

## Fact Sheet: South Africa



In this fact sheet, we have summarised answers to frequently asked questions about this country in one document for you. This information is not economic data, but rather statements on a wide range of practical topics that influence business activities within the country. In this publication, you will find basic information on:

Trade .....	2
Visa Regulations and Immigration .....	6
Labour Laws .....	7
Taxes and Duties .....	7
Business Establishment and Investment Incentives .....	9
Special Economic Frameworks.....	16
Banking and FOREX .....	17
Contact Details.....	19

## Trade

South Africa has an industrialised, technologically advanced and well-diversified economy. The southernmost country in Africa has a population of approximately 64.29 million and is considered a constitutional democracy. It has an area of 1,22 million km<sup>2</sup> and a GDP of 377.78 billion USD per capita (2023). In South Africa, the separation of powers is divided between three cities, with the executive in Pretoria, the judiciary in Bloemfontein and the legislature in Cape Town. There are 12 official languages in South Africa with the business language being English. The currency is the South African Rand (R).

### Contact persons and relevant authorities

#### Department of Trade, Industry and Competition – *the dtic*

*Role:* The promotion of economic development and meaningful participation in the global economic and trade environment.

*Goals:*

- Promote structural transformation, towards a dynamic industrial and globally competitive economy
- Provide a predictable, competitive, equitable and socially responsible environment, conducive to investment, trade and enterprise development
- Broaden participation in the economy to strengthen economic development

Contact details within the Department can be found on the website:

<http://www.thedtic.gov.za/contact-us-4/>

The DTIC works with a group of specialised agencies and institutions responsible for regulation and financial development to promote economic growth, employment and equity, and to provide products and services to the country's economic citizens. These agencies can be found on the website:

<http://www.thedtic.gov.za/agencies/>

#### South African Revenue Service – SARS

*Role:* To collect all revenue due, ensure optimal compliance with tax and customs legislation and provide a customs and excise service.

*Goals:*

- Provide clarity and certainty for taxpayers and traders of their obligations
- Make it easy for taxpayers and traders to comply with their obligations
- Modernize our system to provide digital and streamlined online services.

Contact details within SARS can be found on the website: <https://www.sars.gov.za/contact-us/>

### Trade Information

Customs airports: Bram Fischer International Airport, Cape Town International Airport  
King Shaka International Airport, Kruger Mpumalanga, Lanseria Airport  
O R Tambo International Airport, Pilanesburg International Airport  
Polokwane Airport

Customs harbours: Durban: Albany House, Cape Town (P166), East London, Port Elizabeth

Mossel Bay, Richards Bay and Saldanha Bay.  
ISO currency code: ZAR  
Customs tariff: Harmonised System, customs clearance according to FOB value  
ISO country code: ZA

### Preferential trade relations with the EU

An Economic Partnership Agreement with reciprocal preferential treatment exists between the European Union and the SADC Economic Partnership Agreement countries.

### Special provision for a selected group of goods

The contact for norms and standards is the South African Bureau of Standards ([SABS](#)).

### List of existing trade agreements

<a href="#">AfCFTA</a> (2019)	African Continental Free Trade Area	The agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) entered into force in 2019 and since the beginning of 2021, member states (including South Africa) have been trading on the basis of the AfCFTA.
<a href="#">AGOA</a> (2000)	African Growth and Opportunity Act	A unilateral programme that gives African countries, including South Africa, duty-free access to the US market.
<a href="#">BRICS</a> (2009)	Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa	An economic alliance that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. South Africa has been a member of BRICS since 2011. The alliance aims to boost each country's brand as an economic player and strengthen trade relations.
<a href="#">COMESA-EAC-SADC</a> (2024)	Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA)	The TFTA consists of 29 Member/ Partner States across the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) namely COMESA, EAC and SADC. The objective is to enhance market access, address multiple memberships and further the objectives of cooperation, harmonization, and coordination of Policies.
<a href="#">SACU</a> (1910)	Southern African Customs Union	SACU ensures the free movement of goods between the member states

Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho,  
Eswatini and South Africa.

