

# SACU MEMBER STATES GEOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC PROFILES



▶ BOTSWANA



▶ ESWATINI



▶ LESOTHO



▶ NAMIBIA



▶ SOUTH AFRICA



This Publication aims to provide a succinct overview on the geographical and economic indicators of the SACU Member States.

## ABOUT SACU

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) is the oldest Customs Union in the world, having been established in 1910 between the then Union of South Africa (current Republic of South Africa) and the then British High Commission Territories of Basutoland (now the Kingdom of Lesotho), Bechuanaland (now the Republic of Botswana) and the Kingdom of Swaziland (now the Kingdom of Eswatini). South-West Africa (now the Republic of Namibia) - then a colony of South Africa - was a de facto member of SACU at the time.

The political changes following the independence of Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho (BLS) in the 1960s necessitated a re-negotiation of the 1910 Agreement. This culminated in the conclusion of the Agreement between the BLS and South Africa in 1969. Further political and economic dispensations in the early 1990s, including Namibia's independence in 1990, and the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994, warranted a complete renegotiation of the 1969 Agreement. The renegotiations culminated in a new Agreement in 2002, which sets out a broad framework for enhanced integration amongst the SACU Member States.

The SACU Agreement, 2002, ushered in clear mandates, objectives, transparent and democratic institutions, and collective decision-making by the Member States. The following are the salient features of the SACU Agreement, 2002:

- (a) free movement of goods between Member States;
- (b) common external tariff on imports from third parties;
- (c) sharing of revenue from customs and excise duties; and
- (d) harmonised customs and excise policies.

## VISION

An economic community with equitable and sustainable development, dedicated to the welfare of its people for a common future.

## MISSION

Serve as an engine for regional integration and development, industrial and economic diversification, the expansion of intra-regional trade and investment, and global competitiveness.

- (a) Build economic policy coherence, harmonization and convergence to meet the development needs of the region;
- (b) Promote sustainable economic growth and development for employment creation and poverty reduction;
- (c) Serve as a building block of an ever-closer community amongst the peoples of Southern Africa;
- (d) Develop common policies and strategies for areas such as Trade Facilitation' effective customs controls and competition; and
- (e) Develop effective, transparent and democratic institutions and processes.

## WORK PROGRAMME

- (a) Regional Industrial Development;
- (b) Review of the Revenue Sharing Arrangement;
- (c) Trade Facilitation;
- (d) Development of SACU Institutions;
- (e) Unified Engagement in Trade Negotiations;
- (f) Trade in Services; and
- (g) Strengthening the Capacity of the Secretariat.





## REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

### 1. Location

Botswana, a landlocked country in Southern Africa, has a landscape defined by the Kalahari Desert and the Okavango Delta, which becomes a lush animal habitat during the seasonal floods. Botswana is bordered by Namibia to the West and North (the Caprivi Strip), Zambia and Zimbabwe to the Northeast, and South Africa to the Southeast and South.

### 2. History

Before its independence in 1966, Botswana was a British protectorate known as Bechuanaland. The country is named after its dominant ethnic group, the Tswana. Since its independence the Republic of Botswana has gained international stature as a peaceful and increasingly prosperous democratic state.

### 3. Economic Indicators

Botswana is the world's largest producer of diamonds and the trade has transformed it into a middle-income nation. Botswana is trying to reduce its economic dependence on diamonds, moving to boost local business and employment by encouraging more value to be added to diamonds locally. Botswana protects some of Africa's largest areas of wilderness.

It is sparsely populated, because it is dry. The Kalahari Desert, and most areas are too arid to sustain any agriculture other than cattle. Botswana's economy as measured by nominal GDP at market prices was estimated at R229.0 billion in 2016 compared to R183.9 billion in 2015. Real GDP increased by 4.3 percent in 2016 compared to a contraction of 1.7 percent registered in 2015. The increase in real GDP was mainly attributed to trade, hotels & restaurants and transport & communications industries which recorded an increase in value added of 13.5 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively. All other industries recorded a positive growth with the exception of mining and agriculture which declined by 3.7 and 1.0 per cent respectively. The largest industries, as measured by their nominal value added in 2016, were mining and quarrying accounting for 19.9 per cent of GDP, followed by wholesale, retail, hotel and restaurants accounting for 18.3 per cent of GDP.



