



ZIMBABWE-SADC

TRADE BRIEF



Energising Zimbabwe's Export Growth



ZimTrade Zimbabwe



ZimTradeAlerts

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Zimbabwe – SADC Trade Brief

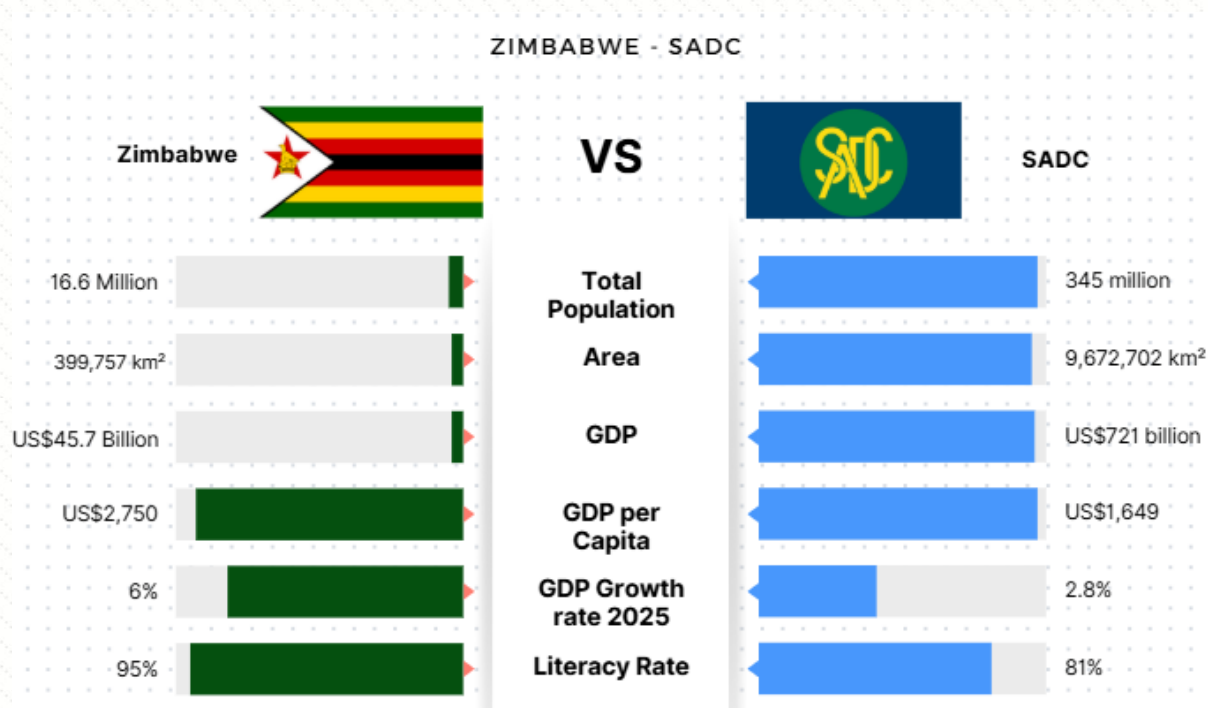
1. SADC Overview

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a Regional Economic Community comprising 16 Member States; Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy.

