

South Africa and the Western Cape's tourism, trade and investment flows with the ASEAN region

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Executive summary

This report provides key trade- and investment-related statistics for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states. Specifically, it shows ASEAN's trade and investment flows in relation to both South Africa and the Western Cape, including an analysis of top markets and products. The research highlights the largest and fastest-growing products and their sub-sectors. It also looks at tourism trends between ASEAN countries and South Africa, and those relating to ASEAN and the Western Cape.

Economic overview

The ASEAN regional grouping is made up of ten member countries, namely Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. This regional formation was founded in 1967 and was based on economic, social, cultural, and technical collaboration between member countries (Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 2025). The ASEAN regional cumulative gross domestic product (GDP) was valued at USD3.54 trillion, with a population of 693.95 million inhabitants, as reported in 2024. Indonesia had the highest GDP, valued at USD1.24 trillion, but also the highest population (283.49 million) among the 10 member countries. Singapore had the highest GDP per capita (USD67,706.83). Notably, Thailand had the largest proportion of middle-class households as a percentage of total households (36.3%).

Trade

Between 2015 and 2024, South Africa maintained active trade relations with key ASEAN economies, notably Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Singapore and Malaysia consistently ranked among South Africa's top 25 global trade partners, with Singapore shifting to a trade surplus in 2024 due to a sharp decline in imports. Vietnam and the Philippines saw notable growth in South African exports, while Thailand remained a major source for imports despite declining export volumes. At the provincial level, the Western Cape recorded trade deficits with most ASEAN countries, though exports to Vietnam and the Philippines grew significantly. Imports from Thailand and Indonesia were particularly strong, positioning these markets as key ASEAN partners for the province.

Investments

Between January 2015 and December 2024, ASEAN countries undertook 13 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in South Africa, contributing USD272.70m in capital expenditure and creating 1,010 jobs. This reflects a broad-based investment interest from 13 companies across multiple sectors, underscoring ASEAN's confidence in South Africa's role as a strategic gateway to the African continent. During the same period, the Western Cape attracted four ASEAN FDI projects, totalling USD55.40m in capex and generating 218 jobs. The province saw its highest investment activity in 2015, with notable follow-up investments in 2017 and 2021, indicating sustained but selective engagement from ASEAN investors.

Tourism

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 32,627 tourists from six ASEAN countries, representing an 11.15% increase from 29,353 arrivals in 2023. Comprehensive tourism data for all six nations is limited, specifically for the Western Cape; however, available data shows notable trends. In 2024, 5,194 tourists from Singapore visited the Western Cape, representing a 24.71% increase from the previous year (2023). In addition, 3,299 tourists from Malaysia travelled to the province, marking a 19.36% year-on-year growth (y-o-y) relative to 2023. The collective visits from Singaporean and Malaysian tourists provided a substantial boost to the local economy, generating more than R122.7 million in total foreign direct spend that supported businesses, services, and employment in the Western Cape.

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Western Cape: Stellenbosch, Cape Winelands

1 Introduction

This report examines the nature and extent of economic engagement between ASEAN and South Africa, with particular focus on the Western Cape province. This is done through presenting key macroeconomic indicators and the sectoral strengths of ASEAN countries; analysing bilateral trade flows at both national and provincial levels; exploring FDI trends and strategic sectors; assessing tourism dynamics and market positioning; and identifying opportunities for enhanced economic cooperation and regional integration. Through this multifaceted analysis, the report seeks to inform policymakers, business leaders, and development practitioners about the evolving ASEAN–South Africa relationship and illuminate pathways for deepening economic ties that can benefit both regions in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

2 Economic Overview

The ASEAN regional grouping is made up of 10 member countries, namely Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Established in 1967, this regional formation was based on economic, social, cultural, and technical collaboration between member countries (Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 2025). Table 1 shows that ASEAN's regional GDP is valued at USD3.54 trillion, with a population of 693.95 million inhabitants, as reported in 2024. Indonesia has the highest GDP, valued at USD1.24 trillion, with the highest population figure (283.49 million) among the 10 member countries. Singapore has the highest GDP per capita (USD67,706.83). Notably, Thailand has the largest proportion (36.3%) of middle-class households as a percentage of total households.

Table 1: Economic indicators of the respective ASEAN countries, 2024

Country	Population (millions, 2024)	GDP (USDbn), 2024	GDP per capita (USD), 2024	Middle-class households (% of Total), 2024
Brunei Darussalam	0.46	13.70	29 605.88	-
Cambodia	17.64	38.52	2 183.56	20.7%
Indonesia	283.49	1 238.24	4 367.86	31.6%
Lao PDR	7.77	21.17	2 724.42	24.0%
Malaysia	35.56	422.01	11 868.36	29.9%
Myanmar	54.50	63.14	1 158.48	22.9%
Philippines	115.84	454.72	3 925.30	31.9%
Singapore	6.04	408.74	67 706.83	24.5%
Thailand	71.67	471.11	6 573.44	36.3%
Viet Nam	100.99	405.74	4 017.75	26.5%
Total	693.95	3 537.07		

Sources: World Bank Development Indicators (2025); Euromonitor International (2025)

2.1 Singapore

Singapore's thriving economy has shown progressive growth in the past decade with an average annual growth rate of 3.22%. In 2024, Singapore's GDP was valued at USD408.74bn, with a 4.39% y-o-y growth rate. This is illustrated in Figure 1.

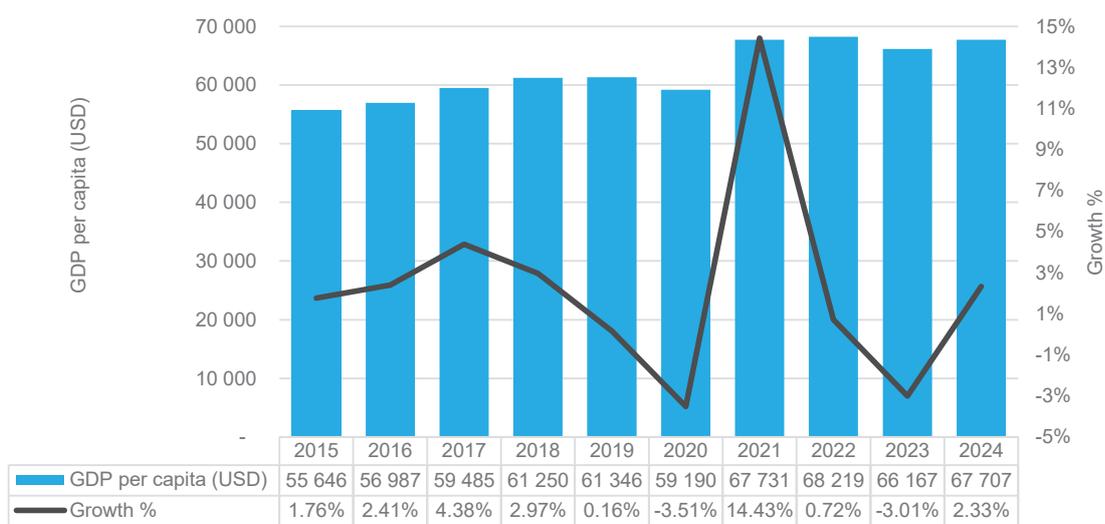
Figure 1: Singapore's real GDP and economic growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Figure 2 shows that Singapore's GDP per capita increased from USD66,167 in 2023 to USD67,707 in 2024, marking a 2.33% y-o-y growth rate. The average annual growth rate of Singapore's GDP per capita in 2015–2024 was 2.26%. The country had the highest GDP per capita among the ASEAN grouping in 2024.

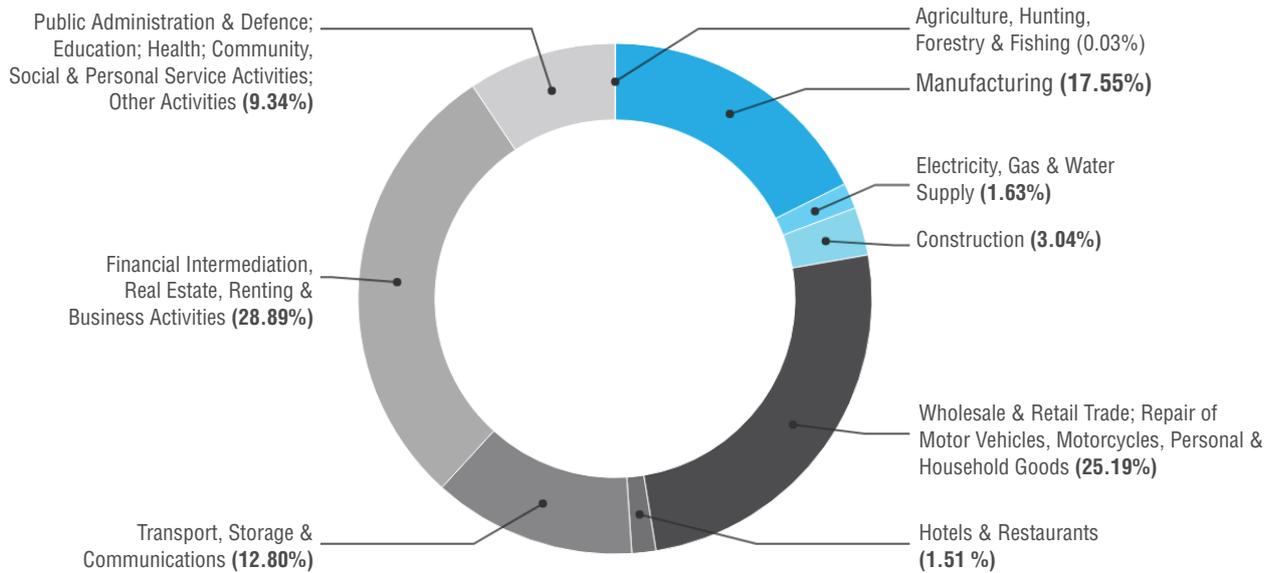
Figure 2: Singapore's real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Figure 3 illustrates industry contributions to Singapore's gross value added (GVA) in 2024. In that year, the financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities industry was the leading contributor towards the country's GVA, accounting for a share of 28.89%. The second-largest contributing industry was the wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods sector, which was responsible for a share of 25.19% of the GVA's output in 2024. In addition, this sector had a 12.07% y-o-y growth rate in relation to the 2023 GVA output. The third-largest contributing industry was the manufacturing sector, accounting for 17.55% of the overall GVA. Singapore's tertiary sector accounted for 77.74% of the GVA's output in 2024.

Figure 3: Share of real GVA per industry: Singapore, 2024

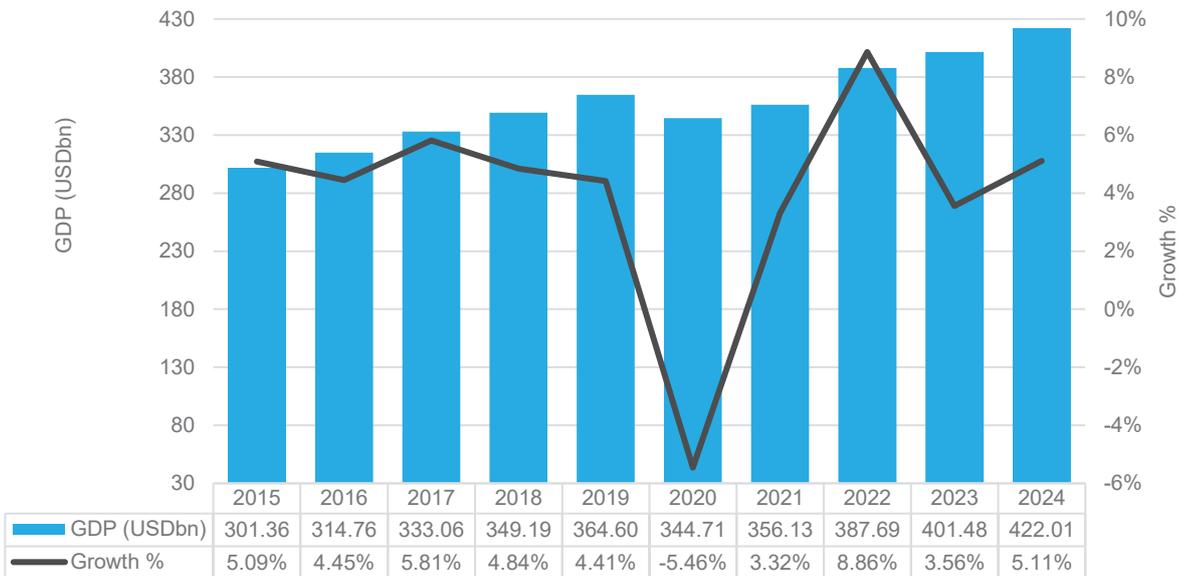


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.2 Malaysia

Malaysia recorded an average annual economic growth rate of 4% between 2015 and 2024. In 2024, the country's GDP was valued at USD422.01bn, reflecting a positive y-o-y growth rate of 5.11% from the GDP of USD401.48bn in 2023. This can be seen in Figure 4.

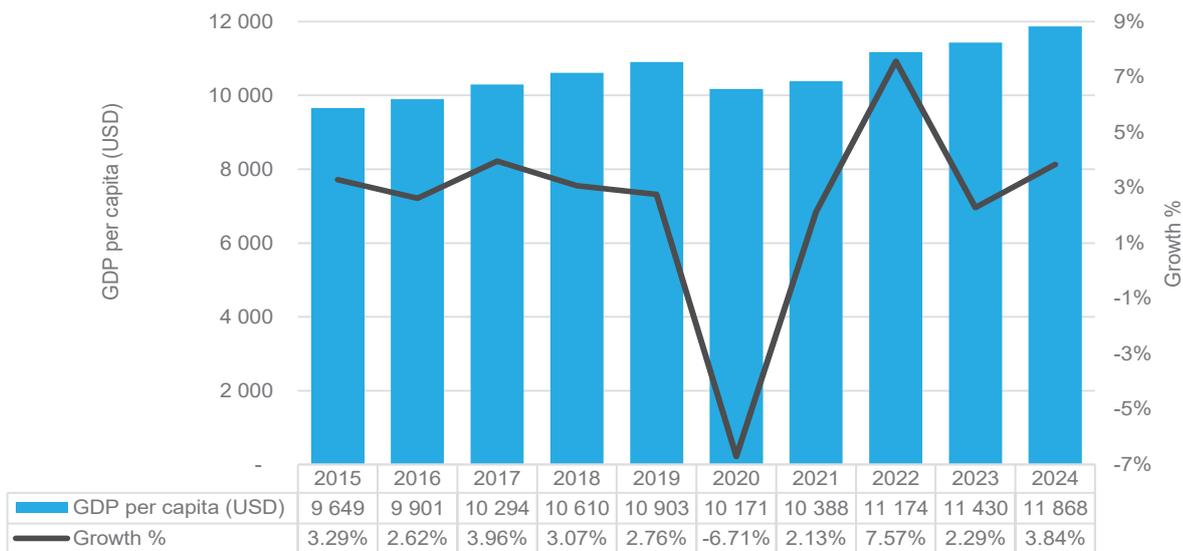
Figure 4: Malaysia's real GDP and economic growth, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Figure 5 shows that Malaysia's GDP per capita increased from USD11,429.59 in 2023 to USD11,868.36 in 2024, equivalent to a 3.84% y-o-y growth rate.

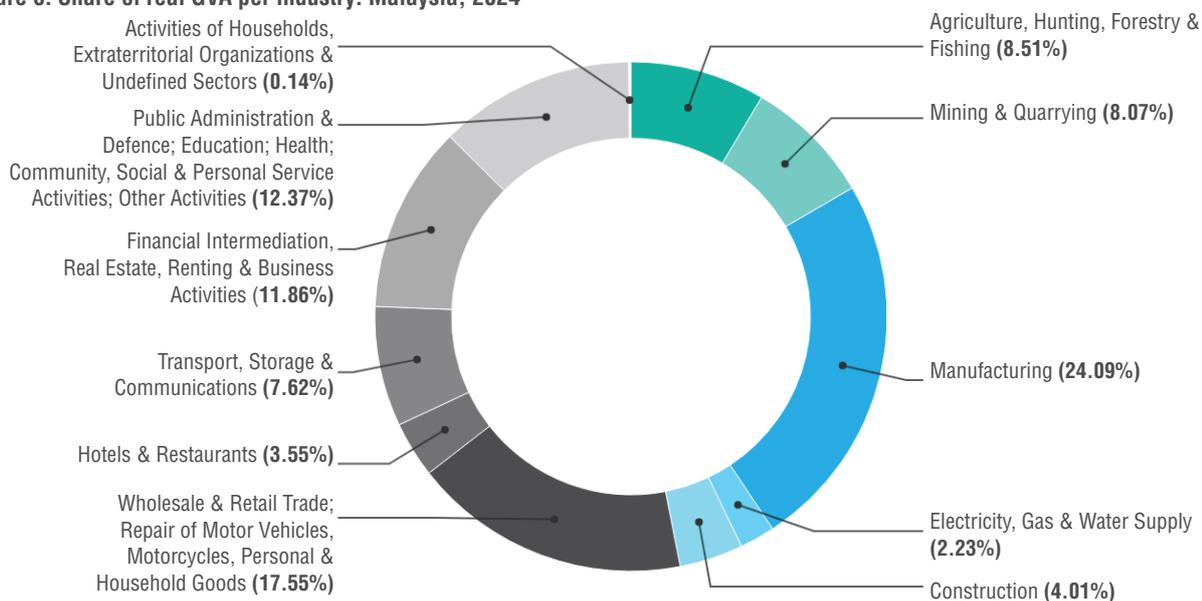
Figure 5: Malaysia's real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

The manufacturing sector was the leading contributing industry towards the country's GVA in 2024, accounting for a share of 24.00%, as can be seen in Figure 6. The second-largest contributing industry was wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods which was responsible for a share of 17.67% of GVA. The third-largest contributing industry was public administration and defence; education; health; community, social and personal service activities; and other activities which accounted for 12.42% of the overall GVA. Malaysia's tertiary sector accounted for 52.89% of GVA in 2024, with the secondary sector contributing a share of 29.83% in the same year. In 2024, the hotels and restaurants industry emerged as the most productive sector, with a strong y-o-y growth rate of 7.46%.

Figure 6: Share of real GVA per industry: Malaysia, 2024

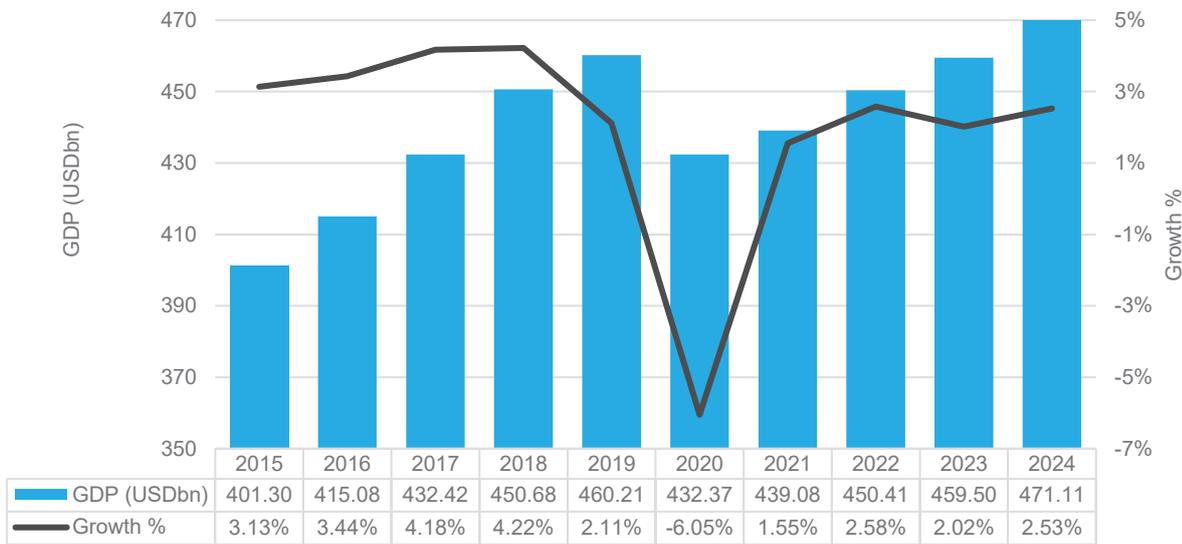


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.3 Thailand

Thailand recorded an average annual economic growth rate of 1.97% over the period 2015-2024. In 2024, Thailand's GDP was valued at USD471.11bn, indicative of a 2.53% y-o-y growth rate from USD 459.50bn in 2023. This is illustrated in Figure 7.

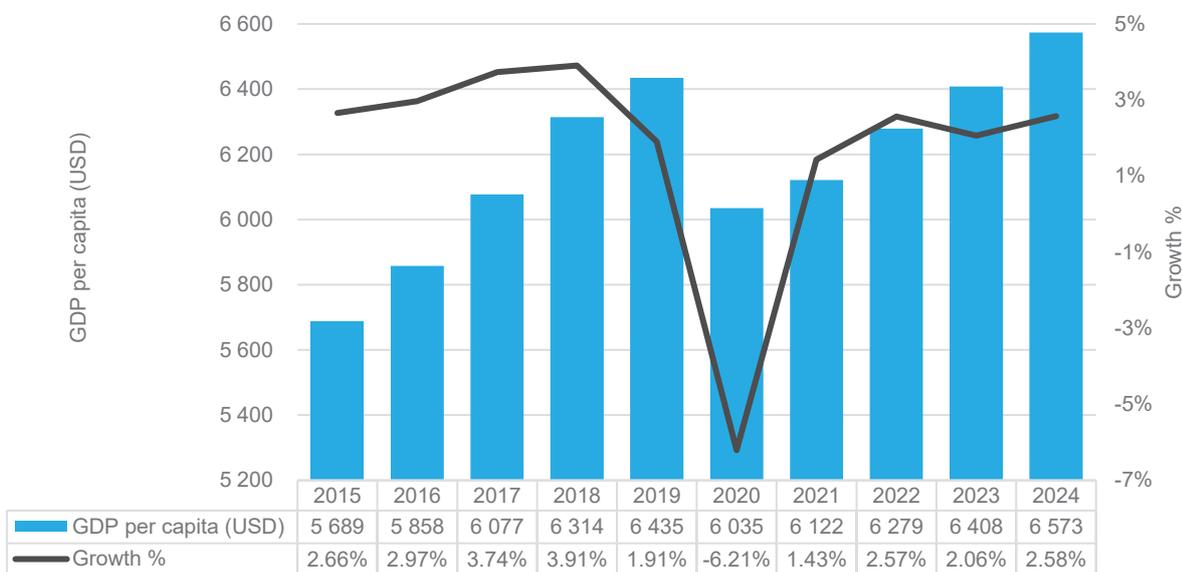
Figure 7: Thailand's real GDP and economic growth, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Thailand, which had the largest proportion (36.3%) of middle-class households as a percentage of total households in 2024, recorded the 4th highest GDP per capita in the ASEAN grouping in that year. Figure 8 shows that in 2024, the GDP per capita increased to USD6 573 from USD6 408 in 2023, marking a 2.58% y-o-y growth rate.

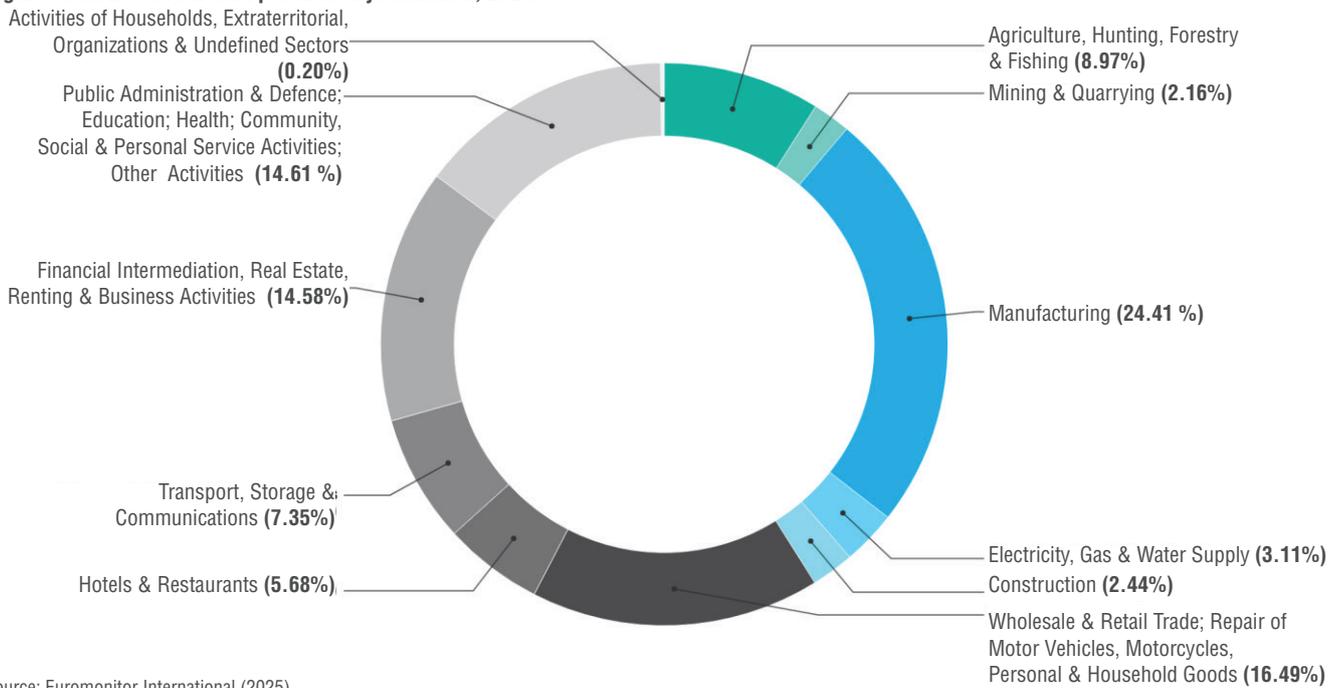
Figure 8: Thailand's real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

The manufacturing industry was the leading contributor towards the country's GVA in 2024, having contributed a share of 24.62% of the total GVA. This is illustrated in Figure 9. The second-largest contributing industry was wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles, personal and household goods which accounted for a share of 16.03% of the GVA output in 2024. In third place was financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities which was responsible for a share of 15.46% of the overall GVA. Thailand's tertiary sector accounted for 58.82% of GVA, with the secondary sector responsible for 30.28% in the same year. In 2024, the hotels and restaurants industry emerged as the most productive sector, having shown a strong y-o-y growth rate of 12.71%.

Figure 9: Share of real GVA per industry: Thailand, 2024

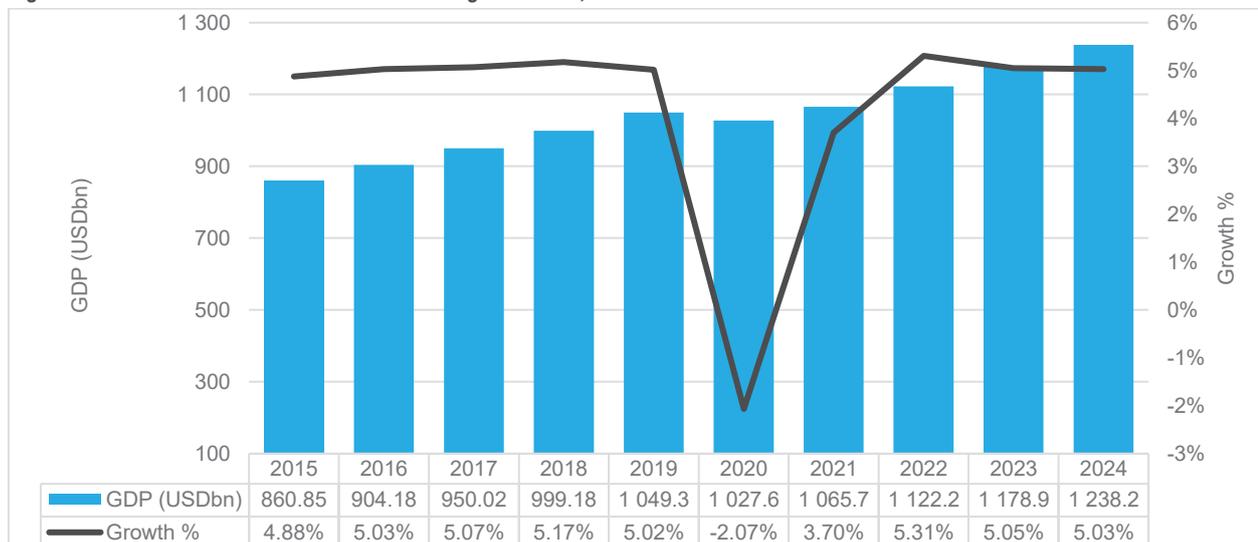


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.4 Indonesia

Figure 10 illustrates that Indonesia's economic output experienced a steady recovery in the post-pandemic period, having maintained an average annual growth rate of 4.22% in 2015–2024. In 2024, the GDP output was valued at USD1.24tr (USD1 238.24bn), the highest GDP in the ASEAN grouping in 2024, and indicative of a 5.03% y-o-y growth rate from the USD1.18tr (USD1 179.93bn) in 2023.

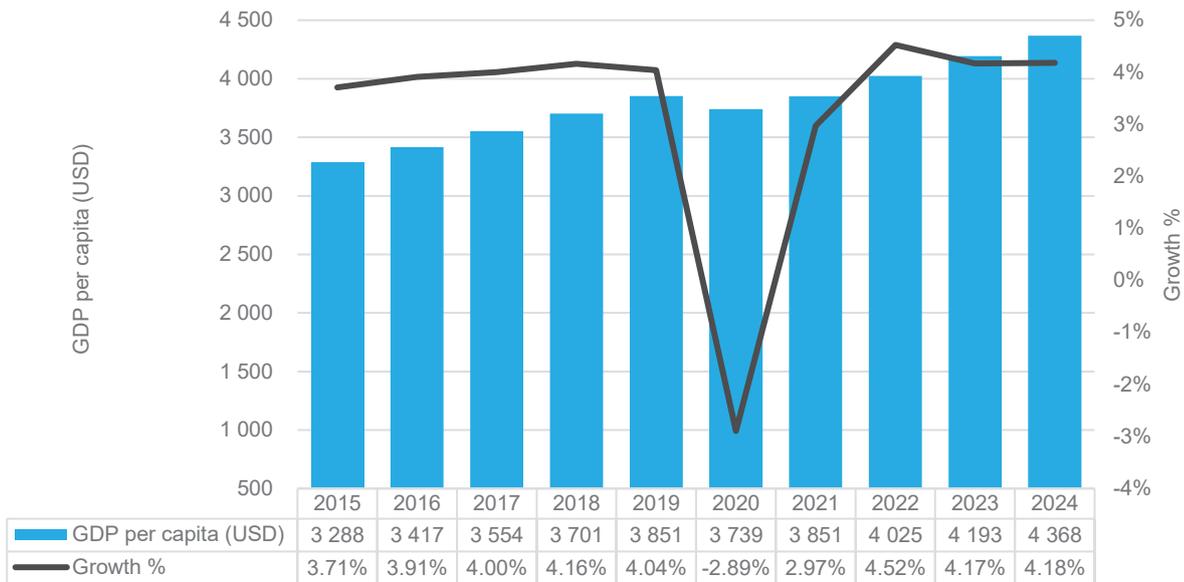
Figure 10: Indonesia's real GVA and economic growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Indonesia is ASEAN's most populated country with a population of 283.49 million people. This figure represented 40.85% of ASEAN's total population in 2024. As shown in Figure 11, the country's GDP per capita increased from USD4,193 in 2023 to USD4,368 in 2024, which was equivalent to a 4.18% y-o-y growth rate.

