

## MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS 2011

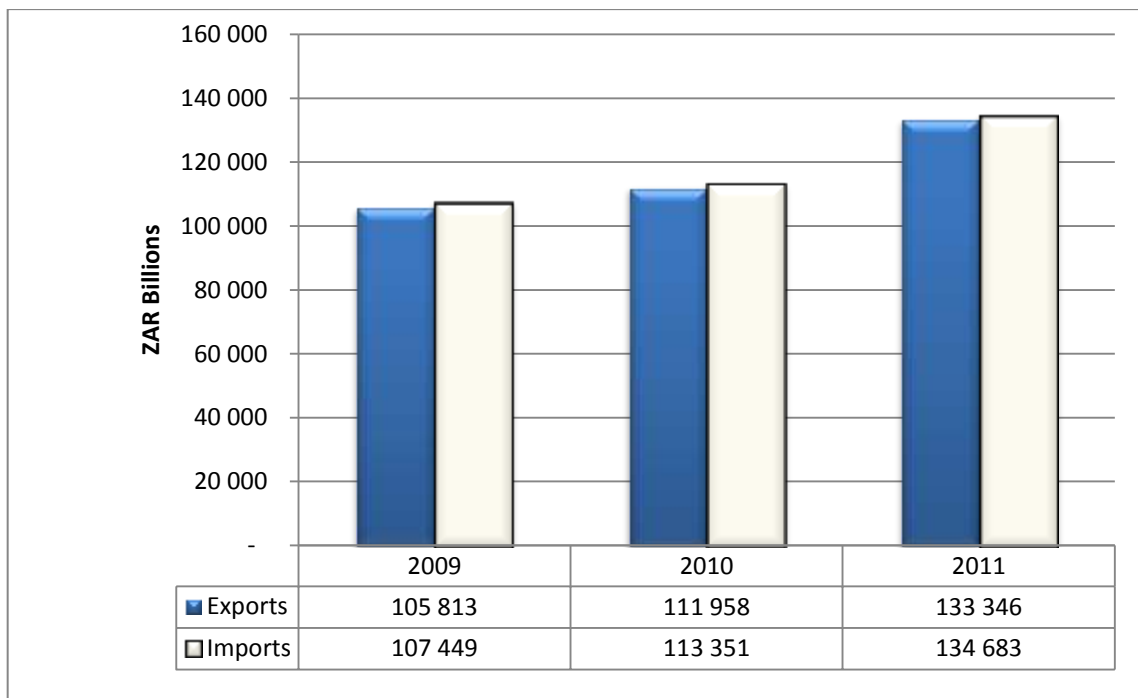


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## 1. WORLD TRADE

- 1.1. In 2011, world merchandise exports grew by 19.1 per cent, reaching R133.35 trillion from a growth of 5.8 per cent recorded in 2010. Similarly, world merchandise imports grew by 18.8 per cent, reaching R134.68 trillion from a growth of 5.5 per cent recorded in 2010.
- 1.2. The top five merchandise exporters in 2011 were China (10.4 per cent of world exports), the United States (8.1 per cent of world exports), Germany (8.1 per cent of world exports), Japan (4.5 per cent of world exports) and the Netherlands (3.6 per cent of world exports). The leading importers were the United States (12.3 per cent of world imports), China (9.5 per cent of world imports), Germany (6.8 per cent of world imports), Japan (4.6 per cent of world imports) and France (4.0 per cent of world imports).
- 1.3. Africa's exports grew by 17.0 per cent in 2011 accounting for 3.4 per cent of the world total while imports rose by 18.0 per cent, representing 3.1 per cent of the world total.



Source: WTO statistics database

**Figure 1: World Trade**

## 2. STATE OF SACU ECONOMY AND TRADE IN 2011

- 2.1. The reference period for the Bulletin is 2011 with the exception of Lesotho where trade data used is for 2010.

### *Economic Growth*

- 2.2. In 2011, SACU economic growth fell to 4.2 per cent from 5.5 per cent in the previous year. This was in line with the rate of world output growth that fell to 2.4 per cent in 2011 from 3.8 per cent in the previous year, weighted down by the on-going sovereign debt crisis in the Euro Area, supply chain disruptions from natural disasters in Japan and Thailand, and instability in Arab countries.
- 2.3. The fastest growing SACU Member States in 2011 were Botswana at 8.0 per cent, followed by Namibia at 4.8 per cent, while Swaziland recorded the lowest growth rate at 1.3 per cent in 2011. While, Lesotho and South Africa recorded 3.7 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively.