<p><a href="#">SACU-EFTA Free Trade Agreement (2008)</a></p>	<p>Free Trade Agreement between SACU and the European Free Trade Association</p>	<p>The Agreement regulates trade in goods and is the basis for the Parties' engagement on intellectual property, investment, services and government procurement.</p>
<p><a href="#">SACU-Mercosur PTA (2016)</a></p>	<p>Preferential Trade Agreement</p>	<p>The preferential trade agreement was concluded between the member states of the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) and the member states of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).</p>
<p><a href="#">SACU-USA TIDCA (2008)</a></p>	<p>Trade, Investment and Development Cooperation Agreement</p>	<p>A framework agreement between the SACU member states and the United States. The agreement aims to promote investment and the expansion and diversification of trade.</p>
<p><a href="#">SACUM-UK EPA (2021)</a></p>	<p>Economic Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) member States and Mozambique, of the one part and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the other part.</p>
<p><a href="#">SADC (1992)</a></p>	<p>Southern African Development Community</p>	<p>A regional economic community of 16 member states (including South Africa) with the aim of strengthening regional integration, promoting poverty reduction in Southern Africa through economic development and ensuring peace and security.</p>
<p><a href="#">SADC-EU EPA (2016)</a></p>	<p>Economic Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>Six of the SADC member states - Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Eswatini - signed the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union. The agreement focuses on: Strengthening trade developments, creating improved opportunities for the movement of goods and the</p>

protection of geographical products  
such as wine and tea.

### WTO

World Trade Organization

South Africa has been a member of  
the WTO since 1995.

## **Bilateral Investment Treaties**

In addition, South Africa has bilateral investment agreements with the following countries: China, Cuba, Finland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mauritius, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Senegal, and Zimbabwe.

Treaties have been signed but are not yet in force with Algeria, Angola, Canada, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo (Brazzaville), Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Israel, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Qatar, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, and Yemen.

## **Import Regulation**

- Together with Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini, South Africa forms the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) with a common external tariff. Customs regulations are documented in the Customs and Excise Act ([Act No. 91 of 1964](#)). They are in line with most international conventions regarding recommended practices for the import and export of goods. The agreement also stipulates that future free trade agreements with third countries may only be negotiated as a block and no longer bilaterally.
- No import duties are levied on goods traded within the customs union. The Economic Partnership Agreement negotiated between six SADC countries (including South Africa) and the EU has been applied since 10 October 2016. Under the agreement, the EU grants free market access to all South African products.
- To import in South Africa, you first need to register as an importer with the *South African Revenue Services (SARS)* and then apply to the *International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC)* for an import permit.

## **How to register as an importer**

- Register as an importer at South African Revenue Service (SARS)
- Go to ITAC or download the application form
- Fill in the forms
- Submit the forms to the Directorate: Import and Export Control at ITAC.

Applications can be emailed to the respective officials as per the [contact list](#) or delivered directly to the office. The address is available under Import and Export Control on the website: <http://www.itac.org.za/pages/contact-us>

## **Downloadable Forms**

- [Application to register as an importer](#), IE 230
- [Application to import goods for personal use](#), IE 463 and [Annexure to IE 463 application](#)
- [Application to import goods for commercial purposes](#), IE 461 and [Annexure to IE461](#)

- [Application for permit to import chemicals](#), IE 464 and [Annexure to IE 464](#)
- [Application for permit to import second-hand or used passenger vehicle](#) IE462 and [IE Information document to complete the IE462 form](#)

### Contact details of the ITAC National Office – Import and Export Control

Tel: 012 394 3590, 012 394 3591

City/Town: Pretoria

Province: Gauteng

Physical Address: International Trade Administration Commission - The Import and Export Unit

77 Meintjies Street, Block D, Sunnyside, Pretoria, 0001

Postal address: Private Bag X753 Pretoria, 0001

Web address: <http://www.itac.org.za>

### Finding a commercial agent/distributor

The AHK Southern Africa supports the search for potential local business partners, such as representatives and distributors, as part of its service portfolio.

