting to an increase of 27%.

South Africa's imports from eSwatini that passed through Jeppes border posts in 2020 valued about R163 million worth of goods although in 2021, imports registered about R210 million recording an upsurge of 29% (Table 12 below).

The trade data for April 2020 during the hard lockdown of Covid-19 versus April 2021 uncovered the severe increase of approximately 1179% of South Africa's exports that traversed Jeppes border posts from R3,4 million to R43,5 million, while South Africa's imports from eSwatini handled at Jeppes border posts recorded about 175% when comparing the same period.

**Table 12: Trade values of the RSA/eSwatini Jeppes Reef border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2019	2020	Year -to-Year	2019	2020	Year -to-Year
Jan	34,182,303	45,070,493	32%	13,799,702	13,897,078	1%
Feb	38,403,665	41,680,447	9%	13,393,576	12,555,754	-6%
Mar	33,365,047	44,418,280	33%	11,696,170	13,910,480	19%
Apr	3,401,767	43,500,105	1179%	6,195,622	17,024,685	175%
May	28,767,473	43,651,960	52%	13,853,546	19,888,266	44%
Jun	29,015,488	39,926,779	38%	12,492,612	17,320,829	39%
Jul	32,957,829	33,582,298	2%	15,581,250	16,168,241	4%
Aug	33,422,238	44,997,305	35%	18,533,621	18,791,876	1%
Sep	39,131,197	48,141,196	23%	15,709,281	21,859,396	39%
Oct	37,065,767	41,098,744	11%	14,089,205	20,897,199	48%
Nov	45,875,513	41,234,980	-10%	15,618,862	20,490,920	31%
Dec	48,362,139	44,146,467	-9%	12,023,057	16,706,908	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>403,950,426</b>	<b>511,449,054</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>162,986,504</b>	<b>209,511,632</b>	<b>29%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.3.2.3. Mahamba border posts

Table 13 below shows South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that were handled in Mahamba border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports processed in Mahamba border posts to eSwatini documented about R933 million in 2020 and in 2021, South Africa's exports valued around R1,0 billion recording an upsurge of 6%.

Concerning goods imported from eSwatini to South Africa through Mahamba border posts in 2020, South Africa imported about R666 million worth of goods whereas in 2021, South Africa's imports registered about R679 million which is a slight increase of 2% (Table 13 below).

**Table 13: Trade values of the RSA/eSwatini Mahamba border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2019	2020	Year -to-Year	2019	2020	Year -to-Year
Jan	76,321,412	58,602,347	-23%	41,330,460	39,467,067	-5%
Feb	64,737,011	72,230,815	12%	46,005,469	46,103,712	0%
Mar	81,653,010	125,512,938	54%	56,441,270	62,651,379	11%
Apr	51,982,153	85,421,231	64%	37,180,730	56,271,045	51%
May	79,352,340	83,760,610	6%	53,736,528	69,939,909	30%

Jun	85,986,159	75,815,091	-12%	63,032,886	64,644,156	3%
Jul	91,695,269	69,115,741	-25%	64,150,551	63,522,237	-1%
Aug	82,150,035	95,055,694	16%	68,183,155	71,938,171	6%
Sep	89,874,862	90,237,421	0%	59,457,152	61,492,541	3%
Oct	96,979,964	104,113,657	7%	60,746,884	53,795,470	-11%
Nov	107,649,821	101,634,738	-6%	68,617,632	55,030,077	-20%
Dec	84,916,834	88,415,486	4%	47,270,964	34,124,355	-28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>993,298,870</b>	<b>1,049,915,769</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>666,153,681</b>	<b>678,980,119</b>	<b>2%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

#### 2.3.2.4. Mananga border posts

Table 14 below discloses South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that were administered in Mananga border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports handled in Mananga border posts to eSwatini registered about R585 million in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R812 million resulting to a decrease of 39%.

South Africa's imports from eSwatini that passed through Mananga border posts in 2020 valued about R809 million worth of goods whereas in 2021, South Africa's imports from eSwatini listed about R798 million resulting to a slight decrease of 1% (Table 14 below).

The trade data for April 2020 during hard Covid-19 lockdown level 5 versus April 2021 when Covid-19 regulations were eased exposed the highest increase of approximately 368% from R8,8 million to R41 million of South Africa's exports to eSwatini that traversed Mananga border posts. South Africa's imports from eSwatini that transited the same border posts during the same period rose by nearly 38%.

**Table 14: Trade values of the RSA/eSwatini Mananga border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	39,294,730	36,676,640	-7%	54,554,794	59,147,665	8%
Feb	55,917,975	47,815,490	-14%	44,233,409	52,212,021	18%
Mar	42,821,253	47,628,389	11%	62,661,373	66,350,393	6%
Apr	8,764,257	40,998,094	368%	36,971,993	51,066,407	38%
May	28,945,523	59,192,913	104%	65,878,756	59,193,639	-10%
Jun	46,949,431	49,911,539	6%	77,579,338	68,367,697	-12%
Jul	66,012,987	67,838,964	3%	80,275,566	63,084,452	-21%
Aug	66,455,124	90,340,994	36%	74,562,267	86,689,635	16%
Sep	66,212,312	102,860,647	55%	77,970,674	59,209,041	-24%
Oct	58,256,915	82,197,840	41%	85,056,491	71,476,387	-16%
Nov	59,975,368	97,485,512	63%	84,148,249	85,469,071	2%
Dec	45,391,496	88,634,692	95%	64,904,477	75,952,115	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>584,997,371</b>	<b>811,581,714</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>808,797,387</b>	<b>798,218,523</b>	<b>-1%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.3.2.5. Nerston border posts

Table 15 below unveils South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Nerston/Sandlane border posts between 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports processed in Nerston border posts to eSwatini documented about R141 million in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R40 million because Nerston was among the border posts that the President of South Africa instructed to be closed as part of efforts to halt the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the border post operated for only three months from January to March, hence why the severe reduction of 72% was recorded.

Likewise, goods imported from eSwatini to South Africa through Nerston border in 2019 valued about R163 million, and in 2020, the border post operated only during the first quarter of the calendar year registering about R29 million which is a reduction of 82% (Table 15 below).

Finally, Nerston border posts has been closed for international trading since March 2020 to date.

**Table 15: Trade values of the RSA/eSwatini Nerston border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2019	2020	Year -to-Year	2019	2020	Year -to-Year
Jan	11,366,762	13,643,082	20%	11,068,441	12,840,165	16%
Feb	13,323,420	15,854,415	19%	12,317,746	10,549,486	-14%
Mar	10,779,138	10,343,601	-4%	12,169,915	5,445,668	-55%
Apr	7,898,786			10,459,713		
May	7,152,182			16,982,917		
Jun	6,324,332			16,673,725		
Jul	9,502,622			17,897,419		
Aug	11,653,030			15,500,119		
Sep	9,189,553			16,434,163		
Oct	19,941,871			13,357,516		
Nov	18,840,986			11,384,628		
Dec	14,794,003			9,002,195		
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,766,685</b>	<b>39,841,098</b>	<b>-72%</b>	<b>163,248,497</b>	<b>28,835,319</b>	<b>-82%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.3.2.6. Oshoek border posts

Table 16 below unveils South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Oshoek/Ngwenya border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports handled in Oshoek border posts to eSwatini documented about R11,2 billion in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R13,2 billion resulting to an increase of 17%.

Relating to goods imported from eSwatini to South Africa through Oshoek border posts in 2020, South Africa imported about R12,2 billion worth of goods whereas in 2021, imports registered about 13,9 billion which is a growth of 14% (Table 16 below).

**Table 16: Trade values of the RSA/eSwatini Oshoek border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	780,860,928	862,157,272	10%	888,810,050	873,982,862	-2%
Feb	859,352,149	994,654,294	16%	875,364,314	1,022,304,515	17%
Mar	1,041,333,330	1,112,777,911	7%	1,171,109,401	1,223,881,154	5%
Apr	435,575,033	1,130,324,380	160%	642,084,770	990,208,225	54%
May	758,398,345	1,146,014,444	51%	709,177,152	1,085,689,169	53%
Jun	932,360,344	992,043,551	6%	833,611,495	997,786,731	20%
Jul	1,025,823,257	872,188,925	-15%	942,122,122	1,031,811,317	10%
Aug	1,001,974,976	1,225,642,128	22%	1,131,451,671	1,357,126,461	20%
Sep	1,035,887,945	1,202,265,497	16%	1,333,648,901	1,310,364,329	-2%
Oct	1,106,129,736	1,115,040,854	1%	1,292,678,379	1,299,548,550	1%
Nov	1,147,012,701	1,371,469,480	20%	1,317,538,531	1,615,446,348	23%
Dec	1,119,811,511	1,138,055,162	2%	1,052,603,412	1,085,214,295	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,244,520,255</b>	<b>13,162,633,898</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>12,190,200,198</b>	<b>13,893,363,956</b>	<b>14%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.3.2.7. RSA's exports and imports through eSwatini commercial border posts

#### 2.3.2.7.1. South Africa's exports to eSwatini

Table 17 below unveils South Africa's total value of exports and imports that passed through six commercial border posts of eSwatini (Golela, Jeppes Reef, Mahamba, Mananga, Nerston, and Oshoek) from 2020 to 2021. South Africa's total exports handled in these 6 commercial border posts to eSwatini recorded about R19,1 billion in 2020 whereas in 2021, exports valued about R22,5 billion, resulting in an increase of 18%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to eSwatini through six commercial border posts registered about 1,9 billion pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, exports documented about 2,1 billion pieces of goods resulting to an upsurge of 14% (Table 17).

Table 17 and Figure 3 below depict that the highest decline in export values were realized from March 2020 (R1,8 billion) to April 2020 (R753 million) during the introduction of hard Covid-19 lockdown level 5 that resulted to about 5764% decrease. During the same months, volumes of South Africa's imports drastically dropped by around 51% from 196 million pieces of goods in March 2020 to 95 million pieces of goods in April 2020 due to border closures and shutdowns in some of the major economies.

On a year-on-year basis, from April 2020 to April 2021 exports increased severely by 148% from R753 million to R1,9 billion signifying international trade between countries went back familiarity. During the same period, volumes of South Africa's exports increased by about 165% from 95 million pieces of goods in April 2020 to 253 million pieces of goods in April 2021 (Table 29 below). This increase in cross-border volumes implies that cross-border freight movement immensely increased as covid-19 cross-border regulations were narrowed.

**Table 17: RSA exports (value and volume) to eSwatini**

	V A L U E S			V O L U M E S		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	1,407,984,759	1,420,223,727	1%	139,820,117	141,997,777	2%
Feb	1,510,606,116	1,620,018,460	7%	120,735,969	131,413,718	9%
Mar	1,776,901,566	1,933,833,263	9%	195,883,856	160,428,410	-18%
Apr	752,690,513	1,867,754,716	148%	95,360,240	253,004,457	165%
May	1,320,313,964	1,931,646,008	46%	130,545,880	174,793,745	34%
Jun	1,560,723,098	1,752,101,702	12%	143,468,456	171,241,730	19%
Jul	1,701,656,037	1,462,701,739	-14%	153,592,373	142,846,361	-7%
Aug	1,692,871,998	2,083,906,180	23%	161,337,642	188,379,775	17%
Sep	1,710,615,136	2,109,350,559	23%	210,583,454	224,599,754	7%
Oct	1,876,365,247	1,925,930,708	3%	176,041,269	172,843,291	-2%
Nov	1,927,901,881	2,347,051,061	22%	180,690,416	203,638,172	13%
Dec	1,865,941,073	2,025,729,830	9%	164,864,024	177,524,397	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,104,571,388</b>	<b>22,480,247,953</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>1,872,923,695</b>	<b>2,142,711,586</b>	<b>14%</b>

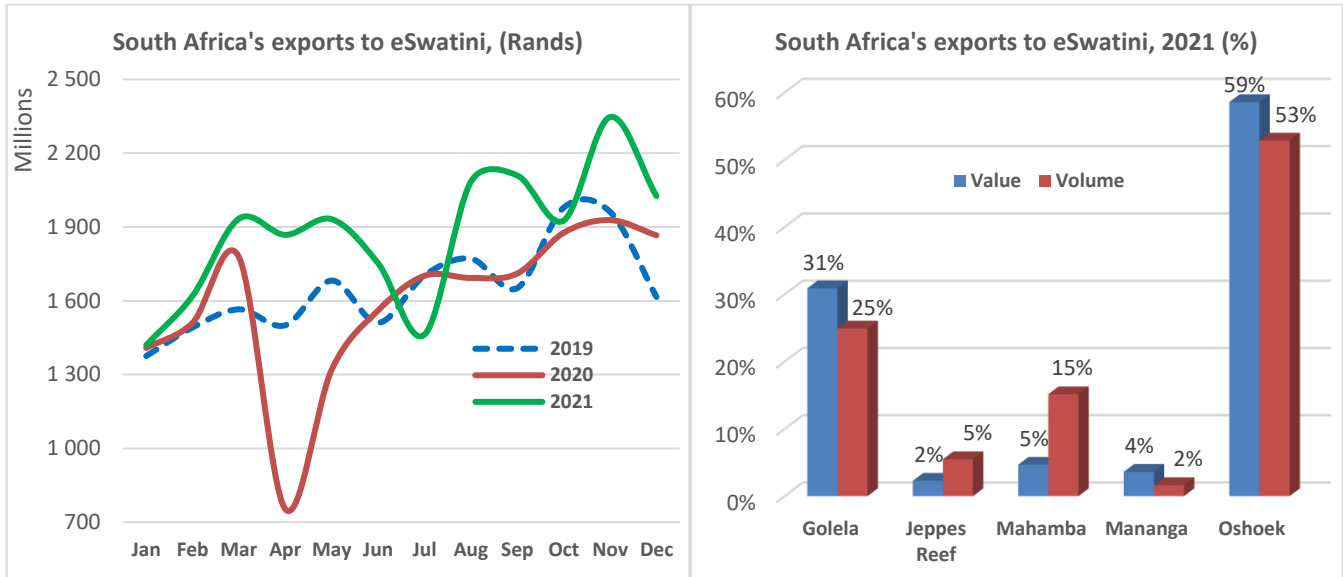
Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

In 2021, Oshoek border posts processed the highest export volumes that recorded about 53% (1,1 billion pieces of goods) of South Africa's total exports that were handled at six commercial border posts of eSwatini (2,1 billion pieces of goods). Oshoek also topped with the highest total value amounting to 59% (R13,2 billion out of R22,5 billion).

Golela border post followed with 25% of volumes of goods (534 million pieces of goods) that were cleared, and these goods valued about 31% (R6,9 billion) as shown in Figure 3 and Table 18 below.

Mahamba border posts registered the third South African exporting passage by processing volumes of goods equaling to 15% (324 million pieces of goods) that valued about 5% (R1,0 billion) of South Africa's total exports to eSwatini in 2021. The remaining border posts administered at most 2% of volumes of goods amounting to less or equal to 11%, collectively as shown in Figure 3 and Table 18 below.

