



Energising Zimbabwe's Export Growth



ZIMBABWE - DRC

TRADE BRIEF

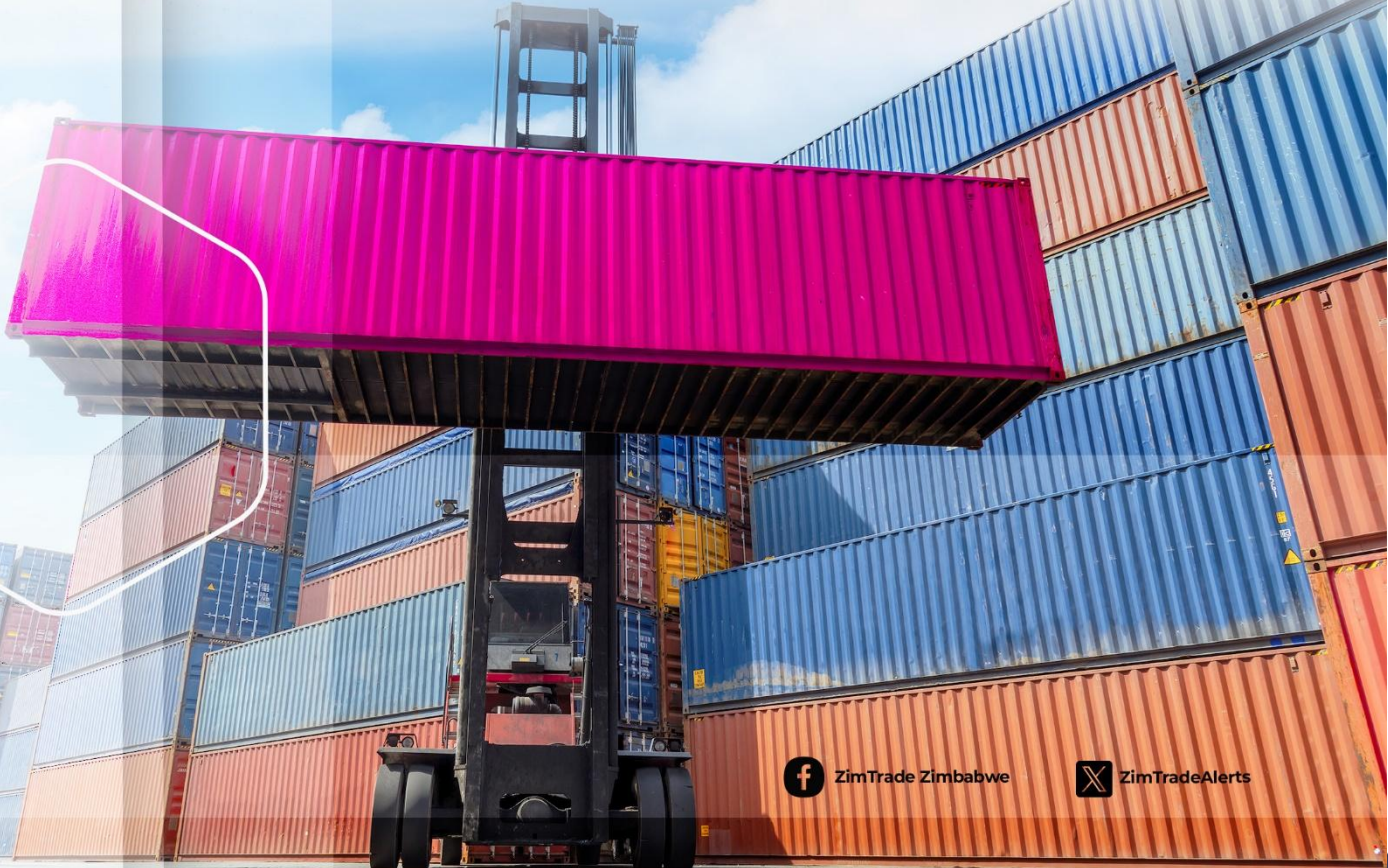


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ZIMBABWE – DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TRADE BRIEF

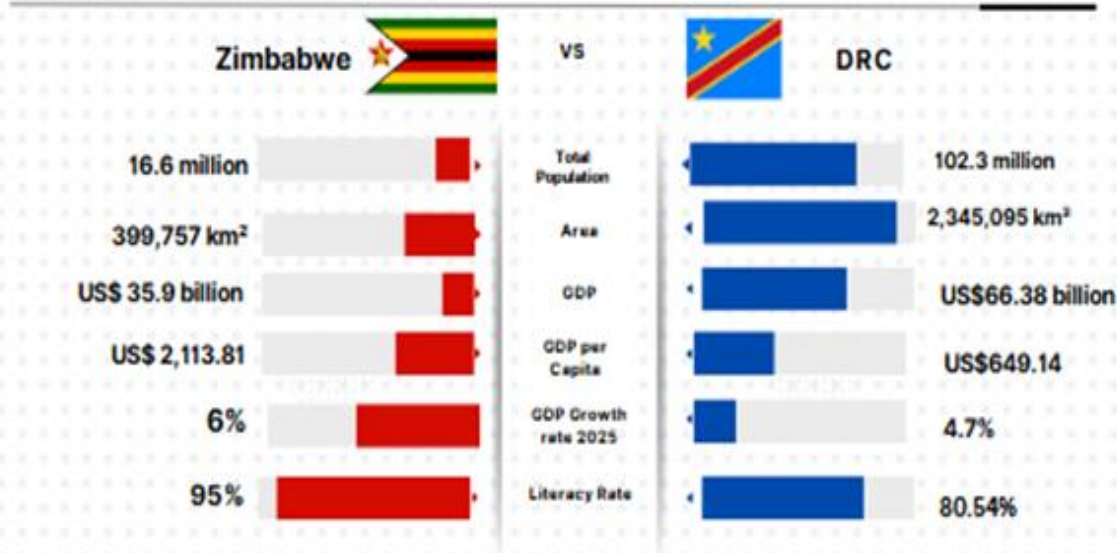
1. DRC OVERVIEW

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is in Central Africa, with a short coastline in the Atlantic Ocean. It is the second largest country on the African continent, after Algeria. DRC is known for its vast resources and diverse wildlife, including a large portion of the second largest tropical forest in the world, the Congo Basin. The capital, Kinshasa, is located on the Congo River about 320 miles (515 km) from its mouth. The largest city in central Africa, it serves as the country’s official administrative, economic, and cultural center.

2. KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- GDP: US\$66.38 billion (Dec 2023)
- GDP per capita: US\$1698 (Dec 2023)
- Population: 102.3 million (Dec 2023)
- Major Industries: Mining, Transportation and Energy
- Currency: Congolese Franc
- Key Trading partners: For Exports – China, Singapore, South Africa, Mozambique, and Tanzania. For Imports – China, Zambia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and India.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW



3. ZIMBABWE-DRC TRADE

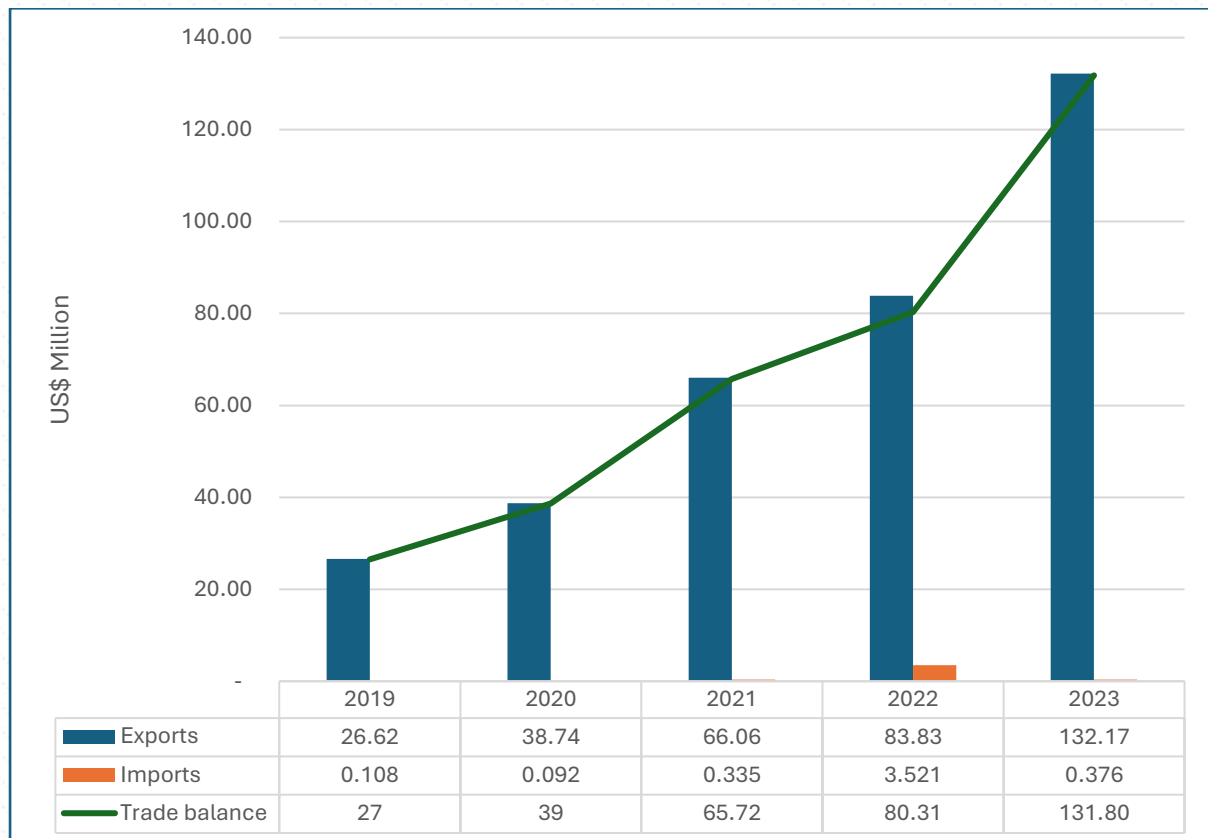


Figure 1: Zimbabwe DRC Trade

As shown in Figure 1 above, the trade balance between the two countries is in favour of Zimbabwe and has been growing over the five-year period, 2019 to 2023, from US\$27 million in 2019 to US\$131.80 million in 2023.

In terms of exports, Zimbabwe's exports to the DRC have grown by 397% from US\$26.615 million in 2019 to US\$132.172 million in 2023. The main products exported were mineral fuels, plastics, machinery and cereals as shown in Figure 2.

Over the same period, Zimbabwe's imports from the DRC recorded the highest amount of US\$3,521 million in 2022 with the lowest amount of US\$0.92million recorded in 2020. The main products imported were machinery, textiles and inorganic chemicals, among others.