## Visa Regulations and Immigration

The [Department of Home Affairs](#) is responsible for civic services and immigration. They offer a multitude of services to the citizens of South Africa, as well as foreigners who wish to visit, work or stay in South Africa.

Information on visa matters is also available from the Embassy of South Africa in the foreign markets. The [Embassy of South Africa in Berlin](#) also provides support and advice on business visa issues.

German passport holders are exempt from the South African visa requirement in respect of holiday purposes for a period of ninety (90) days.

### Types of temporary residence visas

- Business visa
- Work visa
- General work visa
- Critical skills work visa
- Intra-company transfer work visa
- Corporate visa
- Study visa
- Exchange Visas
- Retired Persons' Visa

For more information and requirements on the above-mentioned visas, the Department of Home Affairs website: <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/types-of-visas>

## Requirements for entering South Africa

- A valid and acceptable passport or travel document for your intended stay
- At least one blank page in your passport for endorsements
- A valid visa, if required
- Sufficient funds to pay for your day-to-day expenses during your stay
- A return or onward ticket
- Yellow fever certificates if your journey starts or entails passing through the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America.

For more information, VFS Global manages visa facilitation centres for the Department of Home Affairs in South Africa: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/zaf/en/dha/>

## Labour Laws

[The Department of Employment and Labour](#) is the relevant authority responsible for employment, job creation, unemployment insurance and occupational health and safety in South Africa.

South African labour legislation is governed by the [Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995](#) and [Basic Conditions of Employment 75 of 1997](#), which are regularly amended and supplemented by other regulations, such as occupational health and safety. The most important laws at a glance:

- [Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998](#)
- [Skills Development Act 97 of 1998](#)
- [Unemployment Insurance Act 63 of 2001](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993](#)

All documents and information can also be found on the website of the relevant authority: <https://www.labour.gov.za/>

## Contact details of the Department of Employment and Labour

Tel: (012) 309 4000

Fax: 0866889835

City/Town: Pretoria

Province: Gauteng

Physical Address: Laboria House, 215 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria, 0001

Postal address: Private Bag X 117, Pretoria, 0001

<https://www.labour.gov.za/contacts>

## Taxes and Duties

The authority responsible for taxes and duties is the [South African Revenue Service](#) (SARS).

### The most important taxes are:

- Corporate taxes
- Income tax



- Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) contributions
- Value Added Tax

### Basis of Calculation

South Africa uses a residence-based taxation system whereby residents are taxed on worldwide income and non-residents are taxed on South African-sourced income. You can find out exactly who counts as a resident and who does not here: [Tax and Non-Residents](#)

### Corporate income tax (2022/23) in South Africa

Corporate Income Tax (CIT) is applicable (but not limited) to the following companies which are liable under the Income Tax Act, 1962 for the payment of tax on all income received by or accrued to them within a financial year:

- Public companies (“Ltd”)
- Private companies (“Pty (Ltd)”)
- State owned companies (“SOC”)
- Personal Liability Company (“Inc”)
- Non-profit company
- Close Corporations (“CC”)
- Co-operatives
- Collective Investment Schemes
- Small Business Corporation (s12E)
- Body Corporates
- Share Block Companies
- Dormant Companies
- Public Benefit Companies.

Corporate tax in South Africa is charged at a flat rate of 27% for all companies.

