SOUTH AFRICAN ENERGY

PRELIMINARY TRADE REPORT 2025



DIRECTORATE: ENERGY ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

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1. Energy trade data analysis

In order to find trends in supply and demand, energy trade data analysis looks at the movement of fuel commodities including gas, electricity, and oil. The Department of Electricity and Energy depend on multiple datasets, including customs records and shipping manifests, to track how energy resources travel across international borders. Forecasting price volatility and comprehending how geopolitical changes affect the supply of regional power depend on this type of approach. By evaluating these trends, stakeholders can improve supply chains and make informed choices on infrastructure investment.

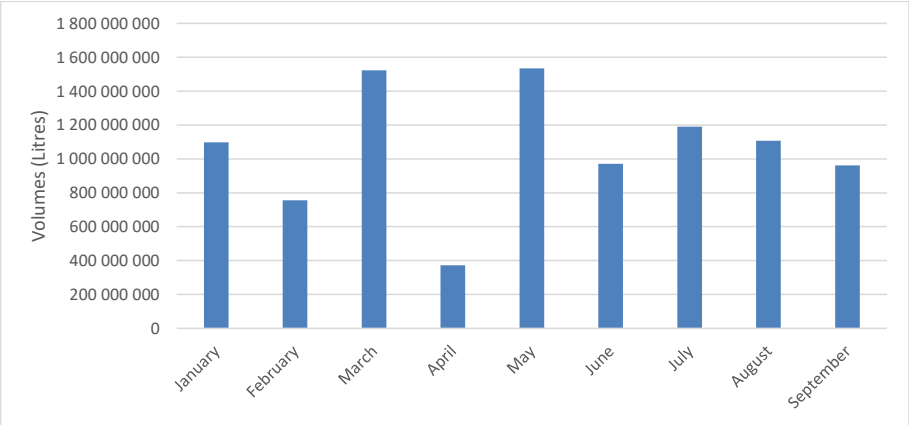
2.1 Crude oil and petroleum products

The most traded energy commodities in the world are crude oil and petroleum products, which are transported between major producers and transportation and industrial hubs through a complex worldwide network of pipelines, tankers, and refineries.

2.1.1 Imports and exports

In the third quarter of 2025, South Africa imported 3.3 billion litres of crude oil, an increase of 13 percent, from 2.9 billion litres in the second quarter of the same year. In July 2025, the country imported 1.2 billion litres of crude oil, the biggest amount in quarter three 2025. Additionally, the lowest volumes totalling 961 million litres of crude oil were recorded in September 2025 as shown in **Figure 1** below.

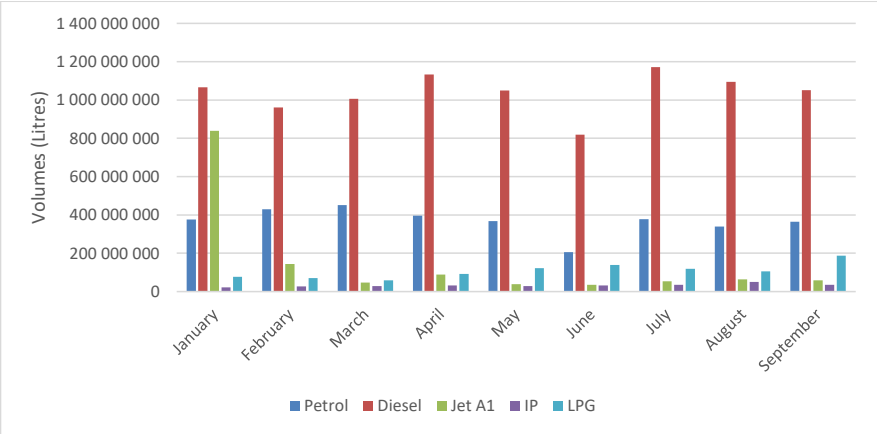
Figure 1: Crude oil imports



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Diesel is once again the most imported petroleum product in quarter three of 2025, with petrol and LPG coming in second and third, respectively. South Africa imported 3.3 billion litres (65 percent) of diesel from July 2025 to September 2025, and 1.1 billion litres (21 percent) of petrol. Meanwhile, the country imported 411 million litres (8 percent) of LPG and 177 million litres (3 percent) of Jet A1. The rest was made up by IP, as shown in **Figure 2** below.