3.1 Products exported by DRC to Zimbabwe

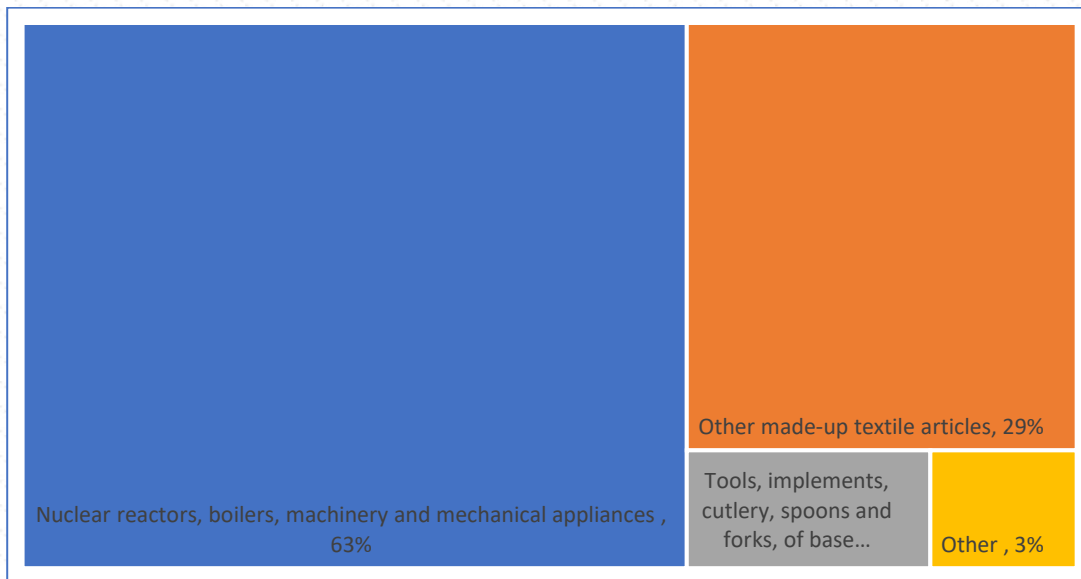


Figure 2: Products exported by DRC to Zimbabwe

3.2 Products exported by Zimbabwe to DRC

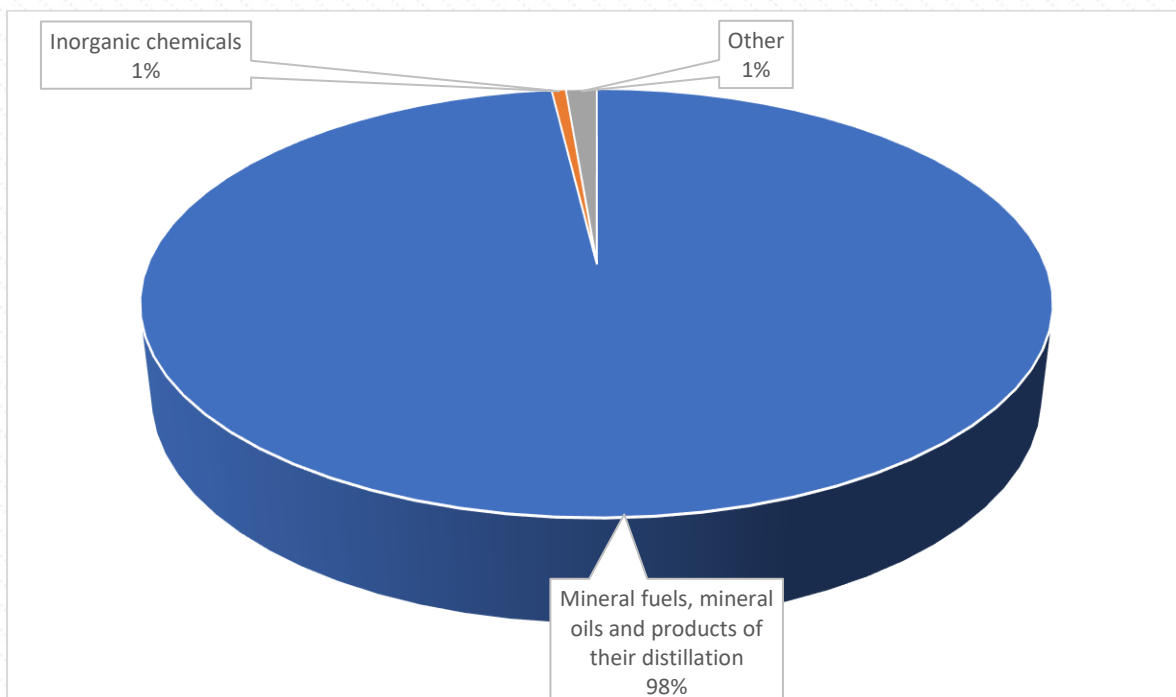


Figure 3: Products exported by Zimbabwe to DRC

3.3 Zimbabwean Products with Potential in DRC

Zimbabwe has an unrealized export potential in DRC market amounting to US\$2.6million (refer to Annexure 3).

The products with greatest export potential from Zimbabwe to DRC are cane sugar, raw, unused stamps; stamp-impressed paper; banknotes; cheques; securities certificates and sweet biscuits. Zimbabwe has the highest supply capacity in mineral substances. Cane sugar, raw is the product that faces the strongest demand potential in the DRC.

4. DRC IMPORTS FROM AFRICA

Figure 4 below illustrates DRC`s imports from the World and Africa, over the five-year period, 2019 to 2023. DRC recorded the highest imports from Africa in 2022, amounting to US\$6.33 billion with the lowest amounting to US\$1.38 billion being recorded in 2020. Meanwhile, imports from the world also indicate that the DRC imported the highest amount of US\$26.86 billion in 2022, with the lowest in 2020 amounting to US\$6.94 billion.

