



Energising Zimbabwe's Export Growth



ZIMBABWE - SINGAPORE

TRADE BRIEF

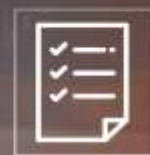


ZimTrade Zimbabwe



ZimTradeAlerts

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Zimbabwe – Singapore Trade Brief

1. Singapore Overview

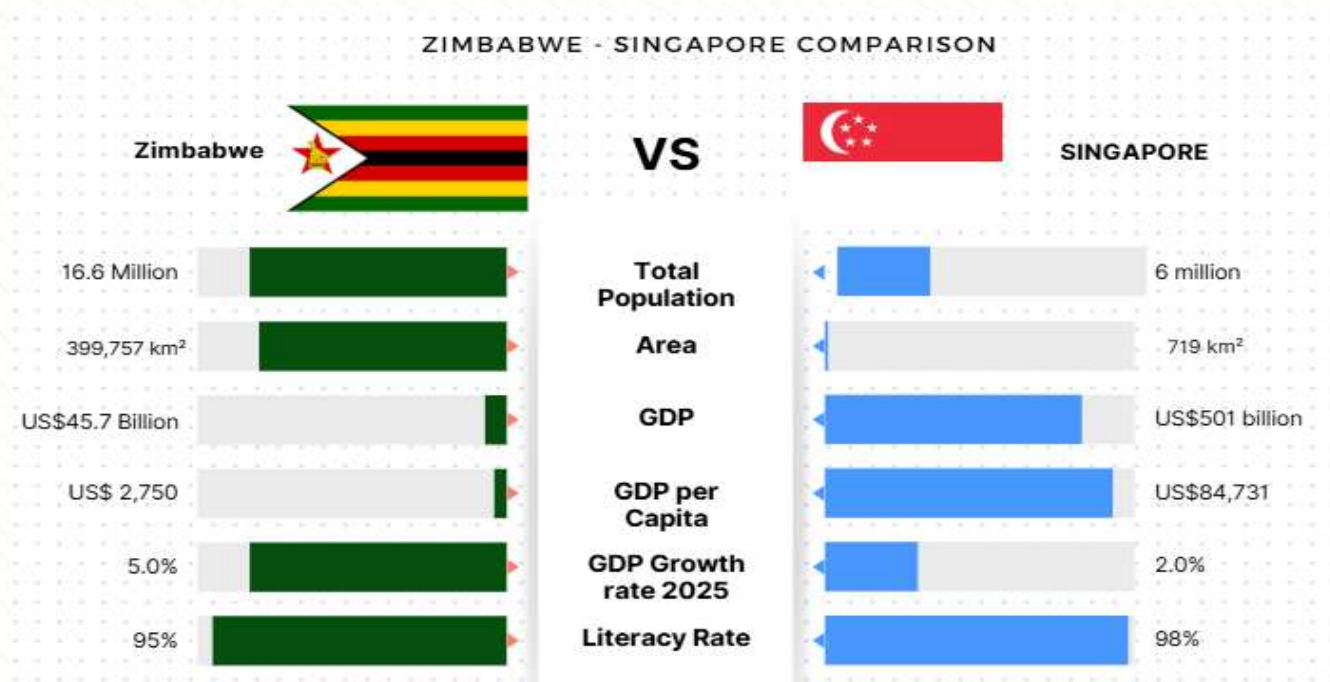
Singapore is a sovereign island city-state in Southeast Asia, spanning 7 square kilometres. Despite its small size, Singapore is a global financial centre and trading hub, consistently ranking among the world's most competitive economies. The nation transformed from a colonial trading post to a highly developed economy within a single generation after its independence in 1965.

As one of the Four Asian Tigers, Singapore has a highly advanced market economy characterized by low tax rates, robust infrastructure, and a strategic location at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. The country is renowned for its efficient port facilities, making it one of the world's busiest ports and a crucial node in global maritime trade.

Singapore's economy grew in 2023, with all sectors except manufacturing expanding. The growth was driven by the other services, information and communications, and transportation and storage sectors. As a member of several trade blocs, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the European Union-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), Singapore has fostered global trade partnerships, including opportunities with African nations such as Zimbabwe.

