SOUTH AFRICAN ENERGY

TRADE REPORT, QUARTER 2 2026



DIRECTORATE: ENERGY ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

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1. Energy trade data analysis

Imports, exports, volumes, and trade balances for energy commodities like coal, natural gas, LPG, electricity, crude oil, and petroleum products are all analysed in energy trade data analysis. Governments, businesses, and energy companies can use it to better understand how energy move across countries and how changes in supply, demand, and geopolitical factors impact trade. The ability to connect trade statistics with economic performance and energy security is the primary benefit of energy trade data analysis. Since South Africa is a major supplier of coal and imports substantial volumes of crude oil and petroleum products, energy trade analysis is essential.

2.1 Crude oil and petroleum products

South Africa's trade in crude oil and petroleum products was still dependent on imports in the second quarter of 2026. Crude oil was imported to sustain the domestic refining system, while refined petroleum products were imported to sustain domestic supply and exported to regional and international markets. The biggest external influence in the second quarter of 2026 was the effect of the Middle East conflict on global oil markets. According to the most recent South African trade data from the South African Revenue Service (SARS), crude oil and refined petroleum products remained major components of South Africa's import bill during the period under review.

2.1.1 Imports and exports

South Africa imported the total of 3.3 billion litres of crude oil in the second quarter of 2026, a 5.7 percent decrease from 3.5 billion litres in the first quarter of 2026. In April 2026, the country imported 486 million litres, which was the lowest amount for the quarter. There were 1.2 billion litres of crude oil reported in May 2026. Furthermore, as Figure 1 below illustrates, 1.6 billion barrels of crude oil were imported in June 2026, the most in the second quarter of 2026.

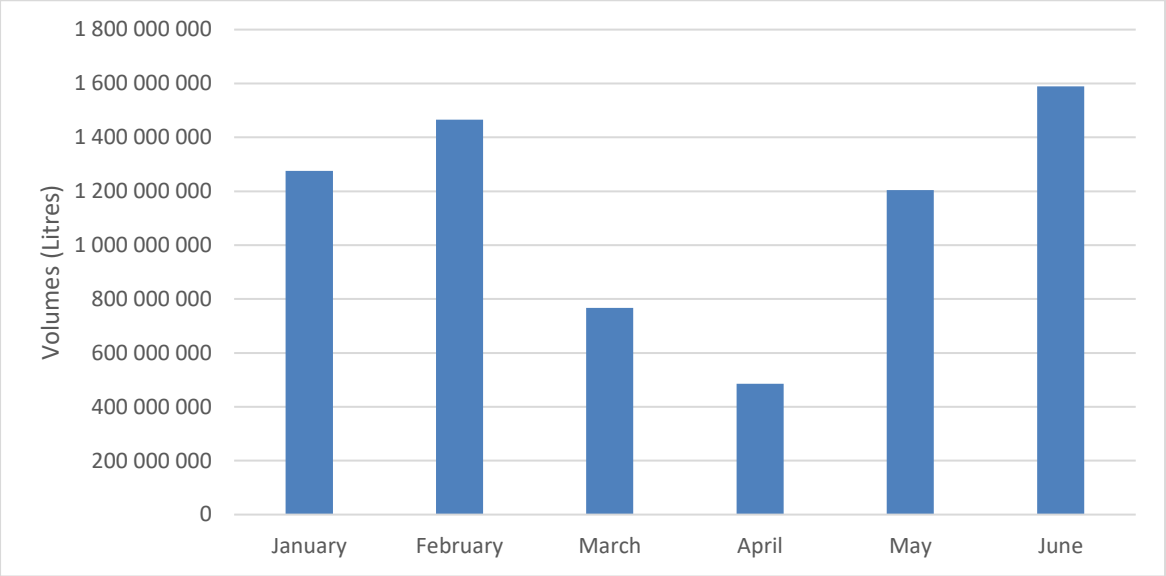


Figure 1: Crude oil imports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Diesel was the most imported petroleum product in the second quarter of 2026, followed by gasoline and LPG. South Africa imported 3.3 billion litres (63 percent) of diesel, compared to 2.7 billion litres (60 percent) in the first quarter 2026. In the second quarter of 2026, 1.3 billion litres (25 percent) of gasoline was imported, up from 1.2 billion litres (26 percent) in quarter one 2026 and 365 million litres (7 percent) of LPG, up from 265 million litres (6 percent) in the first quarter of 2026. As seen in Figure 2 below, the remaining was made up of Jet A1 and IP.

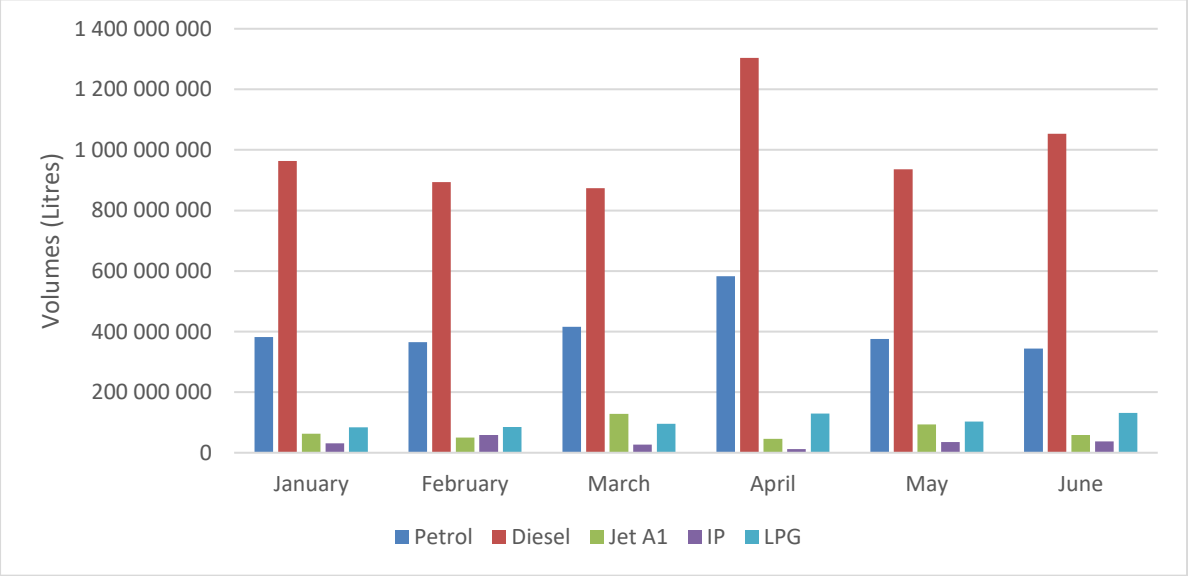


Figure 2: Petroleum products imports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Petrol was the most exported petroleum product, with a total of 197 million litres (36 percent) in the second quarter of 2026 compared to 213 million litres (37 percent) in the first quarter of 2026. Diesel finished second with 176 million litres (32 percent) in the second quarter of 2026, down from 193 million litres (33 percent) in quarter one 2026. With 114 million litres (21 percent) in the second quarter of 2026 and 106 million litres (18 percent) in the first quarter of 2026, LPG ranks third. JetA1 came next, with 57 million litres (10 percent) in the second quarter of 2026 compared to 63 million litres (11 percent) in quarter one 2026. IP finished last with 6 million (1 percent), as seen in Figure 3 below.