2. Key Economic Indicators

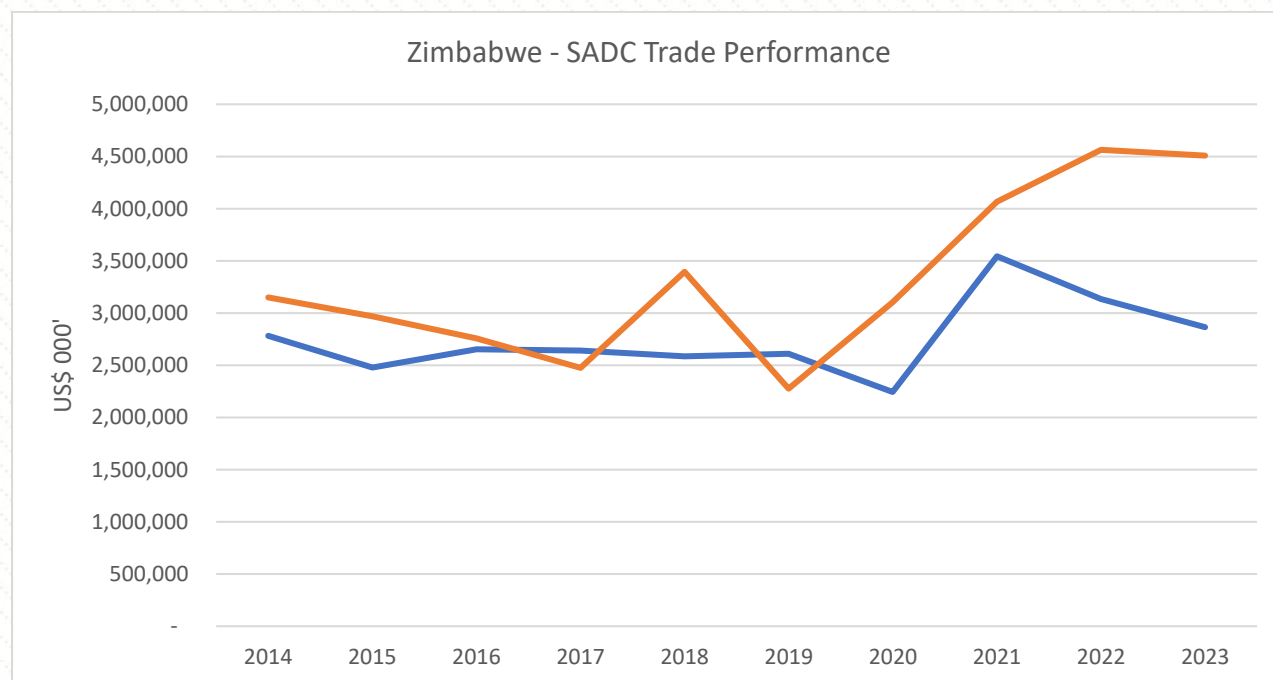
- **GDP:** US\$721 billion (SADC)
- **GDP per capita:** US\$1,649 (2023)
- **Population** 345 million
- **Major Industries:** Mining, manufacturing, agriculture, and services
- **Currency:** no common currency
- **Key Trade Partners:** China, USA, India, United Arab Emirates, and Russia



3. Zimbabwe – SADC Trade

SADC is Zimbabwe's largest trading bloc in terms of exports and imports. The country exported products worth US\$2.86 billion in 2023 to SADC countries up from US\$2.78 billion in 2018. South Africa is Zimbabwe's largest trading partner within SADC accounting for 78% of Zimbabwe's exports to the SADC region. (*refer to Annex 1*)

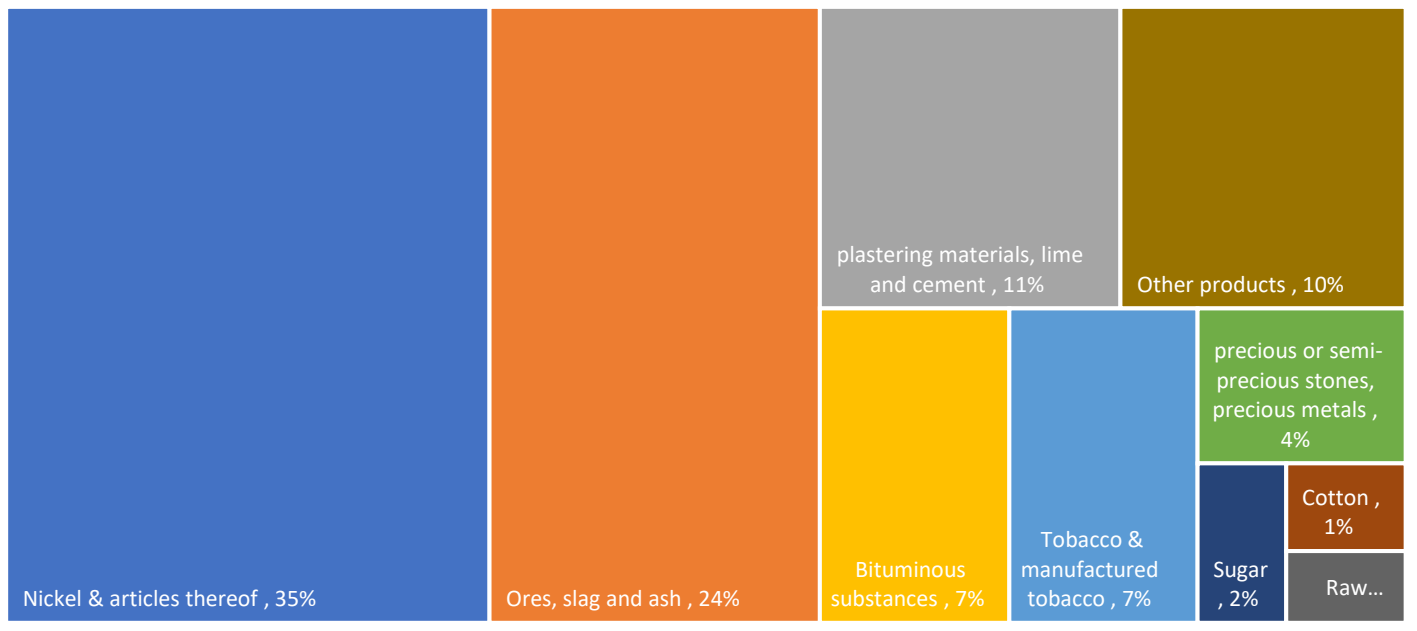
Zimbabwe's imports from SADC amounted to US\$4.51 billion in 2023 up from US\$3.15 billion in 2014 translating to an 87% increase over the past 10 years. (*refer to Annex 2*)



