

The Netherlands

March 2026

Executive Summary

This country fact sheet provides key trade- and investment-related statistics for the Netherlands. Specifically, it shows the Netherlands' trade and investment flows in relation to both South Africa and the Western Cape, including an analysis of top markets and products. The report highlights the largest and fastest-growing products and their sub-sectors. It also looks at tourism trends between the Netherlands and South Africa, and those relating to the Netherlands and the Western Cape.

Economic Overview

According to the World Bank (2026), the Netherlands' gross domestic product (GDP) at constant 2015 prices increased from USD775.74bn in 2015 to USD920.88bn in 2024, representing an average annual growth rate of cumulative growth of 1.98% over this period. This was indicative of a modest, sustained economic expansion despite periods of volatility.

Trade

In 2025, South Africa's exports to the Netherlands were valued at USD4.28bn, which represented an increase of 1.72% y-o-y from the USD4.21bn recorded in 2024. In turn, the country's imports from the Netherlands totalled USD4.92bn in 2025, amounting to an increase of 0.09% y-o-y from a cost of USD4.91bn incurred in 2024.

South Africa's dominant export category to the Netherlands in 2025 was iron ores and concentrates, including roasted iron pyrites. At a value of USD617.56m, this was equivalent to 14.43% of the value of the country's total exports to the Netherlands. The country's main import product from the Netherlands was telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks, costing USD736.24m which was equivalent to 14.98% of the cost of South Africa's total imports from the Netherlands in that year.

The Western Cape's export receipts from trade with the Netherlands totalled USD1,310.96m in 2025, equivalent to an increase of 17.28% y-o-y from the USD1,117.80m earned in 2024. In turn, the value of the Western Cape's imports from the Netherlands increased by 0.94% y-o-y to a cost of USD413.51m in 2025, up from USD409.65m in 2024.

The province's leading export product to the Netherlands in 2025 was grapes, fresh or dried. At a value of USD374.66m, this amounted to 28.58% of the value of the province's exports to the Netherlands in 2025.

Investments

From January 2016 to December 2025, the Netherlands invested in forty-one projects worth USD974.60m in capital expenditure (capex) in South Africa. And during the same period, South Africa invested in thirty-two projects in the Netherlands, amounting to USD323.60m in capex.

Tourism

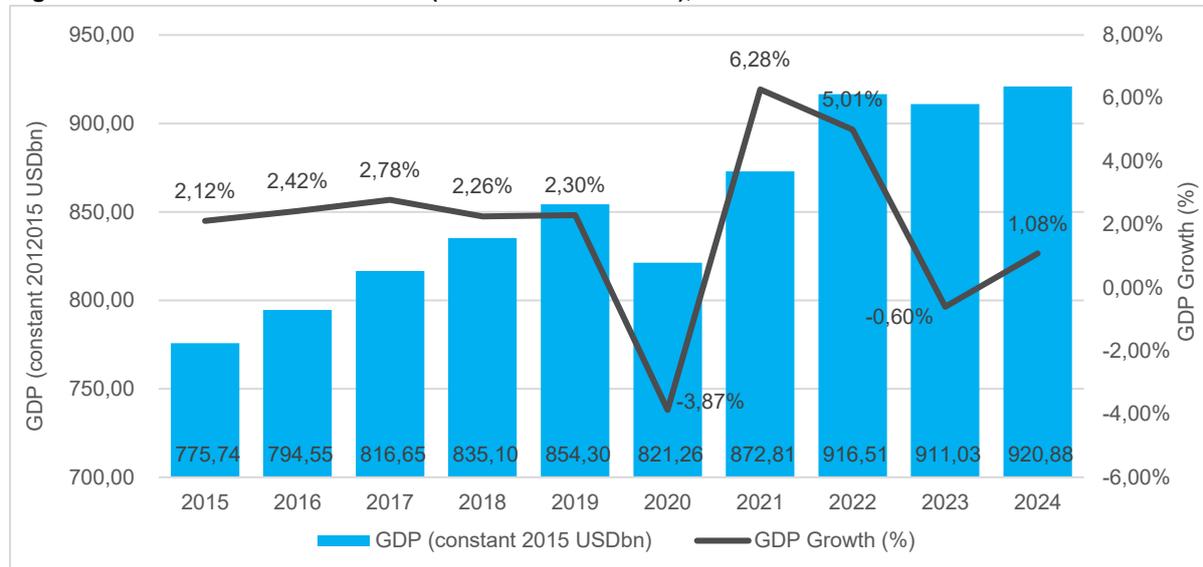
In 2025, South Africa welcomed 140,338 tourists from the Netherlands. This reflected a 5.98% y-o-y growth in relation to 2024. Looking at the Western Cape, an estimated 68,715 Dutch tourists visited the province in 2024, equivalent to a y-o-y growth of 0.57% in comparison to figures in 2023.

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1 Economic Overview

According to the International Trade Administration (2026), the Netherlands' economy is the 18th largest globally, and the 5th largest in the European Monetary Union (the Eurozone). The country's GDP in 2024 amounted to USD920.88bn, as shown in Figure 1, an increase of 1.08% y-o-y from USD911.03bn recorded in 2023. The Dutch economy has achieved reasonable economic growth over the past decade, having recorded a five-year annual average growth rate of 1.58% from 2020 to 2024.

Figure 1: The Netherlands' real GDP (constant 2015 USDm), 2015–2024

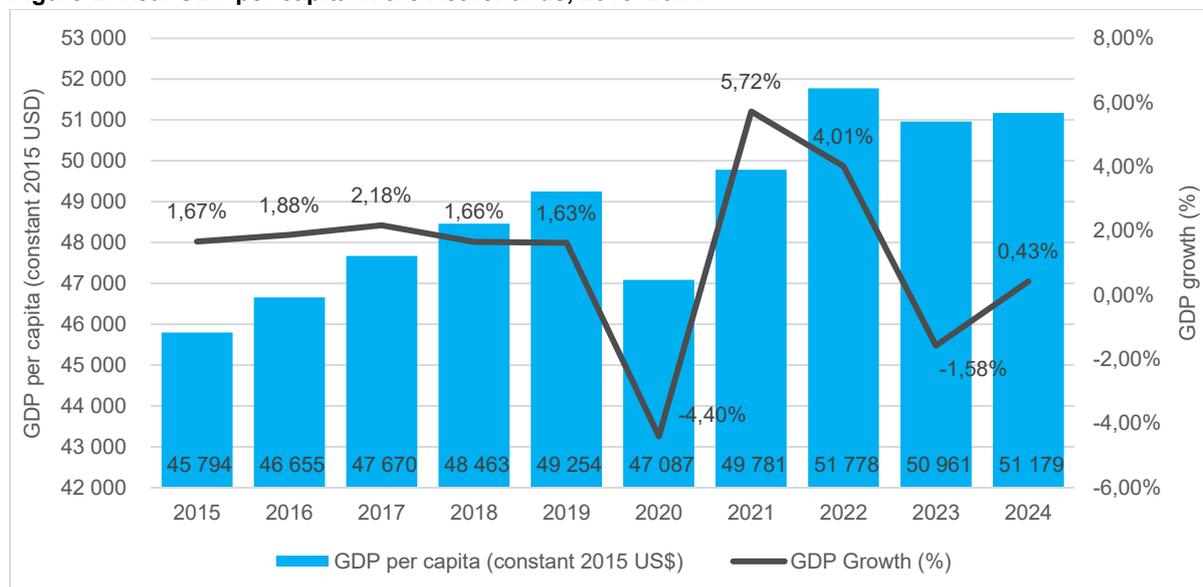


Source: World Bank (2026)

The Netherlands' GDP per capita grew from USD45,794 in 2015 to USD51,179 in 2024 (constant 2015 US dollars), representing a cumulative growth of 11.76% over the 10 years, as shown in Figure 2. The growth trajectory experienced a brief setback in 2020, with a -4.40% decline to USD47,087 as the impacts from Covid-19 emerged. A strong recovery followed, with GDP per capita surging by 5.72% in 2021 and by 4.01% in 2022 to reach a peak of USD51,778. This surge was driven by expansionary policies and resumed economic activity. However, growth momentum weakened considerably in 2023–2024, with GDP per capita contracting by -1.58% in 2023 before posting a modest recovery of 0.43% in 2024, reflecting challenges from inflation, monetary tightening and global economic headwinds. Despite this volatility, the Netherlands' GDP per capita in 2024 exceeded pre-pandemic levels, demonstrating economic resilience and the effectiveness of policy interventions in navigating post-pandemic economic pressures.