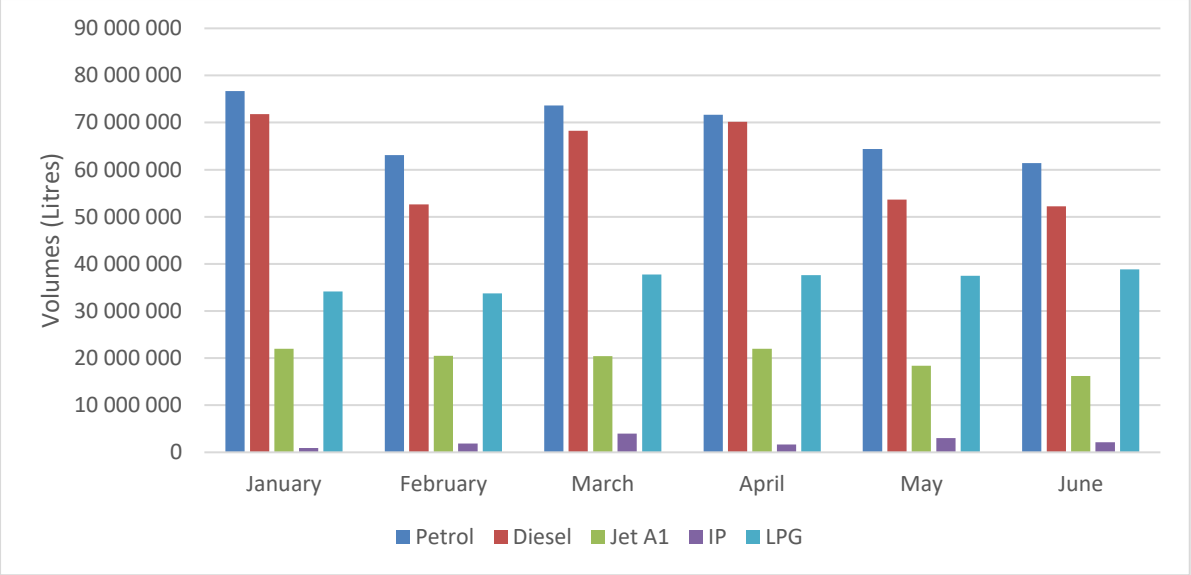


Figure 3: Petroleum products exports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.1.2 Petroleum products trade shares

In the second quarter of 2026, 3.3 billion litres, or 63 percent, of the refined fuel imported into South Africa was diesel. Petrol came in second with 25 percent (1.3 billion litres). LPG ranks third at 7 percent (365 million litres). Jet A1 and IP ranked

fourth and fifth, respectively, at 4 percent (198 million litres) and 2 percent (85 million litres), as shown in Figure 4 below.

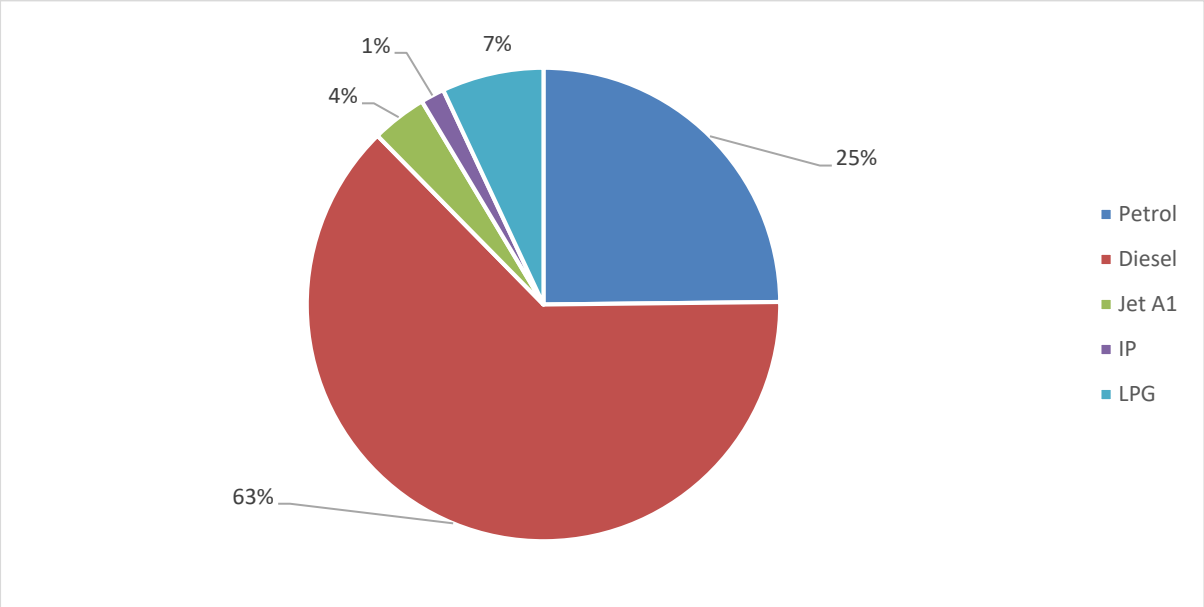


Figure 4: Petroleum products imports percentage share

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

In the second quarter of 2026, 36 percent (197 million litres) of refined fuel exports came from gasoline. With 32 percent (176 million litres), diesel is ranked second. With 21 percent (114 million litres), LPG came in third, followed by JetA1 with 10 percent (56 million). Illuminating paraffin made about 1 percent (6 million litres) of the liquid fuels exported (Figure 5).

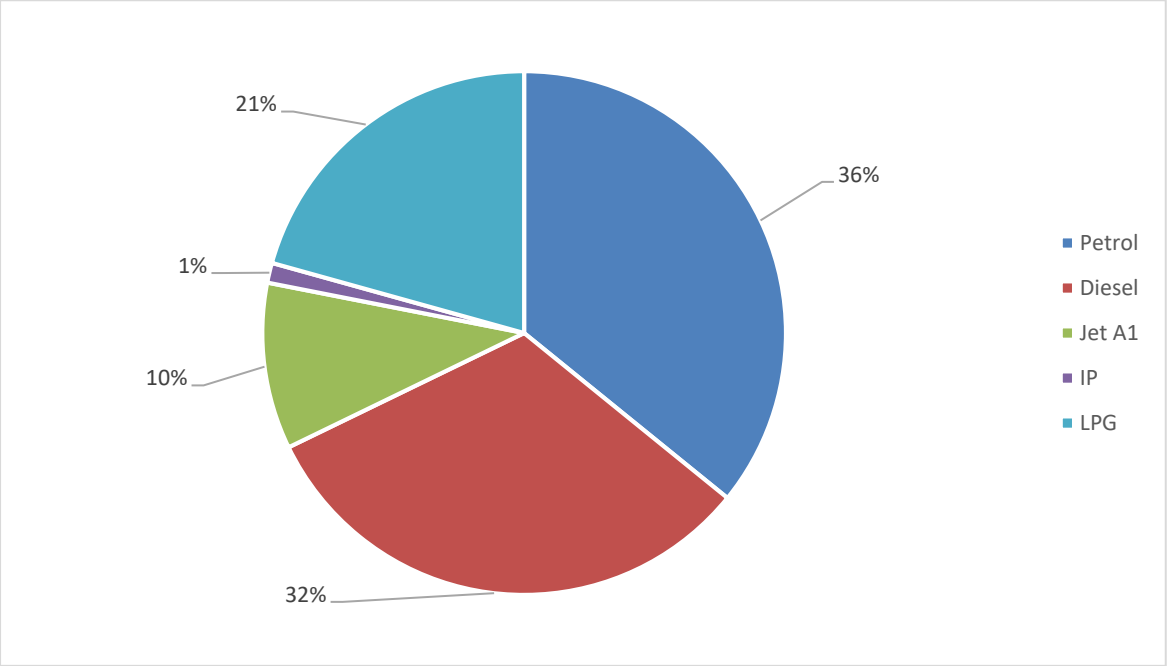


Figure 5: Petroleum Products exports percentage share

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.1.3 Crude oil and petroleum products imports per country of origin

Nigeria and Angola were South Africa's primary crude oil suppliers in the second quarter of 2026. Between April and June of 2026, Angola contributed 9 percent (305 million litres) and Nigeria 69 percent (2.3 billion litres) of the country's total crude oil imports. Furthermore, Algeria, Brazil and Cote D'Ivoire with 7 percent each, (241 million litres), (240 million) and (218 million), respectively, as seen in Figure 6 below.