4. Zimbabwe's exports to the SADC region

Zimbabwe mainly exports minerals (35%), tobacco (7%), building materials (11%) and coal (7%) to SADC. (*Refer to Annex 3*)

Zimbabwe Exports to the SADC region



5. Zimbabwean Products with Potential to the SADC region

a) Agricultural Products:

- Tobacco
- Cotton
- Tea
- Coffee
- Fresh fruits (oranges, grapes, berries)
- Flowers (roses, carnations)
- Macadamia nuts

b) Manufactured Goods:

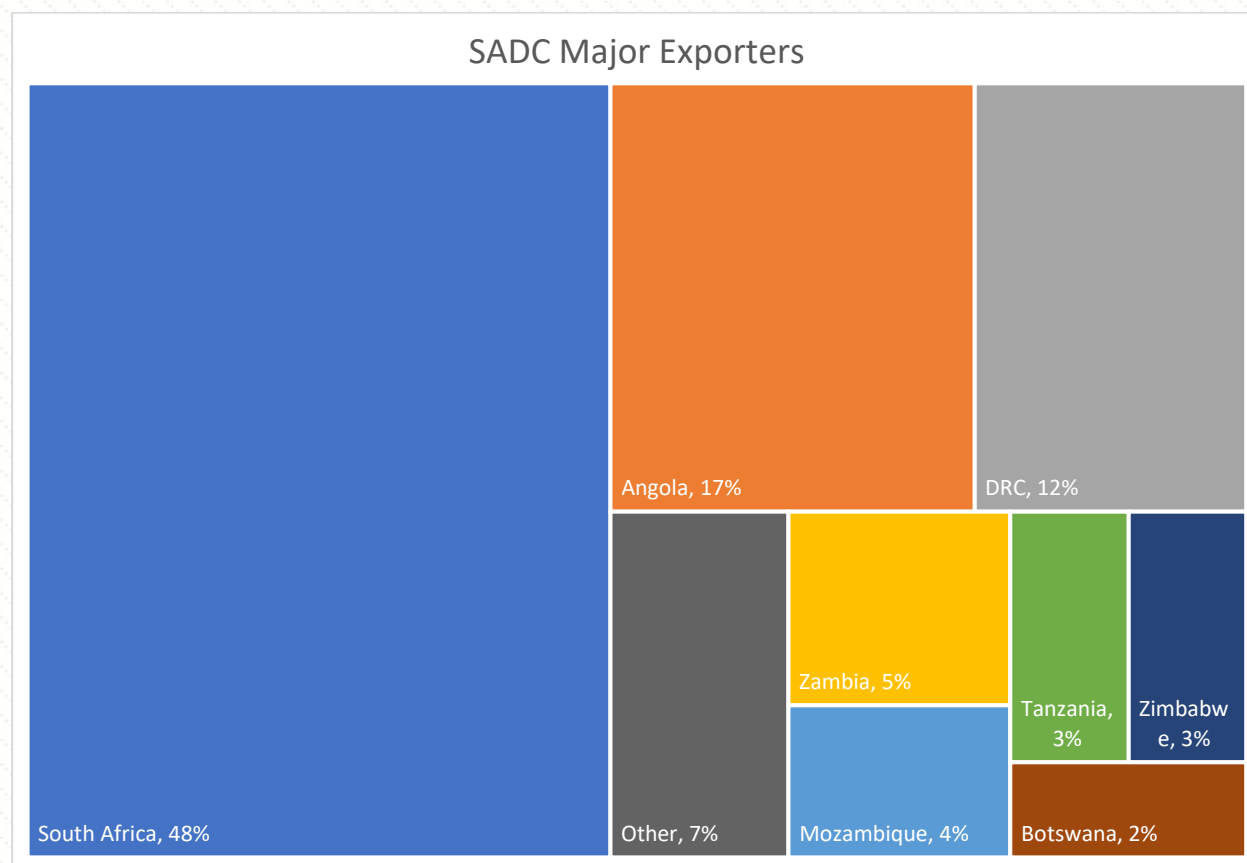
- Sugar
- Textiles (clothing, fabrics)
- Footwear
- Leather products (handbags, belts)
- Furniture
- Chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides)
- Pharmaceuticals
- Steel products (rods, sheets)
- Crafts (wood carvings, stone sculptures)