### Income tax rates in South Africa:

These are South Africa’s income tax bands for the 2025 tax year (1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025): <https://www.sars.gov.za/tax-rates/income-tax/rates-of-tax-for-individuals/>

Taxable income (R)	Rates of tax (R)
R1 – R237 100	18% of taxable income
R237 101 – R370 500	42 678 + 26% of taxable income above 237 100
R370 501 – R512 800	77 362 + 31% of taxable income above 370 500
R512 801 – R673 000	121 475 + 36% of taxable income above 512 800
R673 001 – R857 900	179 147 + 39% of taxable income above 673 000
R857 901 – R1 817 000	251 258 + 41% of taxable income above 857 900
R1 817 001 and above	644 489 + 45% of taxable income above 1 817 000



### Other Tax Rates:

The VAT rate is 15%. Unemployment insurance fund ([UIF](#)) benefits amounting to 2% of the wage are payable per employed person. These are paid in equal portions by the employee (1%) and the employer (1%). For more information on the income tax system, click here: <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Ops/Guides/Legal-Pub-Guide-Gen01-Taxation-in-South-Africa.pdf>

### Double Tax Treaty with Germany

An agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of South Africa on the avoidance of double taxation in the area of income and wealth taxes has been in force since 1973. Further information on this can be found on the website of the Federal Ministry of Finance in the area of international tax law under the following [link](#)

## Business Establishment and Investment Incentives

The [Department of Trade, Industry and Competition](#) (*the dtic*) plays a critical role in the promotion of economic development and meaningful participation in the global economic and trade environment.

There are various policies, programmes and initiatives dedicated to promoting South Africa as a key investment location in the African continent. These are the [key sectors](#) identified by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC):

- Agro-Processing & Agriculture
- Automotive & Transport equipment
- Chemicals, Medical & Industrial Mineral Products
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Machinery, Equipment & Electronics
- Media & Audio-Visual
- Mining & Metals
- Textiles & Wood Products
- Tourism & Services

The South African government summarises these [key economic sectors](#) as follows:

Mining, transport, energy, manufacturing, tourism and agriculture

### Invest SA: One-Stop-Shop

[Invest SA](#) is South Africa's investment promotion agency, which is part of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. Invest SA plays a critical role in attracting and generating investment in as well as retaining investments in South Africa.

Invest SA has developed publications for all [key sectors](#) that provide investors with insights, fundamental studies and analysis on the country, markets and opportunities. These can be read here: [Publications](#).

## Provincial Investment Promotion Agencies (PIPAs)

The dtic in partnership with the Provincial Investment Promotion Agencies (PIPAs), undertakes investment and export promotion activities in targeted markets aligned to South Africa's international relations and cooperation agreements.

<b>Eastern Cape</b>	The Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC)	ECDC works with provincial and national ministries, municipalities, chambers, private businesses, communities and other development agencies to implement the economic development policies of the Eastern Cape provincial government.	Ocean Terrace Park, 1 Moore Street, Quigney East London Tel: +27 (0) 43 704 5601 / 46 +27 (0) 43 704 5604 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@ecdc.co.za">info@ecdc.co.za</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ecdc.co.za">www.ecdc.co.za</a>
<b>Free State</b>	Free State Development Corporation (FDC)	The Free State Development Corporation (FDC) is a specialist economic development agency formed to offer the Free State people and potential investors a wide selection of services.	FDC Head Office 33 Kellner Street Westdene Bloemfontein, 9301 Tel: +27 (0) 51 400 1500 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:wecare@fdc.co.za">wecare@fdc.co.za</a> Website: <a href="http://www.fdc.co.za">www.fdc.co.za</a>
<b>Gauteng</b>	Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA)	The GGDA is committed to creating an inclusive and transformed Gauteng economy that is focused on creating jobs, developing skills and increasing foreign and domestic direct investment.	124 Main Street, Marshalltown Johannesburg South Africa Tel: +27 10 001 8650 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@ggda.co.za">info@ggda.co.za</a> Website: <a href="https://ggda.co.za">https://ggda.co.za</a>
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN)	Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN) was developed to promote the province as an investment destination and promote trade by assisting KZN-based companies to identify markets and export their products.	Trade & Investment House 1 Arundel Close Kingsmead Office Park Kingsmead Boulevard Stalwart Simelane Street Durban, 4001 Tel: + 27 (0) 31 368 9600 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@tikzn.co.za">info@tikzn.co.za</a> Website: <a href="http://www.tikzn.co.za">www.tikzn.co.za</a>

