



# ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY



## CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY

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## Dual agricultural economy

- South Africa has a highly developed commercial farming sector and a large number of people involved in subsistence farming.

## Factors favouring and hindering agriculture in South Africa.

Favouring	Hindering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is a large market for agricultural products (local and international).</li><li>• Availability of labour.</li><li>• The fertile floodplains of rivers for farming</li><li>• Good rainfall on eastern half of the country.</li><li>• Different climatic conditions allow for variety of crops.</li><li>• Growth of crops and pasture lands increased by relatively higher summer temperatures.</li><li>• Good transport infrastructure e.g. ports.</li><li>• Improvement in water supply through water projects.</li><li>• Research is continuously being done</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unreliable and low rainfall.</li><li>• Large number of subsistence farmers.</li><li>• Natural hazards such as droughts, floods.</li><li>• Productivity reduced by HIV/AIDS.</li><li>• Pests e.g. locusts damage crops.</li><li>• Poor farming methods increase soil erosion</li><li>• Price fluctuations referring to prices continuously going up and down.</li></ul>



**Agriculture** is the cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock.

- It includes the preparation of plant and animal products for people to use and their distribution to markets.

**Primary economic activities** is the extracting or harvesting of products from the earth such as basic foods and raw materials.



JW Produce



AgriFarms



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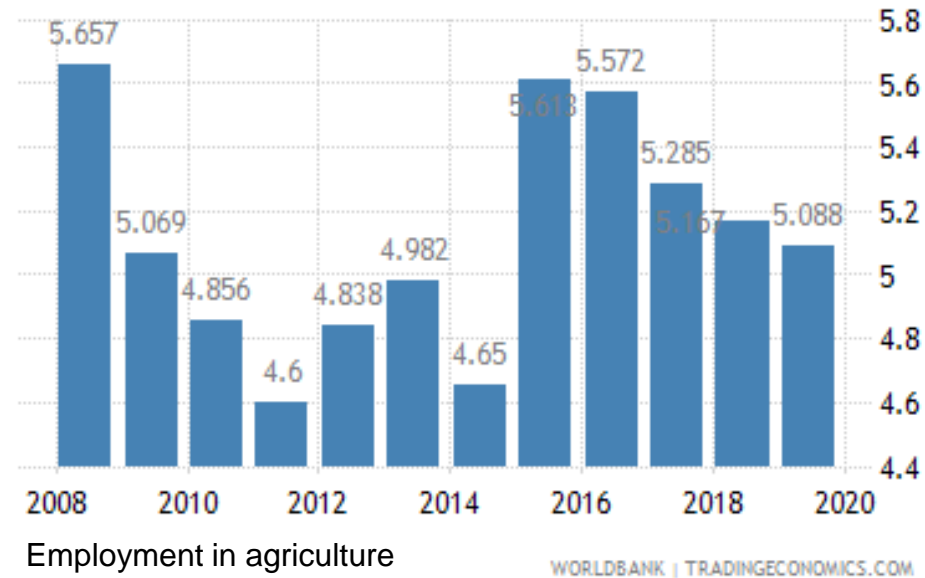


## Food supply

- South Africa is in a fortunate situation of being able to produce more food than is needed by population.
- Food is important for a healthy and productive population
- Reduces import of food which generally reduces prices.
- Food insecurity can occur when people cannot afford it e.g. due to poverty.



## Employment in Agriculture

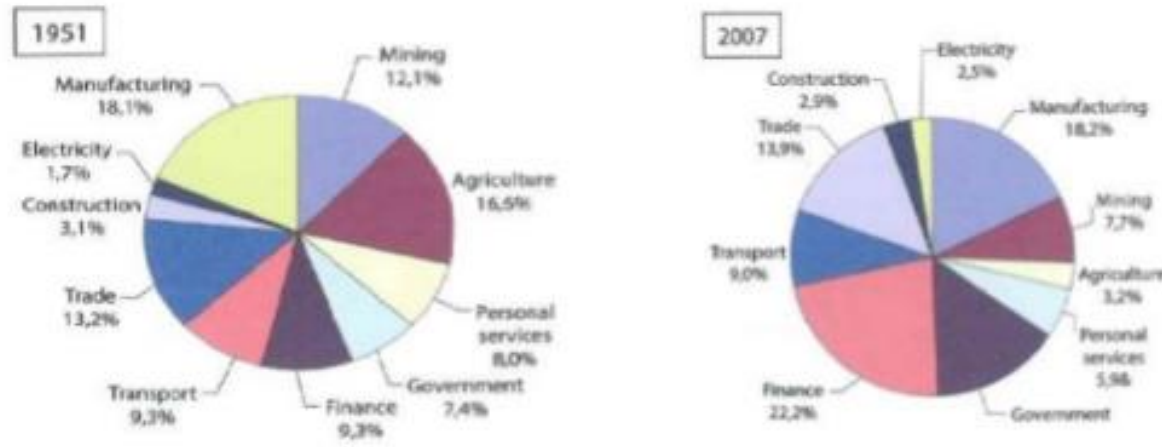


- Consists of formal and casual employment.
- Employs a significant number of people (5.088% in 2020)
- Decreasing could be due to technological improvements e.g. in machinery and growth of other sectors
- Employment improves people quality of life.