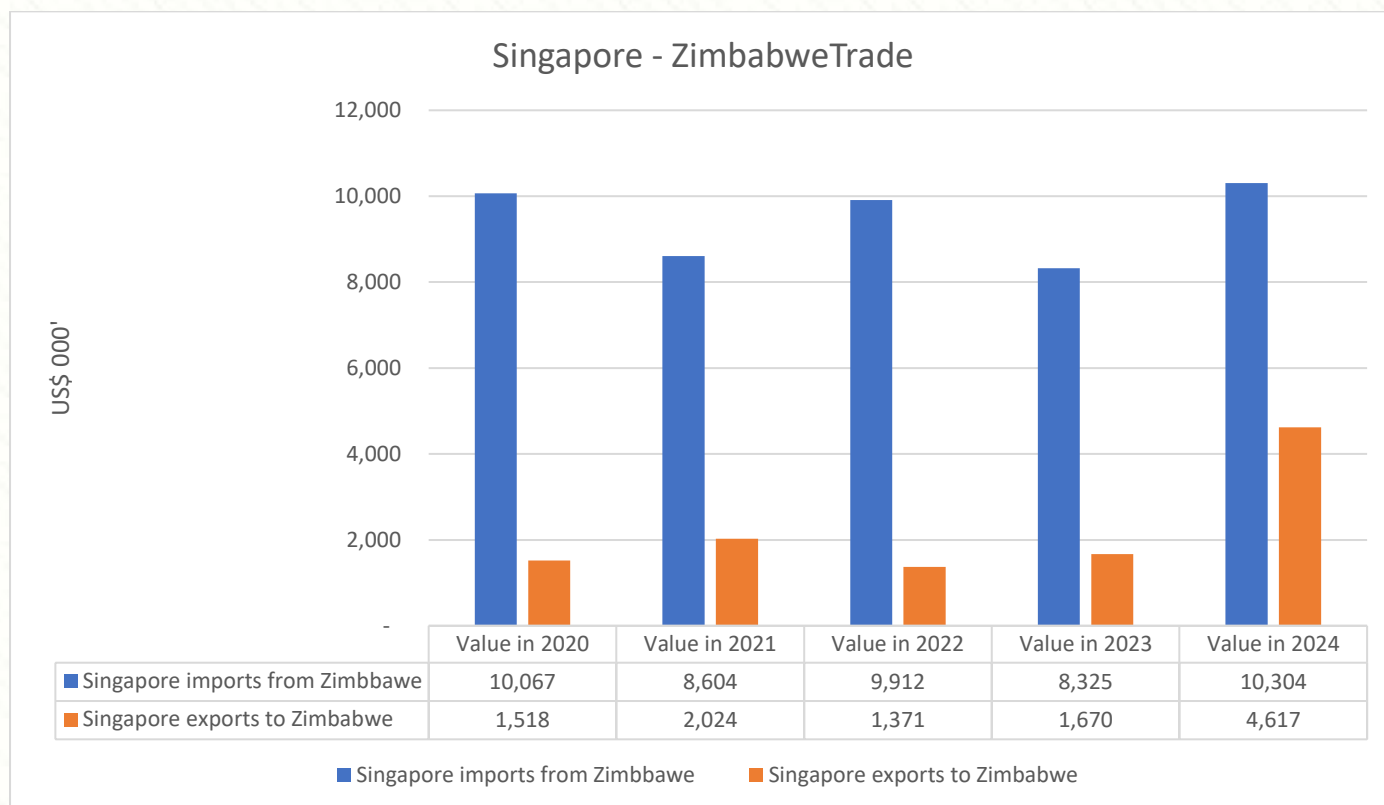
2. Key Economic Indicators

- **GDP:** US\$501.4 billion (2023)
- **GDP per capita:** US\$84,734.26 (2023)
- **Population** 6 million
- **Major Industries:** Manufacturing, Financial Services and Trade
- **Trade Partners:** China, the United States, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the European Union (EU).



3. Zimbabwe – Singapore Trade

Trade between Zimbabwe and Singapore remains underdeveloped, with potential for growth in diverse sectors. In 2023, Zimbabwe's exports to Singapore were valued at US\$10.3 million, primarily comprising works of raw hides and leather, tobacco and edible fruits. Meanwhile, imports from Singapore stood at US\$4.6 million, dominated by mineral fuels and oils and nuclear reactors and machinery. (Refer to Annex 1 & 2)



Source: World Trade Map

Singapore's global expertise in technology, logistics, and financial services presents significant opportunities for Zimbabwe to enhance bilateral trade, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Singapore's strong trade and investment frameworks. Strategic areas include smart agriculture, renewable energy solutions, and advanced manufacturing equipment.