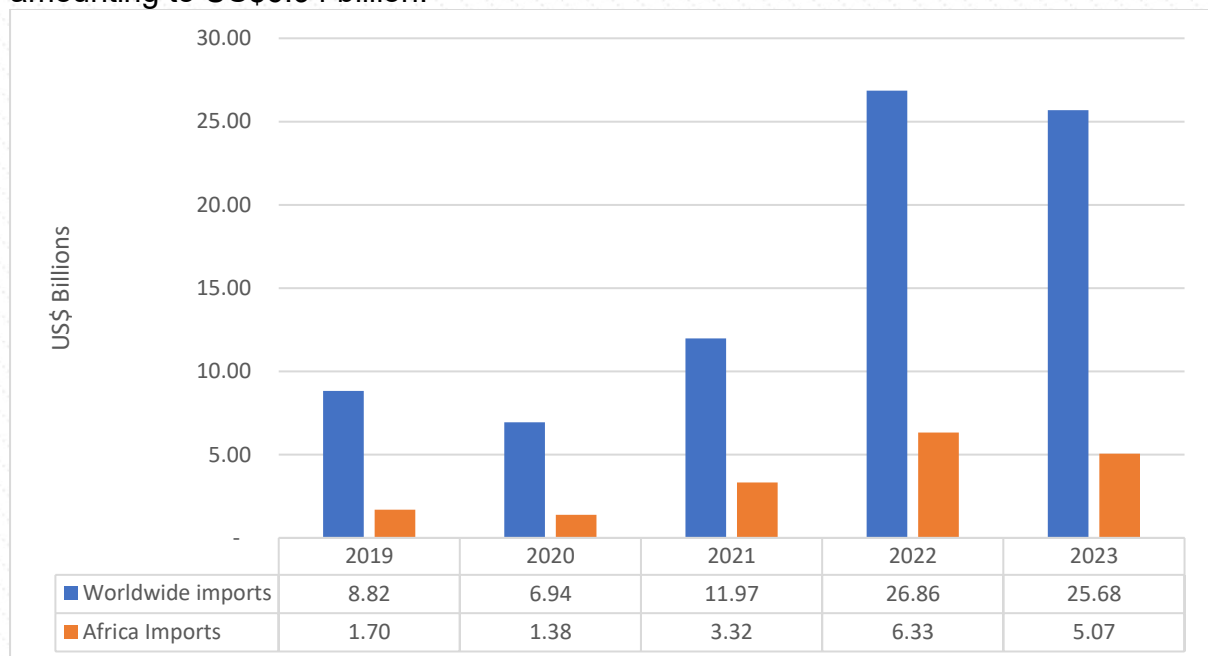


Figure 4: DRC Imports Africa and Worldwide

4.1 Source Countries in Africa

South Africa had the largest share of DRC imports from Africa at 41% followed by Tanzania at 18% and Zambia at 11%. These are shown in Figure 5 below.

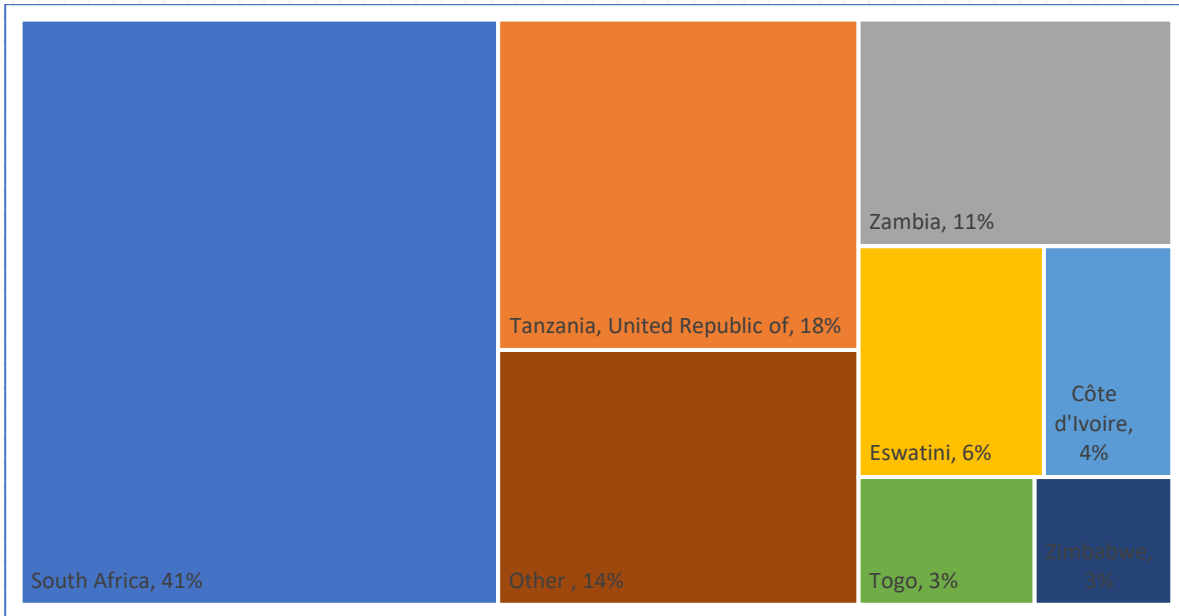


Figure 5: DRC Source Countries from Africa

4.2 Imported Products from Africa

As shown in Figure 6 below, minerals fuels has the largest share of DRC imports at 40%, followed by machinery and machinery equipment at 12%.