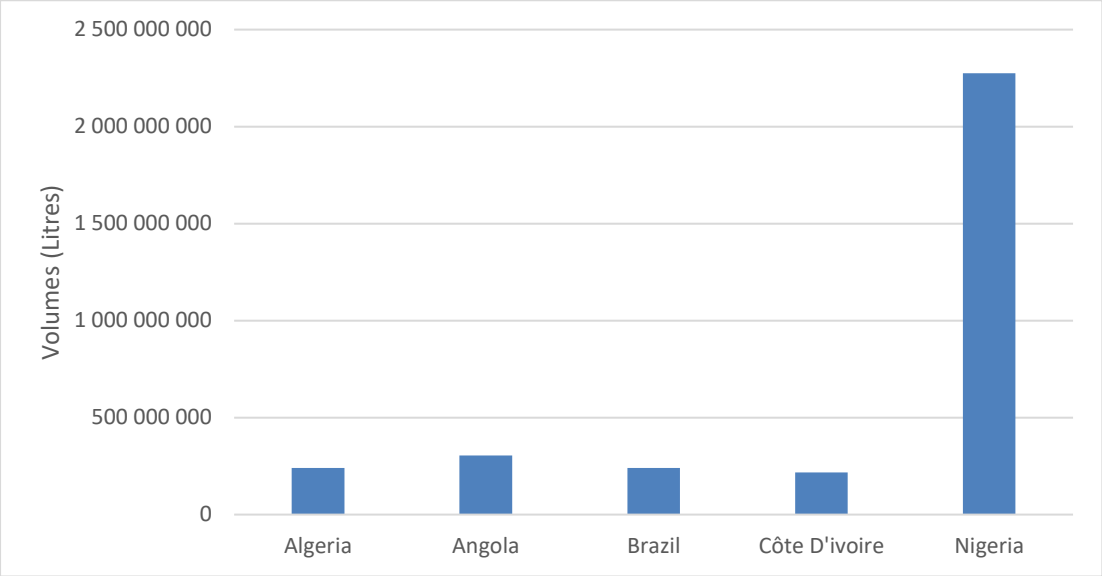


Figure 6: Crude oil imports per country of origin

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

India accounted for 27 percent (891 million litres) of South Africa's diesel imports in the second quarter of 2026. The United States ranks second with 21 percent (712 million litres), followed by Oman with 15 percent (481 million litres), Togo with 9 percent (311 million litres), and the Netherlands with 5 percent (174 million litres). The remaining small amounts were imported from various nations. Belgium accounted for 20 percent (260 million litres) and Saudi Arabia for 16 percent (208 million litres) of South Africa's gasoline imports between April and June of 2026. Sweden came in third with 14 percent (181 million litres), followed by the Netherlands with 8 percent (102 million litres) and the UAE with 6 percent (84 million litres). The remaining was sourced in small quantities from other nations, as shown in Figure 7 below.

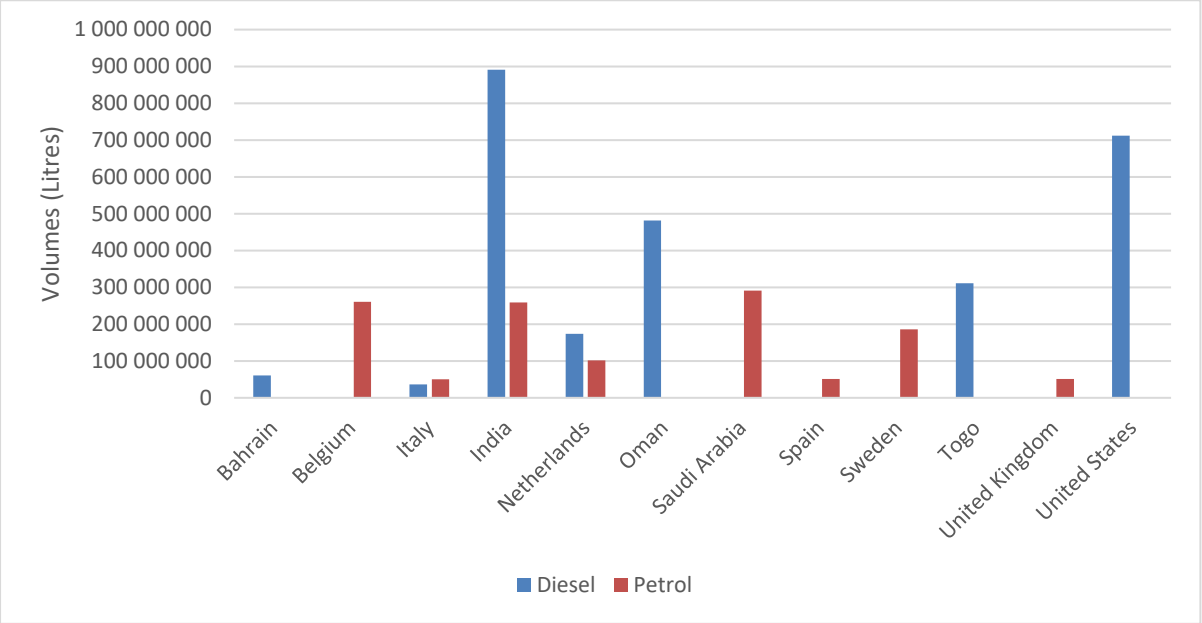


Figure 7: Diesel and petrol imports per country of origin

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

In the second quarter of 2026, the UAE accounted for 40 percent (80 million litres), of all jet fuel imports. Nigeria ranked second with 23 percent (45 million litres), Oman ranks third with 13 percent (21 million litres), followed by Belgium with 9 percent (17 million litres), as seen in Figure 8 below.

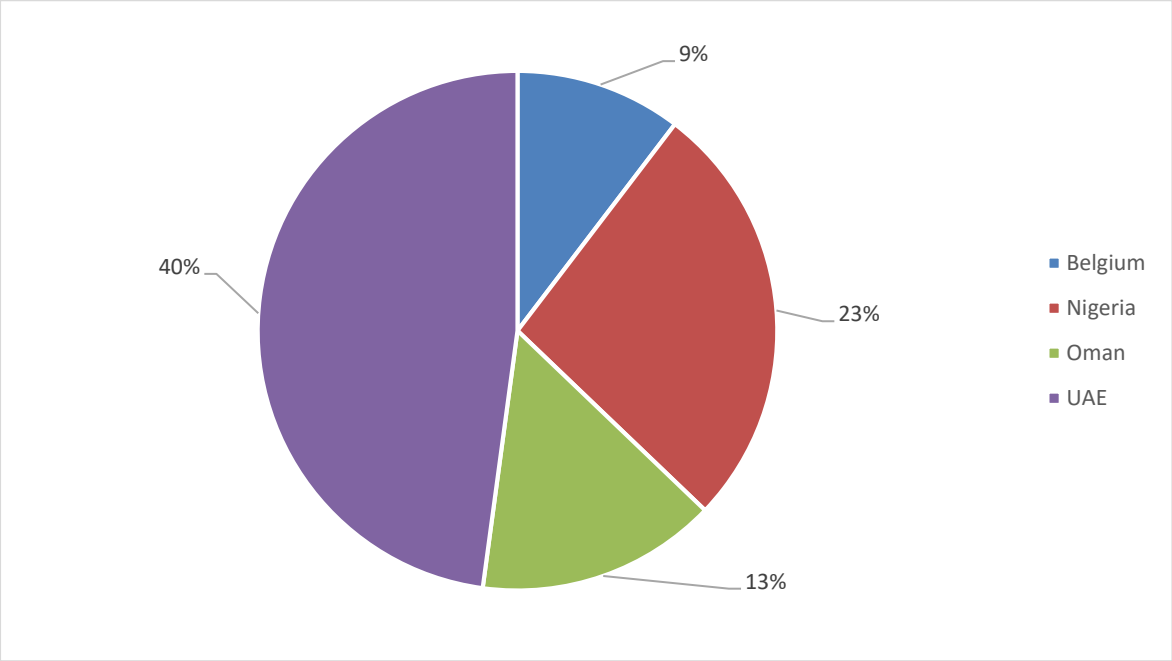


Figure 8: Jet fuel imports per origin, country-of-origin percentage share

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

The United States remains South Africa's largest supplier of LPG, accounting for 87 percent (316 million litres) in the second quarter of 2026, as shown below in Figure 9. Gold petroleum and other came in second at 6 percent (23 million litres), Equatorial Guinea follows at 5 percent (19 million litres) and Nigeria at 1 percent (5 million litres).