Singapore Imports from Africa

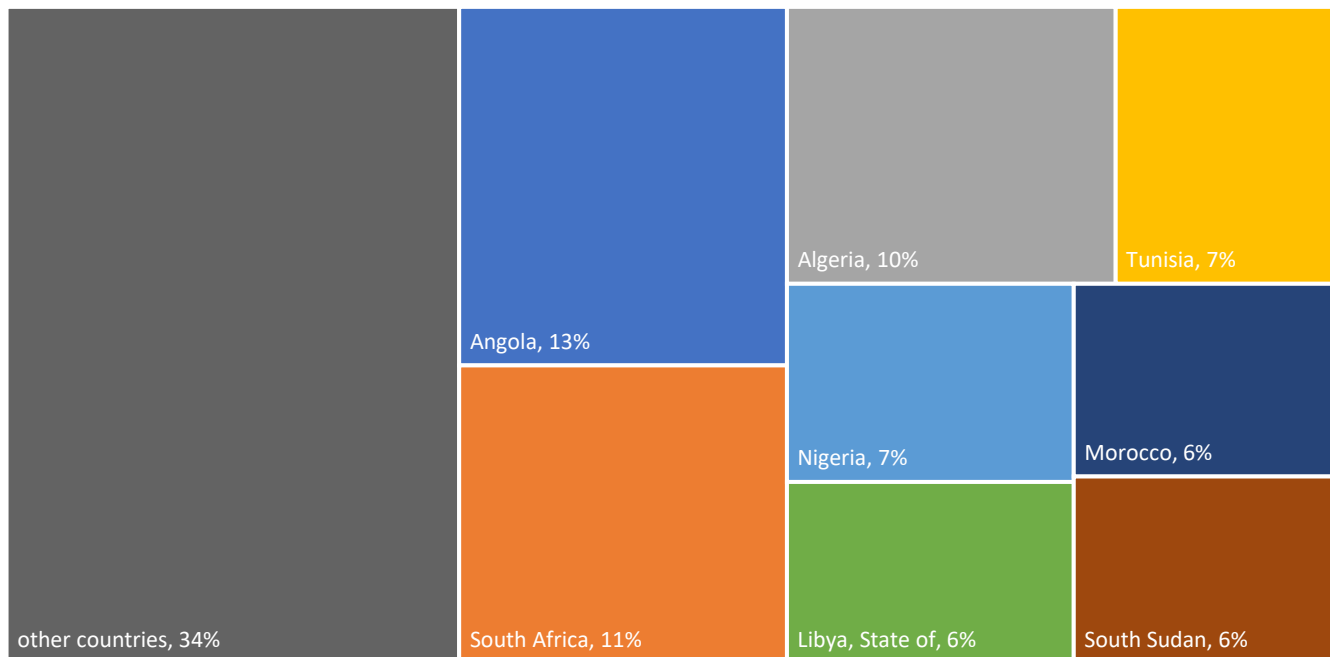
Singapore's imports from Africa totalled US\$3.67 billion in 2023 down from US\$ 4.01 billion in 2019 translating to a 7% decrease. The main categories include crude oil (US\$1.15 billion), non-crude petroleum oils (US\$1.13 billion), and agricultural products such as cocoa and coffee (US\$160 million). Key African trading partners include Algeria, Angola, Tunisia, South Africa, Nigeria, and Libya. Zimbabwe's export portfolio to Singapore could expand by leveraging its mineral wealth and agricultural output by twining with producers in Singapore. (Refer to Annex 3)

Singapore Imports from Africa

Product label	Singapore's imports from Africa				
	US\$ 000's				
	Value in 2019	Value in 2020	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023
All products	4,015,671	3,947,794	5,649,089	4,686,954	3,679,118
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	2,561,685	2,389,867	3,879,585	2,683,014	2,399,443
Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones	468,205	541,623	811,669	848,058	230,855
Electrical machinery and equipment	172,620	168,663	144,107	158,780	190,695
Cocoa and cocoa preparations	172,809	148,645	210,169	169,695	173,291
Organic chemicals	121,773	129,021	116,014	126,250	97,808
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	67,663	67,575	75,974	88,631	87,867
Coffee, tea, maté and spices	15,138	12,526	36,912	97,704	68,453
Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	6,324	12,829	97,402	4,281	58,037
Nickel and articles thereof	65,197	68,074	30,491	8,061	57,000
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	31,220	24,320	21,332	33,365	48,885
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	67,481	113,549	34,814	103,147	32,545
Aluminium and articles thereof	4,341	5,330	3,606	160,522	28,978
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	16,116	9,879	10,475	16,476	20,063
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	51,732	25,680	17,846	40,409	18,569
Other base metals; cermets; articles thereof	2,390	2,306	124	-	18,291

Source: World Trade Map

Singapore Source Imports from Africa



4. Zimbabwe Products with Potential in Singapore

a) Precious Metals and Stones

Trend: Singapore is a major trading hub for precious metals and stones, with significant demand for gold and diamonds for both industrial use and investment.

Opportunity: Zimbabwe's substantial gold and diamond resources, as shown at the top of the chart, present a prime opportunity. The large gap between potential and actual exports indicates room for growth, especially in unwrought gold and unworked diamonds.

b) Reptile Products and Leather

Trend: Singapore's luxury market shows strong demand for exotic leather goods and related products.

