



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

2020/2021



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this report is to provide a 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 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; and to create an integrated knowledge base of trade with SADC Member States to serve the industry's stakeholders in improving economic trends and competitiveness.

The methodology implemented by this report is primarily desktop research and using administrative data 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 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 the Road Transport Management Corporation as a strategic tool for the deployment of law enforcement personnel along the cross-border corridors. It plainly states the movement of trade volumes inbound and outbound South Africa. 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.

Ultimately, the report proposes that the C-BRTA improves the database of consignment notes in order to update annual traffic flows, trade values and trade volumes; the C-BRTA must continue to develop this research output for purposes of advising the Minister and better informing cross-border operations. The agency should identify pragmatic methods of advocating some of the key thematic issues that will emanate from this research output to relevant stakeholders. Lastly, the agency should engage and collaborate with industry stakeholders who can assist with generating and validating cross border trade and traffic data.

1. OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

1.1. Introduction

The aim of this 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

Currently, South Africa has over 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:

- i. 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
- ii. Limiting the participation of the C-BRTA in infrastructure planning and development to better respond to the needs of the road transport industry
- iii. Limiting the ability of the C-BRTA in terms of appreciating the value that cross-border trade contributes towards the domestic and regional economy
- iv. 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.

1.4. Objectives

The objectives of the report are as follows:

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

1.5. 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:

- i. Introduction and background
- ii. Country overview and trade analysis
- iii. 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 km² (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

Countries	Border Post	Operating Times
South Africa-Botswana	Pont Drift - Mashatu	08:00 – 16:00
	Platjan	08:00 – 16:00
	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	06:00 – 22:00
	Makgobistad - Phitshane Molopo	07:00 – 16:00
	Bray	07:00 – 16:00
	Makopong	08:00 – 16:00
	McCarthy's Rest	06:00 – 18:00
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/Skilpadshek Border posts: located 52 kilometres north-west of Zeerust in North West province. The Trans-Kalahari Corridor passes through Skilpadshek and it operates until midnight
- 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 discloses South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Grobler's bridge/Martin's Drift border posts between 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports processed in Grobler's bridge border posts to Botswana documented about R21,6 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R15,8 billion resulting to a decrease of 27%. December is the only month that registered an increase of 9% in South Africa's exports from 2019 to 2020.

Regarding goods imported from Botswana to South Africa through Grobler's bridge border in 2019, South Africa imported about R3,0 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports registered about R1,9 billion which is a reduction of 36% (Table 2 below). During the first quarter of 2020, South Africa's imports increased by 41% from about R651 million in 2019 to around R926 million in 2020.

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 showed the highest decline of approximately 88% of South Africa's exports, whereas South Africa's imports from Botswana drastically dropped by roughly 90% when comparing the same period. This severe fall 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 2: Trade values of the RSA/Botswana Grobler's Bridge border posts, (Rands)

	E X P O R T S		Month	I M P O R T S		Month
	2019	2020	-to-Month	2019	2020	-to-Month
Jan	1,651,422,207	1,281,585,039	-22%	176,509,595	209,352,765	19%
Feb	1,682,746,321	1,630,053,539	-3%	218,564,543	346,007,020	58%
Mar	1,801,901,483	1,693,870,604	-6%	255,458,093	370,589,729	45%
Apr	1,772,973,558	205,155,353	-88%	261,663,026	25,311,286	-90%
May	1,932,730,336	684,840,020	-65%	250,145,850	68,152,884	-73%
Jun	1,878,273,691	1,040,733,692	-45%	300,767,517	110,824,197	-63%
Jul	1,884,256,020	1,220,988,441	-35%	268,877,921	125,188,408	-53%
Aug	2,099,919,636	1,405,006,569	-33%	258,083,622	126,282,442	-51%
Sep	1,504,220,511	1,650,399,724	10%	202,828,443	124,742,931	-38%
Oct	1,973,207,325	1,752,694,080	-11%	320,959,861	148,079,062	-54%
Nov	1,842,091,753	1,559,632,366	-15%	214,042,623	128,116,880	-40%
Dec	1,576,227,356	1,724,807,384	9%	234,281,871	122,595,136	-48%
Total	21,599,970,197	15,849,766,811	-27%	2,962,182,965	1,905,242,740	-36%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.2.2.2. Kopfontein border posts

Table 3 reveals South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that crossed through Kopfontein/Tlokweng border posts between 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports handled in Kopfontein border posts to Botswana documented about R26,6 billion in 2019 and the total exports in 2020 treasured about R24,9 billion ensuing to a decline of 7%.

Regarding goods imported from Botswana to South Africa through Kopfontein/Tlokweng border posts in 2019, South Africa imported around R3,1 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, South Africa's imports registered about R2,2 billion which is a reduction of 28% (Table 3 below).

Comparing trade data for April 2020 as opposed to April 2019 showed the highest decline of approximately 69% in exports and 96% in South Africa's imports from Botswana because of severe lockdown restrictions earlier at the end of March 2020.

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

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	1,782,019,863	1,879,243,391	5%	170,149,418	205,985,881	21%
Feb	2,159,533,845	2,249,778,834	4%	240,770,725	257,852,332	7%
Mar	2,165,402,293	2,372,057,621	10%	321,214,520	198,702,737	-38%
Apr	1,964,695,331	600,609,502	-69%	290,299,695	16,664,736	-94%
May	2,247,224,521	1,644,339,863	-27%	250,530,826	97,883,063	-61%
Jun	2,191,667,134	2,432,261,394	11%	290,047,619	155,798,552	-46%
Jul	2,376,121,458	2,216,478,158	-7%	245,318,161	160,948,066	-34%
Aug	2,472,959,876	2,082,149,321	-16%	341,753,012	222,331,320	-35%
Sep	2,253,273,448	2,264,929,226	1%	292,597,185	278,771,916	-5%
Oct	2,515,120,558	2,496,944,171	-1%	276,317,416	275,320,332	0%
Nov	2,658,214,518	2,530,401,421	-5%	279,297,140	262,903,383	-6%
Dec	2,025,945,692	2,126,534,609	5%	109,946,299	109,494,300	0%
Total	26,812,180,556	24,895,729,531	-7%	3,108,242,016	2,242,656,618	-28%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.2.2.3. Ramatlabama border posts

Table 4 divulges South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that traversed through Ramatlabama border posts between 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports administered in Ramatlabama border posts to Botswana recognized about R7,5 billion in 2019 and exports valued about R6,9 billion resulting to a decay of 8% in 2020.

Concerning goods imported from Botswana to South Africa through Ramatlabama borders in 2019, South Africa imported around R1,3 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, South Africa's imports registered almost the same R1,3 million which is an increase of 1% (Table 4 below).

Associating trade data for April 2020 as opposed to April 2019, the decline was experienced from both exports and imports with 24% and 60%, respectively. South Africa's exports in 2020 weakened from quarter 2 through the year till December, around the same period as in 2020. During quarter 1 and quarter 4 in 2020, imports drastically increased and, in both quarter 2 and 3, a sharp decline was recorded due to the prevailing COVID-19 lockdowns.

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

	E X P O R T S		Month -to-Month	I M P O R T S		Month -to-Month
	2019	2020		2019	2020	
Jan	605,219,407	673,291,960	11%	52,172,790	126,969,602	143%
Feb	591,077,742	625,051,329	6%	80,350,559	218,300,919	172%
Mar	622,784,490	687,676,187	10%	125,404,511	255,439,822	104%
Apr	563,980,472	429,492,101	-24%	115,533,889	46,317,726	-60%
May	544,546,212	463,563,996	-15%	123,627,931	32,799,842	-73%
Jun	499,475,606	450,927,297	-10%	121,903,479	25,578,442	-79%
Jul	630,835,312	622,890,967	-1%	113,024,700	32,085,740	-72%
Aug	572,273,593	501,935,385	-12%	113,844,002	49,684,192	-56%
Sep	614,562,090	570,560,417	-7%	101,000,632	49,545,476	-51%
Oct	695,223,502	587,210,572	-16%	100,986,206	151,759,276	50%
Nov	866,412,850	667,440,217	-23%	143,642,331	158,997,643	11%
Dec	676,893,434	638,608,924	-6%	97,069,624	149,944,943	54%
Total	7,483,284,710	6,918,649,352	-8%	1,288,560,654	1,297,423,623	1%

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 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports administered in Skilpadshek border posts to Botswana documented about R39,4 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R26,3 billion resulting to a deterioration of 33%. The rate of change from 2019 to 2020 shows that only Quarter 1 recorded an increase in exports whereas the rest of the quarters realized a decline with April being the highest with negative 69%.

Regarding imports from Botswana to South Africa through Skilpadshek border posts, South Africa imported around R3,8 billion worth of goods in 2019 whereas in 2020, South Africa's imports registered about R1,9 billion which is a reduction of 51% (Table 5 below). Imports that were processed in

Skilpadshek border posts degenerated the whole year when comparing 2019 to 2020 and June was the highest with 85%.

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

	E X P O R T S		Month	I M P O R T S		Month
	2019	2020	-to-Month	2019	2020	-to-Month
Jan	2,653,577,901	3,077,593,431	16%	319,367,749	301,506,614	-6%
Feb	2,859,536,882	3,614,575,247	26%	274,347,301	247,148,286	-10%
Mar	3,092,383,262	3,125,228,937	1%	267,939,446	221,472,076	-17%
Apr	3,058,211,917	934,758,185	-69%	248,187,558	78,446,986	-68%
May	3,271,522,222	1,526,369,750	-53%	318,408,461	79,177,116	-75%
Jun	3,152,841,314	1,467,270,151	-53%	389,956,471	58,223,710	-85%
Jul	3,557,187,879	1,830,404,776	-49%	405,891,879	219,364,624	-46%
Aug	3,653,529,545	1,927,183,991	-47%	296,875,533	160,620,025	-46%
Sep	3,437,465,809	1,903,727,863	-45%	350,583,425	125,628,098	-64%
Oct	3,857,888,299	2,311,366,802	-40%	344,694,448	190,031,406	-45%
Nov	3,832,687,161	2,409,404,864	-37%	325,002,304	105,679,211	-67%
Dec	2,996,535,116	2,162,768,568	-28%	254,240,299	71,852,916	-72%
Total	39,423,367,307	26,290,652,565	-33%	3,795,494,874	1,859,151,068	-51%

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 2019 to 2020. South Africa's total exports processed in these 4 commercial border posts to Botswana documented about R95,3 billion in 2019 whereas in 2020, exports valued about R74,0 billion resulting to a decrease of 22%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Botswana through four commercial border posts documented about 9,8 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, exports documented about 6,5 billion pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 34% (Table 6).

Table 6 and Figure 1 below depict that the highest decline in export values were realized in April 2020 compared to April 2019, with negative 71% and all the succeeding months till the end of the December 2020 also recorded a decrease.

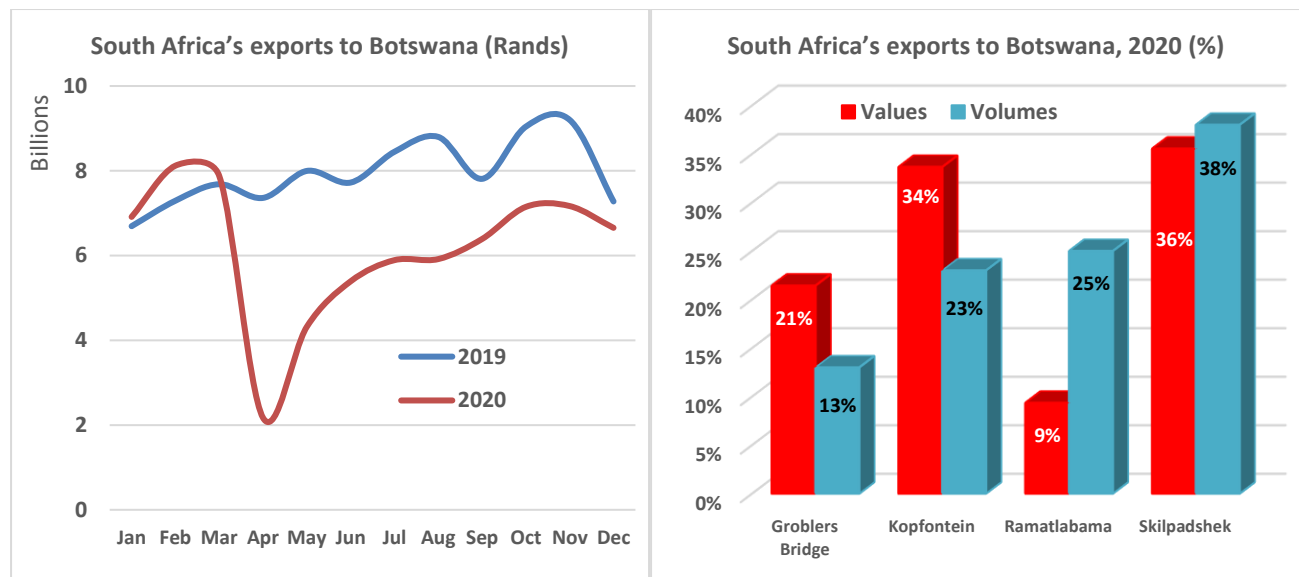
Table 6: RSA exports (value and volume) to Botswana

	V A L U E		Month	V O L U M E		Month
	2019	2020	-to-Month	2019	2020	-to-Month
Jan	6,692,239,378	6,911,713,821	3%	1,365,005,771	511,290,334	-63%
Feb	7,292,894,790	8,119,458,949	11%	453,730,102	577,916,324	27%
Mar	7,682,471,528	7,878,833,349	3%	575,838,128	519,217,427	-10%
Apr	7,359,861,278	2,170,015,141	-71%	636,331,099	200,479,840	-68%
May	7,996,023,291	4,319,113,629	-46%	505,945,200	523,020,490	3%
Jun	7,722,257,745	5,391,192,534	-30%	454,416,889	500,854,031	10%
Jul	8,448,400,669	5,890,762,342	-30%	1,205,539,197	377,653,575	-69%
Aug	8,798,682,650	5,916,275,266	-33%	535,017,116	378,407,818	-29%
Sep	7,809,521,858	6,389,617,230	-18%	1,238,889,698	394,210,951	-68%
Oct	9,041,439,684	7,148,215,625	-21%	555,290,129	431,746,651	-22%
Nov	9,199,406,282	7,166,878,868	-22%	1,773,367,381	1,262,631,107	-29%
Dec	7,275,601,598	6,652,719,485	-9%	501,622,578	815,463,125	63%
Total	95,318,800,751	73,954,796,239	-22%	9,800,993,286	6,492,891,673	-34%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

In 2020, Skilpadshék border posts processed the highest export volumes that constitute about 38% compared to other Botswana commercial border posts with the highest total value amounting to 36% (R26,3 billion). Ramatlabama border post followed Skilpadshék with 25% of volumes of goods that were cleared, and these goods valued the least percentage of 9% amounting to R6,9 billion with respect to other commercial border posts in Botswana (Figure 1 below).

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



Kopfontein border post registered the third South African exporting passage by processing volumes of goods equaling to 23% of South Africa’s total exports to Botswana in 2020. The total value of goods that were administered in Kopfontein during the year was approximately R28,9 billion scoring the second

highest value totaling 34% after Skilpadshek. The last border post that processed the smallest volume of goods was Grobler's' bridge with 13% and the respective value of the same goods was around R15,8 billion which was 21% of the total value of exported goods from South Africa to Botswana (Figure 1 above).

