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Report Highlights:

FAS Pretoria forecasts a three percent increase in chicken meat production, reaching 1.73 million tons in Marketing Year (MY) 2027 (January to December 2027). This growth is driven by lower feed prices following the recovery of the local grain harvest.South Africa’s poultry imports are expected to continue their long-term decline: FAS Pretoria forecasts a 2027 drop of four percent to 280,000 tons driven by continued high tariffs and anti-dumping duties and improved domestic production. Poultry imports for MY 2026 are expected to decrease by only two percent as South Africa lifts long standing restrictions on countries after Highly pathogenic Avian influenza outbreaks. In 2025, Mechanically Deboned Meat (MDM) represented 68 percent of poultry imports, while bone-in chicken meat imports represented 25 percent of the imports.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Production: FAS Pretoria forecasts a three percent increase in chicken meat production, reaching 1.73 million tons in Marketing Year (MY) 2027 (January to December 2027). This growth is driven by expansion in the domestic industry, supported by lower feed prices following the recovery of local grain harvests. FAS Pretoria estimates a four percent rise in chicken meat production for MY 2026, reflecting improved efficiency.

Consumption: FAS Pretoria forecasts that chicken meat consumption will increase marginally to 1.97 million tons in 2027, driven by higher supplies that are expected to ease prices. For 2026, consumption is estimated to rise by two percent to 1.93 million tons, as poultry remains the most affordable protein source in South Africa amid skyrocketing beef prices following the foot and mouth disease (FMD) crisis in the country. Per capita consumption for poultry has shown improvement in the past year and is expected to increase to 38kg per year in 2027.

Imports: FAS Pretoria forecasts that South Africa's poultry imports are expected to drop four percent in 2026/27 to 280,000 tons driven by continued anti-dumping duties and high tariffs that limit competitiveness and market access to imported poultry. FAS Pretoria estimates that poultry imports for 2025/26 will decrease by only two percent because of improved supply from countries that have regained market access after their HPAI restrictions were lifted.

Exports: FAS Pretoria forecasts that South Africa's chicken meat exports are expected to increase by 13 percent to 45,000 tons in MY 2027, as industry has been actively working to open new markets in the Middle East and Europe. FAS Pretoria estimates that South Africa's chicken meat exports will decrease to 40,000 tons in MY 2026 due to decrease in demand in South Africa's primary markets. Namibia, Mozambique and Botswana have recorded a decrease in poultry imports from South Africa during the first six months of 2026.

Note: currency conversions are calculated using the August 28, 2026, rate of 15.99 South African Rand per U.S. Dollar.

Table 1
Chicken Meat Production, Supply and Distribution Table

Meat, Chicken	2025		2026		2027	
Market Year Begins	Jan 2025		Jan 2026		Jan 2027	
South Africa	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	1610	1610	1680	1680	0	1730
Total Imports (1000 MT)	299	299	280	292	0	280
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1909	1909	1960	1972	0	2010
Total Exports (1000 MT)	43	43	40	40	0	45
Human Consumption (1000 MT)	1866	1866	1920	1932	0	1965
Other Use, Losses (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	1909	1909	1920	1932	0	1965
Total Use (1000 MT)	1909	1909	1960	1972	0	2010
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1909	1909	1960	1972	0	2010

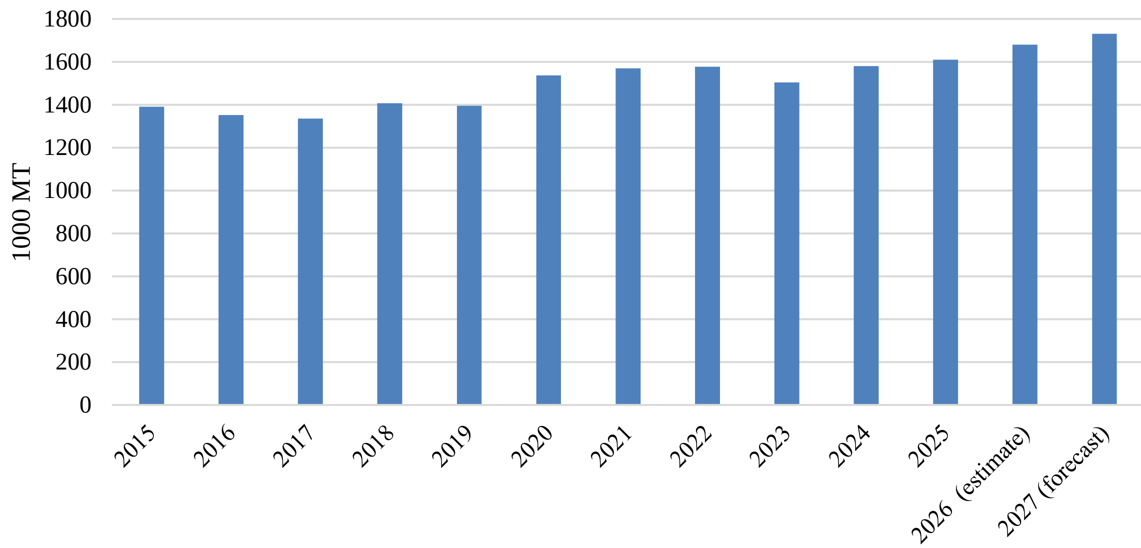
Note: *Not official USDA data. All data in 1000 MT*

PRODUCTION

FAS Pretoria forecasts a three percent increase in chicken meat production, reaching 1.73 million tons in Marketing Year (MY) 2027 (January to December 2027). This growth is driven by expansion in the domestic industry, supported by lower feed prices following the recovery of the local grains harvest in MY 2025/2026.