- (a) Capital City: Gaborone
- (b) Currency: Pula (BWP)
- (c) Country size: 582 000 km<sup>2</sup>
- (d) Population: 2,266,857
- (e) National Day: 30 September
- (f) Website: www.gov.bw

**Key Industries:** Mining and quarrying; wholesale and retail; finance and business services



**Main exports:** Minerals (diamonds)

**Main imports:** Manufactured goods

**Key trading partners:** SACU (South Africa and Namibia); Canada; European Union; India; UAE

#### 4. National Holidays

- (a) 1 January: New Year's Day
- (b) 1 May: Labour Day
- (c) 1 July: Sir Seretse Khama Day
- (d) 20 July: President's Day
- (e) 30 September: Botswana Day
- (f) 25 December: Christmas Day
- (g) 26 December: Boxing Day

#### 5. Social Indicators

- (a) Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births):30
- (b) Life Expectancy Rate (at birth, total):69 years

#### 6. International Airports

- (a) Sir Seretse Khama International Airport
- (b) Kasane International Airport
- (c) Maun International Airport
- (d) Phillip Matante International Airport



#### 7. National Flag

- (a) Light blue: Symbolizes water in the form of rain and the life it sustains
- (b) Black band with the white edges: Symbolizes the racial harmony between the people of African and European descent and the racial diversity of the country. It also reminds of zebra, the national animal of Botswana.





## KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

### 1. Location

Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland), a mountainous landlocked kingdom in Southern Africa, is bordered in the North, West and South by the South Africa and by Mozambique in the East.

### 2. History

The Kingdom of Eswatini is an independent Monarchy, rich in traditions and heritage, led by King Mswati III, since 1986, as Executive Head of State with parliament and consultation prescribing laws and Customs. Before its independence in 1968, Eswatini was protectorate of South Africa from 1894 to 1899, but after the Boer War, in 1902, Eswatini was transferred to British administration until it gained independence. King Mswati III renamed the country to the “Kingdom of Eswatini” in April 2018 to mark 50 years since independence from British rule.

### 3. Economic Indicators

Economically, Eswatini trades mainly with South Africa, which receives almost half of Swazi exports and supplies most of its imports. The valley of heaven “the Ezulwini Valley” in the High field of Eswatini is home to the major tourist attractions with exceptional scenic routes. Also found in the valley is a wildlife sanctuary covering 4,500 hectares containing a wide variety of mammals, birds, tree plants.

Eswatini’s economy as measured by nominal GDP at market prices was estimated at R54.7 billion in 2016 compared to R51.3 billion in 2015. The economy recorded a growth of 1.4 per cent in 2016 compared to 0.4 per cent in 2015. The growth in real GDP was mainly reflected in wholesale, retail, hotel and restaurants; and general government sectors that recorded growth of 3.6 per cent and 8.7 per cent, respectively.

The largest industries, as measured by their nominal value added in 2016, was manufacturing accounting for 31.4 per cent of GDP, followed by the general government accounting for 15.8 per cent of GDP.





- (a) Capital City: Mbabane
- (b) Currency: Emalangeni (SZL)
- (c) Country size: 17 364 km<sup>2</sup>
- (d) Population: 1,145,970
- (e) National Day: 6 September
- (f) Website: www.gov.sz

**Key Industries:** Manufacturing; wholesale and retail; finance and business services



**Main exports:** Manufactured goods

**Key imports:** Manufactured goods

**Key trading partners:** SACU (South Africa); China; European Union; Kenya

#### 4. National Holidays

- (a) 1 January: New Year
- (b) 19 April: Birthday of King Mswati III
- (c) 25 April: National Flag Day
- (d) 1 May: May Day
- (e) 22 July: Birthday of the late King Sobhuza
- (f) 31 August: Umhlanga Reed Dance
- (g) 6 September: Somhlolo Day (Independence Day)

- (h) 25 December: Christmas Day
- (i) 26 December: Boxing Day
- (j) 28 December: Incwala Day

#### 5. Social Indicators

- (a) Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births):43
- (b) Life Expectancy Rate (at birth, total):59 years

#### 6. International Airports

- (a) King Mswati III International Airport
- (b) Matsapha International Airport



#### 7. National Flag

- (a) Red: stands for the battles of the past
- (b) Blue: stands for peace and stability
- (c) Yellow: stands for the natural resources the country possesses.
- (d) Shield and spear: symbolism for protection of the country from enemies. The shield is black and white to show that black and white people live together peacefully in Eswatini.





## KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

### 1. Location

The Kingdom of Lesotho, a mountainous landlocked country in Southern Africa, is an enclave, surrounded by South Africa, bordering on three of the South Africa's provinces, namely, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Eastern Cape. The Kingdom of Lesotho is made up mostly of highlands where many of the villages can be reached only on horseback, by foot or light aircraft.

During the winter shepherds wearing only boots and wrap-around blankets must contend with snow. While much of the country, with spectacular canyons and thatched huts, remains untouched by modern machines, developers have laid down roads to reach its mineral and water resources.

### 2. History

In 1959 Basutoland became a British Colony and was called Territory of Basutoland. Basutoland gained full independence from Britain in 1966 and became known as Lesotho. The country is led by King Letsie III who succeeded King Moshoeshoe II in 1996.

