



## South African Footwear & Leather Industry- FACT SHEET

**CTFL - Clothing, Textiles, Footwear and Leather Sector with 5000 Manufacturers, contributing to some 2.5% of the manufacturing output of the Country.**

**About 250 of them are specialized in Footwear & Leather Manufacturing**

**73% of the Footwear is still imported !**

The South African clothing and textiles industry is a highly diverse and mature industry, with an important role to play as an employer in the country. The domestic Clothing, Textiles, Footwear and Leather (CTFL) manufacturing industry has a relatively high level of diversification and is supported by well-established wholesale and retail trade segments.

With approximately 5000 manufacturers accounting for about 2.5% of South Africa's manufacturing output, the CTFL form a natural grouping in the manufacturing industry due to the inter-related nature of their input materials and operations. The South African leather and footwear industry comprises the domestic market and export market and the subsectors of footwear, leather goods, handbags and luggage, crocodile leather, ostrich leather and taxidermy.

### DUTY FREE ACCESS TO AMERICAS

With its duty-free access to the lucrative American market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) of 2000,

South Africa is also the world's largest producer of the natural fibre Mohair accounting for approximately 54% of global production.

The South African footwear industry, which includes the manufacture, wholesale, import and retail of shoes, slippers, boots and safety shoes, is worth approximately R54.9bn. The manufacturing sales value of the industry was estimated to be worth R5.5bn, however 73% of all footwear items are still imported.

### EXPORT & IMPORT

Exports In 2022, South Africa exported \$48.9M in Leather Footwear, making it the 51st largest exporter of Leather Footwear in the world. At the same year, Leather Footwear was the 248th most exported product in South Africa. The main destination of Leather Footwear exports from South Africa are: Namibia (\$10.2M), Botswana (\$9.05M), Lesotho (\$5.19M), Zambia (\$5.19M), and Zimbabwe (\$4.58M).

The fastest growing export markets for Leather Footwear of South Africa between 2021 and 2022 were Namibia (\$1.71M), Zambia (\$1.54M), and Lesotho (\$600k).

Imports In 2022, South Africa imported \$247M in Leather Footwear, becoming the 38th largest importer of Leather Footwear in the world. At the same year, Leather Footwear was the 91st most imported product in South Africa. South Africa imports Leather Footwear primarily from: China (\$107M), Vietnam (\$37.1M), Italy (\$26.7M), Indonesia (\$18.7M), and India (\$13.5M).

The fastest growing import markets in Leather Footwear for South Africa between 2021 and 2022 were China (\$13.8M), Vietnam (\$8.53M), and Bangladesh (\$3.94M).