**Figure 3: South Africa's exports (value and volume) to eSwatini**



The highest volumes of South Africa's total exports that traversed through six eSwatini commercial border posts (Golela, Jeppes Reef, Mahamba, Mananga, Nerston, and Oshoek) to eSwatini in 2021 were (Table 18):

- i. Wood and articles of wood with about 422 million kilograms contributing 20%;
- ii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 417 million litres contributing 19%; and
- iii. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 272 million kilograms registering 13%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to eSwatini in 2020 through all eSwatini commercial border posts in 2020 were (Table 18):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about R2,3 billion contributing 10%; and
- ii. Wood and articles of wood valued about R1,9 billion contributing 9%.

**Table 18: RSA exports (value and volume) through commercial border posts to eSwatini, 2021**

	V O L U M E					eSwatini
	Golela	Jeppes Reef	Mahamba	Mananga	Oshoek	
CT		9			400	409
KG	287,800,764	82,675,864	321,966,483	29,883,948	979,988,085	1,702,315,144
LI	240,151,608	171,239	1,843,447	2,892,628	53,294,532	298,353,454
MC	76,909	7,675	6,830	35,947	82,230,840	82,358,200
ME					1,843	1,843
NO	4,459,357	2,592,170	500,966	2,074,499	14,218,537	23,845,529
NULL	0					0
PR	373,082	1,198,624	30,393	27,187	1,311,334	2,940,620
SM	837,546	30,702,495	119,708	6,276	1,230,361	32,896,386
<b>Exports</b>	<b>533,699,266</b>	<b>117,348,077</b>	<b>324,467,827</b>	<b>34,920,485</b>	<b>1,132,275,931</b>	<b>2,142,711,586</b>
	V A L U E (Rands)					
CT		155			2,650	2,805



KG	4,104,962,036	282,481,380	843,264,053	594,215,476	9,233,293,467	15,058,216,412
LI	1,928,429,397	4,402,045	20,885,559	14,480,198	581,011,009	2,549,208,208
MC	8,166,607	3,476,739	6,016,120	99,361,503	22,640,616	139,661,585
ME					73,530	73,530
NO	844,016,008	169,437,269	171,301,571	101,375,060	3,113,760,449	4,399,890,357
NULL	565,582					565,582
PR	31,725,916	51,162,250	5,726,439	1,184,748	142,107,955	231,907,308
SM	26,801,972	489,216	2,722,027	964,729	69,744,222	100,722,166
<b>Exports</b>	<b>6,944,667,518</b>	<b>511,449,054</b>	<b>1,049,915,769</b>	<b>811,581,714</b>	<b>13,162,633,898</b>	<b>22,480,247,953</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.3.2.7.2. South Africa's imports from eSwatini

Table 19 below divulges South Africa's total value and volume of imports that passed through six eSwatini commercial border posts (Golela, Jeppes Reef, Mahamba, Mananga, Nerston, and Oshoek) from 2020 to 2021. South Africa's total imports processed in these six commercial border posts from eSwatini documented about R18,4 billion in 2020 while in 2021, imports valued about R20,9 billion resulting to an increase of 14%.

South Africa's total volumes imported from eSwatini through 6 commercial border posts documented about 1,4 billion pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2020, imports registered about 1,6 billion pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 14% (Table 19 below).

Table 19 below depicts that the highest decline in import value and volume were realized in April 2020 compared to April 2019, with negative 42% and 43%, respectively. One of the main factors that affected South Africa's imports from eSwatini was restrictions and an ongoing nationwide lockdown to curb a surge in coronavirus disease.

**Table 19: RSA imports (value and volume) from eSwatini**

	V A L U E			V O L U M E		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	1,358,201,759	1,349,926,910	-1%	121,613,178	109,817,283	-10%
Feb	1,281,809,039	1,518,155,945	18%	124,182,388	105,568,771	-15%
Mar	1,813,037,129	1,807,704,202	0%	117,809,732	122,036,586	4%
Apr	808,580,298	1,522,075,526	88%	72,471,077	126,033,437	74%
May	1,049,889,510	1,675,223,709	60%	101,506,660	138,193,573	36%
Jun	1,323,848,333	1,521,213,613	15%	114,976,185	141,873,723	23%
Jul	1,475,918,295	1,590,014,316	8%	130,126,545	122,985,770	-5%
Aug	1,735,624,687	2,053,479,168	18%	126,847,680	159,953,635	26%
Sep	1,954,249,587	1,949,483,982	0%	122,669,520	141,113,853	15%
Oct	1,981,612,794	1,968,862,055	-1%	121,319,788	137,747,992	14%
Nov	2,029,976,198	2,397,481,566	18%	137,019,672	160,551,175	17%
Dec	1,566,045,064	1,582,106,075	1%	108,412,710	125,718,231	16%

<b>Total</b>	<b>18,378,792,693</b>	<b>20,935,727,067</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>1,398,955,135</b>	<b>1,591,594,028</b>	<b>14%</b>
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Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

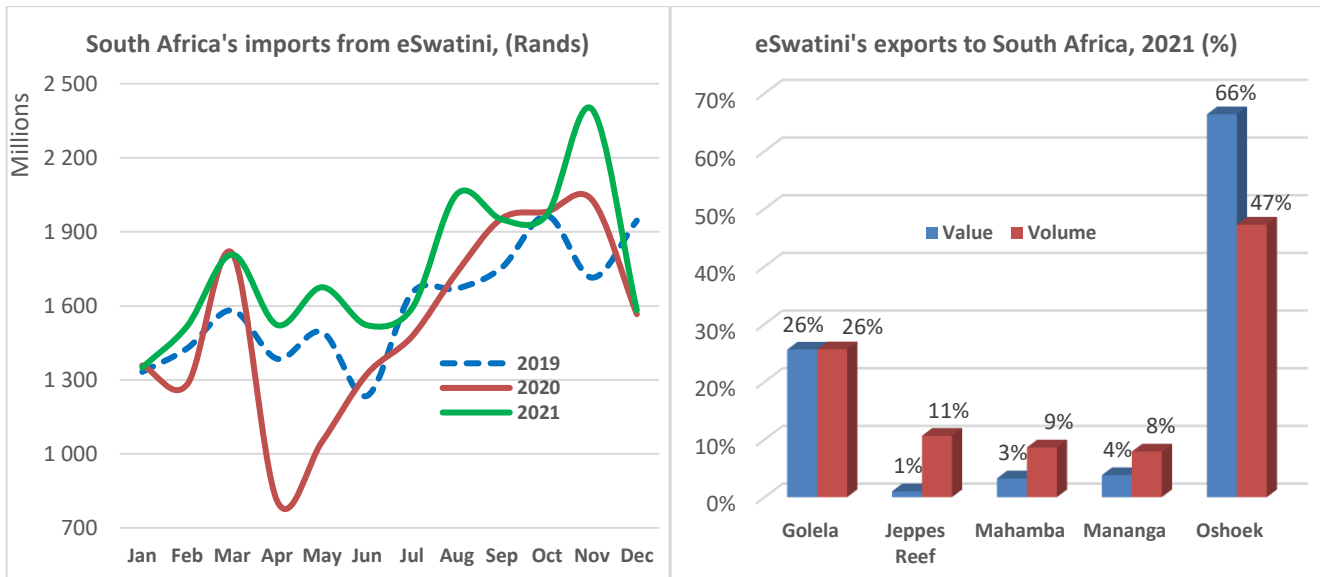
In 2020, Oshoek border posts processed the highest imports volumes that recorded about 49% of South Africa’s imports from eSwatini at a value of about R12,2 billion contributing around 66% of eSwatini’s total imports to South Africa (Figure 4 and Table 20 below).

According to Table 20, Golela border post followed seconded Oshoek with 18% of volumes of goods that were cleared, and these goods valued about 25% amounting to R4,5 billion compared to other commercial border posts in eSwatini.

The remaining border posts registered at most 12% of the volume imported by South Africa and their values are equivalent or less than 4% of eSwatini’s total exports to South Africa.

Figure 4 signified severe economic contraction in 2020 starting from April, owing to the simultaneous supply and demand shock delivered to the global economy by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown of significant Swazi economic partners such as South Africa.

**Figure 4: South Africa’s imports (value and volume) from eSwatini**



The highest volumes of South Africa’s total imports that traversed through six commercial border posts of eSwatini (Golela, Jeppes Reef, Mahamba, Mananga, Nerston, and Oshoek) in to eSwatini in 2021 were (Table 20):

- i. Wood and articles of wood with about 659 million kilograms recording 41%;
- ii. Sugars and sugar confectionery with about 410 million kilograms recording 26%; and
- iii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 183 million kilograms contributing 11%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported to eSwatini in 2020 through all eSwatini commercial border posts in 2021 were (Table 20):

- i. Cosmetics, Toiletries and Beverage Syrup with about R4,8 billion documenting 26%
- ii. Cosmetics, Toiletries and Beverage Syrup valued about R5,2 billion recording 25%; and
- iii. Sugars and sugar confectionery with about R4,7 billion recording 22%.

**Table 20: RSA imports (value and volume) through commercial border posts from eSwatini, 2021**

	V O L U M E					
	Golela	Jeppes Reef	Mahamba	Mananga	Oshoek	eSwatini
KG	361,810,008	169,250,652	134,805,020	125,687,232	731,938,674	1,523,491,586
LI	847,564		20	38,682	10,037,154	10,923,420
MC	651,946	43,127	272,107	5,005	413,644	1,385,829
NO	44,495,647	1,414	1,905,333	6,572	9,372,499	55,781,465
PR	33			1,564	6,826	8,423
SM	5	4			3,297	3,306
<b>Imports</b>	<b>407,805,203</b>	<b>169,295,198</b>	<b>136,982,480</b>	<b>125,739,054</b>	<b>751,772,093</b>	<b>1,591,594,028</b>
	V A L U E (Rands)					
KG	2,572,999,407	168,124,475	343,538,769	790,688,560	12,184,284,353	16,059,635,564
LI	5,469,690		661	225,903	83,463,886	89,160,140
MC	338,815,223	39,013,244	276,406,242	13,500	567,651,710	1,221,899,919
NO	2,438,354,482	2,370,840	59,034,447	7,217,658	1,056,236,574	3,563,214,001
PR	13,835			72,902	1,487,960	1,574,697
SM	200	3,073			239,473	242,746
<b>Imports</b>	<b>5,355,652,837</b>	<b>209,511,632</b>	<b>678,980,119</b>	<b>798,218,523</b>	<b>13,893,363,956</b>	<b>20,935,727,067</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.3.3. Conclusion

In 2020, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with eSwatini since it exported around R19,1 billion to eSwatini and imported about R18,4 billion from eSwatini equaling to trade surplus of R700 million.

In 2021, South Africa exported goods that valued about R22,5 billion to eSwatini which was R3,4 billion higher than the exports of 2020. The value of South Africa's imports from eSwatini during 2021 was nearly R20,9 billion which was higher by R2,5 million from 2020 imports (R18,4 billion). Consequently, South Africa in 2021 enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R1,6 billion, showing trade between these countries increased by R900 billion from 2020.

In 2021, the highest volumes exported from South Africa to eSwatini by type of commodity were Wood and articles of wood, Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, and Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material.

The South Africa's highest valued exports to eSwatini in 2021 were Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity and Wood and articles of wood.

In 2021, the highest volumes of goods South Africa imported from eSwatini by type of commodity were Wood and articles of wood, Sugars and sugar confectionery, and Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity.

The South Africa's highest valued imports from eSwatini were Cosmetics, Toiletries and Beverage Syrup, Cosmetics, Toiletries and Beverage Syrup, and Sugars and sugar confectionery.

On a year-on-year basis, volumes of South Africa's exports to eSwatini and South Africa's imports from eSwatini both increased immensely signifying that international trade between these countries went back to normality when Covid-19 cross-border regulations were narrowed.

## 2.5. Trade with Lesotho

### 2.5.1. Overview

The Kingdom of Lesotho, also known as the Mountain Kingdom, is a small landlocked country surrounded by South Africa. Lesotho is just over 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> (11,583 square miles) in size and has a population slightly over two million. Lesotho is classified as one of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) and has a per capita income of \$1879 and a Gini coefficient of 0.52. The current population of Lesotho is 2,204 which is equivalent to 0.03% of the total world population. Lesotho has several border posts that allow the country to link up with South Africa (RSA) as shown in Table 21 below.

**Table 21: South Africa/Lesotho commercial border posts and operating times**

South Africa	Lesotho	Opening Hours	Contact Number
Maseru Bridge	Maseru Bridge	24 hrs.	+27(0) 51 924 4300
Peka Bride	Peka Bridge	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 51 933 3951
Ficksburg Bridge	Maputsoe	24 hrs.	+27(0) 51 933 2760
Caledonspoort	Caledonspoort	06:00-22:00	+27(0) 58 223 8400
Monontsha Pass	Monontsha Pass	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 58 713 1600
Sani Pass	Sani Pass	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 33 702 1169
Ramats'eliso	Ramats'eliso	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 39 256 4443
Qacha's Nek	Qacha's Nek	06:00-10:00	+27(0) 39 256 4391
Ongeluksnek	Ongeluksnek	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 39 256 7001
Tele bridge	Tele Bridge	06:00-22:00	+27(0) 51 611 1710
Makhaleng Bridge	Makhaleng Bridge	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 51 673 1484
Sepapus Gate	Sepapus Gate	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 52 332, ask for 190
Van Rooyen's Gate	Van Rooyen's Gate	06:00-22:00	+27(0) 51 583 1525

### 2.5.2. RSA/Lesotho Commercial Border Posts

The commercial border posts that link South Africa and Lesotho are:

- Caledonspoort border posts
- Maseru Bridge border posts
- Ficksburg border posts
- Van Rooyen's Gate border post
- Qacha's Nek border posts.

#### 2.5.2.1. Caledonspoort border posts

Table 22 discloses South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Caledonspoort border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports processed in Caledonspoort border posts to Lesotho recorded about R1,9 billion in 2020 and in 2021, South Africa's exports to Lesotho that traversed Caledonspoort valued about R2,2 billion resulting to a surge of 13%.

Regarding goods imported from Lesotho to South Africa through Caledonspoort border posts in 2020, South Africa imported about R163 million worth of goods whereas in 2021, imports registered about R178 million resulting an increase of 9% (Table 22 below).

The trade data for April 2020 during the commencement of hard Covid-19 pandemic lockdown versus April 2021 showed the highest increase of approximately 401% of South Africa's exports. South Africa's imports from Lesotho during the same period drastically dropped by roughly 100% when comparing the same period. This severe growth of international trade is due to some of the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which were mainly driven by introduction of lockdown and shutdowns in some of the major economies.