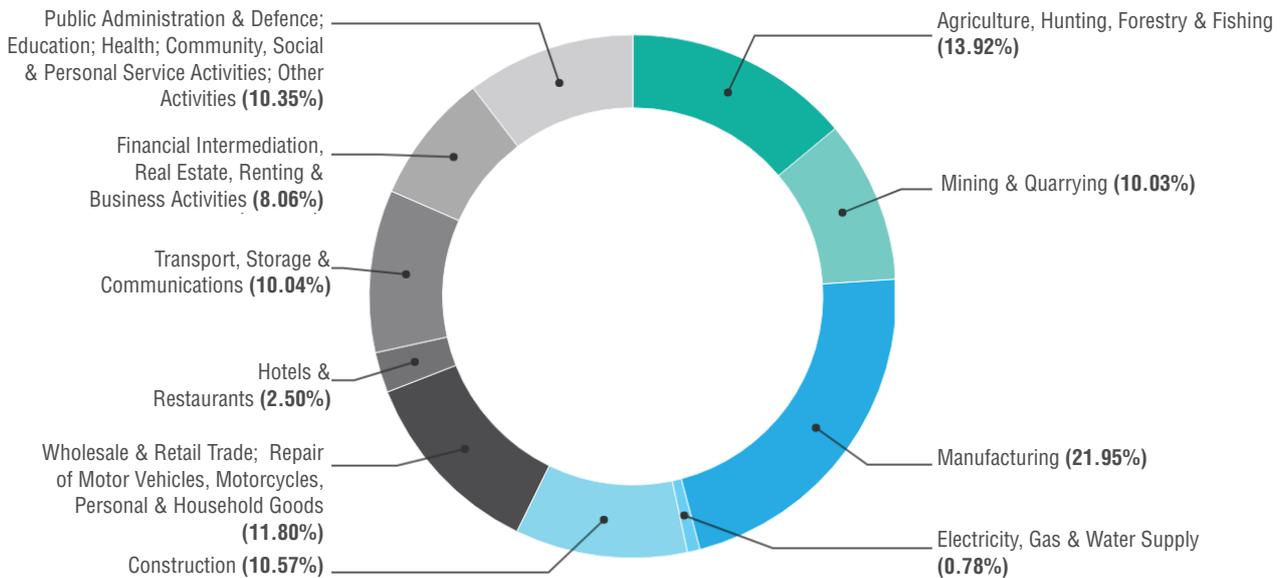
Figure 11: Indonesia's real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

The manufacturing industry was the top sector in 2024, having contributed a share of 21.57% towards the total GVA. Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing was the second-largest contributing industry, accounting for a share of 13.58% of GVA in 2024. This can be seen in Figure 12. In third place was wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods, which accounted for 11.75% of the overall GVA. Indonesia's tertiary sector was responsible for 42.15% of the country's GVA output in 2024, with the secondary sector accounting for 32.69% in the same year. In 2024, the manufacturing industry emerged as the most productive sector, with a strong y-o-y growth rate of 1.07%.

Figure 12: Share of real GVA per industry: Indonesia, 2024

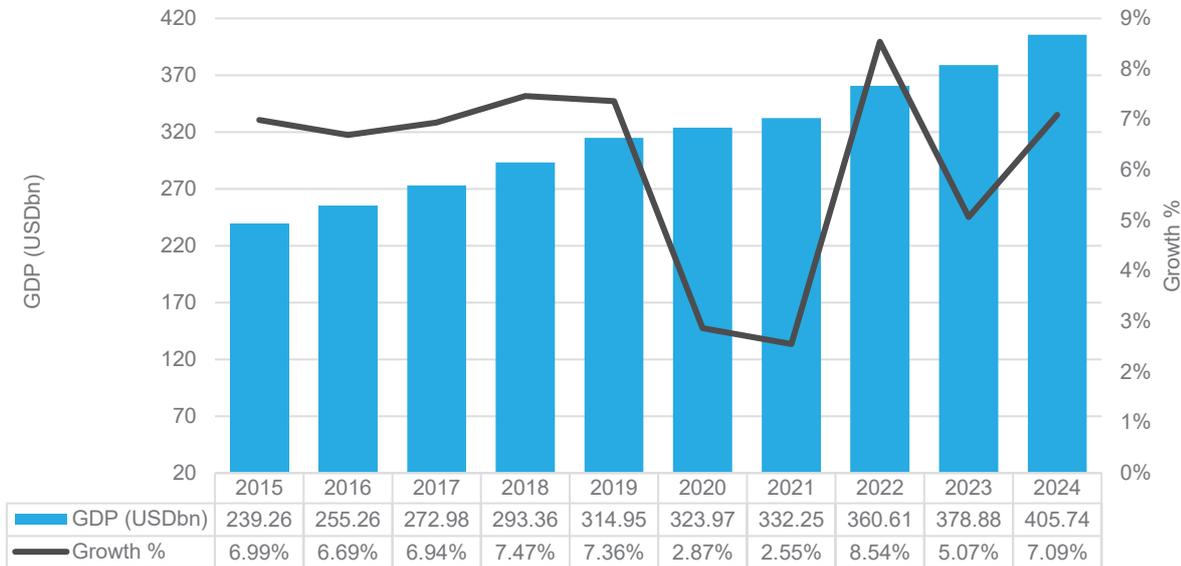


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.5 Vietnam

Despite the geopolitical circumstances influencing Vietnam's economic output from 2022, the country is recovering steadily. In 2024, Vietnam's GDP was valued at USD405.74bn, indicative of a 7.09% y-o-y growth rate from the USD378.88bn in 2023. This is illustrated in Figure 13. The country's average annual economic growth rate was 6.16% over the period 2015–2024.

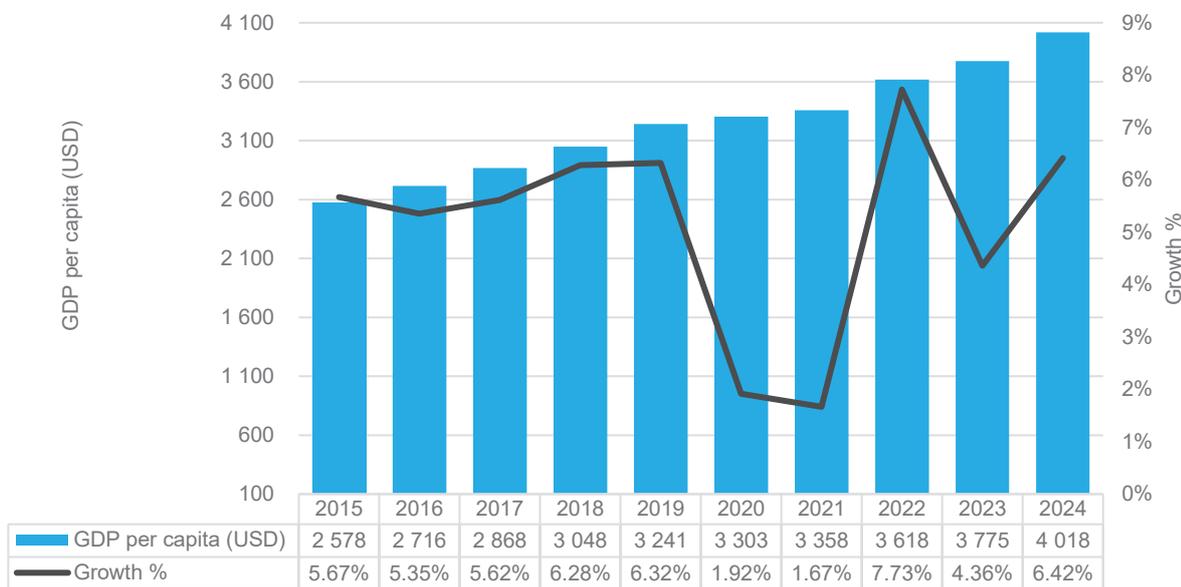
Figure 13: Vietnam's real GDP and economic growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

In Figure 14, it can be observed that Vietnam's GDP per capita experienced a positive 6.42% y-o-y growth rate in 2024, up from USD3,775 in 2023 to USD4,018 in 2024.

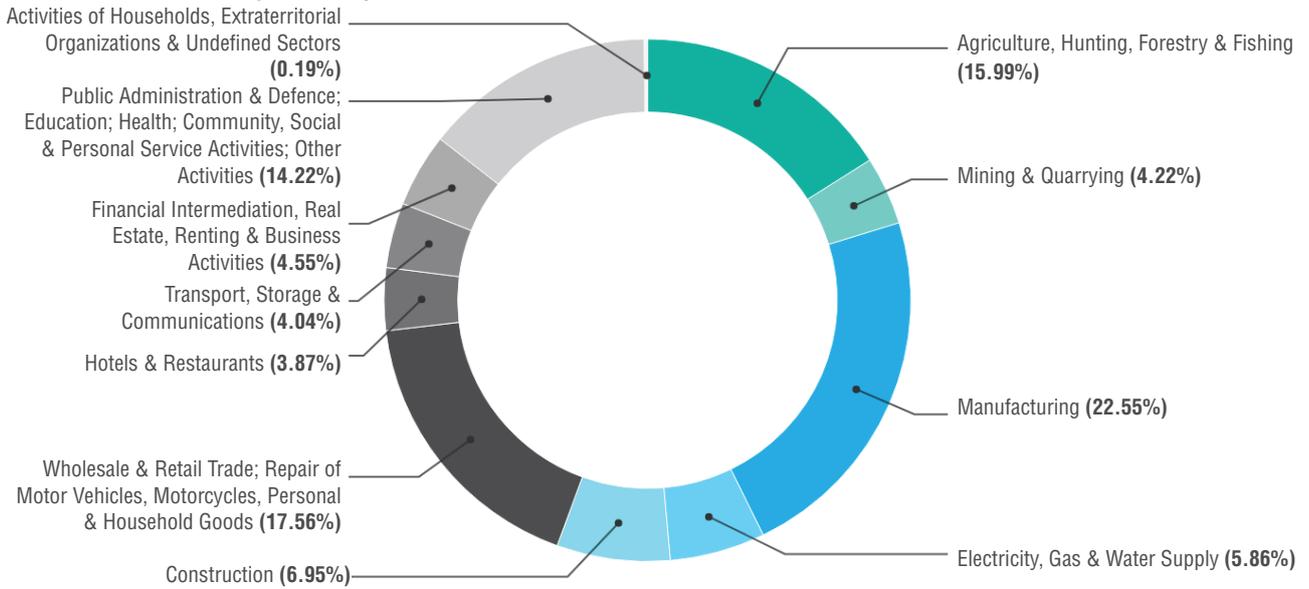
Figure 14: Vietnam's real GDP and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

In 2024, the manufacturing industry was the leading industry, accounting for a contribution of 21.55% to the country's GVA. This can be seen in Figure 15. In second place was the wholesale and retail trade industry with a share of 18.90% while the public administration and defence industry was third, accounting for 14.30% of the overall GVA. Vietnam's tertiary sector accounted for 46.13% of GVA, with the secondary sector responsible for a share of 34.46% in the same year. In 2024, the electricity, gas and water supply industry emerged as the most productive sector, posting a strong y-o-y growth rate of 19.57%.

Figure 15: Share of real GVA per industry: Vietnam, 2024

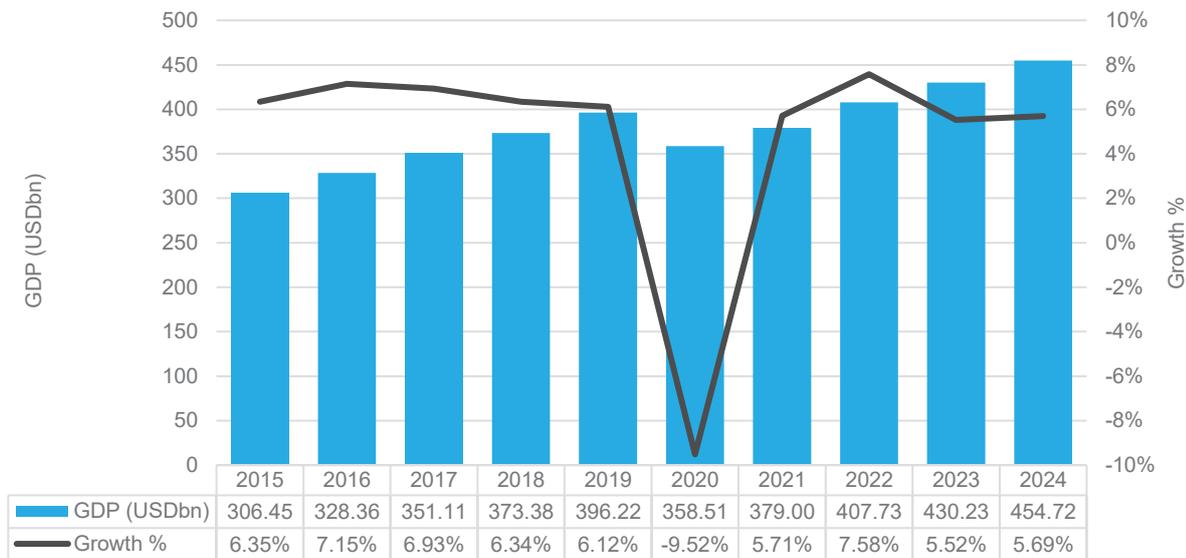


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.6 Philippines

In 2024, the Philippines' GDP was valued at USD454.72bn, up from USD430.23bn in 2023, as shown in Figure 16. This represented a 5.69% y-o-y growth rate, while the average annual economic growth rate in 2015–2024 was 4.79%. The economy grew steadily from 2021 to 2024 with 2022 being the strongest recovery year in the decade.

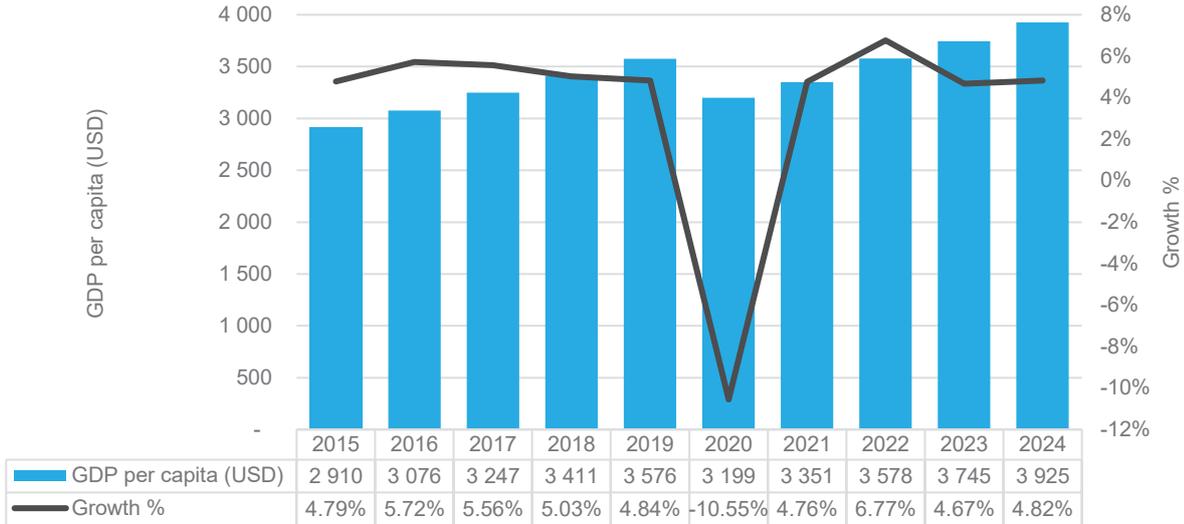
Figure 16: Philippines' real GDP and economic growth, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

In 2024, the Philippines' GDP per capita was valued at USD3,925, an increase of 4.82% from the USD3,745 in 2023. This is shown in Figure 17.

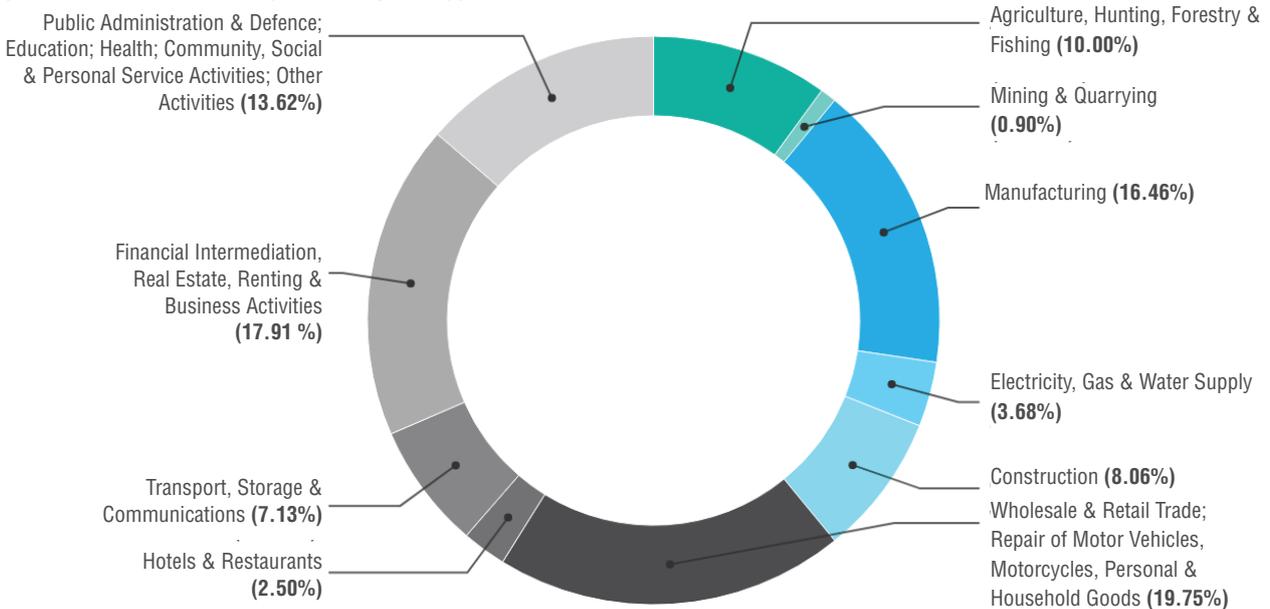
Figure 17: Philippines' real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Figure 18 demonstrates that in 2024, the top sector in the Philippines was wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles, personal and household goods, which accounted for a share of 19.75% of the country's GVA. In second place was financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities which contributed a share of 17.91% of the GVA output in that year. The third-largest contributing industry was manufacturing, accounting for a 16.46% share of the overall GVA. The country's tertiary sector was responsible for 60.90% of GVA in 2024, with the secondary sector contributing a share of 28.20% in the same year. In 2024, the hotels and restaurants industry emerged as the most productive sector with a strong y-o-y growth rate of 17.77%.

Figure 18: Share of real GVA per industry: Philippines, 2024

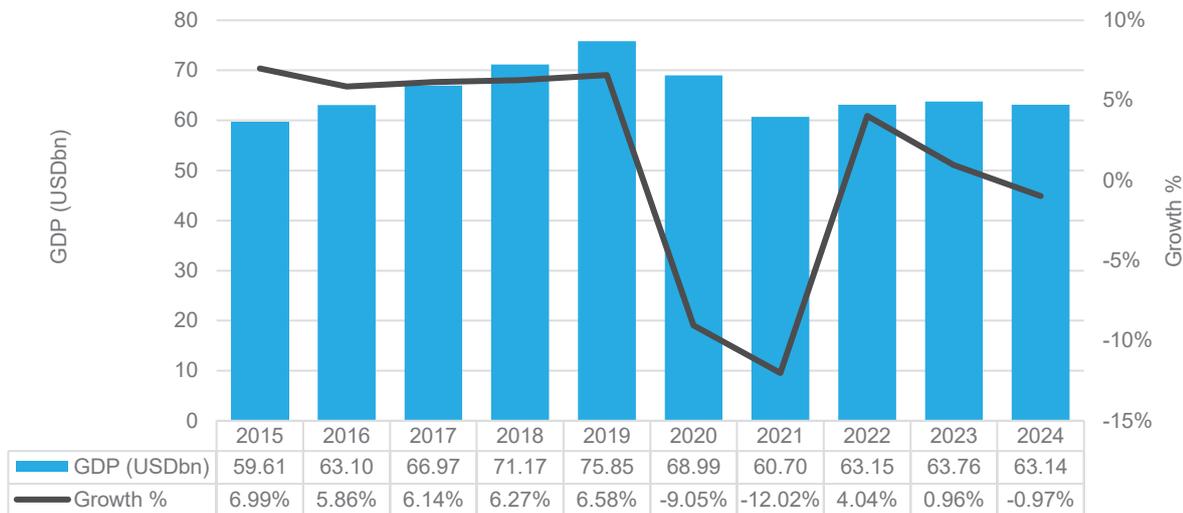


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.7 Myanmar

Myanmar's GDP in 2024 was valued at USD63.14bn, equivalent to a y-o-y growth rate of -0.97% , down from the USD63.76bn in 2023. This is illustrated in Figure 19. Myanmar's economy suffered an economic decline in 2020–2021, before recovering in 2022. The country's average annual growth rate was 1.48% over the period 2015–2024.

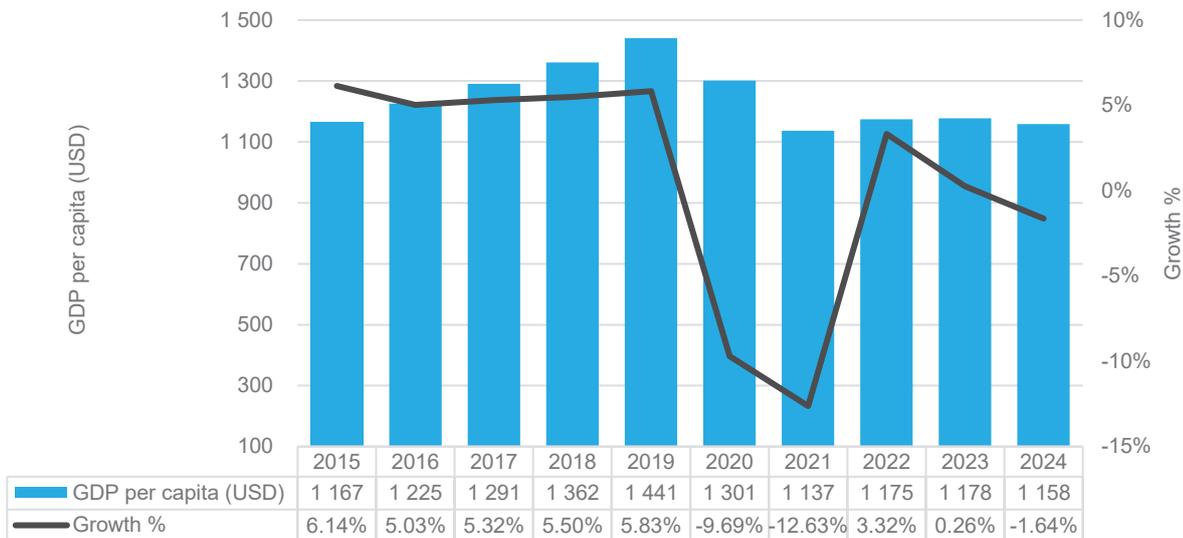
Figure 19: Myanmar's real GDP and economic growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

In 2024, Myanmar's GDP per capita was valued at USD1 158.48, indicative of a -1.64% y-o-y growth rate which was a decline from 2023's GDP per capita (USD1 177.77). This can be seen in Figure 20.

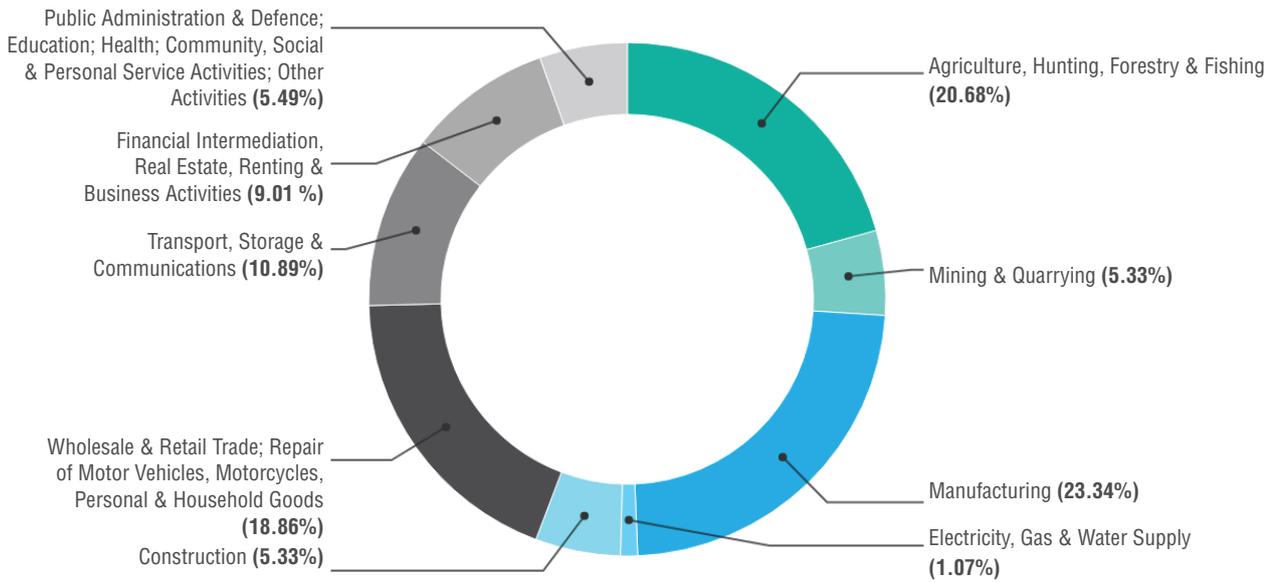
Figure 20: Myanmar's real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

As shown in Figure 21, the manufacturing industry was Myanmar's leading industry in 2024, having contributed a share of 23.34% to the country's GVA. Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing was the second-largest contributing industry, accounting for a share of 20.68% of the GVA's output. In third place was wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles, personal and household goods which accounted for 18.86% of the overall GVA. Myanmar's tertiary sector was responsible for 44.25% of the country's GVA in 2024, with the secondary sector accounting for a share of 29.74% in the same year. In that year, the agricultural industry emerged as the most productive sector, having demonstrated a strong y-o-y growth rate of 1.00% .

Figure 21: Share of real GVA per industry: Myanmar, 2024

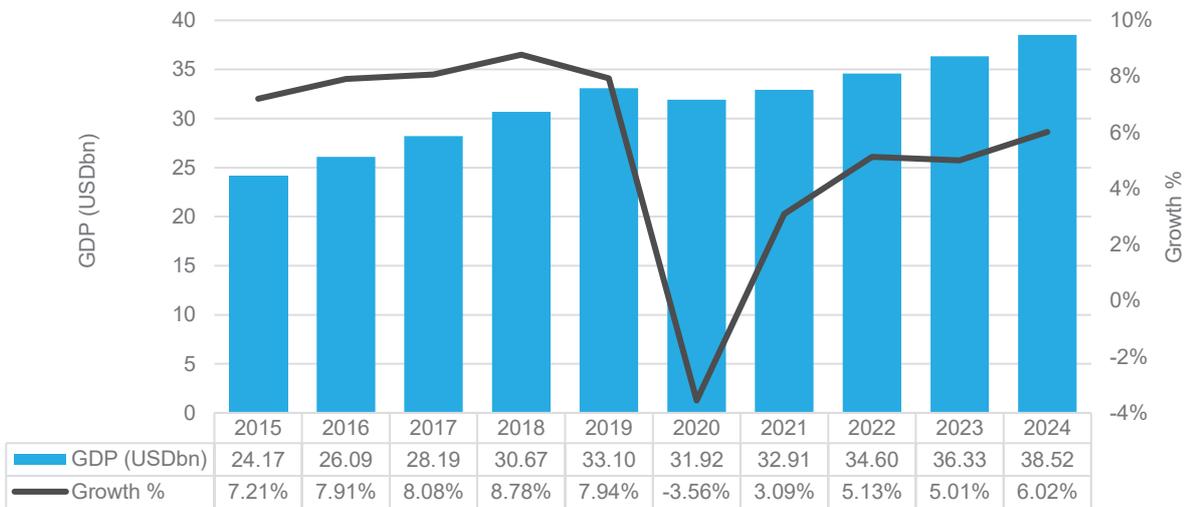


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.8 Cambodia

Cambodia's economic output, illustrated in Figure 22, reflected steady progress in the period 2015–2024 with a 10-year average annual economic growth rate of 5.56%. The country's economy has shown strong resilience in the face of external global pressures, as can be seen in the pre- and post-pandemic GDP values. In 2024, Cambodia's GDP was valued at USD38.52bn, representing a 6.02% y-o-y growth rate from the GDP of USD36.33bn in 2023.