The highest volumes of South Africa's exports to Botswana that traversed all Botswana commercial border posts in 2020 were (Table 7):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 1,1 billion litres contributing 17,1%
- ii. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 934 million kilograms registering 14,4%
- iii. Cell phones, Electrical Equipment and Machinery with 92,6 million pieces documenting 14,3%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Botswana in 2020 through all Botswana commercial border posts in 2020 were (Table 7):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about R7,4 billion recording 10,0%
- ii. Vehicles and accessories valued R6,4 billion documenting 8,6%
- iii. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with R5,7 billion registering around 7,8%.

Table 7: RSA exports (value and volume) through commercial border posts to Botswana, 2020

	V O L U M E S				
	Grobler's Bridge	Kopfontein	Ramatlabama	Skilpadshek	Botswana
CT	4	212		60	276
KG	775,533,839	1,197,897,738	1,516,822,023	786,452,158	4,276,705,757
LI	86,541,172	197,098,771	128,729,128	816,807,469	1,229,176,540
MC	270,737	3,138,076	100,613	1,164,435	4,673,861
ME		12		337	349
NO	5,505,566	117,178,435	663,976	845,918,317	969,266,294
PR	1,004,204	4,985,066	4,415	1,863,644	7,857,329
SM	1,089,301	1,710,950	475,311	1,935,705	5,211,267
Exports	869,944,823	1,522,009,260	1,646,795,465	2,454,142,124	6,492,891,673

	V A L U E (Rands)				
	Grobler's Bridge	Kopfontein	Ramatlabama	Skilpadshek	Botswana
CT	382	4,479		90,296	95,157
KG	10,412,822,184	14,342,188,971	5,439,922,967	14,632,291,888	44,827,226,010
LI	653,539,278	1,540,396,417	848,799,164	5,767,900,078	8,810,634,937
MC	149,375,052	83,026,015	17,375,946	278,231,671	528,008,684
ME		27,260		65,107	92,367
NO	4,474,960,612	8,417,509,295	584,572,362	5,261,730,426	18,738,772,695
PR	93,236,645	406,974,308	600,435	222,709,522	723,520,910
SM	65,832,658	105,600,766	27,378,478	127,633,577	326,445,479
Exports	15,849,766,811	24,895,727,511	6,918,649,352	26,290,652,565	73,954,796,239

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 2019 to 2020.

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

	V A L U E			V O L U M E		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	718,199,552	843,814,862	17%	87,076,922	113,340,141	30%
Feb	814,033,128	1,069,308,557	31%	85,226,924	120,791,109	42%
Mar	970,016,570	1,046,204,364	8%	93,846,185	113,972,081	21%
Apr	915,684,168	166,740,734	-82%	83,454,320	39,527,281	-53%
May	942,713,068	278,012,905	-71%	88,602,298	53,457,955	-40%
Jun	1,102,675,086	350,424,901	-68%	93,339,340	61,102,836	-35%
Jul	1,033,112,661	537,586,838	-48%	89,383,868	73,454,258	-18%
Aug	1,010,556,169	558,917,979	-45%	84,512,735	97,028,047	15%
Sep	947,009,685	578,688,421	-39%	87,637,584	91,759,207	5%
Oct	1,042,957,931	765,190,076	-27%	91,618,559	80,243,588	-12%
Nov	961,984,398	655,697,117	-32%	96,726,528	85,790,719	-11%
Dec	695,538,093	453,887,295	-35%	80,107,699	68,202,809	-15%
Total	11,154,480,509	7,304,474,049	-35%	1,061,532,963	998,670,032	-6%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

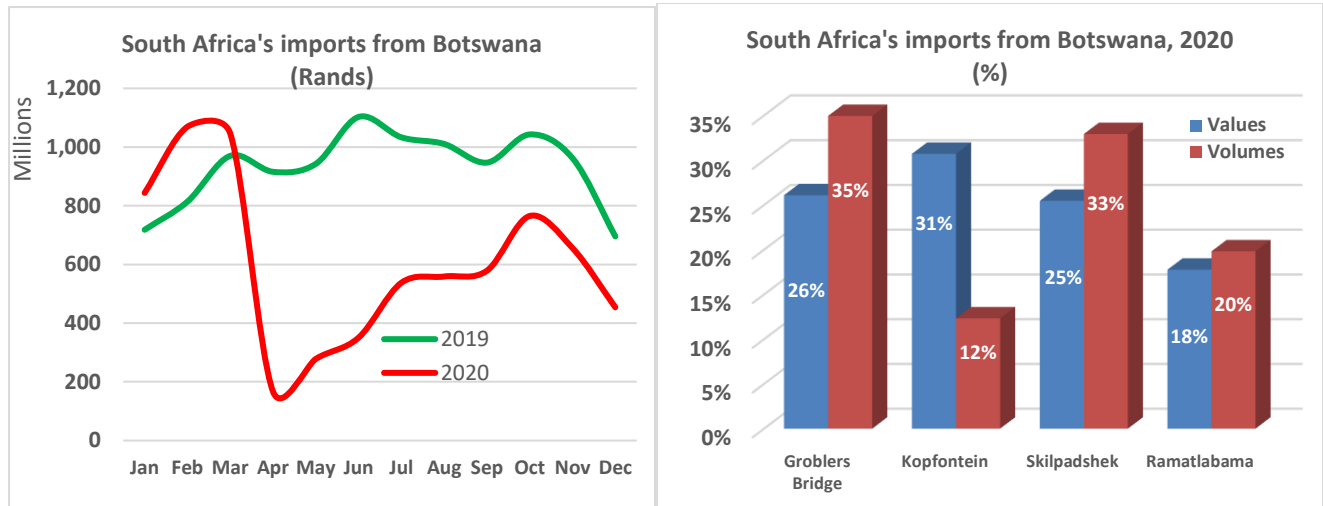
South Africa's total imports processed in these 4 commercial border posts from Botswana documented about R11,2 billion in 2019 while in 2020, imports valued about R7,3 billion resulting to a decrease of 35%. South Africa's total volumes imported from Botswana through four commercial border posts documented about 1,1 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, imports registered about 999 million pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 6% (Table 8 above).

Table 8 below depicts that the highest decline in import value and volume were realized in April 2020 compared to April 2019, with negative 82% and 53%, respectively. All the succeeding months till the end of the December 2020 also recorded a decrease.

In 2020, Grobler's bridge border posts processed the highest imports volumes that recorded about 35% associated with other Botswana commercial border posts with the second highest total value 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).

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 2020 were (Table 9):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 300 million kilograms contributing 30,0%
- ii. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 201 million kilograms recording 20,1%
- iii. Inorganic chemical compounds with 148 million kilograms documenting 14,8%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Botswana in 2020 through all Botswana commercial border posts were (Table 9):

- i. Cell phones, Electrical Equipment and Machinery with approximately R1,3 billion registering 17,6%
- ii. Live animals with R997 million recording 13,6%
- iii. Copper and Articles Thereof with about R763 million contributing 10,4%.

Table 9: RSA imports (value and volume) through commercial border posts from Botswana, 2020

	V O L U M E				
	Grobler's Bridge	Kopfontein	Ramatlabama	Skilpadshek	Botswana
CT	65			12,550	12,615
KG	348,904,127	122,333,842	328,419,436	178,985,619	978,643,024
LI	278	84,623	191,703	18,657,488	18,934,091
MC	1,428	964	34	58,507	60,933
NO	73,965	621,908	137,841	129,013	962,727
PR	602	12,230	5	36,987	49,824
SM	1,221	5,511	25	61	6,817
Imports	348,981,686	123,059,077	328,749,044	197,880,225	998,670,032

	V A L U E (Rands)				
	Grobler's Bridge	Kopfontein	Ramatlabama	Skilpadshek	Botswana
CT	39,696			86,070	125,766
KG	1,773,811,097	1,851,941,939	298,469,282	1,234,612,970	5,158,835,288
LI	3,774	789,024	191,907	288,178,005	289,162,710
MC	7,442,680	645,809	50,300	3,059,562	11,198,351
NO	123,892,996	387,143,453	998,708,082	328,533,487	1,838,278,018
PR	23,707	1,962,135	1,164	4,655,366	6,642,372
SM	28,790	174,258	2,888	25,608	231,544
Imports	1,905,242,740	2,242,656,618	1,297,423,623	1,859,151,068	7,304,474,049

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.2.3. Conclusion

In 2019, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with Botswana since it exported around R95,3 billion to Botswana and imported about R11,2 billion from Botswana equaling to trade surplus of R84,1 billion.

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 although it experienced 21% decrease from 2019 (R84,1 billion).

The decline of inter-trade between South Africa and Botswana in 2020 were mainly driven by restrictive measures imposed by member states due to the global spread of COVID-19 pandemic that led to a need to limit travelling and freight movements to the essential goods and essential workers only. However, there was a noteworthy difference in the decline of cross-border commercial vehicle activities across South Africa and Botswana borders.

Ultimately, these national lockdowns led to long delays in the movement of the most essential goods at Botswana's border posts due to required COVID-19 testing by the truck drivers and truck crews for COVID-19 before crossing the border, long delays of up to five days before the truckers being cleared to deliver goods in Botswana, or transit through the country, partially due to reduced business hours at the border posts and the need for trucks to be disinfected in some instances.

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 (km²). 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

Countries	Border posts	Operating times
South Africa	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	07:00 – 18:00
	Gege (Bothashoop)	08:00 – 16:00
	Lundzi (Waverly)	08:00 – 16:00
	Mahamba	07:00 – 22:00
	Salitjie (Onverwacht)	08:00 – 16:00
	Sandlane (Nerston)	08:00 – 18:00
Mozambique	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 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports processed in Golela border posts to eSwatini documented about R6,3 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R5,8 billion resulting to a decrease of 7%. March and December are the only months that recorded an increase of 20% and 5%, respectively in South Africa's exports from 2019 to 2020.

Concerning goods imported from eSwatini to South Africa through Golela border in 2019, South Africa imported about R4,9 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports registered about R4,5 billion which is a reduction of 8% (Table 11 below). During the first quarter of 2020, South Africa's imports increased by 27% from about R903 million in 2019 to around R1,1 billion in 2020.

The trade data for April 2019 versus April 2020 exposed the highest decline of approximately 42% of South Africa's exports, whereas South Africa's imports from eSwatini radically fell by roughly 72% compared to the same period. This severe fall 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 between the two economies.

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

	E X P O R T S		Month	I M P O R T S		Month
	2019	2020	-to-Month	2019	2020	-to-Month
Jan	494,640,739	463,682,304	-6%	266,428,625	346,866,588	30%
Feb	488,613,195	476,340,901	-3%	293,616,418	292,262,785	0%
Mar	471,898,009	567,385,325	20%	342,599,231	505,683,247	48%
Apr	438,906,984	252,967,303	-42%	310,041,048	86,147,183	-72%
May	527,130,241	424,850,283	-19%	432,663,311	207,243,528	-52%
Jun	499,810,352	466,411,676	-7%	362,823,499	337,132,002	-7%
Jul	557,117,080	485,166,695	-13%	464,530,264	373,788,806	-20%
Aug	532,730,758	508,869,625	-4%	436,547,526	442,893,973	1%
Sep	506,230,197	479,508,820	-5%	549,913,462	467,463,579	-15%
Oct	618,747,280	577,932,865	-7%	531,220,538	529,041,835	0%
Nov	601,613,585	567,388,478	-6%	435,343,418	544,052,924	25%
Dec	538,715,299	567,459,093	5%	505,410,935	389,243,154	-23%
Total	6,276,153,719	5,837,963,368	-7%	4,931,138,275	4,521,819,604	-8%

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 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports handled in Jeppes Reef border posts to eSwatini recorded about R414 million in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R404 million resulting to a slight reduction of 2%.

South Africa's imports from eSwatini that passed through Jeppes border post in 2019 valued about R187 million worth of goods although in 2020, imports registered about R163 million resulting a reduction of 13% (Table 12 below).

The trade data for April 2019 versus April 2020 uncovered the highest decline of approximately 91% of South Africa's exports, while South Africa's imports from eSwatini decreased by 63% 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	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	34,244,973	34,182,303	0%	18,843,438	13,799,702	-27%
Feb	34,176,026	38,403,665	12%	16,594,968	13,393,576	-19%
Mar	36,826,908	33,365,047	-9%	17,787,426	11,696,170	-34%
Apr	35,856,859	3,401,767	-91%	16,968,414	6,195,622	-63%
May	34,305,095	28,767,473	-16%	18,317,814	13,853,546	-24%
Jun	27,957,862	29,015,488	4%	17,476,203	12,492,612	-29%
Jul	31,349,648	32,957,829	5%	13,869,323	15,581,250	12%
Aug	32,579,510	33,422,238	3%	15,834,410	18,533,621	17%
Sep	32,820,306	39,131,197	19%	13,330,361	15,709,281	18%
Oct	36,508,391	37,065,767	2%	13,811,634	14,089,205	2%
Nov	40,441,622	45,875,513	13%	13,717,424	15,618,862	14%
Dec	36,600,858	48,362,139	32%	10,703,282	12,023,057	12%
Total	413,668,058	403,950,426	-2%	187,254,697	162,986,504	-13%

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 2019 and 2020.

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	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	63,162,327	76,321,412	21%	48,997,709	41,330,460	-16%
Feb	64,357,339	64,737,011	1%	50,987,178	46,005,469	-10%
Mar	67,566,234	81,653,010	21%	56,325,106	56,441,270	0%
Apr	62,541,234	51,982,153	-17%	55,679,101	37,180,730	-33%
May	80,187,570	79,352,340	-1%	62,991,324	53,736,528	-15%
Jun	74,777,629	85,986,159	15%	60,299,326	63,032,886	5%
Jul	88,348,542	91,695,269	4%	63,738,063	64,150,551	1%
Aug	88,062,801	82,150,035	-7%	54,922,954	68,183,155	24%
Sep	74,897,670	89,874,862	20%	54,153,156	59,457,152	10%
Oct	97,913,964	96,979,964	-1%	61,775,879	60,746,884	-2%
Nov	96,751,139	107,649,821	11%	61,737,881	68,617,632	11%
Dec	74,687,656	84,916,834	14%	38,082,988	47,270,964	24%
Total	933,254,105	993,298,870	6%	669,690,665	666,153,681	-1%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

South Africa's total exports processed in Mahamba border posts to eSwatini documented about R933 million in 2019 and in 2020, South Africa's exports valued around R993 million recording an upsurge of 6%.

Concerning goods imported from eSwatini to South Africa through Mahamba border post in 2019, South Africa imported about R670 million worth of goods whereas in 2020, South Africa's imports registered about R666 million which is a reduction of 1% (Table 13 below).

The trade data for April 2019 compared to April 2020 uncovered the highest decline of approximately 17% of South Africa's exports, and 33% reduction of South Africa's imports from eSwatini when comparing the same period.

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 2019 and 2020.

