



Fact Sheet

Embassy of the United States
877 Pretorius Street, Arcadia, Pretoria

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South Africa's Participation in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

- U.S. trade and investment makes a significant impact on South Africa's development. The 600 U.S. companies active in South Africa generate more than 10% of the country's annual GDP and employ more than 200,000 South Africans. Since 2000, AGOA has similarly helped South African companies by offering duty-free access for more than 6,000 products to the United States. South Africa has seized the opportunity presented by AGOA to the benefit of a broad range of industries.
- AGOA creates jobs for South Africans. AGOA has led to the creation of thousands of jobs in several South African industries: citrus, 85,000; auto, 35,000 direct and 55,000 indirect; and all the other sectors combined have benefitted from the creation of at least 10,000 jobs. Roughly 8% of the wine industry's production goes to the U.S., and it employs more than 300,000 people.
- More than 98% of South African exports enter the United States duty free under various trade preference programs, including AGOA.
- In 2014, South Africa exported \$1.7 billion to the U. S. under AGOA. South Africa exports more manufactured products to the United States under AGOA than any other country.
- South Africa's largest exports to the United States in 2014 were \$1.3 billion worth of cars made by companies like BMW, along with \$40 million dollars' worth of South Africa's wine. Overall, Americans bought \$250 million worth of South Africa agricultural products last year, which was an historic high mark for us.
- Expansion of the South African auto sector has been a major AGOA success story. AGOA enabled South African vehicle exports to grow from zero in 2000 to average around \$2 billion per year, providing over 30,000 direct jobs more than double that in indirect jobs.
- The South African citrus export sector is another AGOA success story, as AGOA's duty free access allowed South Africa to compete against Mexico and establish an important base in the U.S. market that allowed it to then compete in Europe and other destinations. The U.S. believes the South African agriculture sector can benefit even more in the future. In 2014, the U.S. imported \$55 million in fruits and vegetables, \$51 million in wine and beer, and \$48 million in tree nuts such as macadamias all duty free under AGOA. The U.S. has identified \$175 million in potential new agricultural exports from South Africa to the United States for citrus, avocados, lamb, and other products.