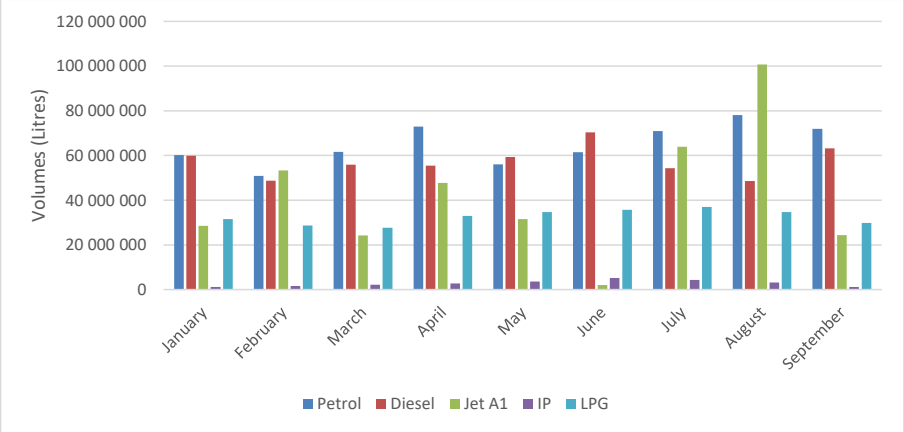
Figure 2: Petroleum products imports



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

With a total of 221 million litres (32 percent) from July 2025 to September 2025, gasoline was the most exported petroleum product. Jet A1 came in second with 189 million litres (28 percent). Third place goes to Diesel and LPG, with 166 million litres (24 percent) and 101 million litres (15 percent), while IP with 9 million (1 percent) came last, as shown in **Figure 3** below.

Figure 3: Petroleum products exports

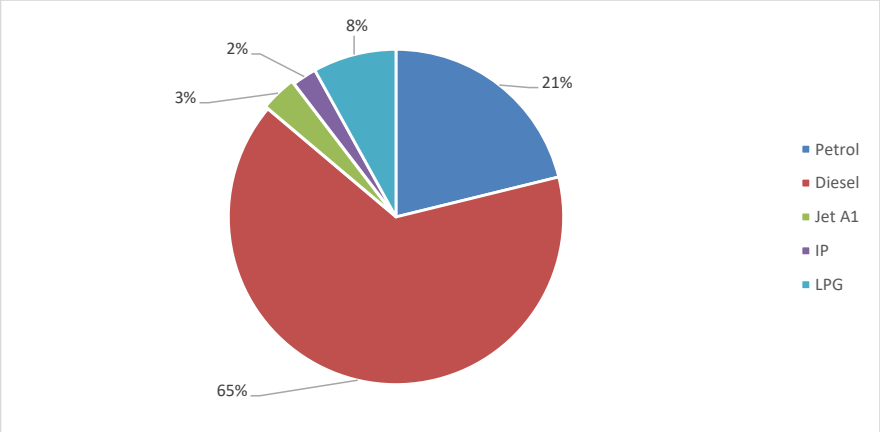


Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.1.2 Petroleum products trade shares

For the refined fuel imported into South Africa during the third quarter of 2025, diesel accounted for 65 percent (3.3 billion litres). Petrol came in second with 21 percent (1.1 billion litres). LPG is in third place at 8 percent (411 million litres). Jet A1 and IP came fourth and fifth at 3 percent (177 million litres) and 2 percent (120 million litres), as shown in **Figure 4** below.

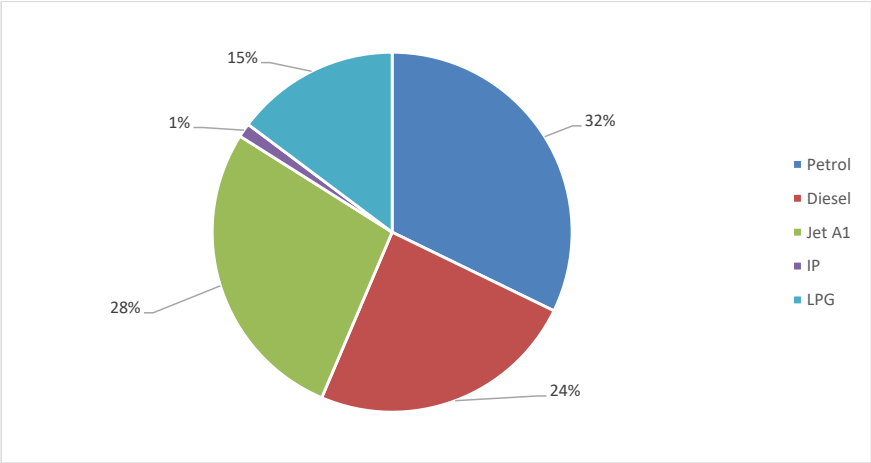
Figure 4: Petroleum products imports percentage share



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

During the period under review, 32 percent (221 million litres) of refined fuel exports were made up of petrol. Jet A1 follows with 28 percent (189 million litres). Both diesel and LPG came in third with 24 percent (166 million litres) and 15 percent (101 million litres). Illuminating paraffin made up the rest of the liquid fuels exported, with 1 percent (7 million litres) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Petroleum Products exports percentage share