FAS Pretoria estimates a four percent rise in chicken meat production for MY 2026, reflecting improved efficiencies stemming from initiatives to accelerate import replacement. The South African research organization, Bureau for Agriculture Policy (BFAP), claims in a recent report that the South African poultry industry is more competitive than any other country except Brazil. Using its benchmark study from 2015, BFAP has found that South African producers now use less feed per kilogram of chicken meat than their global counterparts. Furthermore, South Africa's poultry industry's production cycle, averaging 31.5 days, is the shortest of all countries studied (see GAIN report: South Africa Claims its Poultry is More Competitive than US Poultry Pretoria South Africa Republic of_SF2026-0015).

Figure 1
South Africa's Chicken Meat Production

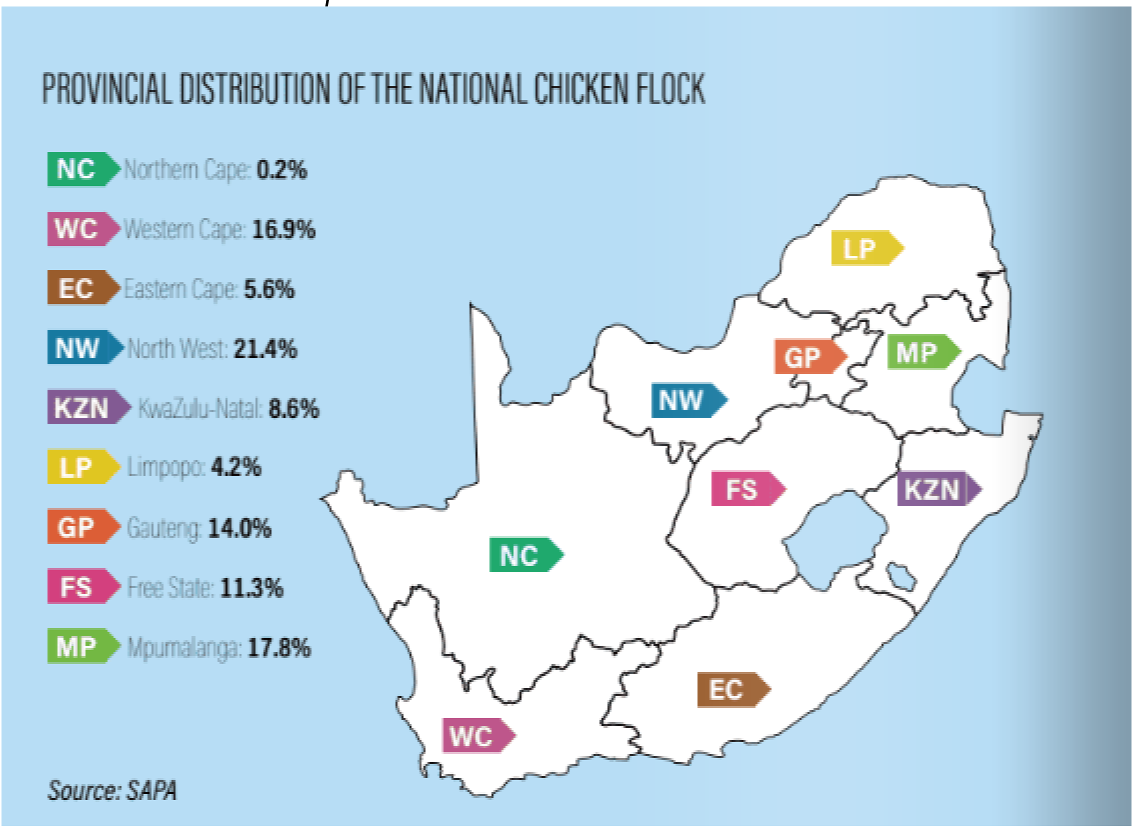


Source: *Post Estimate and Forecast and USDA Production Supply & Distribution*
Note: *Includes commercial broiler production as well as subsistence sector and spent hens but excludes offal. All figures are USDA Official with the exception of the estimate and forecast.*

The South African Poultry Association (SAPA) reported that, between 2019 and 2025, the industry had invested 2.1 billion rand (US$131 million) to build and expand production facilities. This investment led to the establishment of 32 poultry enterprises with average investments of 45 million rand (US$2.8 million), 20 new contract growers, three new hatcheries and eight egg-laying operations. The poultry industry is now South Africa's largest agricultural sector, worth 74 billion rand (US$4.63 billion) and employing 110,000 people across the value chain. Weekly production improved from 22.6 million birds per week in 2024 to 23.5 million birds per week in October and November 2025 but dropped to 23 million birds per week in March 2026.

South Africa produces poultry across all nine provinces, with 82 percent of the flock consisting of broilers with a population of 137 million birds. The North West province leads in chicken production, contributing 35.4 million chickens at 21.4 percent of the total, followed by Mpumalanga with 29.5 million chickens at 18 percent and Western Cape with 26.5 million birds at 16.9 percent. As of January 2026, SAPA reported 977 poultry farms nationwide, including 684 large commercial farms. SAPA defines large farms as having capacity to produce over 40,000 birds in the broiler industry and more than 50,000 birds in the egg industry. The number of large commercial farmers who house more than 500,000 birds was 39 in January 2026, of which the top 13 houses more than 700,000 chickens each.