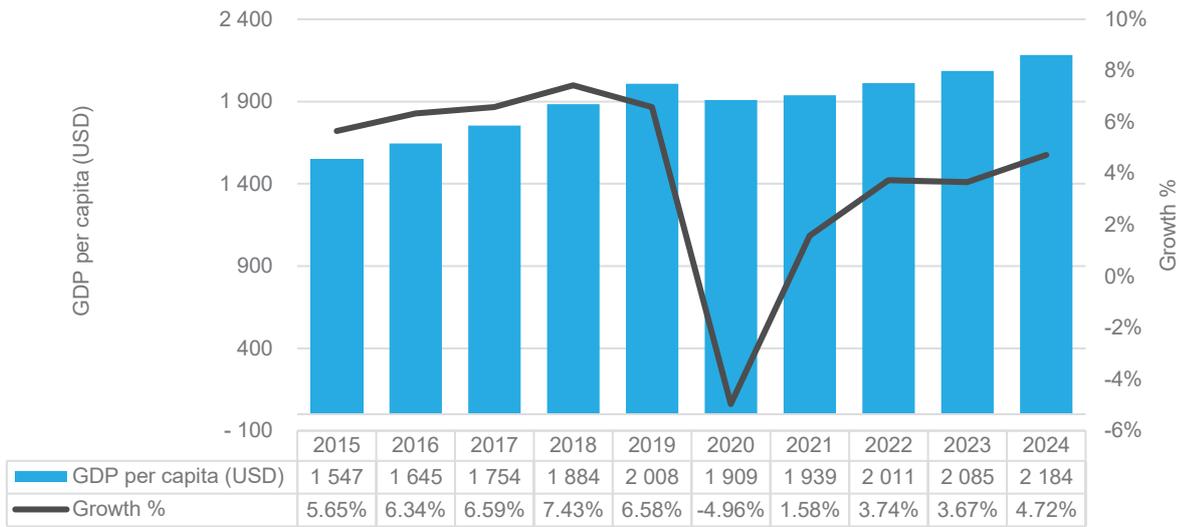
Figure 22: Cambodia's real GDP and economic growth, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

As can be seen in Figure 23, Cambodia's real GDP per capita was valued at USD2,184 in 2024, a 4.72% y-o-y increase on the USD2,085 in 2023. This represents a y-o-y growth rate of 4.72%.

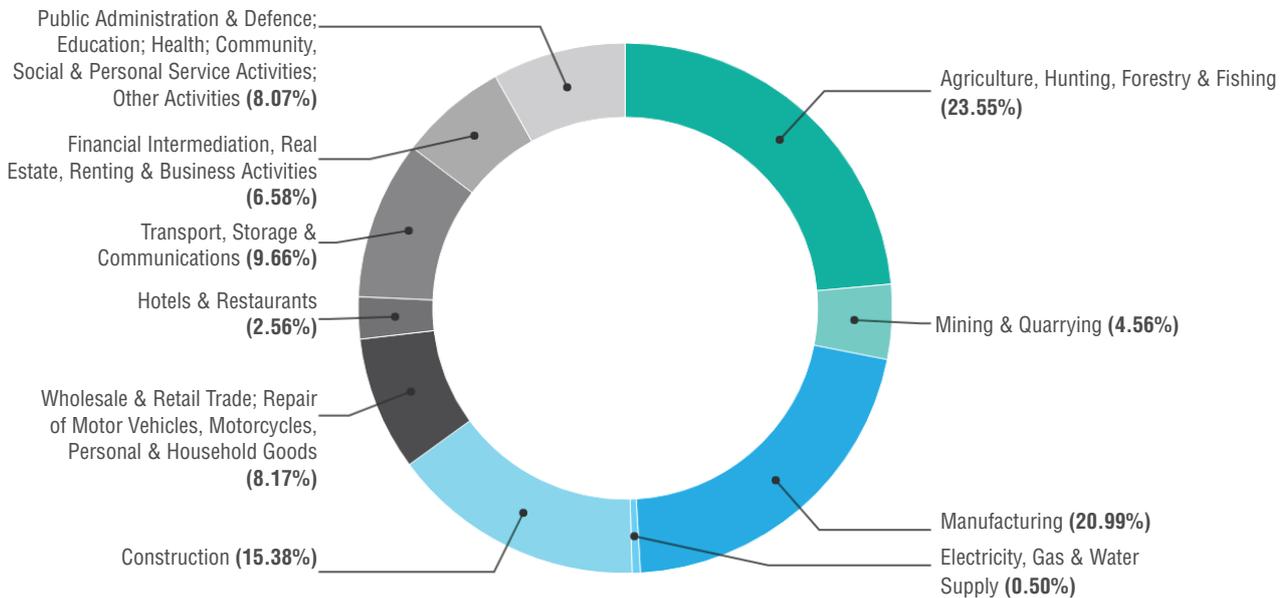
Figure 23: Cambodia's real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

In 2024 Cambodia's leading industry was agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, which contributed a share of 23.56% towards the country's overall GVA, as shown in Figure 24. The manufacturing industry was the second-largest contributing sector, accounting for a share of 21.00% of GVA. In third place was the construction industry, which was responsible for a share of 15.38% of the overall GVA. Myanmar's tertiary sector accounted for 35.02% of the GVA output in 2024, with the secondary sector responsible for a share 36.87%, and the primary sector for a share of 23.54%. The secondary sector emerged as the leading contributor to Cambodia's GVA output in 2024. In 2024, the hotels and restaurants industry emerged as the most productive sector, having recorded a strong y-o-y growth rate of 10.03%.

Figure 24: Share of GVA per industry: Cambodia, 2024

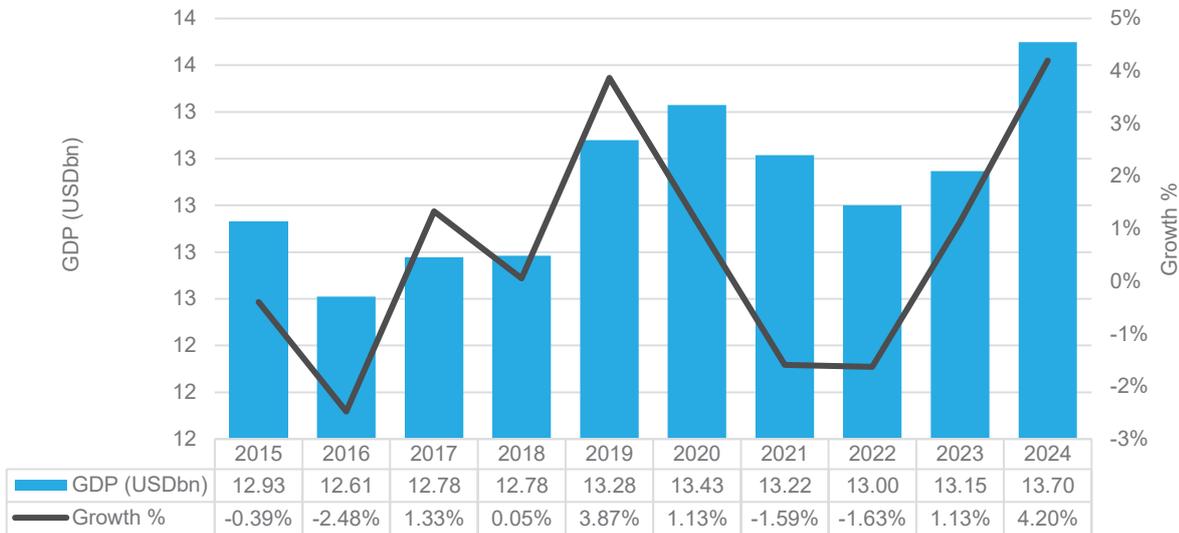


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.9 Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam is the least populated ASEAN country, with 462 721 inhabitants recorded by the World Bank in 2024. Despite having ranked 10th with regard to GDP output/value among its ASEAN counterparts, the country's GDP per capita was the second highest after Singapore in 2024. As Figure 25 illustrates, in 2024, Brunei Darussalam's GDP was valued at USD13.70bn, up from USD13.15bn in 2023 and indicative of a 4.20% y-o-y growth rate. The country's 10-year average annual growth rate in 2015–2024 was 0.56%.

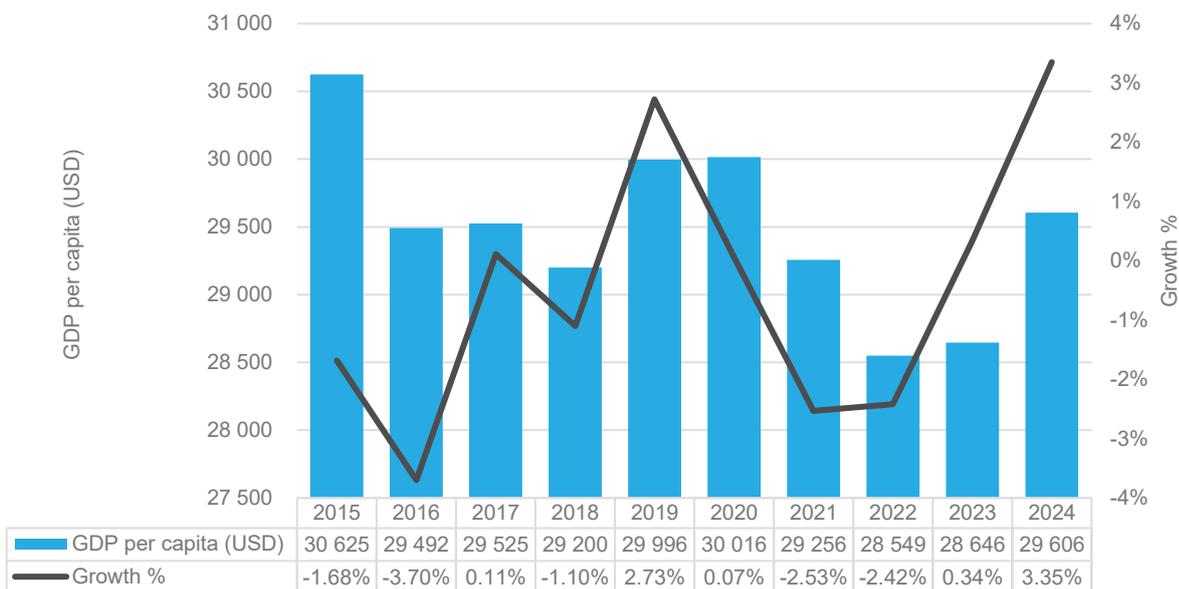
Figure 25: Brunei Darussalam's real GDP and economic growth, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

In 2024, Brunei Darussalam's real GDP per capita was valued at USD29,606, which represented a 3.35% y-o-y growth rate in relation to the GDP per capita of USD28,646 in 2023. This is shown in Figure 26.

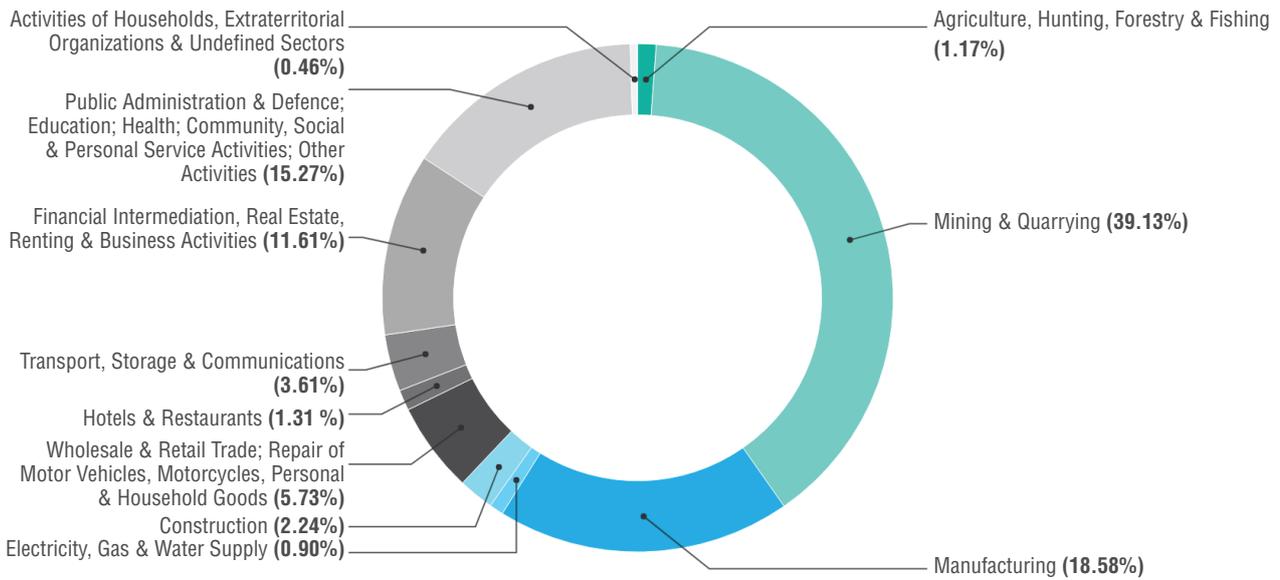
Figure 26: Brunei Darussalam's real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Figure 27 shows that in 2024, the manufacturing industry was the leading contributing industry towards the country's GVA, accounting for a share of 18.58%. In second place was public administration and defence; education; health; community, social and personal service activities; and other activities which accounted for a share of 15.27% of the GVA output. The third-largest contributing industry was financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities which was responsible for 11.61% of the overall GVA. Brunei Darussalam's tertiary sector accounted for 37.53% of the GVA output in 2024, with the secondary sector contributing a share of 21.71% in the same year. In 2024, the hotels and restaurants industry emerged as the most productive sector with a strong y-o-y growth rate of 7.72%.

Figure 27: Share of real GVA per industry: Brunei Darussalam, 2024

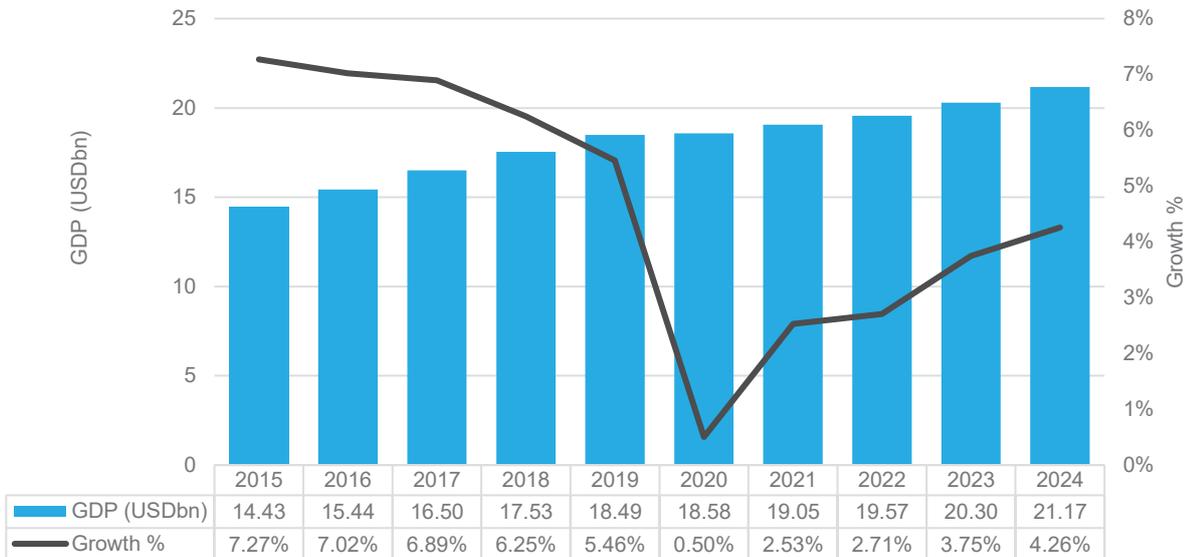


Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

2.10 Lao People’s Democratic Republic

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic ranked as the 9th most populated ASEAN country and was also 9th with regard to GDP value/output among the ASEAN countries in 2024. In that year, the country’s GDP output was valued at USD21.17bn, marking a 4.26% y-o-y growth rate in relation to the USD20.30bn in 2023. This is illustrated in Figure 28.

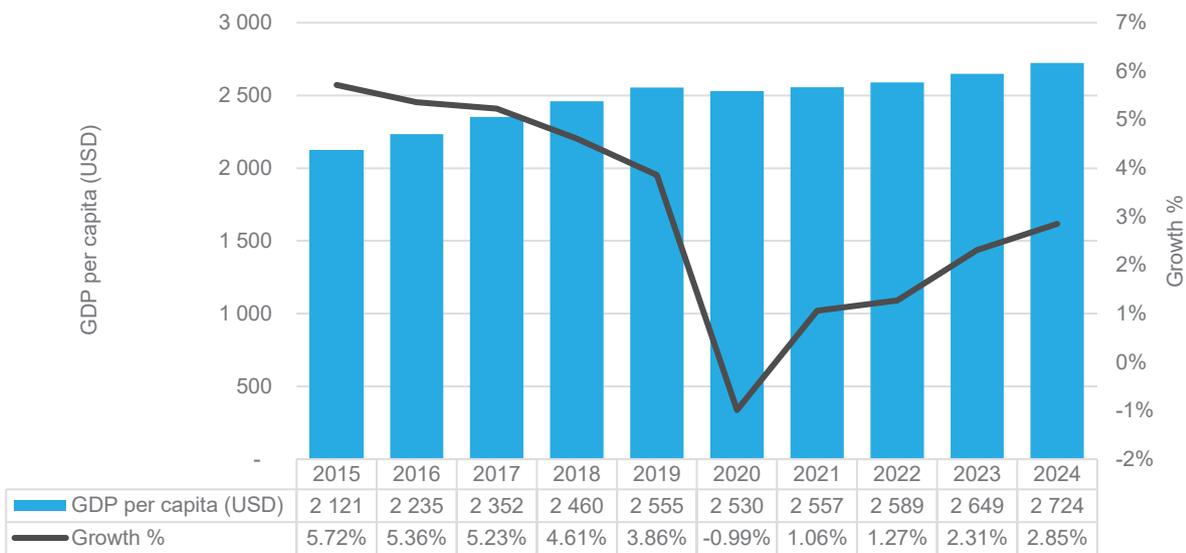
Figure 28: Lao PDR’s real GDP and economic growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Figure 29 shows that in 2024, the real GDP per capita for the Lao People's Democratic Republic was valued at USD2,724, an increase from USD2,649 in 2023, and indicative of a 2.85% y-o-y growth rate.

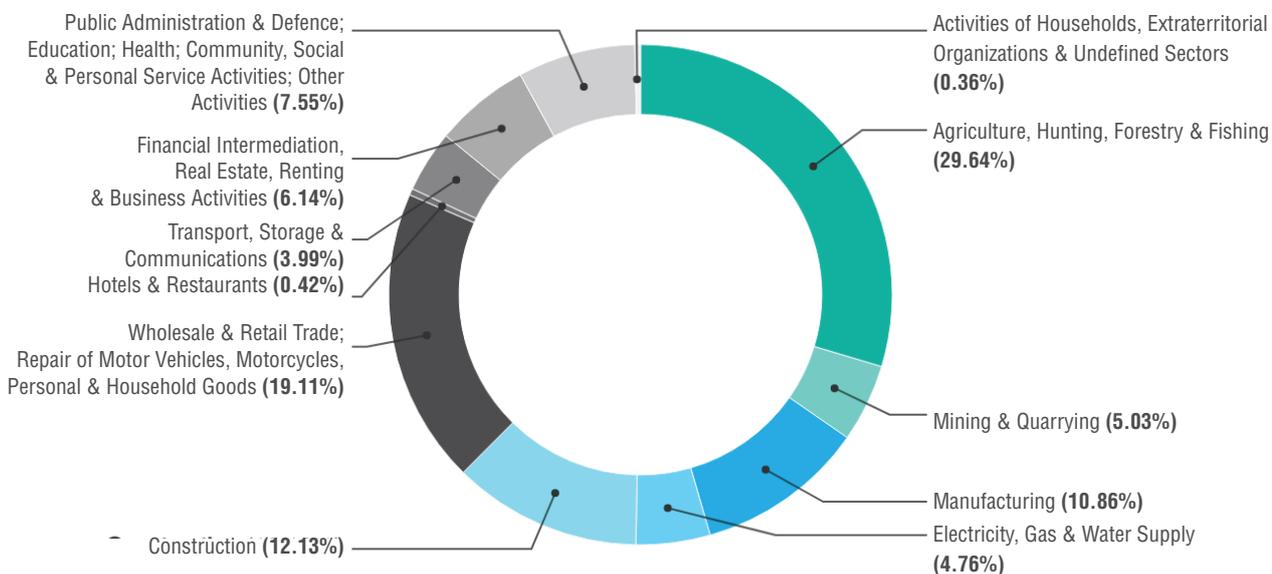
Figure 29: Lao PDR's real GDP per capita and real GDP per capita growth rate, 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

The leading industry in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2024 was agriculture, hunting and forestry, which contributed a share of 25.70% towards the country's GVA. This is illustrated in Figure 30. In second position was the wholesale and retail trade industry, repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles, personal and household goods which accounted for a share of 17.70% of the GVA output. The third-largest industry was construction, which was responsible for a share of 14.62% of the overall GVA. The tertiary sector in the Lao People's Democratic Republic accounted for 37.49% of the GVA output in 2024, with the secondary sector responsible for 30.52%, and the primary sector for 25.70%. The construction industry emerged as the most productive sector, with a strong y-o-y growth rate of 6.57%.

Figure 30: Share of real GVA per industry: Lao PDR, 2025



Source: Euromonitor International (2025)



Western Cape: Harbour, Cape Town

3 Trade

The section focuses on the trade relationships between the ASEAN member states, South Africa and the Western Cape.

Table 2: South Africa's exports, imports, and total trade with ASEAN Member States, 2024

South Africa's export destination markets, ASEAN, 2024					South Africa's import source markets ASEAN, 2024				
	Country	Value 2024 (USDm)	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Global ranking for SA exports	Rank	Country	Value 2024 (USDm)	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Global ranking for SA imports
1	Singapore	735.28	6.66%	23	1	Thailand	2 985.20	12.50%	8
2	Malaysia	720.66	10.22%	24	2	Vietnam	878.21	1.38%	26
3	Vietnam	573.34	25.98%	77	3	Indonesia	835.53	12.37%	27
4	Indonesia	376.39	-5.16%	35	4	Malaysia	819.03	4.35%	28
5	Thailand	360.28	-4.26%	39	5	Singapore	656.31	-9.77%	34
6	Philippines	90.07	11.13%	66	6	Philippines	100.03	16.58%	68
7	Cambodia	20.07	64.63%	107	7	Cambodia	23.5	9.98%	84
8	Myanmar	0.99	17.30%	176	8	Myanmar	8.38	27.62%	101
9	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.34	41.97%	194	9	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.13	105.15%	166
10	Brunei Darussalam	0.26	12.90%	199	10	Brunei Darussalam	0	4 731 918.98%	205
	Total exports	2 877.68	2.06%			Total imports	6 306.33	4.07%	

Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 3: Western Cape's exports, imports, and total trade with ASEAN Member States, 2024

Western Cape's export destination markets, ASEAN, 2024					Western Cape's import source markets ASEAN, 2024				
	Country	Value 2024 (USDm)	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Global ranking for the Western Cape's exports	Rank	Country	Value 2024 (USDm)	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Global ranking for the Western Cape's imports
1	Malaysia	102.34	3.60%	25	1	Thailand	281.77	2.51%	18
2	Vietnam	80.30	23.15%	30	2	Vietnam	162.87	12.12%	24
3	Singapore	52.91	-8.37%	39	3	Indonesia	127.00	17.03%	27
4	Philippines	46.97	38.81%	41	4	Malaysia	125.18	4.88%	29
5	Indonesia	29.31	4.68%	56	5	Singapore	78.27	6.99%	37
6	Thailand	25.75	169.55%	59	6	Cambodia	16.49	11.89%	62
7	Cambodia	2.13	33.17%	113	7	Philippines	8.04	3.83%	75
8	Brunei Darussalam	0.18	13.42%	172	8	Myanmar	6.39	55.34%	78
9	Myanmar	0.12	-15.12%	179	9	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.00	41.94%	176
10	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.00	15.09%	212	10	Brunei Darussalam	-	0.00%	197
	Total exports	340.01	4.66%			Total imports	806.00	4.00%	

Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 4: South Africa's Top 10 Traded Products with ASEAN Member States, 2024

South Africa top 10 export products to ASEAN, 2024				South Africa top 10 import products from ASEAN, 2024			
	Product	Value 2024 (USDm)	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value 2024 (USDm)	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Coal; briquettes, ovoids, and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	308.67	49.43%	1	Original equipment components	1 391.17	7.96%
2	Manganese ores and concentrates, including ferruginous manganese ores	253.28	16.62%	2	Rice	506.57	16.12%
3	Unwrought aluminium	211.66	13.79%	3	Palm oil and its fractions	500.02	21.71%
4	Unwrought nickel	110.55	1428.73%	4	Petroleum oils, other than crude	385.34	60.20%
5	Acyclic hydrocarbons	108.07	12.21%	5	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks	291.05	-2.17%
6	Chromium ores and concentrates	75.00	37.22%	6	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons	173.65	10.25%
7	Apples, pears, and quinces, fresh	91.62	10.54%	7	Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05	171.53	11.78%
8	Centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers	69.60	16.67%	8	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber	109.16	38.30%
9	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	68.72	11.66%	9	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastic uppers of textile materials	93.13	8.93%
10	Ferro-alloys	276.56	-9.92%	10	Prepared or preserved fish; caviar and caviar substitutes	85.24	4.18%
Total exports		2 877.68	6.79%	Total imports		6 306.33	8.54%

Source: Quantec, 2025

Table 5: The Western Cape's Top 10 Traded Products with ASEAN Member States, 2024

Western Cape top 10 export products to ASEAN, 2024				Western Cape top 10 import products from ASEAN, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value 2024 (USDm)	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value 2024 (USDm)	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	96.78	10.89%	1	Rice	131.6	15.58%
2	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	57.77	15.29%	2	Prepared or preserved fish; caviar and caviar substitutes	81.05	4.33%
3	Coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	30.06	93.14%	3	Petroleum oils, other than crude	78.36	19.72%
4	Grapes, fresh or dried	29.04	5.74%	4	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	44.43	25.29%
5	Waste, parings and scrap, of plastics	15.95	3295.38%	5	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	41.07	22.46%
6	Other fruit, fresh	13.45	20.76%	6	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics and uppers of textile materials	39.72	8.51%
7	Yachts and other vessels for pleasure or sports	7.04	93.24%	7	Footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of leather	37.92	25.88%
8	Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens	6.23	174.01%	8	Tugs and pusher craft	33.07	0.00%
9	Wine of fresh grapes	5.43	3.45%	9	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks	16.27	89.76%
10	Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse	5.21	27.94%	10	Other furniture and parts thereof	12.85	2.72%
Total exports		340.01	8.47%	Total imports		806.00	9.16%

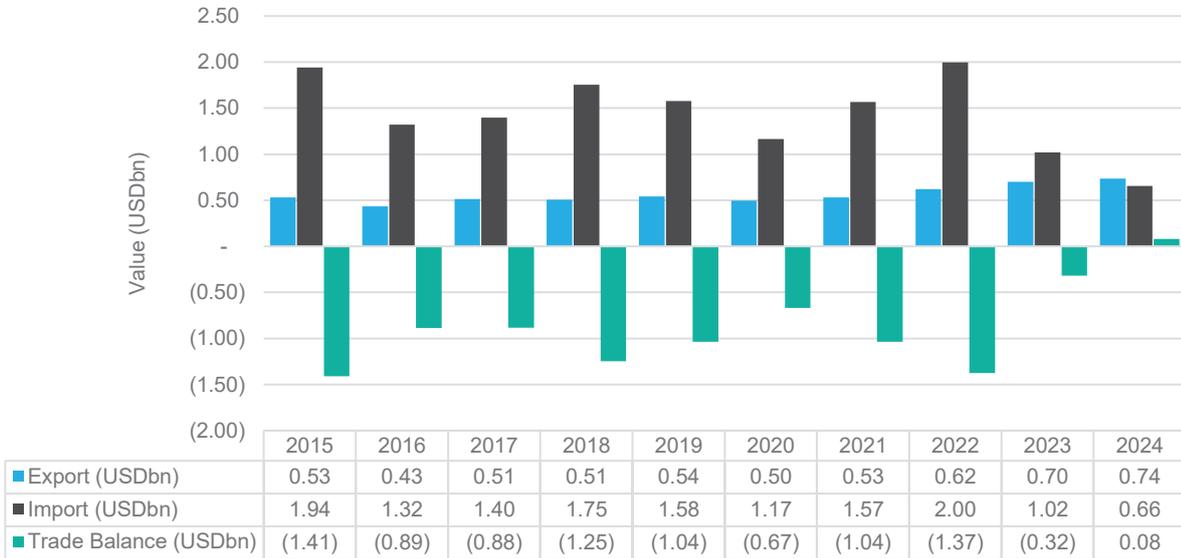
Source: Quantec (2025)

3.1 Singapore

3.1.1 South Africa's Trade with Singapore

South Africa's trade with Singapore for the period 2015 to 2024 is shown in Figure 31. In 2024, South Africa's exports to Singapore were valued at USD0.74bn in 2024, which was 4.82% higher than the USD0.70bn earned in 2023. South Africa's imports from the country declined by 35.60% y-o-y from a cost of USD1.02bn in 2023 to USD0.66bn in 2024. The country's trade balance with Singapore reverted to a USD0.08bn surplus in 2024 as a result.

Figure 31: South Africa's trade with Singapore, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Acyclic hydrocarbons was South Africa's top exported product to Singapore in 2024, valued at USD157.87m, as shown in Table 6. Exports of manganese ores and concentrates (valued at USD100.61m), and of chromium ores and concentrates (USD65.80m) followed in second and third place respectively. The fastest-growing export categories among the top 10 export products to Singapore over the past five years (2020–2024) were unwrought aluminium (with a growth rate of 3,115.85%) and chromium ores and concentrates (with a growth rate of 2,778.15%). Such high growth rates can be partly attributed to the fact that, during the five years under review, South Africa started exporting these products to Singapore only in 2023.

The category of petroleum oils, other than crude, was South Africa's largest imported product from Singapore in 2024. At USD159.15m, this import category accounted for 24.25% of the province's total imports from Singapore in 2024. This was followed by imports of motor cars and other motor vehicles for the transport of persons, at a cost of USD44.11m, and imports of self-propelled bulldozers, angledozers, and graders worth USD34.67m. Among the top 10 source products from Singapore, imports of petroleum oils, other than crude, grew at a five-year annual average rate of 105.29%. This was followed by imports of cocoa butter, fat and oil, which showed a five-year average growth rate of 37.42%.