Opportunity: Zimbabwe's capacity in raw hides & skins of reptiles and processed leather products aligns well with this demand. The chart shows significant untapped potential in both raw materials and finished products like leather handbags.

c) Fresh Produce

Trend: Singapore imports over 90% of its food needs, creating a steady demand for fresh produce.

Opportunity: Zimbabwe's diverse agricultural outputs including:

- Cranberries
- Oranges
- Avocados
- Fresh peas
- Macadamia nuts

All show export potential with significant gaps between current and potential exports.

d) Art and Luxury Items

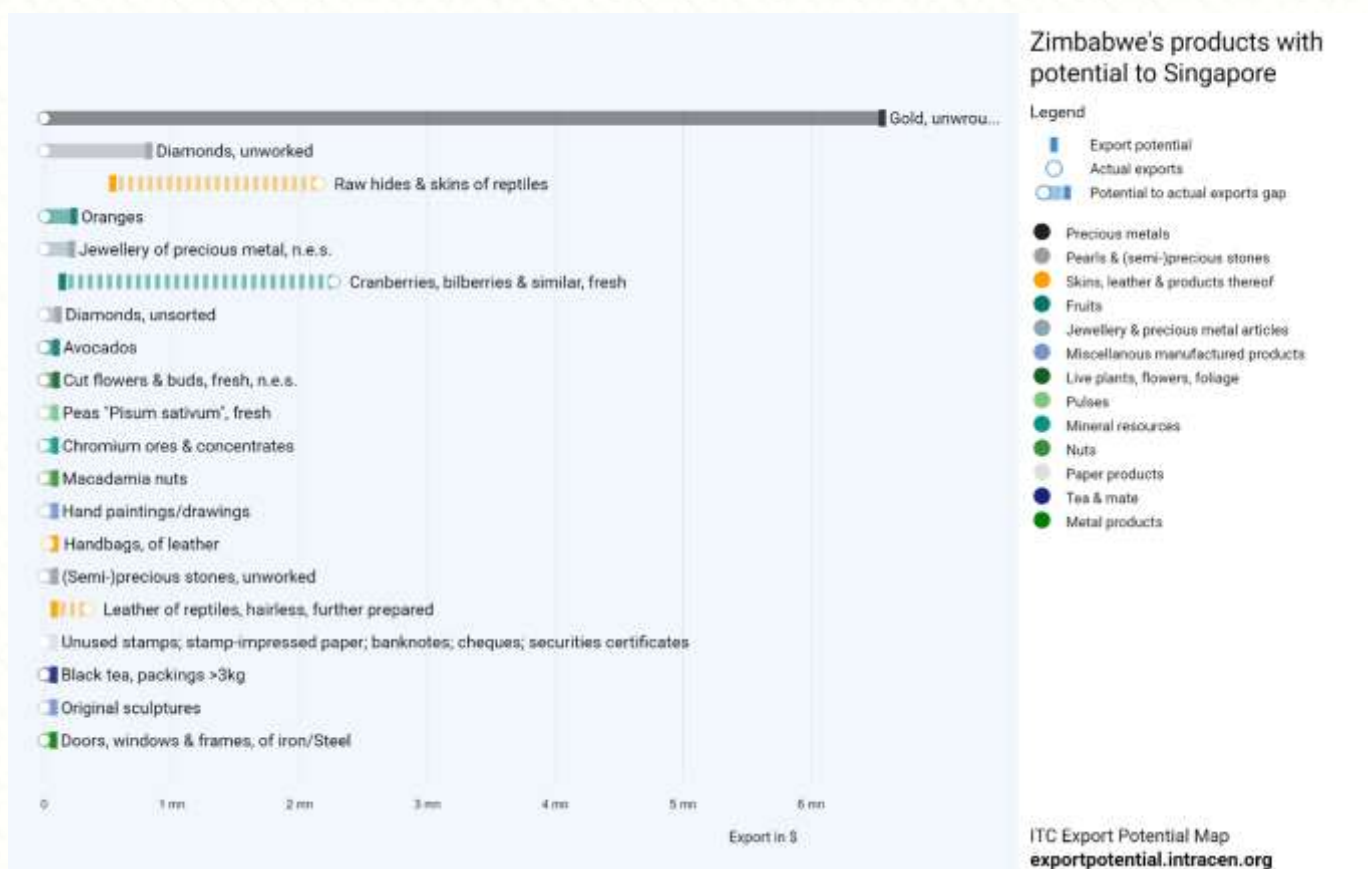
Trend: Singapore's growing wealth and position as a cultural hub creates demand for luxury items and artworks.

Opportunity: Zimbabwe shows potential in:

- Jewelry of precious metals
- Hand paintings/drawings
- Original sculptures

These categories show modest current exports but significant growth potential.