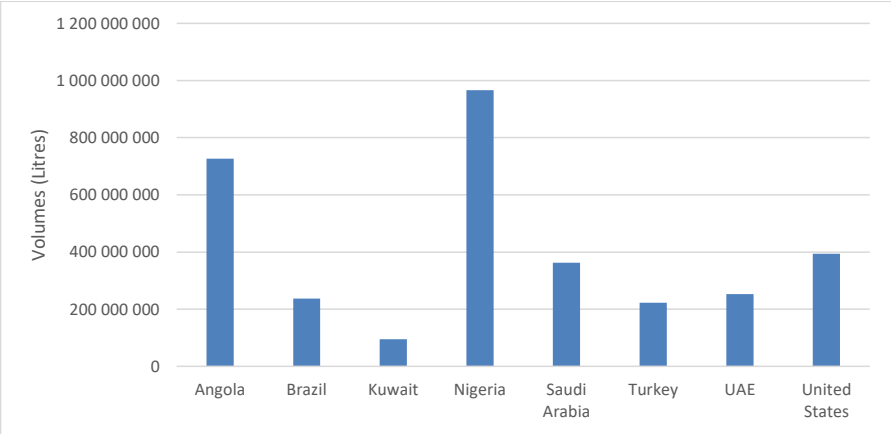


Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.1.3 Crude oil and petroleum products imports per country of origin

Nigeria and Angola remain the main crude oil suppliers in quarter three of 2025. Nigeria accounted for 30 percent (966 million litres) and Angola 22 percent (726 million litres) of South Africa's crude oil imports from July 2025 to September 2025, respectively. The next three countries are the United States at 12 percent (394 million litres), Saudi Arabia at 11 percent (363 million litres), and the UAE at 8 percent (253 million litres). Both Brazil and Turkey have a 7 percent share (237 million litres) and (233 million litres as shown in **Figure 6** below.

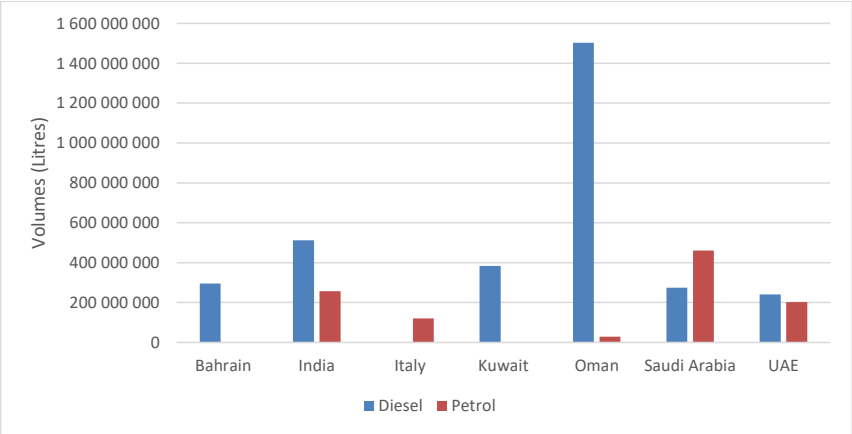
Figure 6: Crude oil imports per country of origin



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Oman accounted for 45 percent (1.5 billion litres) of South Africa's diesel imports in the third quarter of 2025. India follows at 15 percent (512 million litres), Kuwait at 12 percent (383million litres), then Bahrain at 9 percent (296 million litres), Saudi Arabia at 8 percent (274 million litres), UAE at 7 percent (241 million litres), while small amounts were imported from other countries to make up the rest. Saudi Arabia and India accounted for 43 percent (461 million litres) and 24 percent (256 million litres) of South Africa's petrol imports from July 2025 to September 2025, respectively. UAE came in third at 19 percent (206 million litres), then Italy at 11 percent (120 million litres). The rest was sourced from other countries in small quantities, as shown in **Figure 7** below.

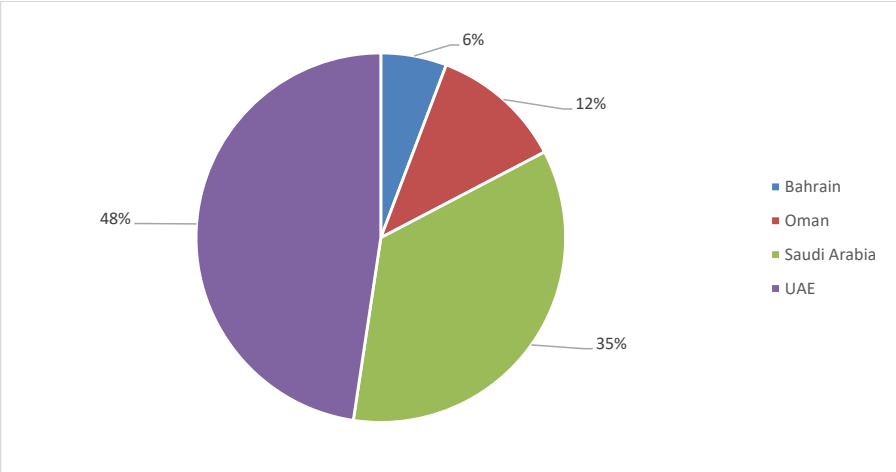
Figure 7: Diesel and petrol imports per country of origin



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

During the third quarter of 2025, the UAE accounted for 48 percent (84 million litres) of jet fuel imports. Saudi Arabia came in second with 35 percent (62 million litres). Third place is Oman, with 12 percent (20 million litres), then Bahrain followed at 6 percent each (10 million litres each), as shown in **Figure 8** below. The rest of the countries each contributed smaller volumes.

