

Spain

September 2025

Executive Summary

This country fact sheet provides key trade- and investment-related statistics for Spain. Specifically, it shows Spain's trade and investment flows with 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 Spain and South Africa, and those relating to Spain and the Western Cape.

Economic Overview

Spain's economy demonstrated resilience and stability in the decade 2015–2024. According to the World Bank (2025), Spain's gross domestic product (GDP) at constant 2015 prices increased from USD1.21trn in 2015 to USD1.42trn in 2024, representing a cumulative growth of 17.36% during this period.

Trade

In 2024, Spain was South Africa's 20th largest destination market for exports. During this period, South Africa's associated export earnings from trade with Spain were valued at USD1.31bn, a decline of –16.33% compared to the previous year. South Africa's largest export product to Spain in 2024 was motor vehicles for the transport of goods. At a value of USD645.26m, these accounted for 49.25% of South Africa's total export earnings from Spain in that year. The Western Cape exported goods valued at USD197.37m to Spain in 2024, an increase of 13.88% in relation to the USD173.32m generated from exports in 2023.

Investments

Between January 2015 and December 2024, 26 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects from Spain materialised in South Africa, amounting to a total capital expenditure (capex) of USD680.20m. Among these, three FDI projects with an estimated capex value of USD192.00m landed in the Western Cape.

Tourism

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 31,166 tourists from Spain, reflecting a slight year-on-year (y-o-y) decline of –2.67% compared to 2023. Nationally, this market contributed over R660.4 million in total foreign direct spend in 2024, equating to an average spend of R23,600 per tourist and an average stay of 16.5 nights in the country.

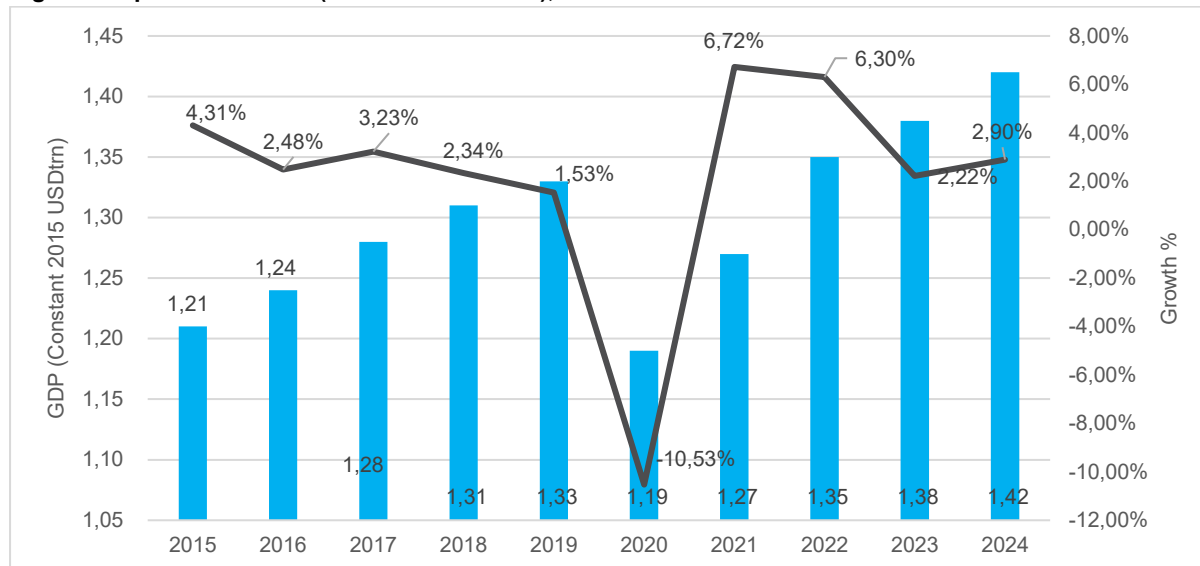
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1. Economic Overview

Spain's economy demonstrated resilience and stability in the decade 2015–2024. According to the World Bank (2025), Spain's GDP at constant 2015 prices increased from USD1.21trn in 2015 to USD1.42trn in 2024, representing a cumulative growth of 17.36% over the period. This is illustrated in Figure 1.

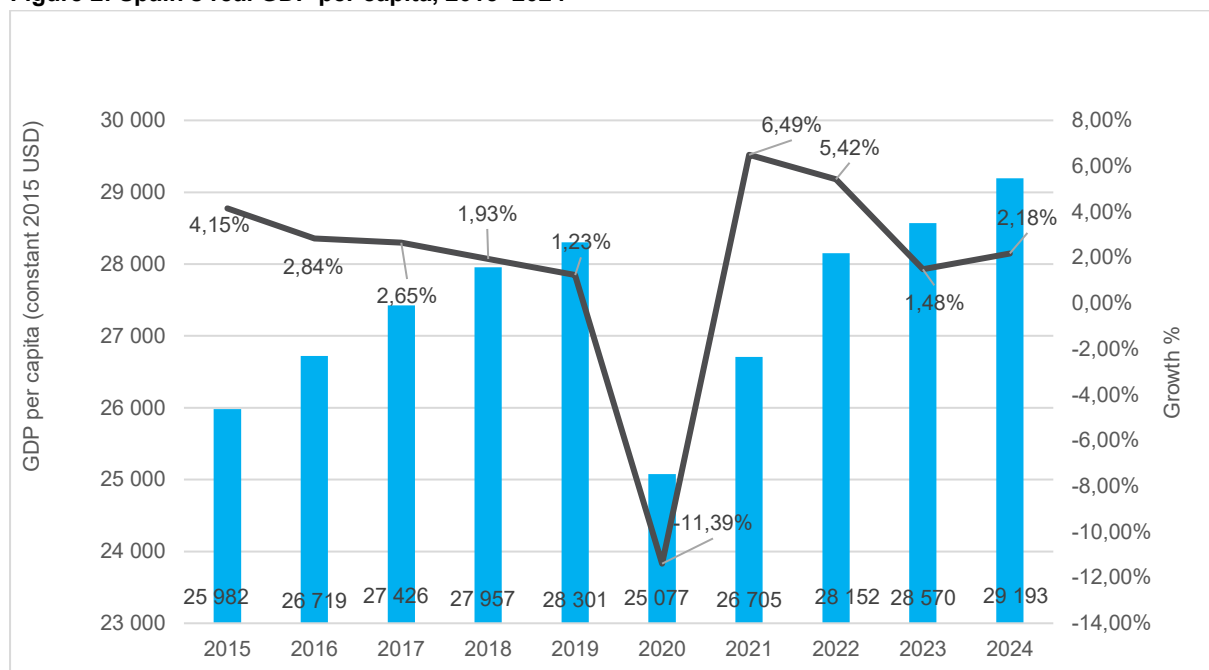
Figure 1: Spain's real GDP (constant 2015 US\$), 2015–2024



Source: World Bank (2025)

Spain's GDP per capita showed a similar trend in 2015–2024, increasing from a value of USD25,982 in 2015 to USD29,193 in 2024, as demonstrated in Figure 2. The per capita growth performance underscores Spain's ability to maintain living standards while managing demographic challenges, including an ageing population structure.