**Table 22: Trade values of the RSA/Lesotho Caledonspoort border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	180,513,357	132,658,416	-27%	25,776,088	18,261,988	-29%
Feb	201,637,550	155,506,784	-23%	14,765,262	18,242,893	24%
Mar	173,318,446	207,942,493	20%	18,198,643	17,673,611	-3%
Apr	35,374,831	177,128,937	401%	47,791	12,774,085	26629%
May	79,837,875	265,674,978	233%	11,581,951	23,660,478	104%
Jun	117,430,935	198,261,636	69%	18,439,642	6,299,877	-66%
Jul	171,674,449	202,159,440	18%	16,012,695	3,173,418	-80%
Aug	191,207,437	157,239,082	-18%	4,620,936	6,809,981	47%
Sep	169,314,947	153,574,379	-9%	11,058,281	20,999,067	90%
Oct	239,257,990	152,634,260	-36%	15,605,706	15,003,479	-4%
Nov	158,723,612	200,627,102	26%	12,703,952	14,103,388	11%
Dec	212,111,853	180,292,629	-15%	13,968,517	20,749,811	49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,930,403,282</b>	<b>2,183,700,136</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>162,779,464</b>	<b>177,752,076</b>	<b>9%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.5.2.2. Ficksburg border posts

Table 23 reveals South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that traversed through Ficksburg border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports handled in Ficksburg border posts to Lesotho recorded about R3,1 billion in 2020 and in 2021, South Africa's exports valued about R4,1 billion ensuing to an increase of 33%.

Concerning South Africa's imports from Lesotho that were administered at Ficksburg border posts in 2020, South Africa imported about R2,0 billion worth of goods whereas in 2021, imports registered about R2,5 billion which is an upsurge of 26% (Table 23 below).

The trade data for April 2020 during the introduction of hard Covid-19 lockdown versus April 2021 when Covid19 regulations were lifted, international trade showed the highest acceleration of approximately

583% of South Africa's exports to Lesotho that traversed Ficksburg border posts, as well as South Africa's imports from Lesotho drastically hiked by roughly 4838% when comparing the same period.

**Table 23: Trade values of the RSA/Lesotho Ficksburg border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	228,416,769	168,029,540	-26%	148,065,145	130,253,863	-12%
Feb	261,355,508	289,739,376	11%	213,067,233	196,703,648	-8%
Mar	258,734,611	347,037,612	34%	177,018,708	233,823,547	32%
Apr	46,501,721	317,409,167	583%	3,989,769	196,997,574	4838%
May	181,476,722	297,712,066	64%	55,956,863	100,601,184	80%
Jun	250,125,965	331,232,563	32%	136,687,770	234,254,415	71%
Jul	265,947,346	280,692,056	6%	187,662,380	241,426,249	29%
Aug	268,938,833	354,293,492	32%	210,766,583	232,994,916	11%
Sep	312,127,329	377,616,699	21%	213,563,076	280,006,275	31%
Oct	341,735,149	353,470,540	3%	264,843,264	277,754,240	5%
Nov	360,348,530	447,647,320	24%	271,723,618	249,329,011	-8%
Dec	312,501,594	537,892,155	72%	133,939,155	166,702,333	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,088,210,077</b>	<b>4,102,772,586</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2,017,283,564</b>	<b>2,540,847,255</b>	<b>26%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.5.2.3. Maseru Bridge border posts

Table 24 divulges South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that crossed through Maseru bridge border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports processed in Maseru bridge border posts to Lesotho recorded about R11,1 billion in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R13,2 billion resulting to a surge of 19%.

South Africa's imports from Lesotho that were handled at Maseru bridge border posts in 2020 valued about R2,2 billion worth of goods whereas in 2021, imports recorded about R2,6 billion which is an increase of 20% (Table 24 below).

The trade data for April 2020 during the heavy Covid-19 lockdown of level 5 versus April 2021 showed the highest increase of approximately 168% of South Africa's exports to Lesotho through Maseru bridge border posts, whereas South Africa's imports from Lesotho immense growth of roughly 658% when comparing the same period.

**Table 24: Trade values of the RSA/Lesotho Maseru bridge border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S		Year -to-Year	I M P O R T S		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2020	2021	
Jan	859,987,010	725,697,857	-16%	234,292,322	188,944,265	-19%
Feb	963,677,466	921,230,266	-4%	213,010,339	185,508,565	-13%
Mar	960,815,137	1,169,315,640	22%	190,914,017	222,938,055	17%
Apr	381,092,560	1,019,724,870	168%	20,978,215	158,981,218	658%
May	792,984,239	1,052,004,375	33%	78,909,982	163,037,670	107%
Jun	875,605,898	1,022,812,010	17%	150,687,255	201,973,859	34%
Jul	960,202,157	1,095,461,334	14%	163,437,222	198,164,195	21%
Aug	965,844,646	1,108,882,145	15%	173,056,052	174,571,883	1%
Sep	1,027,653,794	1,089,912,420	6%	221,218,178	232,299,648	5%
Oct	1,078,630,410	1,219,519,068	13%	276,520,636	313,194,523	13%
Nov	1,170,190,353	1,462,746,447	25%	254,662,258	353,728,443	39%
Dec	1,086,262,062	1,301,423,215	20%	172,816,782	184,328,556	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,122,945,732</b>	<b>13,188,729,647</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>2,150,503,258</b>	<b>2,577,670,880</b>	<b>20%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

#### 2.5.2.4. Qacha's Nek border posts

Table 25 discloses South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Qacha's Nek border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports that were processed in Qacha's Nek border posts to Lesotho documented about R71,5 million in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R68 million resulting to a decline of 5%.

South Africa's imports from Lesotho that were handled at Qacha's Nek border posts in 2020 valued about R36,4 million worth of goods whereas in 2021, imports recorded about R29,7 million which is a decline of 18% (Table 25 below).

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2021 showed the highest growth of around 498% of South Africa's exports to Lesotho that traversed Qacha's Nek border posts, while South Africa's imports from Lesotho in drastically hiked to 1,1 million pieces of goods in April 2021 yet there were no imports in April 2020. The main was that South Africa the introduction of heavy Covid-19 lockdown and border closures was exporting only essential goods while Lesotho in April and September 2020 was exporting non to South Africa through Qacha's Nek border posts.

**Table 25: Trade values of the RSA/Lesotho Qacha's Nek border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S		Year -to-Year	I M P O R T S		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2020	2021	
Jan	6,791,520	3,071,224	-55%	4,933,370	2,123,608	-57%
Feb	5,214,503	4,304,659	-17%	10,124,445	227,600	-98%
Mar	4,829,702	5,814,722	20%	2,346,560	2,017,420	-14%
Apr	1,471,251	8,798,957	498%	0	1,084,540	-
May	4,852,215	5,192,093	7%	1,700,240	36,600	-98%



Jun	7,477,410	4,523,356	-40%	4,519	196,023	4238%
Jul	9,221,124	3,694,236	-60%	1,832,800	4,538,921	148%
Aug	6,027,603	7,485,958	24%	1,425,830	313,936	-78%
Sep	7,053,936	5,787,566	-18%	0	318,150	-
Oct	6,655,538	4,677,017	-30%	5,359,020	6,090,170	14%
Nov	5,780,407	6,526,449	13%	3,323,390	9,305,180	180%
Dec	6,117,312	8,082,209	32%	5,306,420	3,429,440	-35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,492,521</b>	<b>67,958,446</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>36,356,594</b>	<b>29,681,588</b>	<b>-18%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.5.2.5. Van Rooyen's Gate border posts

Table 26 discloses South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Van Rooyen's Gate border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports administered in Van Rooyen's Gate border posts to Lesotho recorded about R897 million in 2021 and in 2020, exports valued about R746 million resulting to an increase of 20%.

South Africa's imports from Lesotho that were handled at Van Rooyen's Gate border posts in 2020 valued about R55,7 million worth of goods whereas in 2021, imports recorded about R38,5 million which is a decrease of 31% (Table 26 below).

On a year-on-year basis, Table 26 below displayed that the highest increase of approximately 188% of South Africa's exports that traversed Van Rooyen's Gate border posts to Lesotho was realized in April 2020 vis-à-vis April 2021, whereas South Africa's imports from Lesotho deteriorated for 7 months in the calendar year when comparing the same period.

**Table 26: Trade values of the RSA/Lesotho Van Rooyen's Gate border posts, (Rands)**

	E X P O R T S		Year -to-Year	I M P O R T S		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2019	2020	
Jan	57,535,110	39,850,656	-31%	6,495,358	8,051,671	24%
Feb	53,644,158	63,226,758	18%	11,343,332	6,503,011	-43%
Mar	53,913,212	81,412,173	51%	15,370,375	824,993	-95%
Apr	29,028,489	83,575,372	188%	409,279	371,963	-9%
May	47,912,708	76,726,260	60%	2,047,072	2,907,896	42%
Jun	80,416,921	75,707,254	-6%	2,532,537	2,046,871	-19%
Jul	63,955,222	61,980,066	-3%	1,214,458	4,180,120	244%
Aug	58,906,525	78,239,251	33%	514,966	3,844,282	647%
Sep	64,721,843	76,439,356	18%	2,042,467	6,076,899	198%
Oct	68,698,621	81,751,072	19%	4,405,331	3,290,948	-25%
Nov	77,791,149	87,634,533	13%	7,448,072	175,595	-98%
Dec	89,082,066	90,143,083	1%	1,861,318	196,097	-89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>745,606,024</b>	<b>896,685,834</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>55,684,565</b>	<b>38,470,346</b>	<b>-31%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

## 2.5.2.6. RSA's exports and imports through Lesotho commercial border posts

### 2.5.2.6.1. South Africa's exports to Lesotho

Table 27 below discloses South Africa's total value of exports and imports that passed through five commercial border posts of Lesotho (Caledonspoort, Ficksburg, Maseru bridge, Qacha's Nek, and Van Rooyen's Gate) from 2020 to 2021. South Africa's total exports processed in these 5 commercial border posts to Lesotho documented about R17 billion in 2020 while in 2021, exports valued about R20,4 billion resulting to a surge of 21%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Lesotho through five commercial border posts documented nearly 1,5 billion pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, exports documented about 1,6 billion pieces of goods resulting to an increase of 4% (Table 27).

Table 27 and Figure 5 below depict that the highest decline in export values were realized from March 2020 (R1,5 billion) to April 2020 (R493 million) during the introduction of hard Covid-19 lockdown level 5 that resulted to about 2000% decrease. During the same months, volumes of South Africa's exports drastically dropped by around 1340% from 120 million pieces of goods in March 2020 to 51 million pieces of goods in April 2020 due to border closures and shutdowns in some of the major economies.

On a year-on-year basis, from April 2020 to April 2021 exports increased severely by 226% from R493 million to 1,6 billion signifying international trade between countries went back normality. During the same period, volumes of South Africa's exports drastically upsurged by around 148% from 51 million pieces of goods in April 2020 to 127 million pieces of goods in April 2021 (Table 27). This increase in cross-border volumes implies that cross-border freight movement vastly increased as covid-19 cross-border regulations were lessened.

**Table 27: RSA exports (value and volume) to Lesotho**

	V A L U E S			V O L U M E S		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	1,333,243,766	1,069,307,693	-20%	114,836,931	97,346,912	-15%
Feb	1,485,529,185	1,434,007,843	-3%	106,489,365	114,500,110	8%
Mar	1,451,611,108	1,811,522,640	25%	120,305,945	137,984,526	15%
Apr	493,468,852	1,606,637,303	226%	51,444,336	127,376,210	148%
May	1,107,063,759	1,697,309,772	53%	206,302,249	189,230,450	-8%
Jun	1,331,057,129	1,632,536,819	23%	129,915,791	122,777,580	-5%
Jul	1,471,000,298	1,643,987,132	12%	124,053,564	121,768,050	-2%
Aug	1,490,925,044	1,706,139,928	14%	127,512,498	131,777,022	3%
Sep	1,580,871,849	1,703,330,420	8%	132,826,637	129,140,674	-3%
Oct	1,734,977,708	1,812,051,957	4%	132,656,173	133,237,981	0%
Nov	1,772,834,051	2,205,181,851	24%	135,379,756	146,751,071	8%

Dec	1,706,074,887	2,117,833,291	24%	139,480,655	136,021,322	-2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,958,657,636</b>	<b>20,439,846,649</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>1,521,203,900</b>	<b>1,587,911,907</b>	<b>4%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

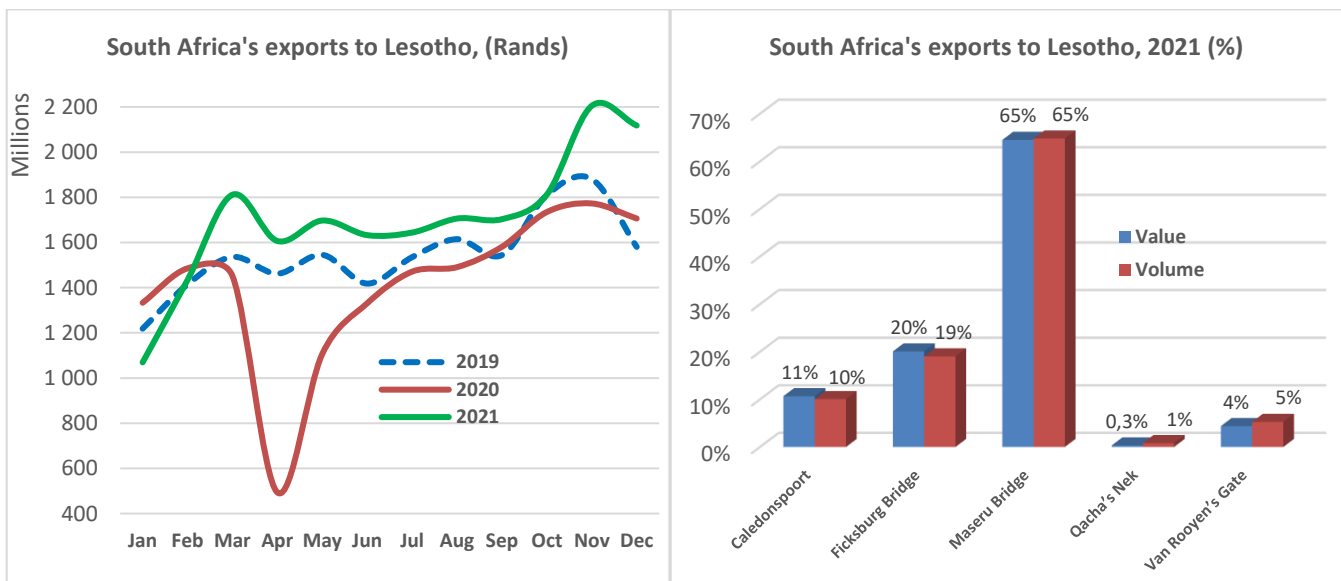
In 2021, Maseru bridge border posts processed the highest South Africa's export volumes that constituted about 65% (1,0 billion pieces of goods) of South Africa's total exports to Lesotho (Figure 5 and Table 28 below). Maseru bridge border posts also recorded the highest value amounting to 65% (R13,2 billion) out of R20,4 billion of South Africa's exports to Lesotho.