Using the ITC export potential map, the products with greatest export potential from Zimbabwe to Singapore are Gold, unwrought, for non-monetary purposes, Diamonds, unworked, and Raw hides & skins of reptiles. Gold, unwrought, for non-monetary purposes shows the largest absolute difference between potential and actual exports in value terms, leaving room to realize additional exports worth US\$6.5 million.

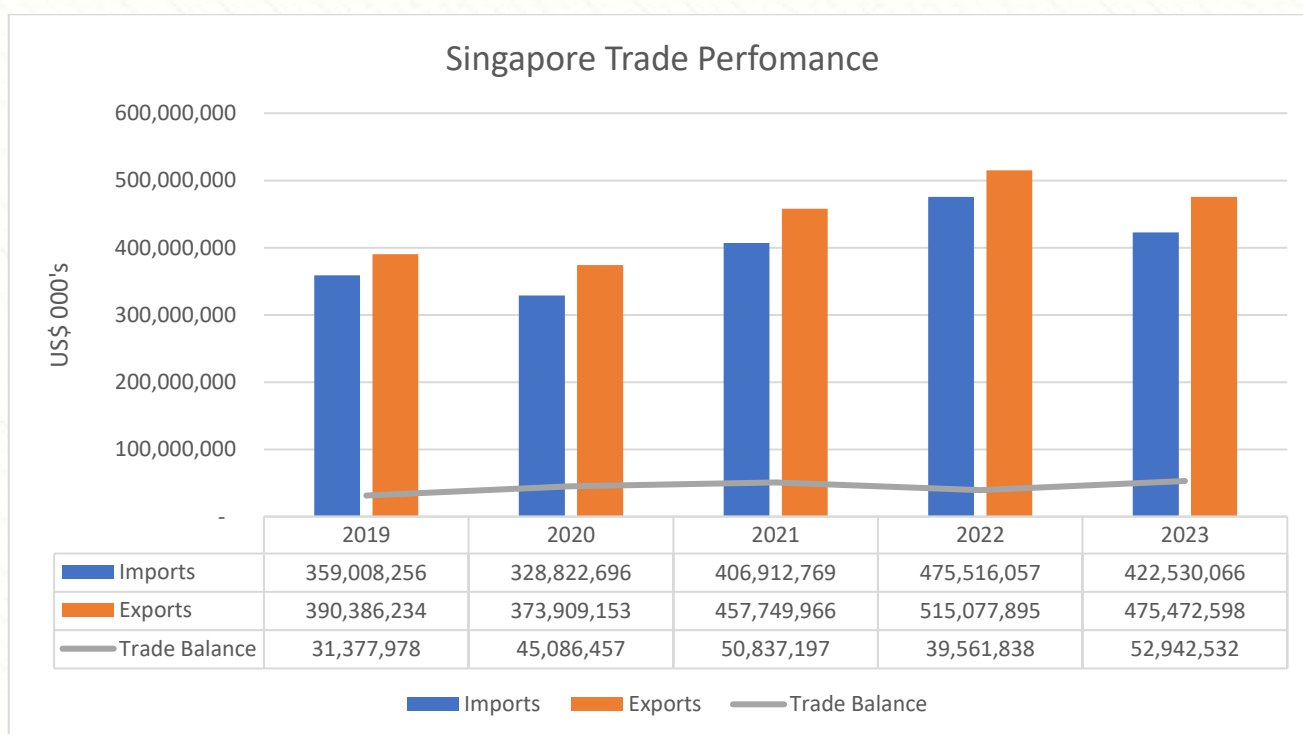


5. Singapore Trade Performance

Singapore exported goods worth US\$475 billion in 2023 up from US\$390 billion in 2019, with electrical machinery, nuclear machinery, and mineral fuels being the leading sectors. Key export products include:

- Electrical machinery and equipment, sound recorders and reproducers, television (US\$161.7 billion)
- Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances (US\$74.2 billion)
- Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation (US\$58.9 billion)
- Commodities not elsewhere specified (US\$32.3 billion)
- Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical (US\$23.5 billion)

Singapore enjoys trade surplus of over US\$52.9 billion as at end of 2023. Singapore's commitment to expanding trade with African nations provides opportunities for Zimbabwe to engage in joint ventures and benefit from technology transfers, especially in value-added agricultural processing.



Source: World Trade Map

6. Singapore imports of horticulture

Singapore's horticultural imports focus on:

- **Fresh Produce:** Apples, Oranges, Nuts, Berries, avocados, and other tropical fruits.
- **Processed Goods:** Juices, dried fruits, and frozen vegetables, coffee and tea

Zimbabwe's horticulture sector, with its growing export capabilities, is well-positioned to meet Singapore's demand for high-quality horticultural products.