Figure 2
Provincial Distribution of the National Chicken Flock



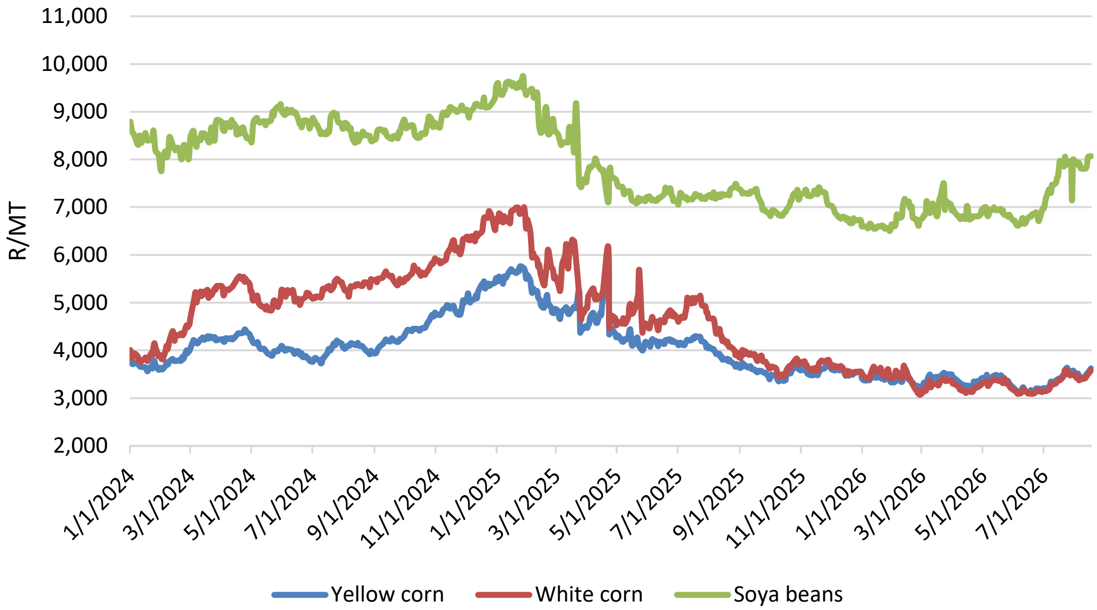
Source: *South African Poultry Association (SAPA)*

Feed

The Office of Agricultural Affairs in Pretoria forecast that South Africa's corn planting area for Marketing Year (MY) 2025/26 will remain stable at three million hectares (Mha). This projection is consistent with the relative stability observed over the past seven years, during which corn area has constantly held near the 3 MHa threshold. The outlook for local corn prices through 2026 remains decidedly bearish, driven by a confluence of supply-side pressures. Corn production in MY 2025/26 reached a record 18 million metric tons (MMT), compounded by substantial carry-over stocks from MY 2024/25 (May 2025-April 2026). Reflecting this overhang, local white corn and yellow corn prices declined by 33 percent and 23 percent, respectively, by the end of June 2026 compared to June 2025. (see GAIN report: [Grain and Feed Update Pretoria South Africa)]()

In a report by the Animal Feed Manufacturers Association, South Africa's soybean supplies have increased over the past three marketing seasons. The total supply for the 2026/2027 marketing year is estimated at approximately 2.97 million tons while the latest Crop Estimates Committee figures released on 26 February 2026 indicate that 2025/2026 production is 2.66 million tons. Ending stocks are also projected to be approximately 370,000 tons by the end of the 2026/2027 marketing year.

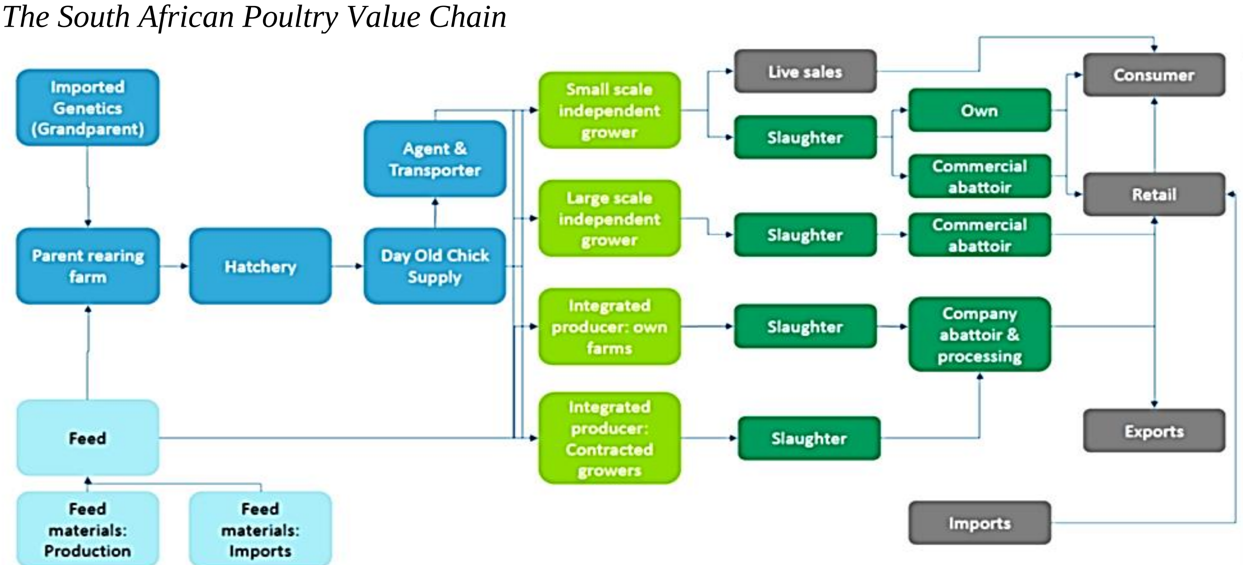
Figure 3
Soybean, White and Yellow Corn Daily Prices