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Figure 2: Real GDP per capita in the Netherlands, 2015–2024



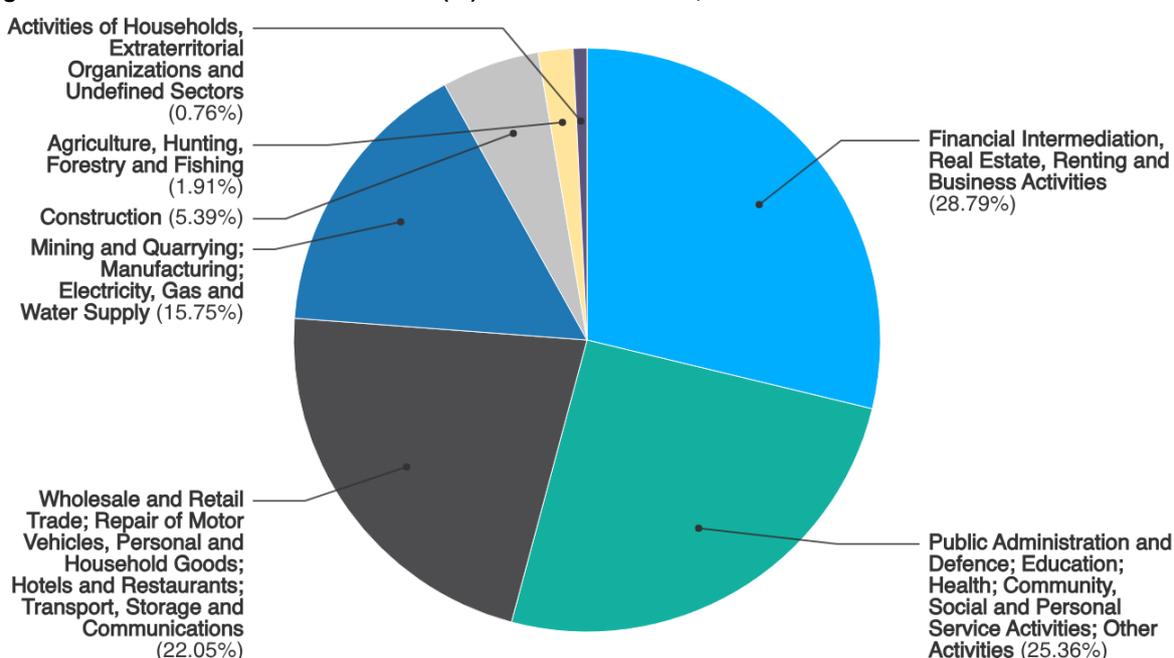
Source: World Bank, 2026

Figure 3 illustrates the sectoral contributions to gross value added (GVA) in the Netherlands in 2024. The country's economic structure was characterised by significant concentration in the tertiary sector, accounting for approximately 76.20% of total GVA. The primary contributors were:

- Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities (with a share of 28.79%)
- Public administration and defence; education; health; community; social and personal services activities; and other activities (with a share of 25.36%)
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communications (with a share of 22.05%)
- Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas and water supply (with a share of 15.75%)

Other notable sectors included construction (with a share of 5.39%) and agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (with a share of 1.91%), while activities of households, extraterritorial organisations and undefined sectors represented a minimal contribution at 0.76%. The dominance of the financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities sector, which accounted for almost one-third of the total GVA, underscores its critical role in the economy, while the substantial contribution from public administration and defence; education; health; community, social and personal service activities; and other activities reflects not only the region's shift away from agriculture and traditional manufacturing, but also its heavy reliance on specialised knowledge-based services.

Figure 3: Sectoral contributions to GVA (%) in the Netherlands, 2024



Source: Euromonitor (2026)

2 Trade

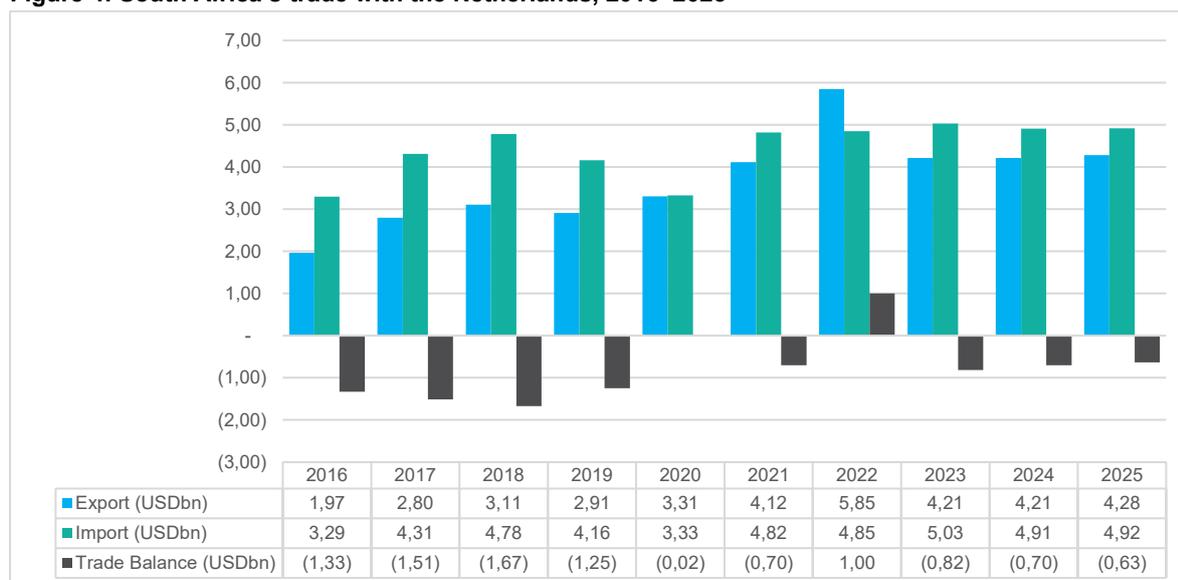
This section examines the Netherlands' trade flows with South Africa and the Western Cape between 2016 and 2025.

2.1 South Africa's Trade with the Netherlands

South Africa's trade relationship with the Netherlands showed a persistent deficit, with the exception of 2022, during the review period. This is demonstrated in Figure 4. Between 2016 and 2025, South Africa's exports to the Netherlands peaked at USD5.85bn in 2022, before declining in both 2023 and 2024. The country's exports to the Netherlands totalled USD4.28bn in 2024, having increased by 1.72% y-o-y from the USD4.21bn recorded in 2023. South African imports from the Netherlands similarly grew slightly by 0.09% y-o-y to a cost of USD4.92bn in 2024, up from USD4.91bn in 2023.