c) Emerging Opportunities:

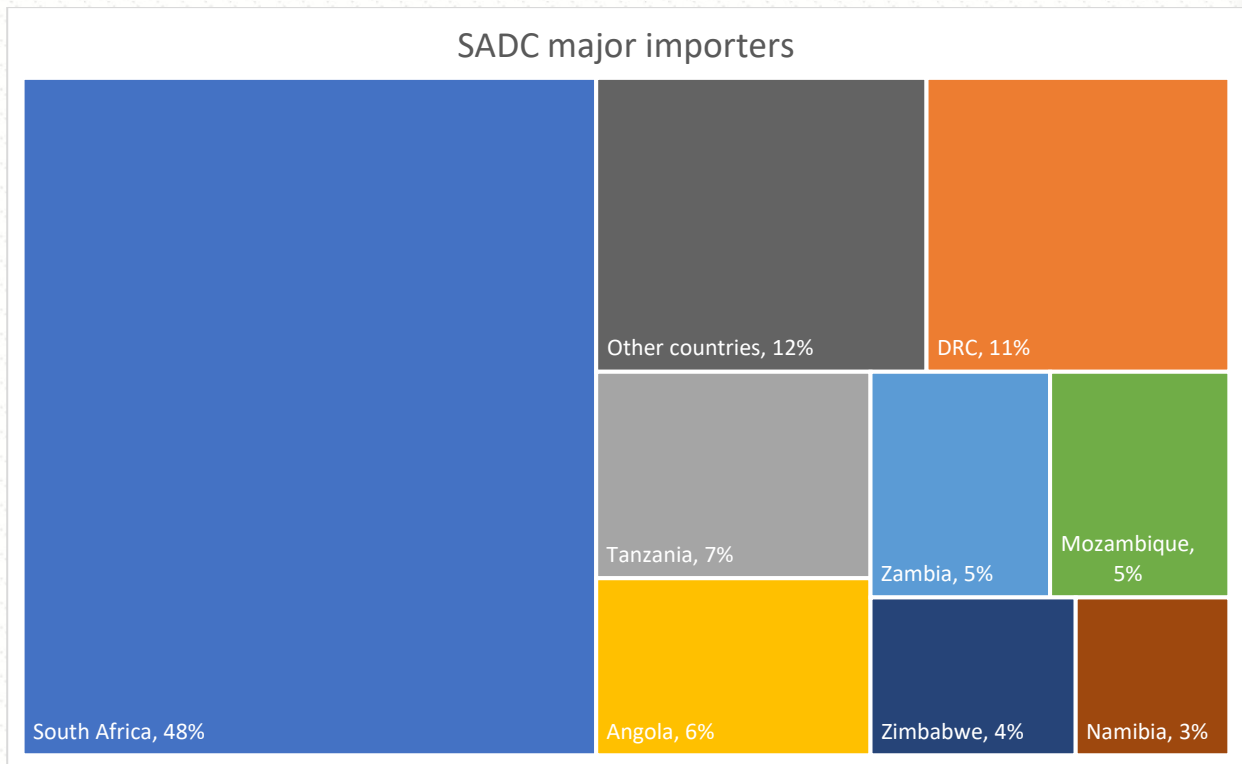
- Engineering services
- Agricultural extension services
- Tourism services
- Digital services (IT, software development) (*Refer to Annexes 3 & 6*)

