



agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Agro-processing Annual Brief for 2025

Directorate: Agro-processing Support

Highlights of 2025

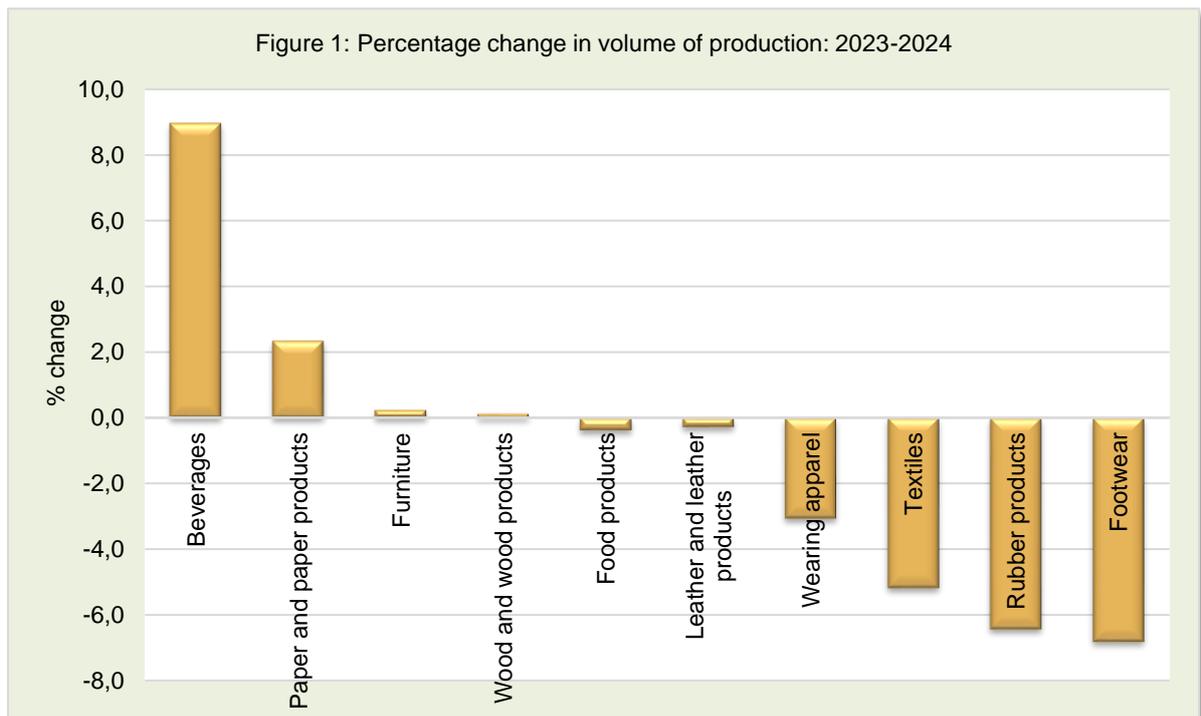
In 2024, the agro-processing sector's seasonally adjusted volume of production contracted by 0,8% from a 0,6% growth in the previous year.

The annual agro-processing sector's seasonally adjusted value of sales contracted by 1,6% in 2024 following a 9,3% growth in 2023.

The agro-processing sector's trade deficit rebounded by 12,4% in 2024 from a 27,7% contraction in 2023; this translates to a trade deficit of R53,18 billion in 2024 from a trade deficit of R47,32 billion in 2023.

The annual employment in the agro-processing sector contracted by 0,8% in 2024 following a 1,0% growth recorded in 2023, which translates to 8 333 jobs created in the year under review.