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		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	38,310,375	39,294,730	3%	39,291,937	54,554,794	39%
Feb	47,718,507	55,917,975	17%	32,609,624	44,233,409	36%
Mar	49,168,198	42,821,253	-13%	45,899,192	62,661,373	37%
Apr	55,988,898	8,764,257	-84%	54,649,310	36,971,993	-32%
May	58,675,476	28,945,523	-51%	48,050,330	65,878,756	37%
Jun	61,705,678	46,949,431	-24%	48,157,102	77,579,338	61%
Jul	59,775,545	66,012,987	10%	66,211,643	80,275,566	21%
Aug	62,753,655	66,455,124	6%	64,643,176	74,562,267	15%
Sep	77,844,930	66,212,312	-15%	61,214,555	77,970,674	27%
Oct	68,386,053	58,256,915	-15%	75,172,510	85,056,491	13%
Nov	69,393,625	59,975,368	-14%	82,155,554	84,148,249	2%
Dec	50,006,191	45,391,496	-9%	55,278,145	64,904,477	17%
Total	699,727,131	584,997,371	-16%	673,333,078	808,797,387	20%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

South Africa's total exports handled in Mananga border posts to eSwatini registered about R700 million in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R585 million resulting to a decrease of 16%.

South Africa's imports from eSwatini that passed through Mananga border in 2019 valued about R673 million worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports listed about R809 million resulting to an increase of 20% (Table 14 below).

The trade data for April 2019 versus April 2020 exposed the highest decline of approximately 84% of South Africa's exports, whereas South Africa's imports from eSwatini fell by nearly 32% when comparing the same period. This reduction is affected mainly by introduction of COVID-19 lockdown and shutdowns between the two economies.

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 SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind COVID-19. 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).

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	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
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		
Total	140,766,685	39,841,098	-72%	163,248,497	28,835,319	-82%

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 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports handled

in Oshoek border posts to eSwatini documented about R11,3 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R11,2 billion resulting to a decline of 1%.

Concerning goods imported from eSwatini to South Africa through Oshoek border in 2019, South Africa imported about R12,5 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports registered about 12,2 billion which is a reduction of 3% (Table 16 below).

The trade data for April 2019 versus April 2020 exposed the highest decline of approximately 52% of South Africa's exports, whereas South Africa's imports from eSwatini radically fell by roughly 32% when comparing the same period.

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		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	733 584 617	780 860 928	6%	947 473 133	888 810 050	-6%
Feb	843 312 586	859 352 149	2%	1 021 626 253	875 364 314	-14%
Mar	928 843 351	1 041 333 330	12%	1 106 969 357	1 171 109 401	6%
Apr	899 359 840	435 575 033	-52%	937 356 706	642 084 770	-32%
May	974 742 603	758 398 345	-22%	914 563 541	709 177 152	-22%
Jun	839 556 662	932 360 344	11%	729 813 513	833 611 495	14%
Jul	956 879 286	1 025 823 257	7%	1 025 629 524	942 122 122	-8%
Aug	1 043 275 894	1 001 974 976	-4%	1 082 108 027	1 131 451 671	5%
Sep	950 528 219	1 035 887 945	9%	1 060 513 022	1 333 648 901	26%
Oct	1 137 229 896	1 106 129 736	-3%	1 269 971 526	1 292 678 379	2%
Nov	1 134 293 628	1 147 012 701	1%	1 109 847 246	1 317 538 531	19%
Dec	900 599 852	1 119 811 511	24%	1 326 741 288	1 052 603 412	-21%
Total	11 342 206 434	11 244 520 255	-1%	12 532 613 136	12 190 200 198	-3%

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 2019 to 2020. South Africa's total exports handled in these 6 commercial border posts to eSwatini recorded about R19,8 billion in 2019 whereas in 2020, exports valued about R19,1 billion, resulting in a decrease of 4%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to eSwatini through six commercial border posts registered about 1,7 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, exports documented about 1,9 billion pieces of goods resulting to an upsurge of 13% (Table 17).

Table 17 and Figure 3 below illustrate that the highest decline in export values were realized in April 2020 compared to April 2019, with negative 50% and the volumes exported to eSwatini recorded a decrease of 27%, when compared to the same period.

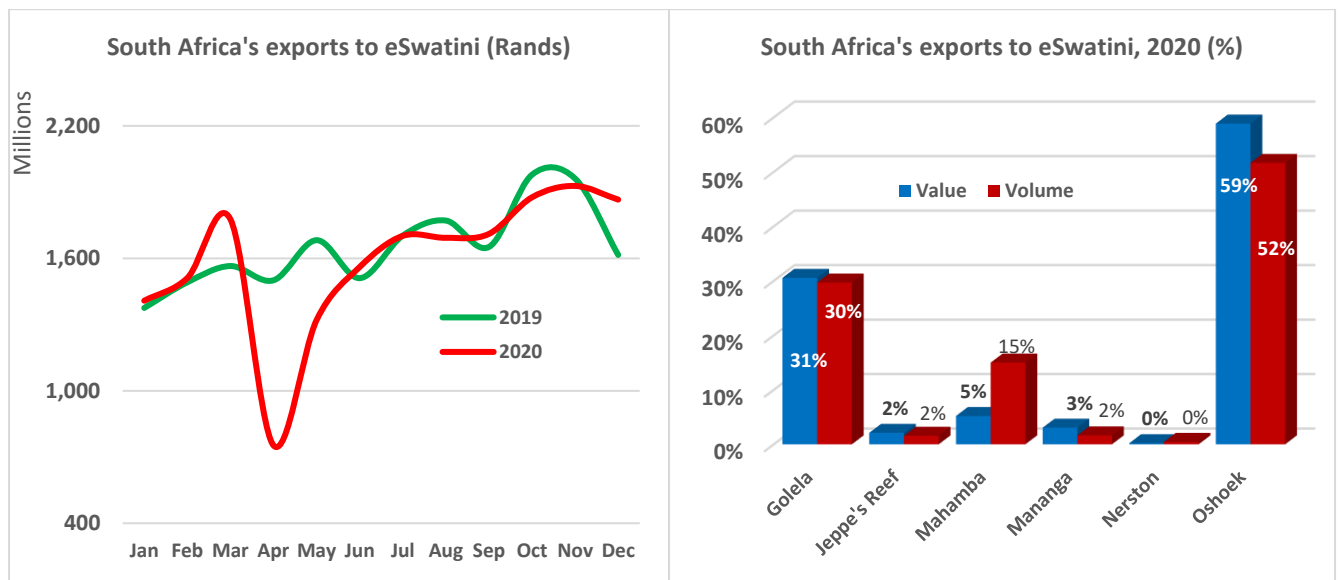
Table 17: RSA exports (value and volume) to eSwatini

	V A L U E S		Month -to-Month	V O L U M E S		Month -to-Month
	2019	2020		2019	2020	
Jan	1 375 309 793	1 407 984 759	2%	118 445 364	139 820 117	18%
Feb	1 491 501 073	1 510 606 116	1%	116 174 197	120 735 969	4%
Mar	1 565 081 838	1 776 901 566	14%	129 334 412	195 883 856	51%
Apr	1 500 552 601	752 690 513	-50%	130 153 735	95 360 240	-27%
May	1 682 193 167	1 320 313 964	-22%	148 030 991	130 545 880	-12%
Jun	1 510 132 515	1 560 723 098	3%	131 607 166	143 468 456	9%
Jul	1 702 972 723	1 701 656 037	0%	149 065 817	153 592 373	3%
Aug	1 771 055 648	1 692 871 998	-4%	146 588 651	161 337 642	10%
Sep	1 651 510 875	1 710 615 136	4%	131 973 780	210 583 454	60%
Oct	1 978 727 455	1 876 365 247	-5%	165 616 801	176 041 269	6%
Nov	1 961 334 585	1 927 901 881	-2%	158 962 893	180 690 416	14%
Dec	1 615 403 859	1 865 941 073	16%	135 452 718	164 864 024	22%
Total	19 805 776 132	19 104 571 388	-4%	1 661 406 525	1 872 923 695	13%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

In 2020, Oshoek border posts processed the highest export volumes that recorded about 52% of South Africa’s total exports that were handled at six commercial border posts of eSwatini. Oshoek also topped with the highest total value amounting to 59% (R11,2 billion out of R19,1 billion). Golela border post followed with 30% of volumes of goods that were cleared, and these goods valued about 31% (Figure 3).

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



Mahamba border post registered the third South African exporting passage by processing volumes of goods equaling to 15% and costing 5% of South Africa's total exports to eSwatini in 2020. The remaining border posts administered at most 5% of volumes of goods and values that were less or equal to 5% (Figure 3 above).

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 2020 were (Table 18):

- i. Cereals with about 264 million kilograms contributing 14,1%
- ii. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 262 million kilograms registering 14,0%
- iii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 206 million litres contributing 11%.

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 R1,3 billion contributing 7%.
- ii. Cereals valued about R1,1 billion contributing 6%
- iii. Vehicles and accessories valued about R894 million documenting 5%.

Table 18: RSA exports (value and volume) through commercial border posts to eSwatini, 2020

	V O L U M E						eSwatini	
	Golela	Jeppes Reef	Mahamba	Mananga	Nerston	Oshoek		
CT	15						20	35
KG	342,526,186	25,498,712	278,409,979	24,728,666	8,445,292	905,150,851		1,584,759,686
LI	206,375,061	202,632	1,907,533	4,748,503	4,701	46,188,542		259,426,971
MC	13,474	96	7,263	57,116	202	646,674		724,825
ME							102	102
NO	6,421,952	2,610,924	431,808	389,285	2,404	13,127,597		22,983,970
PR	305,350	1,145,025	25,382	1,996	79	1,516,949		2,994,781
SM	470,511	9,563	13,547	774,061		765,643		2,033,326
Exports	556,112,549	29,466,952	280,795,512	30,699,627	8,452,678	967,396,378		1,872,923,695
	V A L U E (Rands)							
CT	5,038,147						5,760	5,043,907
KG	3,876,862,663	197,061,467	795,773,157	377,584,497	38,002,847	8,094,413,216		13,379,697,847
LI	1,277,689,296	3,953,907	20,992,641	28,489,269	163,087	442,315,671		1,773,603,871
MC	1,020,885	288,914	1,301,570	86,840,563	391,286	16,497,720		106,340,938
ME							125,399	125,399
NO	624,407,642	156,510,974	168,386,128	91,381,260	1,264,490	2,511,841,761		3,553,792,255
PR	29,490,618	45,897,947	5,374,198	354,473	19,388	130,257,445		211,394,069
SM	23,454,117	237,217	1,471,176	347,309		49,063,283		74,573,102
Exports	5,837,963,368	403,950,426	993,298,870	584,997,371	39,841,098	11,244,520,255		19,104,571,388

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 2019 to 2020. South Africa's total imports processed in these six commercial border posts from eSwatini documented about R19,2 billion in 2019 while in 2020, imports valued about R18,4 billion resulting to a decrease of 4%.

South Africa's total volumes imported from eSwatini through 6 commercial border posts documented about 1,6 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, imports registered about 1,4 billion pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 14% (Table 19).

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 Botswana

	V A L U E		Month	V O L U M E		Month
	2019	2020	-to-Month	2019	2020	-to-Month
Jan	1,332,103,283	1,358,201,759	2%	114,131,918	121,613,178	7%
Feb	1,427,752,187	1,281,809,039	-10%	133,439,568	124,182,388	-7%
Mar	1,581,750,227	1,813,037,129	15%	142,547,562	117,809,732	-17%
Apr	1,385,154,292	808,580,298	-42%	127,298,469	72,471,077	-43%
May	1,493,569,237	1,049,889,510	-30%	136,210,735	101,506,660	-25%
Jun	1,235,243,368	1,323,848,333	7%	135,796,262	114,976,185	-15%
Jul	1,651,876,236	1,475,918,295	-11%	137,533,833	130,126,545	-5%
Aug	1,669,556,212	1,735,624,687	4%	129,542,005	126,847,680	-2%
Sep	1,755,558,719	1,954,249,587	11%	136,359,348	122,669,520	-10%
Oct	1,965,309,603	1,981,612,794	1%	156,700,347	121,319,788	-23%
Nov	1,714,186,151	2,029,976,198	18%	156,824,410	137,019,672	-13%
Dec	1,945,218,833	1,566,045,064	-19%	111,935,817	108,412,710	-3%
Total	19,157,278,348	18,378,792,693	-4%	1,618,320,275	1,398,955,135	-14%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

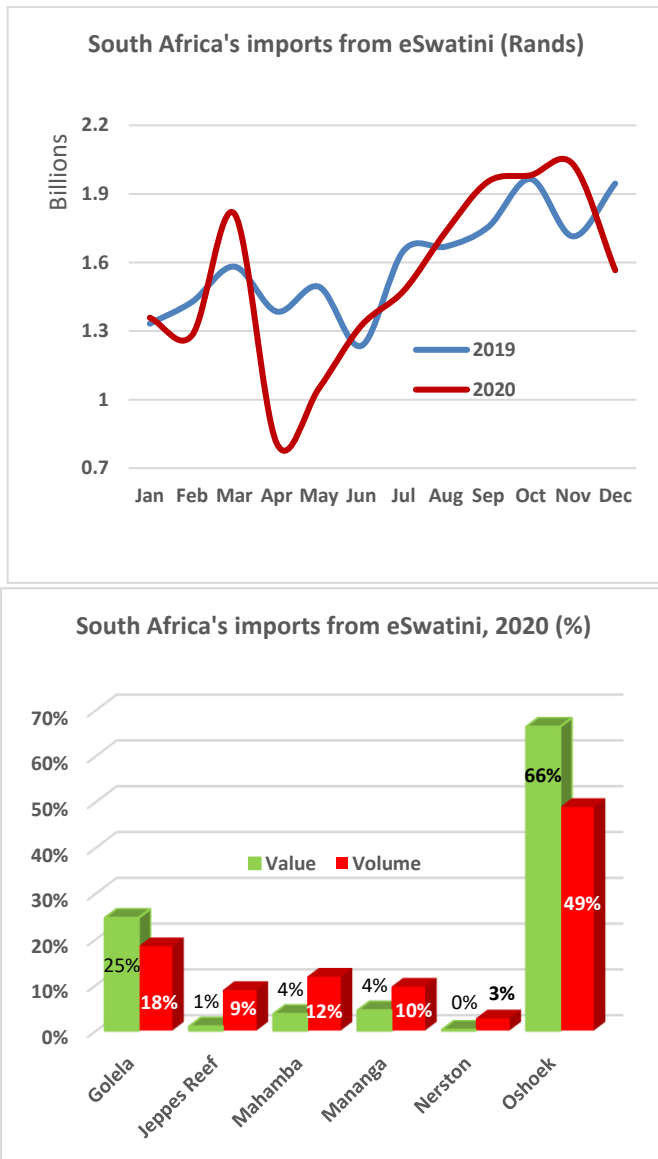
In 2020, Oshoek border posts processed the highest imports volumes that recorded about 49% of South Africa's imports from eSwatini at a value of about R12,2 billion contributing around 66% of eSwatini's total imports to South Africa (Figure 4 and Table 20 below).

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 below 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 2020 were (Table 20):

- i. Wood and articles of wood with about 474 million kilograms recording 34%

- ii. Sugars and sugar confectionery with about 460 million kilograms recording 33%
- iii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 164 million kilograms contributing 12%.

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

- i. Cosmetics, Toiletries and Beverage Syrup with about R4,8 billion documenting 26%
- ii. Sugars and sugar confectionery with about R4,7 billion recording 25,8%
- iii. Clothing and accessories, not knitted or crocheted; and Chemical products each value about R1,9 billion recording 10% each.

