

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**At glance:** South Africa, the southernmost country on the African continent, renowned for its



varied topography, great natural beauty, and cultural diversity. The Rainbow Nation borders Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The small Kingdom of Lesotho is enclosed as an enclave. The country is famous for its spectacular landscapes and a diversity of African animals. The Kruger National Park, one of the largest parks is home to more than 145 mammal species, including the classical African "Big Five" the African buffalo, lions, leopards, elephants and black Rhino. South Africa has a population of 58 million people. The country's administrative capital is Pretoria (Tshwane), legislative capital is Cape Town, judicial capital is Bloemfontein (Mangaung) and the largest city is

Johannesburg. South Africa has the most industrialized, technologically advanced, and diversified economy in Africa

**Country Risk Classification:** B1\* (ECGC Country Risk Classification List with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023)

**Political system:** South Africa is a constitutional democracy with a three-tier system of government, a legislature, an executive and an independent judiciary. The President is both head of state and head of government. The lower house of parliament, the National Assembly, consists of 400 members and is elected every five years.

**Demographic Indicators**

S No.	Particulars	Details
1.	<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Black African 80.9%, Colored 8.8%, White 7.8%, Indian/Asian 2.6% (2021 est.)
2.	<b>Languages</b>	isiZulu 25.3%, isiXhosa 14.8%, Afrikaans 12.2%, Sepedi 10.1%, Setswana 9.1%, English 8.1%, Sesotho 7.9%, Xitsonga 3.6%, siSwati 2.8%, Tshivenda 2.5%, isiNdebele 1.6% (2018 est.)
3.	<b>Religions</b>	Christian 86%, ancestral, tribal, animist, or other traditional African religions 5.4%, Muslim 1.9%, other 1.5%, nothing in particular 5.2% (2015 est.)

**Geographic Indicators**

S No.	Particulars	Details
1.	<b>Location of Country</b>	South Africa occupies the southern tip of Africa, its coastline stretching more than 2,850 kilometres by the Indian Ocean to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Land borders include Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland.
2.	<b>Area Covered</b>	1,219,090 sq km
3.	<b>Total Population</b>	58,048,332 (2023 est.)
4.	<b>Climate</b>	South Africa is a climate mostly semiarid; subtropical along east coast; sunny days, cool nights, hot deserts, humid highlands, snow-topped mountains and an enclave of Mediterranean weather in the southwest.
5.	<b>Area</b>	Total: 1,219,090 sq km Land: 1,214,470 sq km Water: 4,620 sq km
6.	<b>Natural resources</b>	In addition to diamonds and gold, the country also contains reserves of iron ore, platinum, manganese, chromium, copper, uranium, silver, beryllium and titanium.

S No.	Particulars	Details
1.	<b>GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)</b>	\$790.625 billion (2021)
2.	<b>GDP (Per Capita)</b>	\$13,300 (2021)
3.	<b>Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)</b>	4.61% (2021)
4.	<b>GDP – Composition, by sector of origin</b>	Agriculture: 2.8% Industry: 29.7% Services: 67.5%  <b>Industries:</b> Mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold, chromium), automobile assembly, metalworking, machinery, textiles, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizer, foodstuffs, commercial ship repair.
5.	<b>Currency</b>	The South African Rand (ZAR), (ZAR, R), 1 Rand (ZAR, R), = 4.49 INR (May, 2023)  1 Rand (ZAR, R) = 0.055 USD (May, 2023)
6.	<b>Total global exports of South Africa</b>	\$130.885 billion (2021 est.)
7.	<b>Major export partners</b>	China 15%, United Kingdom 8%, Germany 7%, United States 6%, India 6% (2019)
8.	<b>Total global imports of South Africa</b>	\$104.806 billion (2021 est.)
9.	<b>Major import partners</b>	China 18%, Germany 11%, United States 6%, India 5% (2019)
10.	<b>India-South Africa Bilateral Trade (2021-2022)</b>	India's exports to South Africa: 6,085.29 USD Million India's Handicrafts exports to South Africa: 17.51 USD Million India's imports from South Africa: 10,965.81 USD Million India's trade deficit: -4,880.52 USD Million (2021-22) (Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI)

Source: worldbank.org  
cia.gov

### Strengths & Weaknesses

#### Strengths

- Rich natural resources (gold, coal, diamonds, rare metals etc.)
- Diversified industry and effective financial services
- Economic and political strategic player in the region
- Healthy banking system, has an established track record of proactive and credible policy stances

#### Weaknesses

- Poverty, growing inequalities, high unemployment, social risk, in security persist
- Lack of foreign direct investment & dependency on foreign capital inflows
- Ageing and inadequate infrastructure (Energy & Transport), electricity crisis
- High unemployment and shortage of skilled manpower

**\*Country Risk Classification List as of 31st March 2023 (Medium & Long Term)**

**Country Classification Legend**

<b>ECGC Classification</b>	<b>Risk Category</b>
<b>A1</b>	Insignificant
<b>A2</b>	Low Risk
<b>B1</b>	Moderately Low Risk
<b>B2</b>	Moderate Risk
<b>C1</b>	Moderately High Risk
<b>C2</b>	High Risk
<b>D</b>	Very High Risk