Singapore imports of Horticulture products

Product label	Imported value in 2019	Imported value in 2020	Imported value in 2021	Imported value in 2022	Imported value in 2023
US\$000's					
All products	359,008,256	328,822,696	406,912,769	475,516,057	422,530,066
Horticulture	1,523,332	1,664,422	1,759,013	1,798,981	1,767,211
Edible fruit and nuts	675,257	705,665	742,723	723,808	719,422
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	565,961	658,308	667,271	644,268	635,635
Coffee, tea, maté and spices	234,334	231,105	258,689	334,608	319,417
Live trees and other plants; bulbs, roots and the like	47,780	69,344	90,330	96,297	92,737

Source: World Trade Map

7. Issues to consider

a. Logistics and Connectivity:

Singapore's strategic location as a global shipping hub and its well-developed infrastructure facilitate efficient logistics. Zimbabwean exporters must leverage Singaporean logistics companies to enhance their supply chain strategies and reduce costs.

b. Competitors:

- **Tobacco:** Countries like the USA and Australia compete in Singapore's tobacco market, offering strong alternatives.
- **Horticulture:** Countries such as Thailand and Malaysia are significant suppliers of fresh produce, benefiting from proximity.
- **Minerals:** Australia and Indonesia are key competitors in supplying minerals to the Singaporean market.

- c. **Regulatory Barriers:** Singapore's import regulations, including strict sanitary and phytosanitary standards, can be complex. Zimbabwean exporters need to ensure compliance to successfully access this market.

8. Conclusion

The trade relationship between Zimbabwe and Singapore holds significant potential for economic growth and diversification. Zimbabwe's strengths in diamonds, horticulture, and renewable energy can complement Singapore's industrial and technological expertise. By leveraging trade agreements and addressing logistical challenges, both countries can expand their economic ties and create mutually beneficial partnerships.

To enhance trade relations, Zimbabwe and Singapore should:

1. Establish bilateral agreements focusing on diamonds and horticulture.
2. Invest in infrastructure to facilitate exports, especially in fresh produce.
3. Promote joint ventures in value addition and renewable energy projects.

Strengthening Zimbabwe's trade ties with Singapore will not only increase exports but also foster knowledge sharing and economic resilience for both nations.

Annexes

Annex 1: Singapore imports from Zimbabwe

Product label	Singapore's imports from Zimbabwe				
	Value in 2020	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023	Value in 2024
	US\$ 000''				
All products	10,067	8,604	9,912	8,325	10,304
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	356	2,414	2,535	3,224	4,693
Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather	1,479	2,412	2,043	2,769	2,683
Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; products, whether or not containing nicotine, ...	8,211	3,608	5,284	2,271	1,921
Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad ...	-	-	-	-	884
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials	-	-	-	-	90

Source: World Trade Map

Annex 2: Singapore exports to Zimbabwe

Product label	Singapore's exports to Zimbabwe				
	Value in 2020	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023	Value in 2024
	US\$ 000				
All products	1,518	2,024	1,371	1,670	4,617
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	27	24	-	146	2,081
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	678	430	422	322	1,055
Plastics and articles thereof	354	536	512	477	553

Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	172	96	299	206	485
Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical ...	23	142	76	100	159
Pharmaceutical products	16	-	-	32	123
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	0	0	0	0	61

Source: World Trade Map

Annex 3: Singapore imports from Africa

Product label	Singapore's imports from Africa				
	US\$000's				
	Value in 2019	Value in 2020	Value in 2021	Value in 2022	Value in 2023
All products	4,015,671	3,947,794	5,649,089	4,686,954	3,679,118
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	2,561,685	2,389,867	3,879,585	2,683,014	2,399,443
Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad ...	468,205	541,623	811,669	848,058	230,855
Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	172,620	168,663	144,107	158,780	190,695
Cocoa and cocoa preparations	172,809	148,645	210,169	169,695	173,291
Organic chemicals	121,773	129,021	116,014	126,250	97,808
Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	67,663	67,575	75,974	88,631	87,867
Coffee, tea, maté and spices	15,138	12,526	36,912	97,704	68,453
Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	6,324	12,829	97,402	4,281	58,037
Nickel and articles thereof	65,197	68,074	30,491	8,061	57,000
Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	31,220	24,320	21,332	33,365	48,885
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Aluminium and articles thereof	4,341	5,330	3,606	160,522	28,978
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	16,116	9,879	10,475	16,476	20,063
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	51,732	25,680	17,846	40,409	18,569
Other base metals; cermets; articles thereof	2,390	2,306	124	-	18,291
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	13,830	16,274	17,455	17,897	18,253

Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations	16,788	14,304	14,423	13,035	17,827
Plastics and articles thereof	4,387	7,467	8,220	19,687	11,138
Pharmaceutical products	8,475	5,016	3,241	3,037	10,526