Figure 2: Spain's real GDP per capita, 2015–2024

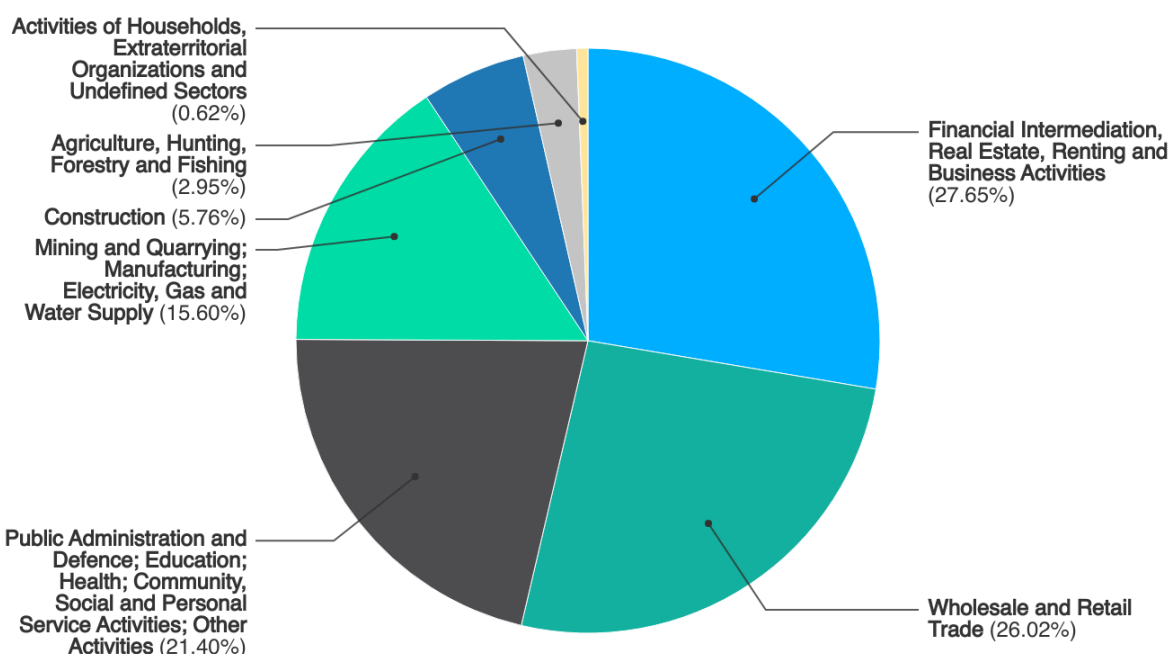


Source: World Bank (2025)

Figure 3 illustrates the sectoral contributions to Spain's gross value added (GVA) in 2024. The country's financial intermediation, real estate, renting, and business activities sector made the largest contribution (27.65%) to the GVA in 2024. This substantial contribution underscores Spain's position as a major financial centre in southern Europe and reflects the growing importance of knowledge-intensive business services in advanced economies. The dominance of this sector aligns with economic development theory, which suggests that as economies mature, they transition towards higher value-added service activities (Fourastié, 1949).

The wholesale and retail trade sector contributed 26.02%, while the sector which encompasses public administration; defence; education; health; community, social, and personal service activities; along with other activities, ranked third with a contribution of 21.40%. The tertiary sector comprised 75.08% of the country's GVA in 2024.

Figure 3: Sectoral contributions to Spain's GVA (%), 2024



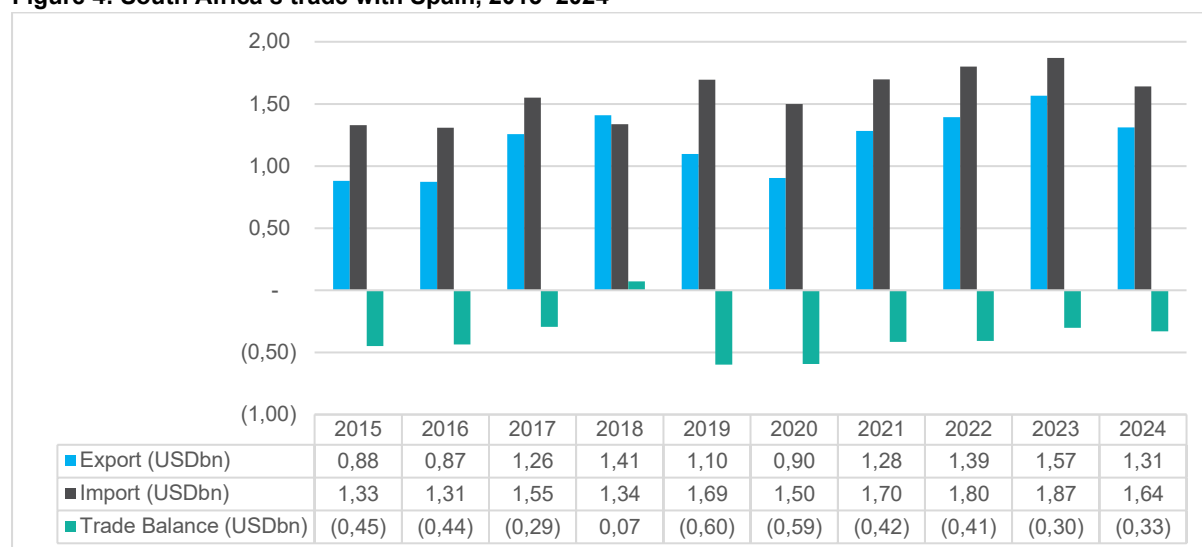
Source: Euromonitor (2025)

2. Trade

2.1 South Africa's Trade with Spain

South Africa's associated export earnings from trade with Spain amounted to USD1.31bn in 2024, a decline of –16.33% compared to the previous year. This positioned Spain as South Africa's 20th largest export market in 2024. In turn, the associated cost of South Africa's imports from Spain totalled USD1.64bn in 2024, a decline of –12.22% y-o-y on the USD1.87bn incurred in 2023. South Africa's trade balance with Spain remained firmly in deficit in 2024 at a value of –USD0.33bn, heralding nearly a decade of consecutive annual trade deficits recorded with the European country, bar 2018. These figures are illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4: South Africa's trade with Spain, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

South Africa's exports to Spain recorded a five-year annual average growth rate of 5.94% for the period 2020 to 2024. This can be seen in Table 1.