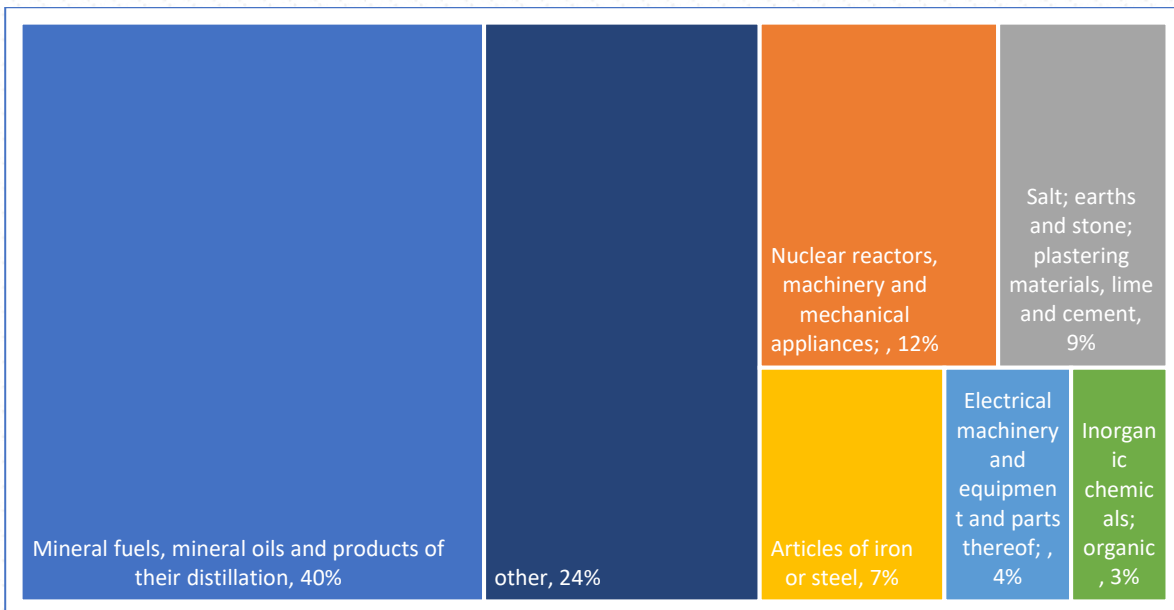
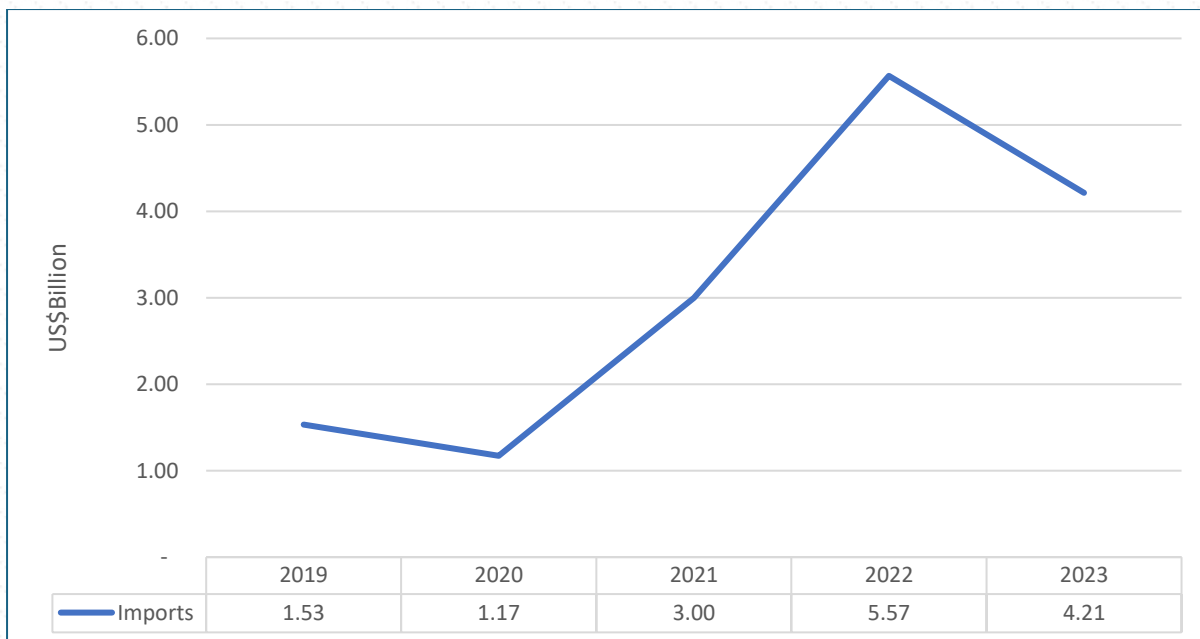


Figure 6: Products imported by DRC from Africa

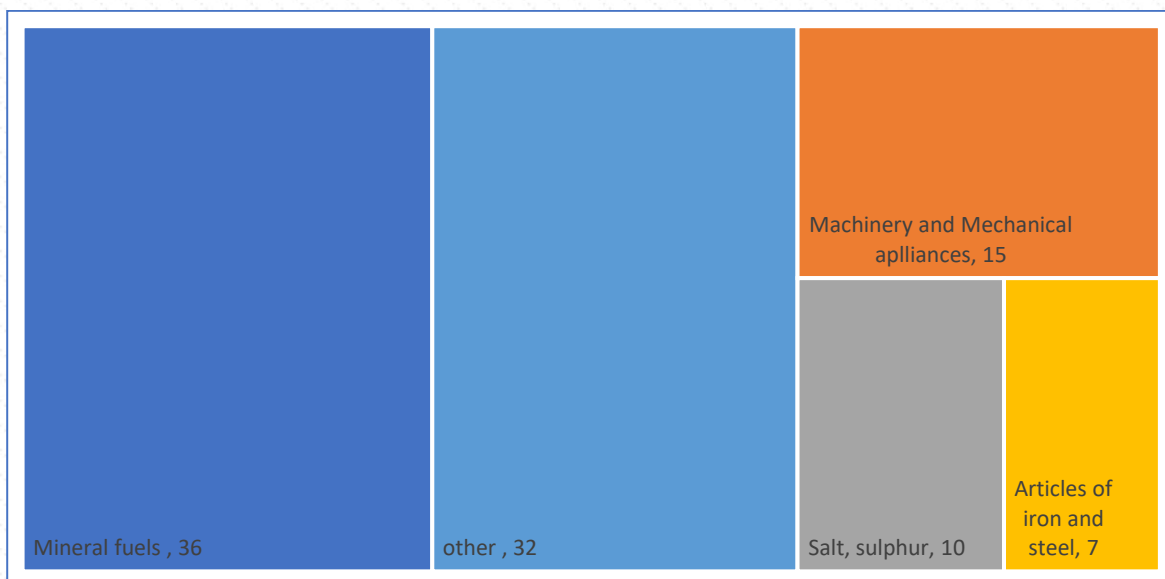
5. DRC IMPORTS FROM SADC

Over the five-year period, 2019 to 2023, imports by DRC from SADC recorded an increase from US\$1.53 billion in 2019 to US\$4.21 billion in 2023.



