

## South Africa's foreign trade with China

The People's Republic of China has emerged as one of the most vibrant developing economies, consistently recording high rates of growth. With the buoyancy and size of the Chinese economy countering the geographical distance between the countries, an increasing share of South African imports originates in China and a rising share of South African exports is destined for China. The bilateral trade balance favours China by a significant margin.

### Contribution of People's Republic of China to South Africa's merchandise imports and exports\*

Per cent

Period	Imports	Exports*
2000 .....	3,7	1,0
2001 .....	4,1	1,5
2002 .....	5,3	1,5
2003 .....	6,3	2,3
2004** .....	6,7	2,2

\* Including gold

\*\* First nine months of the year