### 3. Economic Indicators

Lesotho is one of few African countries to see snow regularly. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project was completed in the 1990s to supply South Africa with fresh water. Lesotho's nominal GDP at market prices increased to R33.7 billion in 2016 from R31.9 billion in 2015. In 2016, the economy recorded a slow growth of 2.4 per cent compared to 2.5 per cent in 2015.

The slow growth in real GDP was attributed to the performance in the general government and construction sectors. The general government sector recorded a growth of 2.3 per cent in 2016 compared to 3.9 per cent in 2015, while the construction sector contracted by 13.5 per cent compared to a growth of 4.8 per cent recorded in 2015. The largest industries, as measured by their nominal value added in 2016, were general government accounting for 20.8 per cent of GDP, followed by manufacturing accounting for 15.6 per cent of GDP.



- (a) Capital City: Maseru
- (b) Currency: Maloti (LSL)
- (c) Country size: 30 355 km<sup>2</sup>
- (d) Population: 1,941,941
- (e) National Day: 4 October
- (f) Website: www.gov.is

**Key Industries:** Manufacturing; finance and business services; wholesale and retail



**Main exports:** Miscellaneous manufactures

**Main imports:** Manufactured goods

**Key trading partners:** SACU (South Africa); China; Republic of China on Taiwan

#### 4. National Holidays

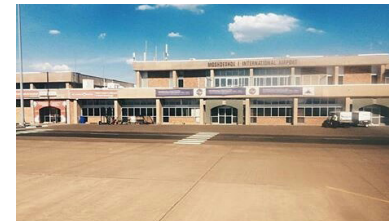
- (a) 1 January: New Year's Day
- (b) 11 March: King Moshoeshoe's Birthday
- (c) 1 May: Workers' Day
- (d) 25 May: Africa Day
- (e) 17 July: King Letsie III's Birthday
- (f) 4 October: Independence Day
- (g) 25 December: Christmas Day
- (h) 26 December: Boxing Day

#### 5. Social Indicators

- (a) Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births): 66
- (b) Life Expectancy Rate (at birth, total): 54 years

#### 6. International Airports

- (a) Moshoeshoe I International Airport



#### 7. National Flag

- (a) Blue: represents the sky or rain
- (b) Green: represents prosperity
- (c) White: represents peace
- (d) The Hat: (also known as mokorotlo) represents the Basotho cultural heritage





## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

### 1. Location

Namibia, a sparsely populated country in Southern Africa, has a landscape distinguished by the Namib Desert along its Atlantic Ocean coast. Namibia is bordered by Angola to the north, Zambia to the northeast, Botswana to the east, South Africa to the southeast and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. It ranges from arid in the north to desert on the coast and in the east with the landscape varied with the desert, mountains, canyons, and savannas.

### 2. History

Namibia was a German colony since 1884 and used to be known as German South West Africa. After the First World War, the League of Nations mandated South Africa to administer the territory. The country has enjoyed stability since gaining independence in 1990 after a long struggle against rule by South Africa. Namibia achieved independence in 1990 after a bush war of almost 25 years. Inter-racial reconciliation encouraged the country's white people to remain and they still play a major role in farming and other economic sectors. Deserts occupy much of the country; their dunes take on shapes and colours according to the elements.

### 3. Economic Indicators

The country also boasts game-rich grasslands and a semi-arid Central Plateau, large tracts of which are given over to livestock farming. Namibia's nominal GDP at market prices was estimated at R161.0 billion in 2016 compared to R147.6 billion in 2015. The economy recorded a slow growth of 1.1 per cent in 2016 compared to 6.0 per cent in 2015. The slow growth in real GDP was reflected in all industries that recorded weaker growth rates with the mining and construction sectors contracting by 5.7 per cent and 26.5 per cent, respectively. The largest industries, as measured by their nominal value added in 2016, were general government accounting for 23.9 per cent of GDP, followed by wholesale, retail, hotel and restaurants accounting for 13.9 per cent of GDP.





- (a) Capital City: Windhoek
- (b) Currency: Namibian Dollar (NAD)
- (c) Country size: 825 615 km<sup>2</sup>
- (d) Population: 2,368,747
- (e) National Day: 21 March
- (f) Website: www.gov.na

**Key Industries:** finance and business services; wholesale & retail; Mining and quarrying



**Main exports:** Manufactured goods

**Main imports:** Manufactured goods

**Key trading partners:** SACU (South Africa/Botswana); European Union; China

#### 4. National Holidays

- (a) 1 January: New Year
- (b) 21 March: Independence Day
- (c) 30 March: Good Friday
- (d) 4 May: Cassinga Day
- (e) 25 May: Africa Day
- (f) 26 August: Heroes' Day
- (g) 10 December: International Human Rights Day
- (h) 25 December: Christmas Day