6. SADC Trade performance by Country

SADC's total exports amounted to US\$231 billion in 2023 up from US\$199 billion recorded in 2014 translating to a 16% increase over the past 10 years. Major exporters in the region include South Africa recording US\$110 billion thereby accounting for 48% of SADC's exports. Angola recorded US\$38 billion accounting for 17% of SADC's exports, whilst Zimbabwe recorded US\$7.2 billion exports accounting for 3% of SADC exports. (Refer to Annex 5)

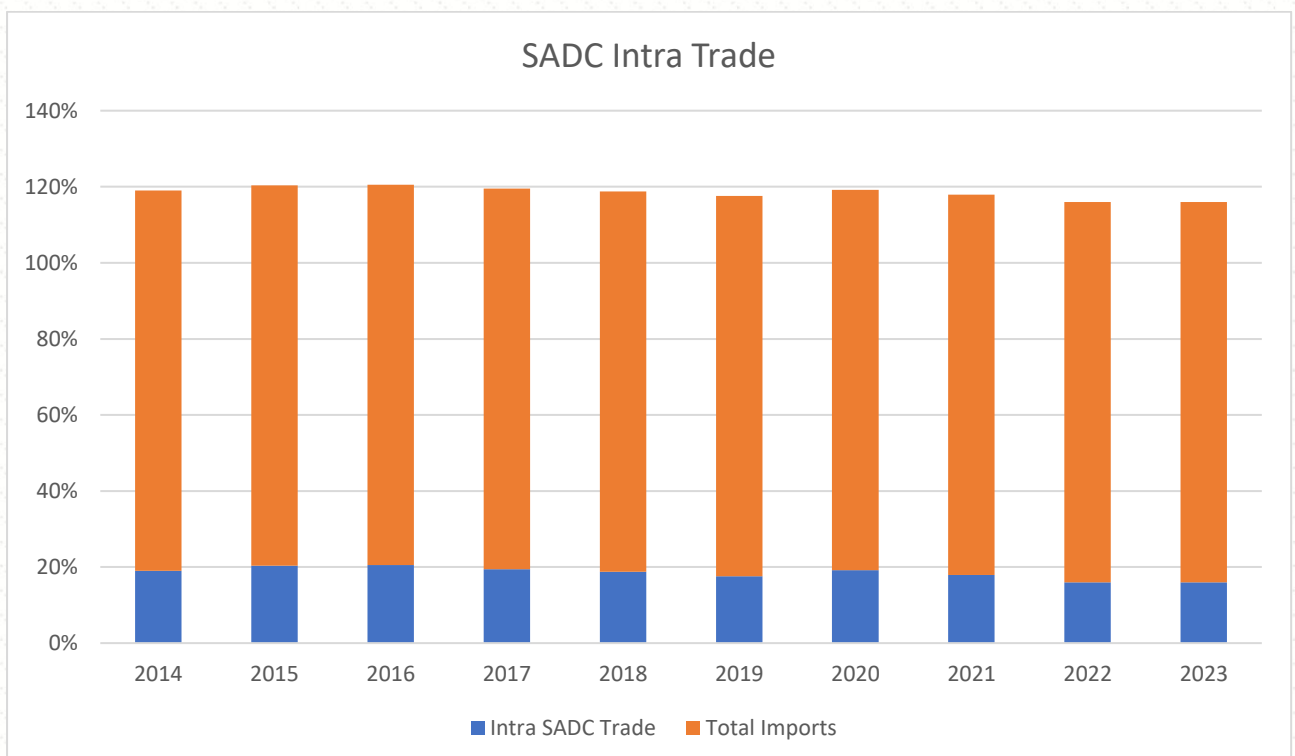


SADC's imports amounted to US\$223 billion in 2023 up from US\$200 billion recorded in 2014 translating to a 12% increase over the 10-year period. Major importers in the region include South Africa US\$107 billion accounting for 48% of SADC's imports, followed by DRC US\$25.7 billion accounting for 11% and Tanzania with 7% of imports. Zimbabwe accounts for 4% for SADC's imports. (refer to Annex 7)



7. SADC Intra Trade

Intra – SADC trade ranges from 16% to 20% highlighting the need to continue trading within the bloc using the existing trade agreement.