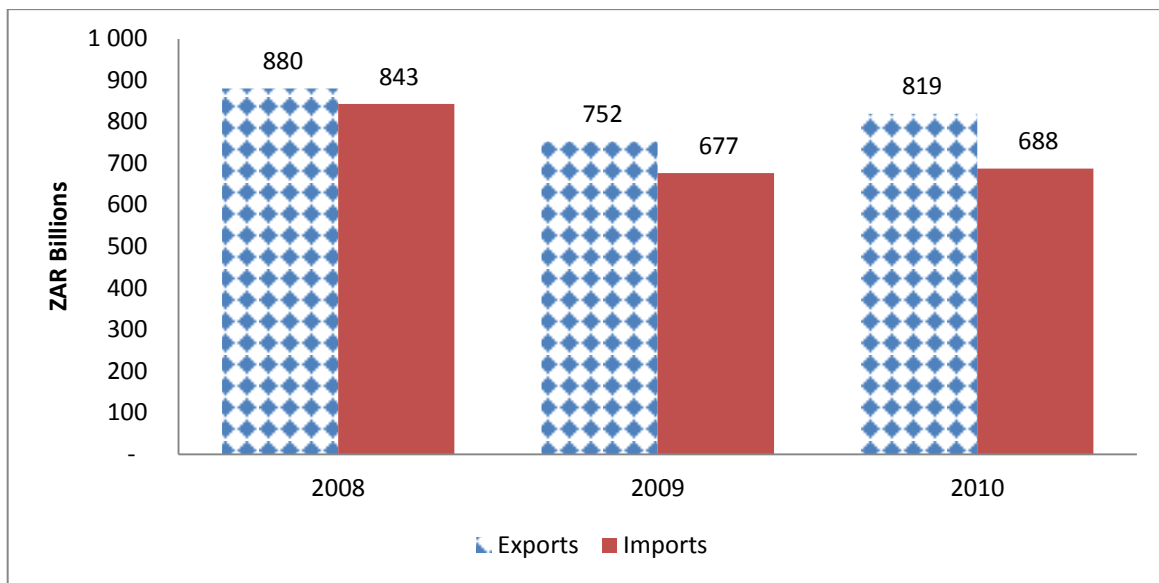
**Table 1: GDP growth rates (%)**

	2009	2010	2011
World	-2.6	3.8	2.4
Africa	2.2	4.6	2.3
SACU	-1.1	5.5	4.2
Botswana	-7.9	8.1	8.0
Lesotho	3.6	7.9	3.7
Namibia	-1.1	6.6	4.8
South Africa	-1.5	2.9	3.1
Swaziland	1.2	1.9	1.3

Source: World Trade Report 2012, and SACU statistics database

### *Merchandise Trade*

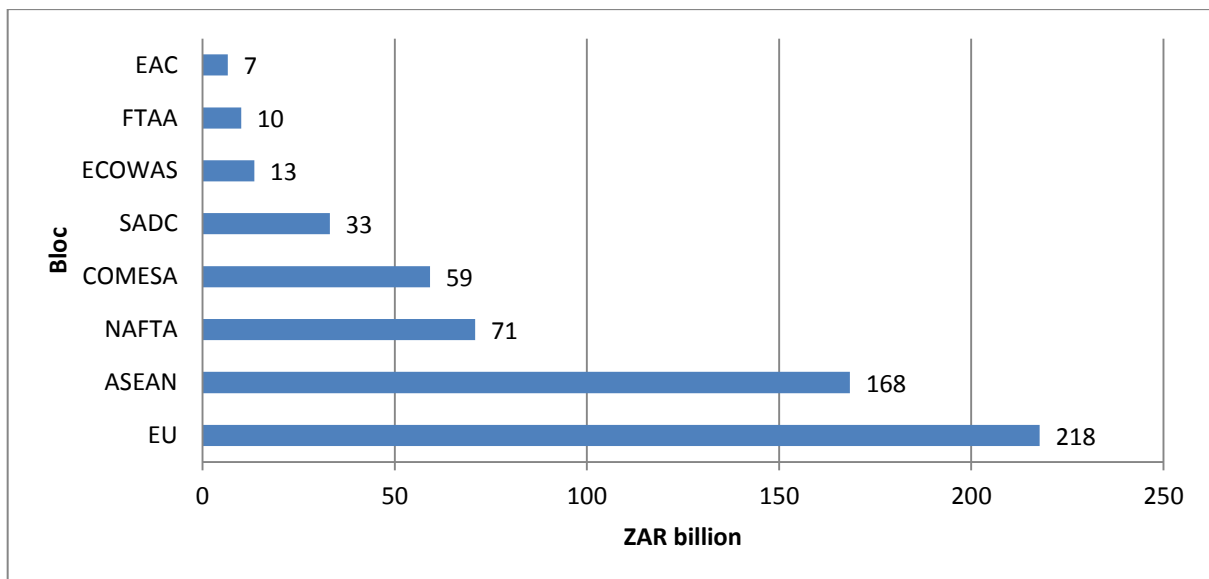
- 2.4. In 2010, SACU total exports increased by 8.9 per cent to R819.43 billion from R752.23 billion recorded in 2009. SACU total export accounted for a 22.0 per cent share of the African merchandise exports in 2010. Similarly, SACU imports increased by 1.7 per cent to R687.87 billion in 2010 compared to R676.68 billion in 2009. In 2010, SACU imports accounted for a share of 20.0 per cent of the African merchandise imports.