Table 6: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Singapore, 2024

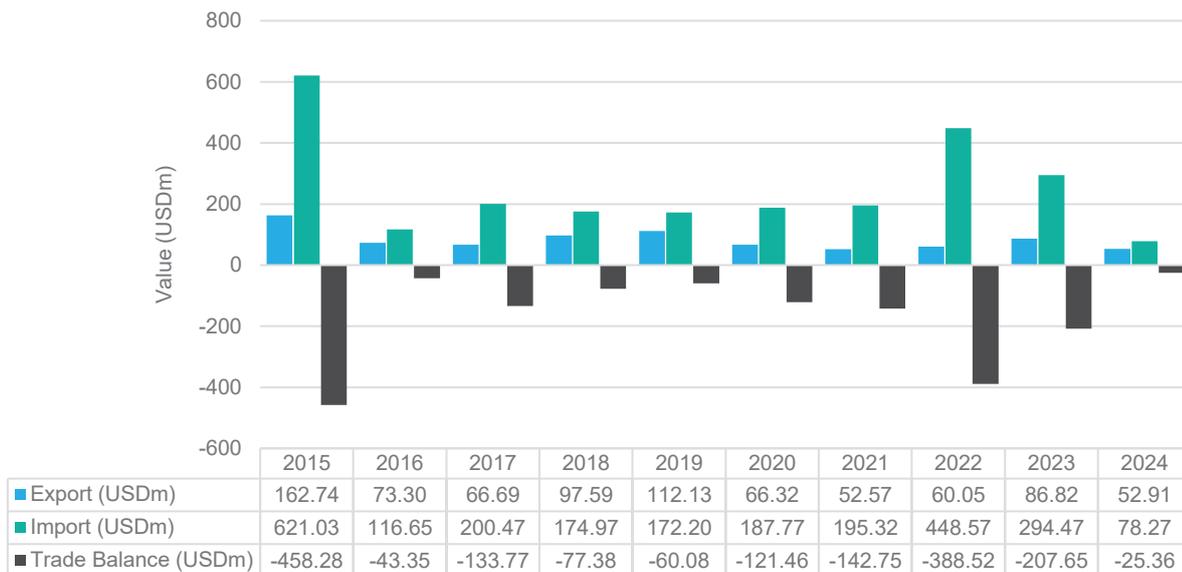
South Africa's exports to Singapore, 2024				South Africa's imports from Singapore, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Acyclic hydrocarbons	157.87	17.65%	1	Petroleum oils, other than crude	159.15	105.29%
2	Manganese ores and concentrates	100.61	49.80%	2	Motor cars and other motor vehicles for the transport of persons	44.11	-5.13%
3	Chromium ores and concentrates	65.80	2778.15%	3	Self-propelled bulldozers, angledozers, graders	34.67	15.28%
4	Unwrought nickel	40.86	540.47%	4	Original equipment components	26.81	-10.03%
5	Coal; briquettes	35.86	66.97%	5	Anti-knock preparations	17.15	7.84%
6	Petroleum oils, other than crude	32.11	134.82%	6	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks	15.57	14.47%
7	Unwrought aluminium	30.28	3115.85%	7	Cocoa butter, fat and oil	12.96	37.42%
8	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons	28.00	43.07%	8	Parts suitable for use solely or principally with the machinery	11.30	16.33%
9	Medicaments	23.03	91.64%	9	Polymers of ethylene, in primary forms	9.41	36.29%
10	Acyclic alcohols	18.52	2.62%	10	Printing machinery used for printing by means of plates	9.24	3.11%
Total exports		735.28	6.66%	Total imports		656.31	-9.77%

Source: Quantec (2025)

3.1.2 Western Cape's Trade with Singapore

Local export receipts from trade with Singapore totalled USD52.91m in 2024, a decline of 39.06% y-o-y from a value of USD86.82m in 2023. This can be observed in Figure 32. In turn, import costs from that country totalled USD78.27m in 2024, a decline of -73.42% y-o-y on the 2023 cost of USD294.47m. The Western Cape recorded a trade deficit with Singapore throughout this period.

Figure 32: Western Cape's trade with Singapore, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 7 shows that the Western Cape's top three export products to Singapore in 2024 were apples, pears and quinces, fresh (at a value of USD11.51m); citrus fruit, fresh or dried (valued at USD9.99m); and other fruit, fresh (USD7.83m). These products collectively accounted for 55.43% of the province's total exports to Singapore that year. Among the top 10 export products, exports of recovered waste and scrap attained the highest five-year annual average growth rate of 688.38%. This was followed by exports of other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, which had a five-year average growth rate of 56.33%. Interestingly, seven of the top 10 exports from the Western Cape to Singapore were primarily agricultural or agri-commodity-related products.

The import category of petroleum oils, other than crude, was the Western Cape's largest imported product from Singapore in 2024. At a cost of USD27.69m, this import category accounted for 35.38% of the province's total imports from Singapore in 2024. This was followed by imports of anti-knock preparations, at a cost of USD9.56m, and imports of tugs and pusher craft worth USD8.34m. Among the top 10 source products, imports of men's or boys' suits, ensembles, jackets (other than swimwear) from Singapore grew at a five-year annual average rate of 1,512.03%. This was followed by imports of coconuts, Brazil nuts and cashew nuts, which showed a five-year average growth rate of 69.62%.

Table 7: Western Cape's top 10 export and import products traded with Singapore, 2024

Western Cape's exports to Singapore, 2024				Western Cape's imports from Singapore, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	11.51	0.71%	1	Petroleum oils, other than crude	27.69	24.73%
2	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	9.99	3.33%	2	Anti-knock preparations	9.56	16.27%
3	Other fruit, fresh	7.83	13.21%	3	Tugs and pusher craft	8.34	20.00%
4	Crustaceans	3.91	21.48%	4	Cruise ships, excursion boats	1.98	-14.40%
5	Grapes, fresh or dried	2.87	-8.06%	5	Polymers of ethylene	1.73	-33.60%
6	Recovered (waste and scrap)	2.18	688.38%	6	Oils and other products of the distillation of high temperature coal	1.42	-28.50%
7	Wine of fresh grapes	1.58	-5.51%	7	Acyclic hydrocarbons	1.33	9.66%
8	Other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip	1.28	56.33%	8	Coconuts, Brazil nuts and cashew nuts	1.33	69.62%
9	Molluscs, whether in shell or not	1.14	22.52%	9	Men's or boys' suits, ensembles, jackets (other than swimwear)	1.26	1512.03%
10	Niobium, tantalum, vanadium or zirconium ores	0.97	20.00%	10	Transmission shafts (including cam shafts and crank shafts) and cranks	1.01	55.87%
Total exports		52.91	-8.37%	Total imports		78.27	6.99%

Source: Quantec (2025)

3.2 Malaysia

3.2.1 South Africa's Trade with Malaysia

Figure 33 illustrates South Africa's trade with Malaysia during the period 2015 to 2024. In 2024, South Africa's exports to Malaysia totalled USD0.72bn in 2024, declining by -3.16% y-o-y from the USD0.74bn recorded in 2023. South Africa's imports from Malaysia declined by -23.72% y-o-y to a cost of USD0.82bn in 2024, down from a cost of USD1.07bn incurred in 2023.

Figure 33: South Africa's trade with Malaysia, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 8 shows that unwrought nickel was South Africa's top exported product to Malaysia in 2024, valued at USD177.85m. Exports of manganese ores and concentrates (valued at USD128.36m), and of cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose (USD68.99m) followed in second and third place respectively. The fastest-growing export categories to Malaysia among the top 10 export products over the past five years (2020–2024) were titanium ores and concentrates (with a growth rate of 685.96%) and unwrought aluminium (with a growth rate of 99.68%).

Table 8: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Malaysia, 2024

South Africa's exports to Malaysia, 2024				South Africa's imports from Malaysia, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Unwrought nickel	177.85	39.69%	1	Palm oil and its fractions	183.69	21.57%
2	Manganese ores and concentrates	128.36	1.74%	2	Petroleum oils, other than crude	174.89	38.04%
3	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose	68.99	69.10%	3	Turbo-jets, turbo-propellers and other gas turbines	32.07	44935.30%
4	Coal; briquettes	66.10	47.77%	4	Boards, panels, consoles, desks, cabinets and other bases	19.98	8.76%
5	Unwrought aluminium	43.24	99.68%	5	Original equipment components	19.49	21.08%
6	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	40.22	-1.23%	6	Saturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids and their anhydrides	18.18	12.03%
7	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	38.44	2.95%	7	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel	14.00	0.93%
8	Niobium, tantalum, vanadium or zirconium ores and concentrates	36.52	96.32%	8	Aluminium wire	13.93	33.68%
9	Titanium ores and concentrates	12.23	685.96%	9	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories (including gloves, mittens and mitts)	13.90	6.47%
10	Grapes, fresh or dried	11.26	4.95%	10	Copper wire	13.23	62.61%
Total exports		720.66	10.22%	Total imports		819.03	4.35%

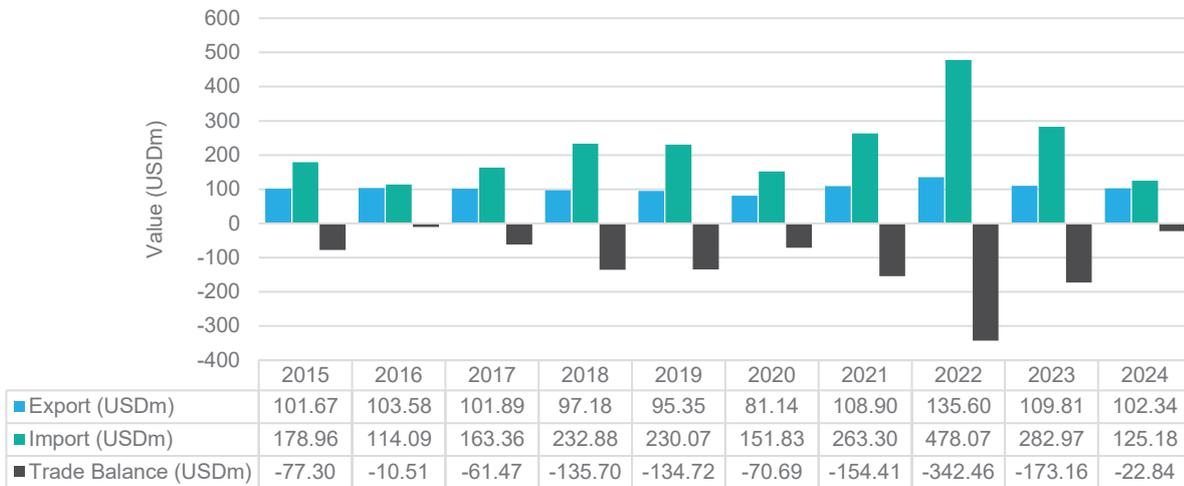
Source: Quantec (2025)

As shown in Table 8, South Africa's top imported product from Malaysia in 2024 was palm oil and its fractions, valued at USD183.69m. This was followed by imports of petroleum oils, other than crude, which cost USD174.89m. In third place was the import of turbo-jets, turbo-propellers and other gas turbines, costing USD32.07m. The fastest-growing import categories to Malaysia among the top 10 imported products over the past five years (2020–2024) were turbo-jets, turbo-propellers and other gas turbines (with a growth rate of 44935.30%); and petroleum oils, other than crude (with a growth rate of 38.04%).

3.2.2 Western Cape's Trade with Malaysia

Local export receipts from trade with Malaysia totalled USD102.34m in 2024, representing a –6.80% y-o-y decline from a value of USD109.81m in 2023. In turn, import costs from that country totalled USD125.18m in 2024, a –55.76% y-o-y decline on the 2023 cost of USD282.97m. The Western Cape recorded a trade deficit with Malaysia throughout this period.

Figure 34: Western Cape's trade with Malaysia, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 9 shows that the Western Cape's top three export products to Malaysia in 2024 were apples, pears and quinces, fresh (at a value of USD39.84m); citrus fruit, fresh or dried (USD25.85m); and grapes, fresh or dried (USD8.37m). These products collectively accounted for 72.36% of the province's total exports to Malaysia that year. The export product of waste, parings and scraps, of plastics attained the highest five-year annual average growth rate of 5,469.05%. This was followed by exports of unwrought aluminium, which had a five-year average growth rate of 257.80%.

Table 9: Western Cape's top 10 export and import products traded with Malaysia, 2024

Western Cape's exports to Malaysia, 2024				Western Cape's imports from Malaysia, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	39.84	-0.98%	1	Petroleum oils, other than crude	49.27	14.80%
2	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	25.85	5.18%	2	Palm oil and its fractions	13.17	145.16%
3	Grapes, fresh or dried	8.37	1.39%	3	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel	10.55	6.03%
4	Waste, parings and scrap, of plastics	6.11	5469.05%	4	Other furniture and parts thereof	6.54	-2.35%
5	Yachts and other vessels for pleasure or sports	4.68	23.38%	5	Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled	5.26	-4.80%
6	Other fruit, fresh	4.60	13.99%	6	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories (including gloves, mittens and mitts)	4.06	32.96%
7	Other agricultural, horticultural, forestry, poultry-keeping or bee-keeping machinery	3.18	7.50%	7	Products containing tobacco or reconstituted tobacco	1.85	15.17%
8	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines)	1.97	17.26%	8	Aluminium foil	1.64	-3.77%
9	Unwrought aluminium	1.23	257.80%	9	Reception apparatus for radio-broadcasting, whether or not combined	1.63	109.29%
10	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations	0.78	-1.12%	10	Saturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids and their anhydrides	1.63	15.11%
Total exports		102.34	3.60%	Total imports		125.18	4.88%

Source: Quantec (2025)

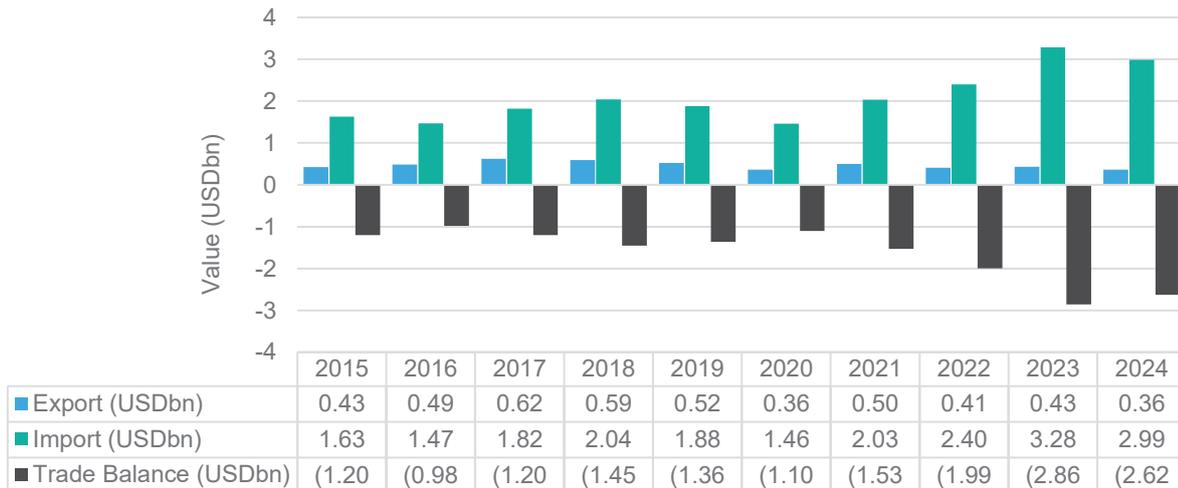
The import category of petroleum oils, other than crude, was the Western Cape's largest imported product from Malaysia in 2024, as shown in Table 9. At USD49.27m, this import category accounted for 39.36% of the province's total imports from Malaysia in 2024. This was followed by imports of palm oil and its fractions, at a cost of USD13.17m, and imports of flat-rolled products of iron worth USD10.55m. Among the top 10 source products, imports of palm oil and its fractions from Malaysia grew at a five-year annual average rate of 145.16%. This was followed by imports of reception apparatus for radio-broadcasting, whether or not combined, which showed a five-year average growth rate of 109.29%.

3.3 Thailand

3.3.1 South Africa's Trade with Thailand

Figure 35 shows South Africa's trade with Thailand from 2015 to 2024. In 2024, South Africa's exports to Thailand totalled USD0.36bn in 2024, declining by -15.86% y-o-y from the USD0.43bn recorded in 2023. The country's imports from Thailand declined by -9.08% y-o-y to a cost of USD2.99bn in 2024, down from a cost of USD3.28bn incurred in 2023.

Figure 35: South Africa's trade with Thailand, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 10 shows that unwrought aluminium was South Africa's top exported product to Thailand in 2024, valued at USD103.56m. Exports of centrifuges (USD79.19m) and chemical wood pulp (USD30.35m) followed in second and third place respectively. The fastest-growing export categories among South Africa's top 10 exported products to Thailand over the past five years (2020–2024) were semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel (with a growth rate of 20,101.07%) and waste, parings and scrap (with a growth rate of 6,937.80%). Such high growth rates were partly attributed to the fact that during the five years under review, South Africa started exporting these products to Thailand only in 2023 and recorded a massive increase in 2024. In that year, receipts for semi-finished products of original equipment components steel totalled USD16,508 in 2023, increasing to USD16.59m in 2024.

The country's main imported product from Thailand was original equipment components, which cost USD1,279.61m, equivalent to 42.87% of South Africa's total imports from Thailand in 2024. This was followed by rice, and parts and accessories for motor vehicles in headings 87.01 to 87.05, valued at USD498.42m and USD160.85m respectively.

Table 10: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Thailand, 2024

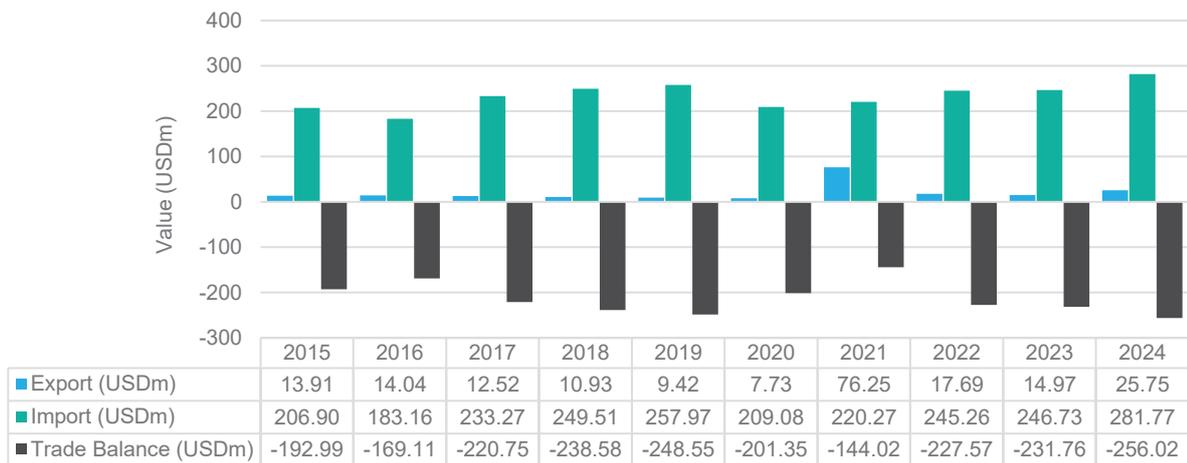
South Africa's exports to Thailand, 2024				South Africa's imports from Thailand, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Unwrought aluminium	103.56	-0.13%	1	Original equipment components	1279.61	24.26%
2	Centrifuges	79.19	11.45%	2	Rice	498.42	9.88%
3	Chemical wood pulp	30.35	210.81%	3	Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05	160.85	8.36%
4	Other articles of iron or steel	29.13	-3.67%	4	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons	103.61	54.67%
5	Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel	16.59	20101.07%	5	Prepared or preserved fish	85.07	0.15%
6	Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05	10.34	-5.07%	6	New pneumatic tyres	67.05	37.79%
7	Waste, parings and scrap	9.86	6937.80%	7	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	65.50	79.41%
8	Sheet piling of iron or steel	9.31	143.80%	8	Seats	37.82	10.78%
9	Chemical wood pulp	6.32	-5.52%	9	Polycarboxylic acids, their anhydrides, halides	37.48	-4.27%
10	Pig iron and spiegeleisen in pigs	4.91	39.42%	10	Automatic data processing machines and units thereof	36.37	40.32%
Total exports		360.28	-4.26%	Total imports		2 985.20	12.50%

Source: Quantec (2025)

3.3.2 Western Cape's Trade with Thailand

The province's export receipts from trade with Thailand totalled USD25.75m in 2024, an increase of 71.98% y-o-y from the value of USD14.97m in 2023. This can be observed in Figure 36. In turn, import costs from that country totalled USD281.77m in 2024, an increase of 14.20% y-o-y on the 2023 cost of USD246.73m. The Western Cape recorded a trade deficit with Thailand throughout this period.

Figure 36: Western Cape's trade with Thailand, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2023)

Table 11 shows that the Western Cape's top three export products to Thailand in 2024 were waste, parings and scrap of plastics (at a value of USD9.85m); centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers (USD2.55m), and yachts and other vessels for pleasure or sports (USD2.35m). These products collectively accounted for 57.27% of the province's total exports to Thailand that year. Exports of waste, parings and scrap of plastics, attained the highest five-year annual average growth rate of 56,495.16%. This high growth rate may be attributed to Thailand's phased approach to banning plastic waste imports, to affect a complete ban by the year 2025. Such a policy could have enabled factories in Thailand to increase their imports in 2024, leading to higher export figures from regions like the Western Cape. This was followed by the exports of centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers, which had a five-year average growth rate of 8,728.82%.

Table 11: Western Cape's top 10 export and import products traded with Thailand, 2024

Western Cape's exports to Thailand, 2024				Western Cape's imports from Thailand, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Waste, parings and scrap of plastics	9.85	56495.16%	1	Rice	127.26	9.27%
2	Centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers	2.55	8728.82%	2	Prepared or preserved fish	80.94	0.29%
3	Yachts and other vessels for pleasure or sports	2.35	24.46%	3	Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	6.21	8.42%
4	Wine of fresh grapes	2.29	34.07%	4	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber	5.57	47.43%
5	Pig iron and spiegeleisen in pigs	1.71	14.43%	5	Containers for compressed or liquefied gas	4.22	49.61%
6	Aluminium waste and scrap	1.12	26.42%	6	Optical fibres and optical fibre bundles	3.90	17.38%
7	Fish, frozen	0.69	40.14%	7	Aluminium casks, drums, cans, boxes and similar containers	3.75	-10.04%
8	Other agricultural, horticultural, forestry machinery	0.54	36.79%	8	Ceramic tableware	3.06	62.44%
9	Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles	0.53	278.06%	9	Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants	2.87	21.20%
10	Other fruit, fresh	0.52	57.39%	10	Articles of jewellery	2.87	26.28%
Total exports		25.75	169.55%	Total imports		281.77	2.51%

Source: Quantec (2025)

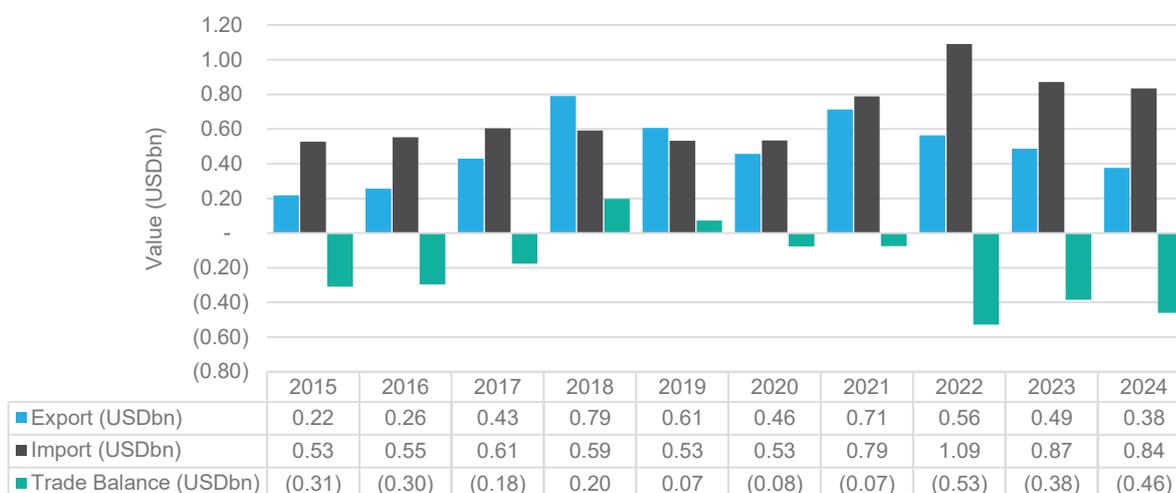
Rice was the Western Cape's largest imported product from Thailand in 2024, also shown in Table 11. At a cost of USD127.26m, this import category accounted for 45.17% of the province's total imports from Thailand in 2024. This was followed by imports of prepared or preserved fish, at a cost of USD80.94m, and imports of parts and accessories of motor vehicles worth USD6.21m. Imports of ceramic tableware from Thailand grew at a five-year annual average rate of 62.44%. This was followed by imports of containers for compressed or liquefied gas, which showed a five-year average growth rate of 49.61%.

3.4 Indonesia

3.4.1 South Africa's Trade with Indonesia

South Africa's exports to Indonesia were valued at USD0.38bn in 2024, decreasing by -22.79% y-o-y from USD0.49bn recorded in 2023. South Africa's imports from Indonesia decreased by -4.14% y-o-y from a cost of USD0.87bn incurred in 2023 to a cost of USD0.84bn in 2024.

Figure 37: South Africa's trade with Indonesia, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 12 shows that the import category of ferro-alloys was South Africa's top exported product to Indonesia in 2024, valued at USD68.26m. Exports of chromium ores and concentrates (valued at USD66.57m); and of sulphates, alums, peroxosulphates (persulphates), valued at USD47.02m, followed in second and third place respectively. Among the top 10 export products, the fastest-growing export categories to Indonesia over the past five years (2020–2024) were iron ores and concentrates (with a growth rate of 4,487.99%) and other manufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes (with a growth rate of 83.87%).

Table 12: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Indonesia, 2024

South Africa's exports to Indonesia, 2024				South Africa's imports from Indonesia, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Ferro-alloys	68.26	-11.86%	1	Palm oil and its fractions	316.32	21.41%
2	Chromium ores and concentrates	66.57	13.65%	2	Petroleum oils, other than crude	37.54	6201.37%
3	Sulphates; alums; peroxosulphates (persulphates)	47.02	0.00%	3	Coconut (copra), palm kernel or babassu oil and fractions thereof	29.49	10.01%
4	Manganese ores and concentrates	39.15	73.40%	4	Natural rubber, balata, gutta-percha	26.99	1.23%
5	Unwrought aluminium	35.30	38.72%	5	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	26.57	30.00%
6	Chemical wood pulp	17.33	44.02%	6	Motor cars and other motor vehicles for the transport of persons	25.57	81.64%
7	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	11.15	5.33%	7	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of leather	25.44	19.01%
8	Other manufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	10.59	83.87%	8	Footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of textile materials	22.35	15.24%
9	Chemical wood pulp, other than dissolving grades	7.24	-3.12%	9	Saturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids and their anhydrides	21.28	52.43%
10	Iron ores and concentrates	5.62	4487.99%	10	Original equipment components	20.00	26.31%
Total exports		376.39	-5.16%	Total imports		922.05	12.37%

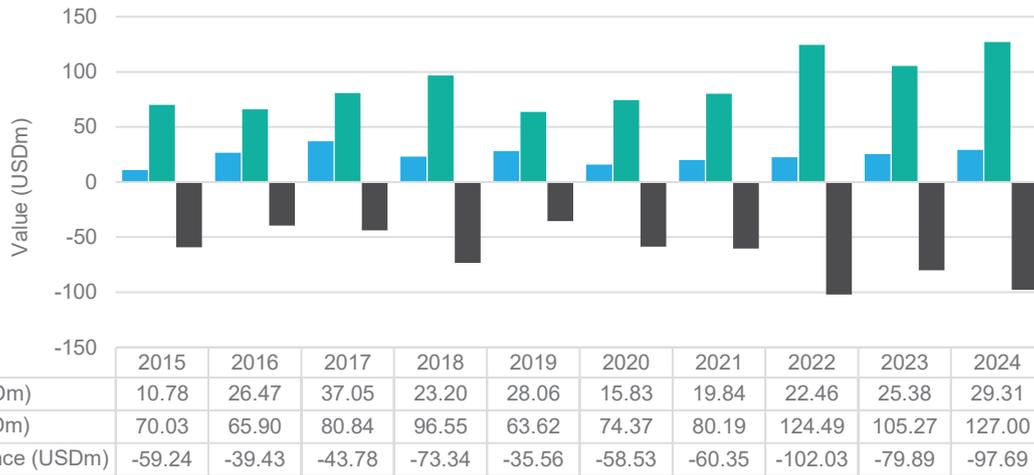
Source: Quantec (2025)

The import category of palm oil and its fractions was South Africa's largest imported product from Indonesia in 2024, as shown in Table 12. At a cost of USD316.32m, this import category accounted for 34.31% of the country's total imports from Indonesia in 2024. This was followed by imports of petroleum oils, other than crude, at a cost of USD37.54m, and imports of coconut (copra), palm kernel or babassu oil and fractions thereof worth USD29.49m. Among the top 10 imported products, the fastest-growing import categories to Indonesia in the past five years (2020–2024) were petroleum oils, other than crude (with an average growth rate of 6,201.37%) and motor cars and other motor vehicles for the transport of persons (with a growth rate of 81.64%).

3.4.2 Western Cape's Trade with Indonesia

The Western Cape's trade with Indonesia in 2015–2024 is illustrated in Figure 38. In 2024, the value of the Western Cape's goods exports to Indonesia reached a total of USD29.31m, an increase of 15.48% y-o-y from the USD25.38m earned in 2023. Imports in turn increased by 20.64% y-o-y from a cost of USD105.27m incurred in 2023 to a cost of USD127.00m in 2024.

Figure 38: Western Cape's trade with Indonesia, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 13 shows that the Western Cape's top three export products to Indonesia in 2024 were apples, pears and quinces, fresh at a value of (USD10.92m); unmanufactured tobacco, tobacco refuse (USD5.20m); and citrus fruit, fresh or dried (USD2.70m). These products collectively accounted for 64.19% of the province's total exports to Indonesia that year. Among the top 10 export products, exports of mechanical appliances (whether or not hand-operated) for projecting attained the highest five-year annual average growth rate of 192.43%. This was followed by exports of unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse, which had a five-year average growth rate of 102.78%.