South Africa's trade balance with the Netherlands remained in a deficit during the period under review, with the exception of 2022. The deficit reached a peak of USD1.67bn in 2018, driven by a relatively steep increase in imports in that year. The trade deficit totalled USD0.63bn in 2024.

Figure 4: South Africa's trade with the Netherlands, 2016–2025



Source: Quantec (2026)

Iron ores and concentrates, including roasted iron pyrites, was South Africa's largest export product to the Netherlands in 2025, as shown in Table 1. At a value of USD617.56m, this accounted for 14.43% of South Africa's total export earnings with the Netherlands. The second-largest export product was citrus fruit, fresh or dried, at a value of USD586.95m (13.71% of export earnings), while exports of grapes, fresh or dried, placed third, at a value of USD500.28m (11.69%). The fastest-growing export product was natural calcium phosphates, natural aluminium calcium phosphates, with a five-year average growth rate of 371,014,300.00% between 2021 and 2025. Exports of diamonds, whether or not worked, followed with a five-year average growth rate of 5,795.31%. Next was the export of coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal, with an average growth rate of 331.36%.

South Africa's top imported product from the Netherlands in 2025 was telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks. Valued at USD736.24m, imports of this product accounted for 14.98% of the cost of total imports from the Netherlands to South Africa in that year. This was followed by imports of automatic data processing machines and units thereof, which cost USD404.97m. In third place was the import category of original equipment components, costing USD379.95m.

Table 1: South Africa's top 10 export and import products to and from the Netherlands, 2024; & average growth, 2021–2025

SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP 10 EXPORTS TO THE NETHERLANDS, 2021–2025				SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP 10 IMPORTS FROM THE NETHERLANDS, 2021–2025			
RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2025 (USDm)	% AVE GROWTH, 2021–2025	RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2025 (USDm)	% AVE GROWTH, 2021–2025
1	Iron ores and concentrates, including roasted iron pyrites	617.56	5.88%	1	Telephone sets, including telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks	736.24	35.20%
2	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	586.95	11.67%	2	Automatic data processing machines and units thereof	404.97	23.79%
3	Grapes, fresh or dried	500.28	20.80%	3	Original equipment components	379.95	-0.42%
4	Unwrought aluminium	278.64	3.34%	4	Petroleum oils, other than crude	287.76	35.87%
5	Coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	203.86	331.36%	5	Printing machinery used for printing by means of plates	162.60	3.43%
6	Ferro-alloys	195.91	29.84%	6	Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06)	155.98	6.29%
7	Natural calcium phosphates, natural aluminium calcium phosphates	171.17	371,014,300.00%	7	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences	132.74	12.60%
8	Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes, and mangosteens	126.02	12.42%	8	Nuclear reactors; fuel elements (cartridges), non-irradiated, for nuclear reactors	96.68	17958131.56%
9	Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices	92.09	24.93%	9	Human blood; animal blood prepared for therapeutic, prophylactic, or diagnostic uses	94.80	9.69%
10	Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set	89.66	5795.31%	10	Orthopaedic appliances, including crutches, surgical belts, and trusses	76.33	18.16%
Total exports		4 281.19	8.06%	Total imports		4 915.89	9.38%

Source: Quantec (2026)

Looking at export markets, China was the leading destination market for South Africa's exports in 2025 which, at a value of USD12.48bn, accounted for 10.70% of global export earnings in that year. This can be seen in Table 2. Exports to Germany, South Africa's second-largest export market, were valued at USD9.20bn in 2025 while exports to the United States were in third place, valued at USD8.30bn. The fastest-growing markets for South Africa's top 10 export markets over the five years leading up to and including 2025 were: Japan (with an average growth rate of 17.07%), Belgium (14.74%), and Mozambique (14.02%). In 2025, the Netherlands was South Africa's 8th largest export market, with export receipts to the country valued at USD4.28bn. During the five-year period spanning 2021–2025, South Africa's exports to the Netherlands grew at an annual average growth rate of 8.06%.

On the import front, China was also the leading source market for goods imported by South Africa, with imports from this country having cost USD20.50bn in 2025. Germany ranked second with total imports valued at USD10.34bn. India was in third place, with imports reaching a total value of USD7.35bn in that year. The fastest-growing markets for imports to South Africa in the five years leading up to and including 2025 were Oman (with a growth rate of 52.50%), the United Arab Emirates (23.07%) and India (20.13%). In 2025, the Netherlands was South Africa's 5th largest import market, with imported goods from the country costing USD4.92bn. Import costs from the country grew at an annual average growth rate of 9.38% in 2021–2025.

Table 2: South Africa's top 10 export and import markets, 2024; & average growth, 2021–2025

TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR SA EXPORTS, 2025				TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR SA IMPORTS, 2025			
RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2025 (USDbn)	% AVE GROWTH, 2021–2025	RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2025 (USDbn)	% AVE GROWTH, 2021–2025
1	China	12.48	5.74%	1	China	20.50	12.95%
2	Germany	9.20	8.10%	2	Germany	10.34	8.64%
3	United States	8.30	8.80%	3	India	7.35	20.13%
4	Japan	5.47	17.07%	4	United States	6.23	10.51%
5	United Kingdom	5.35	11.44%	5	Netherlands	4.92	9.38%
6	Mozambique	5.29	14.02%	6	United Arab Emirates	3.41	23.07%
7	India	4.49	11.57%	7	Oman	3.40	52.50%
8	Netherlands	4.28	8.06%	8	Thailand	3.21	18.43%
9	Namibia	4.16	10.08%	9	Belgium	3.11	5.62%
10	Belgium	4.15	14.74%	10	Saudi Arabia	3.10	8.63%
Total exports		116.63	8.06%	Total imports		105.31	10.05%

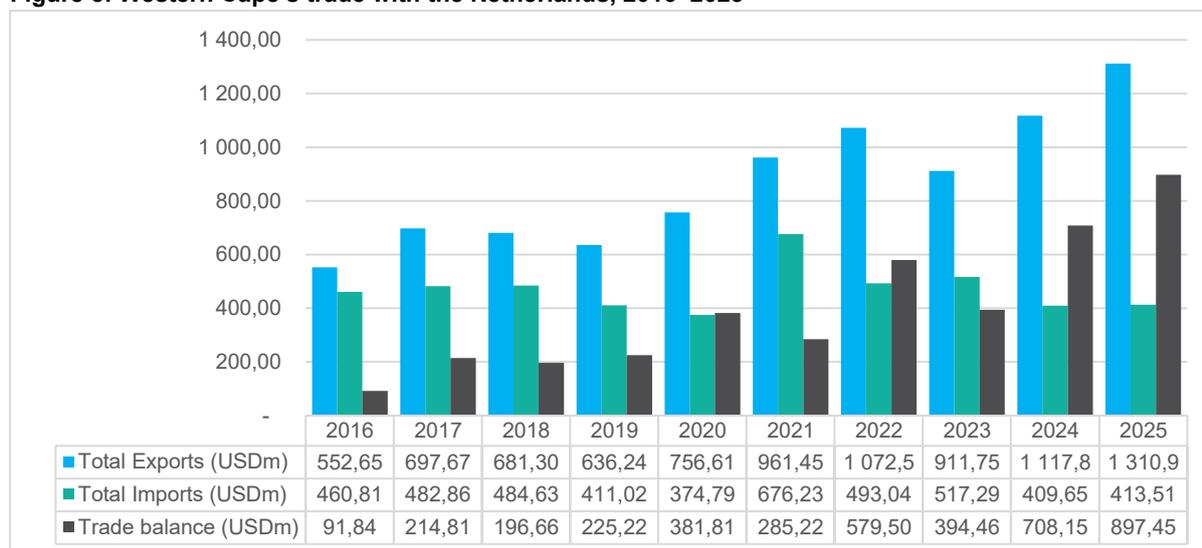
Source: Quantec (2026)

