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Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Trade Performance Review of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF) sector of South Africa: 2016 to 2017

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Data Source: Global Trade Atlas

Executive Summary

The purpose of this annual report is to inform sector stakeholders about the status of South Africa's imports and exports performance for agriculture, forestry and fisheries products by analysing trade flows for 2017 and compare with 2016.

Key observations on export performance in 2017

- South Africa's exports of AFF products decreased by 2.92% in value terms from 2016 to 2017.
- South Africa's total export value of AFF products was R159.48 billion for the 2017 calendar year.
 - In 2017, South Africa's total export value for primary AFF products was R83.18 billion. (52% of total AFF exports)
 - The total export value for secondary AFF products was R76.30 billion. (48% of AFF exports)
- Edible fruits and nuts (HS08) were South Africa's largest sub-sector export category with a value of R45.15 billion. (28% of total AFF exports)
- Exports of sugars and sugar confectionery (HS17) had the highest growth rate of 46.09% per annum from 2016 to 2017.
- Netherlands was the largest export destination market for South Africa's AFF products; with an export value of R11.75 billion in 2017. The main products that were exported to the Netherlands were: grapes, oranges and wine.
- Among the top 10 destination markets identified, South Africa's export growth of AFF products to Japan notably increased by 46.57% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The three major products exported to Japan were: wood chips, maize corn and grapefruits.
- South Africa's exports of AFF products to Zimbabwe decreased the most at a declining rate of 27.01% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The three major products exported were: maize corn, soybean oil and animal feed preparations. This could be because of various tariff barriers imposed by Zimbabwe, retracting on the SADC free trade agreement.

Key observations on imports in 2017

- South Africa's imports of AFF products decreased by 3.65% in value terms from 2016 to 2017.
- South Africa's total import value of AFF products amounted to R115.6 billion for the 2017 calendar year.
 - In 2017, South Africa's total import value of primary AFF products was R34.38 billion. (30% of total AFF imports)
 - The total import value for secondary AFF products was R81.19 billion. (70% of total AFF imports)
- Cereals (HS10) were South Africa's largest import sub-sector with a value of R13.52 billion.
- Imports of sugar and sugar confectioneries had the highest growth annual rate of 30.52% from 2016 to 2017.

- Brazil was the largest supplier of AFF products to South Africa; with an imported value of R7.58 billion (6.5% of total AFF). The main products that were imported in 2017 from Brazil were: chicken cuts, offal of chickens and pure sucrose.
- Among the top 10 supplier markets identified, South Africa's import growth of AFF products from Thailand increased by 33.24% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The three major products imported were: whole rice, tuna and broken rice.
- South Africa's imports of AFF products from Argentina decreased the most at a declining rate of 50.81% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The three major products imported were: soybean oilcake, refined soybean oil and sunflower seed oil.