Ficksburg border post followed with 19% of volumes of goods (302 million pieces of goods) that were cleared, and these goods valued about R4,1 billion amounting to 20% of South Africa's total exports to Lesotho in 2021 (Figure 5).

Caledonspoort border post registered the third South African exporting passage by processing volumes of goods equaling to 10% of South Africa's total exports to Lesotho in 2021. The total value of goods that were administered in Caledonspoort during the same year was approximately R1,9 billion scoring 11%.

The last two border posts processed the smallest volumes of South Africa's exports that varied between 1% and 5% with value that did not exceed 6% (Figure 5 below). From March 2020 to April 2020 South Africa's exports to Lesotho deteriorated due to the introduction of global COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

**Figure 5: South Africa's exports (value and volume) to Lesotho**



The highest volumes of South Africa's exports to Lesotho that traversed all commercial border posts of Lesotho in 2021 were (Table 28 below):

- i. Dairy produce with about 1 billion kilograms registering 33%;

- ii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 1,2 billion litres contributing 13%; and
- iii. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 1,0 billion kilograms registering 12%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Lesotho through all Lesotho commercial border posts in 2021 were (Table 28 below):

- i. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with R13,3 billion registering around 14%;
- ii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about R11,5 billion recording 12%; and
- iii. Vehicles and accessories with about R9,8 billion registering 10%.

**Table 28: RSA exports (value and volume) through commercial border posts to Lesotho, 2021**

	<b>V O L U M E</b>					
	<b>Caledonspoort</b>	<b>Ficksburg Bridge</b>	<b>Maseru Bridge</b>	<b>Qacha's Nek</b>	<b>Van Rooyen's Gate</b>	<b>Lesotho</b>
KG	94,834,184	291,255,376	663,611,585	12,679,883	78,905,303	1,141,286,331
LI	63,521,441	7,388,366	282,289,403	282,939	2,872,902	356,355,051
MC	152,312	317,911	1,241,696	475	106,778	1,819,172
ME	40		111			151
NO	1,068,972	2,471,517	77,572,647	12,440	1,361,902	82,487,478
NULL	0					0
PR	123,202	593,654	2,716,426	36,100	441,146	3,910,528
SM	122,694	228,446	1,666,786	1,247	34,022	2,053,196
<b>Exports</b>	<b>159,822,845</b>	<b>302,255,271</b>	<b>1,029,098,654</b>	<b>13,013,084</b>	<b>83,722,053</b>	<b>1,587,911,907</b>
	<b>V A L U E (Rands)</b>					
KG	1,133,574,064	3,499,288,961	8,361,043,767	51,043,533	692,264,953	13,737,215,278
LI	532,757,928	84,789,653	2,456,026,517	2,263,333	19,253,086	3,095,090,517
MC	29,865,626	17,901,598	64,376,205	217,921	9,432,719	121,794,069
ME	5,565		15,053			20,618
NO	469,612,035	446,057,966	2,039,550,484	11,996,733	145,149,563	3,112,366,781
NULL	56,594					56,594
PR	12,098,222	43,552,540	219,867,439	2,073,167	29,266,751	306,858,119
SM	5,730,102	11,181,868	47,850,182	363,759	1,318,762	66,444,673
<b>Exports</b>	<b>2,183,700,136</b>	<b>4,102,772,586</b>	<b>13,188,729,647</b>	<b>67,958,446</b>	<b>896,685,834</b>	<b>20,439,846,649</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

#### 2.5.2.6.2. South Africa's imports from Lesotho

Table 29 below discloses South Africa's total value and volume of imports that passed through five commercial border posts of Lesotho (Caledonspoort, Ficksburg, Maseru bridge, Qacha's Nek, and Van Rooyen's Gate) from 2020 to 2021. South Africa's total imports processed in these 5 commercial border posts from Lesotho documented about R4,4 billion in 2020 while in 2021, imports valued nearly R5,3 billion resulting to an increase of 22%.

South Africa's total volumes imported from Lesotho through five commercial border posts documented about 177,2 million pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, imports registered about 177,3 million pieces of goods recording a slide growth of 0.03%. (Table 29 below).

Table 29 and Figure 6 below depict that the highest decline in import values were realized from March 2020 (R402 million) to April 2020 (R25,4 million) during the introduction of hard Covid-19 lockdown level 5 that resulted to about 1500% decrease. During the same months, volumes of South Africa's imports drastically dropped by around 187% from 15 million pieces of goods in March 2020 to 5,2 million pieces of goods in April 2020 due to border closures and shutdowns in some of the major economies.

On a year-on-year basis, from April 2020 to April 2021 exports increased severely by 1352% from R25,4 million to R369 million signifying international trade between countries went back familiarity. During the same period, volumes of South Africa's exports increased by about 158% from 5,2 million pieces of goods in April 2020 to 13,5 million pieces of goods in April 2021 (Table 29 below). This increase in cross-border volumes implies that cross-border freight movement immensely increased as covid-19 cross-border regulations were narrowed.

**Table 29: RSA imports (value and volume) from Lesotho**

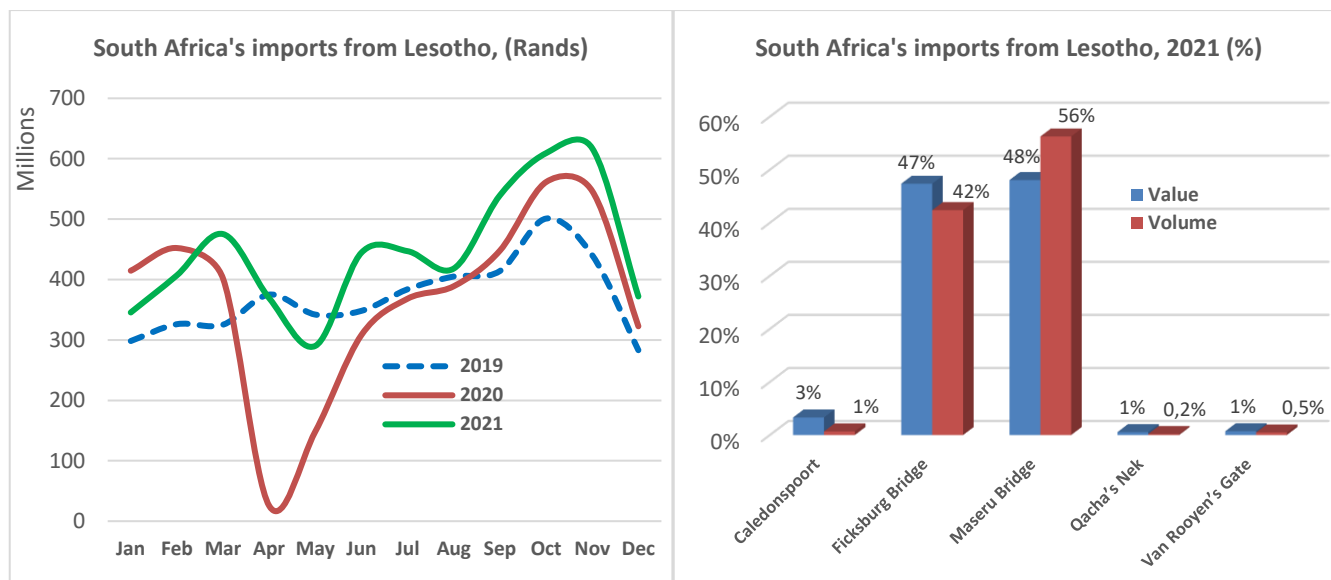
	V A L U E		Year	V O L U M E		Year
	2020	2021	-to-Year	2020	2021	-to-Year
Jan	414,628,913	345,511,787	-17%	15,056,229	11,742,901	-22%
Feb	452,186,166	406,958,117	-10%	15,772,700	13,872,218	-12%
Mar	401,501,743	475,260,206	18%	14,973,971	15,731,353	5%
Apr	25,425,054	369,124,840	1352%	5,225,824	13,482,574	158%
May	148,495,868	290,207,228	95%	11,048,405	11,143,549	1%
Jun	308,347,204	444,575,022	44%	14,084,611	15,628,411	11%
Jul	368,326,755	446,943,982	21%	15,677,717	15,576,445	-1%
Aug	388,958,537	418,221,062	8%	16,885,879	14,991,611	-11%
Sep	447,882,002	539,381,889	20%	16,738,671	15,142,871	-10%
Oct	561,374,937	609,243,190	9%	19,134,237	16,377,730	-14%
Nov	546,537,900	617,336,437	13%	19,033,439	18,781,249	-1%
Dec	322,585,772	371,976,797	15%	13,583,062	14,790,635	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,386,250,851</b>	<b>5,334,740,557</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>177,214,744</b>	<b>177,261,546</b>	<b>0.03%</b>

Figure 6 below depicts that Maseru Bridge border posts in 2021 processed the highest imports volumes that recorded about 99,7 million pieces of goods (56%) of South Africa's total imports from Lesotho (177,3 million of pieces of goods). These highest volumes of goods processed at Maseru Bridge border posts valued about R2,2, billion recording the highest with 48% of South Africa's total imports from Lesotho (R5,4 billion) as shown in Table 30 below.

Ficksburg border posts followed Maseru Bridge by processing 42% of volumes of goods South Africa imported from Lesotho (Figure 6 below). These volumes of goods valued about 47% (R2,5 billion) of South Africa's total imports from Lesotho (R5,4 billion) as shown in Table 30 below.

The remaining border posts shared 2% of volumes imported by South Africa from Lesotho with the import value that does not exceed 5% (R2,5 billion) of South Africa's total imports from Lesotho while the biggest border posts (Maseru bridge and Ficksburg) processed about 95% of the imports value from Lesotho to South Africa (Figure 6 below).

**Figure 6: South Africa's imports (value and volume) from Lesotho**



The highest volumes of South Africa's imports from Lesotho that traversed all commercial border posts of Lesotho in 2021 were (Table 30 below):

- i. Clothing and accessories, not knitted/knitted or crocheted with about 35,7 million items contributing 20%;
- ii. Wheat, malt and other milled grains with about 31,4 million kilograms registering 18%;
- iii. Residues and waste from the food industries with about 20,4 million kilograms contributing 12%; and
- iv. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 19,7 million kilograms recording 11%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Lesotho in 2021 through all Lesotho commercial border posts were (Table 30):

- i. Clothing and accessories, not knitted/knitted or crocheted with about R2,2 billion contributing 41%;
- ii. Wool, fine or coarse animal hair with about R725 million registering 14%; and

- iii. Cell phones, Electrical Equipment and Machinery with approximately R670 million registering 12%.

**Table 30: RSA imports (value and volume) through commercial border posts from Lesotho, 2021**

	V O L U M E					
	Caledonspoort	Ficksburg Bridge	Maseru Bridge	Qacha's Nek	Van Rooyen's Gate	Lesotho
KG	1,195,689	42,465,903	94,370,253	329,744	860,884	139,222,473
LI	1,391	18,099	91,634	2,000		113,124
MC		60	49		845	955
NO	4,125	29,762,464	5,270,299	2,785	830	35,040,503
PR	22	2,490,659	143		4	2,490,828
SM		390,941	2,721	2		393,664
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,201,227</b>	<b>75,128,127</b>	<b>99,735,099</b>	<b>334,531</b>	<b>862,563</b>	<b>177,261,546</b>
V A L U E (Rands)						
KG	56,291,893	859,282,496	1,924,985,442	27,217,288	37,507,919	2,905,285,038
LI	4,959	10,909	1,200,723	500		1,217,091
MC		37,784	19,161		34,320	91,265
NO	121,452,694	1,584,601,079	651,329,776	2,463,550	927,947	2,360,775,046
PR	2,530	96,221,943	60,768		160	96,285,401
SM		693,044	75,010	250		768,304
<b>Imports</b>	<b>177,752,076</b>	<b>2,540,847,255</b>	<b>2,577,670,880</b>	<b>29,681,588</b>	<b>38,470,346</b>	<b>5,364,422,145</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.5.3. Conclusion

In 2020, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with Lesotho since it exported around R17 billion and imported about R4,4 billion resulting to trade surplus of R12,6 billion.

In 2021, South Africa's exports to Lesotho valued about R20,4 billion which was 21% higher than the exports of 2020 and South Africa's imports from Lesotho in 2021 increased to 22% by registering R5,3 billion from R4,4 billion in 2020. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R15,1 billion in 2021 and compared to R12,6 billion trade surplus of 2020 South Africa increased its economy by R2,5 billion from 2020 to 2021.

In 2021, the highest volumes exported from South Africa to Lesotho by type of commodity were Dairy products, Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, and Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material. The highest valued exports to Lesotho were Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances, Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, and Vehicles and accessories.

In 2021, the highest volumes imported from Lesotho by type of commodity were Clothing and accessories, not knitted/knitted or crocheted, Wheat, malt and other milled grains, Residues and waste from the food industries, and Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material. The highest valued imports from Lesotho were Clothing and accessories, not knitted/knitted or crocheted, Wool, fine or coarse animal hair, and Cell phones, Electrical Equipment and Machinery.

On a year-on-year basis, volumes of South Africa's exports to Lesotho and South Africa's imports from Lesotho both increased immensely signifying that international trade between these countries went back to normality when Covid-19 cross-border regulations were narrowed.



## 2.7. Trade with Mozambique

### 2.7.1. Overview

The Republic of Mozambique is a country in Southeast Africa bordered by the Indian Ocean to the East, Tanzania to the North, Malawi and Zambia to the Northwest, Zimbabwe to the West, eSwatini and South Africa to the Southwest and shares border posts with all these countries. Mozambique is divided into three development corridors that link ports to inland countries: Maputo corridor (south), Beira corridor (centre) and Nacala Corridor (north). These corridors include multiple transport logistic subsector and industrial developments. There are four official border crossings, three in the northern segment and one in the southern segment (Table 31 below).

**Table 31: South Africa/Mozambique border posts and operating times**

South Africa	Mozambique	Operating Hours
Pafuri	Pafuri	08h00 – 16h00
Giriyondo	Giriyondo	08h00 – 16h00 Only open for 4x4 vehicles, not open to commercial traffic.
Lebombo	Ressano Garcia	06h00 – 24h00 (Passenger) 06h00 -22h00 (Commercial)
Kosi Bay	Ponta do Ouro	08h00 – 17h00

The main crossing is at the Ressano Garcia/Lebombo border post, where the Maputo Corridor highway and railway cross the border. The main road on the South African side is the N4, a two- to four-lane national toll road. In Mozambique the N4 becomes the EN4 and leads to Maputo. The EN4 is connected to the Port of Maputo by a special access road. The entire network is built to carry the 56-ton trucks that are used for heavy international freight and is a fast, safe and efficient road to the international ports of Maputo and Matola for commercial operators.

### 2.7.2. Lebombo border posts

#### 2.7.2.1. South Africa's exports to Mozambique

Table 32 below discloses South Africa's total exports in monetary terms and quantities, that passed through Lebombo border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports administered in Lebombo border posts to Mozambique recorded about R54 billion in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R73 billion resulting to an increase of 36%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Mozambique through Lebombo border posts documented nearly 14 billion pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, exports documented about 18 billion pieces of goods resulting to an upsurge of 32% (Table 32).