Looking at South Africa's top 10 export markets in 2024 (measured in USD values), the fastest-growing markets in the five years leading up to and including 2024 were Mozambique (with an average growth rate of 14.41%), Japan (12.32%), and the United States (12.09%).

On the import front, Spain was the 15th leading source market for goods imported by South Africa in 2024, with imports from Spain costing USD1.64bn in that year. Considering South Africa's top 10 import markets in 2024 (measured in USD values), the fastest-growing markets in the five years leading up to and including 2024 were Oman (with a five-year average growth rate of 43.35%), the United Arab Emirates (15.87%), and India (15.07%).

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Table 1: South Africa's top 10 export and import markets, 2024.

TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR SA EXPORTS, 2024				TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR SA IMPORTS, 2024			
RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2024 (USDbn)	% AVE GROWTH, 2020-2024	RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2024 (USDbn)	% AVE GROWTH, 2020-2024
1	China	12.04	5.70%	1	China	18.61	8.19%
2	United States	8.54	12.09%	2	Germany	9.44	1.76%
3	Germany	8.35	4.54%	3	India	6.87	15.07%
4	Mozambique	6.51	14.41%	4	United States	5.86	5.28%
5	United Kingdom	5.46	9.63%	5	Netherlands	4.91	5.37%
6	Japan	4.92	12.32%	6	United Arab Emirates	3.57	15.87%
7	India	4.61	6.71%	7	Belgium	3.15	1.06%
8	Botswana	4.30	3.30%	8	Thailand	2.99	12.50%
9	Netherlands	4.21	10.42%	9	Oman	2.97	43.35%
10	Namibia	3.84	3.34%	10	Nigeria	2.46	-5.07%
20	Spain	1.31	5.79%	15	Spain	1.64	-0.13%
Total exports		111.23	5.94%	Total imports		100.54	4.57%

Source: Quantec (2025)

South Africa's largest export product to Spain in 2024 was motor vehicles for the transport of goods, as shown in Table 2. At a value of USD645.26m, this accounted for 26.97% of South Africa's total export earnings from Spain in 2024. The second largest export product was motor vehicles for the transport of persons valued at USD79.52m, while exports of ferro-alloys placed third at a value of USD71.47m. The fastest-growing export product among the top 10 export products was coal, briquettes, ovoids, and similar solid fuels, with a five-year average growth rate of 83,112.51% in the period 2020–2024. Exports of unwrought aluminium followed with a five-year average growth rate of 34.01%, with motor vehicles for the transport of goods in third place with an average growth rate of 26.97%.

South Africa's top imported product from Spain in 2024 was original equipment components, valued at USD315.82m. This was followed by imports of motor cars and other motor vehicles for the transport of persons which cost USD102.85m, while in third place was the import of mixed alkylbenzenes and mixed alkylnaphthalenes, costing USD51.90m.

Table 2: South Africa's top 10 export and import products traded with Spain, 2024

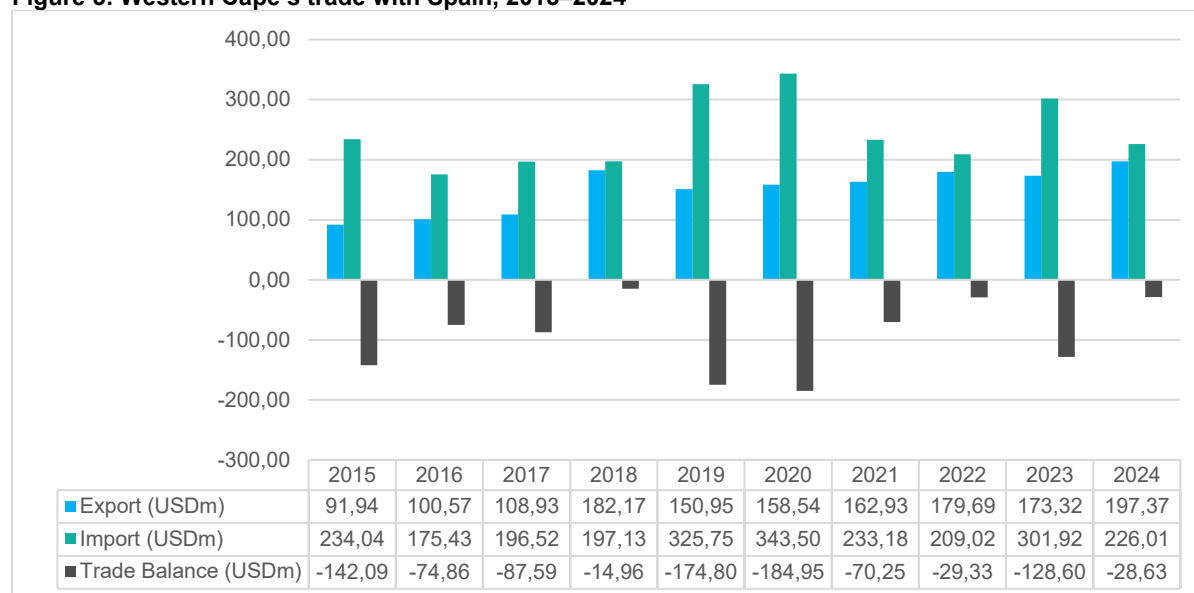
SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORTS TO SPAIN, 2024				SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPORTS FROM SPAIN, 2024			
RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE (USDm), 2024	AVE GROWTH %, 2020-2024	RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE (USDm), 2024	AVE GROWTH %, 2020-2024
1	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	645.26	26.97%	1	Original equipment components	315.82	12.47%
2	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons	79.52	-6.59%	2	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons	102.85	-2.03%
3	Ferro-alloys	71.47	8.56%	3	Mixed alkylbenzenes and mixed alkylnaphthalenes	51.90	3.10%
4	Fish fillets and other fish meat (whether or not minced)	46.45	0.95%	4	Medicaments	48.39	7.80%
5	Fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat of heading 03.04	44.97	7.26%	5	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	48.17	-0.63%
6	Niobium, tantalum, vanadium or zirconium ores and concentrates	33.47	5.83%	6	Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05	41.67	13.85%
7	Molluscs, whether in shell or not, live, fresh, chilled, frozen	30.16	12.42%	7	New pneumatic tyres, of rubber	35.02	7.33%
8	Coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	26.50	83112.51%	8	Seats (other than those of heading 94.02)	29.50	7.97%
9	Centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers; filtering or purifying machinery and apparatus,	23.85	-17.20%	9	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin	27.41	4.13%
10	Unwrought aluminium	23.81	34.01%	10	Extracts, essences and concentrates of coffee	23.53	13.77%
Total exports		1310.19	5.79%	Total imports		1640.41	-0.13%