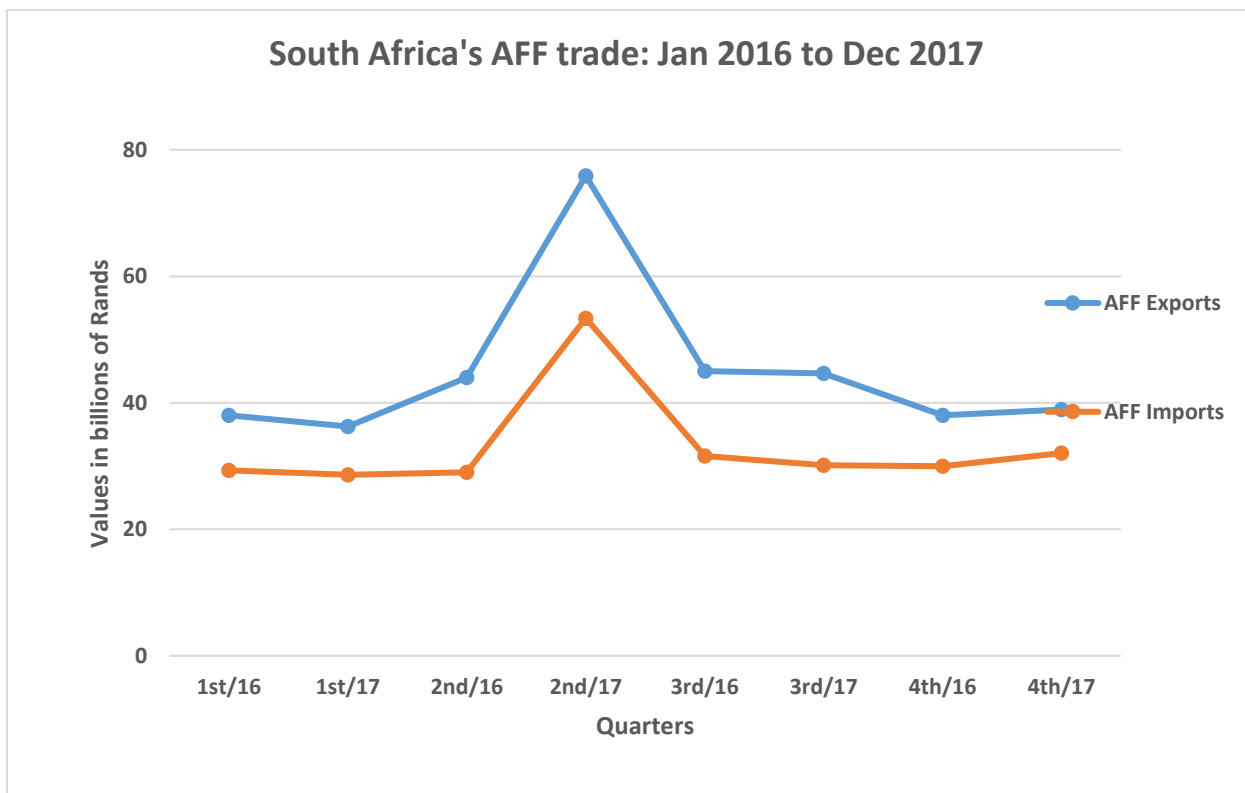


Figure 1: South Africa's agriculture, forestry and fisheries trade for 2016 and 2017, quarterly

1. Analysis of South Africa's major agriculture, forestry and fisheries export markets and product drivers in 2017

Table 1: South Africa's top 10 largest export destinations for agriculture, forestry and fisheries products by value in 2017

Partner Country	Values (Billion Rands) 2017	% share of total AFF exports by value	% annual change from 2016 to 2017	Top 3 products exported into major markets
Total	159.48	100.00	-2.92	
Netherlands	11,75	7.37	2.04	Fresh grapes, Fresh oranges, Wine
Namibia	10,56	6.62	- 8.82	Cigarettes containing tobacco, Wine, Cane sugar
China	10,29	6.45	- 0.08	Wool, Chemical wood pulp, Fresh oranges
United Kingdom	10,00	6.27	- 6.43	Fresh grapes, Wine, Fresh apples,
Botswana	9,68	6.07	- 6.11	Corn (Maize), Cane or beet sugar, Sunflower-seed or safflower oil
Mozambique	7,39	4.63	- 1.70	Cane or beet sugar, Soups and broths, Food preparations
Japan	6,42	4.03	46.57	Wood in chips or particles, Corn (maize), Grapefruit, fresh or dried
Zimbabwe	5,86	3.68	- 27.01	Corn (maize), Soybean oil fractions, Animal Feed
Lesotho	5,35	3.36	- 5.56	Chicken and edible offal, Cigarettes containing tobacco, Groats and meal of corn (maize)
United States	4,78	3.00	4.57	Macadamia Nuts, Wine, Cane sugar

Source: Global Trade Atlas, 2018

The top ten export destinations for AFF exports only account for 51.6% of the total AFF exports value of R159.48 billion in 2017.

In 2017, **the Netherlands** was the largest export destination market for South Africa's agriculture, forestry and fisheries (AFF) products with a value of R11.75 billion. From 2016 to 2017, the exports increased in value by 2.04% per annum and the share of total AFF exports to the Netherlands was 7.37%. The top three products exported to the Netherlands were: fresh grapes, fresh oranges and wine.