Source: *FAS/Pretoria with Grain SA Data*

The broiler industry in South Africa consumes approximately four million tons of feed annually, which is 50 percent of animal feed produced by the members of the Animal Feed Manufacturers Association, primarily produced domestically by integrated companies. Feed costs account for 70 percent of overall broiler production expenses. A typical feed mix consists of 50 percent yellow maize, 20 to 30 percent soy, and 20 to 30 percent other ingredients.

Figure 4
The South African Poultry Value Chain



Source: *FAS/Pretoria with Bureau Food Agriculture Policy (BFAP)*

The South African poultry industry is mostly vertically integrated, with the top five broiler producers supplying most of the feed consumed in the value chain. Smaller independent growers source feed from these vertically integrated producers, giving major broiler companies a competitive advantage over unintegrated players. South Africa's Competition Commission has raised concerns about market features within the poultry value chain that may impede, distort, or restrict competition (see GAIN report: South Africa Competition Commission conducts- inquiry into South African poultry industry). However, SAPA has dismissed the inquiry as baseless and has put the investigation as one of their priorities (To-do list for new agriculture minister Willie Aucamp) that the new Minister of Agriculture must address in his new term.

Two major producers, Rainbow (formerly a part of RCL Foods) and Astral Foods, dominate the market, collectively accounting for approximately 50 percent of broiler production. In August 2026, Rainbow Chicken reported that they expect their earnings for the 2026 financial year to increase by more than 100 percent, driven by stronger demand for poultry products and lower commodity prices, supported by robust agricultural and operational performance and cost efficiencies achieved during the reporting period. Meanwhile, Astral Foods reported a 467 percent increase in earnings for the six months ending March 31, 2026.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreaks

On July 2, 2026, the Department of Agriculture (DOA) reported a new case of the H5N1 HPAI strain to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). The World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) recorded only 29 deaths and 18,995 birds deemed susceptible.

Following a major outbreak in 2023, the poultry industry advocated for new official vaccination protocols. On June 5, 2025, the Minister of Agriculture announced an urgent, coordinated vaccination roll-out plan:

- Three vaccines were approved to protect against the H5 strain of the virus.
- Vaccinations will be administered to day-old chicks destined for breeder operations and layer farms producing table eggs. Broilers raised for meat will not be vaccinated.
- Producers must maintain separate flocks of unvaccinated chickens for export markets, as several countries do not accept meat from vaccinated flocks.

Most producers found the regulations too costly and burdensome to implement. Astral Foods, one of South Africa's largest poultry producers, is the only company so far to attempt to comply with the vaccination requirements. Their initial permit for vaccinating applies to a farm housing 200,000 broiler breeder hens, after which Astral intends to expand the program to its other breeder facilities. SAPA has completed an application to have the present vaccination protocol reviewed, pointing out a breakdown within the department's Directorate of Animal Health and noting a persistent failure to offer practical or affordable solutions. In June 2026, SAPA reported that they submitted an alternative proposal for HPAI vaccination in the country.

In June 2026, then-Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen announced he had taken steps to amend the Animal Diseases Regulations to allow the introduction of HPAI vaccinations in the country. In his announcement the Minister said that he believed that the new amendments provided an opportunity to move the department's HPAI eradication system away from the old stamping out model, which legally required the destruction of both healthy and sick birds, to a state regulated vaccination defense plan to eradicate the disease.

Historically, the South African government has not compensated producers for culling chickens during HPAI outbreaks. In June 2024, the Western Cape High Court rejected the government's zero-compensation policy after a poultry farmer challenged the Department of Agriculture over losses in 2021. The court ruled that the matter must be reconsidered by the Department, potentially opening the door for claims related to outbreaks in 2017, 2021, and 2023. The Department of Agriculture has appealed the High Court's decision, and SAPA has announced its intention to join the legal challenge. The case is ongoing.

CONSUMPTION

FAS Pretoria forecasts that chicken meat consumption will increase marginally to 1.97 million tons in MY 2027, as higher supplies are expected to ease prices. For MY 2026, consumption is estimated to rise by two percent to 1.93 million tons, as poultry remains the most affordable protein source in South Africa amid skyrocketing beef prices resulting from the foot and mouth disease crisis in the country. Per capita consumption for poultry is expected to reach 38kg per year in 2027.

South Africa is traditionally a strong fresh and frozen chicken market, and consumer demand in those categories has remained significant for many years. Individual Quick Frozen (IQF) chicken portions continue to be consumers' preferred cuts, as they offer families access to many pieces of chicken in a bag at a cheaper price. Furthermore, consumption of more affordable offal cuts has been increasing.

Breast (or white meat) cuts are preferred by higher income families and health-conscious consumers. Astral Foods has introduced fully cooked canned breast meat into the domestic market and has reported that the response to the canned breast meat was encouraging. They currently have no plans to export, as the initial focus has been on establishing and understanding the local market first.