Source: SACU statistics database

**Figure 2: SACU Trade, 2008-2010**

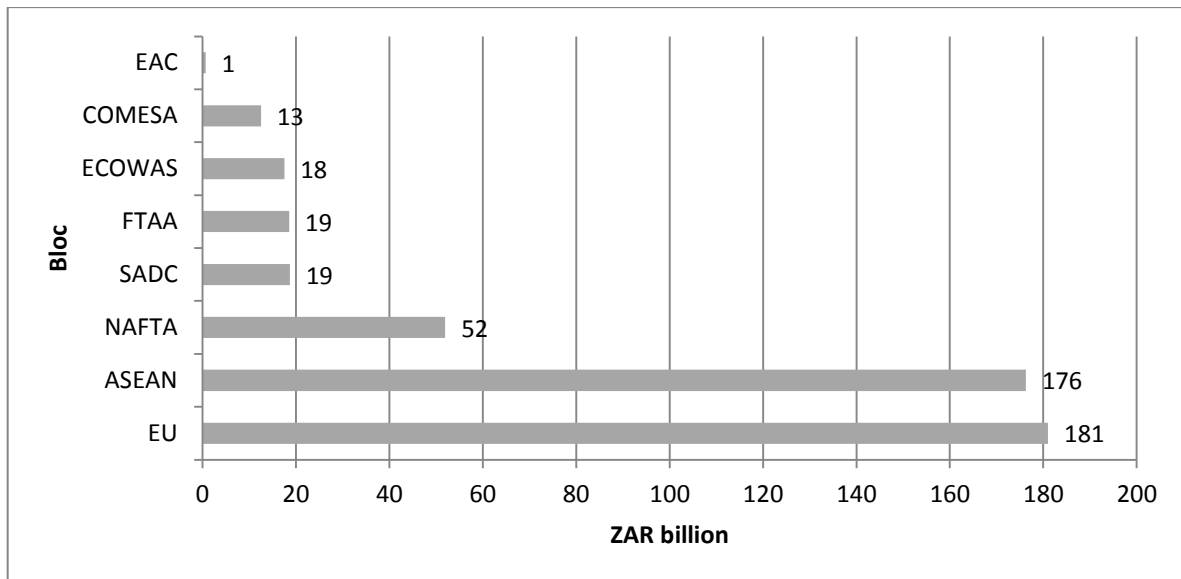
- 2.5. In 2010, EU was the main destination of SACU products, accounting for 26.6 per cent of total exports. SACU exports to EU increased by 23.6 per cent in 2010 to R218 billion from R176 billion in 2009.



Source: SACU statistics database

**Figure 3: SACU's Exports to a selected Trade Blocs, 2010**

- 2.6. Similarly, among the selected trade blocs EU was the main source of imports for SACU, accounting for 26.3 per cent of total imports. Followed by ASEAN with imports to the value of R176 billion.

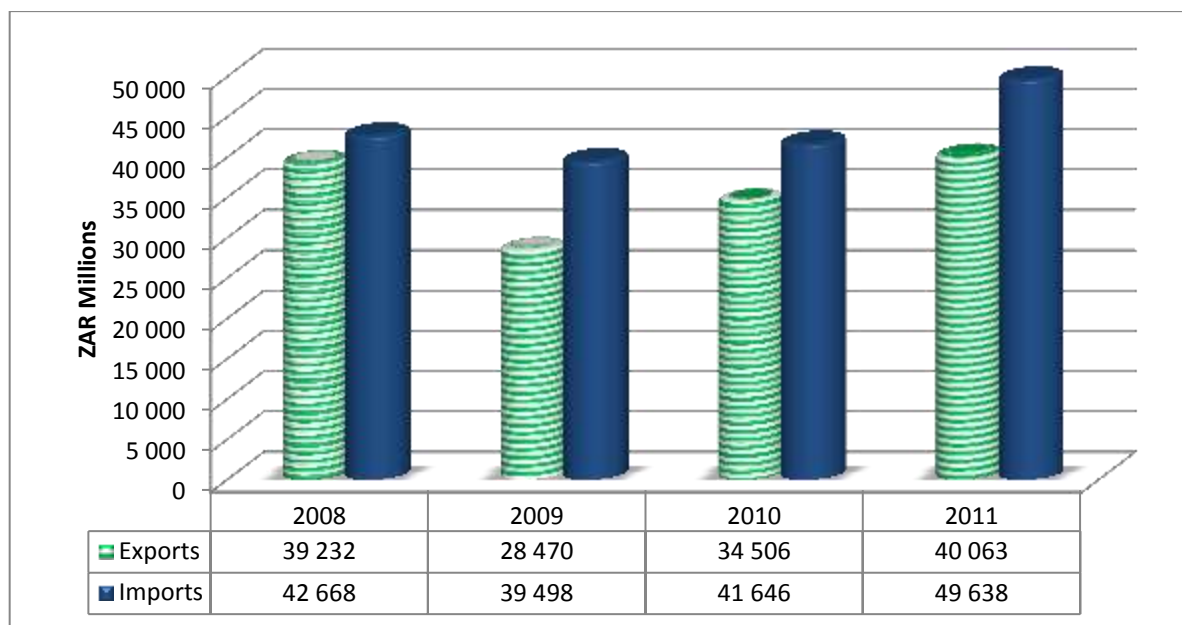


Source: SACU statistics database

**Figure 4: SACU's Imports from a selected Trade Blocs, 2010**

- 2.7. The top five commodities exported from SACU in 2010 were chapter 71 (*natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones etc.*), accounting for 22.1 per cent of total exports followed by chapter 26 (*ores, slag and ash*) with a share of 9.5 per cent, chapter 27 (*mineral fuels, mineral oils, and distillation products*) with a share of 9.3 per cent, chapter 87 (*vehicles*) with a share of 7.6 per cent, and chapter 72 (*iron and steel*) with a share of 9.3 per cent.
- 2.8. While the top five commodities imported into SACU in 2010 were chapter 27 (*mineral fuels, mineral oils, and distillation products*), accounting for 18.0 per cent of total imports. This was followed by chapter 84 (*machinery and mechanical appliances*) with a share of 13.9 per cent, chapter 85 (*electrical machinery and equipment*) with a share of 9.4 per cent, chapter 87 (*vehicles*) with a share of 7.9 per cent, and chapter 98 (*original equipment components*) with a share of 5.3 per cent.