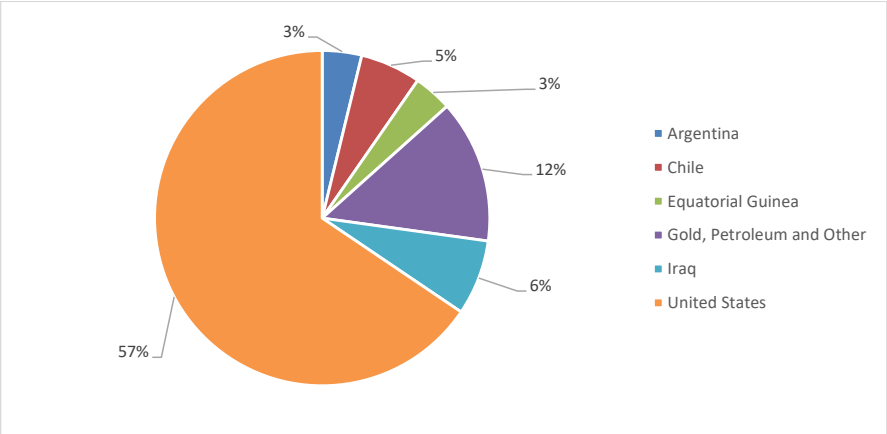
Figure 8: Jet fuel imports per origin, country-of-origin percentage share



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The United States remains the leading supplier of LPG in quarter three 2025, at 57 percent (232 million litres). Gold, Petroleum, and others follow at 12 percent (49 million litres), then Iraq at 6 percent (26 million litres), Chile at 5 percent (21 million litres). Argentina and Equatorial Guinea accounted for 3 percent each, both with 13 million litres as shown in **Figure 9** below.

Figure 9: LPG imports per origin, percentage share



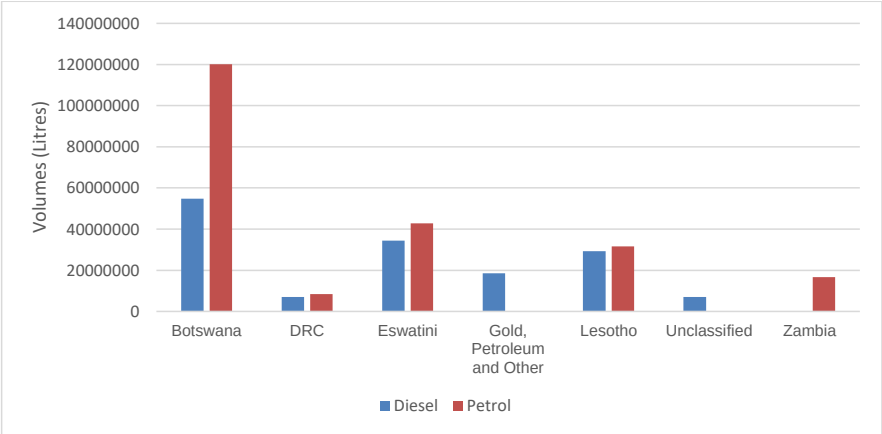
Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

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2.1.4 Petroleum products exports per destination country

Most of South Africa's diesel and petrol exports were to Botswana in the third quarter of 2025, with 55 million litres (33 percent) and 120 million litres (54 percent) exported as diesel and petrol, respectively. In the same period, the country also exported petrol to its neighbouring countries, which include the DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Zambia. Diesel was also exported to DRC, Eswatini and, as shown in **Figure 10** below.

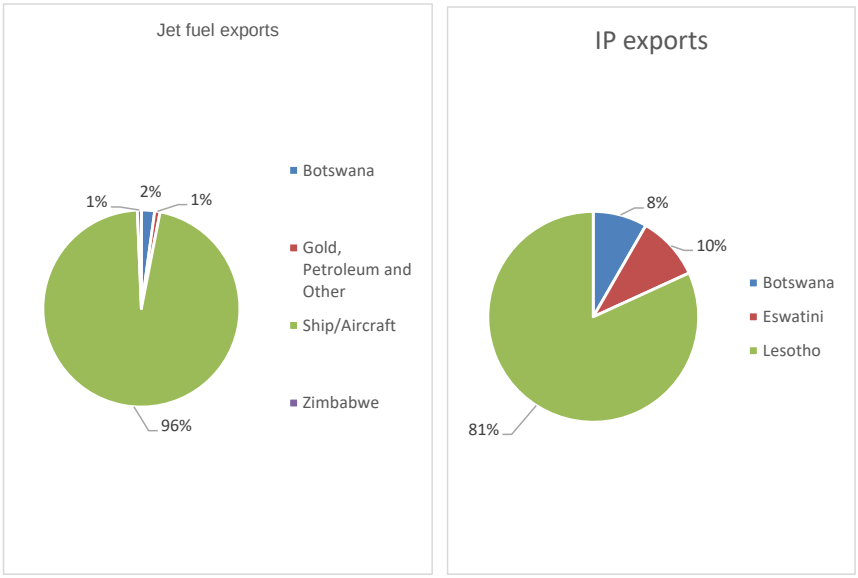
Figure 10: Petrol and diesel exports per destination country



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The majority of South Africa's jet fuel was exported to ships and aircraft from July 2025 to September 2025, at 96 percent (182 million litres), with only 2 percent (4 million litres) exported to Botswana and 1 percent (1 million litres) to Zimbabwe. The largest exports of IP were to Lesotho at 81 percent (7 million litres), Eswatini follows at 10 percent (852 thousand litres), and Botswana at 8 percent (720 thousand litres), as shown in **Figure 11** below.