2.2 Western Cape's Trade with the Netherlands

The Western Cape's export receipts from trade with the Netherlands totalled USD1,310.96m in 2025, representing an increase of 17.28% y-o-y from a value of USD1,117.80m earned in 2024. This can be observed in Figure 5. In turn, the province's imports from the Netherlands cost a total of USD413.51m in 2025 – a 0.94% y-o-y growth in relation to the import costs of USD409.65m recorded in 2024. The province's trade balance with the Netherlands remained in a surplus throughout the period under consideration, with a notable increase occurring in 2024 and 2025. This was underpinned by a dual-pronged approach combining agricultural excellence and industrial diversification. Traditional fruit exports, particularly grapes and citrus, experienced exceptional growth driven by strong European demand and established supply chains. Simultaneously, entirely new industrial export categories emerged, including granulated slag, pig iron and machinery, signalling the Western Cape's strategic shift beyond just agriculture.

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Figure 5: Western Cape's trade with the Netherlands, 2016–2025



Source: Quantec (2026)

Table 3 shows that the Western Cape's leading export product to the Netherlands in 2025 was grapes, fresh or dried. At a value of USD374.66m, this was equivalent to 28.58% of the value of the province's total exports to the Netherlands in that year. Citrus fruit, fresh or dried, placed second with exports of this product valued at USD373.58m. In third place was the export category of apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines), at a value of USD86.03m. The export product of seeds, fruit and spores, of a kind used for sowing, was the fastest-growing export category among the top ten export products, having recorded a five-year average growth rate of 40.19% from 2021 to 2025.

The Western Cape's top imported product from the Netherlands in 2025 was preparations of a kind used in animal feeding, which is also shown in Table 3. At a value of USD22.40m, this was equivalent to 5.42% of the cost of the province's total imports from the Netherlands in that year. Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, other than crude, was the second-largest import category, having cost the province USD20.57m; while food preparations not elsewhere specified or included placed third at a value of USD15.30m. The fastest-growing import category during the period 2021–2025 was cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes, which had a five-year annual average growth rate of 1,883.16%, albeit this was from a very low base.

Table 3: The Western Cape's top 10 export and import products to and from the Netherlands, 2025; & average growth, 2021– 2025

WESTERN CAPE'S TOP 10 EXPORTS TO THE NETHERLANDS, 2021–2025				WESTERN CAPE'S TOP 10 IMPORTS FROM THE NETHERLANDS, 2021–2025			
RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE (USDm), 2025	AVE GROWTH %, 2021–2025	RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE (USDm), 2025	AVE GROWTH %, 2021–2025
1	Grapes, fresh or dried	374.66	18.26%	1	Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding	22.40	15.40%
2	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	373.58	12.16%	2	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, other than crude	20.57	36.90%
3	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines)	86.03	24.28%	3	Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included	15.30	27.35%
4	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	81.89	12.50%	4	Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	14.59	1883.16%
5	Other fruit, fresh	57.52	3.93%	5	Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters	11.63	27.44%
6	Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines	46.83	1.00%	6	Seeds, fruit, and spores, of a kind used for sowing	11.46	8.06%
7	Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados,	36.51	8.52%	7	Automatic data processing machines and units thereof	11.36	22.33%
8	Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel	25.59	12.04%	8	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental, or veterinary sciences	8.28	8.57%
9	Seeds, fruit, and spores, of a kind used for sowing	24.74	40.19%	9	Orthopaedic appliances, including crutches, surgical belts, and trusses	7.99	37.73%
10	Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices	24.41	31.33%	10	Other aircraft (for example, helicopters, aeroplanes)	6.68	0.00%
Total exports		1310.96	12.70%	Total imports		413.51	7.68%

Source: Quantec (2026)

Western Cape's Top 10 Export and Import Markets, 2021–2025

Looking at export markets, the Netherlands was the leading destination market for the Western Cape's exports in 2025, as shown in Table 4. Valued at USD1.31bn, these exports accounted for 10.63% of the province's global export earnings in 2025. The United Kingdom, South Africa's fifth-largest export market, placed second: the province's exports to this country were valued at USD0.95bn in 2025. And the United States was in third place, having received goods to the value of USD0.86bn from the Western Cape. The fastest-growing markets for the province's top 10 export markets over the five years leading up to and including 2025 were Zimbabwe (with an average growth rate of 20.69%), the United Arab Emirates (17.18%) and Zambia (11.42%).

On the import front, and mirroring the national economy, China was the leading source market for goods imported by the province, with imports from this country having cost USD3.59bn in 2025. India ranked second with total imports valued at USD1.59bn. Oman was in third place, with imports having reached a total value of USD1.16bn in 2025. The fastest-growing markets for imports to the Western Cape over the five years leading up to and including 2025 were Angola (with a growth rate of 416.50%), Nigeria (39.79%), and Oman (38.71%). In 2025, the Netherlands was the Western Cape's 13th largest import source market, with goods from that country having cost the province USD0.41bn.

Table 4: Western Cape's top 10 export and import markets, 2025; & average growth, 2021–2025

TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR WC EXPORTS, 2025				TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR WC IMPORTS, 2025			
RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2025 (USDbn)	% AVE GROWTH, 2021–2025	RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2025 (USDbn)	% AVE GROWTH, 2021–2025
1	Netherlands	1.31	12.70%	1	China	3.59	10.54%
2	United Kingdom	0.95	5.58%	2	India	1.59	36.64%
3	United States	0.86	7.56%	3	Oman	1.16	38.71%
4	Namibia	0.84	6.66%	4	United Arab Emirates	1.15	24.08%
5	China	0.64	10.81%	5	United States	1.09	24.31%
6	United Arab Emirates	0.52	17.18%	6	Saudi Arabia	0.83	7.17%
7	Botswana	0.34	-0.99%	7	Angola	0.81	416.50%
8	Russian Federation	0.33	10.80%	8	Nigeria	0.77	39.79%
9	Germany	0.33	0.94%	9	Italy	0.65	24.11%
10	Zimbabwe	0.30	20.69%	10	Germany	0.60	6.77%
11	Zambia	0.27	11.42%	13	Netherlands	0.41	7.68%
Total exports		12.33	8.54%	Total imports		18.97	12.11%

Source: Quantec (2026)