## 3. BOTSWANA



Source: SACU statistics database

**Figure 5: Botswana's Trade with ROW**

- 3.1. Total exports to the rest of the world increased by 16.1 per cent to R40.1 billion in 2011 from R34.5 billion in 2010. The main commodities exported in 2011 were *natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones* (chapter 71) accounting for 76.9 per cent of total exports, and *nickel and articles thereof* (chapter 75) accounting for 6.0 per cent of total exports.

**Table 2: Botswana's Top Export Commodities, 2011**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	71	Pearls, precious stones, precious metals, coins	30 806	76.9
2	75	Nickel and articles thereof	2 413	6.0
3	62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	1 113	2.8
4	87	Vehicles other than railway, and parts and accessories thereof	744	1.9
5	84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	508	1.3
6	26	Ores, slag and ash	507	1.3
7	61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	491	1.2
8	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof	450	1.1
9	28	Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals	324	0.8
10	02	Meat and edible meat offal	315	0.8

- 3.2. Similarly, imports increased by 19.2 per cent to R49.6 billion in 2011 from R41.6 billion in 2010. The main commodities imported in 2011 were *mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation* (chapter 27), and *machinery and mechanical appliances* (chapter 84).

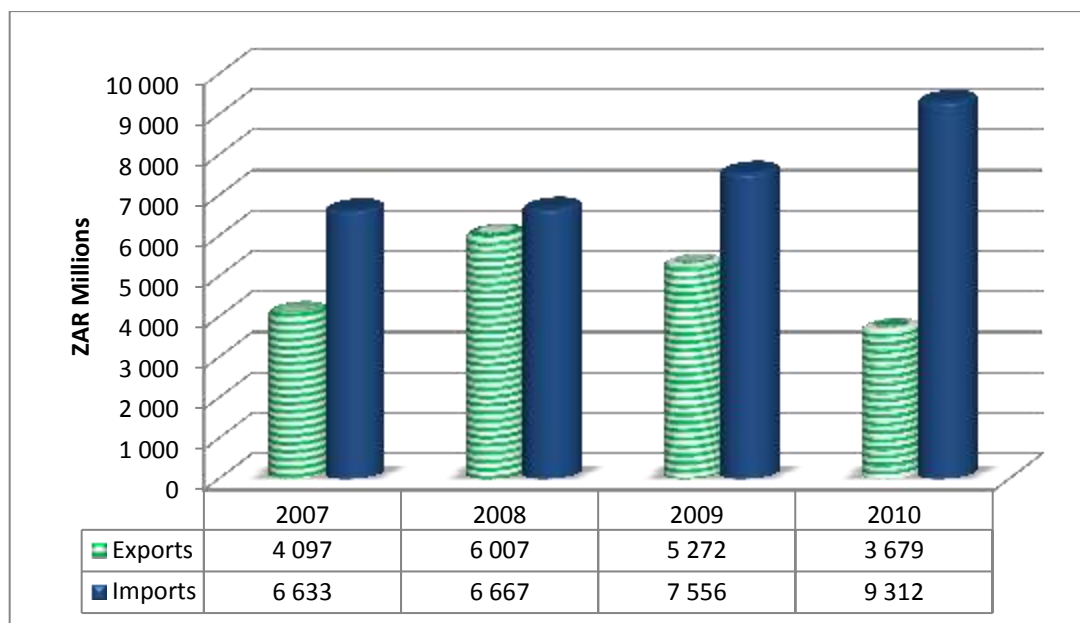
**Table 3: Botswana's Top Import Commodities, 2011**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	27	Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products	8 264	16.6
2	84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6 405	12.9
3	71	Pearls, precious stones, precious metals, coins	5 912	11.9
4	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof	4 560	9.2
5	87	Vehicles other than railway, and parts and accessories thereof	4 311	8.7
6	73	Articles of iron or steel	2 057	4.1
7	30	Pharmaceutical products	968	2.0
8	39	Plastics and articles thereof	822	1.7
9	72	Iron and steel	818	1.6
10	10	Cereals	698	1.4

- 3.3. Botswana's intra-SACU exports increased by 22.4 per cent to R5.7 billion in 2011 compared to 2010. In 2011, South Africa was the main export destination for Botswana's commodities within the Union with exports value amounting to R5.4 billion followed by Namibia. The main commodities exported to other SACU Member States in 2011 were *articles of apparel and clothing accessories* (chapter 62) with a share of 18.6 per cent of total intra-SACU exports followed by *natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones* (chapter 71) accounting for a share of about 9.9 per cent. Intra-SACU exports accounted for about 14.2 per cent of the total exports of Botswana in 2011.
- 3.4. Botswana's intra-SACU imports increased by 8.0 per cent to R33.2 billion in 2011 compared to 2010. South Africa remains the main source of commodities imported into Botswana from the Customs Union followed by Namibia. The main commodities imported from other SACU Member States in 2011 were *mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation* (chapter 27) with a share of 23.5 per cent of total intra-SACU imports followed by *nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances* (chapter 84) accounting for a share of about 10.8 per cent. Intra-SACU imports accounted for about 66.8 per cent of the total imports of Botswana in 2011.