<b>Limpopo</b>	Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA)	LEDA is established to accelerate economic growth, development and job creation in Limpopo.	Enterprise Development House Main Road Lebowakgomo, 0737 Tel: +27 15 633 4700 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@lieda.co.za">info@lieda.co.za</a> Website: <a href="http://www.lieda.co.za">www.lieda.co.za</a>
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA)	The Agency's objectives are fostering the sustainable growth and development of the Mpumalanga economy by attracting investment to the province, facilitating investment in the province, and maximising the development impact of investment in the province.	MEGA Office Park 02 Eastern Boulevard, Riverside Mbombela, 1201 Tel: +27 13 492 5818 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@mega.gov.za">info@mega.gov.za</a> Website: <a href="https://mega.gov.za">https://mega.gov.za</a>
<b>Northern Cape</b>	Northern Cape Economic Development Agency (NCEDA)	NCEDA's vision is to be the catalyst for the acceleration of sustainable economic growth and development in the Northern Cape through efficient and effective use of public sector resources and public/private partnerships.	DSC Building, First Floor 69 Memorial Road Kimberley, 8301 Northern Cape Tel: +27 53 833 1503 Website: <a href="http://www.nceda.co.za">www.nceda.co.za</a>
<b>North West</b>	North West Development Corporation (NWDC)	NWDC is established to promote trade and investment in the North West Province to ensure economic growth and transformation.	22 James Watt Crescent, Industrial Site Mahikeng Tel: +27 18 381 3663 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@nwdc.co.za">info@nwdc.co.za</a> Website: <a href="https://nwdc.co.za">https://nwdc.co.za</a>
<b>Western Cape</b>	Western Cape Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Wesgro)	Wesgro assists investors and businesses looking to branch out into the province. Their vision is: In collaboration with partners, drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth, create jobs. Help the Western Cape become one of the world's leading regional economies.	7th Floor, Media 24 Foreshore, 40 Heerengracht St, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town, 8000 Tel: +27 21 487 8600 Website: <a href="http://www.wesgro.co.za">www.wesgro.co.za</a>

Further economic data and industry information can be found on the website of Germany Trade and Invest: <https://www.gtai.de/de/trade/welt/afrika/suedafrika-118578>

Further information can also be found on the Africa Business Guide website:

<https://www.africa-business-guide.de/de/maerkte/suedafrika>

### Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

[Special Economic Zones \(SEZs\)](#), are geographically designated areas of a country set aside for specifically targeted economic activities, supported through incentives. The purpose of the SEZ is to expand the strategic industrialisation focus to cover diverse regional development needs and contexts.

### Benefits of operating within Special Economic Zones

- Preferential 15% corporate tax
- Building Allowance
- Employment Incentive
- Customs Controlled Area
- 12I Tax Allowance

#### Eastern Cape Coega IDZ

Coega is in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality on the East-West trade route to service both world and African markets. It has attracted investment in the agro-processing, automotive, aquaculture, energy, metals logistics and business process services sectors.

<https://www.coega.co.za/>

#### East London IDZ

The zone has become a prime industrial park, renowned for its customised solutions for various industries, including automotive, agro-processing and aquaculture. It is an ideal location for exported manufacturing and processing, providing investors with connections to major markets, locally and across the globe.

<https://www.elidz.co.za>

#### Wild Coast SEZ

The Wild Coast SEZ, developed by the Coega Development Corporation, aims to grow the agro-processing sector; promote beneficiation and further value addition to the region's agricultural resources, and the development of solid manufacturing capability to enhance the economic competitiveness; and lastly, revitalise Mthatha and its surrounds as a key industrial node.