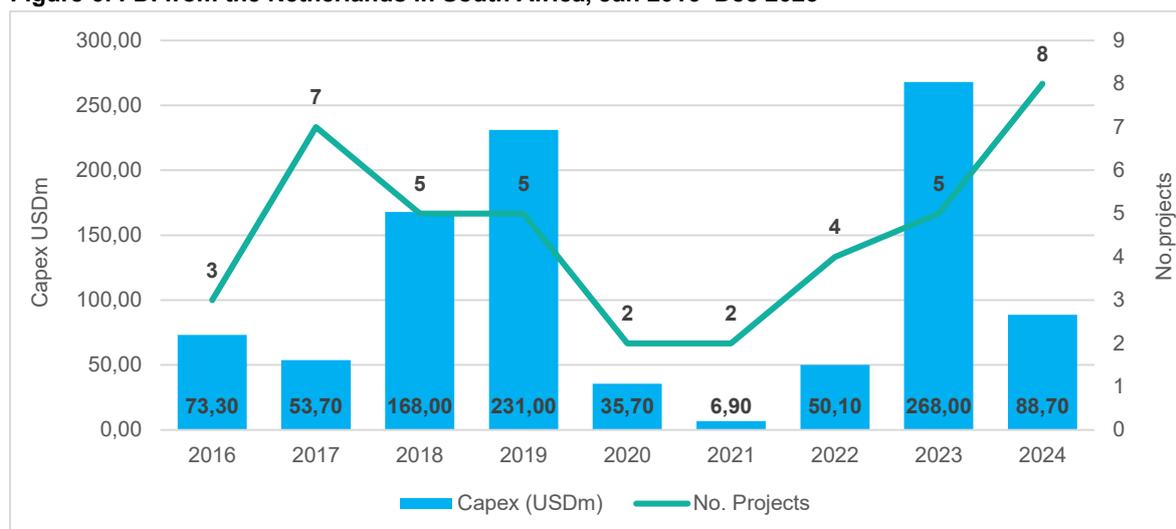
3 Foreign Direct Investment

This section examines the foreign direct investment (FDI) flows between the Netherlands and South Africa, and between the Netherlands and the Western Cape.

3.1 Bilateral FDI: The Netherlands' FDI in South Africa

From January 2016 to December 2025, several companies from the Netherlands invested in 41 projects in South Africa. This translated to USD974.60m worth of capex and resulted in the creation of 4,197 jobs. Figure 6 shows that the number of FDI projects in South Africa from the Netherlands varied during the period under review. During this time, the value of FDI (in capex) fluctuated between USD73.30m in 2016, spiking up to USD268.00m in 2023, before moderating to an estimated USD88.70m in 2024. In the year 2025, no investment was recorded from the Netherlands in South Africa.

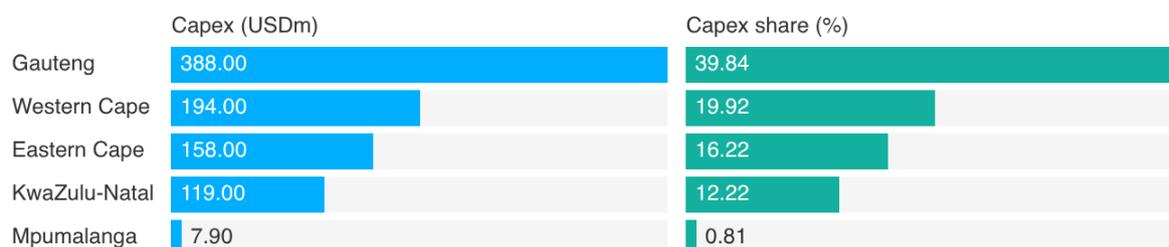
Figure 6: FDI from the Netherlands in South Africa, Jan 2016–Dec 2025



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026).

Figure 7 illustrates the South African provinces in which companies from the Netherlands invested between January 2016 and December 2025. The top South African province for FDI from the Netherlands was Gauteng which received USD388.00m in capex from 14 projects, resulting in 1,139 jobs. This was followed by the Western Cape which benefited from USD194.00m in capex in 17 projects and 1,585 jobs. The Eastern Cape placed third with investments worth USD158.00m in capex which was invested in a single project. The remainder of investments from the Netherlands landed in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga as shown below. It is worth mentioning that among the provinces benefiting from investments from the Netherlands, the majority of jobs were created in the Western Cape which reduced the province’s unemployment figures by 1,585 from 17 projects.

Figure 7: FDI from the Netherlands in South African provinces, measured in capex, Jan 2016–Dec 2025

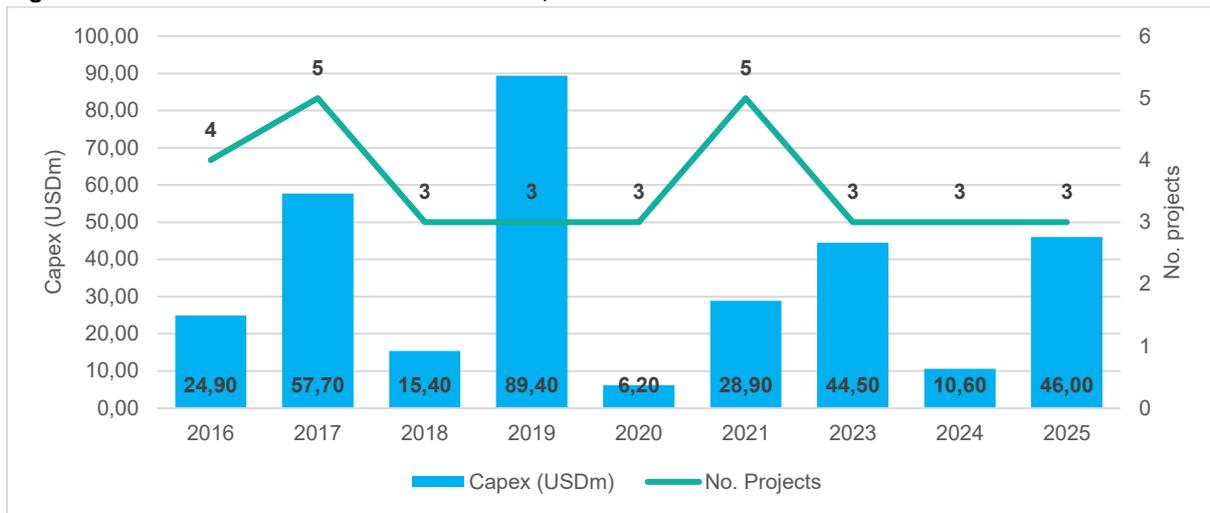


Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026). All Rights Reserved.

3.2 Bilateral FDI: South Africa’s FDI in the Netherlands

South African companies invested in 32 FDI projects in the Netherlands between January 2016 and Dec 2025, worth a cumulative capex of USD323.60m. These investments generated an estimated 1,061 jobs. South African FDI (measured in capex) in the Netherlands peaked in 2019 at a value of USD89.40m which was invested in three projects. These figures can be observed in Figure 8.

Figure 8: South Africa's FDI in the Netherlands, Jan 2016–Dec 2025



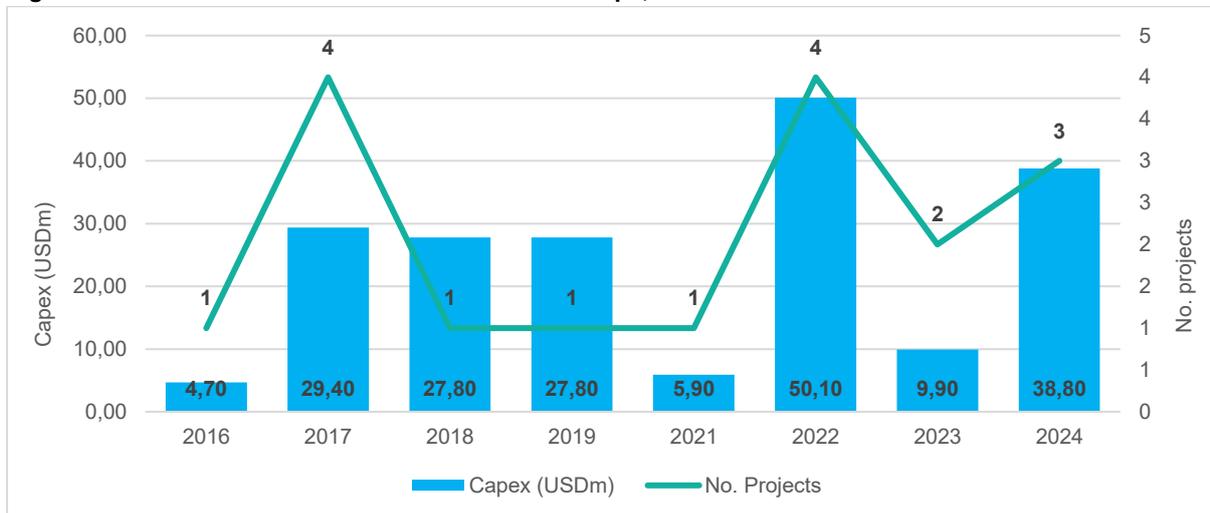
Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026)