Source: Quantec (2025)

2.2 Western Cape's Trade with Spain

The Western Cape recorded a consistent trade deficit with Spain in 2015–2024, with this shortfall narrowing from a value of –USD142.09m in 2015 to –USD28.63m by 2024. The Western Cape exported goods to the value of USD197.37m to Spain in 2024, 13.88% higher than the USD173.32m exported in 2023. In turn, import costs declined to USD226.01m in 2024, down from a cost of USD301.92m incurred in 2023. These figures are shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Western Cape's trade with Spain, 2015–2024



Source: Quantec (2025)

Looking at export markets, the Netherlands was the leading destination market for the Western Cape's exports in 2024, with exports to that country valued at USD1,117.80m, as shown in Table 3. The United States placed second: the province's exports to this country were valued at USD998.98m in 2024. Spain ranked 15th, having received goods valued at USD197.37m from the Western Cape. Looking at the Western Cape's top 10 export markets in 2024 (measured in USD values), the fastest-growing markets in the five years leading up to and including 2024 were the Netherlands (with a growth rate of 13.03%) and China (12.30%).

On the import front, mirroring the national economy, China was the leading source market for goods imported by the province, with imports from this country costing USD3,364.25m in 2024. Oman ranked second with total imports valued at USD1,599.52m. Notably, Spain ranked 20th, with imports having reached a total value of USD226.01m in 2024. Turning to the Western Cape's top 10 import markets in 2024 (measured in USD values), the fastest-growing markets in the five years leading up to and including 2024 were Angola (with a growth rate of 395.48%), Oman (39.03%), and Nigeria (20.47%).

Table 3: Western Cape's top 10 markets for exports and imports, 2024

TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR THE WC EXPORTS, 2024				TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR THE WC IMPORTS, 2024			
RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2024 (USDm)	% AVE GROWTH, 2020-2024	RANK	COUNTRY	VALUE 2024 (USDm)	% AVE GROWTH, 2020-2024
1	Netherlands	1117.80	13.03%	1	China	3364.25	5.41%
2	United States	998.98	11.35%	2	Oman	1599.52	39.03%
3	United Kingdom	933.62	7.66%	3	United Arab Emirates	1179.12	14.36%
4	Namibia	752.84	-2.50%	4	India	897.78	19.10%
5	China	641.09	12.30%	5	United States	821.40	11.35%
6	Botswana	442.13	-2.36%	6	Angola	719.51	395.48%
7	United Arab Emirates	407.94	10.21%	7	Italy	686.89	20.39%
8	Germany	309.47	-1.75%	8	Saudi Arabia	613.87	-9.41%
9	Swaziland	247.57	8.42%	9	Nigeria	544.45	20.47%
10	Russian Federation	245.42	10.37%	10	Germany	534.18	0.08%

15	Spain	197.37	5.68%	20	Spain	226.01	-3.55%
Total exports		11451.55	4.73%	Total imports		17410.39	3.68%

Source: Quantec (2025)

The Western Cape's top three export products to Spain in 2024 were fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat of heading 03.04 valued at USD44.31m; fish fillets and other fish meat (whether or not minced) at a value of USD42.62m; and flours, meals and pellets, of meat or meat offal, of fish or of crustaceans (USD15.70m). This is shown in Table 4. These export products collectively accounted for 51.99% of total exports to Spain in that year. Exports of diodes, transistors and similar semiconductor devices attained the highest five-year annual average growth rate of 3,176.21%. This was followed by exports of citrus fruit, fresh or dried, which had a five-year average growth rate of 47.61%.

Structures (excluding prefabricated buildings of heading 94.06) were the Western Cape's largest imported product from Spain in 2024. At a cost of USD9.63m, this import category accounted for 4.26% of the province's total imports from Spain in 2024. This was followed by imports of grapes, fresh or dried, at a cost of USD9.37m; and fruit juices (including grape must), worth USD8.55m.

Table 4: Western Cape's top 10 traded products with Spain, 2024

WESTERN CAPE'S EXPORTS TO SPAIN, 2024				WESTERN CAPE'S IMPORTS FROM SPAIN, 2024			
RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE (USDm), 2024	AVE GROWTH %, 2020-2024	RANK	PRODUCT	VALUE (USDm), 2024	AVE GROWTH %, 2020-2024
1	Fish, frozen, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat of heading 03.04	44.31	7.11%	1	Structures (excluding prefabricated buildings of heading 94.06)	9.63	47.97%
2	Fish fillets and other fish meat (whether or not minced)	42.62	-0.27%	2	Grapes, fresh or dried	9.37	11.57%
3	Flours, meals and pellets, of meat or meat offal, of fish or of crustaceans	15.70	32.29%	3	Fruit juices (including grape must)	8.55	4.52%
4	Molluscs, whether in shell or not, live	14.22	12.94%	4	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines)	7.56	44.94%
5	Diodes, transistors and similar semiconductor devices	8.14	3176.21%	5	Cyclic hydrocarbons	6.81	4646.55%
6	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	7.12	47.61%	6	Meat and edible offal	6.80	101.44%
7	Grapes, fresh or dried	5.43	32.82%	7	Articles for the conveyance or packing of goods	6.27	15.79%
8	Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices	5.39	36.08%	8	Olive oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	6.18	-5.86%
9	Other fruit, fresh	5.37	18.75%	9	Insulated (including enamelled or anodised) wire	5.53	85.69%
10	Fish, fresh or chilled, excluding fish fillets and other fish meat of heading 03.04	4.55	-6.27%	10	Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06)	5.23	18.75%
Total exports		197.37	5.68%	Total imports		226.01	-3.55%

Source: Quantec (2025)