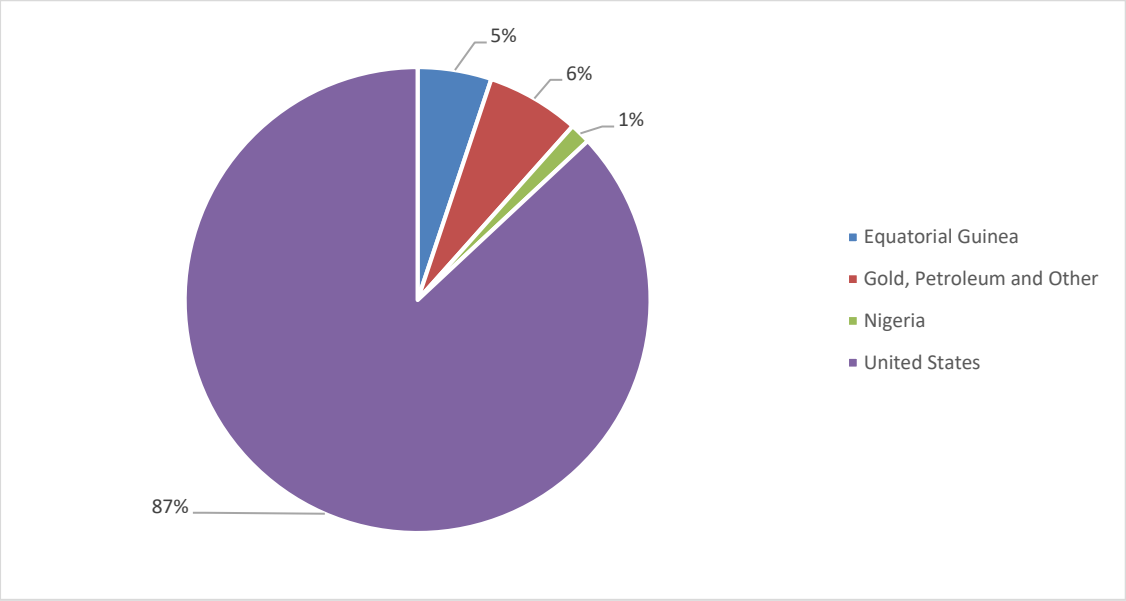


Figure 9: LPG imports per origin, percentage share

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.1.4 Petroleum products exports per destination country

South Africa exported 47 million litres (27 percent) of diesel and 66 million litres (34 percent) of gasoline to Botswana in the second quarter of 2026, compared to 68 million litres (36 percent) of diesel and 101 million litres (47 percent) of gasoline in the first quarter of 2026. Additionally, the country exported diesel to Eswatini and Lesotho throughout that period, while, gasoline was exported to the DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Zambia, as seen in Figure 10 below.

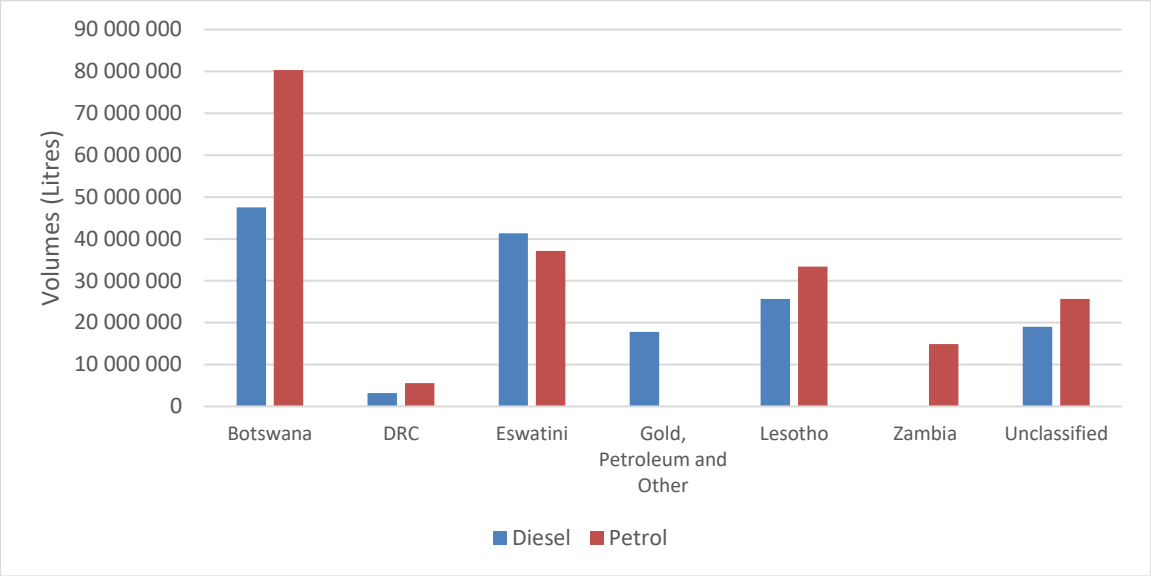


Figure 10: Petrol and diesel exports per destination country

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Ships and aircraft accounted for 87 percent (49 million litres) of South Africa's jet fuel exports during the period under review, from 90 percent (56 million litres) in the first quarter of 2026. Zambia received 2 percent (1 million litres) of the total jet fuel exports, while Botswana accounted for 10 percent (6 million litres), up from 7 percent (4 million litres) in the first quarter of 2026. The largest IP exports, as shown in Figure 11 below, went to Lesotho at 84 percent (6 million litres), up from 82 percent (5 million litres) in the first quarter of 2026, Eswatini at 12 percent (831 thousand), down from 14 percent (955 thousand litres) in quarter one 2026. Botswana and Zambia at 2 percent (160 thousand) and 121 thousand, respectively, from 4 percent (238 thousand litres) and 1 percent (39 thousand litres) in the first quarter of 2026.