- (i) 26 December: Day of Goodwill

#### 5. Social Indicators

- (a) Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births): 29
- (b) Life Expectancy Rate (at birth, total): 63 years

#### 6. International Airports

- (a) Hosea Kutako International Airport
- (b) Walvis Bay International Airport



#### 7. National Flag

- (a) Red: Represents Namibia's most important resource, its people. It refers to their heroism and their determination to build a future of equal opportunity for all.
- (b) White: Refers to peace and unity.
- (c) Green: Symbolises vegetation and agricultural resources.
- (d) Blue: Represents the clear Namibian sky and the Atlantic Ocean, the country's precious water resources and rain





## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### 1. Location

South Africa occupies the Southern tip of Africa, with a coastline stretching more than 2,500 kilometers from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic (western) coast southwards around the tip of Africa and then northeast to the border with Mozambique on the Indian Ocean. South Africa is bordered by Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana on the north and east and northeast by Mozambique and Swaziland and surrounds the kingdom of Lesotho.

Diversity is a key feature of South Africa, where 11 languages are recognised as official, where community leaders include rabbis and chieftains, rugby players and returned exiles, where traditional healers ply their trade around the corner from stockbrokers and where housing ranges from mud huts to palatial homes with swimming pools. South Africa has one of the continent's biggest economies, though this went into recession in May 2009 following a sharp slowdown in the mining and manufacturing sectors.

### 2. History

Following the defeat of the Boers in the Anglo-Boer or South African War (1899-1902), the Union of South Africa was created as a dominion of the British Empire. The country became a self-governing nation state within the British Empire, in 1934 following enactment of the Status of the Union Act. The dominion came to an end in 1961 as the consequence of a 1960 referendum, which legitimised the country becoming a sovereign state named Republic of South Africa.

From 1948-1994, South African politics were dominated by Afrikaner nationalism. Racial segregation and white minority rule known officially as apartheid, an Afrikaans word meaning "separateness", came into existence in 1948 (under British rule), and become an official law of segregation when South Africa became a Republic Unions. The country gained its independence in 1994.

### 3. Economic Indicators

South Africa is, along with Brazil, Russia, India, China a member of the BRICS club of emerging world economic powerhouses. South Africa's economy as measured by nominal GDP at market prices was estimated at R4 337 billion in 2016 compared to R4 050 billion in 2015. The economy recorded a slow growth of 0.3 per cent in 2016 compared to 1.3 per cent in 2015. The





slow growth in real GDP was mainly reflected in transport & communications; financial intermediation & business services and mining sectors that recorded weaker growth rates. The largest industries, as measured by their nominal value added in 2016, were the financial intermediation and business services accounting for 18.0 per cent of GDP, followed by general government accounting for 15.5 per cent of GDP.

- (a) Capital City: Tshwane,
- (b) Currency: South African Rand (ZAR)
- (c) Country size: 1 219 090 km<sup>2</sup>
- (d) Population: 56,521,948
- (e) National Day: 27 April
- (f) Website: www.gov.za

**Key Industries:** finance and business services; manufacturing; wholesale & retail



**Main exports:** Manufactured goods

**Main Imports:** Machinery and transport equipment

**Key trading partners:** European Union; China; SACU

#### 4. National Holidays

- (a) 1 January: New Year's Day
- (b) 21 March: Human Rights Day
- (c) 2 April: Family Day

- (d) 27 April: Freedom Day
- (e) 1 May: Workers' Day
- (f) 16 June: Youth Day
- (g) 18 July: Nelson Mandela Day
- (h) 9 August: National Women's Day
- (i) 24 September: Heritage Day
- (j) 16 December: Day of Reconciliation
- (k) 25 December: Christmas Day
- (l) 26 December: Day of Goodwill

#### 5. Social Indicators

- (a) Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births):29
- (b) Life Expectancy Rate (at birth, total):64 years

#### 6. International Airports

- (a) O.R. Tambo International Airport
- (b) Cape Town International Airport
- (c) King Shaka International Airport
- (d) Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport
- (e) Pilanesberg International Airport
- (f) Polokwane International Airport
- (g) Lanseria International Airport



#### 7. National Flag

- (a) Red: Symbolizes bloodshed and sacrifices made in South Africa's struggle for independence
- (b) White: Stands for Europeans and peace and harmony between natives and Europeans
- (c) Green: Represents fertility of South African land
- (d) Yellow: Stands for the mineral and other natural wealth of South Africa
- (e) Black: Represents native people of South Africa
- (f) Blue: Stands for blue sky and endless opportunities for South Africans
- (g) The Y: stands for the convergence of diverse elements within South African society, taking the road ahead in unity



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