8. Issues to consider

Key issues to consider for increasing trade between Zimbabwe and the SADC region:

- **Simplify trade regulations and procedures** similar to the COMESA Simplified Trade Regime.
- **Increase Market Access and Promotion** through conducting market research and analysis for products with potential in SADC countries.
- **Increase collaboration** among trade promotional agencies through participation in regional trade fairs and exhibitions
- **Collaboration of member states** in coming up with digital platforms for market access.
- **Improve Financial and Payment Systems** at SADC level and Improving access to finance for exporters.
- **Develop and utilize** regional payment systems
- **Develop Infrastructure:** Upgrade transportation infrastructure (air, land, and sea) to facilitate trade.

9. Conclusion

Zimbabwe's membership in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) presents significant opportunities for economic growth, regional integration, and cooperation. Zimbabwe is making progress in increasing trade with SADC countries, with South Africa, Mozambique, and Zambia being key trading partners.

10. Annexes

Annex 1 – Zimbabwe’s Export Markets in SADC



Source: Trademap

Annex 2: – Zimbabwe Source Markets in SADC



Source: Trademap

Annex 3: Zimbabwe’s exported products to SADC in 2023

	US\$ 000'
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All products	2,863,676
Nickel & articles thereof	989,260
Ores, slag and ash	675,908
plastering materials, lime and cement	301,210
Bituminous substances	197,957
Tobacco & manufactured tobacco	196,426
precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals	107,101
Sugar	46,906
Cotton	34,771
Raw hides and skins	28,533
Other products	285,604

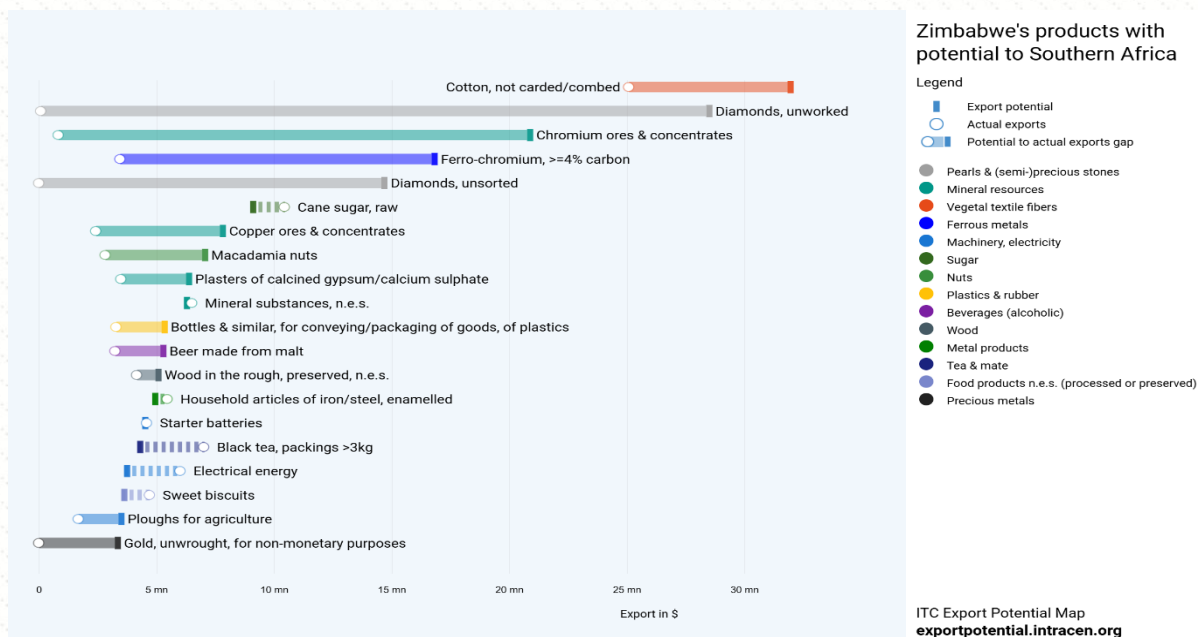
Annex 4: Zimbabwe imported products from SADC

Product label	Zimbabwe's imports from Southern African Development Community (SADC)		
	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023
	US\$ 000'		
All products	4,067,525	4,563,639	4,509,369
Machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	551,393	633,562	572,262
Mineral fuels, mineral oils	394,426	504,272	535,255
Cereals	174,231	165,377	280,779
Fertilisers	266,120	324,655	260,360
Vehicles, parts and accessories thereof	230,766	255,078	245,368
Electrical machinery and equipment	155,999	170,443	218,532
Plastics and articles thereof	211,183	262,661	213,317
Iron and steel	192,319	218,744	182,862
Animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils	216,601	244,290	171,379
Articles of iron or steel	146,015	165,583	159,551