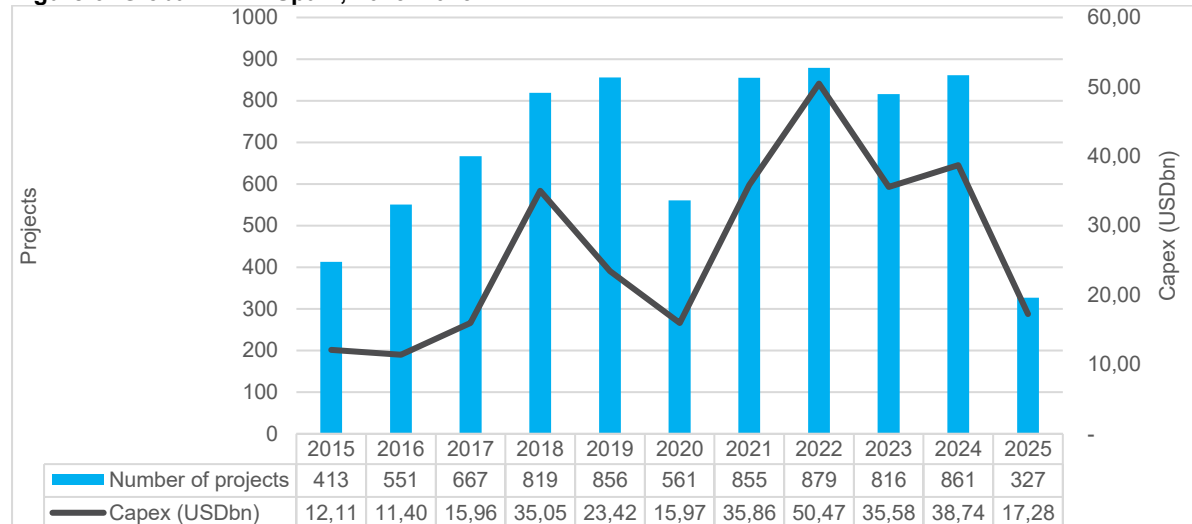
3. Foreign Direct Investment

This section analyses FDI flows between Spain and South Africa as well as those between Spain and the Western Cape.

3.1 Global FDI in Spain

Figure 6 illustrates that from January 2015 to July 2025, Spain attracted a total of 7,605 FDI projects. These investments generated USD291.83bn in capex and created 671,766 jobs across the economy. The investments highlight Spain's position as an attractive destination for global investors (fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times, 2025).

Figure 6: Global FDI in Spain, 2015–2025

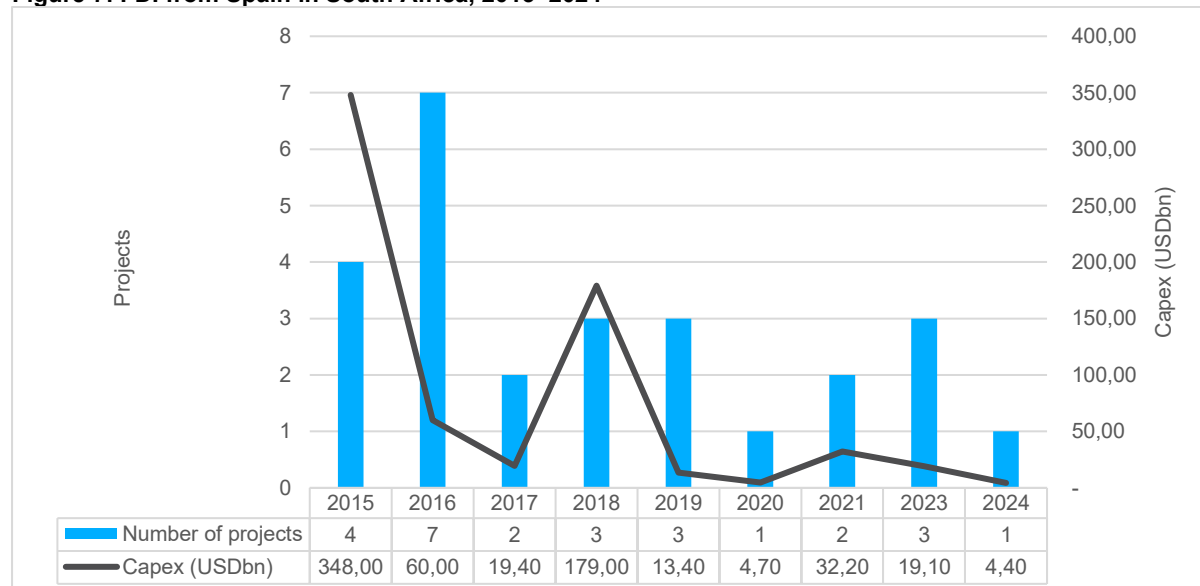


Source: fDi Markets, a service from The Financial Times, 2025. All Rights Reserved

3.2 FDI from Spain in South Africa

During the period January 2015 to July 2025 Spanish companies invested in 26 FDI projects in South Africa, as shown in Figure 7. This generated USD680.20m in capex and resulted in the creation of 1,834 jobs. These investments originated from 24 Spanish companies, demonstrating broad-based interest from Spanish businesses across multiple sectors. The substantial investment commitment underscores Spain'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 7: FDI from Spain in South Africa, 2015–2024



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

As indicated in Figure 8, between January 2015 and July 2025, Spain's FDI in South Africa was primarily driven by large-scale capital flows in the renewable energy sector. According to *FDI Intelligence* (2025), the total value of Spain's FDI in South Africa during this period amounted to approximately USD680.30m, with the renewable energy sector accounting for the largest share at USD505.00m (74.23%) of the total FDI from Spain, measured in capex. This significant investment reflects Spain's global leadership in clean energy and its efforts to support green transitions in key partner markets. In second place was the consumer products sector that attracted investments amounting to 4.81% of the total capex (USD32.70m). The industrial equipment sector ranked third, having benefited from two projects with a total capex of USD24.10m, accounting for 3.54% of the total capex.

Spain's FDI in South Africa underscores the country's role as a key European investor committed to industrial growth, energy transition, and innovation in South Africa's strategic sectors.

Figure 8: FDI from Spain in South African sectors (measured in capex), 2015–July 2025

	Capex (USDm)	Capex Share%
Renewable energy	505.00	74.23
Consumer products	32.70	4.81
Industrial equipment	24.10	3.54
Software & IT services	23.70	3.48
Textiles	22.00	3.23
Financial services	19.00	2.79
Plastics	19.00	2.79
Ceramics & glass	10.50	1.54
Business services	8.50	1.25
Electronic components	8.00	1.18

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

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Between 2015 and July 2025, Spanish companies invested USD680.30m across 26 projects in South Africa, reflecting a strategically coordinated approach that combined technological expertise, employment creation, and sectoral diversification. Table 5 shows that investment has been dominated by large-scale renewable energy projects led by Abengoa, Acciona, and Sonnedix, underscoring Spain's role in supporting South Africa's energy transition. At the same time, an investment in manufacturing from Molecor has achieved good job creation outcomes, while consumer brands such as Zara Home, Neolith, and Uno de 50 have applied proven market entry models tailored to local demand. Together with ongoing commitments in construction materials, these investments highlight Spain's balanced engagement across key value chains, positioning Spanish firms as long-term partners in South Africa's economic development.