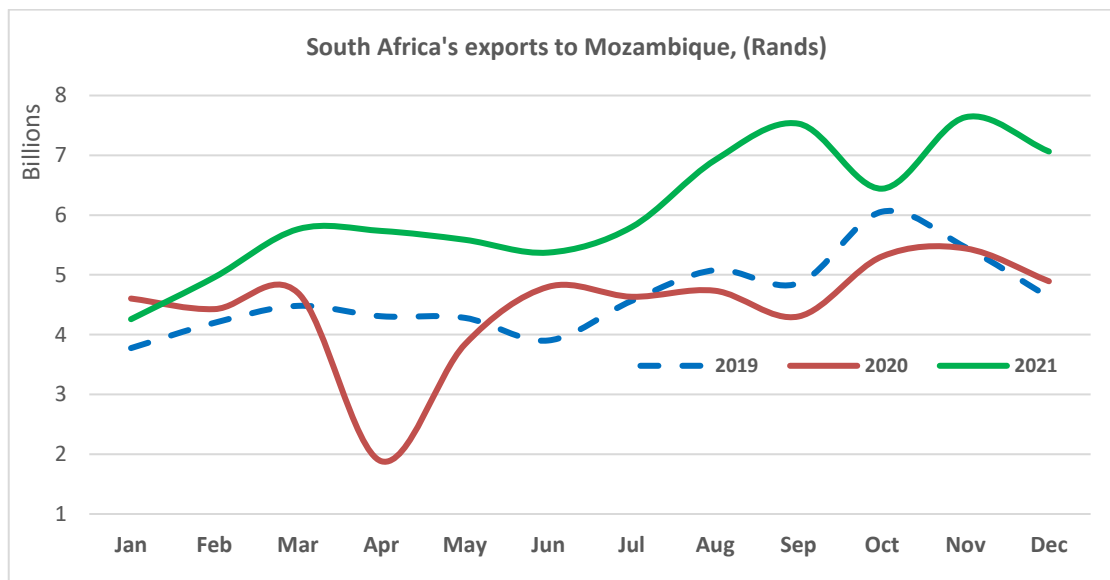
**Table 32: RSA exports (value and volume) to Mozambique**

	V A L U E S			V O L U M E S		Year-to-Year
	2020	2021	Year-to-Year	2020	2021	
Jan	4,603,551,824	4,258,283,277	-8%	1,516,217,043	1,140,162,878	-25%
Feb	4,426,718,609	4,959,975,358	12%	1,242,268,140	1,239,613,257	0%
Mar	4,699,166,658	5,763,572,553	23%	1,077,147,879	1,327,280,518	23%
Apr	1,882,598,226	5,734,829,268	205%	330,536,000	1,446,984,790	338%
May	3,835,971,001	5,586,466,402	46%	910,885,485	1,504,379,527	65%
Jun	4,799,201,092	5,372,501,550	12%	1,252,010,235	1,371,342,979	10%
Jul	4,633,585,020	5,799,370,473	25%	1,102,966,145	1,602,482,669	45%
Aug	4,733,780,141	6,920,752,320	46%	1,145,572,501	1,779,767,168	55%
Sep	4,303,786,575	7,528,305,403	75%	985,729,735	1,882,086,781	91%
Oct	5,307,414,136	6,441,522,094	21%	1,334,598,667	1,495,927,754	12%
Nov	5,441,538,957	7,636,794,134	40%	1,335,531,511	1,551,138,675	16%
Dec	4,892,789,011	7,062,936,002	44%	1,370,761,703	1,575,752,679	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,560,101,250</b>	<b>73,065,308,834</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>13,604,225,043</b>	<b>17,916,919,676</b>	<b>32%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The trade data for April 2020 with about R1,9 billion during the introduction of Covid-19 lockdown versus April 2021 with approximately R5,7 billion worth of goods in Table 32 above and Figure 7 below displayed the highest rise of approximately 205% of South Africa's exports to Mozambique.

**Figure 7: South Africa's exports to Mozambique**



The highest volumes of South Africa's exports to Mozambique that traversed Lebombo border posts in 2021 were (Table 33 below):

- i. Ores with about 12,8 billion kilograms registering 72%.
- ii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 2,0 billion kilograms contributing 11%; and
- iii. Iron and Steel with about 1,6 billion kilograms recording 9%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Mozambique in 2020 through Lebombo border posts in 2021 were (Table 33 below):

- i. Ores with about R26,7 billion registering 37%; and
- ii. Iron and Steel with about R22,5 billion recording 31%.

**Table 33: RSA exports (value and volume) to Mozambique, 2021**

	Value	Volume
KG	68,058,645,367	17,862,914,735
LI	476,682,855	33,554,703
MC	162,912,310	1,418,720
ME	127,434	1
NO	4,192,639,906	17,137,939
PR	84,918,373	581,142
SM	89,382,589	1,312,438
<b>Exports</b>	<b>73,065,308,834</b>	<b>17,916,919,676</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.7.2.2. South Africa's imports from Mozambique

Table 35 below discloses South Africa's total value and volume of imports that passed through Lebombo border posts from 2020 to 2021. South Africa's total imports processed in these Lebombo border posts from Mozambique documented about R4,1 billion in 2020 while in 2021, imports valued nearly R5,1 billion resulting to a hike of 25%.

South Africa's total volumes imported from Mozambique through Lebombo border posts documented nearly 568 million pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, imports documented about 733 million pieces of goods resulting to a surge of 29% (Table 35).

**Table 35: RSA imports (value and volume) from Mozambique**

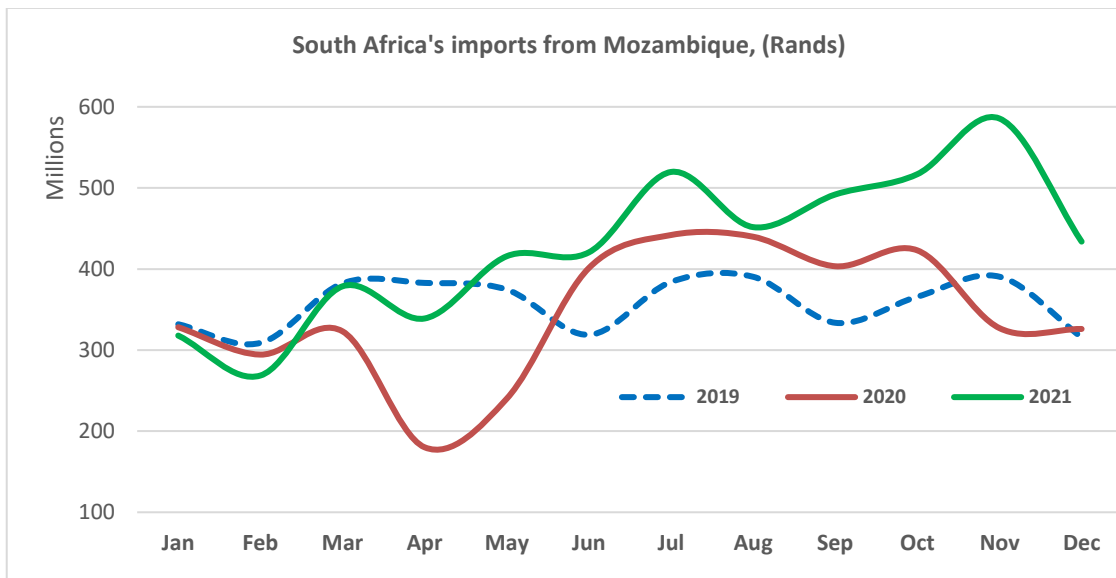
	V A L U E			V O L U M E		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	328,206,961	317,913,397	-3%	51,619,112	38,552,920	-25%
Feb	294,439,839	268,630,985	-9%	46,595,936	39,782,703	-15%
Mar	323,162,540	378,640,538	17%	47,717,767	48,491,277	2%
Apr	180,145,996	338,975,125	88%	26,909,067	54,577,268	103%
May	240,067,159	415,755,256	73%	32,681,996	59,562,068	82%

Jun	401,146,734	420,531,306	5%	49,301,084	65,820,836	34%
Jul	441,917,708	519,675,619	18%	58,727,719	82,833,564	41%
Aug	439,795,883	451,648,863	3%	64,055,876	69,548,430	9%
Sep	403,376,399	491,908,187	22%	53,351,034	69,175,156	30%
Oct	422,958,571	516,956,651	22%	51,466,276	77,293,900	50%
Nov	327,080,753	585,563,474	79%	43,393,495	73,079,664	68%
Dec	326,037,283	433,797,466	33%	42,608,565	54,712,037	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,128,335,826</b>	<b>5,139,996,867</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>568,427,925</b>	<b>733,429,821</b>	<b>29%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Table 35 above and Figure 6 below exemplify that the highest increase of 88% in imports from Mozambique were realized in April 2021 compared to April 2020 during the hard Covid-19 lockdown and shutdowns.

**Figure 8: South Africa's imports (value and volume) from Mozambique**



The highest volumes of South Africa's imports from Mozambique that traversed Lebombo border posts in 2021 were (Table 36 below):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 343 million litres registering 47%;
- ii. Residues and waste from the food industries with about 108 million kilograms contributing 15%; and
- iii. Fruit and nuts with about 91 million kilograms recording 12%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Mozambique in 2021 through Lebombo border posts were (Table 36):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about R2,7 billion liters registering 52%;
- ii. Prepared feathers with about R625 million registering 12%; and
- iii. Fruit and nuts with about R420 million contributing 8%.

**Table 36: RSA imports (value and volume) from Mozambique, 2021**

	Value	Volume
KG	2,175,959,889	389,319,509
LI	2,719,694,657	343,778,706
MC	3,745,975	2,204
NO	237,245,176	302,727
PR	3,328,785	26,368
SM	22,385	308
<b>Imports</b>	<b>5,139,996,867</b>	<b>733,429,821</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.7.3. Conclusion

In 2020, trading between South Africa and Mozambique favoured South Africa with R49,5 billion of trade surplus because it exported goods worth R53,6 billion to Mozambique and imported about R4,1 billion.

South Africa's exports to Mozambique valued about R73,1 billion in which was R19,5 billion higher than the exports of 2020 and South Africa's imports in 2021 declined to 24% by registering R5,1 billion from R4,1 billion in 2020. Consequently, South Africa in 2021 enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R68 billion and it experienced an upsurge of 37% compared to trade surplus of 2020.

The highest volumes exported in 2021 from South Africa to Mozambique by type of commodity were Ores, Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, and Iron and Steel. The highest valued exports to Mozambique were Ores, and Iron and Steel.

In 2021, the highest volumes imported from Mozambique by type of commodity were Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, Residues and waste from the food industries, and Fruit and nuts. The highest valued imports from Mozambique were Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity, Prepared feathers, and Fruit and nuts.

On a year-on-year basis, volumes of South Africa's exports to Mozambique and South Africa's imports from Mozambique both increased immensely signifying that international trade between these countries went back to normality when Covid-19 cross-border regulations were narrowed.

## 2.9. Trade with Namibia

### 2.9.1. Overview

The Republic of Namibia is in the south-western coast of Africa. It is bordered by Angola to the north, Zambia to the northeast, Botswana to the east, South Africa to the southeast and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Although it does not border Zimbabwe, less than 200 meters of the Zambezi River separate the two countries.

Namibia has a population of about 2.5 million inhabitants and an area of 824 292 km<sup>2</sup> making it the 34th largest nation in the world. Namibia's link to South Africa is through 6 border posts as shown in Table 37 below.

**Table 37: South Africa/Namibia border posts and operating times**

South Africa	Namibia	Opening Hours	Contact Number
Alexander Bay	Oranjemund	06:00 - 22:00	+27(0) 831 1662
Sendelingsdrift	Sendelingsdrift	8:00 - 17:00	+27(0) 831 2203
Violsdrift	Noordoewer	24 hours	+27(0) 761 8760
Onseepkans	Vellorsdrift	08:00-17:00	+27(0) 549 51 0014
Nakop	Ariamsvlei	24 hours	+27(0) 54571 0008
Rietfontein	Klein Menasse	08:00-16:30	+27(0) 54531 0084

The road users' fee is R220 for a normal car with an additional amount of R140 for a trailer or a camper. Payment is accepted in either South African Rands, Namibian dollars or a credit card.

### 2.9.2. Violsdrift Border Posts

#### 2.9.2.1. South Africa's exports to Namibia

Table 38 below unveils South Africa's total exports in monetary terms and quantities of goods, that passed through Violsdrift border posts between 2020 and 2021. South Africa's total exports administered in Violsdrift border posts to Namibia recorded about R9,7 billion in 2020 and in 2020, exports valued about R10,5 billion resulting to an increase of 9%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Namibia through Violsdrift border posts documented nearly 378 million pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, exports documented about 393 million pieces of goods resulting to a hike of 4% (Table 38).