Annex 5: Major exporters from SADC

	Exported value in 2019	Exported value in 2020	Exported value in 2021	Exported value in 2022	Exported value in 2023
South Africa	90,419,473	85,686,133	123,734,050	123,614,816	110,662,795
Angola	34,819,241	21,043,779	33,743,794	51,268,600	38,229,357
DRC	13,382,299	14,230,247	22,334,312	29,367,288	28,517,775
Zambia	6,962,507	8,060,547	11,217,517	11,689,732	10,535,675
Mozambique	4,722,313	3,460,033	5,111,686	8,199,019	8,275,973
Tanzania,	4,932,713	5,984,824	6,390,863	6,824,846	7,274,329
Zimbabwe	4,279,384	4,394,831	6,036,173	6,586,208	7,225,586
Botswana	5,215,426	4,294,764	7,424,962	8,308,478	5,502,717
Namibia	6,439,325	5,424,088	4,460,521	6,004,803	5,488,030
Madagascar	2,564,400	1,956,910	2,718,729	3,509,026	3,227,416

Annex 6: Zimbabwe Export Potential to SADC



The products with greatest export potential from Zimbabwe to Southern Africa are Cotton, not carded/combed, Diamonds, unworked, and Chromium ores & concentrates. Diamonds, unworked shows the largest absolute difference between potential and actual exports in value terms, leaving room to realize additional exports worth \$28 million.

Annex 7: SADC Imports by Country

Importers	Imported value in 2021	Imported value in 2022	Imported value in 2023
	US\$ 000'		
(SADC) Aggregation	184,195,938	239,744,378	223,555,192
South Africa	93,614,253	111,878,211	107,264,215
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	11,971,835	26,858,595	25,675,561
Tanzania, United Republic of	10,873,264	15,654,447	15,117,482
Angola	11,359,681	17,710,712	12,468,206
Zambia	7,111,525	9,048,377	10,226,926
Mozambique	8,622,697	14,512,194	10,091,853
Zimbabwe	7,577,619	8,603,710	9,201,594
Namibia	6,445,781	7,957,768	7,239,130
Botswana	8,405,634	8,096,330	6,417,468
Mauritius	5,179,825	6,617,941	6,281,534
Madagascar	4,380,344	5,478,191	4,809,848
Malawi	3,126,581	1,553,015	3,140,742
Eswatini	2,051,495	2,123,792	2,038,539
Lesotho	1,832,506	1,881,396	1,734,885
Seychelles	1,200,014	1,407,302	1,468,137
Comoros	442,884	362,397	379,072

Annex 8: Indicative Growing window periods - Zimbabwe

Product	Window Period
Blueberries	May – Oct

Citrus (Lemons, oranges)	Mar – Aug
Avocadoes	Nov – Jun
Macadamia nuts	Oct – May
Cucumbers, bananas	Sep – May
Mange tout, mushrooms	May – Oct
Peas, sugar snaps,	Jun – Sep
Onions	May – Jul; Oct – Dec
Pine apples	Nov – Feb, Jun - Jul
Butternuts	May - Sep
Garlic & ginger	Jun - Sep

Zimbabwe has been developing its horticulture sector with a target of US\$1 billion exports by 2030. This target requires concerted efforts to open new markets and linkages.

Annex 9: Current Zimbabwe Horticulture Production capacity

Below is the information received from the Horticultural Development Council pertaining to the production capacities for the export of various products.

Crop	2023 Volume (Tonnes)	2024 Volume (Tonnes)	Seasonality
Citrus	69,552	64,949	May - September
Tea	12,633	10,856	All year
Avocadoes	7,723	5,108	November - June
Macadamia nuts	7,495	5,213	March - June
Berries	4,582	5,172	April - September
Produce	7,482	5,110	May - September
Seed & Beans	1,220	2,483	April - September
Flowers	2,033	1,324	May - September
Spices	702	604	All year
Flower Cuttings	319	261	May - September
Essential Oils	203	203	All year
Coffee	119	203	All year
Deciduous Fruits	149	55	April - September
Jams	297	0	All year
Potatoes	15	23	April - September