Table 5: Spanish companies investing in South Africa (measured in Capex), 2015–July 2025

RANK	COMPANY	PROJECTS	CAPEX (USDm)	JOBS CREATED
1	Abengoa	1	168.00	21
2	Acciona	1	168.00	21
3	Sonnex	1	168.00	21
4	Hine	1	21.30	67
5	Molecor	1	19.00	239
6	Adglow	1	12.40	68
7	Zara Home	1	10.90	187
8	Neolith	1	10.90	187
9	Uno de 50	1	10.90	187
10	Porcelanosa	2	10.50	127
Total		26	680.30	1,834

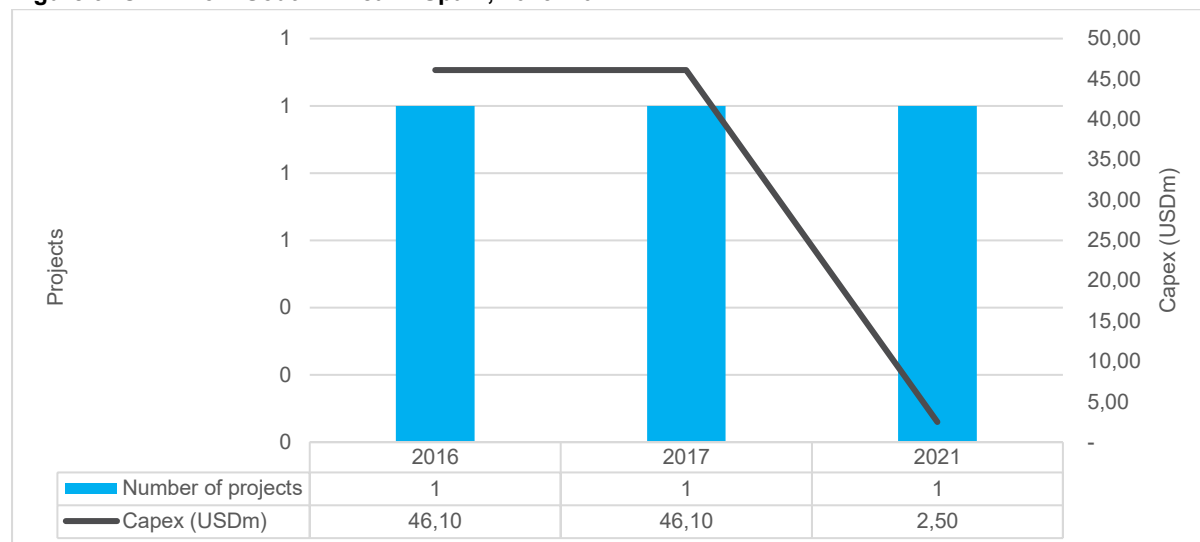
Source: *fDi Markets*, a service from *The Financial Times*, 2025. All Rights Reserved

Note: The totals reflect the totals of all FDI from Spain in SA, not only of the listed 10 companies.

3.3 Outward FDI from South Africa in Spain

Between January 2015 and July 2025, two South African companies invested in three outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) projects in Spain, with a total capex value of USD94.70m. Figure 9 shows South Africa's largest capex injections in Spain were in 2016 and 2017, when the respective amounts of USD46.10m were invested.

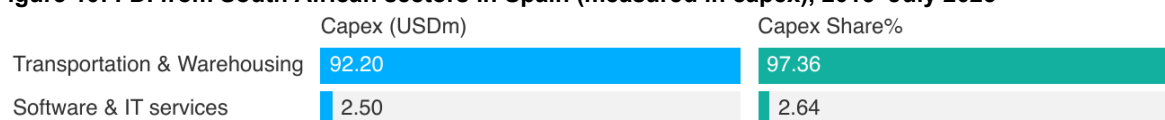
Figure 9: OFDI from South Africa in Spain, 2015–2024



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

As shown in Figure 10, South African companies made strategic investments across two key sectors in this southern European economy. The transportation and warehousing sector attracted two projects with a combined capex of USD92.20m, while the software and IT services sector benefited from a single project investment valued at USD2.50m.

Figure 10: FDI from South African sectors in Spain (measured in capex), 2015–July 2025



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

Listed in Table 6 are the South African companies that invested in Spain from 2015 to 2024, ranked according to the amounts invested in capex. South Africa's OFDI in Spain remains highly concentrated, with Palletways accounting for 97.36% (USD92.20m), highlighting reliance on a single strategic investment rather than broad market engagement. Only two companies appear in the "Top 10" ranking, which reflects the early stage of South African investment in Spain and the potential for expansion. The portfolio features contrasting job creation models: capital-intensive logistics through Palletways (2.4 jobs per USD1.00m) versus Derivco's labour-intensive technology operations (20 jobs per USD1.00m), which have a much higher employment impact. Investments are strategically aligned with critical infrastructure and high-value services, capitalising on South Africa's competitive advantages. However, the bilateral investment relationship remains imbalanced, with Spanish FDI in South Africa (USD680.30m) exceeding South African FDI in Spain (USD94.70m) by 7:1. Overall, these patterns indicate an early-stage but promising investment relationship, with significant potential for South African firms to expand their presence and build on existing successes in the Spanish market.

Table 6: Top companies (measured in capex) – South Africa's OFDI in Spain, 2015–2024

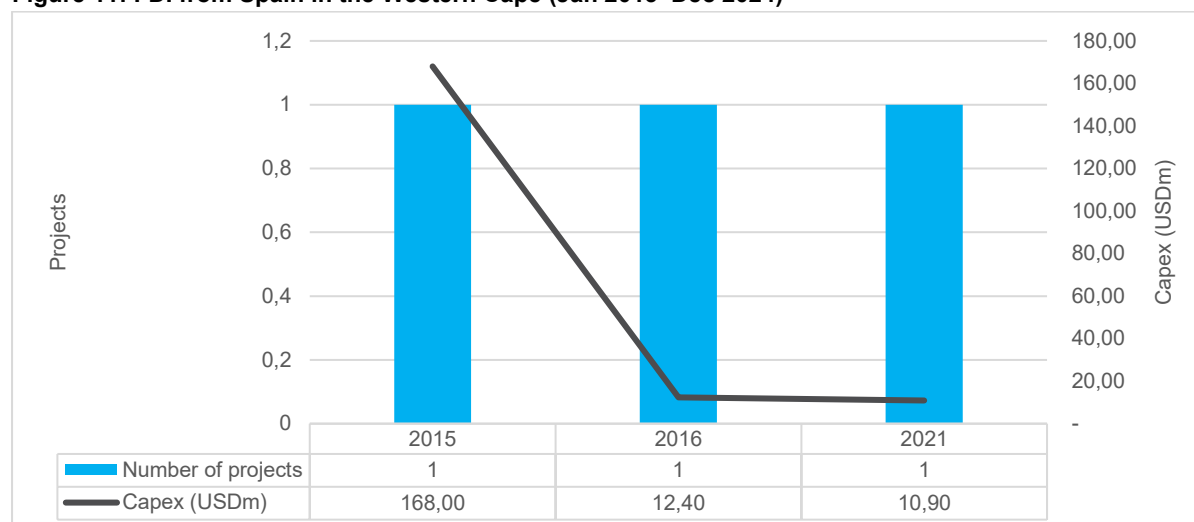
RANK	COMPANY	PROJECTS	CAPEX (USDm)	Jobs created
1	Palletways	2	92.20	218
2	Derivco	1	2.50	50
Total		3	94.70	268

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

3.4 FDI from Spain in the Western Cape

Between January 2015 and July 2025, the Western Cape attracted a total of three FDI projects from Spain, with a cumulative capex value of USD191.60m, as illustrated in Figure 11. These investments supported the creation of approximately 276 jobs across the province (FDI Intelligence, 2025). The greatest amount of capex was recorded in 2015, when Spanish firms invested USD168.00m in a single project, making it the most active year in terms of capital value.