Namibia ranked the second largest export destination market for South Africa's agriculture, forestry and fisheries products with a value of R10.76 billion. The exported value decreased by 8.82% from 2016 to 2017 and had a share of 6.62% of the total AFF products in 2017. The top three products exported to Namibia were: cigarettes, wine and sugar.

China was the third largest export destination market, with a value of R 10.29 billion and share of 6.45% of the total AFF products exported from South Africa. The value exported decreased by 0.81% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The top three products exported to China: were wool, wood pulp and fresh oranges.

The United Kingdom had an export value R10.00 billion of AFF products from South Africa, with a share of 6.27% of the total AFF products. The exported value decreased by 6.43% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The top three products exported to the United Kingdom: were fresh grapes, wine and fresh apples.

Botswana was the fifth largest export destination market for South Africa's AFF products with a value of R9.68 billion with a share of 6.07% of the total AFF products. There was a decrease of 6.11% per annum of exports value from 2016 to 2017. The top three products imported by Botswana were: maize (corn), cane or beet sugar and sunflower seed oil.

1.1. Export market growth analysis during 2017

Table 2: South Africa's growing and declining agriculture, forestry and fisheries export markets in 2017

Growing export markets during 2016/2017						
Ranking	Top 3 growing markets	Values (Billion Rands)	Export growth (%)	Top 3 products driving export growth and their individual growth percentage		
1	Kenya	1,94	76.80	Corn (maize), other than seed corn (∞)	Fresh apples (4,03%)	Particle board, of wood (22,53%)
2	Japan	6,42	46.57	Wood in chips or particles, nonconiferous (9,19%)	Corn (maize), other than seed sorn (∞)	Fresh or dried grapefruit (14,50%)
3	Taiwan	1,26	24.19	Corn (maize), other than seed corn (∞)	Fresh oranges (34,48%)	Chem wood pulp (64,89%)

Shrinking export markets during 2016/2017						
Ranking	Top 3 shrinking markets	Values (Billion Rands)	Export shrinkage (%)	Top 3 products driving export shrinkage and their individual shrinkage percentage		
1	Zimbabwe	5,86	- 27.01	Corn (maize), other than seed corn (-45,76%)	Soybean oil and fractions (-42,22%)	Animal feed preparations except dog or cat food (-15,99%)
2	Germany	3,8	- 20.29	Wine, 2 liters (-6,83%)	Wine, not elsewhere specified (-13,29%)	Dried grapes (including raisins) (-33,24%)
3	Spain	1,62	- 17.31	Uncoated, bleached kraftliner (-13,72%)	Frozen hake (-13,28%)	Fresh or chilled hake (-22,70%)

Source: Global Trade Atlas, 2018

Table 2 looks at all export markets (inside and outside the top 10 destination markets). It shows that, of all South Africa's export markets of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products, Kenya, Japan and Taiwan were the fastest growing export markets by value during 2017. Exports of maize (corn) to Taiwan, maize (corn) to Japan and maize (corn) to Kenya had the highest growth during the reporting period. The table further shows shrinking growth of export value to the Zimbabwe, Germany and Spain.. The fastest shrinking exported products were: maize corn to Zimbabwe, soybean oil to Zimbabwe and dried grapes to Germany.

1.2. Export market analysis at sub-sector level in 2017

Table 3: South Africa's top 10 major agriculture, forestry and fisheries sub-sectors by value in 2017

Sub-sector description	Exported value (Bill Rands)	Sub-sector share in SA total AFF exports (%)	Sub-sector growth (%)	Top 3 products exported within the sub-sector	Top 3 export markets by value
HS 08 Edible fruits and nuts	45,15	28,31	6.40	Fresh or dried citrus fruit, Fresh or dried grapes, Fresh apples, pears and quinces	Netherlands, United Kingdom, Hong Kong
HS 22 Beverages, spirits and vinegar	17,61	11,04	- 0.07	Wine, Ethyl alcohol, Sweetened water	Namibia, United Kingdom, Germany

