

## TRADE AND TRANSPORT IN SOUTH AFRICA

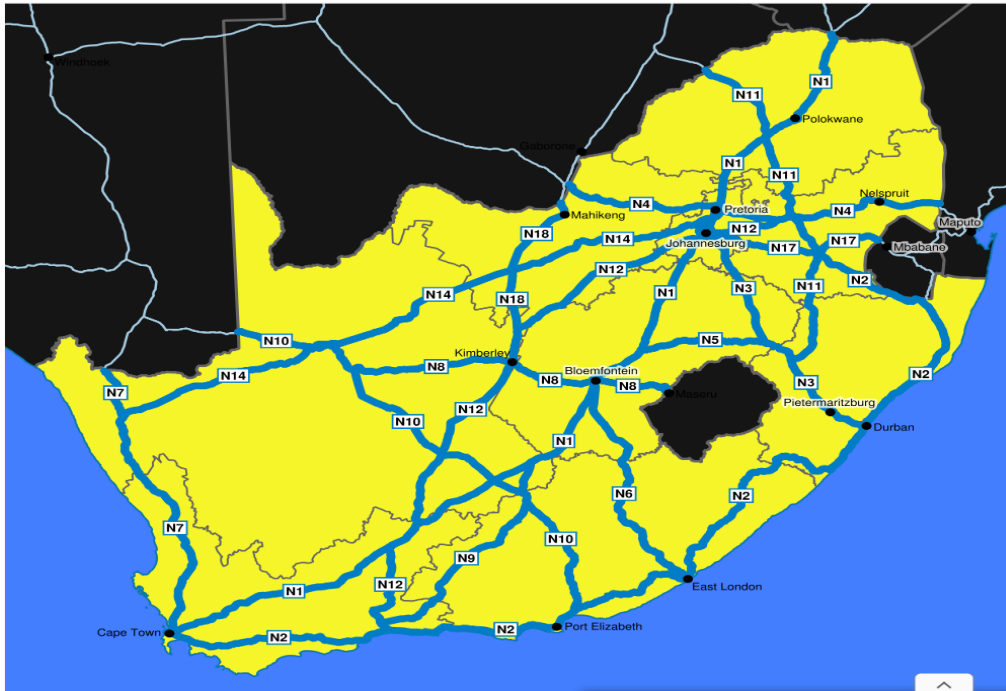


Trade and transport in South Africa are closely linked.

Transport systems move goods from places of production (farms, mines, factories) to markets (shops, cities, ports), making trade possible both within the country and with other countries.