Figure 11: FDI from Spain in the Western Cape (Jan 2015–Dec 2024)



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

Figure 12 shows investments that reflect both the breadth and sectoral diversity of Spain's engagement with the Western Cape and points to opportunities for deepening bilateral commercial ties in strategic, future-facing sectors. The renewable energy sector attracted USD168.00m in a single project, accounting for the largest share in capital expenditure, 87.50%, which underscores the sector's growing importance to Spanish 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 technology solutions. Consumer products was the third-largest sector, when measured in capex, with a single project valued at USD10.90m that generated 187 jobs. This highlights Spain's continued interest in high-skill, knowledge-based sectors in the province.

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Figure 12: FDI from Spain in Western Cape sectors (measured in capex), 2015–2024

	Capex (USDm)	Capex Share%
Renewable Energy	168.00	87.50
Software & IT services	12.40	6.46
Consumer products	10.90	5.68

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

Table 7 highlights the leading Spanish investors in the Western Cape between 2015 and July 2025. Acciona stands out with a single project worth USD168.00m, which generated 21 jobs, representing the largest FDI project when measured in capex (FDI Intelligence, 2025). Adglow and Neolith followed with investments of USD12.40m and USD10.90m respectively, which strengthened the province's digital and business support services capabilities.

Table 7: Top 10 companies (measured in capex) – Spain's FDI in the Western Cape, 2015–2024

RANK	COMPANY	PROJECTS	CAPEX (USDm)	Jobs created
1	Acciona	1	168.00	21
2	Adglow	1	12.40	68
3	Neolith	1	10.90	187
Total		3	192.00	276

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

3.5 OFDI from the Western Cape in Spain

During the period January 2015 to July 2025, there were no records of OFDI from the Western Cape in Spain.

4. Tourism

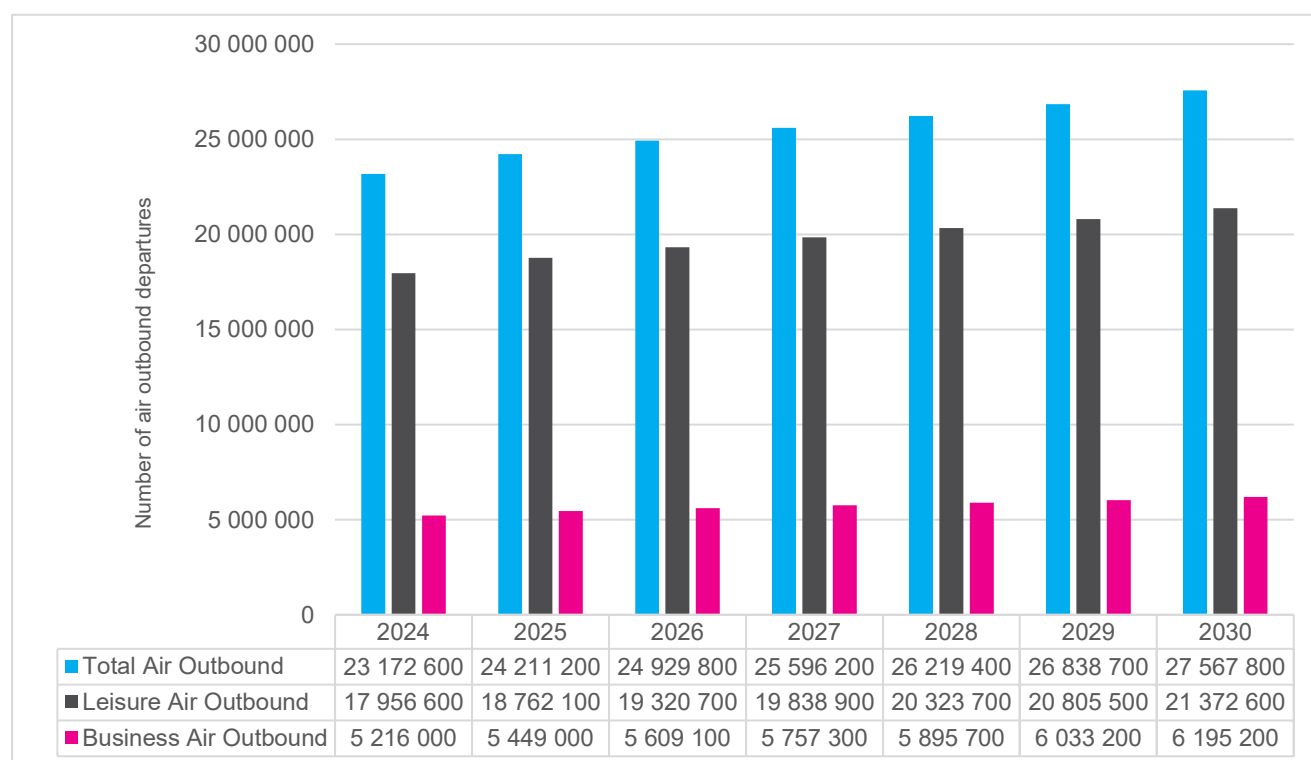
The information below presents an overview of Spain's outbound departure trends, as well as tourist arrivals from the country in South Africa and the Western Cape. This includes a summary of total foreign direct spend as well as the average length of stay of Spanish tourists in South Africa and the Western Cape.

4.1 Outbound Departures from Spain

In 2024, the total number of outbound air departures from Spain reached 23.1 million, marking a y-o-y increase of 6.67% compared to 2023. Looking ahead, outbound air departures are projected to rise steadily to 24.2 million in 2025 and to reach 27.5 million by 2030.

Leisure travel remains the primary driver of outbound air departures from Spain, estimated to reach 18.7 million in 2025 and 21.3 million by 2030. These figures, shown in Figure 13, highlight the growing demand of leisure tourism for Spain's outbound air market.

Figure 13: Outbound air departures from Spain, 2024–2029F






Source: Euromonitor International, 2025

Note: All figures shown for 2025 are estimates (E) and forecast projections (F) for the years 2026 to 2029.