3.3 Bilateral FDI: The Netherlands' FDI in the Western Cape

Between January 2016 and December 2025, companies from the Netherlands invested in 17 projects in the Western Cape. This translated to USD194.40m worth of capex and resulted in the creation of 1,585 jobs. Figure 9 shows that the number of FDI projects from the Netherlands in the Western Cape varied during the period under review. During this time, the value of FDI (in capex) fluctuated from USD4.70m in 2016, spiking up to USD50.10m in 2022, before moderating to an estimated USD38.80m in 2024. In the year 2025, no investment was recorded from the Netherlands in the Western Cape.

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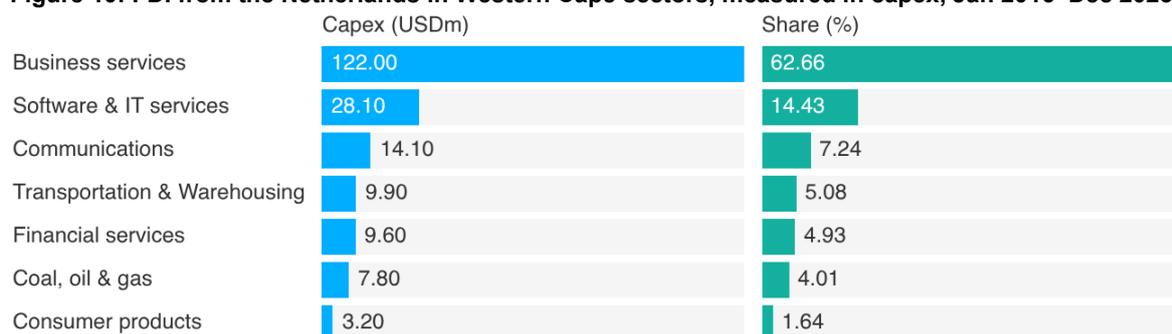
Figure 9: FDI from the Netherlands in the Western Cape, Jan 2016–Dec 2025



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026)

Figure 10 shows investments that reflect both the breadth and sectoral diversity of the Netherlands' engagement with the Western Cape. These point to opportunities for deepening bilateral commercial ties in strategic, future-facing sectors. The business services sector attracted USD122.00m across five projects, accounting for the largest number of jobs (1,063) which underscores the sector's growing importance to the Netherlands investors. The software & IT services sector followed, having secured USD28.10m in investments through five projects, reflecting the province's strong value proposition in technology solutions. Communications was the third-largest sector when measured in capex, with three projects valued at USD14.10m that generated 186 jobs. This was followed by transportation and warehousing (with a capex of USD9.90m) and financial services (USD9.60m), highlighting the continued interest from the Netherlands in high-skill, knowledge-based sectors in the province. The remainder of the Western Cape sectors in which the Netherlands invested are presented in Figure 10.

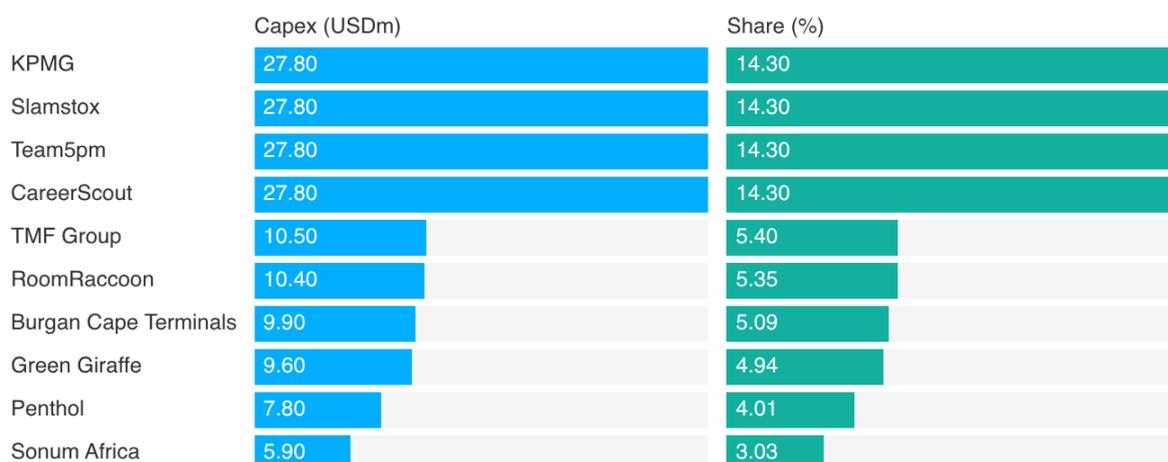
Figure 10: FDI from the Netherlands in Western Cape sectors, measured in capex, Jan 2016–Dec 2025



Source: *fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026)*

Figure 11 lists the top 10 Dutch companies that invested in the Western Cape from January 2016 to December 2025. KPMG, Slamstox, Team5pm and CareerScout each invested USD27.80m in a single project with each company generating 17 jobs, making these the largest FDI projects in terms of capex. TMF Group followed with an investment of USD10.50m in a single project worth a 5.40% share in capex, which contributed significantly to the region’s growing employment figures with 995 jobs.

Figure 11: Companies from the Netherlands investing in the Western Cape, measured in capex, Jan 2016–Dec 2025



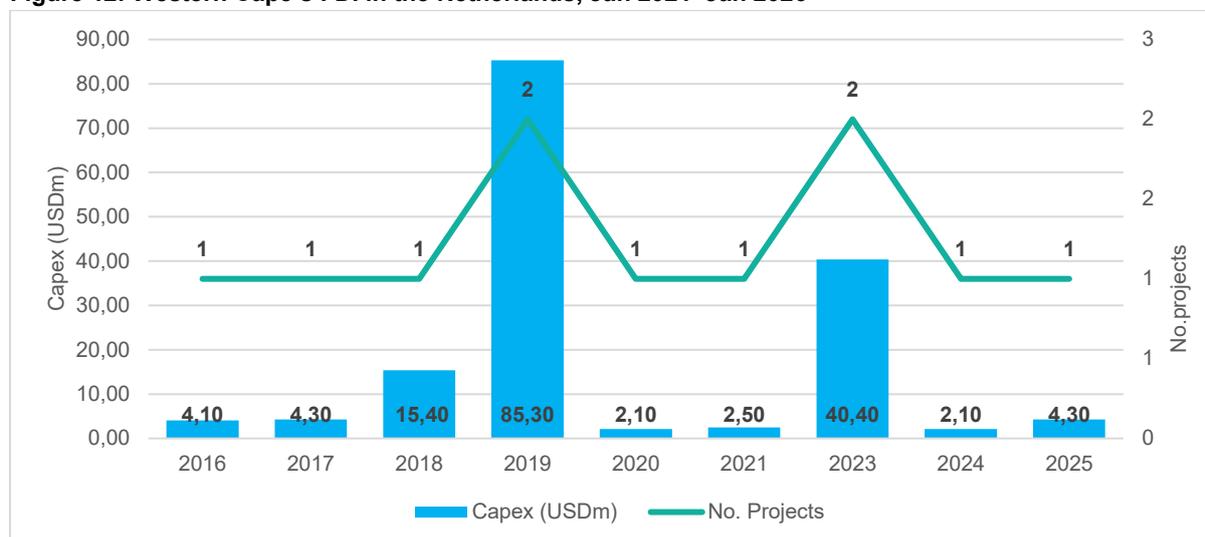
Source: *fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026)*

3.4 Bilateral FDI: Western Cape’s FDI in the Netherlands

From January 2021 to January 2026, the Western Cape directed a total of US12.30m in FDI across 13 projects in the Netherlands, resulting in the creation of 568 jobs. These investments spanned across a variety of key sectors, highlighting the diversity of the Western Cape’s OFDI portfolio (FDI Intelligence, 2026).