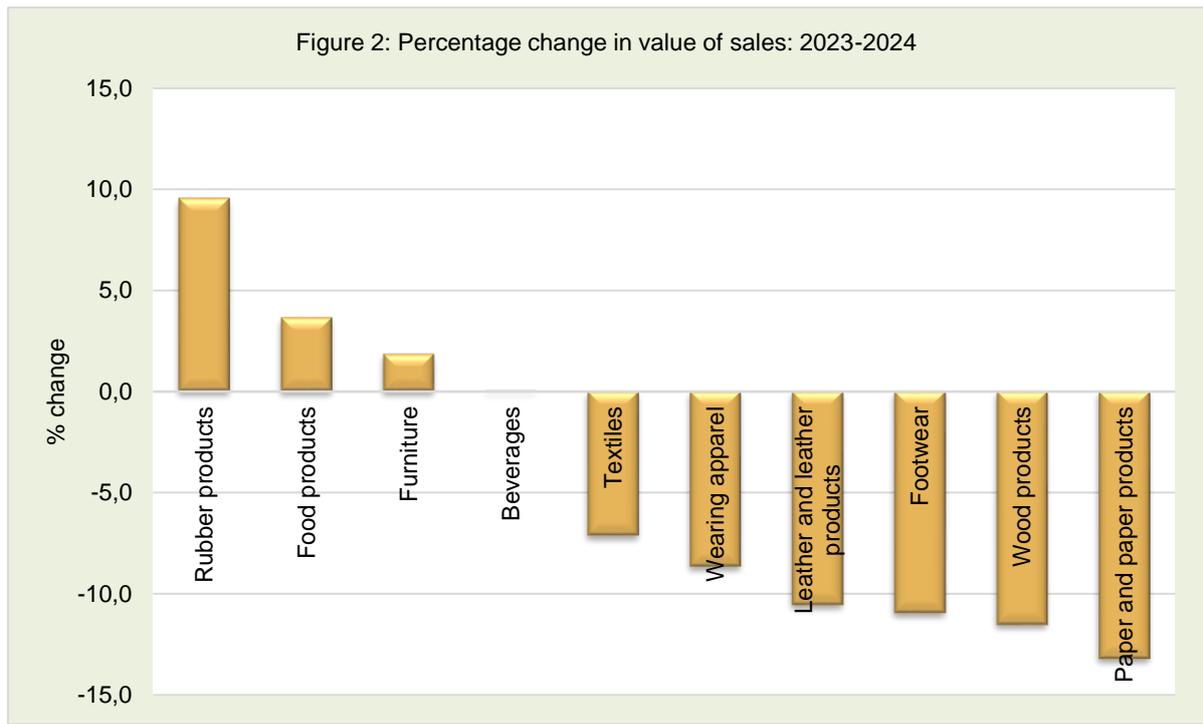
1. Volume of production



Source: Statistics SA, 2025

In 2024, the agro-processing sector's seasonally adjusted volume of production contracted by 0,8% from a 0,6% growth in the previous year. Most of the divisions of the agro-processing sector contracted during the period, and those sectors were food products (0,4%), footwear (6,8%) and rubber products (6,4%) divisions. The beverages (9,0%) and paper and paper products (2,4%) divisions rebounded, furniture (0,2%) and wood and wood products (0,1%) divisions moderated, while wearing apparel (3,1%) and leather and leather products (0,3%) divisions receded further (see Figure 1).