<https://www.coega.com/site/project-management-services/our-programmes/wild-coast-sez>

<b>Free State</b>	Maluti-A-Phofung SEZ	This zone in Harrismith is at the mid-point of the crucial Durban-Johannesburg route, offering access to the port of Durban as well as logistics for the transfer of freight between road and rail.	<a href="https://www.fdc.co.za/">https://www.fdc.co.za/</a>
<b>Gauteng</b>	OR Tambo SEZ/IDZ	The OR Tambo IDZ aims to develop land around OR Tambo International Airport to stimulate economic development. It supports the growth of the beneficiation of precious metals and minerals sector, with a focus on light, high-margin, export-oriented manufacturing of South African precious and semi-precious metals.	<a href="https://gidz.co.za/">https://gidz.co.za/</a>
	The Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone (TASEZ)	The TASEZ is Africa’s first automotive city, an industrial hub that provides investors with a wide range of offerings to help their business flourish. Based in Silverton in the capital city of Tshwane in Gauteng, TASEZ is situated near to a number of suburbs and townships, including Mamelodi and Eersterust, that provide access to highly skilled labour.	<a href="https://www.tasez.co.za/">https://www.tasez.co.za/</a>
	Vaal SEZ	The Vaal Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a venture led by the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA) under the auspices of the Gauteng Provincial Government’s Department of Economic Development and South Africa’s preeminent hub for the hydrogen economy. The Vaal SEZ’s mission is to attract both Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment across multiple sites located in Emfuleni, Midvaal, and Lesedi Municipalities.	<a href="https://vaalsez.co.za/">https://vaalsez.co.za/</a>
	West Rand SEZ	With many of the mines reaching the end of their lives, alternatives are needed. The provincial government and mining houses are working on various options for closed mines, but the West Rand SEZ is being designed to promote investment in new fields. These include	In the planning process (The timeframe is two to three years - 2023)

urban agriculture, green hydrogen and solar power.

	High Tech SEZ	The High Tech SEZ is part of the broader Lanseria Smart City project. It is envisaged as a hub for the digital technology and services corridor, which in turn is to be anchored by the new High Tech SEZ.	In the planning process (The timeframe is two to three years - 2023)
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	Dube TradePort	This zone is located 30 km north of Durban, with a focus on manufacturing and value-addition primarily for automotive, electronics and fashion garments.	<a href="http://www.dubetradeport.co.za/">http://www.dubetradeport.co.za/</a>
	Richards Bay IDZ	This industrial estate is on the north-eastern South African coast. The N2 business corridor links the province's two major ports of Durban and Richards Bay and connects with Maputo in Mozambique and, ultimately, areas of East Africa. With prime rail and road access, this zone is a portal to the world.	<a href="http://www.rbidz.co.za/">http://www.rbidz.co.za/</a>
<b>Limpopo</b>	Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ (FTSEZ)	FTSEZ is positioned and designed to be a top investment destination for companies seeking to be in the forefront of the green energy "Just Transition", which includes support for workers and communities affected by the transition away from coal and enables the creation of quality green jobs among other things	<a href="https://ftsez.co.za/">https://ftsez.co.za/</a>
	Musina-Makhado	This special economic zone is strategically located along the N1 North-South route into the Southern African Development Community (SADC), close to the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe.	<a href="https://mmsez.co.za/">https://mmsez.co.za/</a>
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	Nkomazi SEZ	Nkomazi Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has been formalized to provide a competitive and highly efficient industrial Cluster that position itself as the leading location for Agro-	<a href="https://mega.gov.za/nkomazi-special-economic-zone/?doing_wp_cron=">https://mega.gov.za/nkomazi-special-economic-zone/?doing_wp_cron=</a>

processing, and Logistics services activities within South Africa, in response to investor demand. [1732268229.913467884](tel:1732268229.913467884)  
[0637207031250](tel:0637207031250)