Figure 12 shows that the largest outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) occurred in 2018 when Western Cape-based companies injected USD15.40m in the Netherlands which generated 106 jobs. This reflected a significant spike in the Western Cape–Netherlands FDI flows during that period. FDI from the province to the Dutch country spiked to USD85.30m in 2019, before moderating to an estimated USD40.40m in 2023. The OFDI indicates sustained interest from the Western Cape in tapping into the Dutch market, particularly in the services and health sectors of the economy. In addition, the recurrence of investments between 2024 and 2025 also suggests a gradual strengthening of business ties and bilateral commercial activity, albeit at a small scale.

Figure 12: Western Cape's FDI in the Netherlands, Jan 2021–Jan 2026



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026)

Figure 13 shows that the pharmaceutical sector attracted the largest share of capital investment, with two projects accounting for USD63.40m and resulting in 120 jobs. This represented 39.50% of the total capex invested by the province in the Netherlands during this period. Investments in the financial services sector followed, which received USD51.30m in capex through a single project that generated 47 jobs. The software and IT services sector attracted USD22.60m in capex across four projects, resulting in 130 jobs.

13

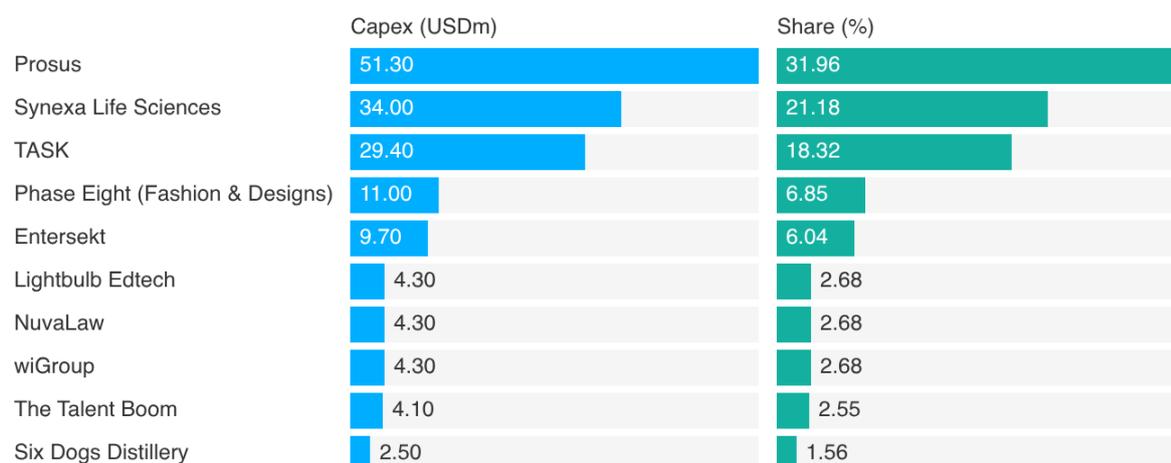
Figure 13: FDI from the Western Cape in the different sectors in the Netherlands, measured in capex, Jan 2021–Jan 2026

Sector	Capex (USDm)	Share (%)
Pharmaceuticals	63.40	39.50
Financial services	51.30	31.96
Software & IT services	22.60	14.08
Textiles	11.00	6.85
Communications	4.20	2.62
Business services	4.10	2.55
Food and Beverages	2.50	1.56
Industrial equipment	1.40	0.87

Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026)

Figure 14 lists the top 10 Western Cape companies that invested in the Netherlands from January 2021 to January 2026. Prosus invested USD51.30m in a single project which generated 47 jobs, making it the single largest FDI project in terms of capex (FDI Intelligence, 2026). Synexa Life Sciences and TASK followed with each company investing USD34.00m and USD29.40m. These investments contributed significantly to the region's growing digital and business support capabilities. Although their employment impact was modest (12 jobs each), the high capex signals a strong commitment to expanding service-based operations in the province.

Figure 14: Companies from the Western Cape investing in the Netherlands, measured in capex, Jan 2021–Jan 2026



Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times (2026)

4 Tourism

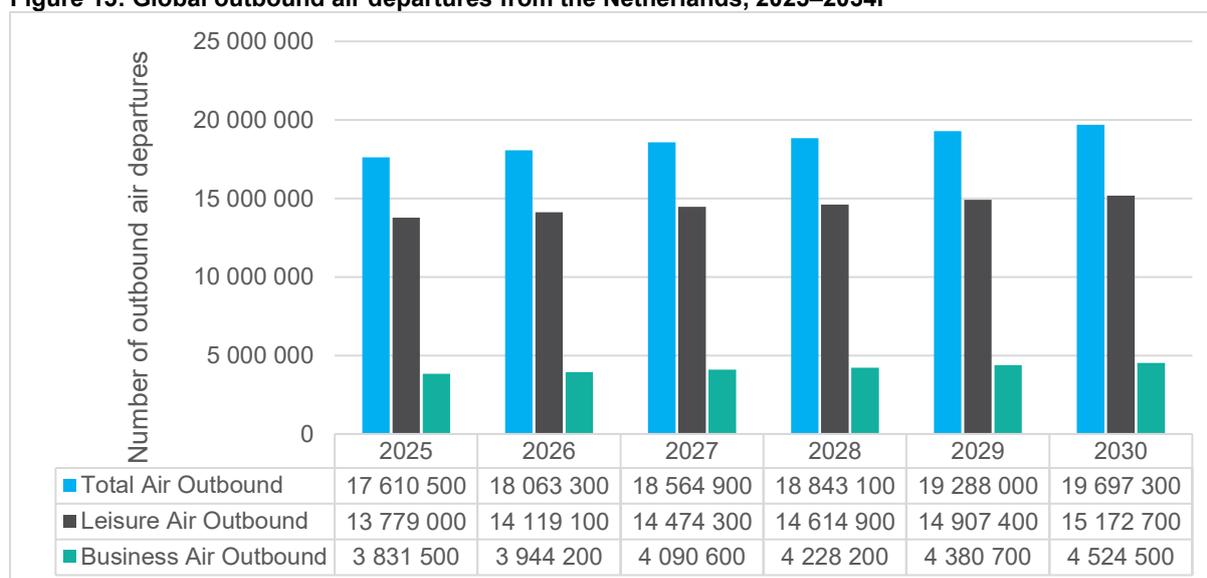
An overview of the trends relating to outbound air departures from the Netherlands, as well as tourist arrival flows from the Netherlands in South Africa and the Western Cape, is provided below.