Source: World Trade Map

Annex 4: Singapore Suppliers from Africa

Importers	Exported value in 2019	Exported value in 2020	Exported value in 2021	Exported value in 2022	Exported value in 2023
World	359,008,256	328,822,696	406,912,769	475,516,057	422,530,066
Africa Aggregation	4,015,671	3,947,794	5,649,089	4,686,954	3,679,118
Angola	272,233	396,639	753,652	436,635	494,219
South Africa	440,155	418,488	691,350	836,859	410,741
Algeria	508,603	729,829	1,161,572	981,898	383,212
Tunisia	39,710	34,760	52,250	98,653	256,702
Nigeria	347,606	437,591	878,112	282,772	239,392
Libya, State of	379,203	197,969	171,237	373,430	218,973
Morocco	175,541	150,770	149,372	170,287	212,796
South Sudan	1	1,111	85,721	67,180	206,215
Sudan	639	2,949	27,602	211,397	185,040
Equatorial Guinea	214,738	65,556	149,824	69,154	164,303
Egypt	353,240	170,940	371,224	173,869	105,756
Djibouti	714	372	162	7,220	95,739
Madagascar	28,581	23,252	36,549	83,560	87,366
Côte d'Ivoire	11,710	29,424	48,631	49,643	74,185
Botswana	257,092	376,439	279,280	310,266	73,018
Ethiopia	33,499	100,514	100,175	4,101	56,519
Gabon	377,331	181,256	109,271	29,494	53,406
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	27,309	44,088	18,651	371	53,402
Namibia	41,661	75,475	58,536	63,524	40,357

Ghana	116,887	124,670	108,078	74,758	39,421
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Source: Trade Map

Annex 5: – Singapore exports by country

Importers	Exported value in 2019	Exported value in 2020	Exported value in 2021	Exported value in 2022	Exported value in 2023
US\$000's					
World	390,386,234	373,909,153	457,749,966	515,077,895	475,472,598
China	51,626,378	51,370,082	67,787,634	63,982,753	65,602,230
Hong Kong, China	44,383,556	46,222,102	60,183,665	57,792,336	50,426,509
United States of America	34,405,723	40,249,832	39,340,475	45,315,933	44,934,443
Malaysia	41,158,159	33,283,886	42,155,822	51,596,844	44,465,617
Indonesia	27,362,870	21,441,414	28,818,441	37,238,103	35,377,466
Korea, Republic of	15,212,009	16,763,121	19,712,323	20,842,945	20,654,304
Taipei, Chinese	16,391,207	18,225,849	23,321,801	25,253,344	20,557,024
Japan	17,635,243	17,871,037	18,366,164	20,795,886	19,350,667
Thailand	15,356,150	14,113,778	15,631,617	17,496,057	19,102,121
Viet Nam	12,963,055	12,436,538	15,680,256	17,217,409	16,658,429
Australia	11,297,061	8,555,067	13,046,362	16,596,834	15,131,822
India	11,442,374	9,173,639	12,631,931	13,901,878	14,439,810
Philippines	8,533,570	7,436,655	9,172,391	10,867,393	10,054,430
Netherlands	8,594,001	10,237,867	9,741,434	11,120,192	8,354,066
Germany	5,845,210	5,556,933	7,110,023	8,102,370	8,025,787
Panama	4,184,969	3,616,268	4,304,912	6,210,888	5,434,976
Liberia	2,666,431	2,821,528	3,353,659	5,558,877	5,417,613
United Arab Emirates	4,058,322	3,053,545	4,020,682	5,940,700	5,397,990
Belgium	4,465,916	4,839,780	5,406,448	6,180,712	4,689,133
Marshall Islands	2,881,230	3,002,277	3,590,166	5,433,108	4,521,394

Source: World Trade Map

Annex 6: Singapore exports by products

Product label	Exported value in 2019	Exported value in 2020	Exported value in 2021	Exported value in 2022	Exported value in 2023
US\$000's					
All products	390,386,234	373,909,153	457,749,966	515,077,895	475,472,598
Electrical machinery and equipment	120,690,601	131,983,086	167,097,352	180,995,620	161,739,813
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances;	59,307,829	58,125,353	69,218,450	75,216,712	74,152,605
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	47,881,207	30,250,081	45,964,366	65,663,113	58,877,783
Commodities not elsewhere specified	21,528,516	20,297,849	24,576,928	35,535,347	32,323,521
Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical ...	20,933,958	20,780,247	22,345,990	23,174,912	23,502,377
Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones,	17,764,600	20,362,174	21,113,334	22,682,702	18,791,428
Organic chemicals	12,872,614	11,456,157	13,753,345	13,882,146	14,572,711
Plastics and articles	14,605,484	12,911,292	15,913,254	15,612,295	12,617,483
Pharmaceutical products	8,107,010	8,925,984	10,268,877	9,842,829	11,042,024
Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations	9,672,646	9,558,908	10,393,092	10,216,444	9,533,477
Miscellaneous chemical products	6,474,237	5,911,446	7,187,051	7,715,096	6,750,836
Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,405,504	6,037,879	6,697,980	7,080,780	5,723,832
Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	7,957,684	5,509,256	4,200,850	5,054,654	5,444,902
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	3,007,252	2,289,970	3,045,882	2,825,804	3,365,921
Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories	3,506,673	3,205,791	3,450,883	3,695,933	3,237,038
Articles of iron or steel	2,255,062	1,982,706	2,316,633	2,431,667	2,535,175