Sub-sector description	Exported value (Bill Rands)	Sub-sector share in SA total AFF exports (%)	Sub-sector growth (%)	Top 3 products exported within the sub-sector	Top 3 export markets by value
HS 47 Wood Pulp	12,54	7,87	2.08	Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades, Chemical wood pulp, not dissolving grades, Waste and scrap of paper or paperboard	India, China, Indonesia
HS 48 Paper, paperboard and articles	8,28	5,19	- 6.91	Kraft paper and paperboard, Cartons, Paper for writing	Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana
HS 20 Prepared vegetables, fruits, nuts or other plant parts	7,88	4,94	- 4.73	Fruit and vegetable juice, Prepared fruit and nuts, Prepared frozen vegetables	Botswana, Namibia, Netherlands
HS 10 Cereals	7,75	4,86	19.24	Corn (maize); Rice; Wheat and meslin	Japan, Zimbabwe, Botswana
HS 44 Wood and wood articles	7,12	4,47	2.29	Fuel wood, Wood in chips, building and carpentry wood, Wood in the rough, sapwood	Japan, Botswana, Namibia
HS 03 Fish, crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates	5,96	3,74	- 8.20	Molluscs and live fish, Frozen fish flours, Fresh, chilled or frozen meat	Italy, Spain, Hong Kong
HS 21 Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,93	3,72	- 1.46	Food Preparations, Sauces, Soups and broths	Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia
HS 17 Sugars and sugar confectionary	5,21	3,27	46.09	Cane or beet sugar, Sugar confectionaries, Pure lactose sugars	Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique

Source: Global Trade Atlas, 2018

The top 10 export subsectors were highly concentrated with a share of 77.41% of total AFF exports.

In 2017, **edible fruits and nuts** was the leading exporting sub-sector with exported value of R45.15 billion and a sub-sector share of 28.31% in South Africa's AFF exports. The sub-sector had growth rate in value of 6.40% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The main export products by this sub-sector were: fresh or dried citrus fruits, fresh or dried grapes, fresh apples, pears and quinces. The top three destination markets were: the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

Beverages, spirits and vinegar was the second largest exporting sub-sector with the exported value of R17.61 billion and a sub-sector share of 11.04% in South Africa's AFF exports. From 2016 to 2017, the beverages, spirits and vinegar exports growth rate declined by 0.07% per annum. The main export products from this sub-sector were: wine, ethyl alcohol under 80% and sweetened water. The top three destination markets for the sub-sector were: Namibia, the United Kingdom and Germany.

The wood pulp sub-sector was the third largest with the exported value of R12.54 billion and a sub-sector share of 7.87% in South Africa's AFF exports. The sub-sector had a growth rate of 2.08% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The main export products by this sub-sector were chemical wood pulp (dissolved and non-dissolved) and waste & scrap of paper and paperboard. The top three destination markets for the sector were: India, China and Indonesia.

The paper, paperboards and articles sub-sector was the fourth largest, with the exported value of R8.28 billion and a share of 5.19% in South Africa's AFF exports. In 2017, the value of exports relatively declined by 6.91% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The main export products from this sector were: kraft paper and paperboards, cartons and paper for writing. The three largest destination markets were: Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana.

The fifth largest exporting sub-sector was the **prepared vegetables, fruits and nuts** with the exported value of R7.88 billion and a sub-sector share of 4.94% in South Africa's total AFF exports. There was a negative growth rate of 4.73% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The main products exported by the sub-sector were: fruit and vegetable juice, prepared fruits & nuts and prepared frozen vegetables. The top market destinations were: Botswana, Namibia and the Netherlands.

2. Analysis of South Africa's major suppliers (imports) of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products in 2017

The below table 4 shows the top 10 supplier markets of agriculture, forestry and forestry products to South Africa; with imported values, share in South Africa's AFF imports, the import growth rate from 2016 to 2017 and the top three products imported by South Africa from each country.