4.1 Global Outbound Air Departures from the Netherlands

In 2025, total outbound air departures from the Netherlands reached 17.6 million, reflecting a y-o-y increase of 2.91% when compared to 2024 as can be seen in Figure 15. This growth reflects the continued recovery and stabilisation of international travel demand which has been supported by improved airline capacity, expanding route networks, and increased consumer interest in outbound travel. Looking ahead, outbound air departures are projected to rise steadily, reaching an estimated 18.1 million in 2026 and are forecast to increase further to 19.7 million by 2030 with a projected growth of 9.05%.

Leisure departures are expected to grow from 14.1 million in 2026 and are forecast to reach 15.2 million by 2030, a projected growth of 7.46%. Business travel, while smaller in scale, will also expand steadily from 3.9 million in 2026 to approximately 4.5 million by 2030, a projected growth of 14.71%.

Figure 15: Global outbound air departures from the Netherlands, 2025–2034F



Source: Euromonitor International, (2026)

Note: All figures shown for 2026 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

4.2 Table 5: Tourism highlights relating to tourists from the Netherlands in South Africa and the Western Cape

Travel Trends (2024 / 2025)	
South Africa	Western Cape
Tourist Arrivals from the Netherlands (2025)	
Jan–Dec 2025: 140 338 (5.98% increase compared to 2024)	Jan–Sep 2025: 50 183 (4.04% increase compared to Jan–Sep 2024)
Total Foreign Direct Spend (2024)	
Jan–Dec 2024: R2.8 billion (-7.92% decline compared to 2023)	Jan–Dec 2024: R1.3 billion (-5.86% decrease compared to 2023)
Length of Stay (2024)	
Jan–Dec 2024: 15.4 nights (-5.52% decline compared to 2023)	Jan–Dec 2024: 11.3 nights (-8.75% decrease compared to 2023)

Source: South African Tourism, 2025

*Note: Western Cape data for 2025 is only available until September 2025.

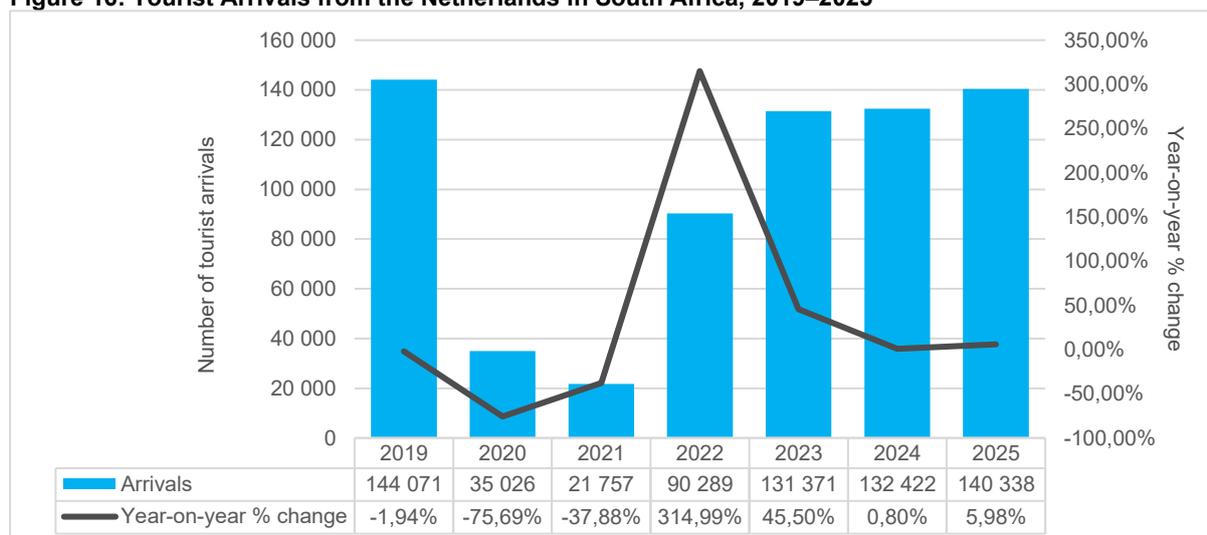
*Note: Full year 2025 data for Total Foreign Direct Spend and length of stay has not been released.

4.3 Tourist Arrivals from the Netherlands in South Africa

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Figure 16 shows that in 2025, South Africa welcomed 140,338 tourists from the Netherlands, reflecting a 5.98% increase compared to 2024. Nationally, this market contributed more than R2.8 billion in total foreign direct spend, with visitors staying an average of 15.4 nights with an average spend of R25,200 per visitor.

Figure 16: Tourist Arrivals from the Netherlands in South Africa, 2019–2025

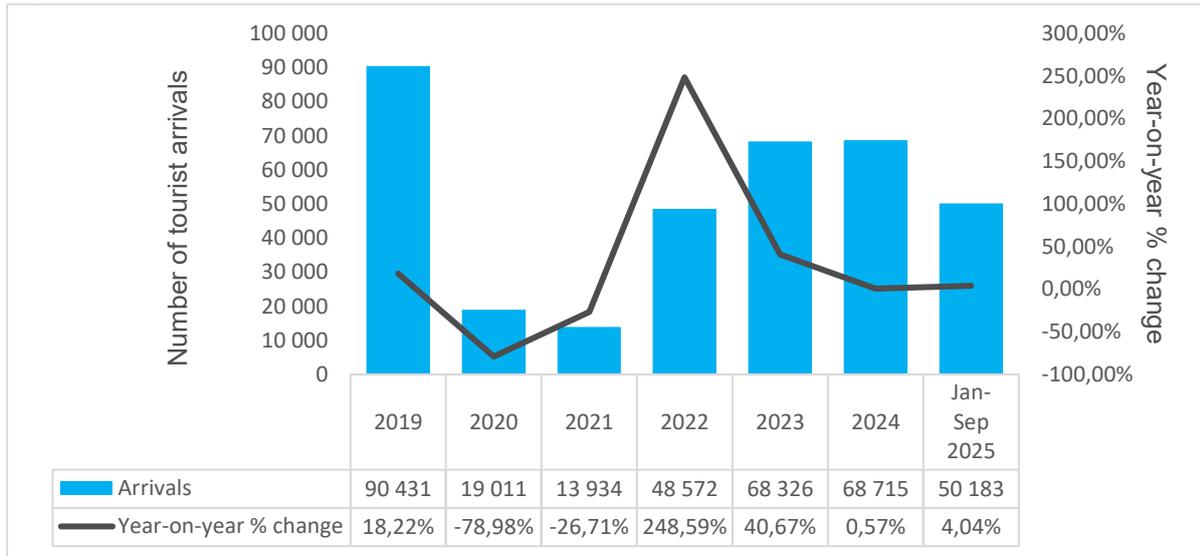


Source: Stats SA (2026)

4.4 Tourist Arrivals from the Netherlands in the Western Cape

Figure 17 shows that the Western Cape welcomed 68,715 tourists from the Netherlands in 2024, representing a 0.57% increase over 2023 arrivals. For the period January to September 2025, the province recorded 50,183 tourist arrivals, an increase of 4.04% when compared to January–September 2024. In 2024, the Netherlands contributed approximately R1.3 billion in total foreign direct spend with an average spend of R19,500 per tourist and a length of stay of 11.3 nights.

Figure 17: Tourist Arrivals from the Netherlands in the Western Cape, 2019–2025 (Jan–Sep 2025 YTD)



Source: South African Tourism, 2026

*Note: Western Cape data for 2025 is only available until September 2025.

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