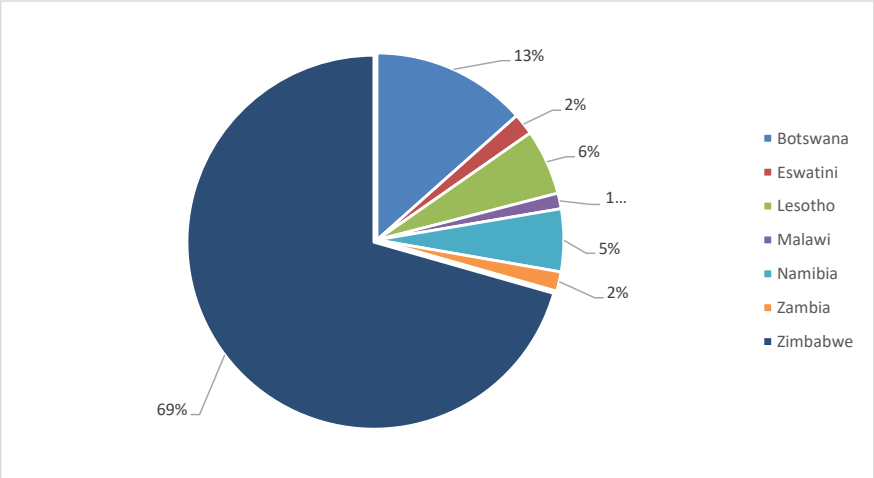
Figure 11: Jet fuel and IP exports per destination country



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

During the period under review, South Africa's top destination for LPG exports was Zimbabwe, accounting for 69 percent (70 million litres). Botswana came second with 13 percent (13 million), Lesotho with 6 percent (6 million), and Namibia with 5 percent (5 million litres). Smaller amounts were exported to other neighbouring countries, as shown in **Figure 12** below.

Figure 12: LPG exports per destination country

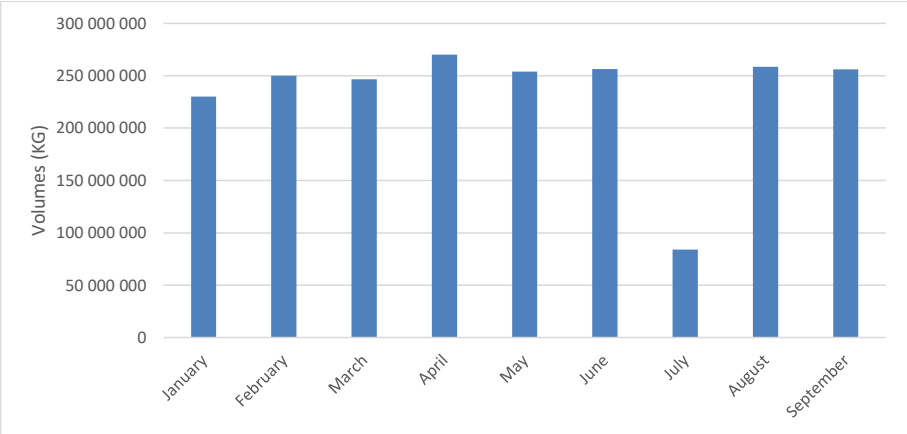


Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.2 Natural gas

During the period under review, South Africa imported 598 million kilograms of natural gas from a total of 780 million in the second quarter of 2025, a decrease of 23 percent. The volume of imports reached its highest point in August 2025, totalling 258 million kilograms, and its lowest point in July 2025, with 84 million kilograms, as shown in **Figure** 13 in below. The country imported natural gas mainly from Mozambique.