Table 20: RSA imports (value and volume) through commercial border posts from eSwatini, 2020

	V O L U M E						
	Golela	Jeppes Reef	Mahamba	Mananga	Nerston	Oshoek	eSwatini
KG	219,440,327	123,715,316	162,596,942	133,793,252	36,884,025	668,525,547	1,344,955,409
LI	1,080,926		80	61,520		4,630,410	5,772,936
MC	106,312	55,711	168,682	32	4,253	472,519	807,508
NO	36,759,423	1,989	1,626,058	272	17	9,025,204	47,412,963
PR	455	45				4,052	4,552
SM			2			1,765	1,767
Imports	257,387,443	123,773,060	164,391,763	133,855,076	36,888,295	682,659,497	1,398,955,135
	V A L U E (Rands)						
KG	2,347,168,289	118,528,706	416,444,433	802,739,733	28,646,299	10,750,875,341	14,464,402,801
LI	7,908,028		5,441	375,806		37,900,598	46,189,873
MC	246,831,199	40,641,224	214,290,325	4,500	116,520	465,574,528	967,458,296
NO	1,919,822,000	3,798,115	35,407,882	5,677,348	72,500	935,045,376	2,899,823,221
PR	90,088	18,459				576,910	685,457
SM			5,600			227,445	233,045
Imports	4,521,819,604	162,986,504	666,153,681	808,797,387	28,835,319	12,190,200,198	18,378,792,693

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.3.3. Conclusion

In 2019, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with eSwatini since it exported around R19,8 billion to eSwatini and imported about R19,2 billion from eSwatini equaling to trade surplus of R600 million.

In 2020, South Africa exported goods that valued about R19,1 billion to eSwatini which was 4% lower than the exports of 2019. The value of South Africa's imports from eSwatini during the same year was nearly R18,4 billion which was lower by R80 million from 2019 imports (R19,2 billion). Consequently, South Africa in 2020 enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R700 million, which was 16,7% higher than in 2019, although the inter-trade between these two economies was lower in 2020 compared to in 2019.

The decline of inter-trade between South Africa and eSwatini in 2020 were mainly driven by restrictive measures imposed by member states due to the global spread of COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a need to limit travelling and freight movements to essential goods and workers only.

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 km² (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

Lesotho Border Post	RSA Border posts	Opening Hours	Contact Number
Maseru Bridge	Maseru Bridge	24 hrs.	+27(0) 51 924 4300
Peka Bridge	Peka Bride	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 51 933 3951
Maputsoe	Ficksburg Bridge	24 hrs.	+27(0) 51 933 2760
Caledonspoot	Caledonspoot	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'ilitso	Ramats'ilitso	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 39 256 4443
Qacha's Nek	Quacha'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:

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

2.5.2.1. Caledonspoot border posts

Table 22 discloses South Africa's total exports and imports values in monetary terms, that passed through Caledonspoot border posts between 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports processed in Caledonspoot border posts to Lesotho recorded about R2,2 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R1,9 billion resulting to a decrease of 12%.

Regarding goods imported from Lesotho to South Africa through Caledonspoort border posts in 2019, South Africa imported about R245 million worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports registered about R163 million which is a reduction of 34% (Table 22 below).

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 showed the highest decline of approximately 75% of South Africa's exports, whereas South Africa's imports from Lesotho drastically dropped by roughly 100% when comparing the same period. This severe fall 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		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	153 253 422	180 513 357	18%	20 261 229	25 776 088	27%
Feb	161 757 638	201 637 550	25%	15 220 299	14 765 262	-3%
Mar	172 068 655	173 318 446	1%	23 029 706	18 198 643	-21%
Apr	141 595 924	35 374 831	-75%	19 742 859	47 791	-100%
May	209 037 285	79 837 875	-62%	15 563 823	11 581 951	-26%
Jun	208 553 082	117 430 935	-44%	35 772 598	18 439 642	-48%
Jul	190 132 168	171 674 449	-10%	18 587 499	16 012 695	-14%
Aug	190 230 342	191 207 437	1%	18 896 444	4 620 936	-76%
Sep	149 063 036	169 314 947	14%	15 414 727	11 058 281	-28%
Oct	191 191 336	239 257 990	25%	28 427 960	15 605 706	-45%
Nov	226 034 719	158 723 612	-30%	22 202 932	12 703 952	-43%
Dec	212 051 581	212 111 853	0%	12 316 713	13 968 517	13%
Total	2 204 969 188	1 930 403 282	-12%	245 436 789	162 779 464	-34%

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 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports handled in Ficksburg border posts to Lesotho recorded about R3,3 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R3,1 billion ensuing to a reduction of 7%.

Concerning South Africa's imports from Lesotho that were administered at Ficksburg border posts in 2019, South Africa imported about R2,3 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports registered about R2,0 billion which is a decline of 11% (Table 23 below).

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 showed the highest deterioration of approximately 81% of South Africa's exports to Lesotho, whereas South Africa's imports from Lesotho drastically dropped by roughly 98% 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		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	215,593,176	228,416,769	6%	159,902,448	148,065,145	-7%
Feb	221,772,319	261,355,508	18%	191,057,839	213,067,233	12%
Mar	267,821,911	258,734,611	-3%	180,240,673	177,018,708	-2%
Apr	247,352,929	46,501,721	-81%	176,293,664	3,989,769	-98%
May	276,273,171	181,476,722	-34%	174,595,000	55,956,863	-68%
Jun	240,569,745	250,125,965	4%	160,388,539	136,687,770	-15%
Jul	286,222,650	265,947,346	-7%	200,138,566	187,662,380	-6%
Aug	292,974,473	268,938,833	-8%	207,615,906	210,766,583	2%
Sep	307,629,008	312,127,329	1%	207,793,083	213,563,076	3%
Oct	350,384,713	341,735,149	-2%	231,908,253	264,843,264	14%
Nov	348,202,969	360,348,530	3%	236,851,242	271,723,618	15%
Dec	248,582,049	312,501,594	26%	129,915,169	133,939,155	3%
Total	3,303,379,113	3,088,210,077	-7%	2,256,700,382	2,017,283,564	-11%

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 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports processed in Maseru bridge border posts to Lesotho recorded about R12,2 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R11,1 billion resulting to a decrease of 9%.

South Africa's imports from Lesotho that were handled at Maseru bridge border posts in 2019 valued about R1,9 billion worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports recorded about R2,2 billion which is an increase of 11% (Table 24 below).

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 showed the highest decline of approximately 62% of South Africa's exports to Lesotho, whereas South Africa's imports from Lesotho drastically dropped by roughly 88% 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		Month	I M P O R T S		Month
	2019	2020	-to-Month	2019	2020	-to-Month
Jan	784,560,637	859,987,010	10%	117,784,753	234,292,322	99%
Feb	968,857,081	963,677,466	-1%	119,550,558	213,010,339	78%
Mar	1,025,661,208	960,815,137	-6%	121,785,807	190,914,017	57%
Apr	1,001,329,150	381,092,560	-62%	178,460,667	20,978,215	-88%
May	991,809,205	792,984,239	-20%	151,585,138	78,909,982	-48%
Jun	904,527,282	875,605,898	-3%	151,904,023	150,687,255	-1%
Jul	989,367,023	960,202,157	-3%	164,906,384	163,437,222	-1%
Aug	1,061,662,855	965,844,646	-9%	178,115,763	173,056,052	-3%
Sep	1,026,825,369	1,027,653,794	0%	190,437,479	221,218,178	16%
Oct	1,189,705,030	1,078,630,410	-9%	239,779,314	276,520,636	15%
Nov	1,224,506,686	1,170,190,353	-4%	180,986,959	254,662,258	41%
Dec	1,040,608,661	1,086,262,062	4%	140,655,799	172,816,782	23%
Total	12,209,420,187	11,122,945,732	-9%	1,935,952,644	2,150,503,258	11%

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 2019 and 2020.

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

	E X P O R T S		Month	I M P O R T S		Month
	2019	2020	-to-Month	2019	2020	-to-Month
Jan	5,871,543	6,791,520	16%	335,381	4,933,370	1371%
Feb	5,382,763	5,214,503	-3%	331,790	10,124,445	2951%
Mar	6,098,293	4,829,702	-21%	451,021	2,346,560	420%
Apr	6,611,173	1,471,251	-78%	512,579		-100%
May	6,687,334	4,852,215	-27%	359,870	1,700,240	372%
Jun	6,372,110	7,477,410	17%	101,161	4,519	-96%
Jul	9,216,122	9,221,124	0%	358,475	1,832,800	411%
Aug	9,302,859	6,027,603	-35%	376,758	1,425,830	278%
Sep	8,508,036	7,053,936	-17%	319,145		-100%
Oct	7,852,251	6,655,538	-15%	358,932	5,359,020	1393%
Nov	11,382,353	5,780,407	-49%	144,424	3,323,390	2201%
Dec	9,315,194	6,117,312	-34%	916,735	5,306,420	479%
Total	92,600,031	71,492,521	-23%	4,566,271	36,356,594	696%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

South Africa's total exports that were processed in Qacha's Nek border posts to Lesotho documented about R92,6 million in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R71,5 million resulting to a decline of 23%.

South Africa's imports from Lesotho that were handled at Qacha's Nek border posts in 2019 valued about R4,6 million worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports recorded about R36,4 million which is an increase of 696% (Table 25 below).

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 showed the highest deterioration of approximately 78% of South Africa's exports to Lesotho, while South Africa's imports from Lesotho drastically dropped by roughly 100% as there were no imports in 2020.

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 2019 and 2020.

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

	E X P O R T S			I M P O R T S		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	59,271,667	57,535,110	-3%	309,494	6,495,358	1999%
Feb	56,715,014	53,644,158	-5%	273,485	11,343,332	4048%
Mar	64,308,535	53,913,212	-16%	260,645	15,370,375	5797%
Apr	65,249,223	29,028,489	-56%	534,491	409,279	-23%
May	61,598,609	47,912,708	-22%	258,962	2,047,072	690%
Jun	58,131,506	80,416,921	38%	126,501	2,532,537	1902%
Jul	60,028,695	63,955,222	7%	320,968	1,214,458	278%
Aug	60,557,333	58,906,525	-3%	428,630	514,966	20%
Sep	52,402,614	64,721,843	24%	456,568	2,042,467	347%
Oct	71,038,620	68,698,621	-3%	798,535	4,405,331	452%
Nov	70,456,879	77,791,149	10%	364,009	7,448,072	1946%
Dec	70,079,548	89,082,066	27%	157,773	1,861,318	1080%
Total	749,838,243	745,606,024	-1%	4,290,061	55,684,565	1198%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

South Africa's total exports administered in Van Rooyen's Gate border posts to Lesotho recorded about R12,2 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R746 million resulting to a decrease of 1%.

South Africa's imports from Lesotho that were handled at Van Rooyen's Gate border posts in 2019 valued about R4,2 million worth of goods whereas in 2020, imports recorded about R56 million which is an increase of 1198% (Table 26 above).

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 in Table 26 above displayed the highest decline of approximately 56% of South Africa’s exports to Lesotho, whereas South Africa’s imports from Lesotho dropped by roughly 23% when comparing the same period.

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 2019 to 2020. South Africa’s total exports processed in these 5 commercial border posts to Lesotho documented about R18,6 billion in 2019 whereas in 2020, exports valued about R17 billion resulting to a decrease of 9%.

South Africa’s total volumes exported to Lesotho through five commercial border posts documented nearly 1,5 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, exports documented about 1,5 billion pieces of goods resulting to an increase of 3% (Table 27).

Table 27 and Figure 5 below depict that the highest decline in export values were realized in April 2020 compared to April 2019, with negative 66%, while imports recorded a decline of 57% in the same period.

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

	V A L U E S			V O L U M E S		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	1 218 550 445	1 333 243 766	9%	138 474 111	114 836 931	-17%
Feb	1 414 484 815	1 485 529 185	5%	106 847 642	106 489 365	0%
Mar	1 535 958 602	1 451 611 108	-5%	121 395 723	120 305 945	-1%
Apr	1 462 138 399	493 468 852	-66%	119 916 760	51 444 336	-57%
May	1 545 405 604	1 107 063 759	-28%	117 105 502	206 302 249	76%
Jun	1 418 153 725	1 331 057 129	-6%	103 206 807	129 915 791	26%
Jul	1 534 966 658	1 471 000 298	-4%	116 910 590	124 053 564	6%
Aug	1 614 727 862	1 490 925 044	-8%	128 402 265	127 512 498	-1%
Sep	1 544 428 063	1 580 871 849	2%	119 590 185	132 826 637	11%
Oct	1 810 171 950	1 734 977 708	-4%	136 645 011	132 656 173	-3%
Nov	1 880 583 606	1 772 834 051	-6%	141 128 911	135 379 756	-4%
Dec	1 580 637 033	1 706 074 887	8%	125 723 177	139 480 655	11%
Total	18 560 206 762	16 958 657 636	-9%	1 475 346 683	1 521 203 900	3%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

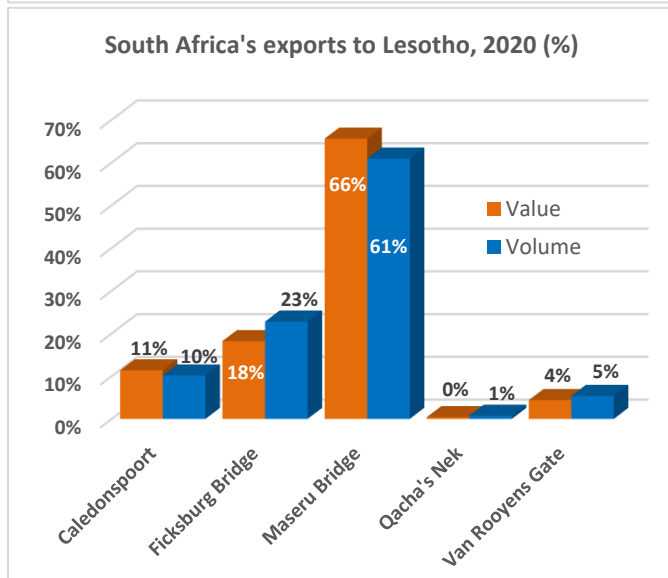
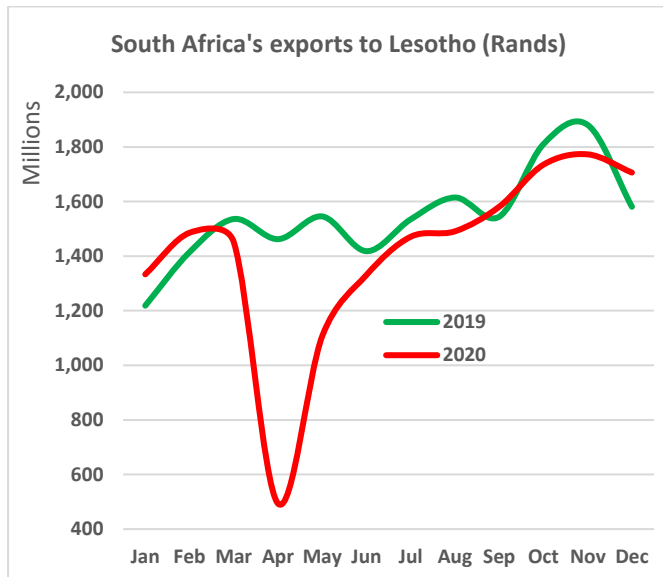
In 2020, Maseru bridge border posts processed the highest South Africa’s export volumes that constituted about 61% of South Africa’s total exports to Lesotho. Maseru bridge border posts also

recorded the highest value amounting to 66% (R11,1 billion). Ficksburg border post followed with 23% of volumes of goods that were cleared, and these goods valued about R3,1 billion amounting to 18% of South Africa's total exports to Lesotho in 2020 (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 2020. 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 volume of South Africa's exports that vary between 1% and 5% with value that did not exceed 4% (Figure 5 below). From March 2020 to April 2020 South Africa's exports to Lesotho deteriorated by 66%. This drastic decline included the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa and some of its trading partners.