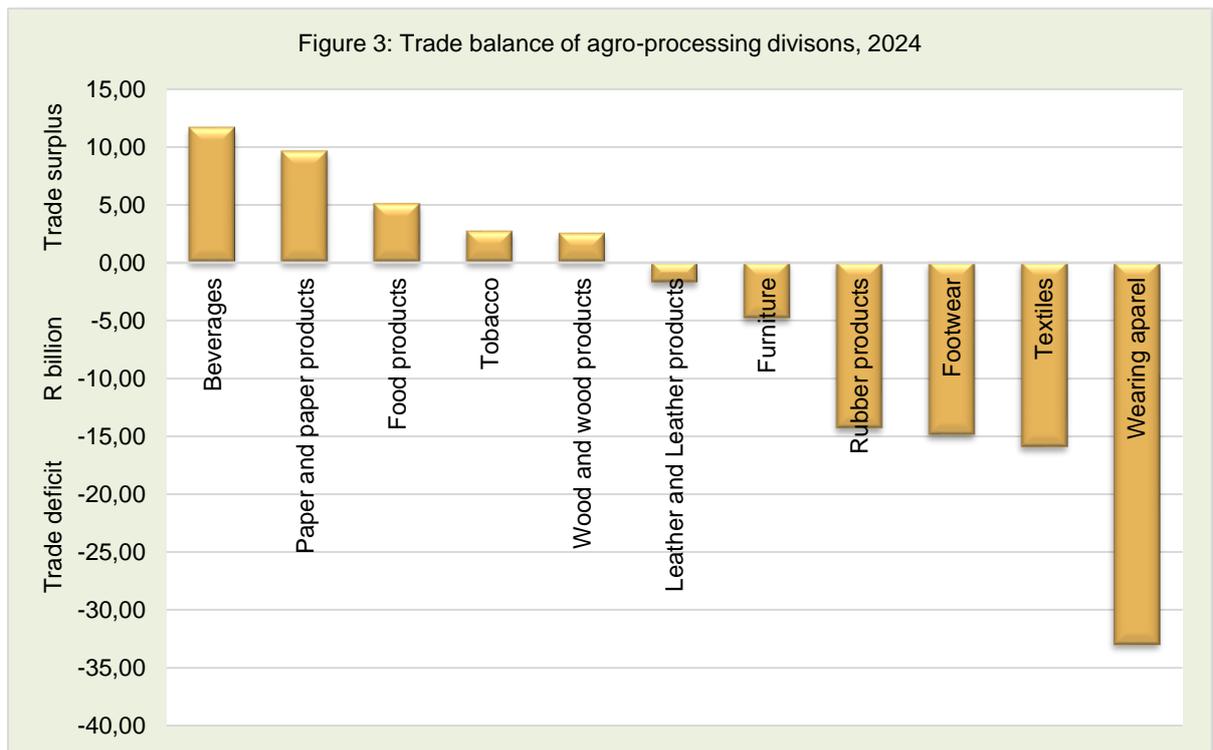
2. Sales



Source: Statistics SA, 2025

In 2024, the annual agro-processing sector's seasonally adjusted value of sales contracted by 1,6% from an 9,3% growth in 2023. Therefore, sales decreased from R469 938,8 million in 2023 to about R462 429,3 million in 2024. Most of the seasonally adjusted value of sales divisions contracted during the period, and those divisions were textiles (7,1%), wearing apparel (8,7%), leather and leather products (10,6%), footwear (10,9%), wood and wood products (11,5%) and paper and paper products (13,2%). However, food products (3,6%) and furniture (1,8%) divisions moderated, rubber (9,5%) division rebounded, while beverages division remained unchanged as compared to a growth of 14,0% in 2023 (see Figure 2).

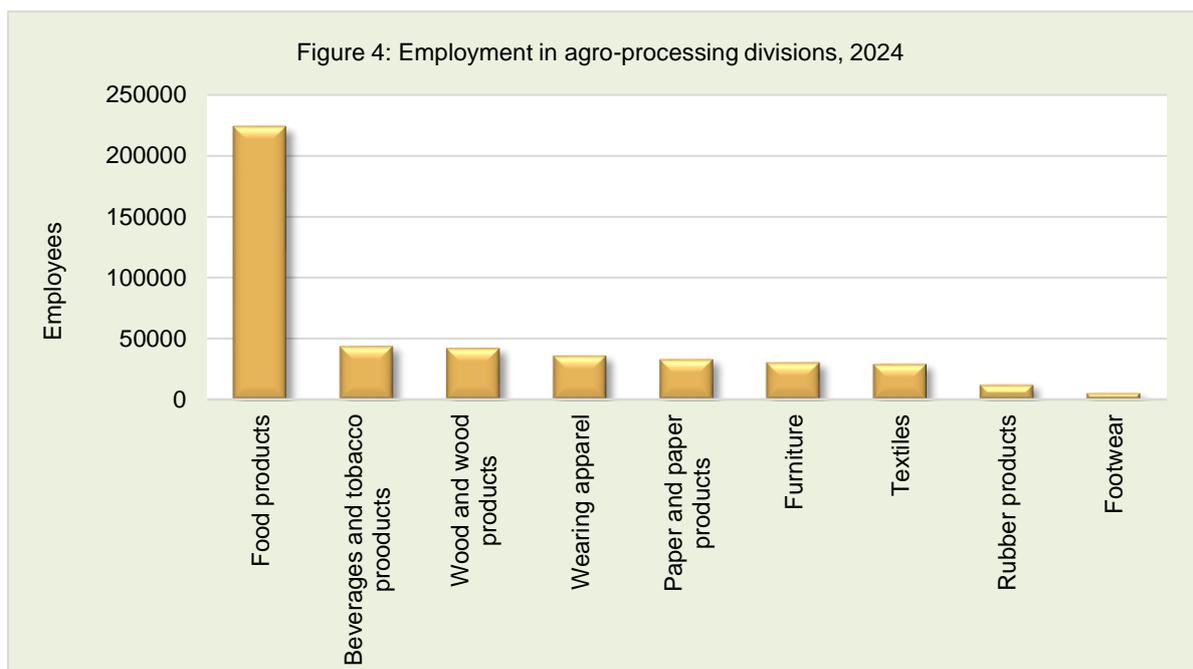
3. Trade



Source: Quantec, 2025

The agro-processing sector's trade deficit rebounded by 12,4% in 2024 from a 27,7% contraction in 2023; this translates to a trade deficit of R53,18 billion in 2024 from a trade deficit of R47,32 billion in 2023. The following divisions registered a trade surplus during the period under review: Beverages (R11,66 billion), paper and paper products (R9,61 billion), food products (R5,09 billion), tobacco (R2,70 billion) and wood and wood products (R2,53 billion). However, the wearing apparel (R33,01 billion), textiles (R15,94 billion), footwear (14,89 billion), rubber products (R14,33 billion), furniture (R4,85 billion) and leather and leather products (R1,77 billion) divisions registered a trade deficit in 2024 (see Figure 3).

4. Employment



Source: Statistics SA 2025

Figure 4 above shows employment in the agro-processing divisions in 2024. Employment in the agro-processing sector contracted by 0,8% in 2024 following a 1,0% growth recorded in 2023, which represents 3 888 jobs created in 2024 as compared to the preceding year. In 2024, the following divisions in the agro-processing divisions shed jobs: beverages and tobacco (1 257), furniture (918), paper and paper products (764), rubber products (704), wood and wood products (240) and food products (171). However, jobs were created in wearing apparel (229), textiles (65) and footwear (35) divisions.

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