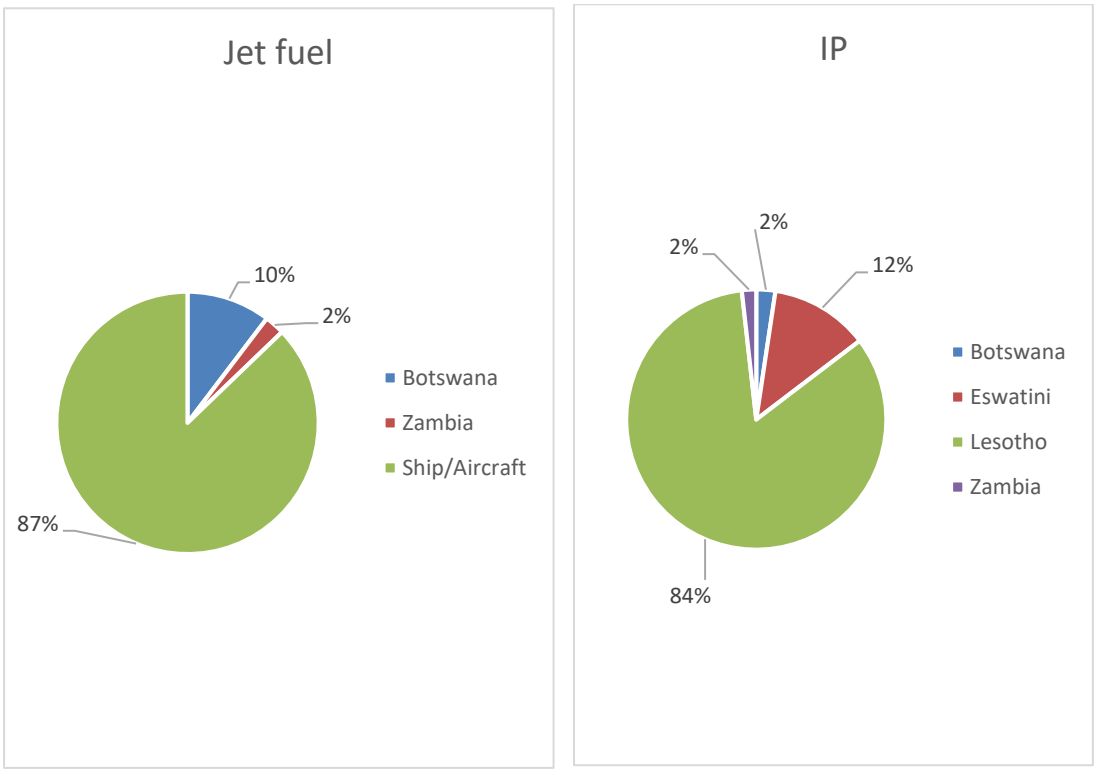


Figure 11: Jet fuel and IP exports per destination country

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

In the second quarter of 2026, 74 percent (84 million litres) of South Africa's LPG exports came from Zimbabwe, up from 71 percent (70 million litres) in the first quarter of 2026. Following, Namibia at 6 percent (6 million litres) from 5 percent (6 million litres) in quarter one 2026, Botswana at 11 percent (13 million litres) from 12 percent (13 million litres), and Lesotho at 5 percent (6 million). Smaller amounts were exported to other neighbouring countries, as shown in Figure 12 below.

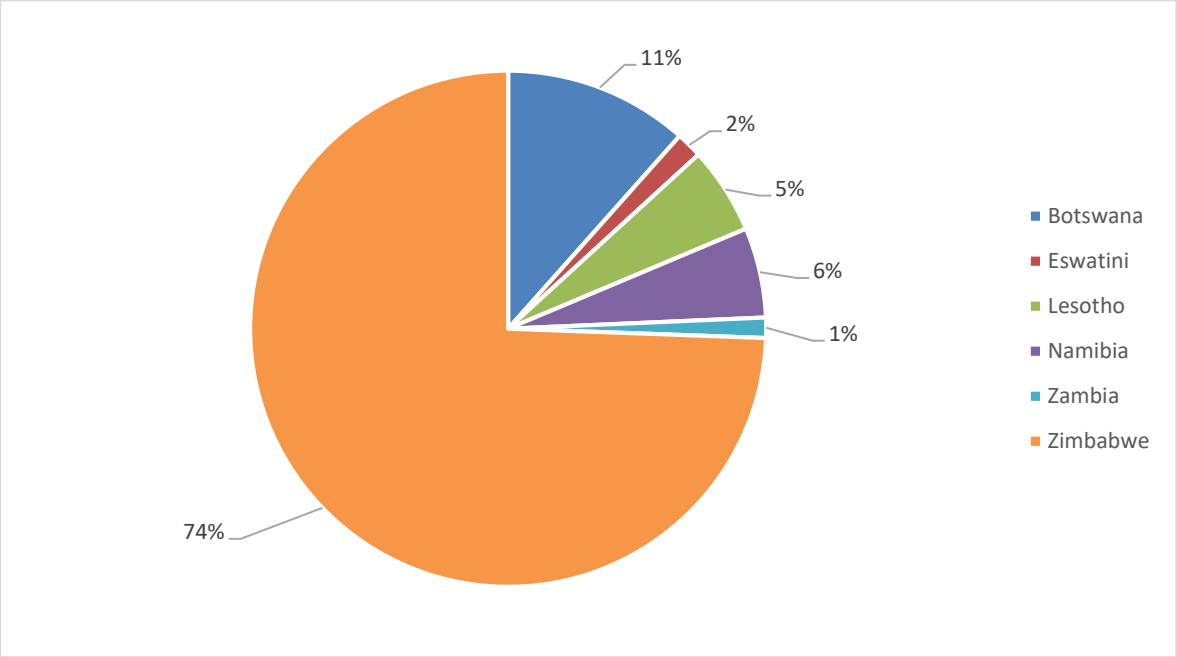


Figure 12: LPG exports per destination country

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.2 Natural gas

In the second quarter of 2026, the Pande-Temane gas fields in Mozambique, South Africa's main pipeline gas supplier, were on the verge of a major reduction in supply, which put pressure on the country's gas market.

In the second quarter of 2026, South Africa imported 646 million kilograms of natural gas, which is the same as in the previous quarter. At 198 million kg, April 2026 had the lowest imports. The highest volumes for the quarter were 213 million kilograms reported in May 2026, and 235 million kilograms registered in June 2026, as seen in Figure 13 below.

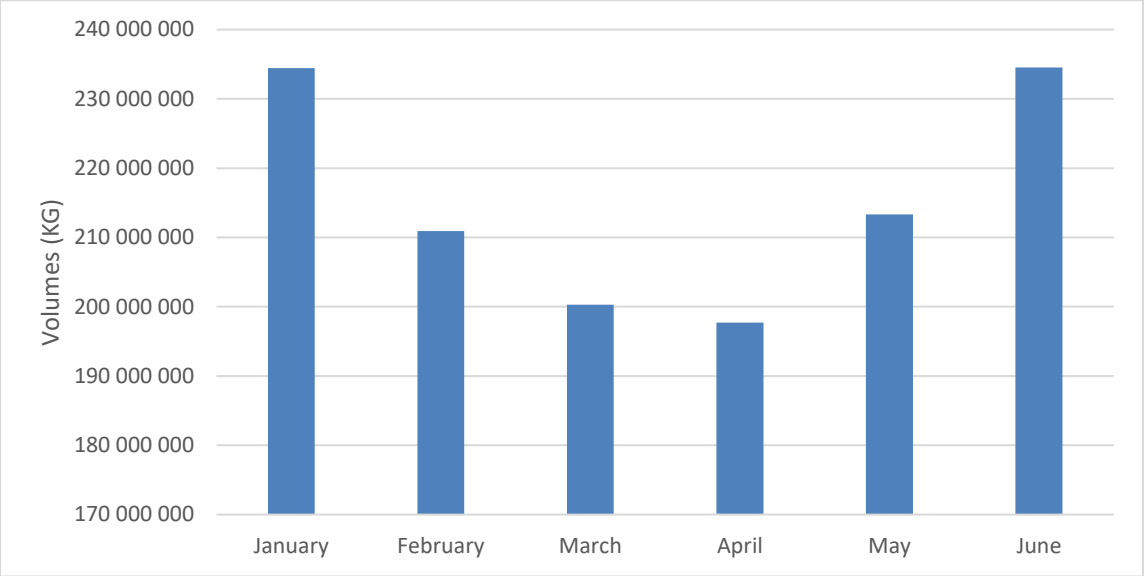


Figure 13: Natural gas imports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

In the second quarter of 2026, South Africa's natural gas exports remained slight. With few cross-border exports to neighbouring countries, the country is mostly an importer of natural gas rather than an exporter. This shows South Africa's reliance on imported natural gas, especially from Mozambique, and its limited local natural gas production.