Source: World Trade Map

Annex 7: Singapore imports of services

Service label	Imported Value in 2019	Imported Value in 2020	Imported Value in 2021	Imported Value in 2022	Imported Value in 2023
US\$000's					
All services	206,507,553	211,798,416	242,826,235	258,614,507	295,443,140
Other business services	61,952,633	68,146,887	79,826,223	80,861,460	100,850,926
Transport	64,688,385	73,672,270	88,281,780	92,128,288	91,432,539
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	16,821,801	22,891,677	26,940,267	26,854,787	26,758,239
Travel	27,048,180	7,089,733	4,138,942	15,287,887	25,211,801
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	15,161,437	14,882,786	16,325,100	15,806,794	18,180,046
Financial services	7,191,541	9,760,160	11,564,937	11,248,332	13,574,165
Insurance and pension services	5,503,100	6,585,001	5,881,353	5,958,583	8,168,594
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	5,811,862	6,609,571	7,370,244	7,932,012	7,988,626
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	756,657	743,762	964,582	990,522	1,421,868
Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	871,966	721,874	727,810	719,608	959,478
Construction	468,641	485,308	581,771	590,643	645,187
Government goods and services n.i.e.	231,351	209,387	223,226	235,590	251,671

Source: World Trade Map

Annex 8: Indicative Growing window periods - Zimbabwe

Product	Window Period
Blueberries	May – Oct
Citrus (Lemons, oranges)	Mar – Aug
Avocados	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

Pineapples	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 ambitious target requires concerted efforts to open new markets and linkages.

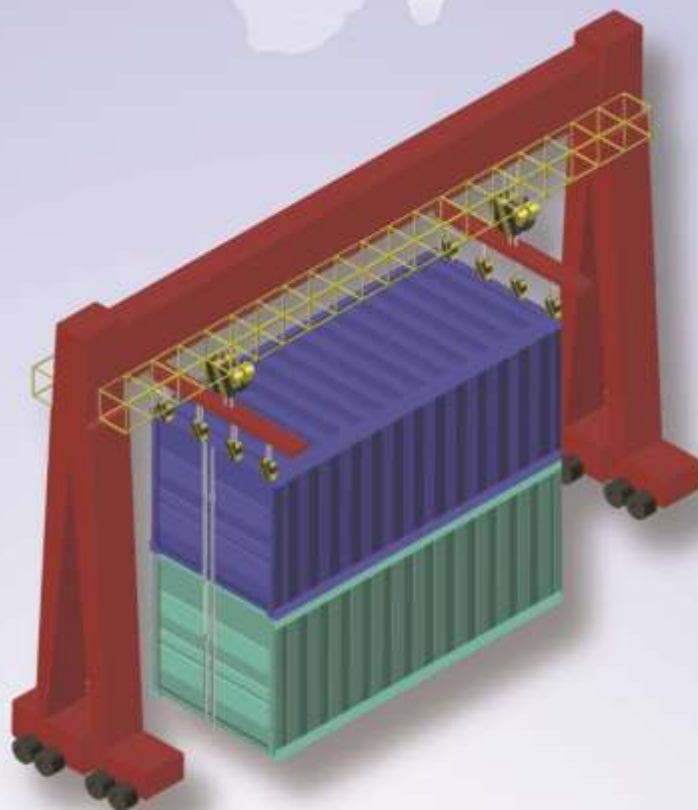
Annex 9: Current Zimbabwe Horticulture Production capacity

Below is the information received from the Horticulture 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

Notes

Notes



- ✉ info@zimtrade.co.zw
- ☎ +263 788 665 599
- ✕ ZimTrade Alerts
- 📍 ZimTrade Zimbabwe
- 🌐 www.tradezimbabwe.com



HEAD OFFICE

188 Sam Nujoma
Street Avondale
Harare, Zimbabwe
+263 24 2369332-34

SOUTHERN REGION

48 Josiah Tongogara
Street P. O. Box 3090
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
+263-292 266151

EASTERN REGION

Suit 6 Manica Centre
118 Hebert Chitepo
Mutare, Zimbabwe
+263 20 20 62843/46