Table 4: South Africa's top 10 suppliers of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products in value during 2017

Top 10 import markets	Imported value 2017 (Billion Rands)	Share in SA AFF imports (%)	Import growth 2016-2017 (%)	Top 3 products imported into major markets
Total	115.57	100.00	-3.65	
Brazil	7,58	6.56	26.69	Frozen chicken cuts and edible offal, Frozen meat and chicken offal, not cut, Cane or beet sugar
China	6,97	6.03	- 5.85	Animal (not fish) guts, bladders, stomachs and parts, Apple juice, Peptones and other proteins
United Kingdom	6,76	5.85	28.44	Whiskies; Unused postage, check forms, banknotes, stock, Printed books and brochures
Thailand	6,60	5.71	33.24	Wholly or semi-milled rice, Tunas or skipjack or bonito, not minced, Broken rice
United States of America	6,13	5.30	3.77	Chicken cuts and edible offal. Corn (maize), other than seed corn, Food Preparations
Germany	5,36	4.63	0.66	Wheat and meslin, Frozen meat of swine, Paper, paperboard and cellulose
Namibia	5,32	4.61	29.80	Live cattle, other than purebred breeding, Malt beer, Live sheep
Argentina	5,26	4.55	- 50.81	Soybean oilcake and other solid residue, Refined soybean oil and fractions, Sunflower-seed or safflower oil
Swaziland	4,45	3.85	- 18.61	Cane sugar, solid raw Cane sugar, solid raw, no added flavour, Sugar, not specified elsewhere, including invert sugar and syrup

Top 10 import markets	Imported value 2017 (Billion Rands)	Share in SA AFF imports (%)	Import growth 2016-2017 (%)	Top 3 products imported into major markets
Indonesia	4,18	3.61	0.84	Refined palm oil, Refined palm kernel or babassu oil, Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated

Source: Global Trade Atlas, 2018

2.1. Import market analysis

In 2017, **Brazil** was reported the largest supplier to South Africa of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products with the value of R7.58 billion and a share of 6.56% in South Africa's AFF imports. South Africa's import of AFF products from Brazil relatively increased by 26.69% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The three main products from Brazil were: frozen chicken cuts and edible offal, uncut frozen meat and chicken offal and cane or beet sugar.

China remained the second largest supplier with the value of R6.97 billion and a share of 6.03% in South Africa's AFF imports. The growth rate declined by 5.58% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The three major products imported from China were: animal guts, bladders, stomachs and parts, apple juice and peptones & other proteins.

The United Kingdom was the third largest supplier of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products to South Africa with the imported value of R6.76 billion and a share of 5.85% in South Africa's AFF imports. South Africa's import growth from the Netherlands had a growth rate of 28.85% per annum. The main products imported by South Africa were: whiskies, unused postage, check forms, banknotes, stock and printed books & brochures.

Thailand was reported the fourth largest supplier of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products with the value of R6.60 billion and a share of 5.71% of South Africa's AFF imports. South Africa's import of AFF products from Thailand increased by 33.24% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The three main products from Thailand were: wholly or semi-milled rice, tunas or skipjack or bonito, not minced and broken rice.

The United States of America was the fifth largest supplier of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products with a value of R6.13 billion and a share of 5.30% in South Africa's AFF imports. The imported value annual growth rate was 3.77% from 2016 to 2017. The three main products from the United States of America were: frozen chicken cuts and edible offal, maize (corn) and food preparations.

Table 5 below provides an indication of growing and declining suppliers of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products for South Africa during 2017. The top three growing import markets were: Romania, the Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates. The top three shrinking import markets were: Argentina, the Netherlands and Russia.

Table 5: South Africa's growing and declining suppliers (imports) of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products in 2017

SA's growing suppliers of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products during 2017						
Growing import markets during 2017						
Ranking	Top 3 growing markets	Values (Billion Rands)	Import growth (%)	Top 3 products driving import growth and their individual growth percentage		
1	Romania	1,14	424.12	Wheat and meslin, nesoi (∞)	Sunflower-seed or safflower Oil, (182.50%)	Corn (maize), other than seed corn (44,33%)
2	Ukraine	1,25	173.93	Corn (maize), other than seed corn (275.31%)	Wheat and meslin, nesoi (134.64%)	Cane or beet sugar (374,51%)
3	United Arab Emirates	1,78	114.14	Cane or beet sugar, pure sucrose (334.25%)	Cane sugar, solid, raw, no added flavour or color (3035,34%)	Toilet paper roll or sheets, etc (87,73%)
Shrinking import markets during 2017						
Ranking	Top 3 shrinking markets	Values (Billion Rands)	Import shrinkage (%)	Top 3 products driving import shrinkage and their individual shrinkage percentage		
1	Argentina	5,26	- 50.81	Soybean oilcake and other solid residue (- 25.47%)	Soybean oil and fractions (- 60,61%)	Shelled peanuts, nesoi (- 75,92%)
2	Netherlands	3,14	- 35.76	Refined soybean oil and fractions (- 35.12%)	Food preparations nesoi (- 18,90%)	Vegetable seeds for sowing (- 25,61%)
3	Russia	1,57	- 25.65	Wheat and meslin, nesoi (- 33.70%)	Plywood, excluding bamboo (- 37,43%)	Food preparations nesoi (- 25,31%)