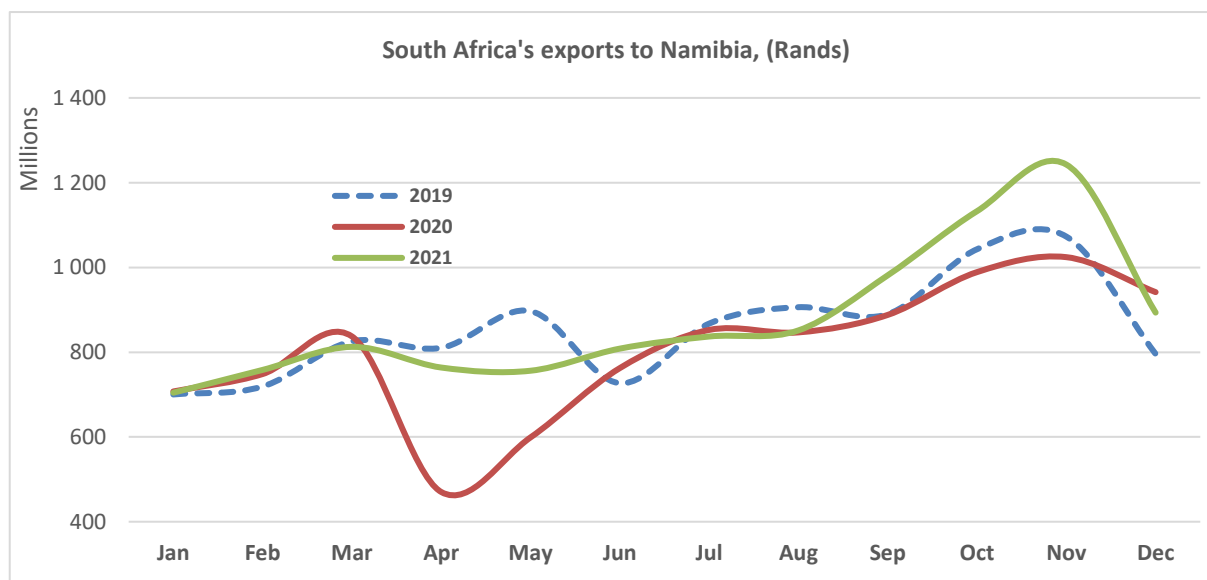
**Table 38: RSA exports (value and volume) to Namibia**

	V A L U E		Month -to- Month	V O L U M E		Month -to- Month
	2020	2021		2020	2021	
Jan	707,369,184	704,415,437	0%	31,007,577	29,480,549	-5%
Feb	748,467,745	758,199,920	1%	32,375,565	28,520,369	-12%
Mar	837,284,021	812,579,008	-3%	34,399,358	30,670,444	-11%
Apr	470,226,684	763,846,217	62%	23,175,378	27,836,020	20%
May	598,918,826	756,252,999	26%	25,171,239	30,422,551	21%
Jun	762,417,313	808,452,096	6%	27,615,046	31,949,356	16%
Jul	852,572,083	836,978,833	-2%	29,571,678	31,803,714	8%
Aug	846,687,731	851,399,691	1%	29,698,681	37,964,839	28%
Sep	887,963,652	981,334,199	11%	29,646,490	31,570,039	6%
Oct	988,986,533	1,132,754,936	15%	40,601,228	36,736,960	-10%
Nov	1,024,267,454	1,242,737,918	21%	36,895,655	43,781,517	19%
Dec	941,725,960	893,441,372	-5%	37,480,744	32,429,557	-13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,666,887,186</b>	<b>10,542,392,626</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>377,638,638</b>	<b>393,165,915</b>	<b>4%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 in Table 38 above and Figure 9 below displayed the highest decline of approximately 42% of South Africa's exports to Namibia, whereas on a Year-to-Year basis exports dropped by 44% from March (R837 million) to April (R470 million) in 2020. From April 2020 during Covid-19 lockdown to April 2021, South Africa's total exports registered an increase of 62% to R764 million.

**Figure 9: South Africa's exports to Namibia**



The highest volumes of South Africa's exports to Namibia that traversed Violsdrift border posts in 2021 were (Table 39 below):

- i. Fruit Juices and Prepared vegetables, fruits and nuts with 47 million kilograms (KG) making 12%
- ii. Beverages, spirits, and vinegar; and Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers each recording 9% with about 35 million litres (LI), and 34 million kilograms (KG), respectively; and
- iii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with 47 million kilograms (KG) recording 8%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Namibia in 2021 through Vioolsdrift border posts were (Table 39 below):

- i. Beverages, spirits and vinegar with about R809 million contributing 8%;
- ii. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with R858 million registering 8%; and
- iii. Plastics and articles thereof with about R608 million registering 6%.

**Table 39: RSA exports (value and volume) to Namibia, 2021**

	Value	Volume
CT	608,696	63
KG	7,644,918,091	323,257,860
LI	928,862,482	50,416,423
MC	12,208,112	18,025
NO	1,788,170,206	13,771,516
PR	111,744,986	1,452,297
SM	55,880,053	4,249,730
<b>Exports</b>	<b>10,542,392,626</b>	<b>393,165,915</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.9.2.2. South Africa's imports from Namibia

Table 40 below discloses South Africa's total value and volume of imports that passed through Vioolsdrift border posts from 2020 to 2021. South Africa's total imports processed in this Vioolsdrift border post from Namibia documented about R1,4 billion in 2020 while in 2021, imports valued nearly R1,6 billion resulting to an upsurge of 19%.

South Africa's total volumes imported from Namibia through Vioolsdrift border post documented nearly 148 million pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2020, imports documented about 168 million pieces of goods resulting to an increase of 13% (Table 40).

**Table 40: RSA imports (value and volume) from Namibia**

	V A L U E			V O L U M E		
	2020	2021	Year -to-Year	2020	2021	Year -to-Year
Jan	112,451,719	108,591,907	-3%	9,885,680	11,793,345	19%
Feb	101,123,549	110,101,919	9%	9,910,981	12,228,590	23%
Mar	122,307,049	129,140,261	6%	10,402,291	13,359,183	28%

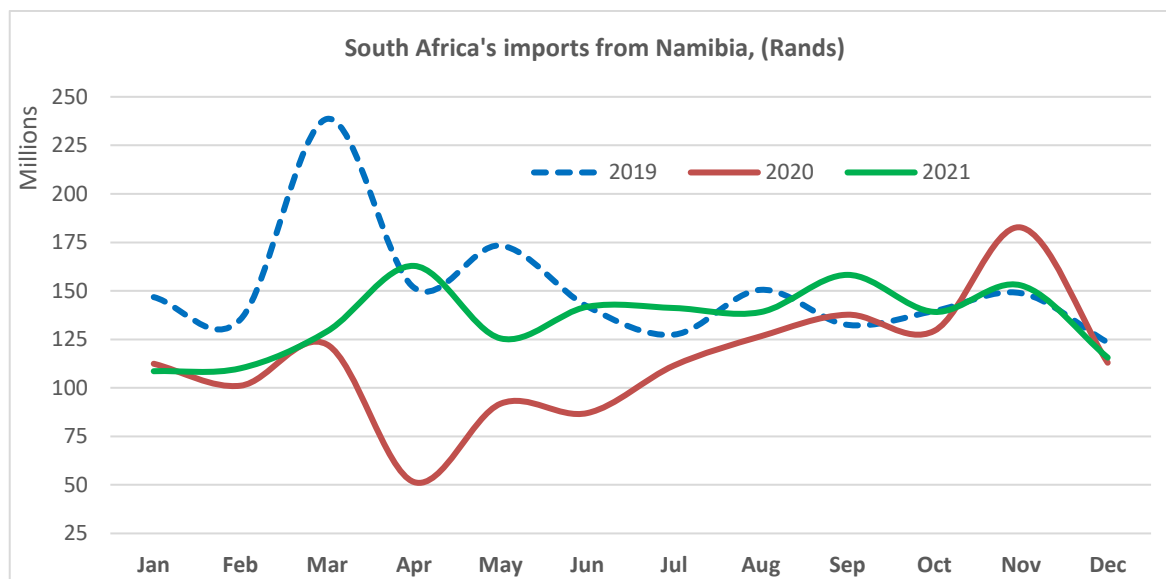


Apr	51,490,709	162,868,727	216%	7,717,028	13,503,442	75%
May	91,854,708	125,506,551	37%	9,587,502	14,148,857	48%
Jun	87,026,137	141,809,875	63%	10,823,539	12,715,438	17%
Jul	111,545,982	141,161,108	27%	12,257,377	13,563,519	11%
Aug	126,597,294	139,079,033	10%	12,358,661	15,019,761	22%
Sep	137,723,790	158,248,545	15%	14,793,355	16,091,098	9%
Oct	129,382,900	139,155,353	8%	16,584,843	16,271,666	-2%
Nov	182,668,777	152,817,171	-16%	18,071,046	17,064,004	-6%
Dec	112,968,681	115,609,183	2%	15,382,170	11,777,802	-23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,367,141,295</b>	<b>1,624,089,633</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>147,774,472</b>	<b>167,536,703</b>	<b>13%</b>

Table 40 above and Figure 10 below exemplify that the highest decline in South Africa's imports from Namibia realized a decline of 66% from R152 million in April 2019 to R51 million in April 2020, whereas on a Year-to-Year basis imports dropped by 58% from March (R122 million) during the introduction of Covid-19 lockdown to April (R51 million) in 2020.

From April 2020 to April 2021, South Africa's imports from Namibia through Violsdrift border post drastically rose by 216% from R51 million to R163 million (Figure 10 below).

**Figure 10: South Africa's imports from Namibia**



The highest volumes of South Africa's imports from Namibia that traversed Violsdrift border posts in 2021 were (Table 41 below):

- i. Wood and articles of wood with about 70 million kilograms (KG) recording 42%;
- ii. Residues and waste from the food industries with about 17 million kilograms registering 10% and
- iii. Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers with about 15 million kilograms registering 9%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Namibia in 2021 through Vioolsdrift border posts were (Table 41):

- i. Fish and crustaceans with about R390 million contributing 24%;
- ii. Live animals with about R130 million contributing 8%; and
- iii. Wood and articles of wood with about R127 million registering 8%.

**Table 41: RSA imports (value and volume) from Namibia, 2021**

	Value	Volume
CT	180,500	38
KG	1,332,708,574	163,564,069
LI	40,789,117	3,393,040
MC	428,151	21,782
NO	249,795,804	557,259
PR	61,387	145
SM	126,100	370
<b>Imports</b>	<b>1,624,089,633</b>	<b>167,536,703</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.9.3. Conclusion

In 2020, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with Namibia since it exported around R9,7 billion and imported about R1,4 billion worth of goods resulting to trade surplus of R8,3 billion.

South Africa's exports to Namibia in valued about R10,5 billion which was R800 million higher than the exports of 2020 and South Africa's imports in 2020 rose to 19% by registering R1,4 billion in 2020 from R1,6 billion in 2021. Consequently, South Africa in 2021 enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R8,9 billion which is an increase of 7,2% compared to trade surplus of 2020.

The highest volumes exported in 2021 from South Africa to Namibia by type of commodity were Fruit Juices and Prepared vegetables, fruits and nuts; Beverages, spirits, and vinegar; and Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers; and Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity. The highest valued exports to Namibia were Beverages, spirits and vinegar; Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances; and Plastics and articles thereof.

In 2021, the highest volumes imported from Namibia by type of commodity were Wood and articles of wood; Residues and waste from the food industries; and Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers. The highest valued imports from Namibia were Fish and crustaceans; live animals; and Wood and articles of wood.

On a year-on-year basis, volumes of South Africa’s exports to Namibia and South Africa’s imports from Namibia both increased signifying that international trade between these countries went back to normality when Covid-19 cross-border regulations were narrowed.

## 2.11. Trade with Zimbabwe

### 2.11.1. Overview

Zimbabwe, officially the Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked country located in southern Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. It is bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the southwest, Zambia to the northwest and Mozambique to the east.

Beitbridge is the only land crossing from South Africa to Zimbabwe that operates 24 hours a day. It is one of the heaviest trafficked border crossings in the SADC. Because of heavy traffic movements, delays at this border are a common phenomenon. Approximately 75% of the northbound traffic through Beitbridge is transit traffic on route to Zambia, the DRC and Malawi.

### 2.11.2. Beitbridge Border Posts

#### 2.11.2.1. South Africa's exports to Zimbabwe

Table 42 below reveals South Africa's total exports in monetary terms and in volumes, that passed through Beitbridge border posts between 2020 and 2021 to Zimbabwe. South Africa's total exports administered in Beitbridge border posts to Zimbabwe recorded about R64,7 billion in 2020 and in 2021, exports valued about R70,2 billion resulting to an increase of 8%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Zimbabwe through Beitbridge border posts documented nearly 3,3 billion pieces of goods in 2020 and in 2021, exports documented about 2,8 billion pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 15% (Table 42).

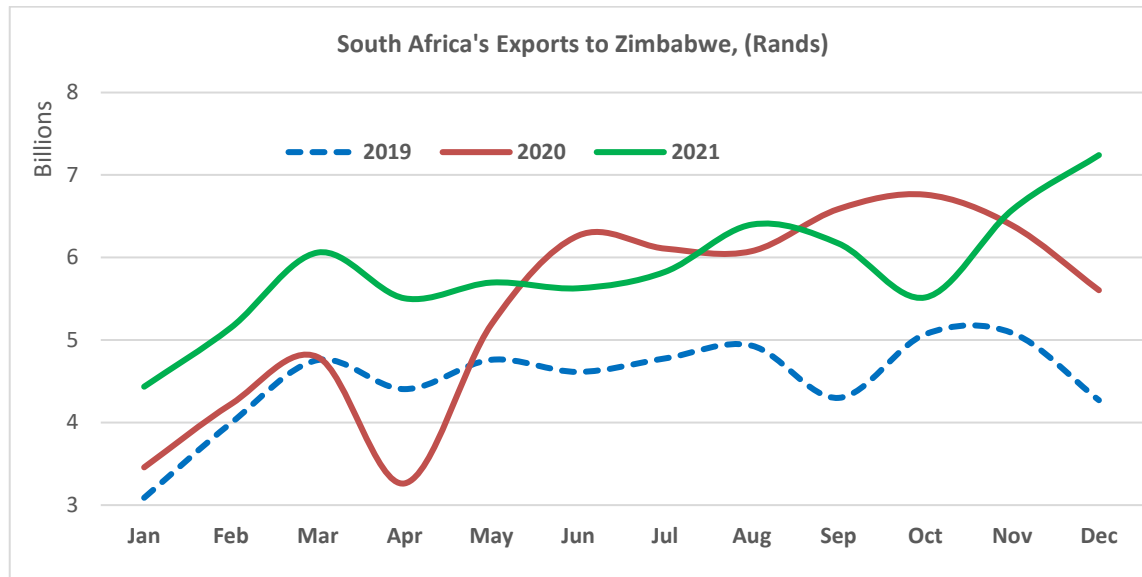
**Table 42: RSA exports (value and volume) to Zimbabwe**

	V A L U E		Year -to-Year	V O L U M E		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2020	2021	
Jan	3,457,348,034	4,435,073,011	28%	221,987,400	254,688,384	15%
Feb	4,223,162,118	5,150,555,198	22%	279,273,820	262,610,724	-6%
Mar	4,793,399,368	6,060,546,798	26%	295,554,661	282,120,582	-5%
Apr	3,263,083,100	5,506,062,427	69%	307,579,783	231,448,583	-25%
May	5,189,918,024	5,696,724,594	10%	278,824,293	230,111,301	-17%
Jun	6,264,745,734	5,627,567,512	-10%	300,285,872	224,289,362	-25%
Jul	6,108,428,868	5,826,030,097	-5%	334,056,150	201,951,350	-40%
Aug	6,077,827,060	6,399,189,949	5%	238,790,309	309,687,532	30%
Sep	6,589,014,865	6,170,535,226	-6%	263,253,273	201,012,277	-24%
Oct	6,761,883,595	5,516,329,512	-18%	279,458,589	189,673,434	-32%
Nov	6,389,955,746	6,575,888,830	3%	287,270,627	221,542,430	-23%
Dec	5,603,761,790	7,241,232,851	29%	222,716,816	192,108,954	-14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,722,528,302</b>	<b>70,205,736,005</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3,309,051,594</b>	<b>2,801,244,911</b>	<b>-15%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The trade data for April 2020 during the introduction of hard Covid-19 lockdown versus April 2021 in Table 42 above and Figure 11 below displayed the highest decline of approximately 69% of South Africa's exports to Zimbabwe. The calendar year trade statistics of 2019 shows a positive parallel upward shift compared to 2021 trade statistics (Figure 11).