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

Table 8: Tourism highlights: Arrivals from Spain in South Africa and the Western Cape

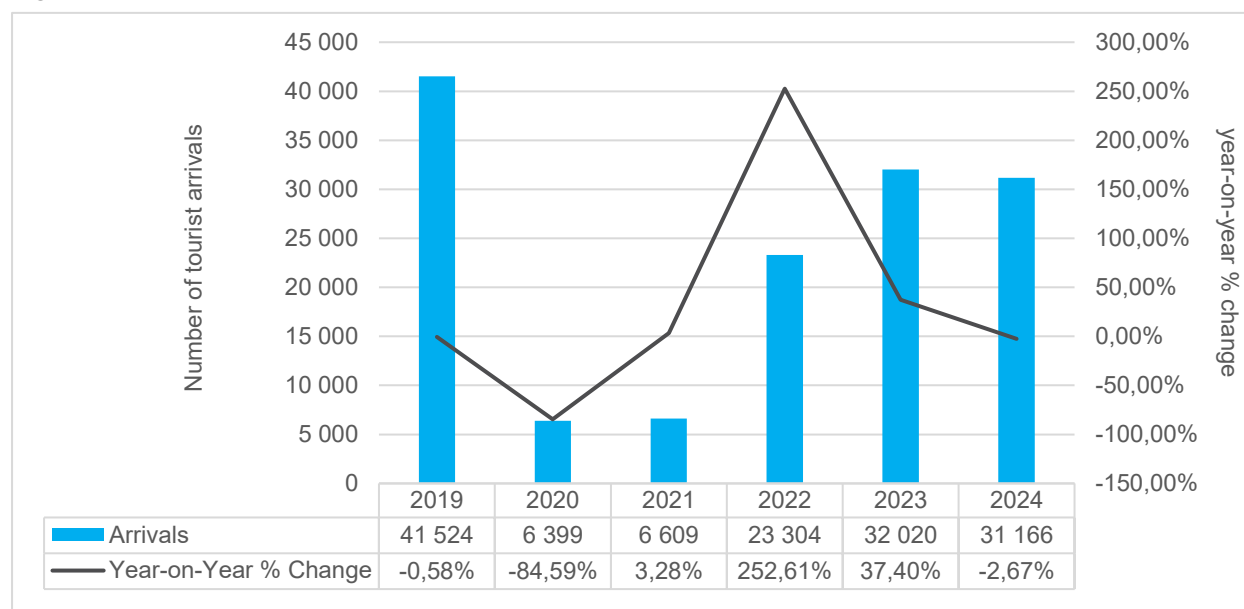
Travel Trends (2024)	
South Africa	Western Cape
Tourist Arrivals from Spain 	
31 166 (–2.67% decrease compared to 2023)	17 010 (–11.08% decrease compared to 2023)
Total Foreign Direct Spend 	
R660.4 million (–14.30% decrease compared to 2023)	R271.5 million (–18.44% decrease compared to 2023)
Length of Stay 	
16.5 nights (17.7% increase compared to 2023)	12.0 nights (14.8% increase compared to 2023)

Source: South African Tourism (2025)

4.2 Tourist Arrivals from Spain in South Africa

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 31,166 tourists from Spain, reflecting a slight y-o-y decline of –2.67% compared to 2023, as indicated in Figure 14. Nationally, this market contributed over R660.4 million in total foreign direct spend in 2024, equating to an average spend of R23,600 per tourist and an average stay of 16.5 nights in the country.

Figure 14: Tourist arrivals from Spain in South Africa, 2019–2024

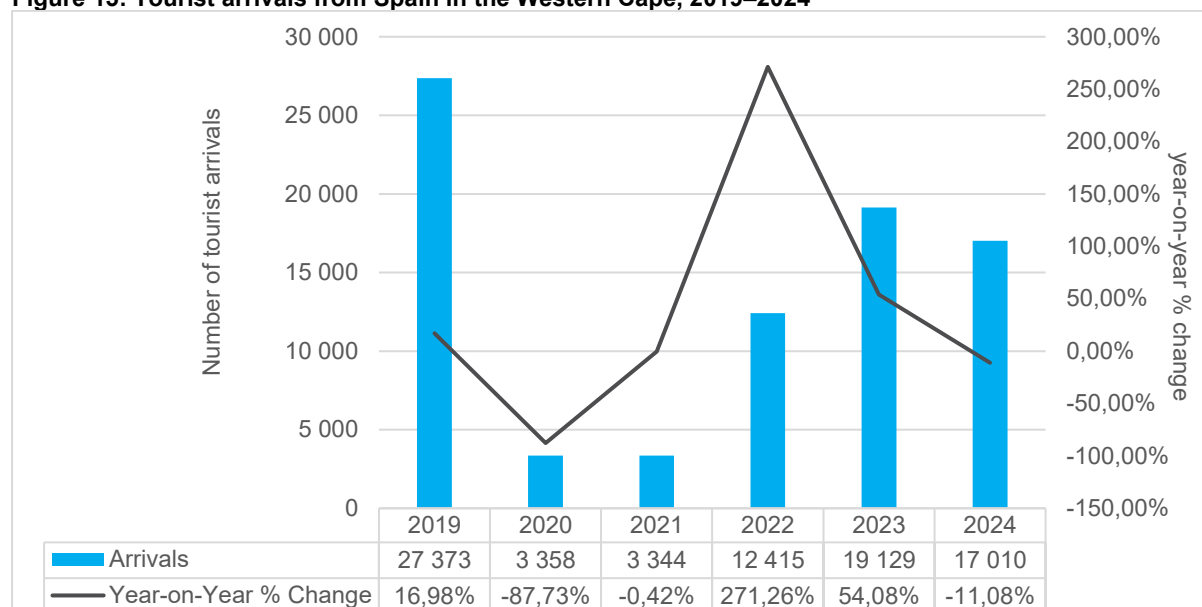


Source: South African Tourism (2025)

4.3 Tourist Arrivals from Spain in the Western Cape

Figure 15 shows that a total of 17,010 tourists from Spain visited the Western Cape in 2024, reflecting a y-o-y decrease of –11.08% compared to 2023. Despite the drop in arrivals, the Spanish market contributed over R271.5 million in total foreign direct spend to the provincial economy. Each tourist spent an average of R16,500 and stayed for an average of 12.0 nights in the province.

Figure 15: Tourist arrivals from Spain in the Western Cape, 2019–2024



Source: South African Tourism, 2025

5. References

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Appendix 1

Table 9: Gold and foreign exchange: exchange rates used in the report

YEAR	Rand\USD (Average of Monthly Values)
2013	9.77
2014	10.87
2015	12.94
2016	14.61
2017	13.24
2018	13.26
2019	14.45
2020	16.49
2021	14.88
2022	16.43
2023	18.52
2024	18.34

Source: SA Reserve Bank: Gold and Foreign Exchange Position accessed on the 2025-02-19

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