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 2020 were (Table 28):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 287 million litres contributing 19%
- ii. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 240 million kilograms registering 16%
- iii. Wheat, malt and other milled grains with about 178 million kilograms registering 12%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Lesotho in 2020 through all Lesotho commercial border posts in 2020 were (Table 28 below):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about R1,8 billion recording 11%
- ii. Wheat, malt and other milled grains with about R921 million registering 5%
- iii. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with R780 million registering around 4,6%.

Table 28: RSA exports (value and volume) through commercial border posts to Lesotho, 2020

	Caledonspoort	Ficksburg Bridge	Maseru Bridge	Qacha's Nek	Van Rooyen's Gate	Lesotho
KG	98 673 943	328 996 875	631 633 169	11 003 020	76 909 046	1 147 216 053
LI	54 592 588	8 995 284	272 461 702	344 023	3 380 707	339 774 305
MC	21 026	4 775 090	1 021 640	229 026	68 605	6 115 386
ME		14	318		13	345
NO	1 170 260	2 901 343	15 591 259	11 777	1 023 277	20 697 916
PR	100 678	569 626	2 278 609	40 350	360 798	3 350 060
SM	66 954	109 448	3 793 236	1 802	78 395	4 049 834
Exports	154 625 449	346 347 680	926 779 933	11 629 998	81 820 841	1 521 203 900
V A L U E (Rands)						
KG	1 035 834 024	2 616 399 710	7 267 436 885	57 335 513	587 866 101	11 564 872 233
LI	370 649 627	81 849 058	1 860 058 628	2 427 159	18 692 039	2 333 676 511
MC	25 393 616	10 867 812	54 270 987	133 473	2 292 328	92 958 216
ME		1 781	8 513		1 198	11 492
NO	484 639 067	332 907 827	1 713 454 268	9 275 218	113 596 040	2 653 872 420
PR	8 851 526	37 833 474	186 340 311	2 100 329	21 408 794	256 534 434
SM	5 035 422	8 350 415	41 376 140	220 829	1 749 524	56 732 330
Exports	1 930 403 282	3 088 210 077	11 122 945 732	71 492 521	745 606 024	16 958 657 636

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 2019 to 2020.

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

	V A L U E		Month	V O L U M E		Month
	2019	2020	-to-Month	2019	2020	-to-Month
Jan	298 593 305	419 562 283	41%	13 667 609	15 056 229	10%
Feb	326 433 971	462 310 611	42%	14 121 641	15 772 700	12%
Mar	325 767 852	403 848 303	24%	14 221 576	14 973 971	5%
Apr	375 544 260	25 425 054	-93%	15 382 104	5 225 824	-66%
May	342 362 793	150 196 108	-56%	16 768 977	11 048 405	-34%
Jun	348 292 822	308 351 723	-11%	15 248 366	14 084 611	-8%
Jul	384 311 892	370 159 555	-4%	18 405 904	15 677 717	-15%
Aug	405 433 501	390 384 367	-4%	18 008 063	16 885 879	-6%
Sep	414 421 002	447 882 002	8%	17 357 945	16 738 671	-4%
Oct	501 272 994	566 733 957	13%	19 239 768	19 134 237	-1%
Nov	440 549 566	549 861 290	25%	18 299 561	19 033 439	4%
Dec	283 962 189	327 892 192	15%	13 145 374	13 583 062	3%
Total	4 446 946 147	4 422 607 445	-1%	193 866 887	177 214 744	-9%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

South Africa's total imports processed in these 5 commercial border posts from Lesotho documented about R4,4 billion in 2019 while in 2020, imports valued nearly R4,4 billion resulting to a decline of 1%.

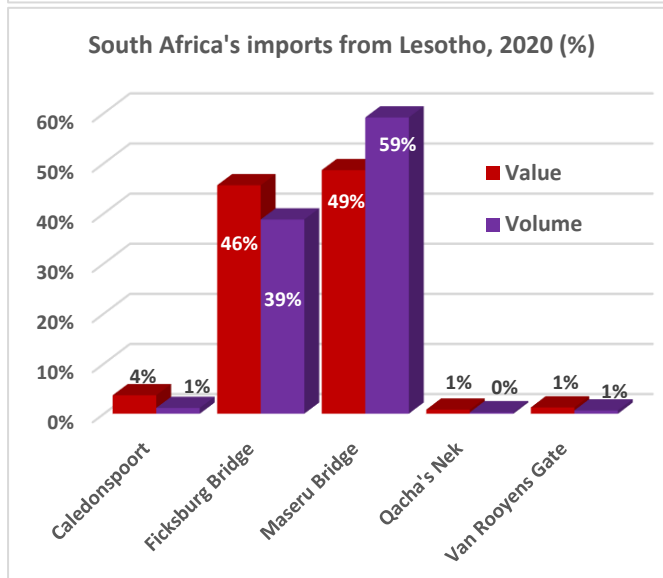
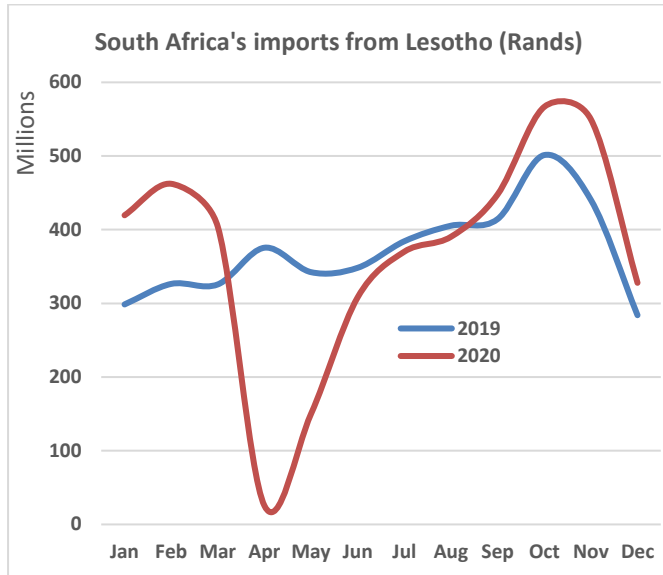
South Africa's total volumes imported from Lesotho through five commercial border posts documented about 194 million pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, imports registered about 177 million pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 9% (Table 29).

Table 29 and Figure 6 below depict that the highest decline in import values were realized in April 2020 compared to April 2019, with negative 93%. Measured at month-on-month, the rand value of imports decreased by 94% from March 2020 (R404 million) downwards to R25 million in April 2020.

Table 29 and Figure 6 below illustrate that the highest decline in import volumes were realized in April 2020 compared to April 2019 with a decline of 66%, whereas on a month-to-month basis import volumes dropped by 65% from March to April in 2020.

In 2020, Maseru Bridge border posts processed the highest imports volumes that recorded about 59% of South Africa's total imports from Lesotho (Figure 6). Maseru Bridge border posts, shown in Table 30 below, topped in processing imports to the value of 49% (R2,2, billion) of South Africa's imports from Lesotho (R4,4 billion).

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



Ficksburg border post followed Maseru Bridge by processing 39% of volumes of goods imported from Lesotho. These goods valued about 46% compared to other commercial border posts in Lesotho, amounting to R2,0 billion (Figure 6 above).

The remaining border posts shared 2% of volumes imported from Lesotho with the import value that does not exceed 5% as the biggest border posts (Maseru bridge and Ficksburg) processed about 95% of the imports value from Lesotho to South Africa (Figure 6 above).

The highest volumes of South Africa's imports from Lesotho that traversed all commercial border posts of Lesotho in 2020 were (Table 30 below):

- i. Wheat, malt and other milled grains with about 41 million kilograms registering 23%
- ii. Clothing and accessories, not knitted/knitted or crocheted with about 33 million items contributing 19%

- iii. Residues and waste from the food industries with about 25 million kilograms contributing 14% and
- iv. Salt, sulphur, stone and plastering material with about 19 million kilograms recording 11%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Lesotho in 2020 through all Lesotho commercial border posts were (Table 30):

- i. Clothing and accessories, not knitted/knitted or crocheted with about R1,7 billion contributing 37%
- ii. Wool, fine or coarse animal hair with about R664 million registering 15%
- iii. Cell phones, Electrical Equipment and Machinery with approximately R450 million registering 10%.

Table 30: RSA imports (value and volume) through commercial border posts from Lesotho, 2020

	V O L U M E					
	Caledonspoort	Ficksburg Bridge	Maseru Bridge	Qacha's Nek	Van Rooyen's Gate	Lesotho
KG	1 923 042	38 829 318	98 613 641	502 660	1 176 822	141 045 483
LI	16 092	29 308	71 536			116 936
MC		562	318			880
NO	100 347	27 219 490	6 062 437	1 391	1 747	33 385 412
PR		2 613 571	458		103	2 614 132
SM	15	11 778	39 985		124	51 901
Imports	2 039 496	68 704 027	104 788 375	504 051	1 178 796	177 214 744
	V A L U E (Rands)					
KG	56 569 015	688 001 353	1 564 616 377	35 198 594	55 168 184	2 399 553 523
LI	118 146	181 095	3 068 629			3 367 870
MC		50 018	27 100			77 118
NO	106 091 053	1 226 749 199	582 296 638	1 158 000	501 016	1 916 795 906
PR		101 712 740	122 838		7 355	101 842 933
SM	1 250	589 159	371 676		8 010	970 095
Imports	162 779 464	2 017 283 564	2 150 503 258	36 356 594	55 684 565	4 422 607 445

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.5.3. Conclusion

In 2019, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with Lesotho since it exported around R18,6 billion and imported about R4,4 billion resulting to trade surplus of R14,2 billion.

In 2020, South Africa's exports to Lesotho valued about R17,0 billion which was 9% lower than the exports of 2019 and South Africa's imports in 2020 declined to 1% by registering R4,4 billion from R4,4 billion in 2019. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R12,6 billion although it experienced 11% decrease compared to trade surplus of 2019.

In 2020, the highest volumes exported from South Africa to Lesotho by type of commodity were Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity; Salt, Sulphur, stone and plastering material and Wheat, malt and other milled grains. The highest valued exports to Lesotho were Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity; Wheat, malt and other milled grains; and Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances

In 2020, the highest volumes imported from Lesotho by type of commodity were Wheat, malt and other milled grains; Clothing and accessories, not knitted/knitted or crocheted; and Residues and waste from the food industries. The highest valued imports from Lesotho were Clothing and accessories, not knitted/knitted or crocheted; Wool, fine or coarse animal hair; and Cellphones, Electrical Equipment and Machinery.

The decline of inter-trade between South Africa and Lesotho in 2020 were mainly driven by national lockdown to contain the spread of the corona virus.

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

Mozambique	South Africa	Operating Hours	Distance
Pafuri	Pafuri	08h00 – 16h00	532kms from Johannesburg
Giriyondo	Giriyondo	08h00 – 16h00 Only open for 4x4 vehicles, not open to commercial traffic.	595kms from Johannesburg
Ressano Garcia	Lebombo	06h00 – 24h00 (Passenger) 06h00 -22h00 (Commercial)	451kms from Johannesburg
Ponta do Ouro	Kosi Bay	08h00 – 17h00	630kms from Johannesburg and 460kms from Durban

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 discloses South Africa's total exports in monetary terms and quantities, that passed through Lebombo border posts between 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports administered in Lebombo border posts to Mozambique recorded about R55,6 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R53,6 billion resulting to a decrease of 4%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Mozambique through Lebombo border posts documented nearly 16,6 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, exports documented about 13,6 billion pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 18% (Table 32).

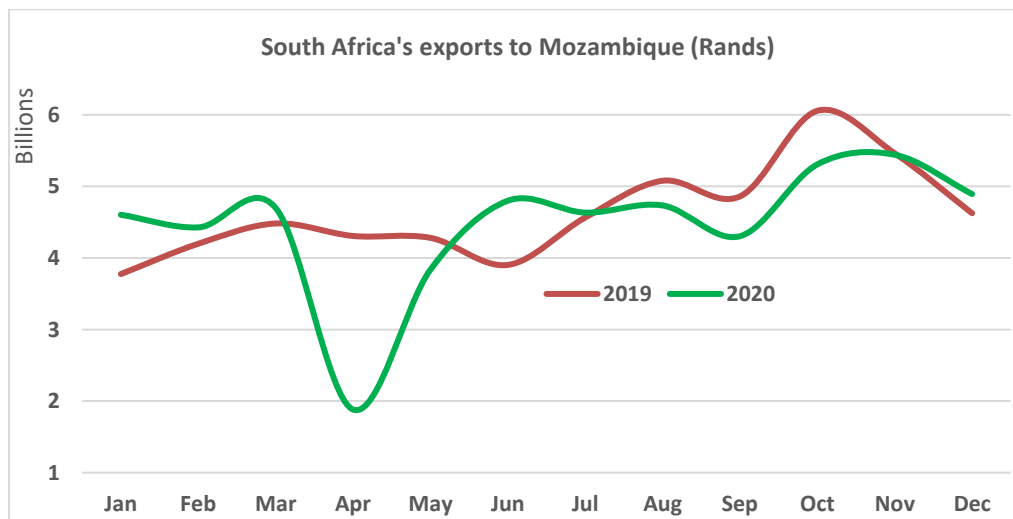
Table 32: RSA exports (value and volume) to Mozambique

	V A L U E S			V O L U M E S		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	3,774,929,426	4,603,551,824	22%	1,245,187,078	1,516,217,043	22%
Feb	4,198,148,740	4,426,718,609	5%	1,119,265,416	1,242,268,140	11%
Mar	4,481,356,762	4,699,166,658	5%	1,225,830,090	1,077,147,879	-12%
Apr	4,307,312,470	1,882,598,226	-56%	1,516,684,206	330,536,000	-78%
May	4,280,521,280	3,835,971,001	-10%	1,127,916,173	910,885,485	-19%
Jun	3,902,357,818	4,799,201,092	23%	930,111,335	1,252,010,235	35%
Jul	4,564,647,056	4,633,585,020	2%	1,360,226,299	1,102,966,145	-19%
Aug	5,078,944,209	4,733,780,141	-7%	1,613,832,668	1,145,572,501	-29%
Sep	4,859,601,948	4,303,786,575	-11%	1,526,447,019	985,729,735	-35%
Oct	6,056,389,609	5,307,414,136	-12%	1,753,324,948	1,334,598,667	-24%
Nov	5,461,522,539	5,441,538,957	0%	1,705,766,890	1,335,531,511	-22%
Dec	4,624,852,825	4,892,789,011	6%	1,483,001,110	1,370,761,703	-8%
Total	55,590,584,682	53,560,101,250	-4%	16,607,593,231	13,604,225,043	-18%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 in Table 32 above and Figure 7 below displayed the highest decline of approximately 56% of South Africa's exports to Mozambique, whereas on a month-to-month basis exports dropped by 60% from March (R4,7 billion) to April (R1,9 billion) in 2020.

