

# LESOTHO



## Intra-Africa trade and tariff profile



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Regional Economic Communities

Lesotho is a member of both the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

SACU is a customs union with duty-free intra-SACU trade and a common external tariff (CET) applicable to all goods entering from outside the Union, which includes the territories of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho.

SADC is a Regional Economic Community with 16 member states, including all SACU countries, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Malawi, Seychelles and Comoros. 13 SADC members are in a Free Trade Agreement (FTA); Comoros, DRC and Angola are yet to join the FTA.



### EXPORTS

52%

of Lesotho's total exports are intra-Africa



Men's Clothing (9%)



Electric circuit breakers (7%)



Sofas (6%)



T-Shirts (6%)

### IMPORTS

72%

of Lesotho's total imports are intra-Africa



Iron & Steel (16%)



Petroleum oils (10%)

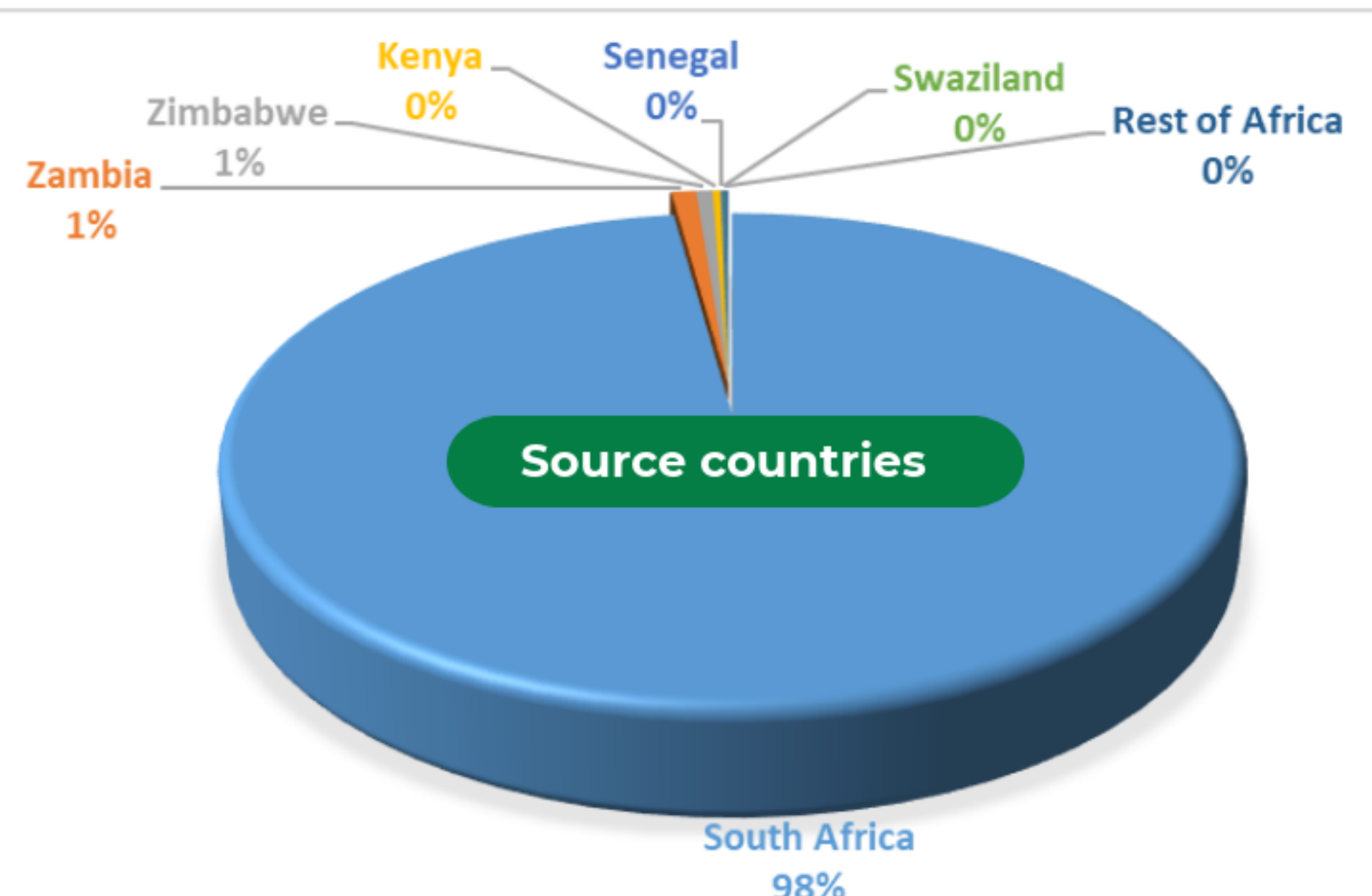
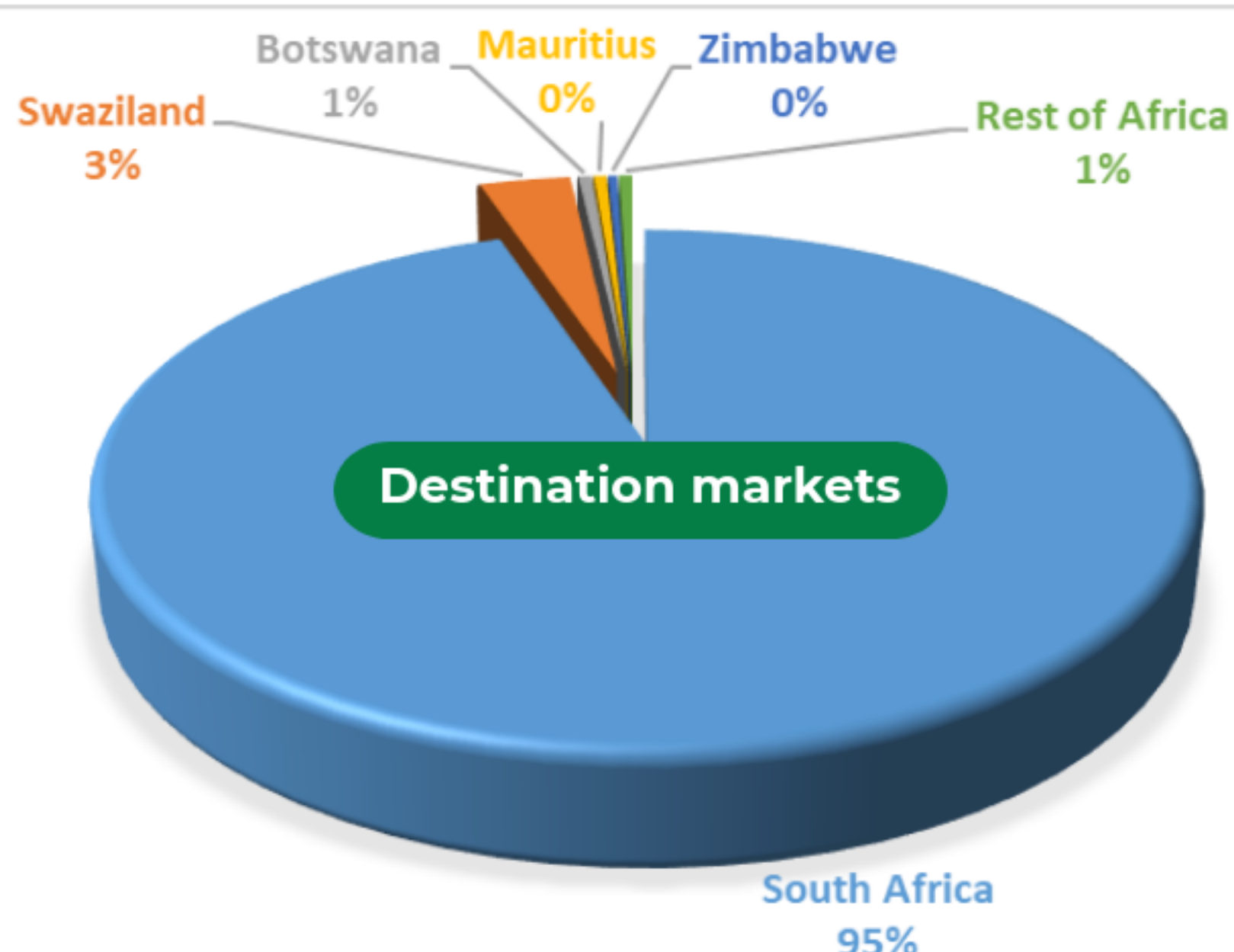


