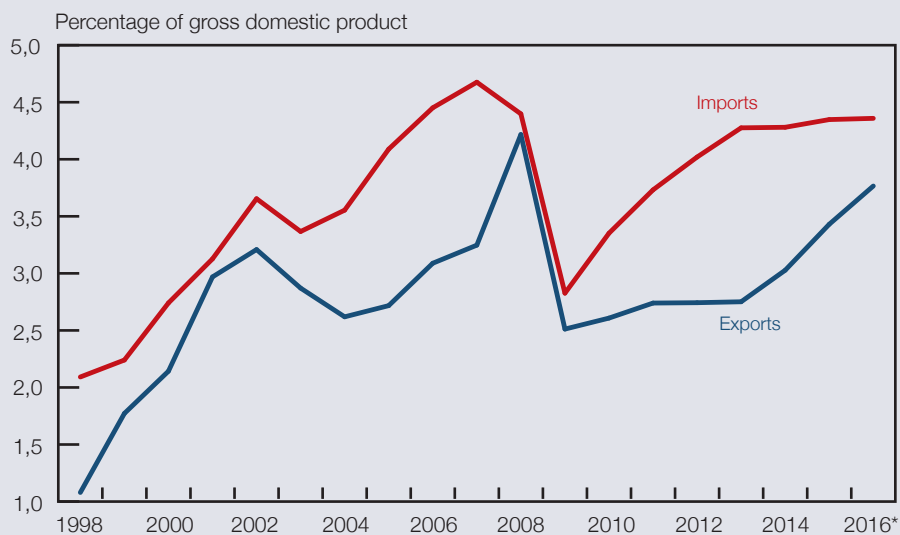


Box 1 South Africa's international trade in motor vehicles and components

A notable feature of South Africa's foreign trade is the structural increase over time in both the imports and the exports of motor vehicles and components. The accompanying graph illustrates these increases relative to the country's gross domestic product.

South Africa's international trade in motor vehicles and components



* First three quarters

The manufacturing of motor vehicles and components in South Africa has been bolstered by industry developments, supported by government programmes, that allow for greater international specialisation and economies of scale. Vehicle manufacturers have scaled up the production of a limited number of models in South Africa, in order to satisfy not only the local-market but also the export-market demand for those models. Simultaneously they have turned to importing other models where such economies of scale would be more difficult to achieve.

Previously the industry had been more inward-looking and protected; in many instances local manufacturing of a fairly wide range of models had been undertaken despite relatively low volumes, tuned predominantly to supplying the local market.

More detail – notably the split between vehicles and key component categories – is provided in the accompanying table.

South Africa's international trade in motor vehicles and components

R millions

Year	Exports					Imports				
	Vehicles	Catalytic converters	Tyres	Other parts and components	Total	Vehicles	Catalytic converters	Tyres	Other parts and components	Total
1998	2 993	1 494	860	2 876	8 222	3 893	310	704	11 026	15 933
1999	7 435	2 608	1 117	3 635	14 794	4 105	186	738	13 672	18 701
2000	10 636	4 711	1 315	3 614	20 275	7 613	137	873	17 311	25 934
2001	16 591	9 055	1 475	3 938	31 059	10 229	259	895	21 329	32 713
2002	21 602	9 334	2 434	5 688	39 058	14 014	332	1 243	28 894	44 483
2003	22 370	8 220	2 211	5 258	38 060	14 725	365	1 360	28 186	44 636
2004	22 773	8 338	2 241	5 321	38 673	20 458	337	1 404	30 280	52 480
2005	27 145	9 994	2 097	5 308	44 544	28 794	256	1 693	36 285	67 027
2006	32 278	15 905	2 261	6 370	56 814	36 905	452	2 176	42 340	81 874
2007	35 809	21 813	2 307	8 572	68 501	45 752	418	3 573	48 886	98 629
2008	62 532	24 413	3 225	9 728	99 898	40 877	695	3 741	58 871	104 185
2009	40 986	12 353	2 556	7 087	62 982	28 518	640	3 121	38 593	70 871
2010	47 061	14 946	2 214	7 443	71 664	40 156	912	4 043	46 996	92 107
2011	51 599	19 725	2 956	8 562	82 842	52 965	838	4 940	54 091	112 835
2012	60 050	16 338	3 310	9 555	89 254	61 944	633	5 985	62 228	130 790
2013	66 616	18 371	3 460	9 190	97 637	72 003	899	7 345	71 497	151 744
2014	83 569	19 516	3 570	8 772	115 428	70 491	792	7 437	84 472	163 192
2015	105 063	20 280	3 826	8 510	137 679	70 303	1 037	7 471	95 695	174 505
2016*	93 476	17 318	2 798	6 845	120 436	45 857	941	6 138	86 472	139 407

* January to September

Data include all international trade, including that with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.
Sources: South African Revenue Service and South African Reserve Bank estimates