Table 13: Western Cape's top 10 export and import products traded with Indonesia, 2024

Western Cape's exports to Indonesia, 2024				Western Cape's imports from Indonesia, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Apples, pears and quinces	10.92	5.58%	1	Palm oil and its fractions	31.26	286.37%
2	Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse	5.20	102.78%	2	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	19.74	42.13%
3	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	2.70	51.72%	3	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of leather	14.84	87.02%
4	Propellent powders	2.12	22.75%	4	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of textile materials	13.95	20.57%
5	Radar apparatus, radio navigational aid apparatus	1.63	20.00%	5	Glassware of a kind used for table, kitchen, toilet, office	3.79	15.74%
6	Grapes, fresh or dried	1.06	8.98%	6	Pasta	2.67	35.69%
7	Beauty or make-up preparations	0.93	-12.92%	7	Seats (other than those of heading 94.02)	2.23	-4.01%
8	Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants	0.85	26.37%	8	Trunks, suit-cases, vanity-cases, executive-cases	2.04	31.76%
9	Mechanical appliances for projecting	0.40	192.43%	9	Men's or boys' shirts	1.97	41.50%
10	Electric sound or visual signalling apparatus	0.37	7.06%	10	Other furniture and parts thereof	1.96	7.84%
Total exports		29.31	4.68%	Total imports		127.00	17.03%

Source: Quantec (2025)

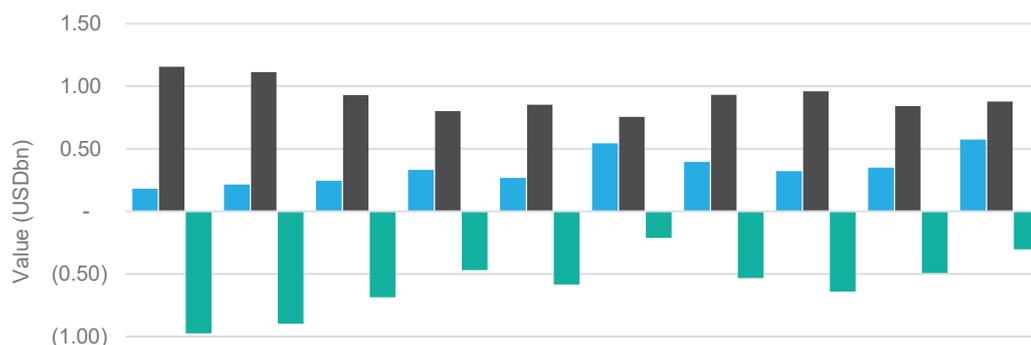
Mirroring the national economy, the category of palm oil and its fractions was the Western Cape's largest imported product from Indonesia in 2024, also shown in Table 13. At a cost of USD31.26m, this import category accounted for 22.61% of the province's total imports from Indonesia in 2024. This was followed by imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of leather, at a cost of USD14.84m, and imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of textile materials worth USD13.95m. Among the top 10 source products, imports of palm oil and its fractions from Indonesia grew at a five-year annual average rate of 286.37%. This was followed by imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of leather, which showed a five-year average growth rate of 87.02%.

3.5 Vietnam

3.5.1 South Africa's Trade with Vietnam

South Africa's export receipts from trade with Vietnam stood at USD0.57bn in 2024, increasing by 63.73% from the USD0.35bn earned in 2023. This is shown in Figure 39. Imports in turn increased by 4.33% y-o-y from USD0.84bn incurred in 2023 to USD0.88bn in 2024.

Figure 39: Trade between South Africa and Vietnam, 2015–2024



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
■ Export (USDbn)	0.18	0.21	0.24	0.33	0.27	0.54	0.40	0.32	0.35	0.57
■ Import (USDbn)	1.15	1.11	0.93	0.80	0.85	0.76	0.93	0.96	0.84	0.88
■ Trade Balance (USDbn)	(0.97)	(0.90)	(0.69)	(0.47)	(0.58)	(0.21)	(0.53)	(0.64)	(0.49)	(0.30)

Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 14 shows that the category of coal briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal was South Africa's top exported product to Vietnam in 2024, valued at USD378.53m. Exports of iron ores and concentrates (valued at USD54.72m), and of apples, pears and quinces, fresh (USD27.78m), followed in second and third place respectively. The fastest-growing export categories to Vietnam among the top 10 export products during the past five years (2020–2024) were iron ores and concentrates (with an average growth rate of 370.41%) and manganese ores and concentrates (with a growth rate of 368.29%).

On the import front, the category of telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks, was South Africa's largest imported product from Vietnam in 2024. At a cost of USD302.76m, this import category accounted for 34.47% of the country's total imports from Vietnam in 2024. This was followed by imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of textile materials, at a cost of USD77.32m; and imports of records, tapes and other recorded media for sound worth USD58.42m. Among the top 10 source products, imports of gas, liquid or electricity supply or production meters grew at a five-year annual average rate of 283.78%. This was followed by imports of new pneumatic tyres, of rubber, which showed a five-year average growth rate of 47.41%.

Table 14: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Vietnam, 2024

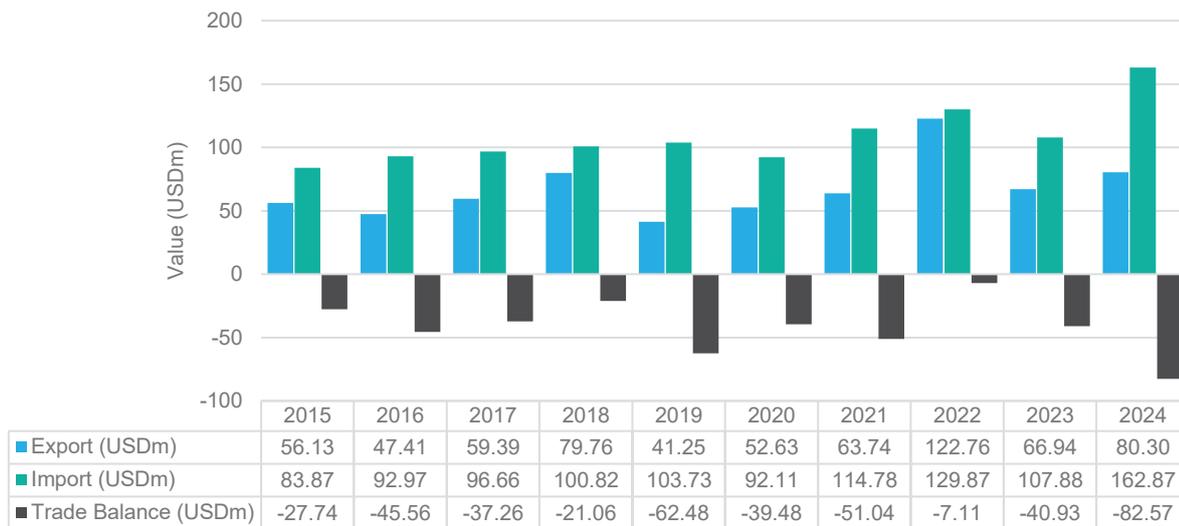
South Africa's exports to Vietnam, 2024				South Africa's imports from Vietnam, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Coal; briquettes,	378.53	227.74%	1	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks	266,93	-4.79%
2	Iron ores and concentrates	54.72	370.41%	2	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of textile materials	61,90	6.72%
3	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	27.78	22.08%	3	Records, tapes and other recorded media for sound	45,40	23.55%
4	Soya beans, whether or not broken	14.29	24.92%	4	Portland cement, aluminous cement, slag cement	43,39	2.63%
5	Grapes, fresh or dried	13.57	5.54%	5	Footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of leather	41,74	8.33%
6	Other nuts, fresh or dried	12.20	1.87%	6	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber	36,84	95.53%
7	Tanned or crust hides and skins of bovine (including buffalo)	8.73	13.86%	7	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	28,33	11.28%
8	Unwrought aluminium	7.32	10.41%	8	Printing machinery	27,61	7.54%
9	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel	6.97	0.00%	9	Tugs and pusher craft	24,73	20.00%
10	Manganese ores and concentrates	6.14	368.29%	10	Gas, liquid or electricity supply or production meters	16,90	283.78%
Total exports		573.34	25.98%	Total imports		78.21	1.38%

Source: Quantec (2025)

3.5.2 Western Cape's Trade with Vietnam

Local export receipts from trade with Vietnam totalled USD80.30m in 2024, an increase of 19.95% y-o-y from a value of USD66.94m in 2023. This can be observed in Figure 40. Import costs from that country totalled USD162.87m in 2024, an increase of 50.97% y-o-y on the 2023 cost of USD107.88m. The Western Cape recorded a trade deficit with Vietnam throughout this period.

Figure 40: Western Cape's trade with Vietnam, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 15 shows that the Western Cape's top three export products to Vietnam in 2024 were coal, briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal (at a value of USD30.06m); apples, pears and quinces, fresh (USD27.51m); and grapes, fresh or dried (USD11.21m). These products collectively accounted for 86.73% of the province's total exports to Vietnam in that year. Among the top 10 export products, exports of coal, briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal attained the highest five-year annual average growth rate of 731.18%. This was followed by exports of ferrous waste and scrap, which had a five-year average growth rate of 176.80%.

The category of tugs and pusher craft was the Western Cape's largest imported product from Vietnam in 2024. At a cost of USD24.73m, this import category accounted for 15.18% of the province's total imports from Vietnam in 2024. This was followed by imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of textile materials, at USD22.36m; and by imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of leather worth USD18.87m. Among the top 10 source products, imports of telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks, grew at a five-year annual average rate of 32,021.42%.

Table 15: Western Cape's top 10 export and import products traded with Vietnam, 2024

Western Cape's exports to Vietnam, 2024				Western Cape's imports from Vietnam, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Coal; briquettes, ovoids, and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	30.06	731.18%	1	Tugs and pusher craft	24.73	20.00%
2	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	27.51	22.68%	2	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of textile materials	22.36	0.01%
3	Grapes, fresh or dried	11.21	3.92%	3	Footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of leather	18.87	20.00%
4	Fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets	2.25	96.88%	4	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	17.71	13.83%
5	Guts, bladders and stomachs of animals (other than fish)	1.94	39.26%	5	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks	15.39	32021.42%
6	Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants	1.53	9.70%	6	Pepper of the genus Piper	7.54	12.71%
7	Enzymes	0.90	-10.88%	7	Coconuts, Brazil nuts and cashew nuts	5.36	19.06%
8	Machines and mechanical appliances	0.85	4.18%	8	Rice	4.21	19.56%
9	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations	0.39	17.63%	9	Other furniture and parts thereof	4.09	-1.89%
10	Ferrous waste and scrap	0.33	176.80%	10	Trunks, suit-cases, vanity-cases, executive-cases	2.83	9.17%
Total exports		80.30	23.80%	Total imports		162.87	12.12%

Source: Quantec (2025)

3.6 Philippines

3.6.1 South Africa's Trade with the Philippines

In 2024, South Africa's exports to the Philippines totalled USD90.07m in 2024, having grown by 39.57% y-o-y from the USD64.53m recorded in 2023. South Africa's imports from the Philippines declined by -23.68% y-o-y to a cost of USD100.03m in 2024, down from a cost of USD131.07m incurred in 2023.

Figure 41: Trade between South Africa and the Philippines, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec, 2025

Table 16 shows that citrus fruit, fresh or dried, was South Africa’s top exported product to the Philippines in 2024, valued at USD19.66m. Exports of apples, pears and quinces, fresh (USD6.60m); and of chemical wood pulp (USD5.64m) followed in second and third place respectively. The fastest-growing export categories among the top 10 export products to the Philippines in the past five years (2020–2024) were grapes, fresh or dried (with a growth rate of 901.35%), and dates, figs, pineapples, and avocados (with a growth rate of 456.18%).

The category of original equipment components was South Africa’s largest imported product from the Philippines in 2024. At a cost of USD33.01m, this import category accounted for 33.01% of the province’s total imports from the Philippines in 2024. This was followed by imports of printing machinery used for printing by means of plates, at a cost of USD9.27m, and imports of electronic integrated circuits worth USD5.93m. Among the top 10 source products, imports of discs, tapes, and solid-state non-volatile storage devices grew at a five-year annual average rate of 5,394.09%. This was followed by imports of original equipment components, which showed a five-year average growth rate of 33.01%.

Table 16: South Africa’s top 10 export and import products traded with the Philippines, 2024

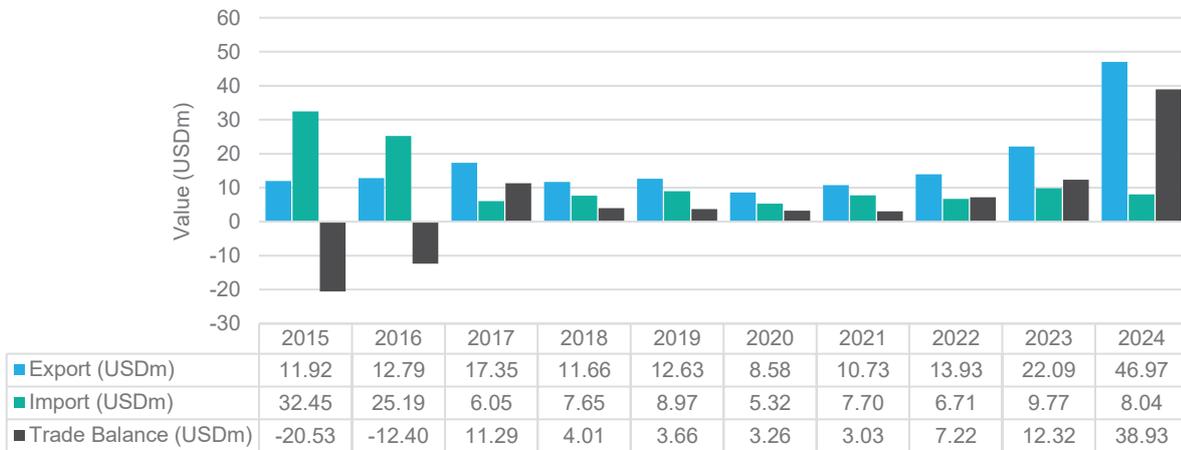
South Africa’s exports to the Philippines, 2024				South Africa’s imports from the Philippines, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Ave Growth %, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	19.66	351.88%	1	Original equipment components	33.01	683.44%
2	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	6.60	113.91%	2	Printing machinery used for printing by means of plates	9.27	41.29%
3	Chemical wood pulp	5.64	137.58%	3	Electronic integrated circuits	5.93	264.65%
4	Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados	5.50	456.18%	4	Discs, tapes, solid-state non-volatile storage devices	4.67	5394.09%
5	Other uncoated paper and paperboard	5.15	294.26%	5	Electrical machines and apparatus	4.40	-7.18%
6	Grapes, fresh or dried	5.01	901.35%	6	Automatic data processing machines	4.19	262.55%
7	Seeds, fruit and spores	3.22	19.14%	7	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks	2.78	258.54%
8	Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding	2.89	66.01%	8	Orthopaedic appliances, including crutches, surgical belts and trusses	2.69	198.04%
9	Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants	2.65	21.87%	9	Optical fibres and optical fibre bundles	2.60	-3.94%
10	Maize (corn)	2.05	34.72%	10	Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	2.50	60.49%
Total exports		90.07	11.13%	Total imports		100.03	16.58%

Source: Quantec (2025)

3.6.2 Western Cape's Trade with the Philippines

The Western Cape's trade with the Philippines for the period 2015–2024 is shown in Figure 42. The value of the Western Cape's exports to the Philippines reached USD46.95m in 2024, increasing by 112.64% from USD22.09m in 2023. On the other hand, imports weighed in at USD8.04m in 2024, declining by –17.67% y-o-y from the cost of USD9.77m incurred in 2023.

Figure 42: Western Cape's trade with the Philippines, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 17 shows that the Western Cape's top three export products to the Philippines in 2024 were citrus fruit, fresh or dried at a value of USD18.47m; apples, pears and quinces, fresh (USD6.60m); and dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, and guavas (USD5.50m). These products collectively accounted for 65.09% of the province's total exports to the Philippines that year. Exports of grapes, fresh or dried, had the highest five-year annual average growth rate (908.62%) among the top 10 export products. This was followed by the exports of citrus fruit, fresh or dried, which had a five-year average growth rate of 509.78%. Interestingly, eight of the top 10 exports from the Western Cape to the Philippines were primarily agricultural or agri-commodity-related products. In addition, the province reflected the national economy in its leading export products, with citrus fruit (fresh or dried) and fresh apples, pears, and quinces ranking as the top two.

Table 17: Western Cape's top 10 export and import products traded with the Philippines, 2024

Western Cape's exports to the Philippines, 2024				Western Cape's imports from the Philippines, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	18.47	509.78%	1	Optical fibres and optical fibre bundles	2.28	-0.86%
2	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	6.60	113.91%	2	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather	1.49	70.56%
3	Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas	5.50	476.18%	3	Vegetable saps and extracts	0.78	147563.45%
4	Grapes, fresh or dried	5.01	908.62%	4	Footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of textile materials	0.72	303.40%
5	Seeds, fruit and spores	3.22	18.62%	5	Electronic integrated circuits	0.39	48919.62%
6	Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices	1.78	1.15%	6	Coconut (copra), palm kernel or babassu oil	0.39	-11.38%
7	Propellant powders	1.48	10.71%	7	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks	0.21	5959.26%
8	Steam or other vapour generating boilers	1.23	385.13%	8	Activated carbon; activated natural mineral products	0.20	65.45%
9	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines)	1.17	272.19%	9	Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants	0.19	19.63%
10	Wine of fresh grapes	0.72	21.33%	10	Sauces and preparations therefor	0.18	114.04%
Total exports		46.97	38.81%	Total imports		8.04	3.83%

Source: Quantec (2025)

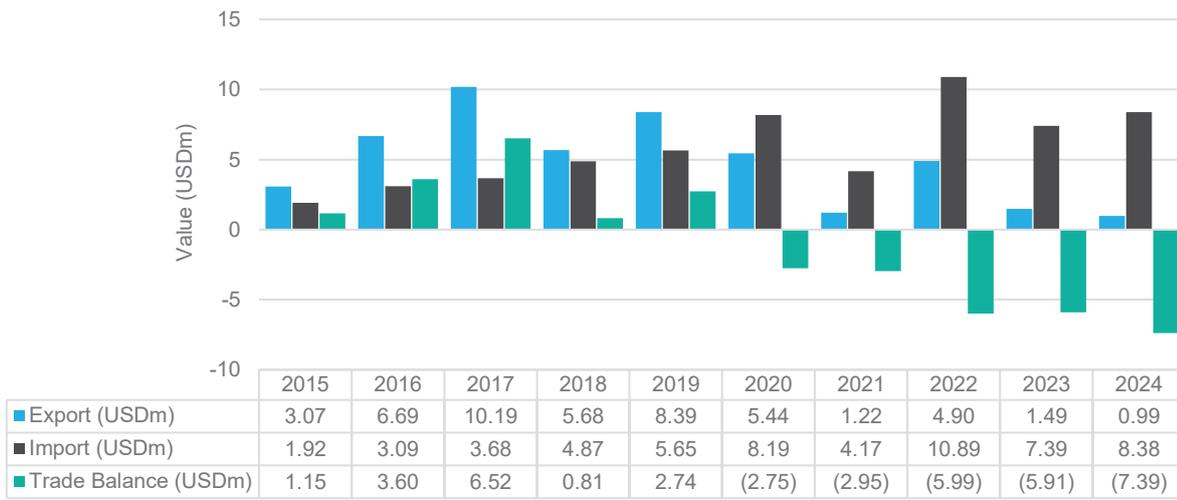
The Western Cape's largest imported product from the Philippines in 2024 was optical fibres and optical fibre bundles, as shown in Table 17. At a cost of USD2.28m, this import category accounted for 28.35% of the province's total imports from the Philippines in 2024. This was followed by imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather, at a cost of USD1.49m; and imports of vegetable saps and extracts worth USD0.78m. Among the province's top 10 source products, imports of vegetable saps and extracts had the highest five-year annual average growth rate (147,563.45%). The import product of electronic integrated circuits followed with a five-year average growth rate of 48,919.62%.

3.7 Myanmar

3.7.1 South Africa's Trade with Myanmar

Figure 43 shows South Africa's trade with Myanmar from 2015 to 2024. In 2024, South Africa's exports to Myanmar totalled USD0.99m in 2024, declining by -33.60% y-o-y from the USD1.49m recorded in 2023. The country's imports from Myanmar increased by 13.28% y-o-y to a cost of USD8.38m in 2024, up from a cost of USD7.39m incurred in 2023.

Figure 43: Trade between South Africa and Myanmar, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 18 details South Africa's top traded products with Myanmar. The category of medicaments was South Africa's top exported product to Myanmar in 2024, valued at USD0.59m. The export of maize (corn), valued at USD0.10m, and electric accumulators (USD0.10m) followed in second and third place respectively. The fastest-growing export categories to Myanmar among the top 10 export products in the past five years (2020–2024) were diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing (with an average growth rate of 240.92%) and tanning extracts of vegetable origin (with a growth rate of 98.83%).

Table 18: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Myanmar, 2024

South Africa's exports to Myanmar, 2024				South Africa's imports from Myanmar, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Medicaments	0.59	0.00%	1	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	1.32	116.45%
2	Maize (corn)	0.10	1.10%	2	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles	1.05	42.71%
3	Electric accumulators	0.10	0.00%	3	Footwear with outer soles of rubber of textile materials	0.89	43.80%
4	Beauty or make-up preparations	0.06	-5.49%	4	Women's or girls' suits, ensembles, jackets	0.69	63.38%
5	Tanning extracts of vegetable origin	0.05	98.83%	5	Fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets	0.59	8.54%
6	Wine of fresh grapes	0.03	-20.85%	6	Trunks, suit-cases, vanity-cases, executive-cases	0.53	3.65%
7	Floor coverings of plastics	0.01	20.00%	7	Men's or boys' suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers, trousers	0.37	57.29%
8	Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing	0.01	240.92%	8	Women's or girls' suits, ensembles, jackets, knitted or crocheted	0.34	65.29%
9	Pharmaceutical goods	0.01	-17.63%	9	Women's or girls' overcoats, car-coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks (including ski-jackets)	0.29	31.99%
10	Polyacetals, other polyethers and epoxide resins	0.01	0.00%	10	Molluscs, whether in shell or not, live, fresh, chilled	0.22	35.50%
Total exports		0.99	17.30%	Total imports		8.38	27.62%

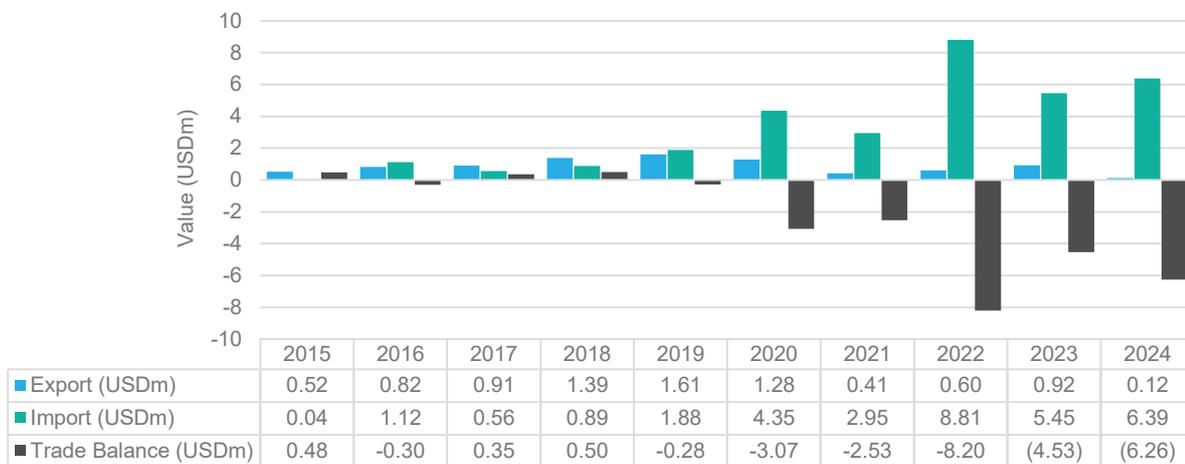
Source: Quantec (2025)

South Africa's top imported product from Myanmar in 2024 was other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics, which was valued at USD1.32m. This was followed by imports of jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, which cost USD1.05m, while in third place were imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber of textile materials, costing USD0.89m. The fastest-growing import categories to Myanmar among the top 10 import products in 2020–2024 were other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics, with an average growth rate of 116.45%; and women's or girls' suits, ensembles, jackets, knitted or crocheted (with a growth rate of 65.29%).

3.7.2 Western Cape's Trade with Myanmar

Local export receipts from trade with Myanmar totalled USD0.12m in 2024, representing a decline of –86.47% y-o-y from a value of USD0.92m in 2023. In turn, import costs from that country totalled USD6.39m in 2024, representing an increase of 17% y-o-y on the 2023 cost of USD5.45m. The Western Cape recorded a trade deficit with Myanmar in 2024 valued at –USD6.26m.

Figure 44: Western Cape's trade with Myanmar, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 19 shows that the Western Cape's top three export products to Myanmar in 2024 were beauty or make-up preparations (at a value of USD61,160.00); wine of fresh grapes (USD28,710.00); and diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing (USD14,100.00). These products collectively accounted for 83.40% of the province's total exports to Myanmar that year. Exports of wine from fresh grapes attained the highest five-year annual average growth rate of 213.15% among the top 10 export products. This was followed by exports of pharmaceutical goods, which had a five-year average growth rate of 20.00%.

The import category of other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics was the Western Cape's largest imported product from Myanmar in 2024. At USD1,320,590.00, this import category accounted for 15.77% of the province's total imports from Myanmar in 2024. This was followed by imports of jerseys, pullovers, and cardigans at USD1,045,930.00 and imports of footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics and uppers of textile materials worth USD890,430.00. Among the top 10 imported products, imports of other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics grew at a five-year annual average rate of 116.45%, followed by imports of women's or girls' suits, ensembles, knitted or crocheted, which showed a five-year average growth rate of 65.29%.

Table 19: Western Cape's top 10 export and import products traded with Myanmar, 2024

Western Cape's exports to Myanmar, 2024				Western Cape's imports from Myanmar, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USD'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USD'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Beauty or make-up preparations	61.16	-20.67%	1	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	1320.59	116.45%
2	Wine of fresh grapes	28.71	213.15%	2	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans	1045.93	42.71%
3	Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing	14.10	-17.63%	3	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics and uppers of textile materials	890.43	43.80%
4	Pharmaceutical goods	11.82	20.00%	4	Women's or girls' suits, ensembles, jackets (other than swimwear)	693.29	63.38%
5	Polyacetals, other polyethers and epoxide resins	8.87	0.00%	5	Fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat	585.99	8.54%
6	Other live animals	0.00	0.00%	6	Trunks, suit-cases, vanity-cases, executive-cases	529.45	3.65%
7	Live sheep and goats	0.00	0.00%	7	Men's or boys' suits, ensembles, jackets (other than swimwear)	367.12	57.29%
8	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines),	0.00	-18.61%	8	Women's or girls' suits, ensembles, knitted or crocheted	343.23	65.29%
9	Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, otherwise prepared or preserved	0.00	0.00%	9	Women's or girls' overcoats, (including ski-jackets)	288.88	31.99%
10	Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included	0.00	-27.95%	10	Molluscs, whether in shell or not	216.95	35.50%
Total exports		124.65	-5.49%	Total imports		8 376.13	27.62%

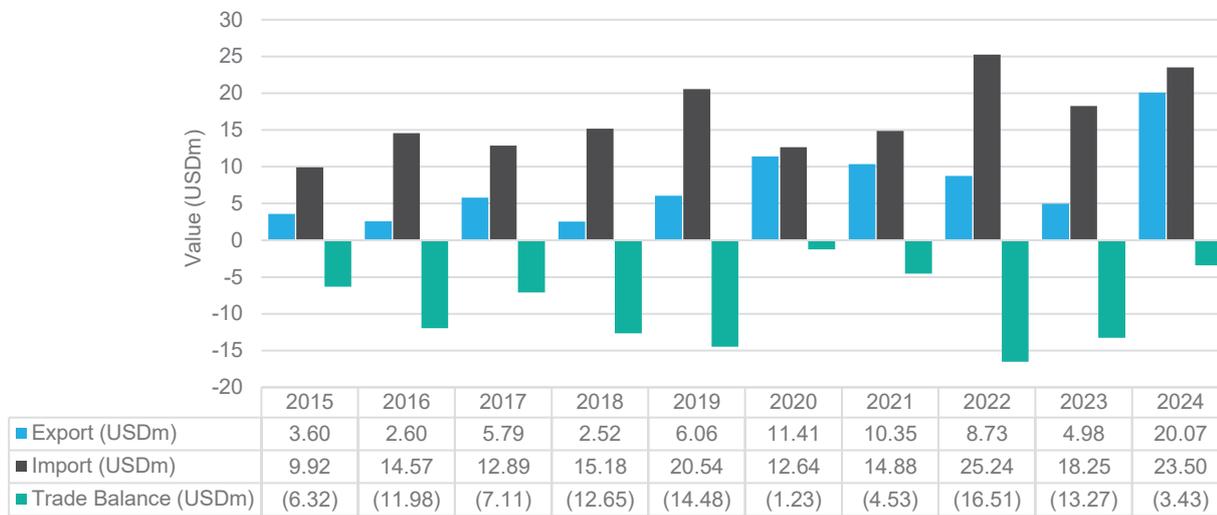
Source: Quantec (2025)

3.8 Cambodia

3.8.1 South Africa's Trade with Cambodia

South Africa's trade with Cambodia for the period 2015 to 2024 is shown in Figure 45. In 2024, South Africa's exports to Cambodia were valued at USD20.07bn in 2024, which was 302.86% higher than the USD4.98bn earned in 2023. South Africa's imports from the country increased by 28.72% y-o-y from a cost of USD18.25bn in 2023 to a cost of USD23.50bn in 2024.

Figure 45: South Africa's trade with Cambodia, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 20 shows that the export category of coal, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal was South Africa's top exported product to Cambodia in 2024 at a value of USD16.39m. Grapes, fresh or dried, followed at USD0.76m, with citrus fruit, fresh or dried, in third position at USD0.56m. The fastest-growing export category to Cambodia in the past five years (2020–2024) was other fruit, fresh, with an average annual growth rate of 345.20%. This was followed by apples, pears and quinces, fresh (with a growth rate of 274.80%), and wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines (142.20%).