<b>Northern Cape</b>	Namakwa SEZ	The Cabinet approved the designation of the Namakwa Special Economic Zone in Aggeneys, a strategic mining-town in the Northern Cape in 2023. This new economic zone will unlock mining beneficiation, production of green hydrogen, infrastructure development, renewable energy and agro-processing in the province.	In the planning process
<b>North West</b>	Platinum Valley / Bojanala SEZ	The main hub of the Platinum Valley SEZ is to be housed in a 100-hectare site of the Bodirelo Industrial Park. The industrial park is located near the town of Mogwase in the Bojanala Platinum District of the North West Province. The site will be developed in three phases comprising of a logistics park, light manufacturing space and a heavy industries manufacturing space.	<a href="https://nwdc.co.za/bojanala-sez-established-in-the-north-west/">https://nwdc.co.za/bojanala-sez-established-in-the-north-west/</a>
<b>Western Cape</b>	Atlantis SEZ	Atlantis is the home of the Greentech Special Economic Zone (SEZ). Situated on the West Coast of South Africa, just 40 kilometers from Cape Town, the Atlantis SEZ capitalises on the province's booming renewable energy and green technology sector. The SEZ has already attracted investments of R680 million and created over 312 direct jobs to date, paving the way as Africa's only Greentech hub.	<a href="https://atlantiszez.com/">https://atlantiszez.com/</a>
	Saldanha Bay IDZ	This zone is two hours north of Cape Town. It is an oil, gas and marine repair engineering and logistics services complex, servicing the upstream oil exploration industry and production service companies operating in the oil and gas fields off Sub-Saharan Africa.	<a href="https://freeportsaldanha.com/">https://freeportsaldanha.com/</a>

### Forms of Foreign Investment

- A registered branch of a foreign company
- Co-operative



- Personal Liability Company (Incorporated)
- Public Enterprise (listed on the stock exchange)
- Trading Trust
- Private Company

### Company Registration Process

- Companies are registered with the [Companies and Intellectual Property Commission \(CIPC\)](#).
- The process typically takes 1-3 business days, provided all documentation is complete and payments are promptly made. Delays may occur due to incomplete applications, name rejections, or non-payment.
- [BizPortal](#) is a platform developed by the CIPC to offer company registration and related services in a seamless digital way.
- A company registration may vary between R100 and R425:

Service	Fee
Name reservation	R50
Private company with standard MOI; Non-profit company without members and with standard MOI	R125
Co-operative	R125
Private company with customised MOI; Personal liability company; Public company; State owned company; Non-profit company without member and with customised MOI or Non-profit company without member and with customised MOI	R425
External company	R400
Domestication of a foreign company	R100

## Special Economic Frameworks

### Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE)

There are various pieces of specific legislation that are relevant to foreign investors such as the [Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment \(B-BBEE\) Act 53 of 2003](#).

The **B-BBEE** Act, together with the codes of good practice, set out the legal framework for broad-based black economic empowerment of black people (Africans, Coloured, Indians and Chinese who are South African citizens) in four interrelated contexts:

- Direct empowerment, which includes increasing the number of black people who manage, own and control enterprises and productive assets;
- Human resources and skills development by achieving equitable representation in all occupational categories and at all levels of a workforce;
- Indirect empowerment through the promotion of preferential procurement from empowered enterprises and investment in enterprises owned or managed by black people; and
- Involvement in social development initiatives.

The codes of good practice issued by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition and transformation charters developed by various industries monitor compliance against a general “scorecard” followed by all industries.

Compliance with the B-BBEE targets provided for in the codes is not strictly speaking mandatory; however, the B-BBEE Act and codes operate through the mechanism of direct and indirect incentives to comply.

## Banking and FOREX

### Banking System

South Africa has a well-established banking regulatory framework. The heart of the banking system in South Africa is the [South African Reserve Bank](#) (SARB), which is the primary monetary authority and custodian of the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves.