## 4. LESOTHO



Source: SACU statistics database

**Figure 6: Lesotho's Trade with ROW**

- 4.1. Total exports to the rest of the world declined by 30.2 per cent to R3.7 billion in 2010 from R5.3 billion in 2009. The decline was mainly reflected in *articles of apparel and clothing accessories knitted or crocheted* (chapter 61) and *articles of apparel and clothing accessories not knitted or crocheted* (chapter 62). The main commodities exported in 2011 were *electrical machinery and equipment* (chapter 85) accounting for 26.2 per cent of total exports, and *articles of apparel and clothing accessories knitted or crocheted* (chapter 61) accounting for 19.2 per cent of total exports.

**Table 4: Lesotho's Top Export Commodities, 2010**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	85	Electrical machinery and equipment	964	26.2
2	61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	705	19.2
3	62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	630	17.1
4	22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	440	12.0
5	64	Footwear gaiters and the like, parts thereof	246	6.7
6	51	Wool fine or coarse animal hair	147	4.0
7	52	Cotton	144	3.9
8	11	Milling products; malt; starches; wheat gluten	125	3.4
9	71	Pearls, precious stones, metals	102	2.8
10	63	Other made textile articles, sets, worn clothing	44	1.2

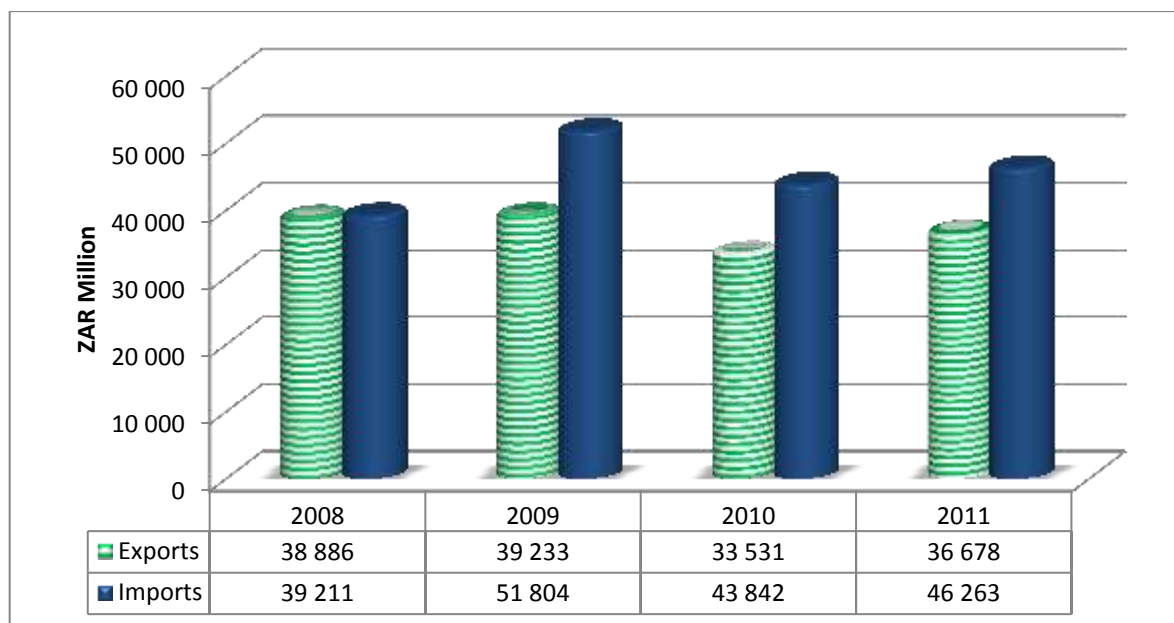
- 4.2. On the other hand, imports increased by 23.2 per cent to R9.3 billion in 2010 from R7.6 billion in 2009. The main commodities imported in 2011 were *mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation* (chapter 27), and *electrical, electronic equipment* (chapter 85).

**Table 5: Lesotho's Top Import Commodities, 2010**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	27	Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products	975	10.5
2	85	Electrical machinery and equipment	864	9.3
3	87	Vehicles other than railway, and parts and accessories thereof	646	6.9
4	84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	413	4.4
5	52	Cotton	399	4.3
6	39	Plastics and articles thereof	346	3.7
7	30	Pharmaceutical products	265	2.8
8	48	Paper and paperboard, articles of paper pulp	256	2.8
9	54	Man-made filaments	254	2.7
10	02	Meat and edible offal	254	2.7

- 4.3. Lesotho's intra-SACU exports increased by 1.4 per cent to R2.6 billion in 2010 compared to 2009. In 2011, South Africa was the main export destination for Lesotho's commodities within the Union with export value amounting to R2.6 billion followed by Swaziland. The main commodities exported to other SACU Member States in 2010 were *electrical machinery and equipment* (chapter 85) with a share of 34.8 per cent of total intra-SACU export followed by *beverages, spirits and vinegar* (chapter 22) accounting for a share of about 15.9 per cent. Intra-SACU exports accounted for about 75.1 per cent of the total export of Lesotho in 2010.
- 4.4. Lesotho's intra-SACU imports declined by 3.2 per cent to R7.0 billion in 2010 compared to 2009. South Africa remains the main source of commodities imported into Lesotho from the Customs Union followed by Botswana. The main commodities imported from other SACU Member States in 2010 were *mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation* (chapter 27) with a share of 12.9 per cent of total intra-SACU imports followed by *vehicles* (chapter 87) accounting for a share of about 7.0 per cent. Intra-SACU imports accounted for about 79.3 per cent of the total imports of Lesotho in 2010.