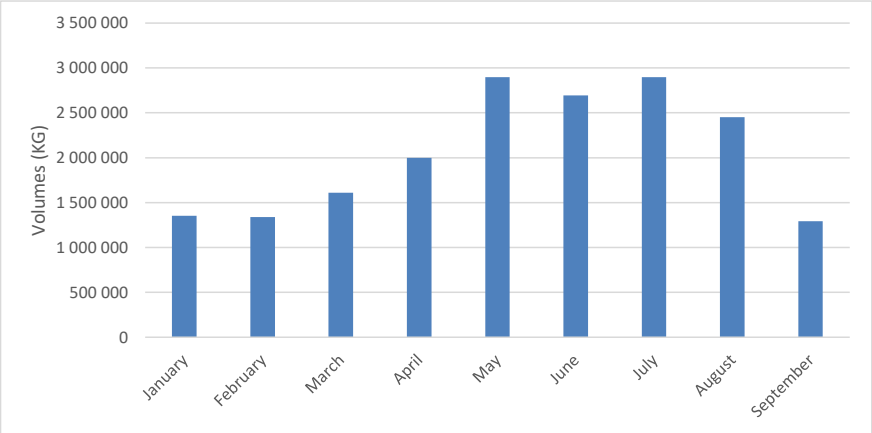
Figure 13: Natural gas imports



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The total of 7 million kilograms of natural gas was exported from July 2025 to September 2025, compared with the total of 8 million kilograms exported in quarter two 2025. The largest amount of natural gas exported by South Africa was 2.9 million kilograms in July 2025, while the smallest amount was 1.3 million kilograms in September 2025, as shown in **Figure 14** below**.** The majority of the exports were destined to Zimbabwe at 67 percent (4 million kilograms), followed by Lesotho at 16 percent (1 million kilograms), and Eswatini at 11 percent (731 thousand kilograms). Zambia and Namibia at 3 percent each, (233 thousand kilograms) and (200 thousand kilograms). The remainder was exported to other neighbouring countries in smaller quantities.

Figure 14: Natural gas exports



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

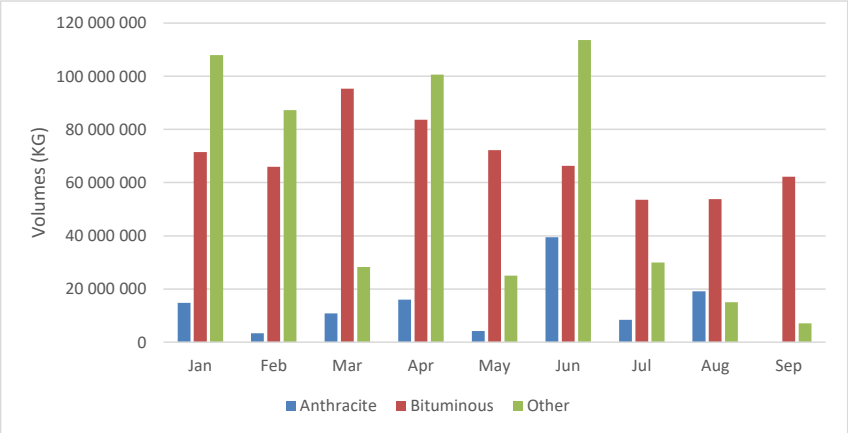
2.3 Coal

Coal continues to be a vital "shifting energy" that keeps the grid stable during times of high demand or instability in the natural gas market, despite this long-term transition toward self-sufficiency and renewable energy.

2.3.1 Coal imports and exports

South Africa imported 52 million kilograms (21 percent) of other types of coal in quarter three 2025, from 239 million kilograms (46 percent) in quarter two 2025. Bituminous coal accounted for 170 million kilograms (68 percent) from 222 million kilograms (43 percent) in quarter two 2025, with the total of 27 million kilograms (11 percent) of anthracite imported in the third quarter from 59 million kilograms (11 percent) in the second quarter 2025. There was no anthracite imported in September 2025 as shown in **Figure 15** below. The country imported a total of 249 million tons of coal from July 2025 to September 2025 compared with 521 million in the second quarter 2025.

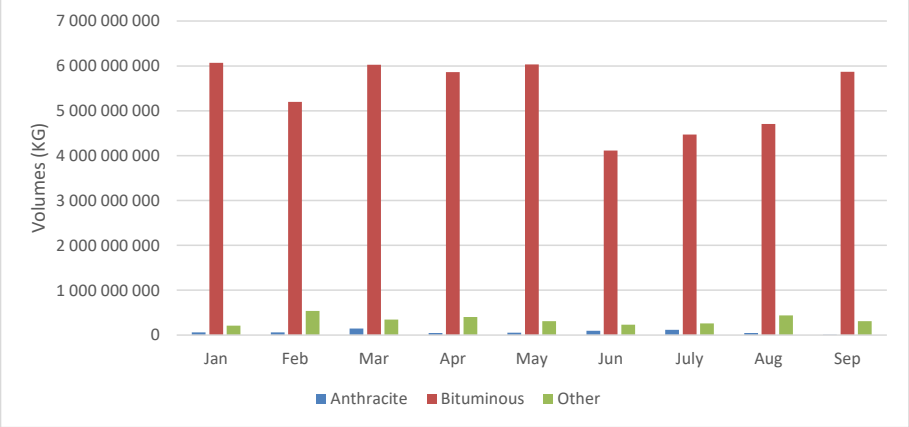
Figure 15: Coal imports



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

During the period under review, South Africa's top coal export was still bituminous coal, with the total of 15 billion kilograms (93 percent) exported from 16 billion (93 percent) in the second quarter of 2025. Other types of coal exports were the second most exported with 1 billion kilograms (6 percent) in quarter three 2025, from 945 million (6 percent) in quarter two 2025, while anthracite coal exports with the total of 165 million kilograms accounted for 1 percent in quarter three from 198 million (1 percent) in quarter two 2025 as shown in **Figure 16** below. South Africa exported a total of 16 billion kilograms of coal in quarter three 2025, slightly down from the total of 17 billion kilograms in quarter two 2025.