Compared to 6 million kilograms in the first quarter of 2026, 7 million kilograms of natural gas were exported between April and June of that year. South Africa exported 2.5 million kilograms of natural gas in April 2026, followed by the highest amount of 2.6 million kilograms in May 2026, as shown in Figure 14 below. June 2026 saw the lowest export quantities for the quarter at 1.8 million kilograms. Zimbabwe accounted for 70 percent (5 million kilograms) of the total exports, with Lesotho coming in second at 14 percent (956 thousand kilograms), Eswatini at 12 percent (826 thousand kilograms) and Namibia at 4 percent (246 thousand kilograms).

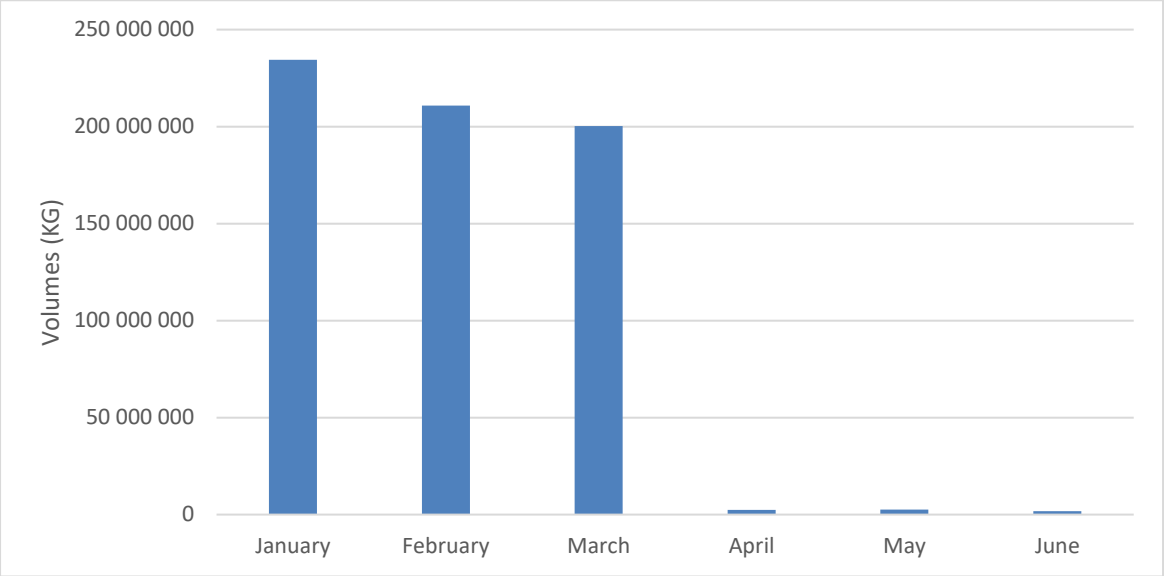


Figure 14: Natural gas exports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.3.1 Coal

South Africa's coal export performance declined in the second quarter of 2026 due to a decline in demand from regular Asian buyers, particularly India, despite improvements in rail and export logistics. The primary trait of South Africa's coal trade in the second quarter of 2026 was exports rather than imports.

Coal imports and exports

In the second quarter of 2026, South Africa imported 144 million kilograms (42 percent) of other coal, up from 51 million kilograms (22 percent) in the first quarter of 2026. Imports of bituminous coal fell from 178 million kilograms (76 percent) in the first quarter of 2026 to 149 million kilograms (43 percent) in the second quarter 2026. Anthracite coal imports increased from 5 million kilograms (2 percent) in the first quarter of 2026 to 52 million kilograms (15 percent) in the second quarter. As seen in Figure 15 below, comparatively minimum anthracite was imported in June 2026. Between April and June of 2026, the country imported 345 million kilograms of coal, a 47 percent increase over 234 million kilos in the first quarter of 2026.

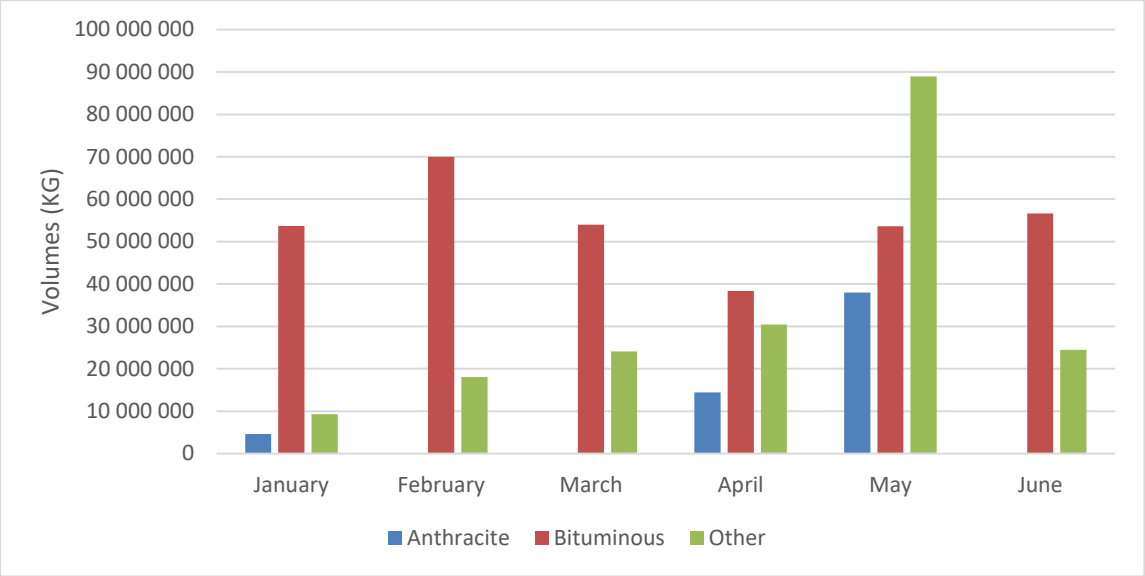


Figure 15: Coal imports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

With 17 billion kilograms (93 percent) exported in the second quarter of 2026 compared to 18 billion kilograms (65 percent) in the first quarter of 2026, bituminous coal remains South Africa's biggest coal export. Exports of anthracite coal fell from 9 billion kilograms (31 percent) in the first quarter of 2026 to 161 million kilograms (1 percent) in the second quarter. Additionally, Figure 16 below illustrates how other coal exports decreased from 1 billion kilograms (5 percent) in the first quarter of 2026 to 994 million kilograms (5 percent) in the second quarter of 2026. In the second quarter of 2026, South Africa exported 18 billion kilograms of coal, a 36 percent decline from 28 billion kilograms in quarter one 2026.

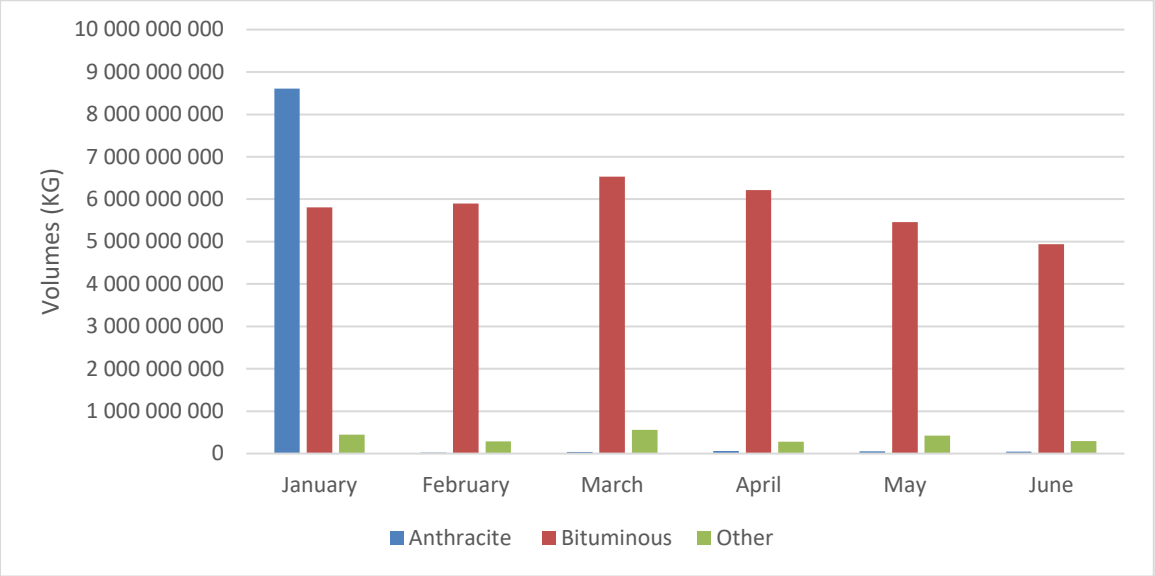


Figure 16: Coal exports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.3.2 Coal trade between South Africa and other countries