## 5. NAMIBIA



Source: SACU statistics database

**Figure 7: Namibia's Trade with ROW**

- 5.1. Total exports to the rest of the world increased by 9.4 per cent to R36.7 billion in 2011 from R33.5 billion in 2010. The main commodities exported in 2011 were *natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones* (chapter 71) accounting for 26.1 per cent of total exports, and *ores, slag & ash* (chapter 26) accounting for 14.5 per cent of total exports.

**Table 6: Namibia's Top Export Commodities, 2011**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	71	Pearls, precious stones, precious metals, coins	9 555	26.1
2	26	Ores, slag and ash	5 300	14.5
3	03	Fish and crustaceans, mollusc and other aquatic invertebrates	5 016	13.7
4	74	Copper and articles thereof	2 900	7.9
5	79	Zinc and articles thereof	2 391	6.5
6	22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	1 536	4.2
7	87	Vehicles other than railway, and parts and accessories thereof	1 348	3.7
8	02	Meat and edible meat offal	1 344	3.7
9	01	Live animals	1 076	2.9
10	84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	859	2.3

- 5.2. While, imports increased by 5.5 per cent to R46.3 billion in 2011 from R43.8 billion in 2010. The main commodities imported in 2011 were *vehicles* (chapter 87) accounting for 13.1 per cent

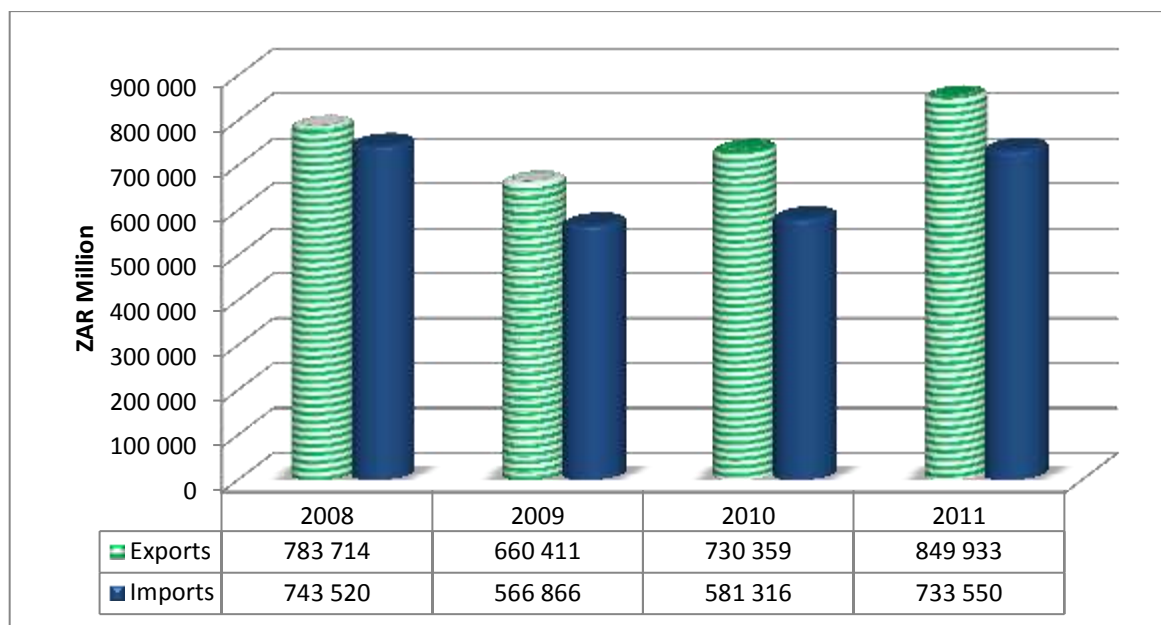
of total imports, and *machinery and mechanical appliances* (chapter 84) accounting for 10.3 per cent of total imports.

**Table 7: Namibia's Top Import Commodities, 2011**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	87	Vehicles other than railway, and parts and accessories thereof	6 059	13.1
2	84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances	4 780	10.3
3	27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	4 012	8.7
4	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof	2 727	5.9
5	73	Articles of iron or steel	2 047	4.4
6	39	Plastics and articles thereof	1 624	3.5
7	70	Glass and glassware	1 409	3.0
8	30	Pharmaceutical products	1 348	2.9
9	71	Pearls, precious stones, precious metals, coins	1 312	2.8
10	94	Furniture, bedding, mattresses, mattresses support	960	2.1

- 5.3. Namibia's intra-SACU exports slightly declined by 2.1 per cent to R7.7 billion in 2011 compared to 2010. In 2011, South Africa was the main export destination for Namibia's commodities within the Union with export value amounting to R7.3 billion followed by Botswana. The main commodities exported to other SACU Member States in 2010 were *beverages, spirits and vinegar* (chapter 22) with a share of 15.2 per cent of total intra-SACU export followed by *live animals* (chapter 01) accounting for a share of 13.7 per cent. Intra-SACU exports accounted for about 20.9 per cent of the total export of Namibia in 2011.
- 5.4. Namibia's intra-SACU imports increased by 11.1 per cent to R35.4 billion in 2011 compared to 2010. South Africa remains the main source of commodities imported into Namibia from the Customs Union followed by Botswana. The main commodities imported from other SACU Member States in 2011 were *vehicles* (chapter 87) with a share of 14.7 per cent of total intra-SACU imports followed by *mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation* (chapter 27) accounting for a share of 10.0 per cent. Intra-SACU imports accounted for about 76.6 per cent of the total imports of Namibia in 2011.