Source: Global Trade Atlas, 2018

Table 4 looks at all import markets (inside and outside the top 10 supplied markets). Imports of wheat and meslin, nesoi (not elsewhere specified or included), from Romania reported an infinite (∞) rate of annual import growth from 2016 to 2017. Imports of wheat and meslin from Romania, cane or beet sugar from Ukraine and solid cane sugar from the United Arab Emirates, reported the highest import growth from 2016 to 2017. Shelled peanuts from Argentina, refined soybean oil and fractions from the Netherlands and plywood, excluding bamboo from Russia reported significant decline in imports from 2016 to 2017.

2.2. Imports analysis by sub-sector during 2017

Table 6 below shows the imported value, subsector share, percentage growth of the sub-sector from 2016 to 2017, the top three products imported within the sub-sector and the top three import markets of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products for South Africa.

Table 6: South Africa's top 10 major agriculture, forestry and fisheries import sub-sectors by value during 2017

Sub-sector description	Imported value (Billion Rands)	Share in SA total AFF imports (%)	Sub-sector growth (%)	Top 3 products imported within the subsector	Top 3 import markets by value
HS 10 Cereals	13,52	11,70	- 33.22	Rice, wheat and meslin, Corn (maize)	Thailand, India, Russia
HS 48 Paper, paperboard and articles	12,10	10,47	- 7.84	Paper and paperboard, Paper and paperboard, coated with kaolin, Uncoated paper for writing	China, Germany, Finland
HS 15 Animal or vegetable fats, oils etc. and waxes	10,16	8,79	1.36	Palm oil and its fractions, Soybean oil and its fractions, Sunflower-seed, safflower or cotton-seed oil	Indonesia, Malaysia, Argentina
HS 02 Meat and edible meat offal	9,01	7,80	15.51	Meat and edible offal of fresh, chilled or frozen poultry, Fresh, chilled or frozen meat of swine (pork), Edible offal, bovine, swine, sheep, goat, horse,	Brazil, United States of America, Belgium
HS 17 Sugars and sugar confectionary	8,27	7,16	30.52	Cane or beet sugar, Sugars nesoi, including pure lactose and caramel, Sugar confectionary (including white chocolate)	Swaziland, Brazil, United Arab Emirates
HS 22 Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,74	5,83	3.98	Ethyl alcohol, Beer made from malt; Sweetened waters	United Kingdom, France, Namibia

Sub-sector description	Imported value (Billion Rands)	Share in SA total AFF imports (%)	Sub-sector growth (%)	Top 3 products imported within the subsector	Top 3 import markets by value
HS 23 Food industry residues and waste for animal feed	5,50	4,76	- 13.52	Soybean oilcake and other solid residue, Preparations used in animal feeding, Flour	Argentina, Netherlands, Zambia
HS 44 Wood and articles of wood	4,80	4,15	- 5.64	Wood sawn or chipped length, sliced, Plywood, Fibreboard of wood	Swaziland, China Malaysia
HS 21 Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,16	3,60	- 2.73	Food preparations nesoi, Extracts of coffee, tea or mate, Sauces	United States of America, Netherlands, Germany
HS 03 Fish, crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates	3,77	3,26	3.94	Frozen fish, Live and fresh crustaceans, Fresh, chilled or frozen fish fillets	Namibia, Morocco, Norway

Source: Global Trade Atlas, 2018

The top 10 import subsectors were highly concentrated with a share of 67.51% of total AFF imports.