Banking in South Africa is regulated by wide-ranging primary and secondary or subordinate legislation, including:

- [The Banks Act 94 of 1990](#)
- [The South African Reserve Bank Act 90 of 1989](#)
- [The Financial Sector Regulation Act 9 of 2017](#)
- [The National Payment System Act 78 of 1998](#)
- [The Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001](#)
- [The Companies Act 71 of 2008](#)

### Investment System

- The [Protection of Investment Act](#) 22 of 2015 provides a degree of protection to investors regarding their investments and aims to achieve a balance of rights and obligations that apply to all investors.
- Since December 2021, German federal investment guarantees for South Africa have been possible again.
- South Africa's investment promotion agency is [InvestSA](#), which is part of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. They serve as a link between the foreign investors and business opportunities coming to realisation.

### General Overview/ Presence of Foreign Banks

- The banking system in South Africa consists of the four biggest banking groups:
  - Amalgamated Banks of South Africa Limited (ABSA)
  - FirstRand Limited (First National Bank)
  - Nedbank Group
  - Standard Bank Group
- These four banking groups provide more than 80% of banking services in South Africa.
- Other private, commercial and niche banks include:
  - African Bank Ltd
  - Access Bank
  - Bidvest Bank Limited
  - Capitec Bank Ltd
  - Discovery Bank Limited
  - Grindrod Bank

- HBZ Bank Limited
- Investec Bank Ltd
- Sasfin Bank Ltd
- Tyme Bank Limited
- Ubank Limited

**To open a resident bank account in South Africa**, you should expect to be asked for the following:

- Your passport (which might need to be certified by a notary or other qualified professional)
- Proof of your right to live, work or study in South Africa
- Proof of address in South Africa (a utility bill issued within the last three months is usually required for this)
- Minimum required deposit amount and proof of ongoing income (such as payslips or a letter from your employer)
- Evidence of banking history, such as copies of bank statements from your home country (3 months of records are usually requested)
- Expats with tourist visas can only open non-resident bank accounts, whereas those with temporary or permanent residence visas can open a temporary resident or resident bank account.
- Many South African banks offer specific accounts tailored to non-residents. A non-resident account can be opened by anyone but is more restricted than the full access accounts offered to those with valid residence permits.

## FOREX

- The [Financial Sector Conduct Authority](#) (FSCA) is the market conductor regulator of financial institutions within South Africa. Forex brokers need to be licensed and comply with FSCA regulations.
- South Africa is a member state of the Common Monetary Area (CMA), along with Namibia, Lesotho and Eswatini. The CMA allows the four countries to issue their own currencies, but they are all linked to the South African Rand and governed by the South African Reserve Bank. This allows the member states to use Rands interchangeably with their local currencies. However, only Rands will be accepted in South Africa.  
**New since 2024:** the Bank of Namibia and the CMA Cross-border Payment Oversight Committee decided to discontinue processing electronic funds transfer (EFT) payments and collections within the CMA. The changes will take effect on the following dates:  
Namibia: From 15 April 2024  
Lesotho and Eswatini: From 9 September 2024
- The [Financial Intelligence Centre](#) regulations apply to all foreign exchange brokers. The FIC implements its role in the country's framework for anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism and proliferation (AML, CFT and CPF).
- Foreign exchange brokers for international payments:
  - [Western Union](#)
  - [Incompass](#)
  - [SABLE International](#)



## Contact Details

The information contained in this document was compiled by AHK Southern Africa. For further assistance and questions, please contact:

### **Jens Hauser**

Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa

AHK Southern Africa (Southern African – German Chamber of Commerce and Industry NPC)

P.O Box 87078, Houghton 2041

47 Oxford Road, Forest Town 2193

Johannesburg, South Africa

Tel: +27 (0)21 422 5577

E-Mail: [jhauser@germanchamber.co.za](mailto:jhauser@germanchamber.co.za)

[www.germanchamber.co.za](http://www.germanchamber.co.za)