## 6. SOUTH AFRICA



Source: SACU statistics database

**Figure 8: South Africa's Trade with ROW**

- 6.1. Total exports to the rest of the world increased by 17.6 per cent to R884.7 billion in 2011 from R752.2 billion in 2010. The main commodities exported in 2011 were *pearls, precious stones, precious metals, coins* (chapter 71) accounting for 21.0 per cent of total exports, and *ores, slags and ash* (chapter 26) accounting for 12.8 per cent of total exports.

**Table 8: South Africa's Top Export Commodities, 2011**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	71	Pearls, precious stones, precious metals, coins	185 867	21.0
2	26	Ores, slag and ash	113 495	12.8
3	27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	94 217	10.6
4	87	Vehicles other than railway, and parts and accessories thereof	66 715	7.5
5	72	Iron and steel	61 895	7.0
6	84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	60 596	6.8
7	88	Aircraft, spacecraft and part thereof	21 005	2.4
8	49	Printed books, newspaper, pictures and other products of printing industry	19 732	2.2
9	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof	18 568	2.1
10	76	Aluminium and articles thereof	17 396	2.0

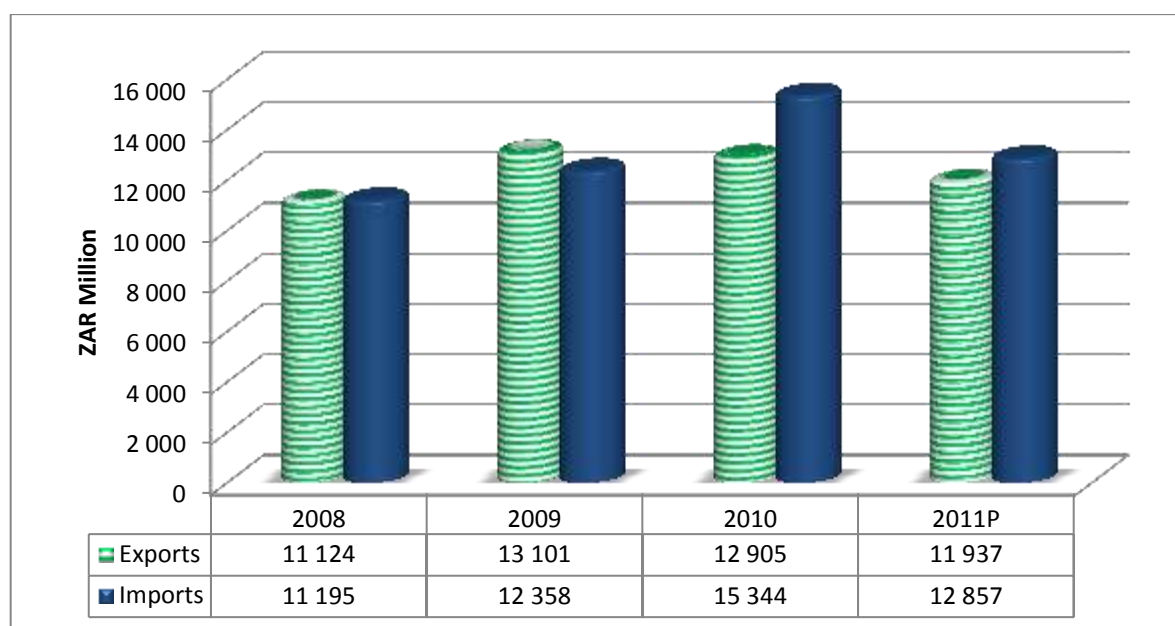
- 6.2. Similarly, imports increased by 26.4 per cent to R758.9 billion in 2011 from R600.6 billion in 2010. The main commodities imported in 2011 were *mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation* (chapter 27), and *machinery and mechanical appliances* (chapter 84).

**Table 9: South Africa's Top Imports Commodities, 2011**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	27	Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products	155 477	20.5
2	84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	110 491	14.6
3	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof	67 523	8.9
4	87	Vehicles other than railway, and parts and accessories thereof	60 116	7.9
5	98	Original equipment components	43 812	5.8
6	90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, medical instruments	19 457	2.6
7	39	Plastics and particles thereof	17 733	2.3
8	30	Pharmaceutical products	17 515	2.3
9	10	Cereals	14 681	1.9
10	88	Aircraft, spacecraft and parts thereof	13 995	1.8