**Figure 11: South Africa's exports to Zimbabwe**



The highest volumes of South Africa's exports to Zimbabwe that traversed Beitbridge border posts in 2021 were (Table 43 below):

- i. Fertilizers with about 329 million kilograms registering 12%; and
- ii. Inorganic chemical compounds, Iron and Steel and Plastics and articles thereof recording 8% each with about 211 million pieces, 234 million kilograms and 212 million kilograms, respectively.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Zimbabwe through Beitbridge border posts in 2021 were (Table 43 below):

- i. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with about R33,1 billion registering 19%; and
- ii. Plastics and articles thereof with about R5,7 billion recording 8%.

**Table 43: RSA exports (value and volume) to Zimbabwe, 2021**

	Value	Volume
KG	52,121,052,922	2,596,314,714
LI	1,593,248,713	85,382,602
MC	86,476,903	90,843,152
ME	115,327	962
NO	15,732,254,808	19,064,736
PR	192,157,519	1,566,457

SM	480,429,813	8,072,288
<b>Exports</b>	<b>70,205,736,005</b>	<b>2,801,244,911</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.11.2.2. South Africa's imports from Zimbabwe

Table 44 below discloses South Africa's total value and volume of imports that passed through Beitbridge border posts from 2019 to 2020 from Zimbabwe. South Africa's total imports processed in Beitbridge border posts from Zimbabwe documented about R4,3 billion in 2019 while in 2020, imports valued nearly R4,1 billion resulting to a deterioration of 4%.

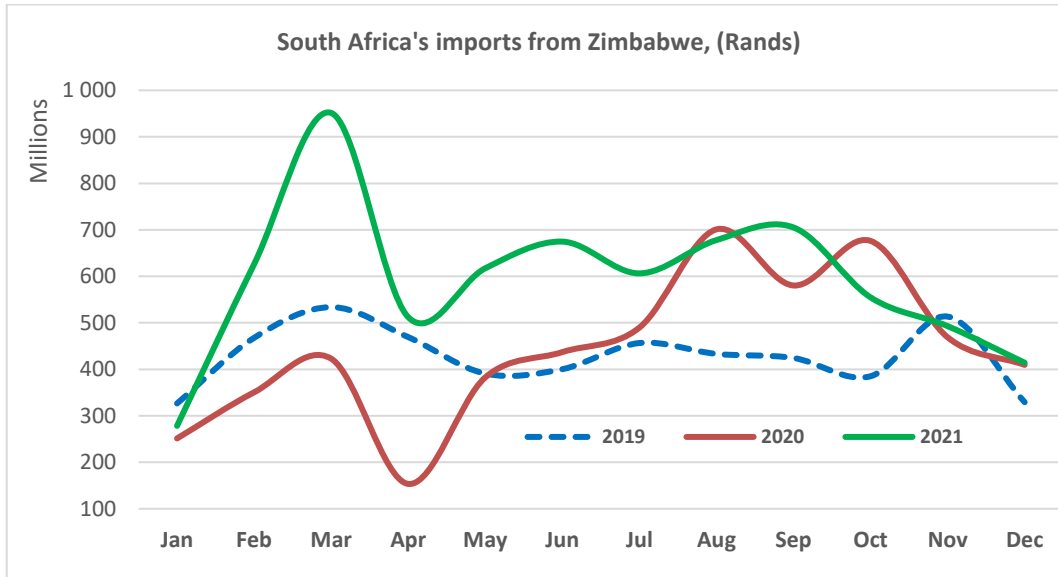
South Africa's total volumes imported from Zimbabwe through Beitbridge border posts documented nearly 619 million pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, imports documented about 568 million pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 8% (Table 44).

**Table 44: RSA imports (value and volume) from Zimbabwe**

	V A L U E		Year -to-Year	V O L U M E		Year -to-Year
	2020	2021		2019	2020	
Jan	251,355,446	278,462,933	11%	28,240,088	29,152,011	3%
Feb	350,559,710	626,293,512	79%	30,213,857	45,339,311	50%
Mar	422,923,701	951,453,420	125%	30,145,949	57,998,758	92%
Apr	153,569,449	512,277,311	234%	15,617,664	46,346,140	197%
May	382,621,067	617,389,557	61%	35,345,191	62,622,602	77%
Jun	437,066,177	674,650,826	54%	39,916,504	54,488,283	37%
Jul	489,714,715	606,381,836	24%	38,578,929	51,913,502	35%
Aug	701,032,973	677,963,951	-3%	49,498,119	58,501,737	18%
Sep	580,270,899	705,150,567	22%	52,209,953	76,000,958	46%
Oct	676,250,999	554,754,488	-18%	40,602,035	59,681,293	47%
Nov	468,906,822	492,932,644	5%	39,283,718	57,644,180	47%
Dec	409,519,283	414,179,080	1%	28,801,137	46,364,709	61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,323,791,241</b>	<b>7,111,890,125</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>428,453,143</b>	<b>646,053,484</b>	<b>51%</b>

Table 44 above and Figure 12 below exemplify that the highest decline in imports from Zimbabwe recorded a decline of 53% from R383 million in April 2019 to R180 million in April 2020, whereas on a Year-to-Year basis imports dropped by 44% from March (R323 million) to April in 2020.

**Figure 12: South Africa's imports (value and volume) from Zimbabwe**



The highest volumes of South Africa’s imports from Zimbabwe that traversed Beitbridge border posts in 2021 were (Table 45 below):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 182 million kilograms registering 28%; and
- ii. Residues and waste from the food industries with about 120 million kilograms contributing 19%;

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Zimbabwe in 2021 through Beitbridge border posts were (Table 45):

- i. Copper and Articles Thereof with about R2,0 billion registering 28%;
- ii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about R593 million contributing 8%.

**Table 45: RSA imports (value and volume) from Zimbabwe, 2021**

	Value	Volume
KG	6,280,999,051	626,495,843
LI	10,297,267	1,749,695
MC	17,999,274	60,910
NO	724,761,660	1,358,907
PR	1,490,603	1,172
SM	76,342,270	16,386,957
<b>Imports</b>	<b>7,111,890,125</b>	<b>646,053,484</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

### 2.11.3. Conclusion

From 2020 to 2021, trading between South Africa and Zimbabwe increased during that period of the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in monetary terms as well as the goods transport across Beitbridge border post.

In 2020, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with Zimbabwe since it exported around R64,7 billion and imported about R5,3 billion resulting to trade surplus of R59,4 billion.

In 2021, South Africa's exports to Zimbabwe valued about R70,2 billion which was 8.5% higher than the exports of 2020 (R64,7bn) and South Africa's imports in 2021 increased to 3.4% by registering R7,1 billion from R5,3 billion in 2020. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R63,1 billion and it experienced an upsurge of 16.2% compared to trade surplus of 2020.

The highest volumes exported from South Africa to Zimbabwe in 2021 by type of commodity were Fertilizers, Inorganic chemical compounds, Iron and Steel and Plastics and articles thereof.

The highest valued exports to Zimbabwe in 2021 were Catalytic Converters, and Plastics and articles thereof. Catalytic Converters spread throughout the world of cars and have now become a staple of emissions control and is integrated into virtually every modern exhaust system.

In 2021, the highest volumes imported by South Africa from Zimbabwe by type of commodity were Residues and waste from the food industries, Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity.

On a year-on-year basis, volumes of South Africa's exports to Zimbabwe declined and South Africa's imports from Zimbabwe both increased signifying that international trade between these countries went back to normality when Covid-19 cross-border regulations were narrowed.



### 3. TRADE VOLUMES AND VALUES BY COUNTRY

#### 3.1. South Africa's exports to neighbouring states

Table 46 below illustrates total trading between South Africa's neighbouring countries, the agglomeration of exports in values and volumes associated with the respective countries in 2021. South Africa exported 27,2 billion units of goods to the neighbouring countries by road at a value of R238 billion.

South Africa exported the highest volumes of goods that passed through the Lebombo border posts to Mozambique, claiming a 50% share of total quantity of imports. Botswana came in second place, claiming a 24% share and was followed by Zimbabwe with an 12% stake (Table 46 below).

**Table 46: South Africa's exports to neighbouring states**

	VALUE		Year-on-Year	2021 (%)	VOLUME	
	2020	2021			2020	2020 (%)
Botswana	73,954,796,239	98,089,859,385	33%	36%	6 492 891 673	24%
eSwatini	19,104,571,388	22,480,247,953	18%	8%	1 872 923 695	7%
Lesotho	16,958,657,636	20,439,846,649	21%	8%	1 521 203 900 13 604 225	6%
Mozambique	53,560,101,250	73,065,308,834	36%	27%	043	50%
Namibia	10 254 019 946	9 666 887 186	-6%	4%	377 638 638	1%
Zimbabwe	64,722,528,302	70,205,736,005	8%	26%	3 309 051 594	12%
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>218,862,970,613</b>	<b>272,343,143,499</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>27 177 934</b> <b>543</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Table 46 above and Figure 13 below show that in 2021 Botswana was the major importing trading partner with South Africa as South Africa exported about 36% at a value of R98 billion. South Africa's exports to Botswana valued about R74 billion in 2020 and in 2021, South Africa's exports to Botswana increased by 33% to R98 billion.

Mozambique and Zimbabwe followed Botswana with the highest imports from South Africa amounting to 27% (R73 billion) and 26% (R70 billion), respectively. Lesotho, eSwatini and Namibia are the lowest importing partners from South Africa as on average, they individually imported at most 8% worth of goods during 2021 calendar year (Figure 13).

South Africa's exports to all the prescribed neighbouring countries from 2020 to 2021 recorded an upsurge to all trading partners under study.

Collectively, South Africa documented about 24% growth of exports from R218 billion in 2020 to R272 billion in 2021 (Table 46 above).

Finally, Figure 13 below depicts that the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has severely incapacitated South Africa's export market in 2020 from March and in 2021, the market picked up.

**Figure 13: South Africa's exports to neighbouring countries (Rands)**

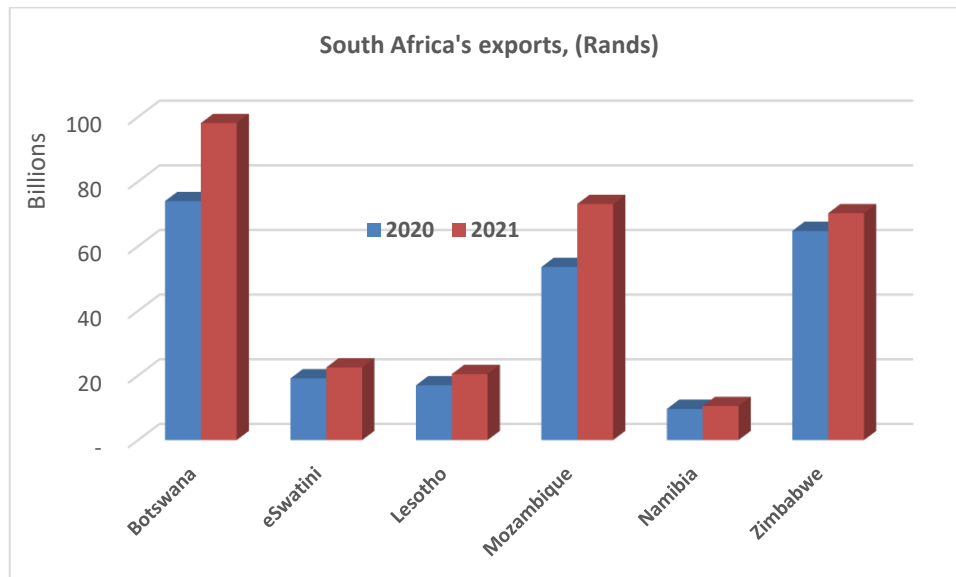


Figure 14 below illustrates the total trade volumes exported by South Africa to the neighbouring countries and it also explains the total trade import volumes that were administered by all the respective South African commercial border posts in 2020.

N4 corridor was found to be the leading corridor by moving South Africa's total exports totaling to 50% (13,6 billion volumes of exports) of 27,2 billion pieces of goods that were processed at Lebombo border posts to Mozambique. This was recorded in 2020, in comparison to South Africa's neighbouring countries under study, as shown in Figure 14 below. These highest export volumes imply that Mozambique through Lebombo border posts received the highest number of incoming freight traffic flows from South Africa in 2020 compared to the neighbouring countries.

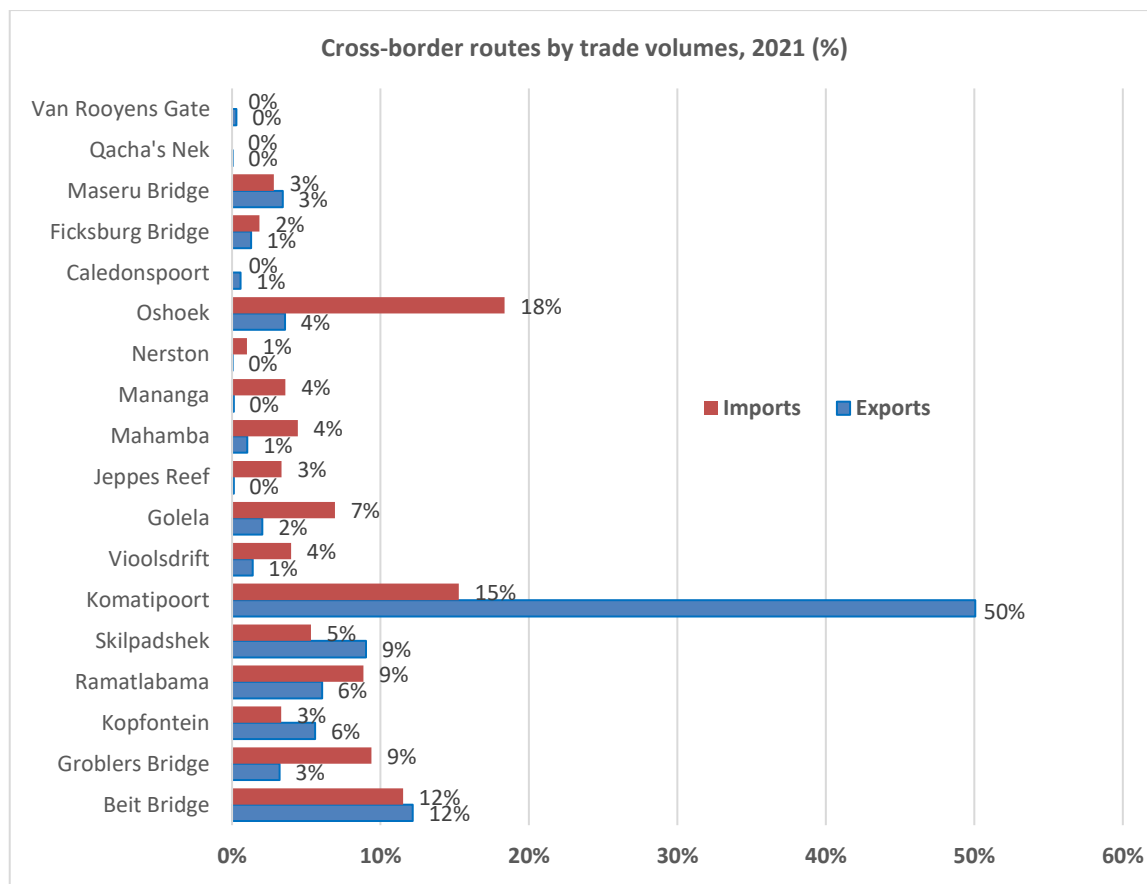
Botswana registered the second highest volumes of imports from South Africa with approximately 24% (6,5 billion pieces of goods) that were transported by road in 2020. South Africa exported these goods using four (4) commercial border posts to Botswana (Figure 14 below):

- Skilpadshek border post handled about 9% of the total trade volumes South Africa exported to the neighbouring countries, and it was found to be the leading border post that administered Botswana's imports from South Africa; and
- Kopfontein and Ramatlabama handled about 6% each of the total trade volumes exported from South Africa to Botswana, whereas Grobler's bridge post administered 3% of South Africa's exports.