Goods vehicles (2%)



Cotton (2%)

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Intra-Africa trade





Most of the goods imported into Lesotho from other SADC member states enter duty-free. The only exceptions are wheat flour, sugar, second-hand clothes and tyres. Wheat flour imports are levied the MFN applied duty of 65.59c/kg. Sugar imports, raw and refined face a specific duty of 31.98c/kg, while the duty on second-hand clothes varies depending on the tariff line (20% ad valorem, 35c/unit, 50c/unit and 60% or 2500c/kg). Tyre imports under HS980100 has a 20% duty.

African imports from outside SADC and SACU are levied MFN applied duties

## High simple average MFN applied duties

**Clothing and apparel (between 26.3% and 41.2%)**  
**Tobacco (38.1%)**  
**Leather articles (26.6%)**  
**Carpets and flooring (26.6%)**

## Duty free imports include

**Live animals (HS 1)**  
**Base metals like Tungsten and Titanium (HS 81)**  
**Clocks and watches (HS 91)**  
**Ores, slag and ash (HS 26)**

## Highest ad valorem import duties



Preserved or prepared pineapple (55%)



Tobacco cigarettes (45%)



Tobacco substitute cigarettes & cigars (45%)



Water-pipe tobacco (45%)



Clothing items (40% and 45%); Worn Clothing (275%)



Retreaded tyres (43%)



Uncooked pasta not containing eggs (40%)

## Highest specific import duties

- Milk and cream products (450c/kg with a maximum of 96%)
- Cheese including fresh, grated or powdered and blue-veined (500c/kg with a maximum of 95%)
- Dairy spreads and butter (500c/kg with a maximum of 79%)
- Unstemmed or unstripped tobacco (860c/kg less 85% with a maximum of 44%)
- Black fermented tea (400c/kg)
- Garlic (325c/kg with a maximum of 37%)
- Ethyl alcohol (317c/litre)
- Fresh/chilled bovine carcasses (40% or 240c/kg)

## Imports from Africa excluding SACU and SADC countries

		2017 (US\$ millions)	%Share	Average tariff (%)	Max tariff (%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>All products</b>	<b>6,4</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
3004	Medicaments...	4,0	63%	0	0
5201	Cotton	2,2	35%	8	8
9999	Commodities n.e.s	0,0	1%	-	-
6309	Worn clothing	0,0	0%	272	272
6404	Footwear	0,0	0%	24	25
8402	Boilers	0,0	0%	0	0
8501	Electric motors and generators	0,0	0%	2	10
4908	Transfers "decalcomanias"	0,0	0%	10	10
8471	Auto data-processing machines...	0,0	0%	0	0
3926	Articles of plastics, n.e.s.	0,0	0%	15	20
	<b>Other</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0%</b>		

Lesotho's key imports from outside SADC and SACU are Medicaments and uncarded cotton. These products mostly enter at low duty rates under 10% duty. These are the only major products imported outside the above mentions RECs.

Lesotho as a member of SACU has a common external tariff with other SACU members, and most of its trade is with SACU (South Africa)

Source: ITC TradeMap (2018) and WTO Tariff Database (2018)