In 2017, **cereals** were the largest subsector supplier of agriculture, forestry and fisheries for South Africa; with the imported value of R13.52 billion and a share of 11.70% in South Africa's total AFF imports. The sub-sector growth rate was -33.22% between 2016 and 2017. The top three major products that were imported during the reporting year were: rice, wheat & meslin and maize corn. The top three supplier partners were: Thailand, India and Russia in the respective order.

The paper, paper wood and articles sub-sector was the second largest that supplied AFF products to South Africa; with the imported value of R12.10 billion and a share of 10.47% in South Africa's total AFF imports. The sub-sector growth rate was -7.84% between 2016 and 2017. The three major import products were: paper, coated paper wood and coated paper. The main three suppliers of products from this subsector were: China, Germany and Finland.

The third largest sub-sector was the **animal or vegetable fats and oils** sub-sector that supplied South Africa with AFF products valued at R10.16 billion of imports and a share of 8.79% in South Africa's AFF imports. The sub-sector growth rate was 1.36% between 2016 and 2017. The top three major products supplied by this sub-sector were: palm oil and its fractions, soybean oil & its fractions and sunflower seed oil. The top three supplier countries were: Indonesia, Malaysia and Argentina.

Meat and edible meat offal was the fourth largest subsector supplier of agriculture, forestry and fisheries; with the imported value of R9.01 billion and a share of 7.80% in South Africa's total AFF imports. The subsector growth rate was 15.51% per annum from 2016 to 2017. The top three major products that were imported under this subsector were: meat and edible offal of fresh, chilled and frozen poultry, fresh, chilled or frozen meat of swine (pork) and edible offal of bovine, swine, sheep, goat and horse. The top three supplier partners were: Brazil, the United States of America and Belgium.

The fifth largest sub-sector was the **sugar and sugar confectionaries** sub-sector that supplied South Africa with AFF products valued at R8.27 billion of imports and a share of 7.16% in South Africa's AFF imports. The sub-sector growth rate was 3.52% between 2016 and 2017. The top three major products supplied by this sub-sector were: cane or beet sugar, sugars not specified elsewhere; including pure lactose and caramel and sugar confectionaries, including white chocolate. The top three supplier countries were: Swaziland, Brazil and United Arab Emirates.

Conclusion

South Africa's export growth of AFF products from the first quarter to the last quarter of 2016 and 2017 fluctuated from R38.00 billion, peaked at R45.00 billion in the third quarter then dropped back to R38.00 billion in the last quarter of 2016. In 2016, exports fluctuated from R36.00 billion in the first quarter, peaked at R76.00 billion in the second quarter then dropped to R39.00 billion in the last quarter of 2017. Imports also fluctuated and peaked at R32.00 billion in the first quarter and R53.00 billion in the second quarter in 2016 and 2017 respectively. South Africa's export growth increased at a slower rate compared the rate at which imports increased during the same period. The total value of R153.48 billion exported AFF products to the world was relatively higher than the value of imported products at R115.57 billion. Primary AFF products (R83.18 billion) dominated the basket of exports compared to the secondary products (R76.30 billion) in the sector. On the side of imports, South Africa's import basket comprised more of secondary products (R81.19 billion) than primary products (R34.38 billion).

The largest export sub-sector was the edible fruits and nuts (HS 08) sub-sector at a value of R45.15 billion. During the reporting year, exports of sugar and sugar confectioneries had the highest growth rate of 46.09%. Cereals were the largest import sub-sector with a value of R13.52 billion and the imports of sugar and sugar confectionaries had the highest growth rate of 30.52%. Netherlands was the highest export destination, exported fresh grapes, fresh oranges and wine. On the other hand, Brazil was the largest supplier of AFF products to South Africa and supplied frozen chicken cuts, frozen meat and chicken offal and cane or beet sugar.

The top three growing export markets inside and outside the top 10 destination markets for South Africa's AFF products were Kenya, Japan and Taiwan; in contrast to the declined growth of Zimbabwe, Germany and Spain exports. Outside the top 10 imports, Romania, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates were the top three growing suppliers. Argentina, Netherlands and Russia's supplies of AFF products to South Africa experienced the largest decline in growth.