Figure 16: Coal exports

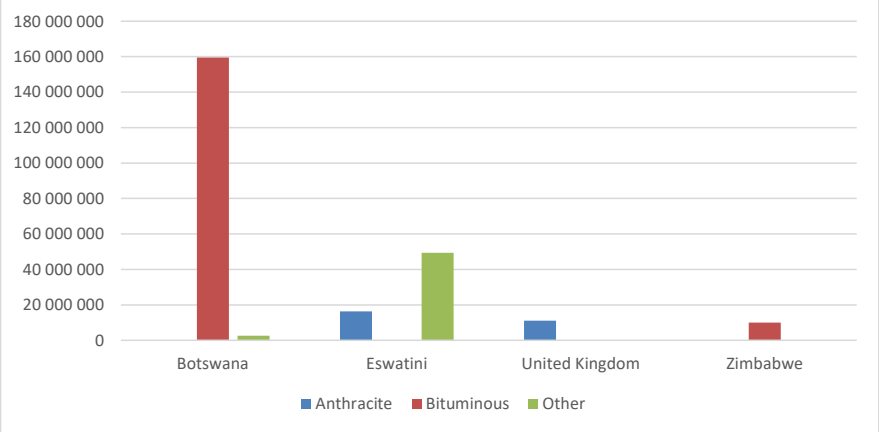


Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.3.2 Coal trade between South Africa and other countries

Of South Africa's total coal imports during the third quarter of 2025, Botswana accounted for 94 percent (160 million kilograms) of the bituminous coal imported, while 19 percent (10 million kilograms) came from Zimbabwe. Furthermore, the country imported 95 percent (49 million grams) of other coal from Eswatini and 5 percent (3 million kilograms) from Botswana. The majority of anthracite coal imports were from Eswatini at 59 percent (16 million kilograms) followed by the United Kingdom 40 percent (11 million kilograms), as shown in **Figure 17** below.

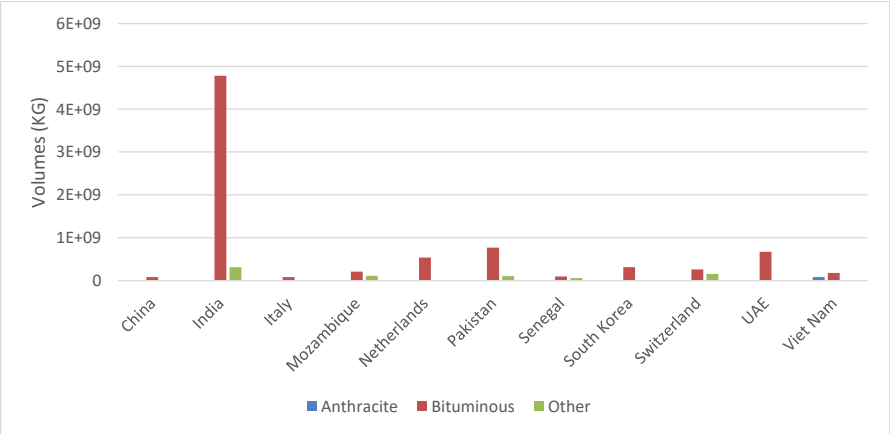
Figure 17: Coal imports by country of origin



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Large quantities of bituminous coal were exported by South Africa to India, among other nations, in the third quarter of 2025, accounting for 32 percent (5 billion kilograms) of total coal exports. Vietnam ranked second with 18 percent (180 million kilograms), followed by Pakistan with 5 percent (769 million kilograms), the UAE and Netherlands 4 percent each, (673 million kilograms) and (535 million kilograms), respectively. Each of the other countries shares of total exports was smaller, as shown in **Figure 18** below.

Figure 18: Coal exports per destination country

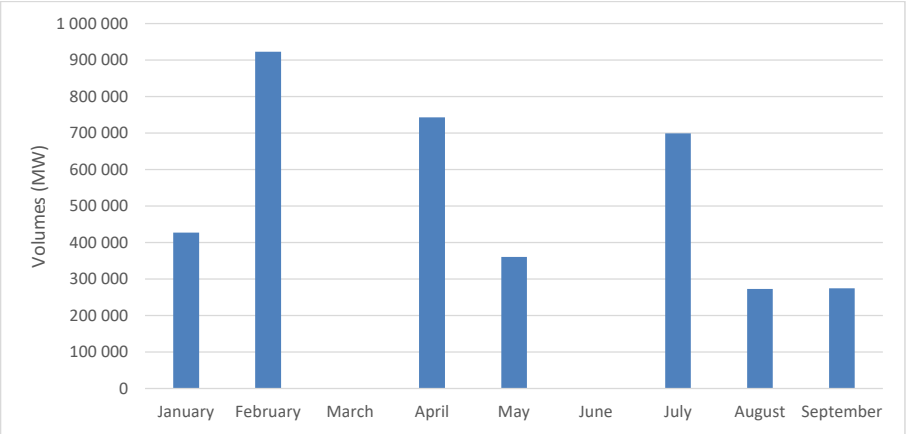


Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.4 Electricity

South Africa imported a total of 1 246 GWh of electricity in quarter three 2025, up from 1 104 GWh in quarter two 2025. Mozambique accounted for most of these imports, with 96 percent (1 192 GWh). The majority of the nation's electricity imports, totalling 699 MWh was recorded in July 2025. However, in August 2025 and September 2025, only 273 MWh and 275 MWh of electricity were imported in the country, as shown in **Figure 19** below.