South Africa's total export volumes that were destined to Zimbabwe through Beitbridge border posts were about 3,3 billion pieces of goods, claiming 12% of South Africa's total volumes of exports to the neighbouring countries. These volumes goods imported by Zimbabwe excluded trade volumes that transited to other countries (Table 46 above).

South Africa's total volumes exported to eSwatini, Lesotho and Namibia were 7%, 6% and 1%, respectively. The individual border posts of the respective countries processed at most 4% of South Africa's exports.

**Figure 14: Volumes of goods ferried across commercial border posts, 2021**



### 3.2. South Africa's imports from neighbouring states

Table 47 below shows South Africa's total imports from the neighbouring countries, the agglomeration of imports in values and volumes associated with the respective countries in 2020. South Africa imported 30,7 billion units of goods from the neighbouring countries by road at a value of R40,9 billion.

South Africa's principal exporter was found to be eSwatini by exporting about 38% (1,4 billion pieces of goods) of the total trade volumes (3,7 billion pieces of goods), compared to the neighbouring countries. South Africa imported these goods using six (6) commercial border posts from eSwatini namely, Golela, Mahamba, Nerston, Oshoek, Jeppes Reef and Mananga. The analysis only covered border posts that

handled at least 4% of the total trade volumes that eSwatini exported to South Africa (Table 47 and Figure 14 above):

- Oshoek border post administered about 18% (683 million pieces of goods) of the total trade volumes South Africa imported from the neighbouring countries, and it was found to be the foremost border post that processed eSwatini's exports destined to South Africa; and
- Golela followed Oshoek border post by processing 7% of South Africa's imports from eSwatini, whereas Mahamba and Mananga border posts recorded about 4% each of South Africa's total volumes imported.

Botswana's exports to South Africa came in second place, claiming a 27% (999 million units of goods) share as shown in Table 47 below. Amongst four commercial border posts of Botswana, Grobler's bridge and Ramatlabama border posts handled the highest volumes of South Africa's imports each registering 9%.

Mozambique exported about 568 billion pieces of goods to South Africa recording 15% stake and Zimbabwe registered the fourth exporting partner to South Africa with 12% volumes of goods sold from Zimbabwe (Table 47 below).

**Table 47: South Africa's imports from neighbouring states**

	VALUE		Year-on-Year	VOLUME	2020 (%)
	2020	2021		2020	
Botswana	7,304,474,049	9,938,780,388	36%	998 670 032 1 398 955	27%
eSwatini	18,378,792,693	20,935,727,067	14%	135	38%
Lesotho	4,422,607,445	5,364,422,145	21%	177 214 744	5%
Mozambique	4,128,335,826	5,139,996,867	25%	568 427 925	15%
Namibia	1,367,141,295	1,624,089,633	19%	147 774 472	4%
Zimbabwe	5,323,791,241	7,111,890,125	34%	428 453 143	12%
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>45 978 837 225</b>	<b>40 925 142 549</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>3 719 495 451</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Table 47 above and Figure 15 below show that in 2020 eSwatini was the major exporting trading partner with South Africa as South Africa imported about 45% at a value of R18,4 billion. South Africa's imports from eSwatini valued about R19,2 billion in 2019 and in 2020, South Africa's imports from eSwatini dropped by 4% to R18,4 billion.

Botswana and Zimbabwe followed eSwatini with the highest exports to South Africa amounting to 18% (R7,3 billion) and 13% (R5,3 billion), respectively. Lesotho, Mozambique, and Namibia participated the least as they exported R4,4 billion (11%), R4,1 billion and R1,4 billion, respectively.

South Africa's imports from all the listed neighbouring countries (Table 47) from 2019 to 2020 recorded a decline except Zimbabwe's exports that registered a growth of 4%. Collectively, South Africa documented about 11% reduction of imports from R46 billion in 2019 to R40,9 billion in 2020 (Table 47 above).

### **Figure 15: South Africa's imports from neighbouring countries (Rands)**

Figure 15 above portrays that the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has severely incapacitated South Africa's import market from March 2020 to April 2020 onwards due to the forced reduction in production because of the national lockdown and other restrictions on non-essential business operation.

### **3.3. South Africa's Trade Balance**

South Africa's inter-trade (summation of exports and imports) between her neighbouring states in 2019 valued about R299,6 billion and in 2020, inter-trade valued approximately R278,9 billion which is a decline of 6,9% amounting to a drop of R20,7 billion.

The balance of trade is the difference between a country's exports and imports. Exports are domestically produced goods and services sold abroad; imports are the purchase of foreign goods and services. Trading between South Africa and her neighbouring states in 2020 profited South Africa since it exported R238 billion worth of goods while only imported R40,9 billion worth of goods, resulting in a trade surplus of R197 billion. When South Africa's trade surplus of 2019 with 2020, South Africa registered a decline of 5,3% (R11 billion) from R208 billion in 2019 to R197 billion in 2020.

## 4. SOUTH AFRICA'S TRADING WITH SADC STATES

### 4.1. South Africa's exports to SADC member states

Table 48 below illustrates total trading between South Africa and four selected SADC member states (Angola, DRC, Malawi and Zambia), the collection of exports in values and volumes associated with the respective countries in 2019 and 2020. This trade statistics used in this section is aggregated that it does not show the modal split of how much volumes each have been transported across these SADC countries.

Among the top importing partners of South Africa in Figure 16 below was Zambia with the highest values in two consecutive years although there was 8% drop from 2019 to 2020. DRC came the highest importing partner with R856 million of South Africa's exports in 2019 and R776 in 2020, which resulted in a reduction of 14%. South Africa has maintained a trade deficit with Angola, with imports exceeding exports over the period 2019 to 2020.

South Africa exported 5,8 billion units of goods to SADC member states in 2019 and in 2020 South Africa exported around 3,6 billion units of goods in 2020 resulting to a reduction of 9%. In monetary terms, South Africa exported goods to these SADC countries that valued about R57,9 billion in 2019 and in 2020, South Africa's export dropped by 37% to R52,8 billion.

**Table 48: South Africa's exports from SADC member states**

	Value		Year-on-Year	Volume		Year-on-Year
	2019	2020		2019	2020	
<b>Angola</b>	6,656,716,945	5,706,270,568	-22%	308,167,289	240,848,271	-14%
<b>DRC</b>	14,827,714,404	12,720,274,397	-9%	855,771,731	777,572,789	-14%
<b>Malawi</b>	5,980,697,554	6,431,396,167	6%	209,998,410	221,891,970	8%
<b>Zambia</b>	30,457,460,583	27,952,174,033	-46%	4,444,242,195	2,404,067,722	-8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,922,589,486</b>	<b>52,810,115,165</b>	<b>-37%</b>	<b>5,818,179,625</b>	<b>3,644,380,752</b>	<b>-9%</b>

Source: The department of Trade and Industry (the DTI)

South Africa and the SADC countries face a dual public health and economic crisis that risks overwhelming healthcare systems, destroying livelihoods, and slowing the region's growth prospects for years to come. Prior to COVID-19, in 2019, the SADC region and Africa at large had already experienced a slowdown in growth as shown in Table 48 above and Figure 16 below, and poverty reduction overall, although with large differences between countries.

**Figure 16: South Africa's exports SADC countries**

#### 4.2. South Africa's imports from SADC member states

Table 49 below demonstrates total trading between South Africa's imports and four selected SADC member states in terms of volumes and values in monetary terms from 2019 to 2020. South Africa's total volumes imported from Angola documented nearly 1,2 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, imports documented about 137 million pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 88%. Likewise, the value of South Africa's imports from Angola decreased by 88% from R8,1 billion in 2019 to R981 million in 2020. The leading import product from Angola into South Africa was crude petroleum oil accounting for 99 percent of trade.

Zambia followed with the highest volumes South Africa imported totaling to 213 million units of goods in 2019 and in 2020 there was a drop of 12% amounting to 188 million of pieces of goods. Goods that South Africa imported from Zambia amounted to R3,1 billion in 2019 and R2,3 billion in 2020 ensuing 27% decrease (Figure 17).

South Africa exported 5,8 billion units of goods to SADC member states in 2019 and in 2020 South Africa exported around 3,6 billion units of goods in 2020 resulting to a reduction of 9%. In monetary terms, South Africa imported goods from Zambia that worth about R3,1 billion in 2019 and R2,3 billion in 2020 resulting to a reduction of 27%.

**Table 49: South Africa's imports from SADC member states**

	Value		Year-on-Year	Volume		Year-on-Year	
	2019	2020		2019	2020		
<b>Angola</b>	8,149,141,324	981,254,694	-88%	1,157,034,43	7	136,689,687	-88%
<b>DRC</b>	619458571	837,792,000	35%	6,497,592	8,038,819	24%	
<b>Malawi</b>	780,547,703	744,891,895	-5%	72,500,019	61,996,753	-14%	
<b>Zambia</b>	3,095,502,235	2,259,161,586	-27%	212,988,597	187,675,059	-12%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,644,649,833</b>	<b>4,823,100,175</b>	<b>-62%</b>	<b>1,449,020,64</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>394,400,318</b>	<b>-73%</b>

Source: The department of Trade and Industry (the DTI)

Collectively, South Africa's imports from these SADC countries totaled about 1,4 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and a drastic decline of 73% in 2020 with South Africa's imports amounting to 394 million pieces

of goods. South Africa's imports valued about R12,6 billion in 2019 and in 2020, there was a reduction of 62% (Table 49).

**Figure 17: South Africa's imports from SADC countries**

According to this study, South Africa shows that with its economic dominance in the SADC region it has large trade surplus with R52,8 billion worth of exports in 2020 and R4,8 billion worth of imports from these SADC countries in the same year. This left South Africa with trade surplus of R48 billion.



## 5. CONCLUSION

The objectives of this report realised in this report were as follows:

- To support the cross-border road transport industry with meaningful data
- To increase knowledge of market trends
- To support policy formulation
- To develop sustainable means for data collection, data management and data storage of the trade statistics
- To create an integrated knowledge base of trade with SADC member states and serve the industry's stakeholders in improving economic trends and competitiveness.

In 2020, out of R278,9 billion that South Africa traded between her neighbouring states, Botswana was ranked the leading trade partner to South Africa with R81,3 billion constituting 29% of South Africa's exports and imports. Zimbabwe seconded Botswana by trading with South Africa at a value of R70 billion recording 25%.

Mozambique came the third highest trading partner with South Africa with about R57,7 billion worth of goods and eSwatini, Lesotho and Namibia were the lowest partners with 13%, 8% and 4%, respectively.

The total volumes of goods that South Africa traded (exported and imported) with her neighbouring states was 30,9 billion. Lebombo border post has processed the highest volumes of goods amounting to 14,2 billion pieces of goods (46%) signifying that N4 corridor was the busiest route in 2020. South Africa traded about 7,5 billion pieces of goods (24%) with Botswana followed by Zimbabwe 3,7 billion volumes of goods registering Beitbridge border post as the second busiest with 12% in processing only goods were traded between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Trading between South Africa and her neighbouring states in 2020 favoured South Africa since South Africa exported R238 billion worth of goods while it imported R40,9 billion worth of goods, ensuing a trade surplus of R197 billion.

The universal drop of international trade between South Africa and her neighbouring states has been exacerbated by coronavirus (COVID-19) that has resulted in mass production shutdowns and supply chain disruptions due to border posts and ports closures in these countries under study and globally, causing global ripple effects across all economic sectors in a rare "twin supply-demand shock" which is a sharp, sudden change in the supply and demand for a product or a service. As South Africa is one of the neighbouring countries' biggest trading partners, the effects of COVID-19 are already being felt in the SADC region and in the continent.

This report can be used by the C-BRTA and the Road Transport Management Corporation as the strategic tool for deployment of law enforcement personnel along the cross-border corridors as it clearly stated the movement of trade volumes inbound and outbound South Africa. Finally, the data used in this

report can be used to assess the correlation between the size of trade volumes versus the number of permits issued to determine the factors that affect the source of revenue within the C-BRTA.

## **6. LIMITATIONS**

This study experienced the following limitations:

- a) The data received lacked specific periods, i.e. date and time when the goods crossed the borders, and
- b) The above also limited further analysis, i.e. it did not enable the user to analyse different times and days of the week as well as peak and off-peak seasons.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations cover the operational issues local and across the SADC region:

- a) Statistics/Information sharing amongst member states is highly recommended;
- b) Joint research studies amongst member states in order to share experiences are recommended;
- c) Trade statistics on cross-border modal split, top operators/performers by origin country are needed in the upcoming studies; and
- d) Transiting trade stats is highly recommended as more international exports and imports are transported between countries and Durban Harbours.

### **7.1. Report Compilation**

Based on the data analysed above, the following recommendations are made:

- a) The Agency should triangulate data through comparison with consignment notes and by developing and updating annual traffic flows, trade values and trade volumes;
- b) The C-BRTA must continue to refine research output for purposes of advising stakeholders and enhancing decision making on cross-border operations, and
- c) SARS should be engaged in order to provide trade data of other SADC member states.

### **7.2. Enhancing Trade Flow and Efficiency**

The following recommendations are submitted:

- a) The report should be used to inform policy decisions on border post improvement programmes such as prioritisation of implementation of One Stop Border Posts, Single Window Systems and Integrated Border Management
- b) The Agency should engage border stakeholders, particularly major border posts with high trade volumes, to determine capacity limitations and the programmes required to enhance trade flow through the border posts
- c) Stakeholders at border posts should consider matching operational deployments to trade volumes passing through each border posts.

- d) This report should be used to inform decisions pertaining to cross-border permit application determination within the context of transport services demand, following market demand
- e) The report findings should be used to inform the operational deployment of law enforcement
- f) The report should be used to identify pragmatic methods of advocating some of the key thematic issues that will emanate from this research as output to relevant stakeholders.
- g) Lastly, the report should be used as a tool to engage and influence stakeholders to implement fit-for-purpose interventions that will improve cross-border road transport movements, eliminate constraints in corridors and border posts and improve trade between South Africa and its neighbouring countries.