During the period under review, South Africa's primary source of bituminous coal imports was Botswana. Furthermore, Eswatini accounted for 56 percent (81 million kilograms) of the country's other coal imports, followed by the Russian Federation at 38 percent (54 million kilograms) and Vietnam at 5 percent (7 million kilograms). As seen in Figure 17 below, the United States supplied 42 percent (22 million kilograms) of the country's imports of anthracite coal, followed by Peru at 30 percent (16 million kilograms) and 28 percent (14 million kilograms).

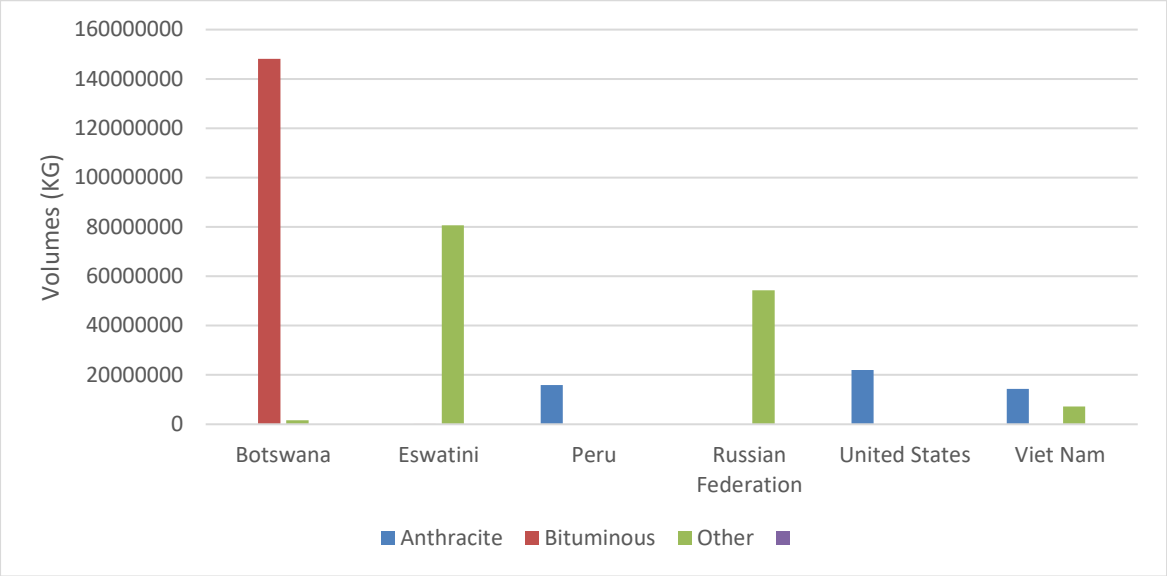


Figure 17: Coal imports by country of origin

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

As Indian consumers replaced imported coal with local coal, exports to India drastically decreased. India accounted for 42 percent (7 billion kilograms) of bituminous coal exports in the second quarter of 2026, compared to 53 percent (10 billion kilograms) in the first quarter of 2026. Pakistan came in second with 12 percent (2 billion kilograms), followed by South Korea with 5 percent (824 million kilograms), Japan and Israel with 4 percent (678 million kilograms) and 672 million kilograms, respectively, and Taiwan with 3 percent (557 million kilograms). Each of the other country' shares of total exports were lower, as shown in Figure 18 below.

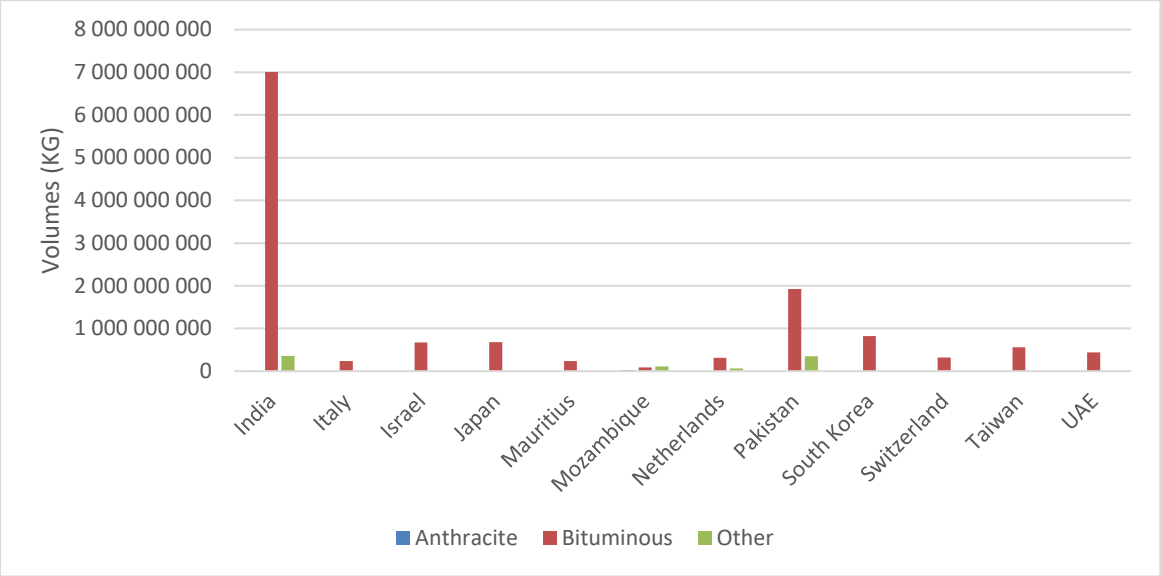


Figure 18: Coal exports per destination country

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

2.3 Electricity

South Africa's electricity imports decreased in the second quarter of 2026, mostly as a result of the country's domestic energy grid improving its ability to meet demand from its own generation and reducing its reliance on imported electricity. Increased contributions from independent power sources and relatively low electricity demand further reduced the need for further cross-border supply.

Compared to 1,269 MW in the first quarter of 2026, South Africa imported 416 thousand MW of electricity in the second quarter of 2026. The country imported 412 thousand MW of electricity in April 2026, the highest quantity for the quarter, 4 thousand MW in May 2026, and 926 MW in June 2026, the lowest volumes for the quarter, as seen in Figure 19 below. Most of these electricity imports came from Mozambique.