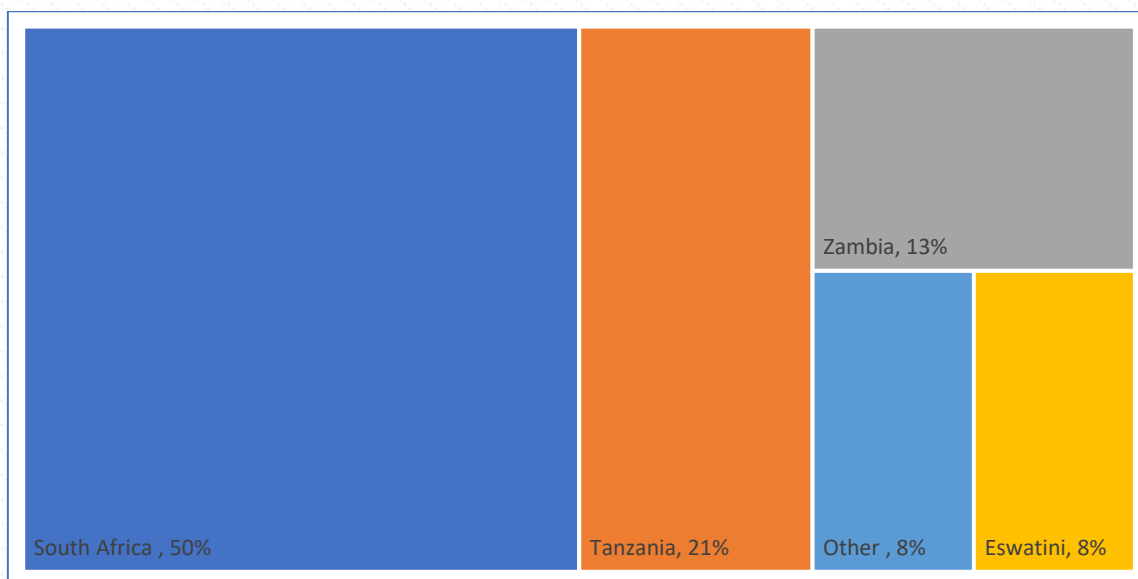
Products imported from SADC

The products imported by DRC from SADC were mineral fuels, machinery and mechanical appliances, salt, and articles of iron among others. Notably, the products imported from SADC are similar to those imported from Africa as a whole.



Source Countries from SADC

Of the source countries from SADC, South Africa has a 50% share, Tanzania 21%, Zambia 13% and Eswatini 8%.



6. DRC TRADE WITH THE WORLD

Over the five-year period, 2019 to 2023, DRC`s exports to the world increased from US\$13.382 billion in 2019 to US\$28.517billion in 2023. The products exported are shown in Table 1 while the destination countries are shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Exported Products (US\$000s)

Product label	Exported value in 2019	Exported value in 2020	Exported value in 2021	Exported value in 2022	Exported value in 2023
All products	13,382,299.00	14,230,247.00	22,334,312.00	29,367,288.00	28,517,775.00
Copper and articles thereof	7,470,256.00	9,307,905.00	14,519,697.00	16,749,445.00	18,975,815.00
Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...	3,936,385.00	3,162,854.00	5,433,099.00	8,108,457.00	4,915,646.00
Ores, slag and ash	1,287,143.00	1,080,289.00	1,758,359.00	3,132,919.00	2,575,424.00
Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad ...	224,123.00	120,144.00	129,317.00	853,753.00	1,447,693.00
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	149,731.00	79,896.00	56,450.00	1,969.00	172,551.00

Source: TradeMap, 2024

Table 2: Destination Countries (US\$000s)

Importers	Exported value in 2019	Exported value in 2020	Exported value in 2021	Exported value in 2022	Exported value in 2023
World	13,382,299.00	14,230,247.00	22,334,312.00	29,367,288.00	28,517,775.00
China	3,565,623.00	5,837,732.00	10,451,009.00	14,074,173.00	16,422,716.00
South Africa	3,587,538.00	1,096,487.00	2,066,573.00	3,314,214.00	2,465,679.00
Hong Kong, China	14,274.00	150,769.00	785,127.00	2,012,942.00	2,408,470.00
Mozambique	485,447.00	681,079.00	1,000,167.00	2,281,576.00	1,620,498.00
Singapore	702,069.00	1,037,046.00	1,879,950.00	2,064,974.00	1,405,259.00
Tanzania, United Republic of	1,687,084.00	1,668,419.00	2,140,723.00	1,377,916.00	1,234,454.00

Source: TradeMap, 2024

7. ISSUES TO CONSIDER

Challenges and Opportunities

While there is significant potential for cooperation between Zimbabwe and DRC, several challenges may hinder the full realization of these opportunities:

7.1 Logistics and cold chain facilities for FMCG sector

Most companies are interested in the market but fail to export due to logistics issues and, therefore, have preferred the DRC buyers to collect the products from Zambia, where the local companies already have presence.