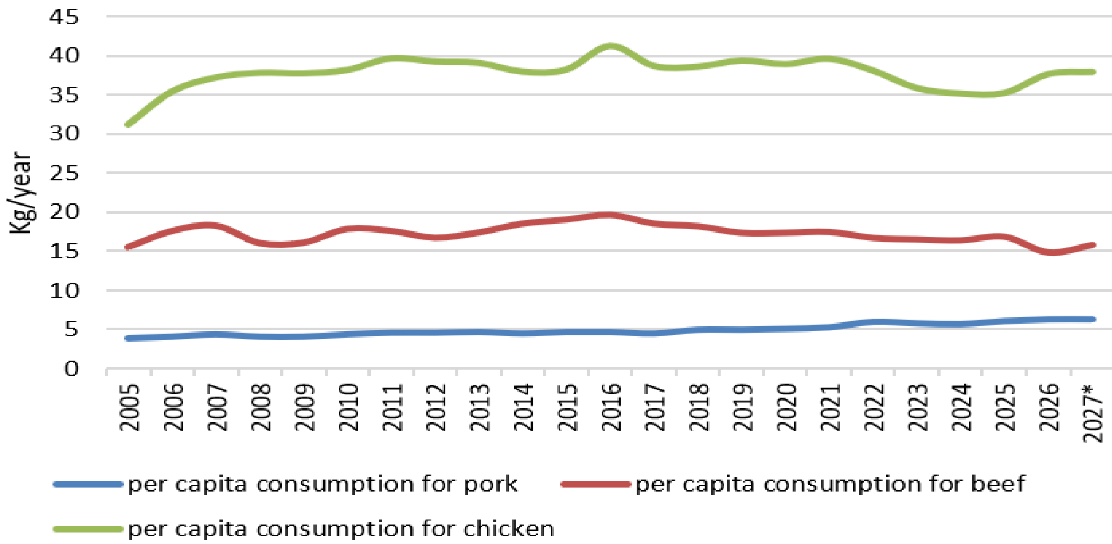
Figure 4
Canned Fully Cooked Chicken Breast

Source: *SAPA*

Per capita consumption of poultry increased by seven percent between 2025 and 2026 while per capita consumption for beef decreased by eleven percent because of supply challenges that exacerbated prices of beef. According to BFAP, inflation on all meats increased by 5.1 percent in June 2026, with the beef price inflation at 12.7 percent. Inflation reported for pork pieces ranged from 5.3 to 15 percent while Frozen non-IQF portions and IQF portions increased by 7.4 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively.

Figure 5

South Africa's per Capita Consumption of Chicken, Beef and Pork Meat (Kilogram per Year)



Source*: FAS/Pretoria using South Africa's Department of Agriculture data (not official USDA statistics)*

Value Added Tax (VAT) Exemption Efforts

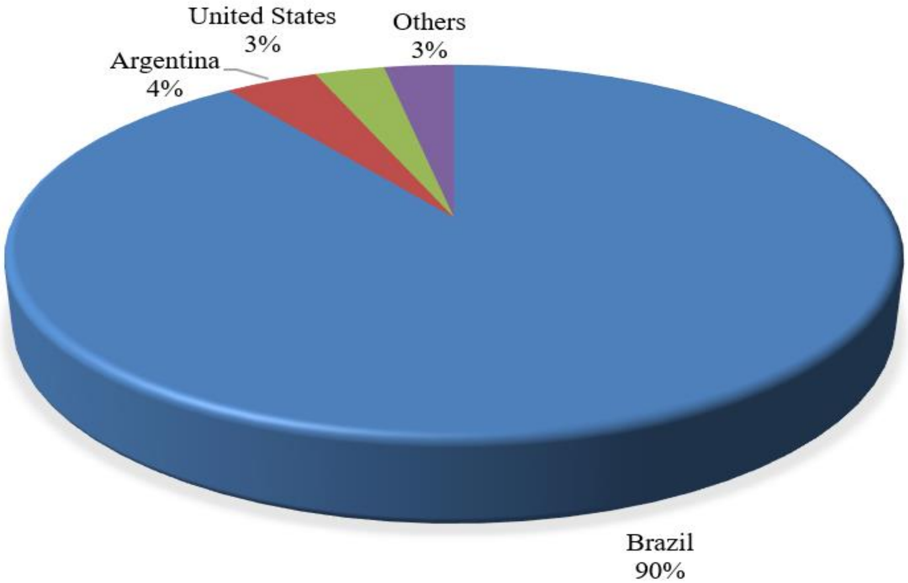
The local poultry industry has been lobbying the government since 2018 to include certain chicken products in the VAT-free basket. SAPA reports that the industry came close in the 2026 Budget as they were included in the initial budget, but when the Minister's effort to raise the general VAT rate collapsed, poultry was taken out again. The government could not absorb the revenue loss, estimated at around 6 billion rand (US$ 367 million) per year.

IMPORTS

For several years, South Africa has implemented policies to reduce imports. FAS Pretoria forecasts that South Africa's MY 2027 poultry imports may drop four percent to 280,000 tons driven by improved domestic production and continued anti-dumping duties and high tariffs that limit the competitiveness and market access of imported poultry. South Africa has been imposing Most Favored Nation (MFN) and anti-dumping duties (ADD) on all nine countries that export poultry to the country from 2020. These duties have contributed to a six percent decrease in South Africa's poultry imports between 2020 and 2026. FAS Pretoria estimates that poultry imports for MY 2026 are expected to decrease, but only by two percent as a result of improved supply from countries that regained market access after their HPAI restrictions were lifted.

