



## agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### AGOA- African Growth and Opportunity Act

**Overview:** The United States' AGOA legislation provides sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) beneficiary countries, including South Africa, with significant tariff concessions. AGOA is a non-reciprocal trade preference programme that grants eligible SSA countries duty-free quota-free (DFQF) access to the United States (U.S.) for selected export products. AGOA builds on the US's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for about 4600 tariff lines by adding another 1800 tariff lines such that the combined AGOA/GSP program has over 6400 tariff lines. The AGOA was enacted in 2000 and requires periodic renewal and extension by the US Congress. The latest and longest extension of ten years expires end September 2025.

**Benefits and opportunities:** Through AGOA, SA agricultural products are able to compete in the U.S. market with products from other countries. The positive impact on some of SA's products, in particular the exports of macadamia nuts, citrus, and wine are very valuable to the sector. Despite a 52 percent decline in export value, macadamia nuts were still the leading agricultural export product to the US in 2020. South Africa's top ten agricultural exports represented 84 percent of total agricultural exports in 2020 (chapters 1 – 24).

**Table 1: Top 10 US agricultural imports from SA by value in 2020**

Rank	HTS/HS Code	Description	US dollars	% change (2019-2020)
1	0802.62	Macadamia nuts, shelled	51 798 805	-52,18%
2	0805.10	Oranges, fresh	48 340 387	86,41%
3	2204.21	Wine of fresh grapes, containers not over 2 l	38 094 432	0,59%
4	0805.21	Mandarines, fresh or dried	24 648 462	74,14%
5	2207.10	Ethyl alcohol, undenatured	15 279 050	13,45%
6	0805.22	Clementines, fresh or dried	13 900 109	90,15%
7	2105.00	Ice cream & other edible ice	10 554 545	57,7%
8	0806.20	Grapes, dried (incl. raisins)	10 394 977	17,77%
9	2001.90	Vegetables, fruits, nuts, prep or preserved	6 215 980	-2,17%
10	2008.40	Pears, prepared or preserved	6 044 053	64,69%

Source: USITC database, 2021