To overcome address this challenge, it is essential to;

To address logistical and cold chain facility issues, the proposal is for a Zimbabwean Warehouse to be set up near the Zambia-DRC Border. From the engagements during the DRC Zimbabwe Inward Mission held in the first half of 2024, companies such as Surface Wilmar and Kefalos indicated the need for cold chain facilities if they are to successfully export to the DRC.

7.2 Bilateral Trade Agreement

Currently, there are no preferential trade arrangements between Zimbabwe and DRC. Although DRC is also a member of SADC, it is yet to ratify the trade protocol. This makes trade between the two countries not competitive,

To overcome address this challenge, it is essential to:

The proposal is for a bi-lateral trade agreement between the two countries. In this regard, Surface Wilmar has already started engagements with relevant authorities for this process the OPC and Embassy of DRC in Zimbabwe

7.3 Participation in Promotional Events in both countries

Opportunities are available in the DRC for Zimbabwe companies in the mining and mining consumables, personal protective equipment sectors. Despite being in the SADC region, Zimbabwean businesses may lack detailed knowledge about DRC's market and vice versa. This can lead to missed opportunities for product export, investment, and joint ventures.

To overcome address this challenge, it is essential to:

ZimTrade should continue to mobilize Zimbabwean companies to participate in trade fairs such as the DRC Mining Week as well as invite buyers from the DRC to engage in B2B meetings with Zimbabwean suppliers.

ANNEXURES

Annex 1: DRC Trade with Zimbabwe

Imports

Product label	Congo, Democratic Republic of the's imports from Zimbabwe (US\$000)				
	Value in 2019	Value in 2020	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023
All products	26,615.00	38,735.00	66,058.00	83,831.00	132,172.00
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	23,765.00	37,077.00	63,558.00	81,218.00	129,649.00
Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...	-	-	-	-	798.00
Plastics and articles thereof	1,798.00	971.00	1,378.00	1,621.00	440.00
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	21.00	72.00	228.00	389.00	362.00
Cereals	403.00	261.00	534.00	178.00	321.00
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	171.00	35.00	-	99.00	228.00

Source: TradeMap, 2024

Exports

Product label	Congo, Democratic Republic of the's exports to Zimbabwe (US\$000s)				
	Value in 2019	Value in 2020	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023
All products	108.00	92.00	335.00	3,521.00	376.00
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	-	78.00	161.00	667.00	235.00
Other made-up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags	12.00	1.00	82.00	19.00	109.00
Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal	-	-	1.00	1.00	20.00
Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical ...	-	-	-	-	10.00
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	-	1.00	20.00	27.00	1.00
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	9.00	-	-	-	-
Sugars and sugar confectionery	42.00	-	-	20.00	-
Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...	-	-	-	1,829.00	-

Source: TradeMap, 2024

Annex 2: DRC Imports from Africa by Product

Product label	Congo, Democratic Republic of the's imports from Africa(US\$000s)				
	Value in 2019	Value in 2020	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023
All products	1,703,157.00	1,379,316.00	3,319,577.00	6,330,232.00	5,065,991.00
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	129,166.00	116,392.00	1,136,249.00	3,178,726.00	2,046,875.00
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	190,900.00	135,592.00	336,711.00	469,123.00	627,435.00
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	283,704.00	292,438.00	455,327.00	526,735.00	446,062.00
Articles of iron or steel	124,677.00	103,075.00	177,752.00	264,416.00	329,424.00
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	70,394.00	63,479.00	152,285.00	176,925.00	225,899.00
Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...	300,939.00	159,881.00	173,796.00	464,813.00	172,168.00
Iron and steel	63,722.00	44,092.00	90,684.00	140,516.00	123,756.00

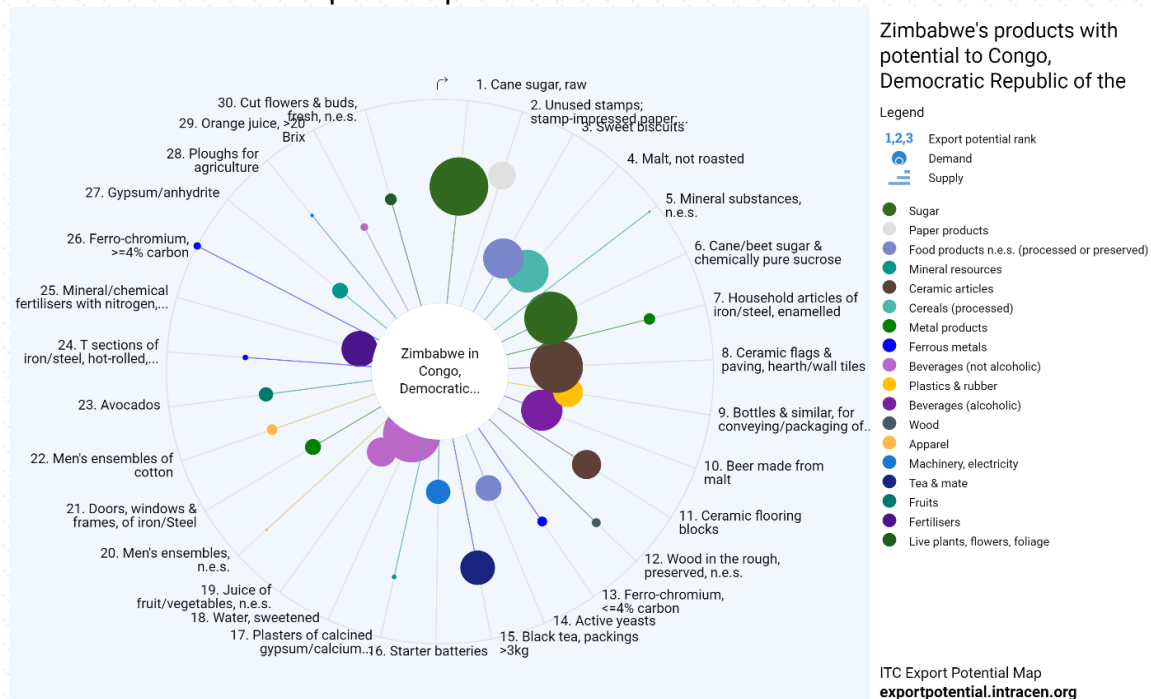
Source: TradeMap, 2024

Source Countries (US\$000s)