Table 20: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Cambodia, 2024

South Africa's exports to Cambodia, 2024				South Africa's imports from Cambodia, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	16.39	20.00%	1	Women's or girls' suits, ensembles, jackets, knitted or crocheted	3.93	35.13%
2	Grapes, fresh or dried	0.76	42.28%	2	T-shirts, singlets and other vests, knitted or crocheted	3.03	25.97%
3	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	0.56	31.98%	3	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	2.70	11.28%
4	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	0.41	274.80%	4	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of textile materials	2.52	18.89%
5	Other fruit, fresh	0.40	345.20%	5	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of leather	2.39	24.29%
6	Medicaments	0.37	30.24%	6	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, knitted or crocheted	2.22	30.20%
7	Synthetic organic tanning substances	0.19	55.77%	7	Men's or boys' suits, knitted or crocheted	0.95	148.18%
8	Other live plants (including their roots)	0.18	23.44%	8	Women's or girls' suits, ensembles	0.78	8.37%
9	Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines	0.13	142.20%	9	Women's or girls' overcoats	0.65	29.99%
10	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines)	0.12	30.06%	10	Men's or boys' shirts, knitted or crocheted	0.54	154.27%
Total exports		20.07	64.63%	Total imports		23.50	9.98%

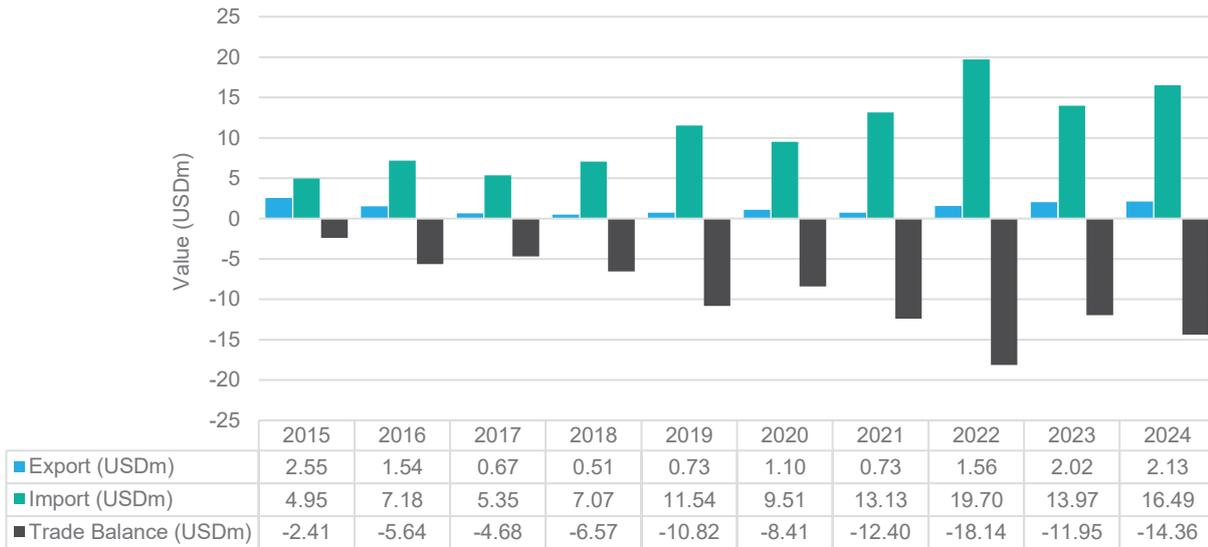
Source: Quantec (2025)

As shown in Table 20, the import category of women’s or girls’ suits, ensembles, jackets, knitted or crocheted was South Africa’s key import product from Cambodia in 2024, at a total cost of USD3.93m. This accounted for 16.72% of total import costs incurred with Cambodia in 2024. Imports of t-shirts, singlets and other vests, knitted or crocheted, ranked second at a cost of USD3.03m, while other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics ranked third at a value of USD58.42m in 2024. Most of the top 10 imports from Cambodia reflected strong import growth, with the following products achieving the highest average annual growth rates from 2020 to 2024: men’s or boys’ shirts knitted or crocheted with a growth rate of 154.27%; men’s or boys’ suits (other than swimwear), knitted or crocheted with a growth rate of 148.18%; and women’s or girls’ suits, ensembles, jackets (other than swimwear), knitted or crocheted with a growth rate of 35.13%.

3.8.2 Western Cape’s Trade with Cambodia

The Western Cape’s trade with Cambodia for the period 2015–2024 is shown in Figure 46. The value of the Western Cape’s exports to Cambodia reached USD2.13m in 2024, increasing by 5.30% y-o-y from the USD2.02m earned in 2023. The province’s associated imports totalled USD16.49m in 2024, an increase of 18.07% y-o-y from the cost of USD13.97m incurred in 2023.

Figure 46: Western Cape’s trade with Cambodia, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 21 shows that grapes, fresh or dried, valued at USD0.52m, accounted for the largest share (24.49%) of the Western Cape’s exports to Cambodia in 2024. Apples, pears, and quinces, fresh, and valued at USD0.41m, made up 19.32% of the province’s exports to the country. Other fruit, fresh at USD0.40m constituted 18.95% of the province’s exports. Women’s or girls’ suits, ensembles (other than swimwear), knitted or crocheted dominated the Western Cape’s import basket from Cambodia in 2024: at a cost of USD3.22m, this import product constituted a 19.54% share of total import costs. This was followed by other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics (at a cost of USD2.18m), and footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of leather (at a cost of USD2.12m).

Table 21: Western Cape’s top 10 export and import products traded with Cambodia, 2020–2024

Western Cape’s exports to Cambodia, 2024				Western Cape’s imports from Cambodia, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Grapes, fresh or dried	0.52	39.39%	1	Women’s or girls’ suits, ensembles (other than swimwear), knitted or crocheted	3.22	29.52%
2	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	0.41	294.80%	2	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	2.18	25.02%
3	Other fruit, fresh	0.40	364.62%	3	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of leather	2.12	24.06%
4	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	0.36	32.67%	4	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, and uppers of textile materials	2.12	18.98%
5	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines)	0.12	28.35%	5	T-shirts, singlets and other vests, knitted or crocheted	1.82	41.27%
6	Wine of fresh grapes	0.11	357.39%	6	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, knitted or crocheted	1.09	22.39%
7	Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar	0.06	73.08%	7	Women’s or girls’ suits, ensembles (other than swimwear), knitted or crocheted	0.66	3.68%
8	Cheese and curd	0.06	20.00%	8	Women’s or girls’ overcoats (including ski-jackets)	0.52	30.58%
9	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations	0.03	-0.79%	9	Men’s or boys’ shirts, knitted or crocheted	0.45	1198.88%
10	Articles for the conveyance or packing of goods	0.03	368.13%	10	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber	0.40	20.00%
Total exports		2.13	33.17%	Total imports		16.49	11.89%

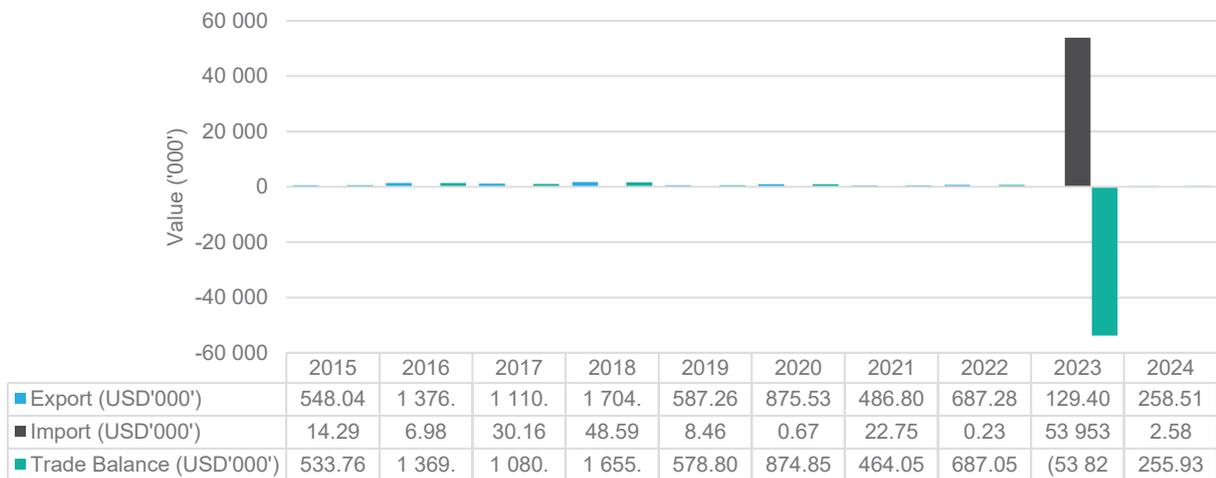
Source: Quantec (2025)

3.9 Brunei Darussalam

3.9.1 South Africa’s Trade with Brunei Darussalam

Figure 47 shows South Africa’s trade with Brunei Darussalam from 2015 to 2024. In 2024, South Africa’s exports to Brunei Darussalam totalled USD258,510.00, an increase of 99.78% y-o-y from the USD129,400.00 recorded in 2023. The country’s imports from Brunei Darussalam decreased sharply to a cost of USD2,580.00 in 2024, down from a cost of USD53,95m incurred in 2023.

Figure 47: South Africa’s Trade with Brunei Darussalam, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 22 details South Africa's top traded products with Brunei Darussalam. The category of other slag and ash, including seaweed ash (kelp) was South Africa's top exported product to Brunei Darussalam in 2024, valued at USD100,360.00. The export of transmission shafts (including cam shafts and crank shafts), valued at USD76,160.00, and salt (including table salt and denatured salt) at a value of USD31,580.00, followed in second and third place respectively. The fastest-growing export categories to Brunei Darussalam among the top 10 export products in 2020–2024 were pepper of the genus piper (with an average growth rate of 198.58%) and centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers (with a growth rate of 194.77%).

Table 22: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Brunei Darussalam, 2024

South Africa's exports to Brunei, 2024				South Africa's imports from Brunei, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USD'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USD'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Other slag and ash, including seaweed ash (kelp)	100.36	23.55%	1	Monitors and projectors	0.11	20.00%
2	Transmission shafts (including cam shafts and crank shafts)	76.16	20.00%	2	Parachutes (including dirigible parachutes and paragliders)	0.08	-17.07%
3	Salt (including table salt and denatured salt)	31.58	144.30%	3	Gas, liquid or electricity supply or production meters	0.02	20.00%
4	Other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip,	16.69	20.00%	4	Discs, tapes, solid-state non-volatile storage devices	0.01	23.92%
5	Centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers	11.94	194.77%	5	Fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat	0.00	0.00%
6	Ships' derricks; cranes, including cable cranes	7.74	20.00%	6	Live fish	0.00	0.00%
7	Ginger, saffron, turmeric (curcuma)	5.50	20.00%	7	Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing	0.00	0.00%
8	Pepper of the genus Piper	3.56	198.58%	8	Polyacetals, other polyethers and epoxide resins, in primary forms	0.00	0.00%
9	Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks and other alliaceous vegetables	1.08	-20.00%	9	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil	0.00	0.00%
10	Imitation jewellery	1.06	39.76%	10	Crustaceans, whether in shell or not	0.00	0.00%
Total exports		258.51		Total imports		2.578	

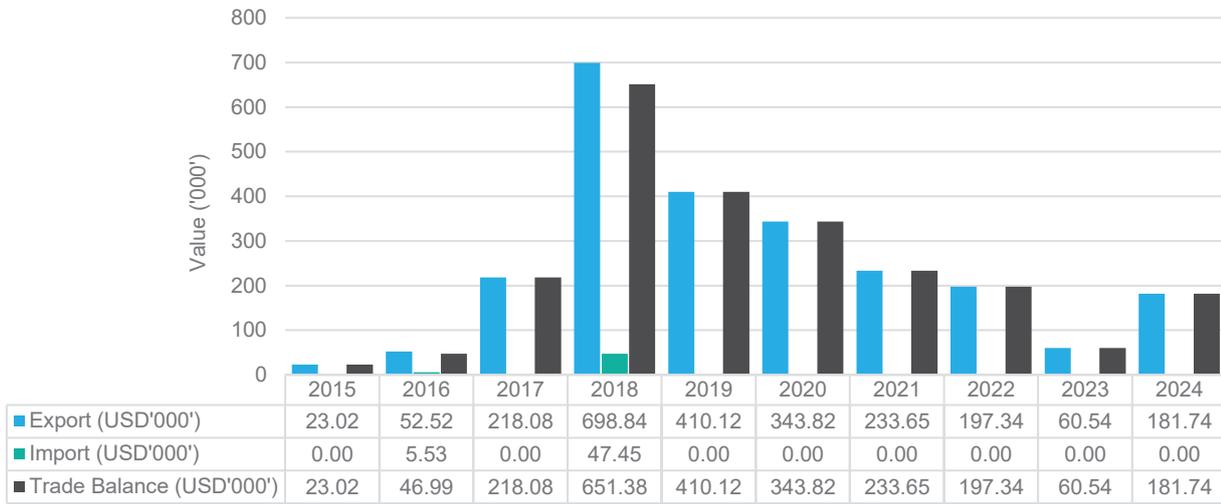
Source: Quantec (2025)

As shown in Table 22, South Africa's top imported product from Brunei Darussalam in 2024 was monitors and projectors, valued at USD110,000.00. This was followed by imports of parachutes (including dirigible parachutes and paragliders), which cost USD80,000.00, while in third place was the import of gas, liquid or electricity supply or production meters, costing USD20,000.00. The fastest-growing import categories from Brunei Darussalam among the top 10 import products in 2020–2024 were discs, tapes, solid-state non-volatile storage devices, with an average growth rate of 23.92%; and gas, liquid or electricity supply or production meters (with a growth rate of 20.00%).

3.9.2 Western Cape's Trade with Brunei

Local export receipts from trade with Brunei Darussalam totalled USD181,740.00 in 2024, representing an increase of 200.18% y-o-y from a value of USD60,540.00 in 2023. This can be observed in Figure 48. Over the past decade, from 2015 to 2024, total import costs from Brunei Darussalam totalled USD52,980.00. The Western Cape recorded a trade surplus with Brunei throughout this period.

Figure 48: Western Cape's trade with Brunei Darussalam, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 23 lists the Western Cape's top traded products with Brunei Darussalam. Other slag and ash, including seaweed ash (kelp), was the Western Cape's top exported product to Brunei Darussalam in 2024, valued at USD100,360.00. Exports of salt (including table salt and denatured salt), valued at USD31,580.00; and other plates, sheets, film, foil, and strip (USD16,690.00) followed in second and third place respectively. The fastest-growing export categories to Brunei Darussalam among the top 10 export products in 2020–2024 were centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers with an average growth rate of 194.77%; and salt (including table salt and denatured salt) with a growth rate of 164.30%.

Table 23: Western Cape's top 10 top export and import products traded with Brunei Darussalam, 2020–2024

Western Cape's exports to Brunei, 2024				Western Cape's imports from Brunei, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USD'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USD'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Other slag and ash, including seaweed ash (kelp)	100.36	23.55%	1	Fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat	0.00	0.00%
2	Salt (including table salt and denatured salt)	31.58	164.30%	2	Crustaceans, whether in shell or not	0.00	0.00%
3	Other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip	16.69	20.00%	3	Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06)	0.00	0.00%
4	Centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers	11.94	194.77%	4	Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing	0.00	0.00%
5	Ships' derricks; cranes, including cable cranes	7.74	20.00%	5	Other articles of plastics and articles of other materials	0.00	0.00%
6	Ginger, saffron, turmeric (curcuma)	5.50	20.00%	6	Envelopes, letter cards, plain postcards and correspondence cards	0.00	0.00%
7	Pepper of the genus Piper	3.56	32.11%	7	Registers, account books, notebooks, order books	0.00	0.00%
8	Onions, shallots, garlic	1.08	20.00%	8	Refrigerators, freezers and other refrigerating or freezing equipment	0.00	0.00%
9	Imitation jewellery	1.06	20.00%	9	Machinery	0.00	0.00%
10	Dried vegetables, whole, cut, sliced	0.87	39.04%	10	Electrical transformers, static converters (e.g., rectifiers) and inductors	0.00	20.00%
Total exports		181.74	13.42%	Total imports		0.00	0.00%

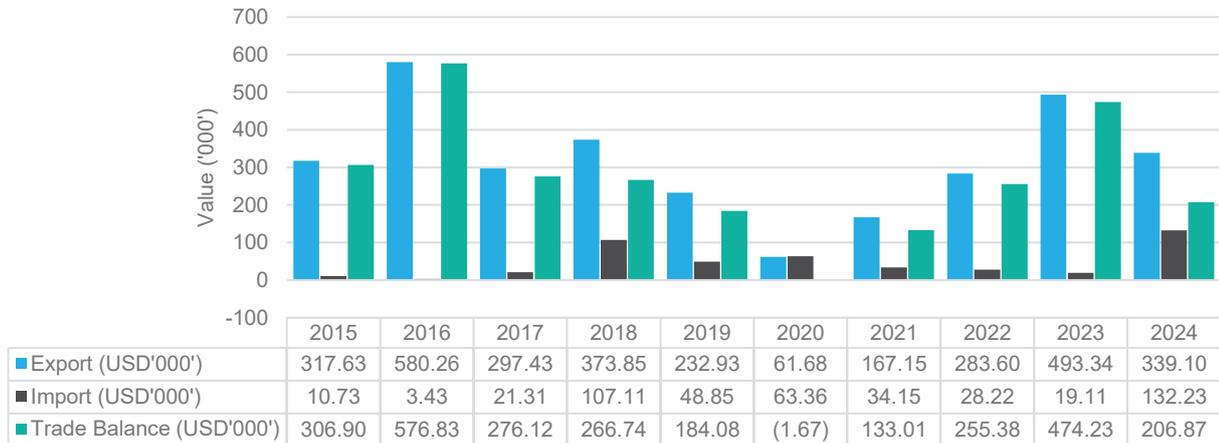
Source: Quantec (2025)

3.10 Lao People's Democratic Republic

3.10.1 South Africa's Trade with the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Figure 49 shows South Africa's trade with the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 2015 to 2024. In 2024, South Africa's exports to the Lao People's Democratic Republic totalled USD339,100.00, declining by -31.27% y-o-y from the USD493,340.00 recorded in 2023. The country's imports from the Lao People's Democratic Republic increased by 591.80% y-o-y to a cost of USD132,230.00 in 2024, up from a cost of USD19,110.00 incurred in 2023.

Figure 49: South Africa's trade with Lao PDR, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Table 24 details South Africa's top traded products with the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The category of machinery, plant, or laboratory equipment, valued at USD163,560.00, was South Africa's top exported product to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2024. The export of medicaments, valued at USD36,690.00, and other live animals, valued at USD33,140.00, followed in second and third place, respectively. The fastest-growing export categories to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, among the top 10 export products in 2020–2024 were machinery, plant or laboratory equipment (with an average growth rate of 208.11%); and industrial or laboratory furnaces and ovens with a growth rate of 136.20%.

Table 24: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with the Lao PDR, 2020–2024

South Africa's exports to Lao PDR 2024				South Africa's imports from Lao PDR, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USD'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USD'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Machinery, plant or laboratory equipment	163.56	208.11%	1	Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants	0.11	20.00%
2	Medicaments	36.69	20.00%	2	Pharmaceutical goods	0.08	-17.07%
3	Other live animals	33.14	20.00%	3	Aircraft and spacecraft; propellers and rotors and parts thereof	0.02	20.00%
4	Textile products and articles for technical uses	28.83	122.34%	4	Hats and other headgear, knitted or crocheted	0.01	23.92%
5	Machinery for sorting, screening, separating, washing, crushing,	27.01	94.87%	5	Electrical machines and apparatus, having individual functions	0.00	0.00%
6	Other articles of iron or steel	9.76	0.00%	6	Electric motors and generators (excluding generating sets)	0.00	0.00%
7	Furnace burners for liquid fuel, for pulverised solid fuel or for gas	4.78	16.47%	7	Instruments and apparatus for measuring or checking the flow	0.00	0.00%
8	Industrial or laboratory furnaces and ovens	4.50	136.20%	8	Radar apparatus, radio navigational aid apparatus	0.00	0.00%
9	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks	4.19	20.00%	9	Oscilloscopes, spectrum analysers and other instruments	0.00	0.00%
10	Measuring or checking instruments	3.91	1.60%	10	Hydrometers and similar floating instruments	0.00	0.00%
Total exports		339.10	41.97%	Total imports		132.23	105.15%

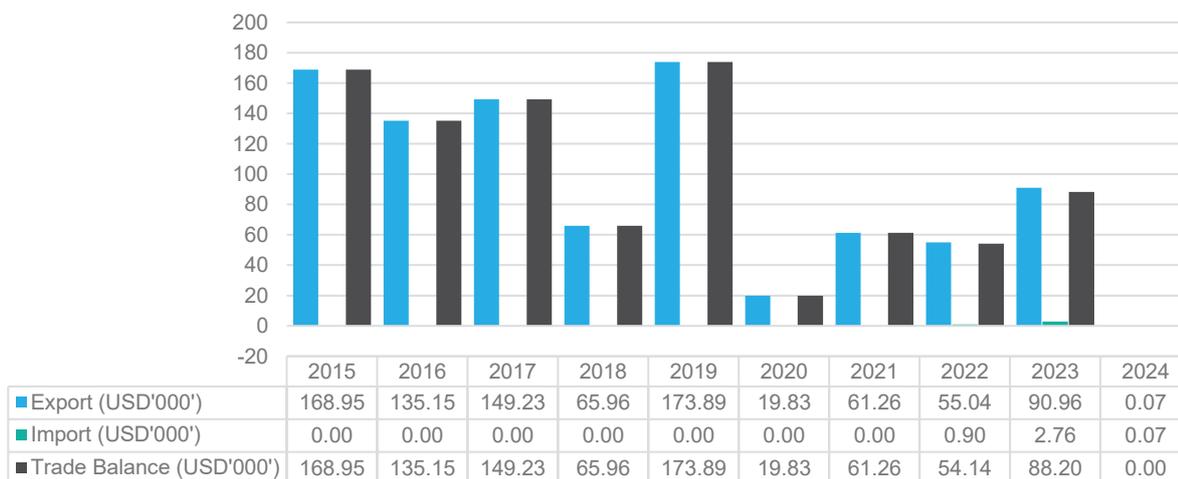
Source: Quantec (2025)

South Africa's top imported product from the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2024 was fruit, nuts, and other edible parts of plants, which were valued at USD110,000.00, as shown in Table 24. This was followed by imports of pharmaceutical goods, which cost USD80,000.00, while in third place was the import of aircraft and spacecraft; propellers and rotors and parts thereof, costing USD20,000.00. The fastest-growing import among the top 10 import products in 2020–2024 was the category of hats and other headgear, knitted or crocheted, with an average growth rate of 23.92%.

3.10.2 Western Cape's Trade with the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Local export receipts from trade with the Lao People's Democratic Republic totalled USD70,000 in 2024, representing a decline of –99.83% y-o-y from the value of USD90,960.00 in 2023. This can be observed in Figure 50. In turn, import costs from that country totalled USD70,000 in 2024, representing a decline of 97.50% y-o-y on the 2023 cost of USD2,760.00. The Western Cape recorded a trade surplus with the Lao People's Democratic Republic throughout this period.

Figure 50: Western Cape's trade with the Lao PDR, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)



Western Cape: Solar Farm, Cape West Coast

Table 25 shows that the Western Cape's top export product to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2024 was other printed matter, including printed pictures and photographs (at a value of USD70,000). The top imported products were seeds, fruit and spores, of a kind, used for sowing and valued at USD40,000.

Table 25: The Western Cape's top 10 export and import products traded with the Lao PDR, 2020–2024

Western Cape's exports to Lao, 2024				Western Cape's imports from Lao, 2024			
Rank	Product	Value (USD '000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024	Rank	Product	Value (USDm'000'), 2024	Avg. growth rate, 2020-2024
1	Other printed matter, including printed pictures and photographs	0.07	0.00%	1	Seeds, fruit and spores, of a kind used for sowing	0.04	20.00%
2	Plants and parts of plants (including seeds and fruits)	0.00	0.00%	2	Handkerchiefs	0.03	20.00%
3	Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters	0.00	0.00%	3	Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar	0.00	0.00%
4	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form	0.00	0.00%	4	Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing	0.00	0.00%
5	Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines	0.00	2.02%	5	Stoves, ranges, grates, cookers	0.00	0.00%
6	Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry, mead)	0.00	0.00%	6	Other articles of aluminium	0.00	0.00%
7	Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80 % vol.	0.00	0.00%	7	Automatic data processing machines and units thereof	0.00	0.00%
8	Beer made from malt	0.00	0.00%	8	Parts and accessories (other than covers, carrying cases and the like)	0.00	0.00%
9	Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06)	0.00	0.00%	9	Transmission apparatus for radio-broadcasting or television	0.00	0.00%
10	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin (other than medicaments)	0.00	0.00%	10	Electronic integrated circuits	0.00	20.00%
Total exports		0.07	15.09%	Total imports		0.07	41.94%

Source: Quantec (2025)



Western Cape: George Municipality, Garden Route

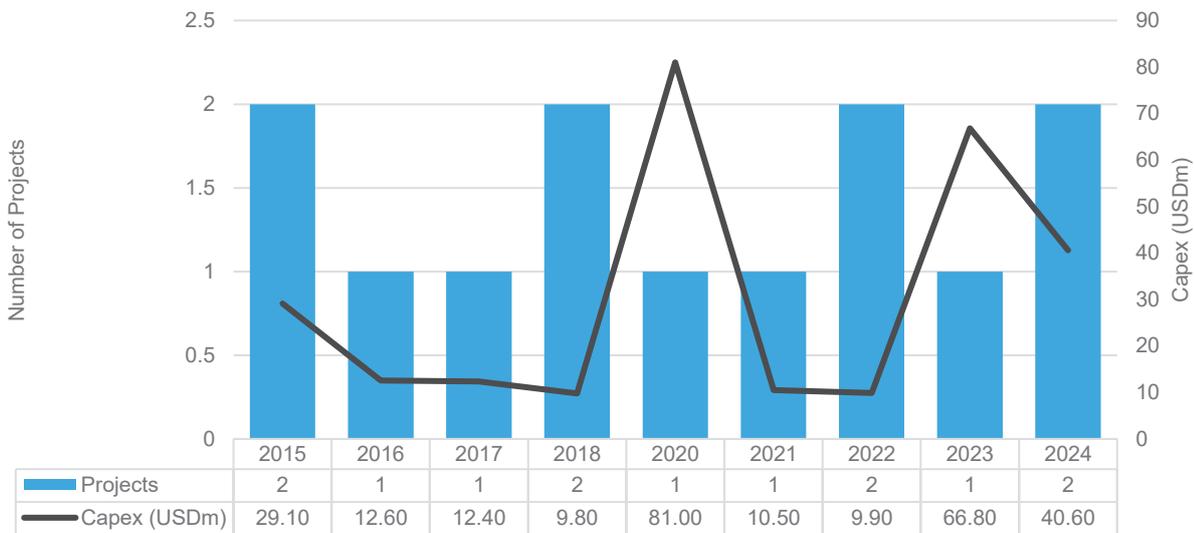
4 Foreign Direct Investment

This section provides an overview of FDI flows between South Africa, the Western Cape and the ASEAN region. It highlights both inbound and outbound WEW trends, offering insights into the economic linkages and strategic partnerships shaping trade and investment relations. The aggregated dataWWW reflects the growing importance of ASEAN as a regional bloc in South Africa’s international investment landscape and underscores the Western Cape’s role as a gateway for ASEAN investors seeking opportunities in the country.

4.1 FDI from ASEAN in South Africa

During the period January 2015 to December 2024, ASEAN companies undertook 13 FDI projects in South Africa, as shown in Figure 51. This generated USD272.70m in capex and resulted in the creation of 1,010 jobs. These investments originated from 13 ASEAN companies, which demonstrated broad-based interest from ASEAN businesses across multiple sectors. The substantial investment commitment underscores ASEAN’s confidence in South Africa’s long-term economic prospects and the country’s role as a gateway to the African continent (fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times, 2025).

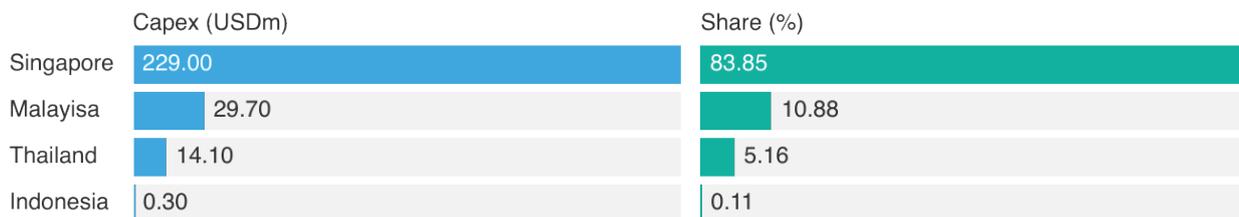
Figure 51: FDI from ASEAN in South Africa, 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

Figure 52 shows that Singapore emerged as the leading investor, accounting for over 83.00% of total capex and more than 40.00% of the jobs created, with seven projects initiated. Malaysia followed with three projects and a notable contribution to employment, while Thailand and Indonesia had more modest investments. This highlights Singapore’s dominant role in ASEAN–South Africa investment relations, and reflects broader regional engagement across multiple sectors.