Figure 6

Origin of Chicken Meat Imported into South Africa for January-June 2026



Source: *FAS/Pretoria using Trade Data Monitoring (TDM) data*

Despite improvement during the period January to June 2026, imports are restrained in the South African market due to high tariffs and trade restrictions. Total imports from January to June 2026 increased by 37 percent compared to the same period in 2025, with the United States and Brazil getting a 1,559.54 percent and 40 percent increase, respectively. Both countries could not export to South Africa for some time during the first six months of 2025 because of HPAI restrictions. Spain is the only European Union country that is currently exporting poultry to South Africa after regaining access in March 2026.

Mechanically deboned meat (MDM) continues to be the leading chicken product imported by South Africa, followed by bone-in chicken meat and minimal imports of carcasses. Brazil has tariff-free access and supplies 92 percent of MDM imported by South Africa. In 2025, MDM represented 68 percent of poultry imports, while bone-in chicken meat imports represented 25 percent. During January to June 2026, MDM represented 64 percent of total imports while bone-in chicken meat represented 33 percent. South Africa does not produce significant quantities of MDM because local producers prefer to sell the offcuts. Offcuts are leftover chicken skins or bones found after processing the carcass. In their recent article on MDM, SAPA reported that the market demand for chicken carcasses with some meat left on the bone is so high that there is no reason to introduce a mechanical process. The industry prioritizes bone-in products, which are in high demand domestically and it would not make strategic sense or economic sense to divert those resources into MDM. Furthermore, local food safety regulations are stringent on how MDM may be included in final product formulation.

Table 2

South Africa's Chicken Meat Imports in Tons

Partner	2023	2024	2025	Jan to Jun 2025*	Jan to Jun 2026*	%Δ
Brazil	286,239	288,585	255,380	118,814	166,397	40.05
Argentina	17,053	23,240	18,544	11,284	8,825	-21.79
United States	37,997	13,738	10,191	351	5,825	1,559.54
Ireland	3,067	5,665	5,283	2,403	0	-100
Spain	4,313	13,141	6,120	4,535	1,400	-69.13
Others	6,288	15,106	11,683	2,309	4,482	94.11
Total	354,957	359,475	307,201	139,696	186,929	33.81

Source*: FAS/Pretoria using TDM data*

*Year to date: January to June

Tariffs

High tariffs continue to suppress poultry meat imports from major suppliers and raise prices for South African consumers. On March 12, 2020, South Africa increased its applied Most Favored Nation (MFN) duties on poultry imports. The duty on bone-in chicken rose from 37 percent to 62 percent, while the duty on boneless portions increased from 12 percent to 42 percent. These tariff rates remain within South Africa's World Trade Organization (WTO) bound commitments.

Table 3
South Africa's Import Tariffs for Specific Chicken Meat Products

Tariff Heading	**Product Description**	**Rate of Duty**				
		General	EU	EFTA*	SADC**	MERCOSUR
0207.12.10	Mechanically Deboned meat	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
0207.12.20	Carcasses (excluding necks and offal with all cuts removed), Frozen	31%	Free	31%	Free	31%
0207.12.90	Frozen Whole Birds	82%	Free	82%	Free	82%
0207.14.10	Boneless cuts	42%	Free	42%	Free	42%
0207.14.20	Offal	30%	Free	30%	Free	30%
0207.14.90	Bone-in cuts	62%	Free	62%	Free	62%

Source: FAS/Pretoria using South African Revenue Services rates
*EFTA = European Free Trade Association
**SADC = Southern African Development Community

Currently, South Africa applies anti-dumping duties (ADDs) on poultry imports from all major suppliers except Argentina. South Africa first applied the ADDs on U.S. poultry in 2000 and on EU poultry in 2015

Table 4
Current Maximum Anti-Dumping Duties for Bone-in Poultry

Country	**Current tariffs**
Brazil	265.10%
Denmark	67.40%
Ireland	37.52%
Poland	96.90%
Spain	85.80%
Germany*	73.33%
Netherlands*	22.81%
United Kingdom*	30.99%
United States	R 9.40 per kilogram

Source: *FAS/Pretoria using ITAC and South African Department of Treasury*

Note: *Specific Suppliers may have lesser ADDs applied based on participation in ADD review*
**ADDs currently undergoing sunset review*

On August 14, 2026, International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) initiated a sunset review of anti-dumping duties imposed on frozen bone-in chicken originating or imported from Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. On behalf of the Southern African Customs Union, SAPA lodged the application for the anti-dumping duties to remain unchanged or increase, with information provided by seven local producers. Their proposed new ADDs for each country are:

- Germany: 425.64 percent;
- The Netherlands: 32.48 percent; and
- The United Kingdom: 61.84 percent.

The Applicant alleges that the expiry of the duties would likely lead to the continuation and recurrence of dumping and material injury to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) industry. According to ITAC, the Applicant submitted sufficient evidence and established a prima facie case, enabling the Commission to reach a reasonable conclusion and initiate a sunset review investigation. The investigation is expected to take approximately 90 days, and the duties will remain unchanged during the investigation. The 2022 sunset review for anti-dumping duties on U.S. poultry lasted two years.