Exporters	Imported value in 2019	Imported value in 2020	Imported value in 2021	Imported value in 2022	Imported value in 2023
World	8,824,802.00	6,938,042.00	11,971,835.00	26,858,595.00	25,675,561.00
Africa Aggregation	1,703,157.00	1,379,316.00	3,319,577.00	6,330,232.00	5,065,991.00
South Africa	948,480.00	651,269.00	1,692,652.00	2,421,938.00	2,100,507.00
Tanzania, United Republic of	105,824.00	83,712.00	531,827.00	1,099,342.00	895,024.00
Zambia	356,965.00	335,544.00	387,689.00	596,854.00	534,250.00
Eswatini	11,906.00	19,387.00	27,335.00	413,602.00	321,057.00
Côte d'Ivoire	2,902.00	1,941.00	29,062.00	9,356.00	222,929.00
Togo	7,530.00	12,956.00	58,063.00	279,610.00	169,139.00
Zimbabwe	26,615.00	38,735.00	66,058.00	83,831.00	132,172.00

Source: TradeMap, 2024

Annex 3: Zimbabwe's product potential to DR Congo



Annexure 4: DR Congo imports from SADC

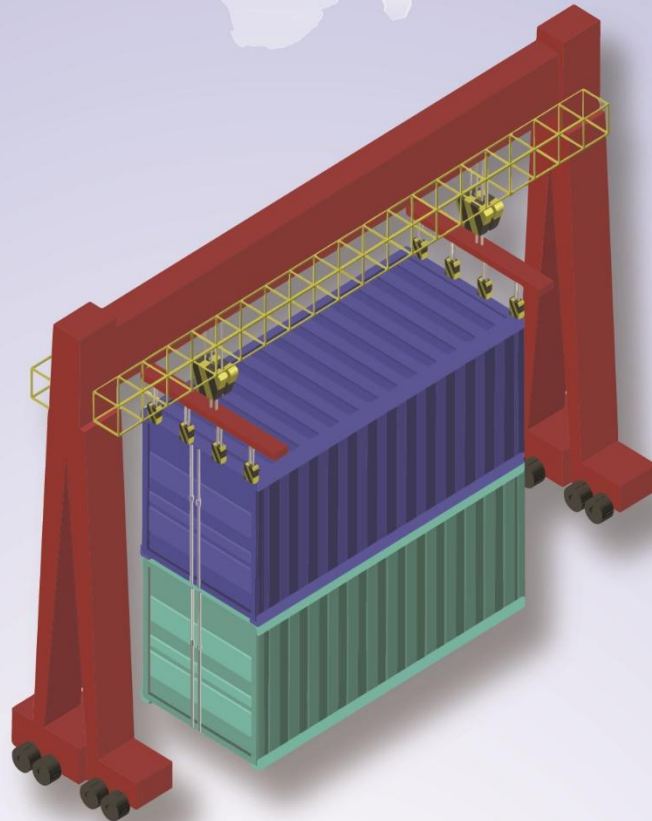
Product label	Congo, Democratic Republic of the's imports from Southern African Development Community (SADC) US\$000s				
	Value in 2019	Value in 2020	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023
All products	1,532,622.00	1,172,169.00	2,998,582.00	5,566,663.00	4,212,545.00
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	113,132.00	95,093.00	1,039,484.00	2,762,863.00	1,517,878.00
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	187,021.00	133,446.00	332,266.00	464,573.00	619,913.00
Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	247,623.00	250,232.00	412,704.00	489,998.00	410,925.00
Articles of iron or steel	119,252.00	95,600.00	169,864.00	254,501.00	311,027.00
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	65,714.00	59,117.00	144,055.00	167,087.00	218,971.00
Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...	300,060.00	159,070.00	169,628.00	460,029.00	169,110.00
Iron and steel	59,489.00	37,880.00	80,940.00	132,930.00	116,883.00
Plastics and articles thereof	44,472.00	45,058.00	88,143.00	122,384.00	110,929.00

Source: TradeMap, 2024

Source Countries in SADC (US\$000s)

Exporters	Imported value in 2019	Imported value in 2020	Imported value in 2021	Imported value in 2022	Imported value in 2023
World	8,824,802.00	6,938,042.00	11,971,835.00	26,858,595.00	25,675,561.00
Southern African Development Community (SADC) Aggregation	1,532,622.00	1,172,169.00	2,998,582.00	5,566,663.00	4,212,545.00
South Africa	948,480.00	651,269.00	1,692,652.00	2,421,938.00	2,100,507.00
Tanzania, United Republic of	105,824.00	83,712.00	531,827.00	1,099,342.00	895,024.00
Zambia	356,965.00	335,544.00	387,689.00	596,854.00	534,250.00
Eswatini	11,906.00	19,387.00	27,335.00	413,602.00	321,057.00
Zimbabwe	26,615.00	38,735.00	66,058.00	83,831.00	132,172.00
Angola	33,935.00	12,596.00	25,185.00	438,937.00	92,010.00
Mozambique	1,244.00	2,966.00	206,065.00	427,750.00	71,369.00

Source: TradeMap, 2024



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