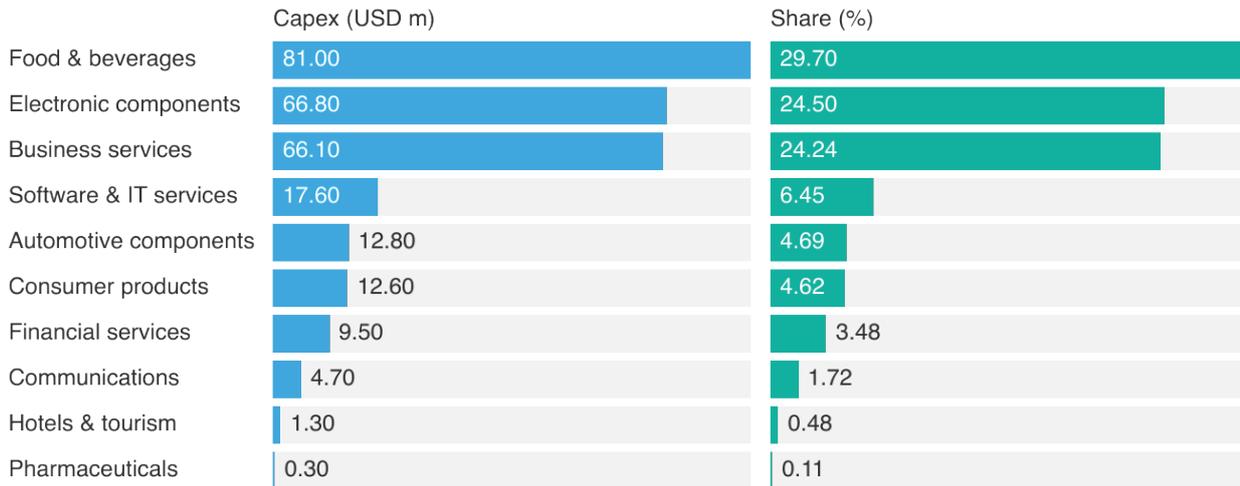
Figure 52: ASEAN FDI in SA by source market, 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

Between January 2015 and December 2024, the top three ASEAN FDI sectors in South Africa (measured in capex) were food & beverages (with capex valued at USD81.00m) from a single project; electronic components (USD66.80m); and business services (USD66.10m from three projects). This is shown in Figure 53. These sectors not only attracted the highest investment but also contributed significantly to employment, with the creation of 200 jobs, 71 jobs, and 100 jobs respectively. This underscores ASEAN’s strategic interest in South Africa’s consumer and service industries, with food & beverages leading in both investment value and job creation.

Figure 53: FDI from ASEAN in South African sectors (measured in capex), 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

Listed in Table 26 are the top ASEAN companies that invested in South Africa from 2015 to 2024, ranked according to the amounts invested in capex. According to FDI Intelligence (2025), Wilmar Processing South Africa was the largest ASEAN investor in South Africa during the review period, having committed USD81.00m in capex. This was invested in one project in the food & beverages sector, which resulted in 200 jobs and demonstrated ASEAN’s growing footprint in South Africa’s food & beverages sector. Ace Green Recycling, a global leader in electronic components, followed with an investment of USD66.80m. Other notable investors included GlobeVisa Group (USD27.80m), Arcade (USD27.80m), and Ogihara (USD12.80m), all of which channelled capital into strategic sectors such as business services, automotive components, and consumer products.

Table 26: Top 10 companies (measured in capex) – ASEAN FDI in South Africa, 2015–2024

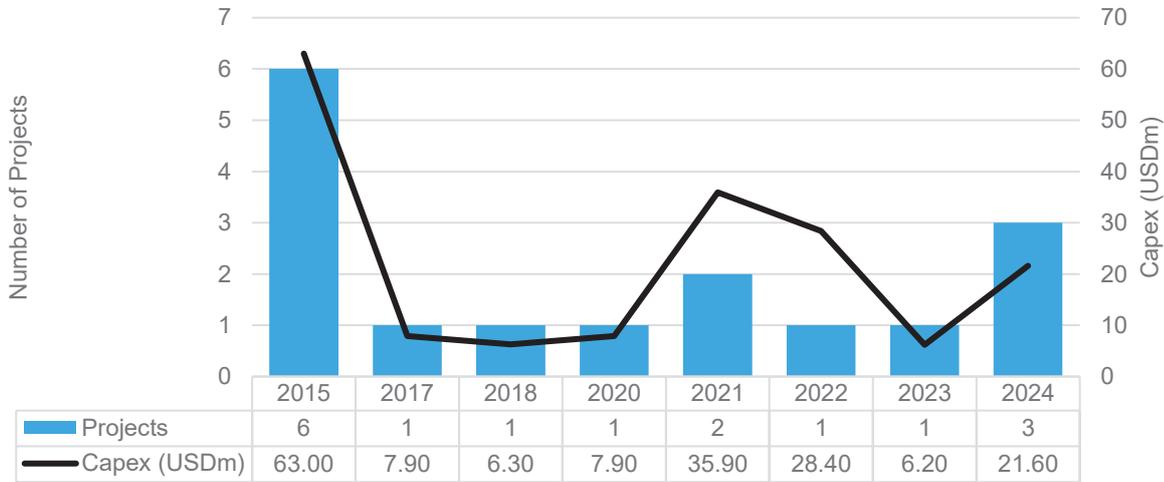
Rank	Company	Sectors	Projects	Capex (USDm)	Jobs
1	Wilmar Processing South Africa	Food & beverages	1	81.00	200
2	Ace Green Recycling	Electronic components	1	66.80	71
3	GlobeVisa Group	Business services	1	27.80	12
4	Arcade	Business services	1	27.80	12
5	Ogihara	Automotive components	1	12.80	160
6	Nulutex	Consumer products	1	12.60	280
7	iFlix	Software & IT services	1	12.40	68
8	Audience DNA (ADNA)	Business services	1	10.50	76
9	Black Banx (WB21)	Financial services	1	9.50	27
10	Thunes	Software & IT services	1	5.20	9
Total			13	273.1	1 010

Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

4.2 Outward FDI from South Africa in ASEAN Markets

Between January 2015 and December 2024, 11 South African companies invested in 16 outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) projects in the ASEAN region, with a total capex value of USD177.20m. Figure 54 shows that South Africa's largest capex injections in ASEAN were in 2015 and 2021, when the respective amounts of USD63.00m and USD35.90m were invested.

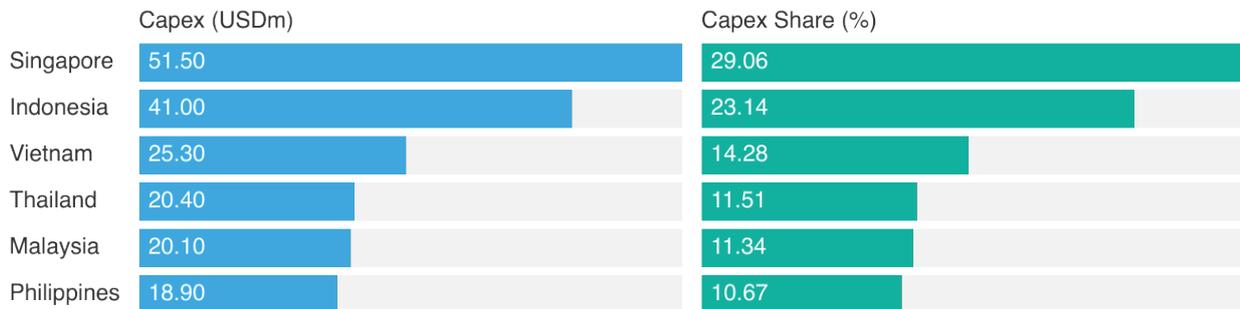
Figure 54: OFDI from South Africa in ASEAN, 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

From January 2015 to December 2024, South Africa initiated 16 FDI projects across six ASEAN countries, totalling USD177.20m in capital investment and generating 1,146 jobs. As shown in Figure 55, Singapore was the top investment destination in the ASEAN region for South African investors with investment of USD51.50m, followed by Indonesia (USD41.00m) and Vietnam (USD25.30m). Interestingly, Malaysia, despite receiving a lower capex of USD20.10m, recorded the highest number of jobs (477) that were generated from these investments which is indicative of the country's strong labour-intensive investment profile. These figures reflect South Africa's growing engagement with ASEAN economies, particularly in sectors that support employment and regional integration.

Figure 55: South Africa's FDI in ASEAN by destination market, 2015–2024

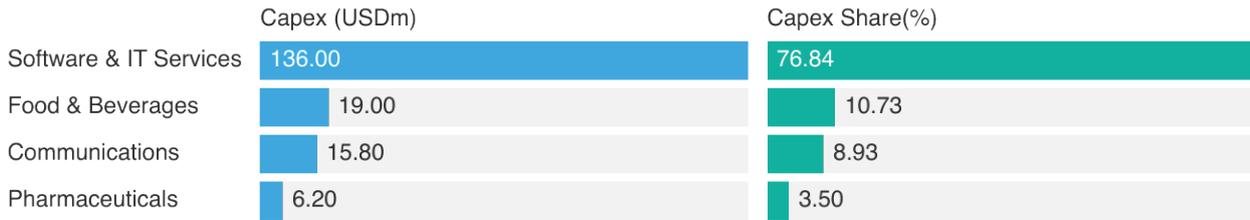


Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

These investments spanned across four key sectors, highlighting the diversity of South Africa's OFDI portfolio (FDI Intelligence, 2025). Figure 56 shows that the software & IT services sector attracted the largest share of capital investment, with 12 projects accounting for USD136.00m and resulting in 976 jobs. This represented 76.84% of the total capex invested by South Africa in ASEAN during this period. This was followed by investments in the food and beverages sector, which received USD19.00m in capex through a single project, generating one job. The communications sector attracted USD15.80m in capex across two projects, resulting in 42 jobs.

The other sector that benefited from investments was the pharmaceutical sector, with a capex of USD6.20m. Although the individual project values in these sectors were relatively modest, their presence signals a continued interest in niche industries in the ASEAN market.

Figure 56: OFDI from South Africa in ASEAN by sectors (measured in capex), 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

Between January 2015 and December 2024, South African companies invested a total of USD177.20m across ASEAN markets, as shown in Table 27. The software & IT services sector dominated capital flows, led by Cartrack with the highest single-company investment of USD50.40m across five projects. FoondaMate followed with USD28.40m in Research and Development-focused investment, while OLX, TymeBank, and Jumo.World also contributed to the strong capex footprint in the software & IT services sector. Outside of tech, Global Produce invested USD19.00m in the food & beverages sector, and Westcon Group added USD 16.9 million to the communications sector. This distribution highlights South Africa’s strategic focus on digital expansion and scalable service models in ASEAN, with a clear emphasis on high-value, tech-driven investments.

Table 27: Top 10 companies (measured in capex) – South Africa’s OFDI in ASEAN, 2015–2024

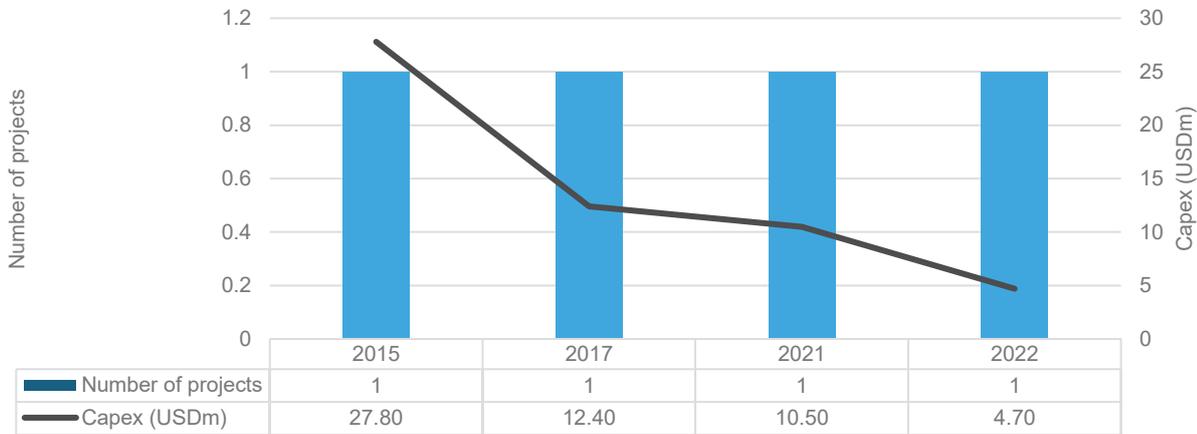
Rank	Company	Sectors	Projects	Capex (USDm)	Jobs
1	Cartrack	Software & IT services	5	50.40	216
2	FoondaMate	Software & IT services	1	28.40	86
3	Global Produce	Food & beverages	1	19.00	49
4	Westcon Group	Communications	1	16.90	86
5	OLX	Software & IT services	1	12.60	88
6	TymeBank	Software & IT services	2	12.60	57
7	Logicals	Software & IT services	1	9.00	426
8	Netstar (Altech Netstar)	Communications	1	7.90	21
9	Mix Telematics	Communications	1	7.90	21
10	Jumo.World	Software & IT services	1	6.30	17
Total			16	177.20	1 146

Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

4.3 FDI from ASEAN in the Western Cape, 2015–2024

Between January 2015 and December 2024, the Western Cape attracted a total of four FDI projects from ASEAN, with a cumulative capex value of USD55.40m, as illustrated in Figure 57. These investments supported the creation of approximately 218 jobs across the province (FDI Intelligence, 2025). The highest capex was recorded in 2015, with ASEAN firms investing USD27.80m across twelve projects, making it the most active year in terms of capital value. This was followed by investments in 2017 and 2021, with capex valued at USD12.40m and USD10.50m respectively.

Figure 57: FDI from ASEAN in the Western Cape (Jan 2015–Dec 2024)



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

4.4 ASEAN FDI in the Western Cape by Source Market, 2015–2024

Between January 2015 and December 2024, ASEAN countries invested a total of USD55.40m in the Western Cape across four projects. Singapore was the top investor, with a capex amount of USD38.30m, accounting for nearly 70.00% of the total capex, while Malaysia contributed USD17.10m. Although the number of projects and companies involved was relatively small, the investment reflects targeted interest in the province, particularly from Singapore, which continues to be a dominant ASEAN investor in South Africa. This is shown in Figure 58.

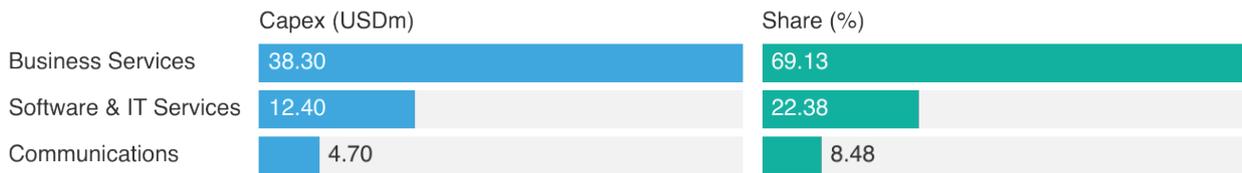
Figure 58: Top 10 companies (measured in capex) – ASEAN FDI in the Western Cape, 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

Figure 59 shows investments that reflect both the breadth and sectoral diversity of ASEAN’s engagement with the Western Cape, which point to opportunities for deepening bilateral commercial ties in strategic, future-facing sectors. The business services sector attracted USD38.30m across two projects, accounting for the largest share of jobs (88), which underscores the sector’s growing importance to ASEAN investors. The software and IT services sector followed, having secured USD12.40m in investments through a single project, reflecting the province’s strong value proposition in tech solutions. Communications was the third-largest sector benefitting from ASEAN FDI (when measured in capex) with a single project valued at USD4.70m that generated 62 jobs.

Figure 59: FDI from ASEAN in Western Cape sectors (measured in capex), 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

From January 2015 to December 2024, ASEAN companies invested a total of USD55.40m in the Western Cape across four projects. Table 28 illustrates that the largest investment came from Arcade in the business services sector, with a contribution of USD27.80m, nearly half of the total capex. iFlix, operating in software and IT services, followed with USD12.40m, used for establishing a regional headquarters. Audience DNA (ADNA) added USD10.50m to business services, while Two AM Music Global invested USD4.70m in communications. This distribution shows a clear preference for service-oriented sectors, with business services and digital platforms attracting the bulk of ASEAN investment in the province.

Table 28: Top 10 companies (measured in capex) – ASEAN’s FDI in the Western Cape, 2015–2024

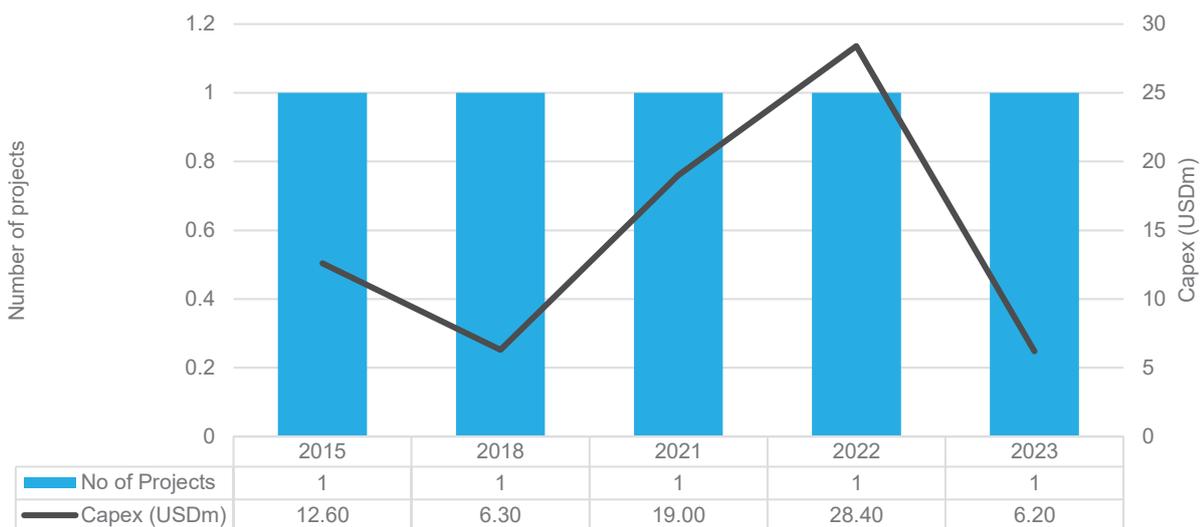
Rank	Company	Sectors	Projects	Capex (USDm)	Jobs
1	Arcade	Business services	1	27.80	12
2	iFlix	Software & IT services	1	12.40	68
3	Audience DNA (ADNA)	Business services	1	10.50	76
4	Two AM Music Global	Communications	1	4.70	62
Total			4	55.4	218

Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

4.5 OFDI from the Western Cape in ASEAN

Figure 60 shows that the largest investment occurred in 2022 when a Western Cape company injected USD28.60m in ASEAN, which generated 88 jobs. While most projects were relatively modest in capex, typically under USD20.00m, the OFDI indicates sustained interest from the Western Cape in tapping into the ASEAN market, particularly in the technology- innovation driven sectors.

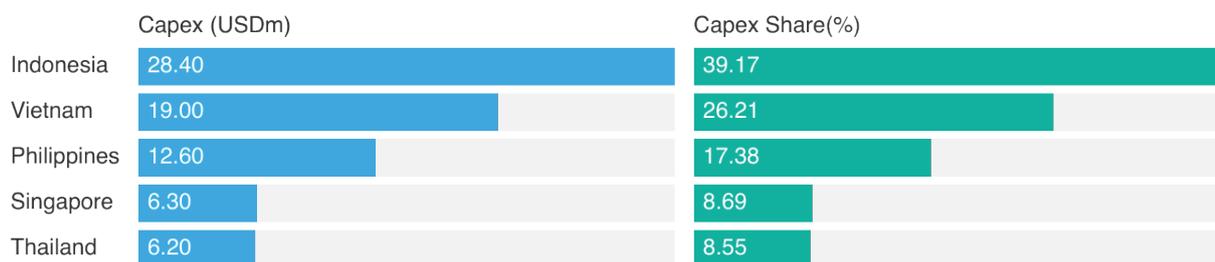
Figure 60: OFDI from the Western Cape in ASEAN, 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

Figure 61 shows that between January 2015 and December 2024, companies from the Western Cape invested a total of USD72.50m across five ASEAN countries. The largest recipient was Indonesia, which attracted USD28.40m. This was followed by Vietnam (USD19.00m) and the Philippines (USD12.60m). While Singapore and Thailand received smaller investments of USD6.30m and USD6.20m respectively, the spread of capital across all five countries reflects a balanced and regionally inclusive investment approach. This highlights the Western Cape's growing footprint in southeast Asia, with a clear emphasis on high-value engagements in emerging markets.

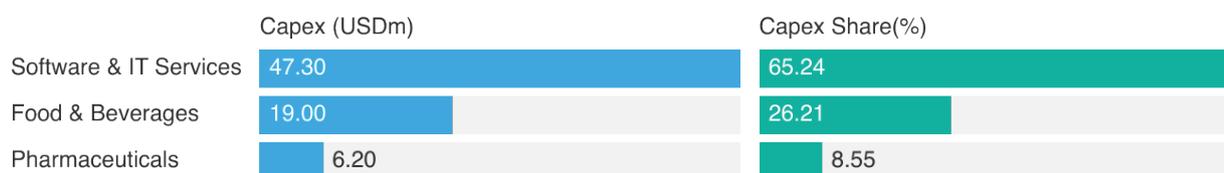
Figure 61: The Western Cape's FDI in ASEAN by destination market, 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

In Figure 62 it can be seen that between January 2015 and December 2024, companies from the Western Cape invested a total of USD 72.50m in ASEAN, with most of FDI directed towards the software and IT services sector. This sector accounted for USD47.30m across three projects, representing nearly two-thirds of the total capex and creating 191 jobs. The food & beverages sector followed with USD19.00m, while pharmaceuticals received USD6.20m. This investment pattern highlights the Western Cape's strategic focus on digital innovation and scalable service industries in ASEAN, with a complementary interest in consumer and health-related sectors.

Figure 62: OFDI from the Western Cape in ASEAN by sectors (measured in capex), 2015–2024



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved

During the period January 2015 and December 2024, five Western Cape companies invested a total of USD72.50m in ASEAN markets. FoondaMate led with the highest single-company investment of USD28.40m in software and IT services, focused on research and development. Global Produce followed with USD19.00m in the food and beverages sector. This is illustrated in Table 29.

OLX and Jumo.World contributed USD12.60m and USD6.30m respectively, both in software-related activities. Wuhan General Group (M2Bio Sciences) invested USD 6.20m in pharmaceuticals, highlighting a growing interest in health-related ventures. This reflects a strong emphasis on tech-driven and scalable business models, with software and IT services accounting for most of the capital flow.

Table 29: Top 10 companies (measured in capex) – the Western Cape's OFDI in ASEAN, 2015–2024

Rank	Company	Sectors	Projects	Capex (USDm)	Jobs
1	FoondaMate	Software & IT services	1	28.40	86
2	Global Produce	Food & beverages	1	19.00	49
3	OLX	Software & IT services	1	12.60	88
4	Jumo.World	Software & IT services	1	6.30	17
5	Wuhan General Group (M2Bio Sciences)	Pharmaceuticals	1	6.20	79
Total			5	72.50	319

Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2025). All Rights Reserved



Western Cape: Hermanus, Cape Overberg

5 Tourism Trends

This section provides an overview of the tourism trends related to six of the 10 member states of ASEAN. The analysis is two-fold and provides:

- An overview of trends relating to the total number of outbound departures by air. This section examines the patterns of outbound travel by air from the six ASEAN countries, focusing on both leisure and business-related outbound departures projected from 2024 to 2030.
- An overview of tourism trends in South Africa and the Western Cape. This section examines the dynamics of tourism flows from the six ASEAN countries to South Africa and the Western Cape in 2019–2024. In addition, it highlights the total foreign direct spend by tourists in South Africa and the Western Cape in 2024.

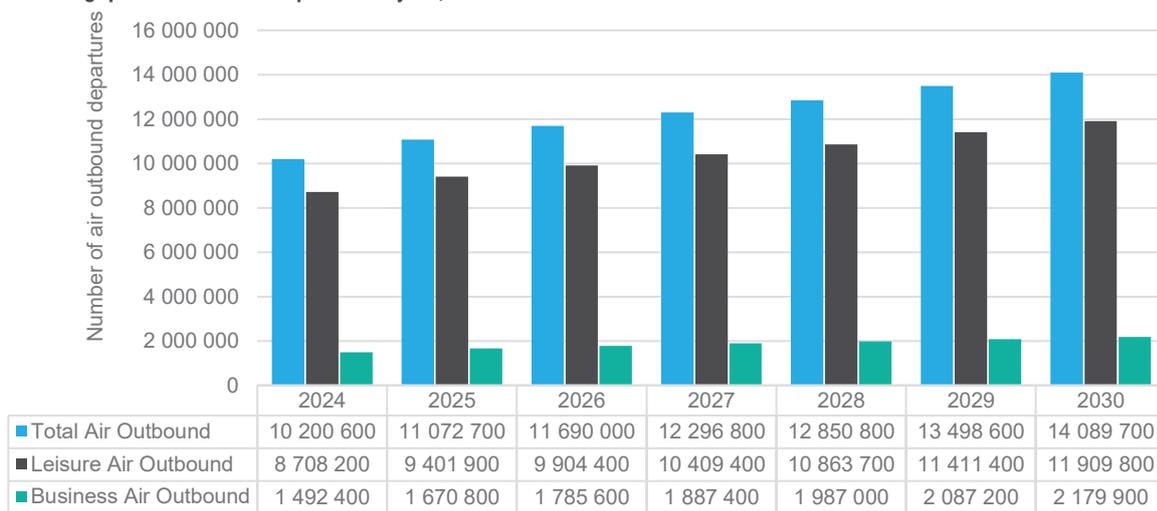
5.1 Singapore

5.1.1 Singapore’s Outbound Departures by Air

Figure 63 shows that in 2024, the total number of outbound departures by air from Singapore reached 10.2 million, representing a 7.94% y-o-y increase in relation to 2023. Looking ahead, Singapore’s outbound departures are estimated to rise steadily to 11.0 million in 2025 and are forecast to reach 14.0 million by 2030.

Leisure has emerged as the primary driver of outbound departures from Singapore, with estimates suggesting a total of 9.4 million departures in 2025 and a forecast of 11.9 million by 2030.

Figure 63: Singapore’s outbound departures by air, 2024–2030F



Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

Note: All figures shown for 2025 are estimates (E) and forecast projections (F) for the years 2026 to 2030.

*Air outbound includes outbound trips by residents taken on scheduled airlines, charter or low-cost carriers for business and leisure purposes.

5.1.2 Singapore's Tourism Highlights

Table 30: Singapore's travel trends, 2024

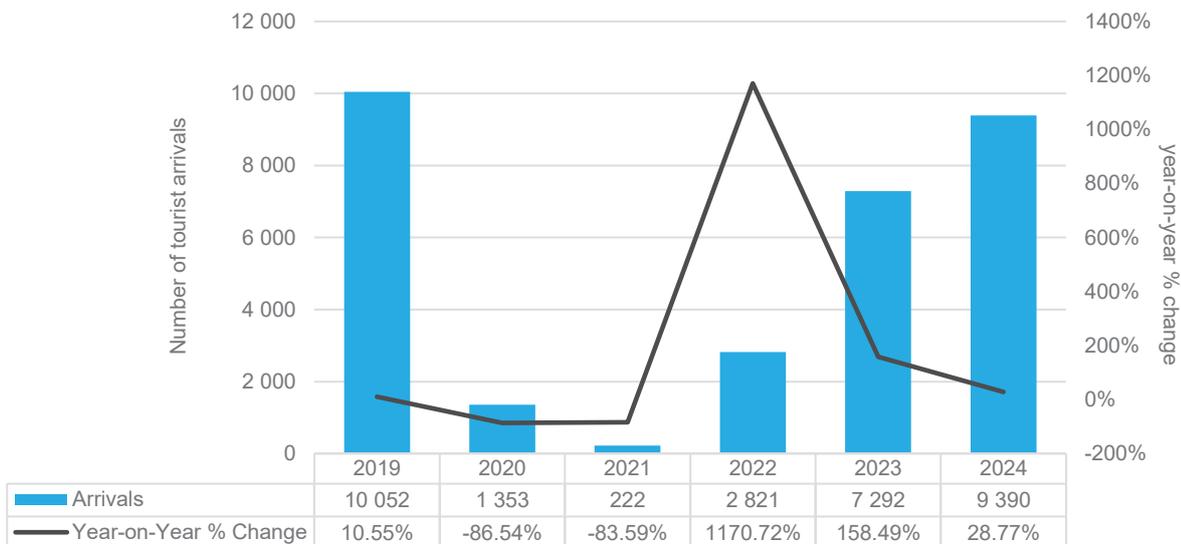
Travel Trends (2024)	
South Africa	Western Cape
Singapore's Tourist Arrivals	
9 390 (28.77% increase compared to 2023)	5 194 (24.71% increase compared to 2023)
Total Foreign Direct Spend	
R178.1 million (31.57% increase compared to 2023)	R90.7 million (37.51% increase compared to 2023)
Length of Stay	
10.1 nights (8.9% increase compared to 2023)	7.7 nights (3.1% increase compared to 2023)

Source: South African Tourism (2025)

5.1.3 Singapore's Tourist Arrivals in South Africa

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 9,390 tourists from Singapore, representing a 28.77% increase in relation to 2023, as indicated in Figure 64. Nationally, this market contributed R178.1 million in total foreign direct spend in 2024 and visitors stayed in the country for 10.1 nights on average.

Figure 64: Singapore's tourist arrivals in South Africa, 2019–2024

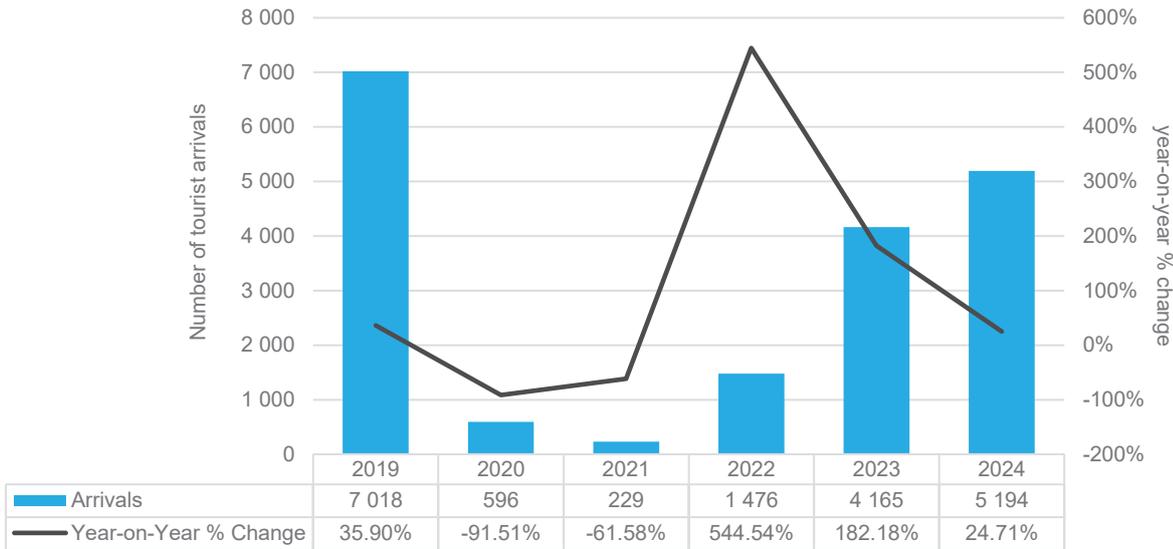


Source: South African Tourism (2025)

5.1.4 Singapore's Tourist Arrivals in the Western Cape

Figure 65 shows that in 2024, a total of 5,194 Singaporean tourists visited the Western Cape, marking an impressive 24.71% increase compared to 2023. In 2024, this market contributed R90.7 million in total foreign direct spend to the Western Cape's economy, equating to an average of R18,000 per tourist and an average stay of 7.7 nights in the province.