Figure 7: South Africa's exports to Mozambique



The highest volumes of South Africa's exports to Mozambique that traversed Lebombo border posts in 2020 were (Table 33 below):

- i. Ores with about 9,8 billion kilograms registering 72%.
- ii. Iron and Steel with about 1,2 billion kilograms recording 9%; and
- iii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 885 million kilograms contributing 7%.

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

- i. Ores with about R17,9 billion registering 33%; and
- ii. Iron and Steel with about R13,9 billion kilograms recording 26%.

Table 33: RSA exports (value and volume) to Mozambique, 2020

	Value	Volume
KG	48,954,770,269	13,545,620,059
LI	411,403,901	34,062,775
MC	120,932,997	2,012,236
ME	5,000	50
NO	3,944,436,848	20,731,201
NULL	256,755	0
PR	62,523,416	519,796
SM	65,772,064	1,278,927
Exports	53,560,101,250	13,604,225,043

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 2019 to 2020. South Africa's total imports processed in these Lebombo border posts from Mozambique 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 Mozambique through Lebombo 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 35 below).

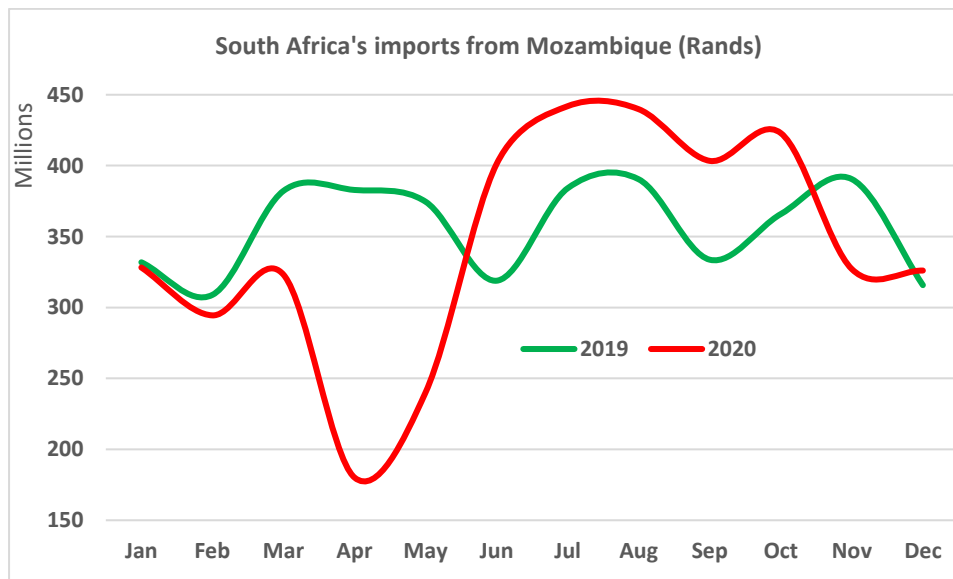
Table 35: RSA imports (value and volume) from Mozambique

	V A L U E		Month -to-Month	V O L U M E		Month -to-Month
	2019	2020		2019	2020	
Jan	331,868,884	328,206,961	-1%	51,568,366	51,619,112	0%
Feb	308,891,897	294,439,839	-5%	44,654,590	46,595,936	4%
Mar	382,220,037	323,162,540	-15%	52,133,343	47,717,767	-8%
Apr	382,849,747	180,145,996	-53%	52,082,617	26,909,067	-48%
May	374,599,008	240,067,159	-36%	51,248,554	32,681,996	-36%
Jun	318,880,367	401,146,734	26%	43,532,208	49,301,084	13%
Jul	384,069,637	441,917,708	15%	59,587,742	58,727,719	-1%
Aug	390,399,003	439,795,883	13%	60,089,380	64,055,876	7%
Sep	333,690,599	403,376,399	21%	49,727,944	53,351,034	7%
Oct	365,859,329	422,958,571	16%	49,396,967	51,466,276	4%
Nov	390,485,966	327,080,753	-16%	55,753,617	43,393,495	-22%
Dec	315,768,493	326,037,283	3%	48,838,233	42,608,565	-13%
Total	4,279,582,967	4,128,335,826	-4%	618,613,563	568,427,925	-8%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Table 35 above and Figure 6 below exemplify that the highest decline in imports from Mozambique were realized in April 2020 compared to April 2019 with a decline of 53%, whereas on a month-to-month basis imports dropped by 44% from March to April in 2020

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 2020 were (Table 36 below):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 250 million litres registering 44%
- ii. Residues and waste from the food industries with about 94 million kilograms contributing 17%
- iii. Fruit and nuts with about 80 million kilograms recording 14%

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Mozambique in 2020 through Lebombo border posts were (Table 36):

- i. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about R2,2 billion registering 52%
- ii. Prepared feathers with about R629 million registering 15%
- iii. Fruit and nuts with about R399 million contributing 10%.

Table 36: RSA imports (value and volume) from Mozambique, 2020

	Value	Volume
KG	1,857,522,186	317,800,063
LI	2,164,490,262	250,456,573
MC	1,906,628	26,238
NO	104,356,621	142,742
PR	58,830	2,306
SM	1,299	4
Imports	4,128,335,826	568,427,925

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.7.3. Conclusion

In 2019, trading between South Africa and Mozambique favoured South Africa with R51,3 billion of trade surplus because it exported goods and services worth R55,6 billion to Mozambique and imported about R4,3 billion.

In 2020, South Africa's exports to Mozambique valued about R53,6 billion which was 4% lower than the exports of 2019 and South Africa's imports in 2020 declined to 1% by registering R4,1 billion from R4,3 billion in 2019. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R49,5 billion although it experienced 3,5% decrease compared to trade surplus of 2019.

In 2020, the highest volumes exported from South Africa to Mozambique by type of commodity were Ores, Iron and Steel. The highest valued exports to Mozambique were Ores, and Iron and Steel.

In 2020, 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.

The decline of inter-trade between South Africa and Mozambique in 2020 were mainly driven by closures that targeted the movement of people across borders, exemptions for the movement of essential freight supplies and emergency services under very strict conditions, including mandatory testing, the sanitization of trucks, limited crew members on trucks and designated transit resting areas.

2.8. Trade with Namibia

2.8.1. 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 km² 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

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

2.8.2. Vioolsdrift Border Posts

2.8.2.1. 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 Vioolsdrift border posts between 2019 and 2020. South Africa's total exports administered in Vioolsdrift border posts to Namibia recorded about R10,3 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R9,7 billion resulting to a decrease of 6%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Namibia through Vioolsdrift border posts documented nearly 470 million pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, exports documented about 378 million pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 20% (Table 38 below).

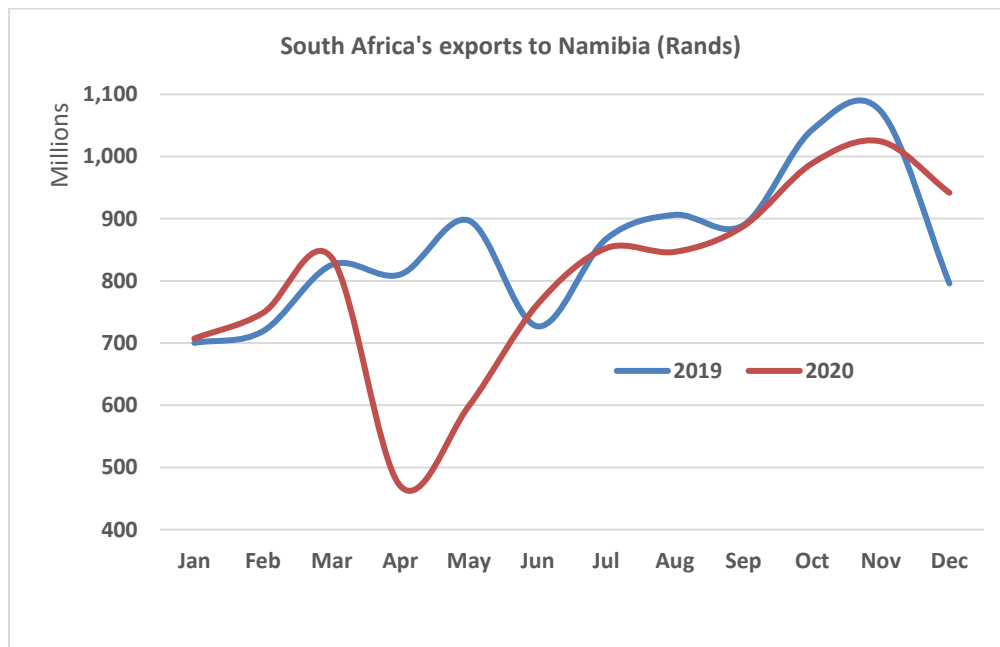
Table 38: RSA exports (value and volume) to Namibia

	V A L U E		Month -to-Month	V O L U M E		Month -to-Month
	2019	2020		2019	2020	
Jan	700 298 965	707 369 184	1%	54,161,757	31,007,577	-43%
Feb	719 167 564	748 467 745	4%	31,879,505	32,375,565	2%
Mar	825 625 627	837 284 021	1%	33,209,425	34,399,358	4%
Apr	810 249 643	470 226 684	-42%	34,133,420	23,175,378	-32%
May	896 949 063	598 918 826	-33%	36,715,787	25,171,239	-31%
Jun	726 896 848	762 417 313	5%	32,710,591	27,615,046	-16%
Jul	867 442 545	852 572 083	-2%	38,336,505	29,571,678	-23%
Aug	906 137 674	846 687 731	-7%	46,930,968	29,698,681	-37%
Sep	889 732 346	887 963 652	0%	37,416,524	29,646,490	-21%
Oct	1 042 950 167	988 986 533	-5%	43,074,577	40,601,228	-6%
Nov	1 072 748 296	1 024 267 454	-5%	46,041,555	36,895,655	-20%
Dec	795 821 208	941 725 960	18%	35,651,307	37,480,744	5%
Total	10 254 019 946	9 666 887 186	-6%	470,261,920	377,638,638	-20%

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 month-to-month basis exports dropped by 44% from March (R837 million) to April (R470 million) in 2020.

Figure 9: South Africa’s exports to Namibia



The highest volumes of South Africa's exports to Namibia that traversed Vioolsdrift border posts in 2020 were (Table 39 below):

- i. Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers with about 34 million kilograms registering 9%
- ii. Beverages, spirits, and vinegar with about 30 million litres contributing 8%
- iii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity; Fruits and Nuts; and Fertilizers each recording 7% with about 28 million litres, 26 million kilograms, and 25 million kilograms, respectively.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Namibia in 2020 through Vioolsdrift border posts in 2020 were (Table 39 below):

- i. Beverages, spirits and vinegar with about R682 million litres contributing 7%
- ii. Plastics and articles thereof with about R535 million registering 6%
- iii. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with R464 million registering 5%.

Table 39: RSA exports (value and volume) to Namibia, 2020

	Value	Volume
CT	713 613	49
KG	7 035 043 153	300 599 478
LI	881 191 729	57 720 186
MC	9 660 149	73 446
NO	1 617 873 354	17 164 902
PR	93 177 674	1 133 011
SM	29 227 514	947 566
Exports	9 666 887 186	377 638 638

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.8.2.2. 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 2019 to 2020. South Africa's total imports processed in these Vioolsdrift border posts from Namibia documented about R1,8 billion in 2019 while in 2020, imports valued nearly R1,4 billion resulting to a deterioration of 24%.

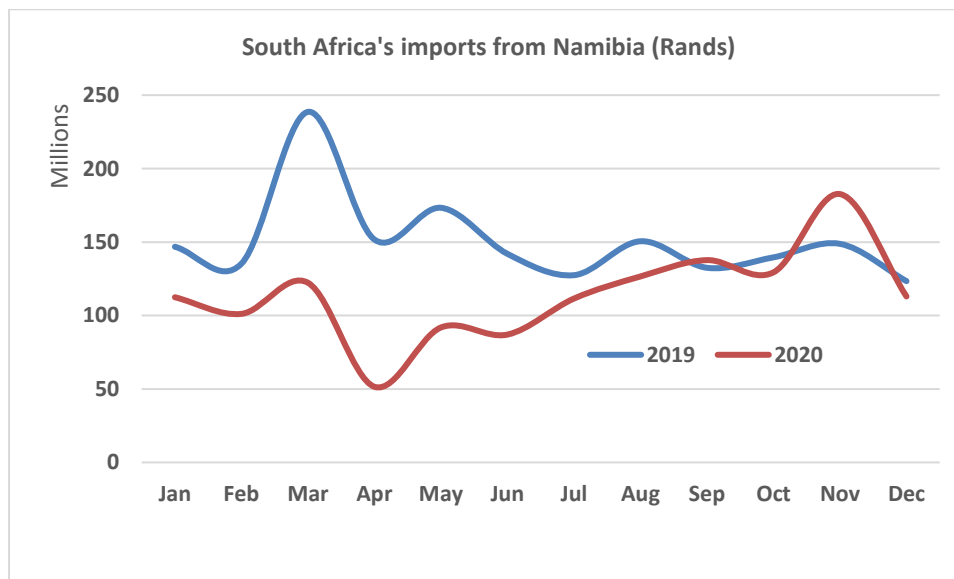
South Africa's total volumes imported from Namibia through Vioolsdrift border posts documented nearly 148 million pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, imports documented about 148 million pieces of goods resulting to a slight decline of 0,4% (Table 40 below).

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

	V A L U E		Month -to-Month	V O L U M E		Month -to-Month
	2019	2020		2019	2020	
Jan	146 784 788	112 451 719	-23%	11 463 578	9 885 680	-14%
Feb	135 281 562	101 123 549	-25%	12 035 509	9 910 981	-18%
Mar	238 626 046	122 307 049	-49%	12 214 272	10 402 291	-15%
Apr	151 711 082	51 490 709	-66%	11 275 927	7 717 028	-32%
May	173 324 751	91 854 708	-47%	12 162 543	9 587 502	-21%
Jun	141 963 164	87 026 137	-39%	10 459 177	10 823 539	3%
Jul	127 466 400	111 545 982	-12%	11 010 337	12 257 377	11%
Aug	150 547 208	126 597 294	-16%	12 778 040	12 358 661	-3%
Sep	132 489 626	137 723 790	4%	11 875 865	14 793 355	25%
Oct	139 609 053	129 382 900	-7%	15 686 118	16 584 843	6%
Nov	148 788 907	182 668 777	23%	16 546 535	18 071 046	9%
Dec	123 394 903	112 968 681	-8%	10 816 011	15 382 170	42%
Total	1 809 987 490	1 367 141 295	-24%	148 323 911	147 774 472	-0,4%

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 month-to-month basis imports dropped by 58% from March (R122 million) to April (R51 million) in 2020.