### South Africa's Major roads

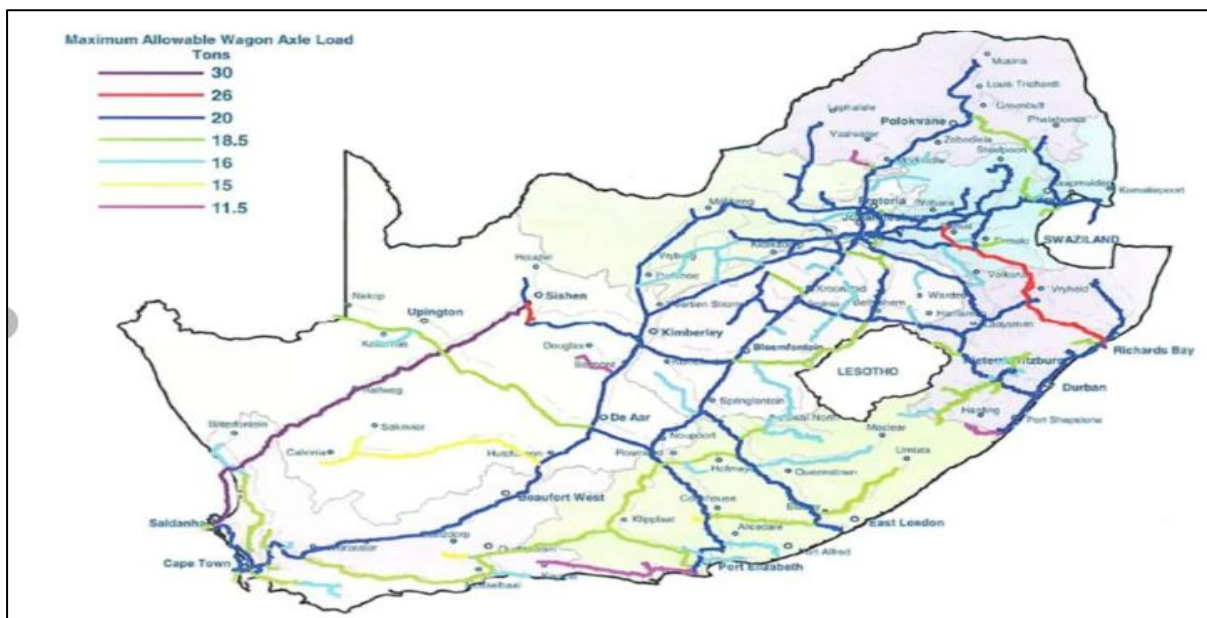
N1	Runs from Cape Town → Bloemfontein → Johannesburg → Pretoria → Limpopo	One of the longest and busiest roads Links major economic centres Very important for trade and long-distance transport
N2	Runs along the coast Connects Cape Town → Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) → East London → Durban	Important for tourism and coastal trade
N3	Links Johannesburg → Durban	Connects the economic hub (Gauteng) to the busy port of Durban One of the most important trade routes in South Africa
N4	Runs from Pretoria → Mpumalanga → Mozambique	Known as the Maputo Corridor Important for international trade
N7	Connects Cape Town → Northern Cape → Namibia	Used for mining and cross-border transport
N12	Connects Johannesburg → Kimberley → North West	Important mining and industrial route



Major roads are main transport routes that link big cities, provinces, and neighbouring countries.

They are crucial for trade, transport, and economic development.. The most important roads are called national roads.