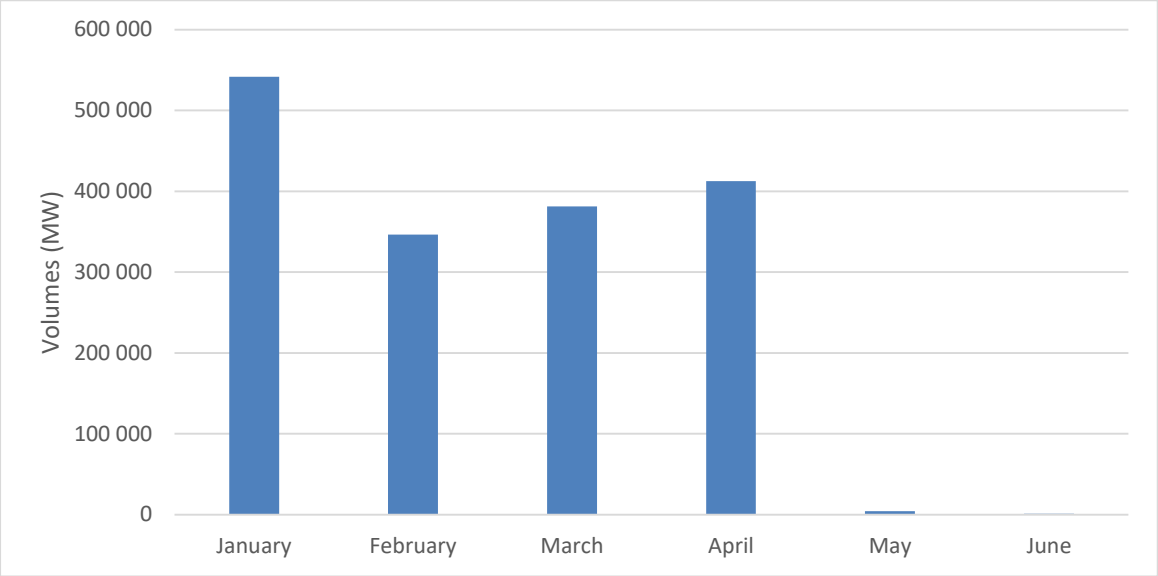


Figure 19: Electricity imports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

South Africa exported 270 MW of electricity in the second quarter of 2026 compared to 178 million MW in the first quarter of 2026. April 2026 saw the country's highest export volume of 112 million MW, while May 2026 had the lowest export volume of 65 million MW. A total of 92 million MW was recorded in June 2026, as shown in (Figure 20) below.

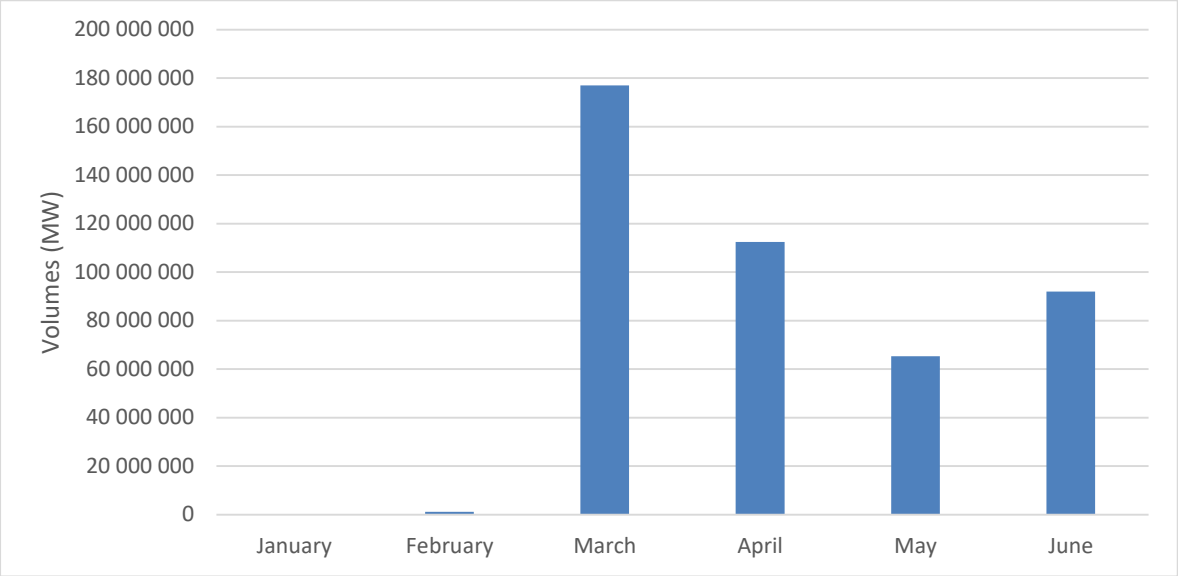


Figure 20: Electricity exports

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Figure 21 below shows that from April to June of 2026, 73 percent (198 million MW) of South Africa's electricity exports went to Unclassified, 25 percent (68 million MW) to Mozambique, and 1 percent (4 million MW) to Zambia.

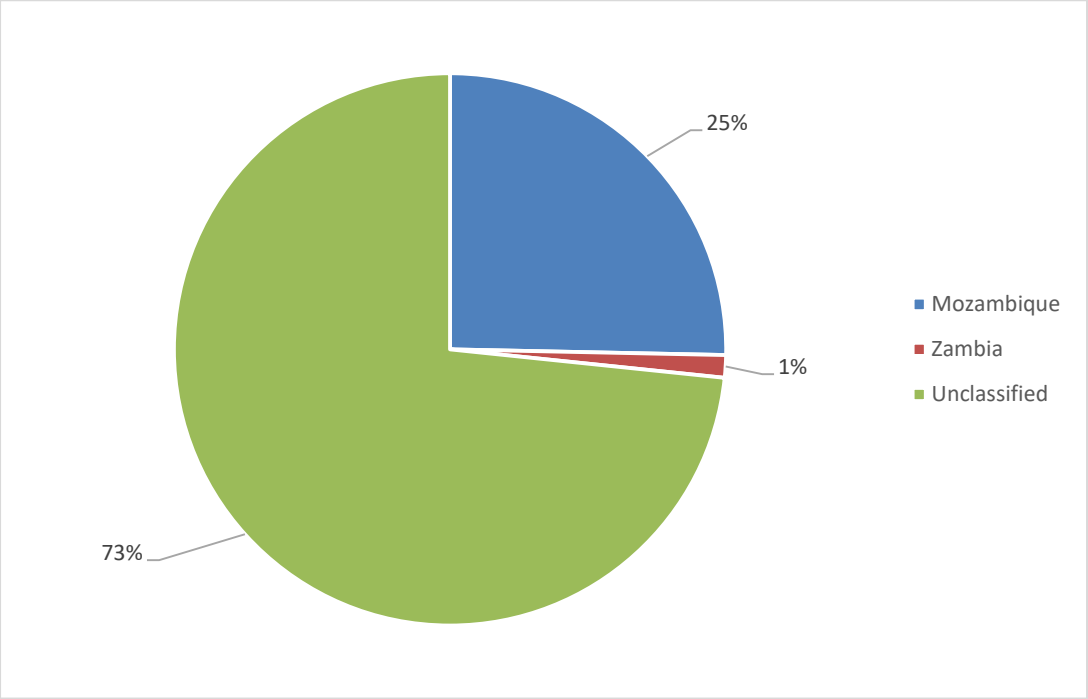


Figure 21: Electricity exports per destination country

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)

3 Conclusion

Since South Africa is a major regional power supplier and depends on foreign markets for its liquid fuels, energy trade data is essential. In the second quarter of 2026, coal continued to play a significant role in South Africa's energy trade. South Africa is a significant producer and exporter of coal. However, the nation's coal-export performance has been hampered by structural issues, such as port and rail limitations and falling demand from significant international markets, especially India. South African coal from the Richards Bay export corridor has long been shipped to India. South Africa is concerned that it can no longer count on India to import the same percentage of its coal exports as it used to. As a result, South African producers will need to expand into other Asian markets. Through the integrated Southern African regional power system, South Africa continued to import and export electricity in the second quarter of 2026, despite trade figures indicating a decline in volumes.

In order to solve the impending shortage of gas supply both domestically and regionally, South Africa accelerated plans for LNG imports during the second quarter of 2026 while continuing to rely on imported pipeline natural gas from Mozambique. Additionally, South Africa continued to rely on imports of refined petroleum products, such as the fuels required for industry and transportation. This is significant since imports are still required because South Africa does not produce enough refined petroleum products to meet domestic demand.

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