Figure 10: South Africa’s imports (value and volume) from Namibia



The highest volumes of South Africa’s imports from Namibia that traversed Violsdrift border posts in 2020 were (Table 41 below):

- i. Wood and articles of wood with about 60 million kilograms recording 40%

- ii. Residues and waste from the food industries with about 14 million kilograms registering 10% and
- iii. Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers and Glass and Glassware with about 11,9 million kilograms and 12 million kilograms each registering 8%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Namibia in 2020 through Vioolsdrift border posts were (Table 41):

- i. Fish and crustaceans with about R306 million contributing 22%
- ii. Live animals with about R115 million contributing 8%
- iii. Wood and articles of wood and Zinc and Articles Thereof with about R93 million and R90 million registering 7% each.

Table 41: RSA imports (value and volume) from Namibia, 2020

	Value	Volume
CT	78 750	9
KG	1 089 931 298	144 450 143
LI	34 334 530	2 297 275
MC	1 195 001	667
ME	4 000	4
NO	228 682 376	859 335
PR	12 845 859	166 900
SM	69 481	139
Imports	1 367 141 295	147 774 472

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.8.3. Conclusion

In 2019, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with Namibia since it exported around R10,3 billion and imported about R1,8 billion resulting to trade surplus of R8,5 billion.

In 2020, South Africa's exports to Namibia valued about R9,7 billion which was R600 million lower than the exports of 2019 and South Africa's imports in 2020 declined to 2% by registering R1,4 billion from R1,8 billion in 2019. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R8,3 billion although it experienced 2,4% decrease compared to trade surplus of 2019.

In 2020, the highest volumes exported from South Africa to Namibia by type of commodity were Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers and Beverages, spirits, and vinegar. The highest valued exports to Namibia were Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity; Wheat, malt and other milled grains; and Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances

In 2020, the highest volumes imported from Lesotho by type of commodity were Beverages, spirits and vinegar, Plastics and articles thereof and Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances. The highest valued imports from Lesotho were Fish and crustaceans and live animals.

The decline of inter-trade between South Africa and Namibia in 2020 were mainly driven by the spread of the corona virus, national lockdowns, disruptions in supply chains, and lower external demand for key exports and imports that were curtailing economic activity.

2.9. Trade with Zimbabwe

2.9.1. 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 and it is open for 24 hours. 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.

2.9.2. Beitbridge Border Posts

2.9.2.1. South Africa's exports to Zimbabwe

Table 42 reveals South Africa's total exports in monetary terms and in volumes, that passed through Beitbridge border posts between 2019 and 2020 to Zimbabwe. South Africa's total exports administered in Beitbridge border posts to Zimbabwe recorded about R55,6 billion in 2019 and in 2020, exports valued about R53,6 billion resulting to a decrease of 4%.

South Africa's total volumes exported to Zimbabwe through Beitbridge border posts documented nearly 16,6 billion pieces of goods in 2019 and in 2020, exports documented about 13,6 billion pieces of goods resulting to a decline of 18% (Table 42).

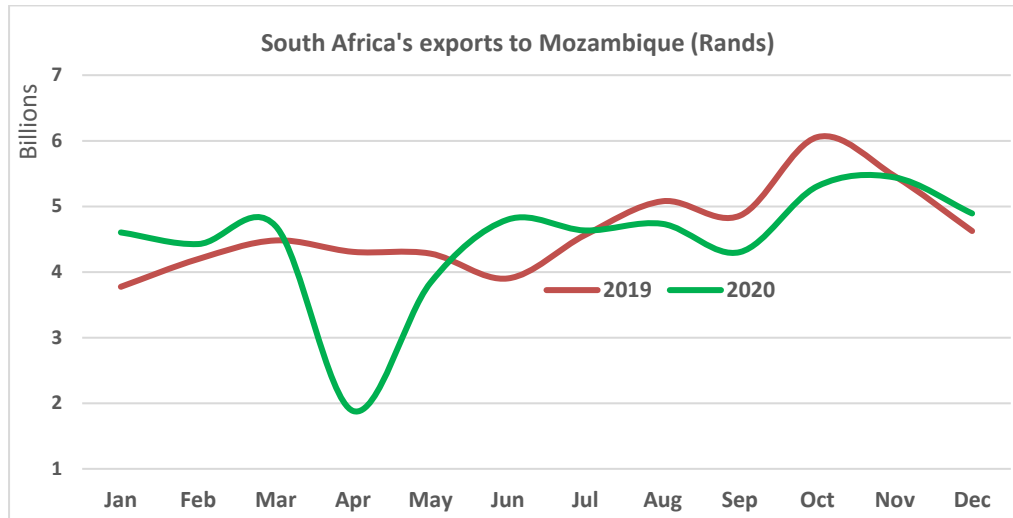
Table 42: RSA exports (value and volume) to Zimbabwe

	V A L U E			V O L U M E		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	3,774,929,426	4,603,551,824	22%	1,245,187,078	1,516,217,043	22%
Feb	4,198,148,740	4,426,718,609	5%	1,119,265,416	1,242,268,140	11%
Mar	4,481,356,762	4,699,166,658	5%	1,225,830,090	1,077,147,879	-12%
Apr	4,307,312,470	1,882,598,226	-56%	1,516,684,206	330,536,000	-78%
May	4,280,521,280	3,835,971,001	-10%	1,127,916,173	910,885,485	-19%
Jun	3,902,357,818	4,799,201,092	23%	930,111,335	1,252,010,235	35%
Jul	4,564,647,056	4,633,585,020	2%	1,360,226,299	1,102,966,145	-19%
Aug	5,078,944,209	4,733,780,141	-7%	1,613,832,668	1,145,572,501	-29%
Sep	4,859,601,948	4,303,786,575	-11%	1,526,447,019	985,729,735	-35%
Oct	6,056,389,609	5,307,414,136	-12%	1,753,324,948	1,334,598,667	-24%
Nov	5,461,522,539	5,441,538,957	0%	1,705,766,890	1,335,531,511	-22%
Dec	4,624,852,825	4,892,789,011	6%	1,483,001,110	1,370,761,703	-8%
Total	55,590,584,682	53,560,101,250	-4%	16,607,593,231	13,604,225,043	-18%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The trade data for April 2020 versus April 2019 in Table 32 above and Figure 11 below displayed the highest decline of approximately 56% of South Africa’s exports to Zimbabwe, whereas on a month-to-month basis exports dropped by 60% from March (R4,7 billion) to April (R1,9 billion) in 2020.

Figure 11: South Africa’s exports to Zimbabwe



The highest volumes of South Africa’s exports to Zimbabwe that traversed Beitbridge border posts in 2020 were (Table 43 below):

- i. Cereals with about 553 million kilograms recording 17%; and
- ii. Fertilizers with about 341 million kilograms registering 10%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa exported to Zimbabwe in 2020 through Beitbridge border posts in 2020 were (Table 43 below):

- i. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with about R11,4 billion registering 18%
- ii. Plastics and articles thereof with about R4,4 billion kilograms recording 7%.

Table 43: RSA exports (value and volume) to Zimbabwe, 2020

	Value	Volume
KG	48,954,770,269	13,545,620,059
LI	411,403,901	34,062,775
MC	120,932,997	2,012,236
ME	5,000	50
NO	3,944,436,848	20,731,201
NULL	256,755	0
PR	62,523,416	519,796
SM	65,772,064	1,278,927
Exports	53,560,101,250	13,604,225,043

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.9.2.2. 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.

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

	V A L U E			V O L U M E		
	2019	2020	Month -to-Month	2019	2020	Month -to-Month
Jan	331,868,884	328,206,961	-1%	51,568,366	51,619,112	0%
Feb	308,891,897	294,439,839	-5%	44,654,590	46,595,936	4%
Mar	382,220,037	323,162,540	-15%	52,133,343	47,717,767	-8%
Apr	382,849,747	180,145,996	-53%	52,082,617	26,909,067	-48%
May	374,599,008	240,067,159	-36%	51,248,554	32,681,996	-36%
Jun	318,880,367	401,146,734	26%	43,532,208	49,301,084	13%
Jul	384,069,637	441,917,708	15%	59,587,742	58,727,719	-1%
Aug	390,399,003	439,795,883	13%	60,089,380	64,055,876	7%
Sep	333,690,599	403,376,399	21%	49,727,944	53,351,034	7%
Oct	365,859,329	422,958,571	16%	49,396,967	51,466,276	4%
Nov	390,485,966	327,080,753	-16%	55,753,617	43,393,495	-22%
Dec	315,768,493	326,037,283	3%	48,838,233	42,608,565	-13%
Total	4,279,582,967	4,128,335,826	-4%	618,613,563	568,427,925	-8%

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).

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

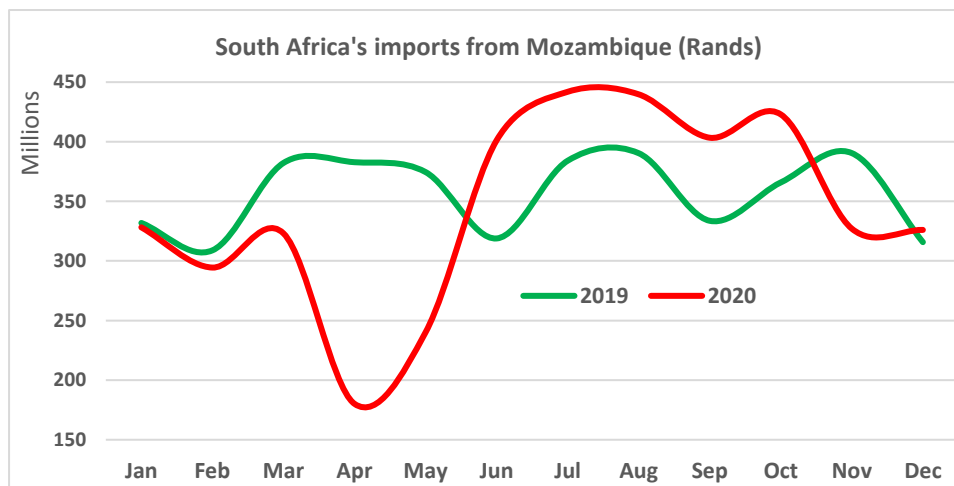


Table 44 and Figure 12 above exemplify that the highest decline in imports from Zimbabwe recorded a decline of 53% from R383 million in April 2019 to R180 million in April 2020, whereas on a month-to-month basis imports dropped by 44% from March (R323 million) to April in 2020.

The highest volumes of South Africa’s imports from Zimbabwe that traversed Beitbridge border posts in 2020 were (Table 45 below):

- i. Residues and waste from the food industries with about 71 million kilograms contributing 17%
- ii. Crude, Coal, Petroleum and Electricity with about 57 million kilograms registering 13%
- iii. Sugars and sugar confectionery with about R46 million contributing 11%.

The highest valued goods that South Africa imported from Zimbabwe in 2020 through Beitbridge border posts were (Table 45):

- i. Copper and Articles Thereof with about R1,3 billion registering 25%
- ii. Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances with about R552 million registering 10%
- iii. Coffee, tea, mate, and spices with about R412 million contributing 8%.

Table 45: RSA imports (value and volume) from Zimbabwe, 2020

	Value	Volume
KG	1,857,522,186	317,800,063
LI	2,164,490,262	250,456,573
MC	1,906,628	26,238
NO	104,356,621	142,742
PR	58,830	2,306
SM	1,299	4
Imports	4,128,335,826	568,427,925

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.9.3. Conclusion

In 2019, South Africa had an exceptionally healthy trade balance with Zimbabwe since it exported around R55,6 billion and imported about R4,3 billion resulting to trade surplus of R51,3 billion.

In 2020, South Africa’s exports to Zimbabwe valued about R53,6 billion which was 4% lower than the exports of 2019 and South Africa’s imports in 2020 declined to 5% by registering R4,1 billion from R4,3 billion in 2019. Consequently, South Africa enjoyed a trade surplus of approximately R49,3 billion although it experienced 4% decrease compared to trade surplus of 2019.

In 2020, the highest volumes exported from South Africa to Zimbabwe by type of commodity were Cereals and Fertilizers. The Zimbabwe government has for years maintained a ban on the importation

or growing of genetically modified maize, but the current food shortages in the country have forced the government to change its policy stance. The ban on genetically modified maize imports was lifted on the 31 January 2020 as the country pursued to improve local supplies following yet another poor harvest season. the lifting of the genetically modified maize import ban had accelerated maize import activity into Zimbabwe from South Africa and from other leading maize exporting countries such as the United States, Brazil, Mexico and Russia, among others, who have in the past exported maize to Zimbabwe.

The highest valued exports to Zimbabwe were Catalytic Converters, Computers and Mechanical Appliances, 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 2020, 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 Sugars and sugar confectionery.%.

The decline of inter-trade between South Africa and Zimbabwe in 2020 were mainly driven by national lockdown that imposed several travel restrictions, including the closure of land border posts. Zimbabwe also imposed similar travel restrictions on foreign nationals to contain the spread of the pandemic and protect their citizens and her economy.

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 2020. 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	2020 (%)	VOLUME		2020 (%)
	2019	2020			2020	2020	
Botswana	95 318 800 751	73 954 796 239	-22%	31%	6 492 891 673	24%	
eSwatini	19 805 776 132	19 104 571 388	-4%	8%	1 872 923 695	7%	
Lesotho	18 560 206 762	16 958 657 636	-9%	7%	1 521 203 900	6%	
Mozambique	55 590 584 682	53 560 101 250	-4%	23%	13 604 225 043	50%	
Namibia	10 254 019 946	9 666 887 186	-6%	4%	377 638 638	1%	
Zimbabwe	54 058 821 551	64 722 528 302	20%	27%	3 309 051 594	12%	
South Africa	253 588 209 824	237 967 542 001	-6%	100%	27 177 934 543	100%	

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Table 46 above and Figure 13 below show that in 2020 Botswana was the major importing trading partner with South Africa as South Africa exported about 31% at a value of R74 billion. South Africa's exports to Botswana valued about R95 billion in 2019 and in 2020, South Africa's exports to Botswana dropped by 22% to R74 billion.

Zimbabwe and Mozambique followed Botswana with the highest imports from South Africa amounting to 27% (R65 billion) and 23% (R54 billion), respectively. Lesotho, eSwatini and Namibia are the lowest importing partners from South Africa as on average, they individually imported less than R2 billion worth of goods during 2020 calendar year (Figure 13).

South Africa's exports to all the prescribed neighbouring countries from 2019 to 2020 recorded a decline except exports destined to Zimbabwe that registered a surge of 20%. Collectively, South Africa documented about 6% fall of exports from R253 billion in 2019 to R238 billion in 2020 (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 from March 2020 to April 2020 onwards due to the shutdown

of economies so that countries could deal with the pressing concerns of the health emergency caused by COVID-19.