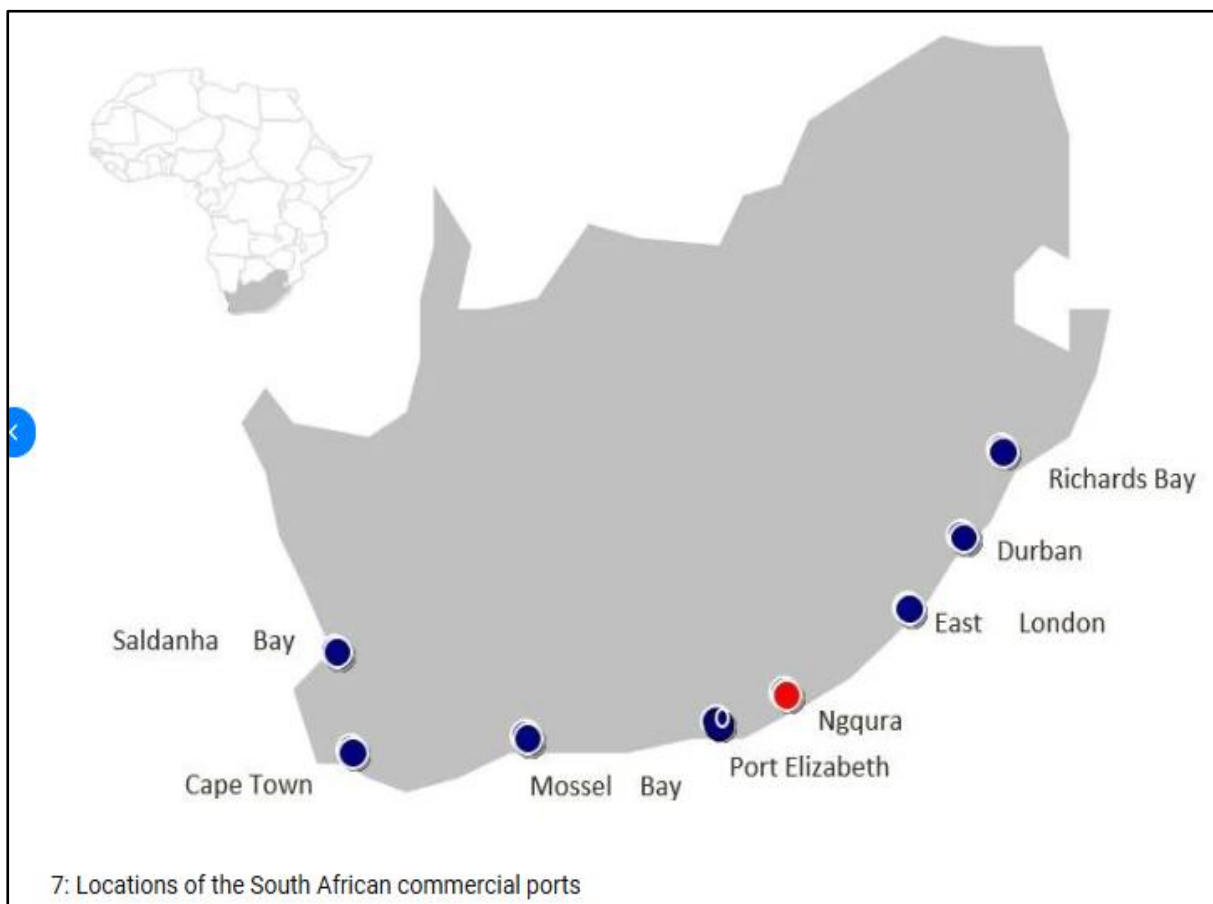
### South Africa's Major railway lines



## South Africa's Major airports



## South Africa's Major harbours



## Case Study: Durban Harbour (Port of Durban)



Durban Harbour, also known as the Port of Durban, is the largest and busiest harbour in South Africa.

It plays a very important role in trade and transport, both nationally and internationally.

Durban Harbour is located on the east coast of South Africa

It lies along the Indian Ocean

It is found in the city of Durban, in KwaZulu-Natal

Its coastal position makes it ideal for sea trade with Africa, Asia, and the rest of the world.

### Why Durban Harbour Developed

Durban Harbour developed because of:

Its natural bay, which provides shelter for ships

Close link to major roads and railways, especially the N3

Proximity to Gauteng, South Africa's main industrial and economic area.

## Main exports and imports



Shipping containers on the dockside at the Port of Durban. Photographer: Waldo Swiegers/Bloomberg

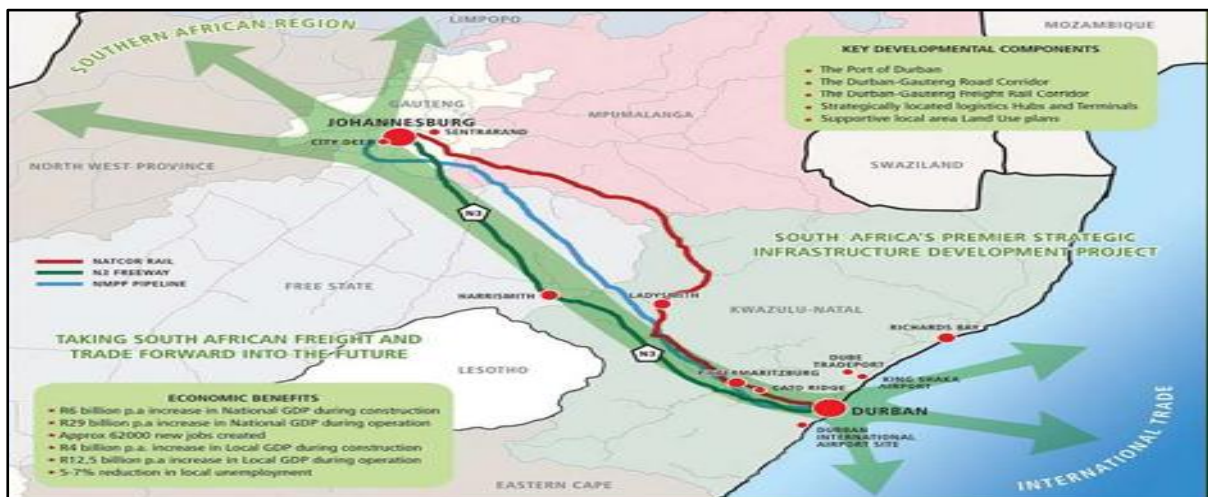
### Exports (goods sent out of South Africa)