## Contribution of agriculture to GDP of South Africa

**Gross domestic product (GDP)** measures the value of goods and services produced within a country's borders, by citizens and non-citizens alike for a specific period e.g. a year.



Source: Platinum textbook

Agricultural Percentage contribution to the GDP of South Africa decreased e.g. from 16.5% in 1951 to 3.2% in 2007.

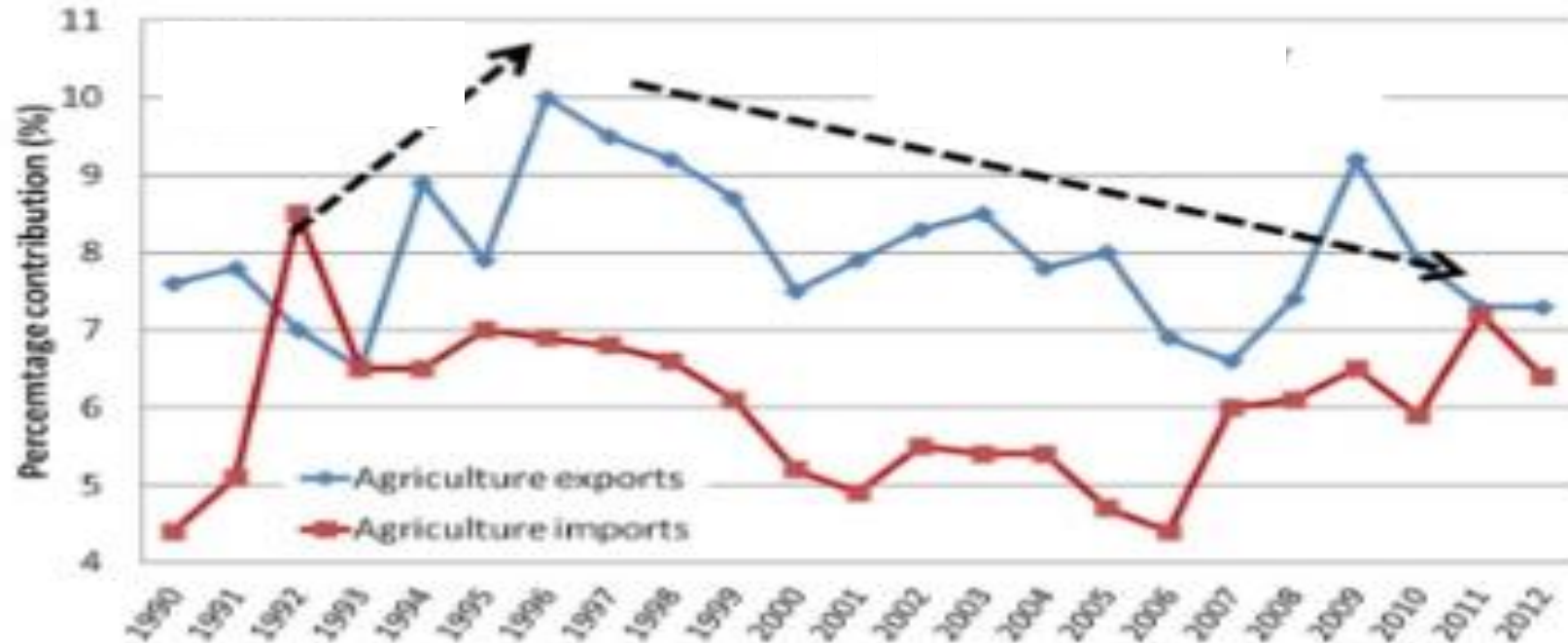
Percentages of other sectors have increased.

Although percentage contribution for agriculture has decreased, it still contributes significantly to the GDP of South Africa



## Agricultural contribution to balance of trade

**Balance of trade** is the difference in value between a country's imports and exports



- Exports are generally higher than imports bringing in significant foreign exchange.
- Agricultural exports in 2012 were approximately 6.3% of the total exports
- These exports contribute greatly to the countries balance of trade.



## Important link between economic activities/sector

- The other sectors are dependent on agriculture e.g. raw materials for secondary sector
- Example maize → production of breakfast cereals (Secondary) → supermarket selling breakfast cereals (Tertiary) → research on peoples preference for type of breakfast cereals (Quaternary)