- 6.3. South Africa's intra-SACU exports increased by 9.1 per cent to R72.0 billion in 2011 compared to 2010. In 2011, Namibia was the main export destination for South Africa's commodities within the Customs Union with export value amounting to R31.9 billion followed by Botswana. The main commodities exported to other SACU Member States in 2011 were *mineral fuels, oils, distillation products* (chapter 27) with a share of 16.5 per cent of total intra-SACU export followed by *vehicles* (chapter 87) accounting for a share of 11.5 per cent. Intra-SACU exports accounted for about 8.1 per cent of the total export of South Africa in 2011.
- 6.4. South Africa's intra-SACU imports increased by 11.7 per cent to R24.5 billion in 2011 compared to 2010. Swaziland was the main source of commodities imported into South Africa from the Customs Union followed by Namibia. The main commodities imported from other SACU Member States in 2011 were *essential oil, perfumery, cosmetics* (chapter 33) with a share of 10.5 per cent of total intra-SACU imports followed by *sugar and sugar confectionery* (chapter 17) accounting for a share of 7.4 per cent. Intra-SACU imports accounted for 2.8 per cent of the total imports of South Africa in 2011.

## 7. SWAZILAND



Source: SACU statistics database, P -preliminary

**Figure 9: Swaziland's Trade with ROW**

- 7.1. Total exports to the rest of the world declined by 7.5 per cent to R11.9 billion in 2011 from R12.9 billion recorded in 2010, this is reflected in the reduced values of *miscellaneous chemicals* (chapter 38), and *essential oils, perfumery, cosmetics* (chapter 33). The main commodities exported in 2011 were *essential oils, perfumery, cosmetics* (chapter 33) accounting for 27.0 per cent of total exports, and *sugar and sugar confectionery* (chapter 17) accounting for 21.2 per cent of total exports.

**Table 10: Swaziland's Top Export Commodities, 2011**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	33	Essential oils, perfumery, cosmetics	3 224	27.0
2	17	Sugar and sugar confectionery	2 531	21.2
3	38	Miscellaneous chemicals	2 057	17.2
4	61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	506	4.2
5	62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	479	4.0
6	44	Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal	394	3.3
7	49	Printed books, newspaper, pictures and other products of printing industry	370	3.1
8	22	Beverages, spirits, and vinegar	324	2.7
9	29	Organic chemicals	263	2.2
10	84	Machinery and mechanical appliances, parts thereof	238	2.0

- 7.2. Similarly, imports also declined by 16.2 per cent to R12.8 billion in 2011 from R15.3 billion in 2010, this was reflected in the reduced values of *personal effects* (chapter 99), and *machinery and mechanical appliances* (chapter 84). The main commodities imported in 2011 were *mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation* (chapter 27), and *machinery and mechanical appliances* (chapter 84).

**Table 11: Swaziland's Top Import Commodities, 2011**

Rank	Chapter	Description	ZAR millions	% of Total
1	27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products	1 645	12.8
2	84	Machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof	863	6.7
3	87	Vehicles other than railway	829	6.4
4	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof	639	5.0
5	39	Plastics and articles thereof	492	3.8
6	10	Cereals	427	3.3
7	48	Paper or paperboard, articles of paper pulp	416	3.2
8	33	Essential oils, perfumery, cosmetics	411	3.2
9	73	Articles of iron or steel	371	2.9
10	30	Pharmaceutical products	297	2.3

- 7.3. Swaziland's intra-SACU exports increased by 8.7 per cent to R8.1 billion in 2011 compared to 2010. In 2011, South Africa was the main export destination for Swaziland's commodities within the Customs Union with export value amounting to R7.9 billion followed by Namibia. The main commodities exported to other SACU Member States in 2011 were *essential oils, perfumery* (chapter 33) with a share of 28.3 per cent of total intra-SACU export followed by *miscellaneous chemical products* (chapter 38) accounting for a share of about 17.8 per cent. Intra-SACU exports accounted for about 68.2 per cent of the total exports of Swaziland in 2011.
- 7.4. Swaziland's intra-SACU imports declined by 18.8 per cent to R11.1 billion in 2011 compared to 2010. South Africa remains the main source of commodities imported into Swaziland from the Customs Union followed by Botswana. The main commodities imported from other SACU Member States in 2011 were *mineral fuels, oils and products of their distillation* (chapter 27) with a share of 14.7 per cent of total intra-SACU imports followed by *vehicles* (chapter 87) accounting for a share of about 7.0 per cent. Intra-SACU imports accounted for about 86.0 per cent of the total imports of Swaziland in 2011.



## 8. DATA SOURCES

8.1. Sources for statistics for the SACU Statistics Database are:

Statistics Botswana – Botswana  
Bureau of Statistics – Lesotho  
Namibia Statistics Agency – Namibia  
South African Revenues Services – South Africa  
Swaziland Revenue Authority – Swaziland  
WTO Statistics Database

8.2. The SACU statistical database can be accessed via the SACU website or at <http://stats.sacu.int>

**The content of this publication is intended for general information only. The aim of this publication is to provide an overview of the main characteristics of SACU's trade. While precaution is taken to ensure the accuracy of information, the SACU Secretariat shall not be liable to any person for inaccurate information or opinions contained in this publication.**

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Cnr R. Mugabe and S. Nujoma Avenue  
Private Bag 13285  
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Namibia  
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Fax: +264 61 245 611  
<http://www.sacu.int>  
Enquiries: Mr Abel Sindano,  
E-mail: [abel.sindano@sacu.int](mailto:abel.sindano@sacu.int)**