- Coal
- Minerals
- Sugar
- Vehicles
- Fruit and agricultural products

### Imports (goods brought into South Africa)

- Oil and fuel
- Machinery
- Electronic goods
- Cars
- Chemicals

## Transport Links Durban Harbour



Durban Harbour is well connected:

- Road transport: The N3 links Durban to Johannesburg and Pretoria
- Rail transport: Trains carry heavy goods like coal to and from the harbour
- Sea transport: Ships transport goods to and from other countries



These links make Durban Harbour a key link between trade and transport.

### **Advantages and disadvantages of road and rail transport**



most goods were transported overland by railways.

- In many countries today over 80% of goods are transported by road and over 90% of people use road transport more than any other kind of transport.
- Many people think that road transport is more convenient and quicker than rail transport.
- There has been a change back to people using railway transport in some countries, particularly for long journeys, mainly due to the development of high speed trains.

### **Advantages of road transport**



### **Flexible routes**

- Vehicles can travel almost anywhere there are roads.

### **Door-to-door service**

- Goods can be delivered directly to homes, shops, and factories.

### **Suitable for short distances**

- Fast and convenient for nearby destinations.

### **Easy access**

- Roads reach rural and urban areas.

### **Quick for small loads**

- Ideal for fresh food and light goods.

### **Disadvantages of road transport**

#### **Traffic congestion**

- Roads can become overcrowded, especially in cities.

#### **Accidents**

- High number of road accidents.

#### **Pollution**

- Vehicles cause air and noise pollution.

#### **High fuel costs**

- Fuel prices make transport expensive.

#### **Road damage**

- Heavy trucks damage road surfaces.

### **Advantages rail transport**



- Cheap for large and heavy goods
- Suitable for minerals, coal, and containers.
- Energy efficient
- Uses less fuel for large loads.
- Less traffic congestion
- Reduces the number of trucks on roads.
- Environmentally friendly
- Produces less pollution than road transport.
- Reliable for long distances

## **Disadvantages rail transport**

Fixed routes

Trains can only go where tracks exist.

No door-to-door service

Goods must be transferred to trucks at the destination.

High cost of building railways

Tracks and stations are expensive.

Delays Breakdowns or poor maintenance can slow transport.

Limited access to rural areas

## **Key Requirements for Future Transport Networks**

### **Efficiency and Speed**

- Transport must move people and goods quickly and reliably.
- Reduced delays and congestion save time and money.

### **Affordability**

- Transport should be cheap enough for everyone to use.
- Low transport costs help workers, learners, and businesses.

### **Safety**

- Future transport systems must reduce:
  - Accidents
  - Injuries
  - Loss of life
- Better road design and safer vehicles are needed.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- Transport must reduce:
  - Air pollution
  - Carbon emissions
- Use of clean energy and eco-friendly transport is essential.

✅ Example:

Electric buses, trains, and fewer petrol vehicles.

Good Infrastructure

Roads, railways, ports, and airports must be:

Well built

Well maintained

Poor infrastructure slows trade and transport.

✅ Example:

Upgraded roads and rail lines linking cities and ports.

### **Accessibility**

Transport should reach:

- Rural areas
- Townships
- Urban centres
- Everyone should have access to transport.
- Capacity for Growth
- Transport systems must handle:

- Increasing population
- More goods and trade
- Future planning is essential

### **Use of Technology**

Modern technology improves transport planning and safety.

Includes:

- Traffic control systems
- Smart transport cards
- GPS tracking

### **Example:**

Digital ticketing and traffic-management systems.