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

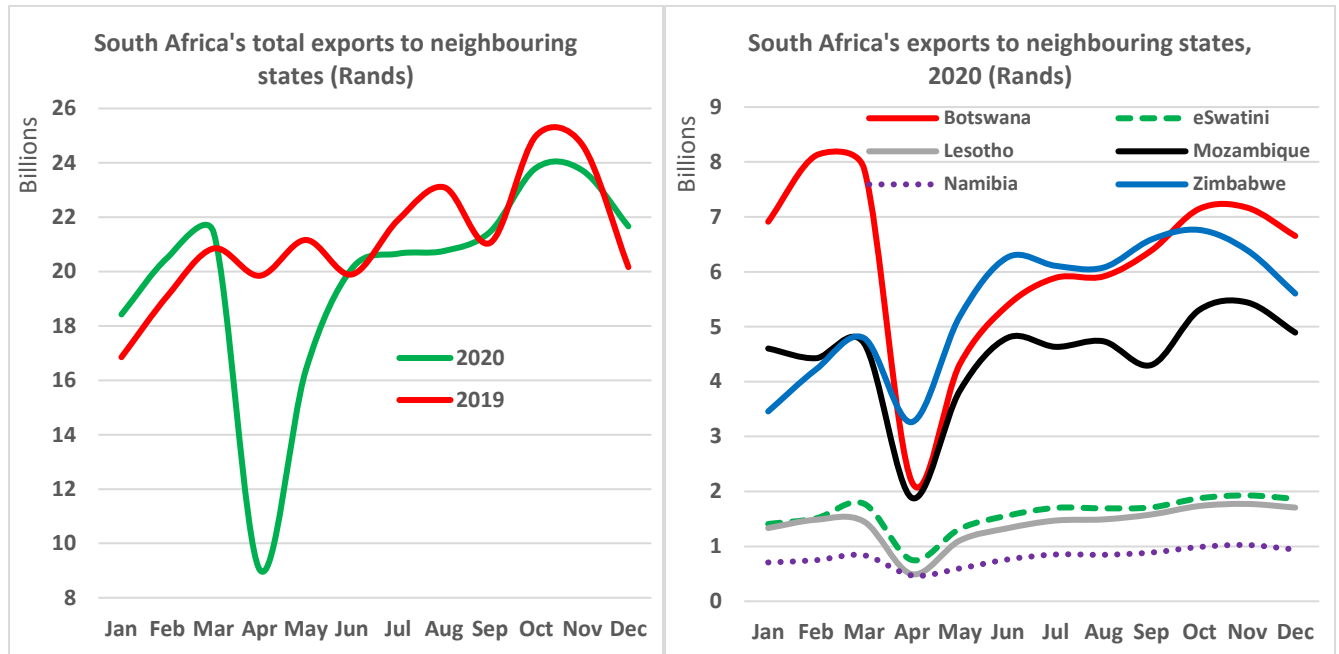


Figure 14 below illustrates the total trade volumes exported by South Africa to the neighbouring countries and it also explains the total trade import volumes that were administered by all the respective South African commercial border posts in 2020.

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.

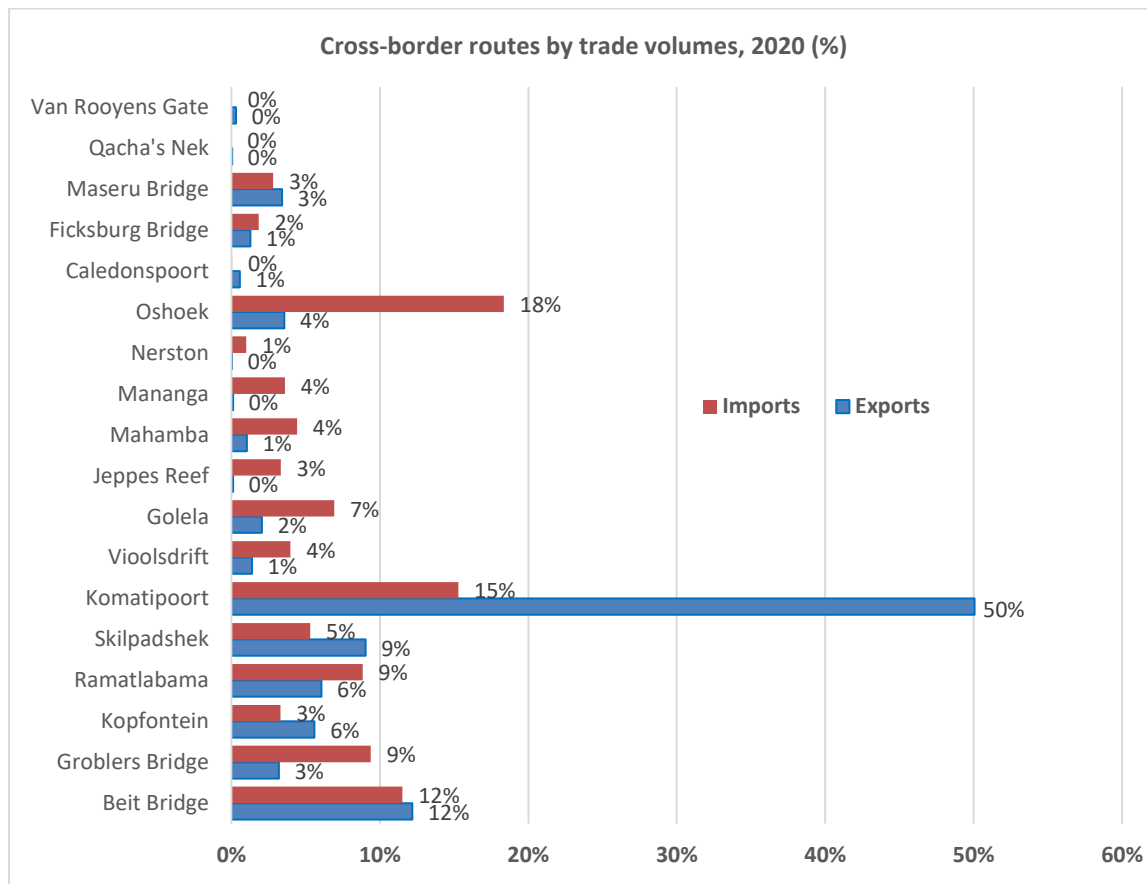
Botswana registered the second highest volumes of imports from South Africa with approximately 24% (6,5 billion pieces of goods) that were transported by road in 2020. South Africa exported these goods using four (4) commercial border posts to Botswana (Figure 14 below):

- 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, 2020



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	2020 (%)	VOLUME		2020 (%)
	2019	2020			2020		
Botswana	11 154 480 509	7 304 474 049	-35%	18%	998 670 032	27%	
eSwatini	19 157 278 348	18 378 792 693	-4%	45%	1 398 955 135	38%	
Lesotho	4 446 946 147	4 422 607 445	-1%	11%	177 214 744	5%	
Mozambique	4 279 582 967	4 128 335 826	-4%	10%	568 427 925	15%	
Namibia	1 809 987 490	1 367 141 295	-24%	3%	147 774 472	4%	
Zimbabwe	5 130 561 764	5 323 791 241	4%	13%	428 453 143	12%	
South Africa	45 978 837 225	40 925 142 549	-11%	100%	3 719 495 451	100%	

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)

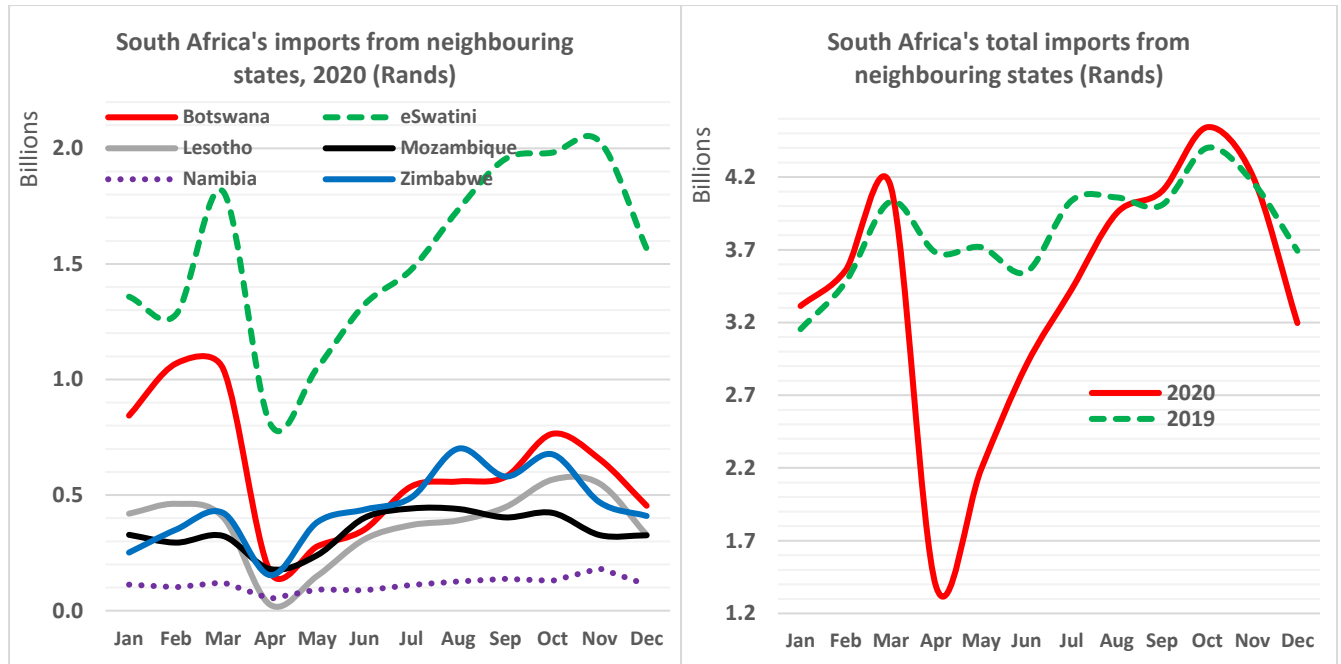


Figure 15 above portrays that the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has severely incapacitated South Africa's import market from March 2020 to April 2020 onwards due to the forced reduction in production because of the national lockdown and other restrictions on non-essential business operation.

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.

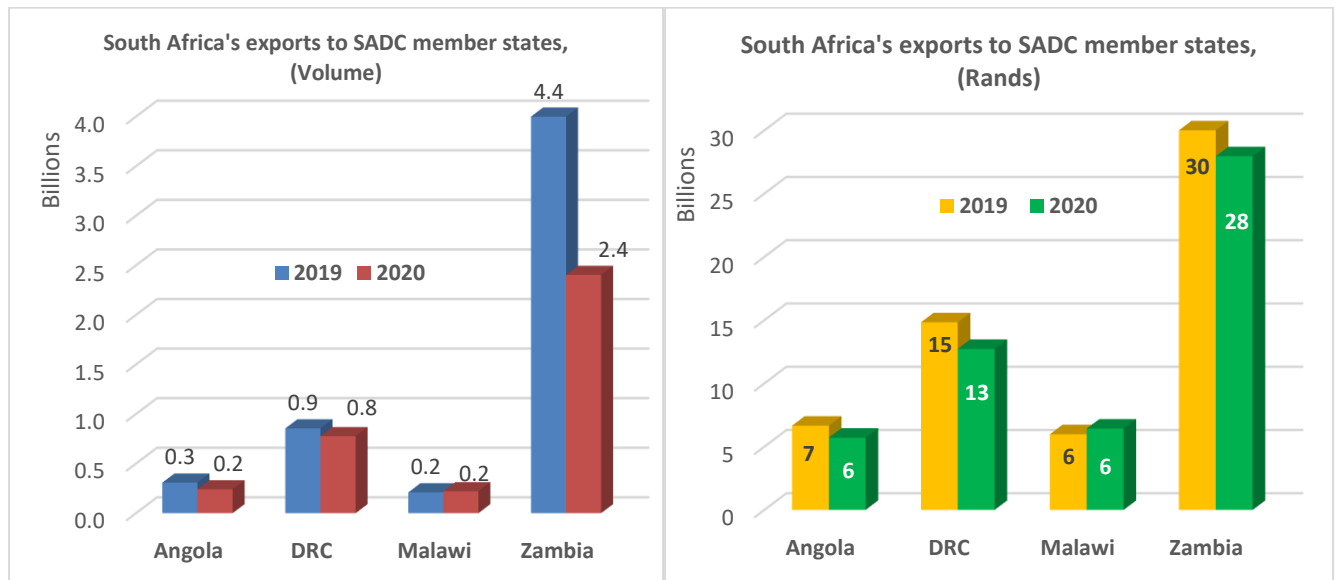
Table 48: South Africa's exports from SADC member states

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

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.

Table 49: South Africa’s imports from SADC member states

	Value			Volume		
	2019	2020	Year-on-Year	2019	2020	Year-on-Year
Angola	8,149,141,324	981,254,694	-88%	1,157,034,437	136,689,687	-88%
DRC	619458571	837,792,000	35%	6,497,592	8,038,819	24%
Malawi	780,547,703	744,891,895	-5%	72,500,019	61,996,753	-14%
Zambia	3,095,502,235	2,259,161,586	-27%	212,988,597	187,675,059	-12%
Total	12,644,649,833	4,823,100,175	-62%	1,449,020,645	394,400,318	-73%

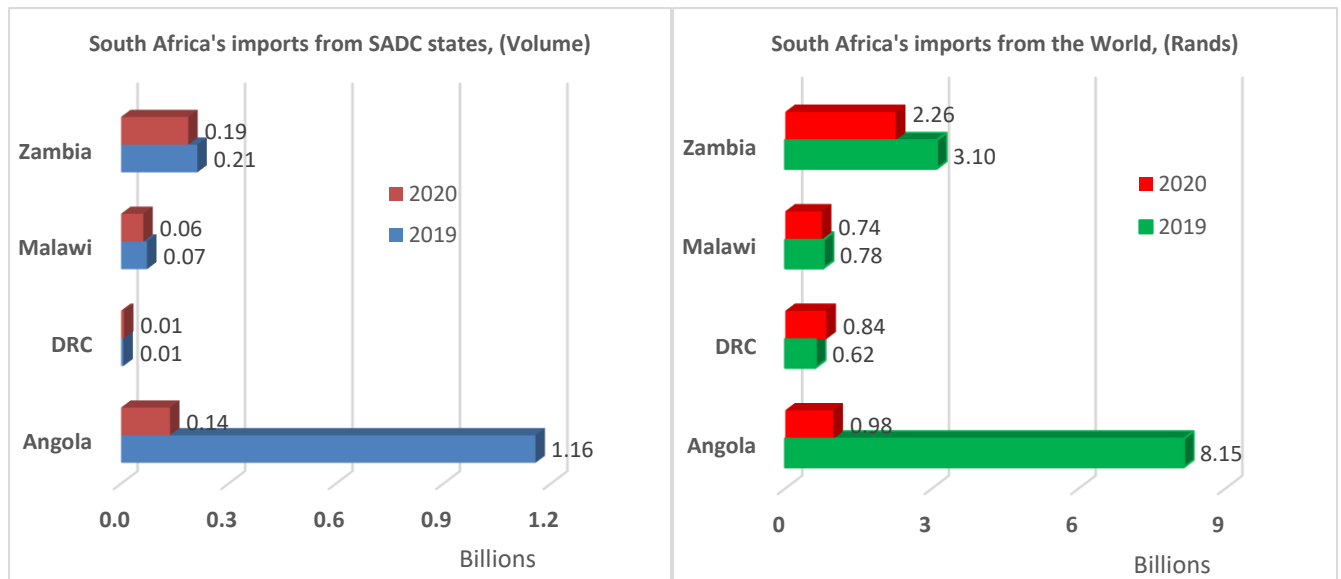
Source: The department of Trade and Industry (the DTI)

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 below).

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%.

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.