Anti-Dumping Duties and the U.S. Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ)

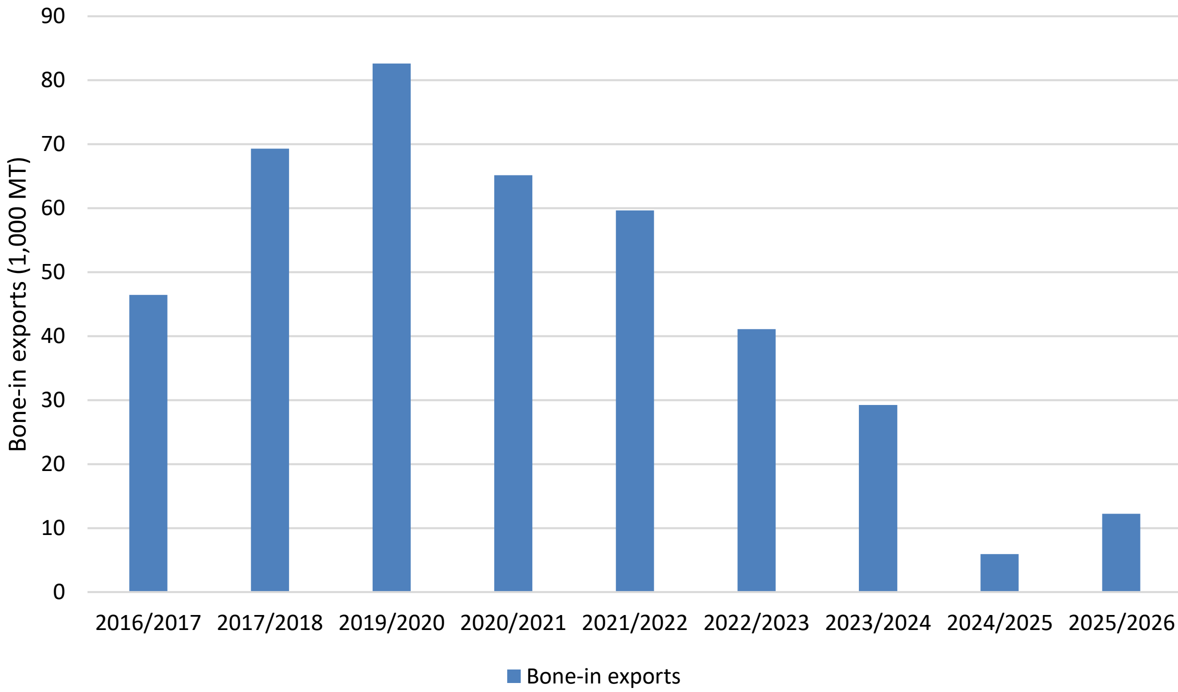
Exports of frozen bone-in chicken portions from the United States to South Africa have been subject to anti-dumping duties since 2000. These duties are reviewed every five years by the International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC). On April 17, 2024, ITAC announced in the government gazette that the anti-dumping duties would be extended at current levels, following the Minister's concurrence with ITAC's recommendation (see: South Africa extends anti-dumping duties on US bone-in poultry at current levels).

In 2016, after extensive negotiations, the U.S. and South African poultry industries agreed to a TRQ that exempts a set volume of U.S. frozen bone-in portions from anti-dumping duties. However, U.S. exports of leg quarters within the TRQ still face the 62 percent MFN duty. The TRQ applies only to exports to South Africa and excludes Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Eswatini, which are part of the Southern African Customs Union. The four SACU countries are excluded from the TRQ agreement, which means any imports are subject to ADDs.

Since the 2020/21 quota year, the TRQ has not been fully utilized due to the high in-quota tariff rate, structural TRQ obstacles put in place by South Africa, HPAI restrictions, and unfavorable market conditions. For the 2025/26 quota year, utilization improved slightly to 17 percent from the previous year's abysmal eight percent utilization stemming from HPAI bans on U.S. states. The quota for 2026/27 (April–March) remains unchanged from 2025/2026 at 73,881 metric tons.

Figure 7

U.S. Bone-in Chicken Exports to South Africa April 2016 to June 2026



Source*:* *FAS/Pretoria using TDM, LLC*

Industry Opposition to the TRQ

On May 8, 2026, the CEO of SAPA confirmed during an interview that SAPA had filed a court case against the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) to argue for the removal of the U.S. TRQ for poultry meat. The association wants the government to scrap the 2015 agreement setting up the TRQ as part of the negotiations for South Africa's continued inclusion in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). SAPA reportedly called on DTIC to discard the TRQ agreement immediately after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed new tariffs on imports from South Africa, and many other countries, at the beginning of 2025.

HPAI Restrictions

South Africa imposes limitations on poultry imports from countries affected by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks. As of July 2026, South Africa restricts poultry imports from Argentina, France, Poland, Hungary, Canada, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe and 22 U.S. states due to HPAI incidents. On February 26, 2026, the South African Ministry of Agriculture announced a new HPAI restriction on poultry products from Argentina, while Spain and Ireland's restrictions were lifted on 23 March 2026 and 5 June 2026, respectively.

On May 16, 2025, Brazil reported an HPAI outbreak, and South Africa responded by restricting poultry imports from the entire country. This decision drew criticism from the South African Meat Processing Industry, as Brazil is South Africa's primary supplier of Mechanically Deboned Meat (MDM). On June

19, 2025, South Africa partially lifted the restrictions after receiving a second report from Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture confirming containment of the outbreak to a single state. By July 4, less than 50 days after the initial report, South Africa had fully lifted the restrictions on poultry imports from Brazil.