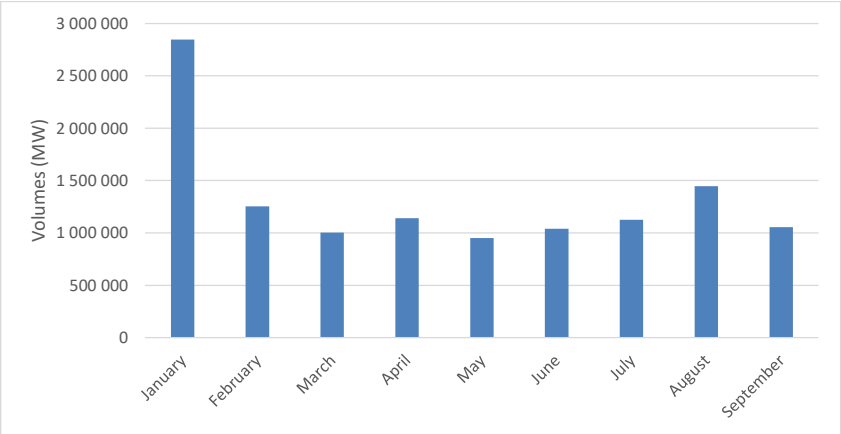
Figure 19: Electricity imports



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

During the third quarter of 2025, South Africa exported 3 625 GWh of electricity compared with 3 131 GWh in the second quarter of 2025. The country's largest export volume for the year was 1 446 GWh in August 2025, while September 2025 saw the lowest export volume of 1 053 MWh (Figure 20).

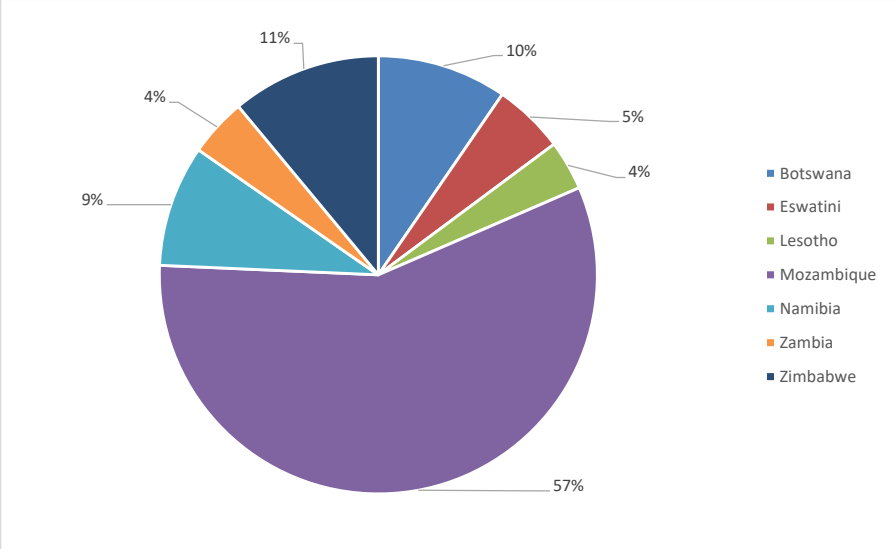
Figure 20: Electricity exports



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

South Africa exports as much electricity to SADC countries as it imports from them, with Mozambique remaining the largest recipient of South Africa's electricity exports in the third quarter 2025, at 57 percent (2 073 GWh). Zimbabwe comes in second with 11 percent (400 thousand MW); Botswana with a share of 10 percent (347 thousand MW), Namibia and Eswatini with 9 percent and 5 percent each (325 thousand MW) and (190 thousand MW) respectively. Lastly, Zambia and Lesotho with 4 percent each, (156 thousand MW) and (193 thousand MW), as shown in **Figure 21** below.

Figure 21: Electricity exports per destination country



Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

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3 Conclusion

Coal, particularly high-energy bituminous coal, continues to be the world's most traded energy commodity by volume despite international efforts to diversify energy sources. It is an essential source of foreign exchange and export income. In addition to being a major participant in the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), which enables the cross-border interchange of power, South Africa plays a crucial role in this environment as a coal exporter. This interconnected system serves as a critical safety zone; when domestic output is limited, the power pool permits the import of electricity to stabilize the local grid and close the supply and demand gap.

4. References

1. *accueil*. n.d. Available: https://international.groupecreditagricole.com/.
2. Webmaster. 2025. *SARS Home | South African Revenue Service*. Available: https://www.sars.gov.za/.