Figure 65: Singapore's tourist arrivals in the Western Cape, 2019–2024



Source: South African Tourism (2025)

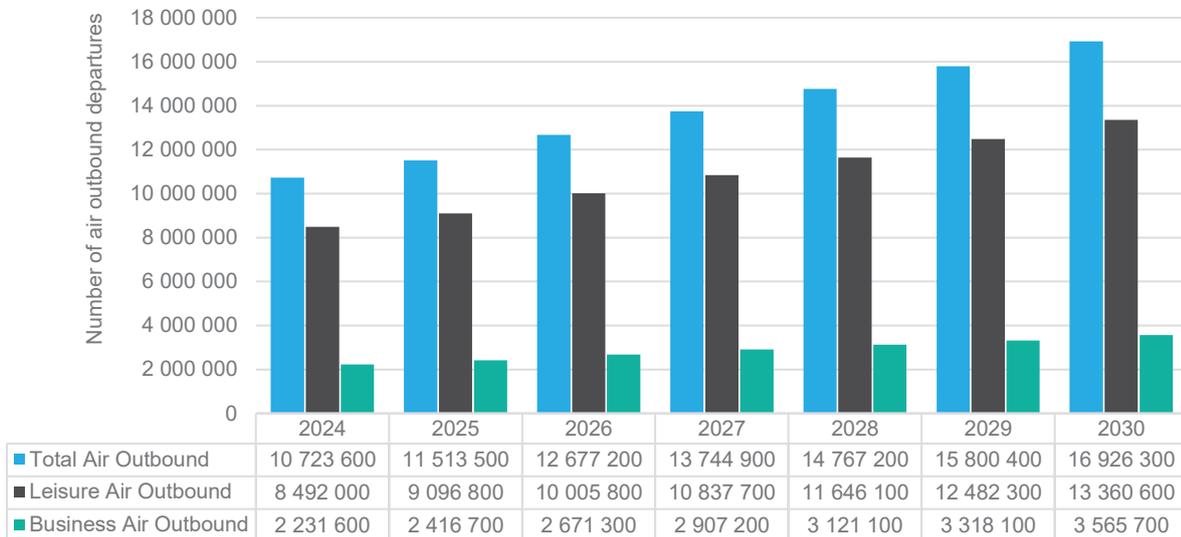
5.2 Malaysia

5.2.1 Malaysia's Outbound Departures by Air

Figure 66 shows that in 2024, the total number of outbound departures by air from Malaysia reached 10.7 million, reflecting a y-o-y increase of 12.76% in relation to 2023. Looking ahead, Malaysia's total outbound departures by air are estimated to rise steadily to 11.5 million in 2025 and are forecast to reach 16.9 million by 2030.

Leisure has emerged as the primary driver of outbound departures from Malaysia, with estimates suggesting a total of 9.0 million departures in 2025 and a forecast of 13.3 million by 2030.

Figure 66: Malaysia's outbound departures by air, 2024–2030F



Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

Note: All figures shown for 2025 are estimates (E) and forecast projections (F) for the years 2026 to 2030.

*Air outbound includes outbound trips by residents taken on scheduled airlines, charter or low-cost carriers for business and leisure purposes.

5.2.2 Malaysia’s Tourism Highlights

Table 31: Malaysia’s tourism highlights

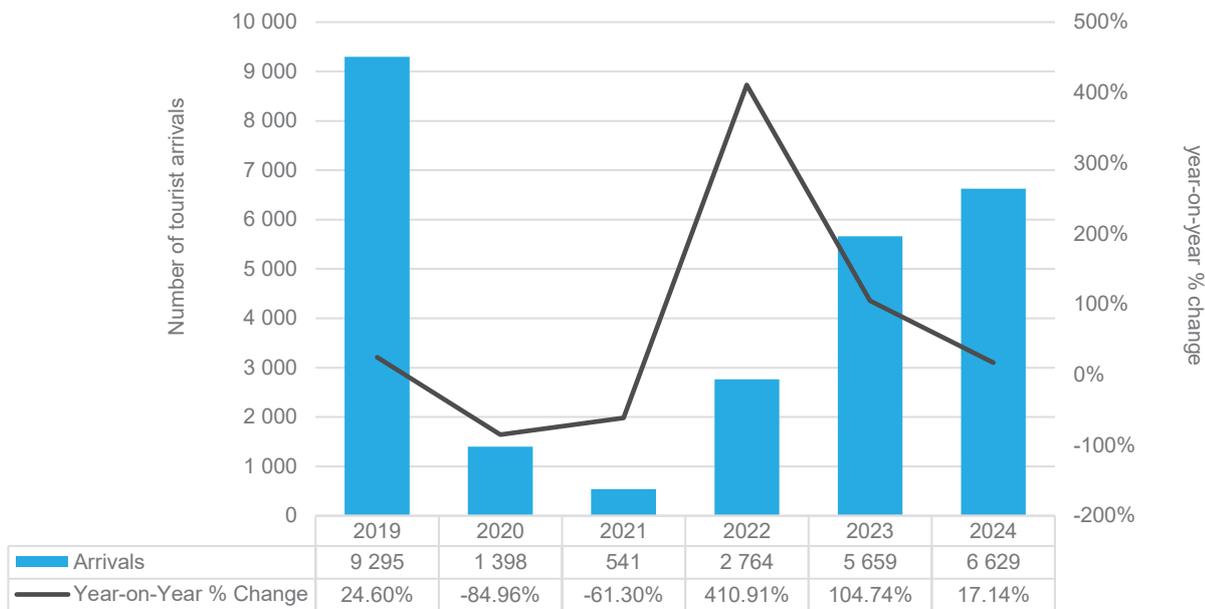
Travel Trends (2024)	
South Africa	Western Cape
Malaysia’s Tourist Arrivals	
6 629 (17.14% increase compared to 2023)	3 299 (19.36% increase compared to 2023)
Total Foreign Direct Spend	
R125.9 million (26.86% increase compared to 2023)	R31.9 million (-3.80% decrease compared to 2023)
Length of Stay	
12.7 nights (-42.5% decrease compared to 2023)	6.5 nights (-35.7% decrease compared to 2023)

Source: South African Tourism (2025)

5.2.3 Malaysia’s Tourist Arrivals in South Africa

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 6,629 tourists from Malaysia, representing a 17.14% increase in relation to 2023, as indicated in Figure 67. Nationally, this market contributed R125.9 million in total foreign direct spend in 2024 and visitors spent 12.7 nights on average in the country.

Figure 67: Malaysia’s tourist arrivals in South Africa, 2019–2024

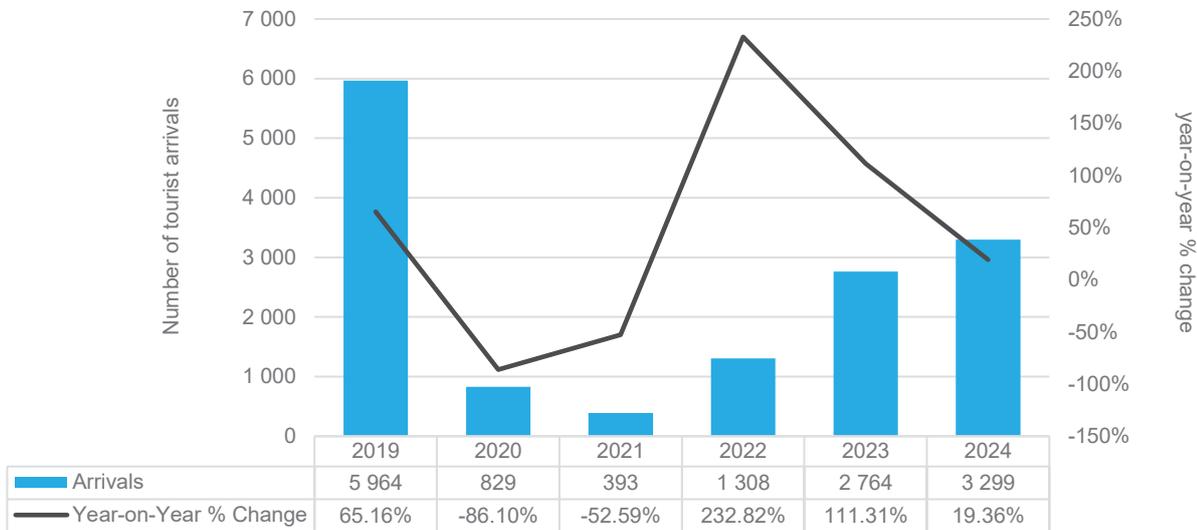


Source: South African Tourism (2025)

5.2.4 Malaysia's Tourist Arrivals in the Western Cape

Figure 66 shows that in 2024, a total of 3,299 Malaysian tourists visited the Western Cape, registering a double-digit 19.36% y-o-y increase in relation to 2023. In 2024, this market contributed R31.9 million in total foreign direct spend to the Western Cape's economy, equating to an average of R10,000 per tourist and an average stay of 6.5 nights in the province.

Figure 68: Malaysia's tourist arrivals in the Western Cape, 2019–2024



Source: South African Tourism (2025)

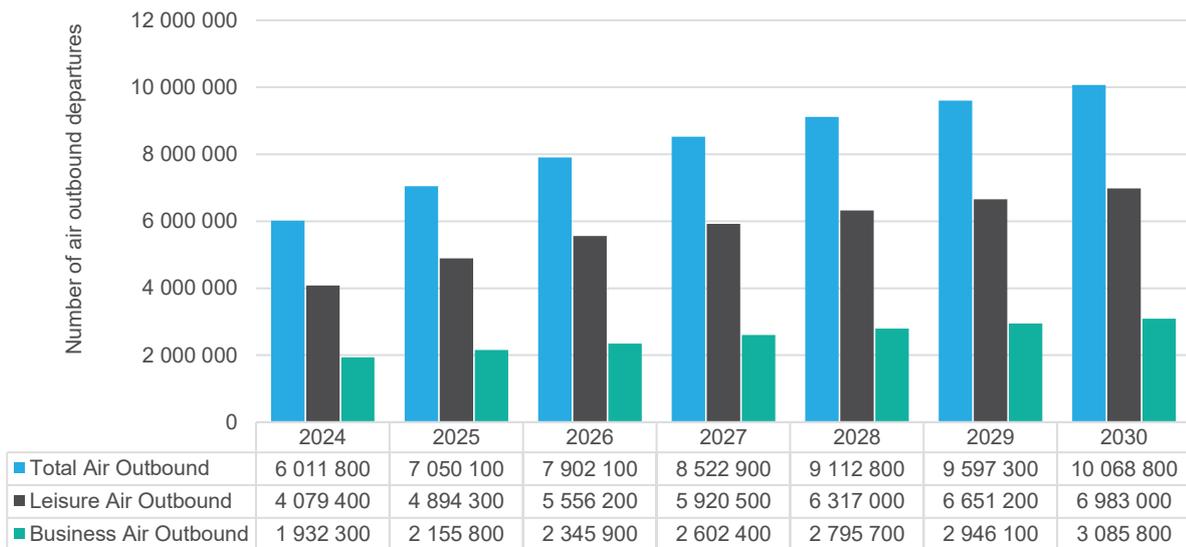
5.3 Thailand

5.3.1 Thailand's Outbound Departures by Air

Figure 69 shows that in 2024, the total number of outbound departures by air from Thailand reached 6.0 million, representing a 19.09% year-on-year increase against 2023. Looking ahead, outbound departures are projected to rise steadily to 7.0 million in 2025 and are forecast to reach 10.0 million by 2030.

Leisure ranked as the top contributor to outbound departures from Thailand, estimated to total 4.8 million in 2025 and forecast to reach 6.9 million by 2030.

Figure 69: Thailand's outbound departures by air, 2024–2030F



Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

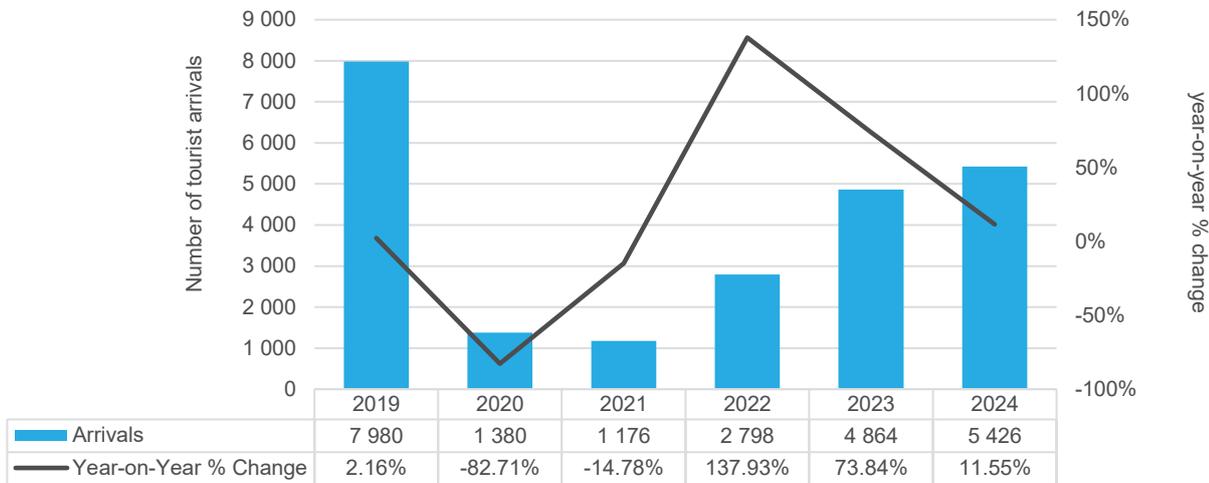
Note: All figures shown for 2025 are estimates (E) and forecast projections (F) for the years 2026 to 2030.

*Air outbound includes outbound trips by residents taken on scheduled airlines, charter or low-cost carriers for business and leisure purposes.

5.3.2 Thailand's Tourist Arrivals in South Africa

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 5,426 tourists from Thailand, representing a 11.55% increase in comparison to 2023. While tourist arrivals from Thailand have not reached pre-COVID levels, steady growth can be observed in tourist arrivals across the years 2021–2024, as shown in Figure 70.

Figure 70: Thailand's tourist arrivals in South Africa, 2019–2024



Source: South African Tourism (2025)

*Note: Data not available on tourist arrivals from Thailand to the Western Cape.

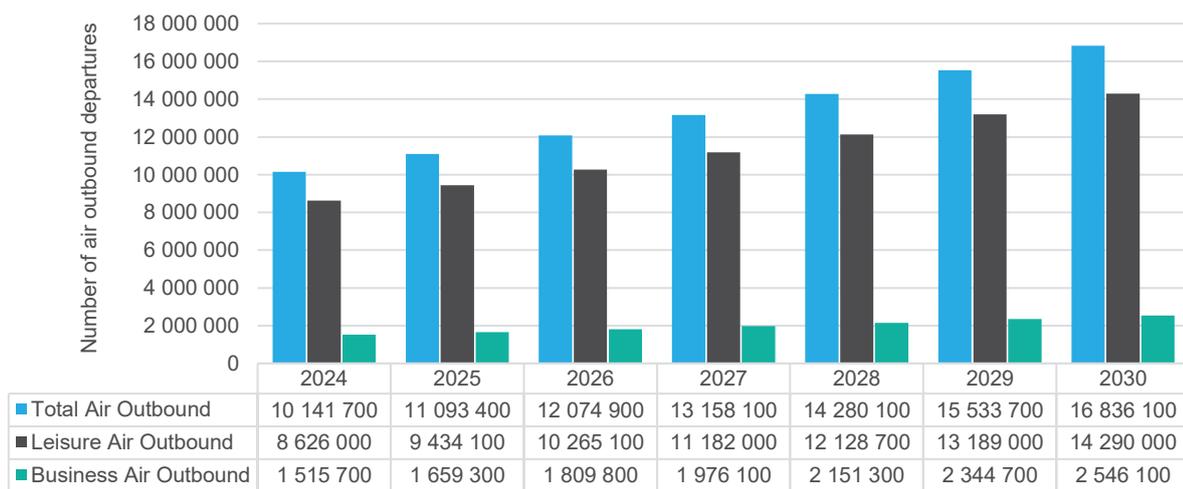
5.4 Indonesia

5.4.1 Indonesia's Outbound Departures by Air

Figure 71 shows that in 2024, the total number of outbound departures by air from Indonesia reached 10.1 million, representing a y-o-y increase of 16.03% compared to 2023. Looking ahead, outbound departures are projected to rise steadily to 11.0 million in 2025 and are forecast to reach 16.8 million by 2030.

Leisure ranked as the top contributor to air outbound departures from Indonesia, estimated to total 9.4 million in 2025 and forecasted to reach 14.2 million by 2030.

Figure 71: Indonesia's outbound departures by air, 2024–2030F



Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

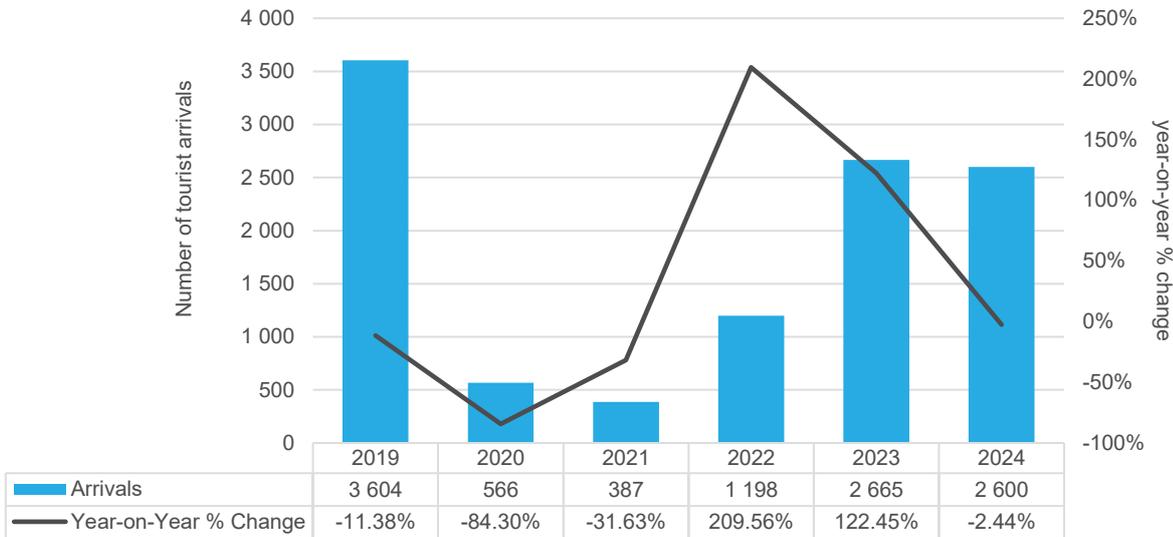
Note: All figures shown for 2025 are estimates (E) and forecast projections (F) for the years 2026 to 2030.

*Air outbound includes outbound trips by residents taken on scheduled airlines, charter or low-cost carriers for business and leisure purposes.

5.4.1 Indonesia's Tourist Arrivals in South Africa

Figure 72 indicates that South Africa received 2,600 tourists from Indonesia in 2024, showing a 2.44% drop compared to 2023. Despite this small decline in 2024, the number of Indonesian arrivals in South Africa has consecutively increased in 2021–2023.

Figure 72: Indonesia's tourist arrivals in South Africa, 2019–2024



Source: South African Tourism (2025)

*Note: Data not available on tourist arrivals from Indonesia to the Western Cape.

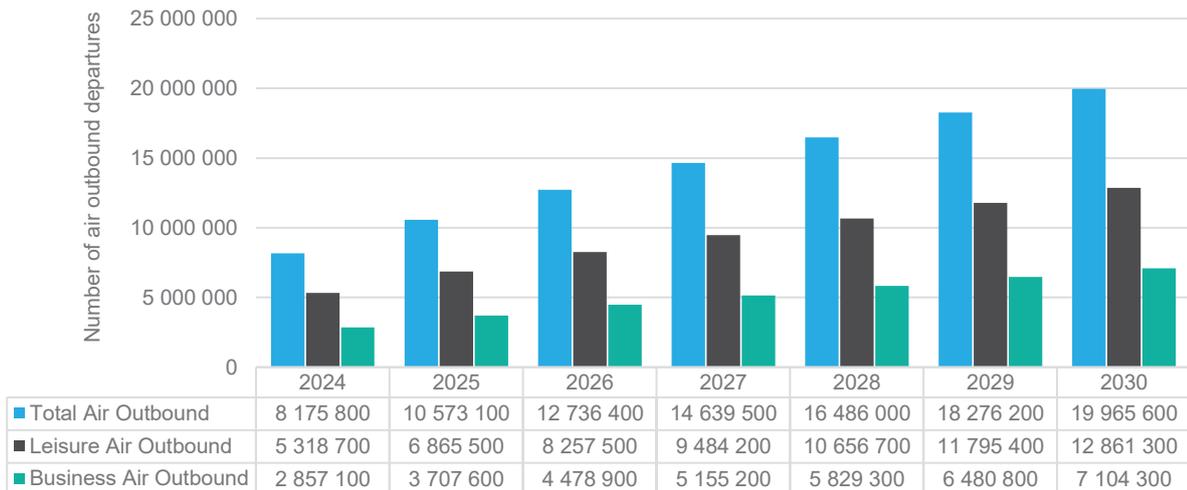
5.5 Vietnam

5.5.1 Vietnam's Outbound Departures by Air

Figure 73 shows that in 2024, the total number of departures by air from Vietnam reached 8.1 million, representing a 54.58% y-o-y increase against 2023. Looking ahead, the total number of outbound departures by air are projected to rise steadily to 10.5 million in 2025 and are forecast to reach 19.9 million by 2030.

Leisure has emerged as the primary driver of outbound departures from Vietnam, with 5.3 million departures recorded in 2024. These departures are estimated to total 6.8 million in 2025 and are forecast to reach 12.8 million by 2030.

Figure 73: Vietnam's outbound departures by air, 2024–2030F



Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

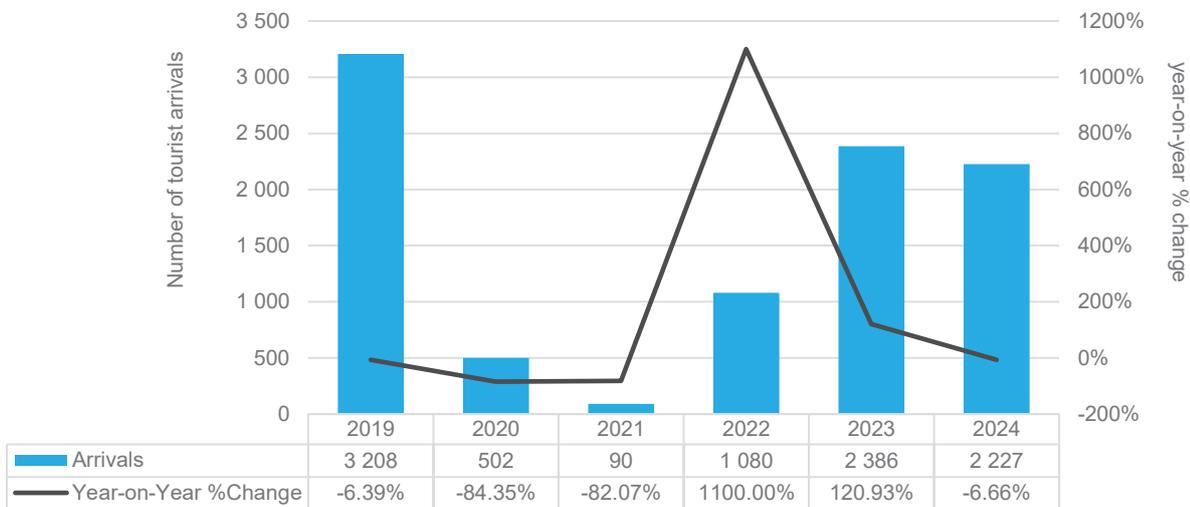
Note: All figures shown for 2025 are estimates (E) and forecast projections (F) for the years 2026 to 2030.

*Air outbound includes outbound trips by residents taken on scheduled airlines, charter or low-cost carriers for business and leisure purposes.

5.5.2 Vietnam’s Tourist Arrivals in South Africa

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 2,227 tourists from Vietnam, representing a –6.66% decline relative to 2023. Arrivals from Vietnam have shown an upward trend since the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating steady growth from 2021 to 2023, as illustrated in Figure 74.

Figure 74: Vietnam’s tourist arrivals in South Africa, 2019–2024



Source: South African Tourism (2025)

*Note: Data not available on tourist arrivals from Vietnam to the Western Cape.

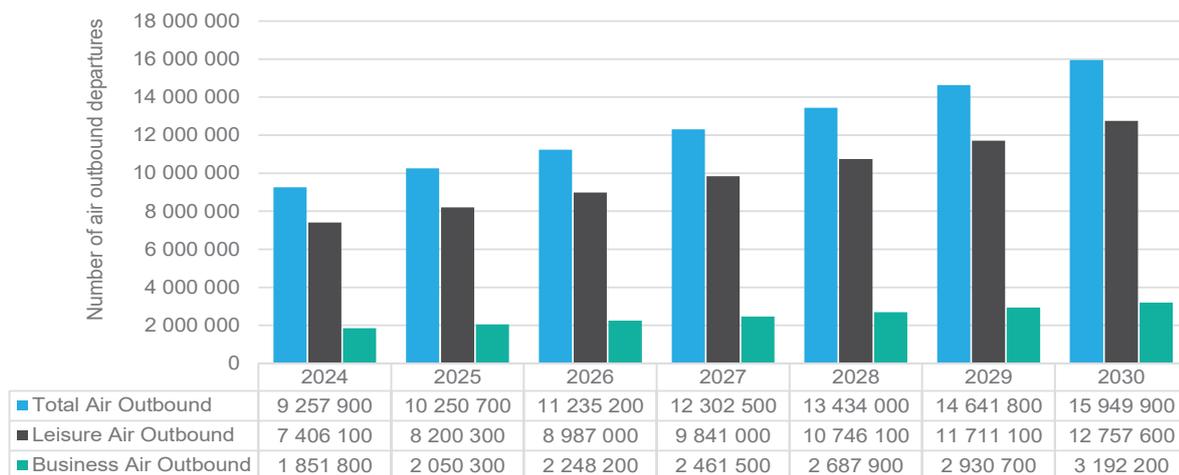
5.6 Philippines

5.6.1 Philippines’ Outbound Departures by Air

In 2024, the total number of outbound departures by air from the Philippines reached 9.2 million, reflecting a 24.94% increase when compared to 2023. Looking ahead, outbound departures are projected to rise steadily to 10.2 million in 2025 and are forecast to reach 15.9 million by 2030. This can be seen in Figure 75.

Leisure travel remains the primary driver of outbound travel by air, with departures from the Philippines expected to reach 8.2 million in 2025 and projected to rise further to 12.7 million by 2030.

Figure 75: Philippines’ outbound departures by air, 2024–2030F



Source: Euromonitor International (2025)

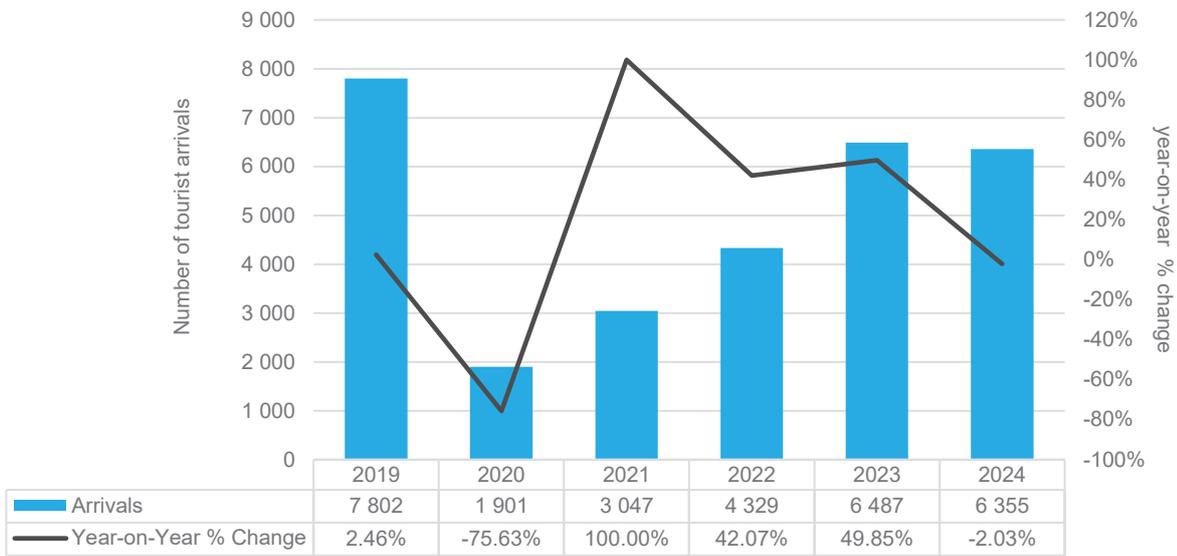
Note: All figures shown for 2025 are estimates (E) and forecast projections (F) for the years 2026 to 2030.

*Air outbound includes outbound trips by residents taken on scheduled airlines, charter or low-cost carriers for business and leisure purposes.

5.6.2 Philippines' Tourist Arrivals in South Africa

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 6,355 tourists from the Philippines, representing a -2.03% decline against 2023, as illustrated in Figure 76. While this decrease is notable, tourist arrivals from the Philippines have shown a positive upward trend, with consistent growth observed from the year 2021 to 2023.

Figure 76: Philippines' tourist arrivals in South Africa, 2019–2024



Source: South African Tourism (2025)

*Note: Data not available on tourist arrivals from the Philippines to the Western Cape.



Western Cape: Farm close to Prince Albert, Central Karoo

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