The United States has faced significant losses in market share due to HPAI-related restrictions despite a bilateral protocol designed to facilitate the quick resumption of trade following disease containment. The protocol, which is more stringent than WOAH recommendations, allowed for lifting of restrictions after 90 days and receipt of survey information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Because of significant processing delays in the protocol, the South African Department of Agriculture agreed to a trial arrangement in March 2025, called "self-ban self-lift", under which USDA self-restricts trade and facilitates a quicker restart of poultry exports whenever it deals with HPAI outbreaks. The arrangement allows U.S. officials to more efficiently manage communications and trade restrictions, halting exports from affected states until outbreaks have been cleared for 90 days. The arrangement is not unique to South Africa and applies to many countries that import U.S. poultry. In addition, South Africa continues HPAI restrictions that exceed WOAH recommendations.

The South African Poultry Association (SAPA) has written to the Ministers of Agriculture and trade, industry and competition rejecting the arrangement, stating that it is putting the South African poultry industry under serious threat.

EXPORTS

FAS Pretoria forecasts that South Africa's chicken meat exports will increase by 13 percent to 45,000 tons in Marketing Year (MY) 2027, driven by new high value markets such as the United Arab Emirates, which opened in 2021. South Africa primarily exports to the Southern Africa region; however, the industry reported that they are actively working to open markets in the Middle East and Europe.

SAPA is still waiting for a feedback report from a May 2025 audit done by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to determine South Africa's export readiness. Similarly, the workgroup is awaiting feedback on the updated residue plan submitted to EU authorities as well as technical submissions to regulators in Saudi Arabia. As part of the master plan initiatives, the industry sought to export cooked chicken meat to the EU. However, as market developments are still taking shape in the EU, local companies have started exporting cooked chicken meat to the SADC region. The company Figado is exporting sachets of "heat and eat" chicken livers to Namibia and Botswana, and work is ongoing to gain approval in Zambia and Mauritius.

Figure 7
Heat and Eat Chicken Liver Sachets Produced for Export

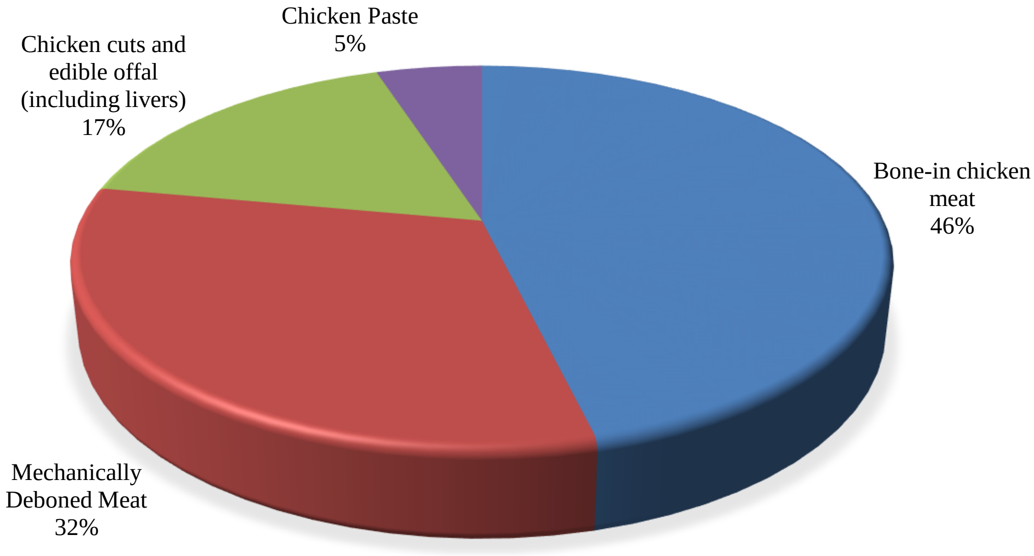
Source: SAPA

FAS Pretoria estimates that South Africa's chicken meat exports will decrease to 40,000 tons in MY 2026 due to decrease in demand in South Africa's primary markets. Namibia, Mozambique and Botswana have recorded a decrease in poultry imports from South Africa during the first six months of 2026. Some of the SACU members have reportedly decided that they will be focusing on increasing local production of agriculture to avoid dependence on imports.

South Africa mainly exports bone-in chicken meat followed by mechanically deboned meat that is reexported and other chicken cuts and offal. During the period January to June 2026, bone-in chicken meat exports by South Africa to the world represented 46 percent of total exports followed by MDM at 32 percent, with the remaining being chicken cuts and edible offal. Most of the countries that import chicken meat from South Africa are low-income countries with consumers who prefer affordable protein.

Figure 8

South Africa Chicken Meat Exported to the World Jan to June 2026



Source: *FAS/Pretoria using TDM*

Table 5

South Africa's Chicken Meat Exports (in metric tons)

Partner	2023	2024	2025	Jan to June 2025*	Jan to June 2026*	%Δ
Lesotho	21,164	21,553	20,367	8,582	9,554	11.33
Mozambique	10,993	12,221	7,574	5,264	2,700	-48.71
Namibia	10,536	11,465	4,722	3,118	2,225	-28.64
Eswatini	3,898	4,908	4,452	2,124	2,250	5.93
Botswana	3,070	6,260	2,654	1,581	1,514	-4.24
United Arab Emirates	481	1,665	1,763	821	1,193	45.31
Others	6745	4728	4518	2744	4118	50.07
Total	56,887	62,800	46,050	24,234	23,554	-2.81

Source*: FAS/Pretoria using Trade Data Monitor, LLC*

*Year to date: January- June

Attachments:

No Attachments