🇱🇸 Lesotho: trade brief

Customs figures for 2025 and 2026 to date; products for 2024; long-run totals. Prepared 2026-11-15.

Lesotho exported **$887M** of goods and imported **$1.7B** in 2025, a trade deficit of **$814M**. Its largest export market was South Africa (66.8% of exports) and its largest supplier was South Africa (84.8% of imports).

#154
largest exporter of 202 economies, and #166 importer
#1 #202

67%
of exports go to 🇿🇦 South Africa, the largest market

97%
of exports go to just three markets, out of 55

−814M
trade deficit: exports pay for 52% of imports

−7.6%
change in exports on 2024: $960M then, $887M in 2025

85%
of imports come from 🇿🇦 South Africa, the largest supplier

Lesotho in 2025 and 2026: the latest figures

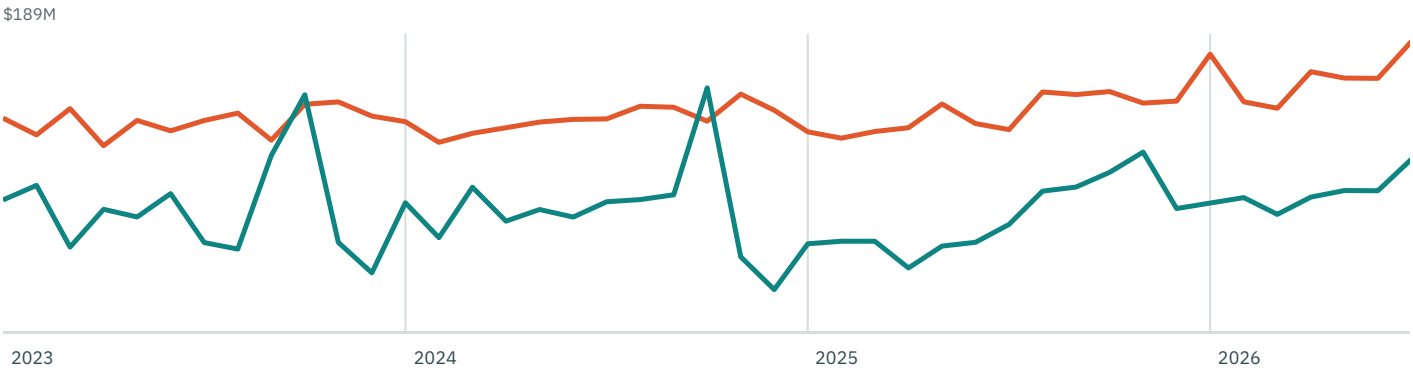
Monthly customs figures in US dollars from the IMF's trade-by-partner database. The newest month is Jul 2026.

$887M
Exports, 2025 **−7.6%** on 2024

$1.7B
Imports, 2025 **+2.2%** on 2024

$631M
Exports, Jan–Jul 2026 **+57.6%** on the same months of 2025

$1.2B
Imports, Jan–Jul 2026 **+24.6%** on the same months of 2025



Period	Exports	Imports	Balance
2026 (Jan–Jul)	$631M	$1.2B	−533M
2025	$887M	$1.7B	−814M
2024	$960M	$1.7B	−704M
2023	$958M	$1.6B	−687M
2022	$1.1B	$1.8B	−746M

Largest export markets in 2025 and 2026 so far

Export market	2025	Change on 2024	Share	Jan–Jul 2026	Change on Jan–Jul 2025
South Africa †	$592M	+13.5%	66.8%	$385M	+67.7%
United States †	$153M	−0.9%	17.2%	$121M	+29.1%
Belgium †	$112M	−55.6%	12.6%	$105M	+78.1%
Canada †	$6M	+16.2%	0.7%	$4M	+25.0%
Eswatini †	$6M	−9.1%	0.7%	$3M	+8.4%
Germany †	$6M	+7.4%	0.7%	$4M	+9.0%
Egypt †	$2M	−32.7%	0.2%	$2M	−16.4%
Botswana †	$2M	+31.1%	0.2%	$1M	+3.6%
United Kingdom †	$1M	−38.8%	0.1%	$1M	+30.8%
United Arab Emirates †	$1M	+13.9%	0.1%	$865,000	+23.7%

Largest suppliers in 2025 and 2026 so far

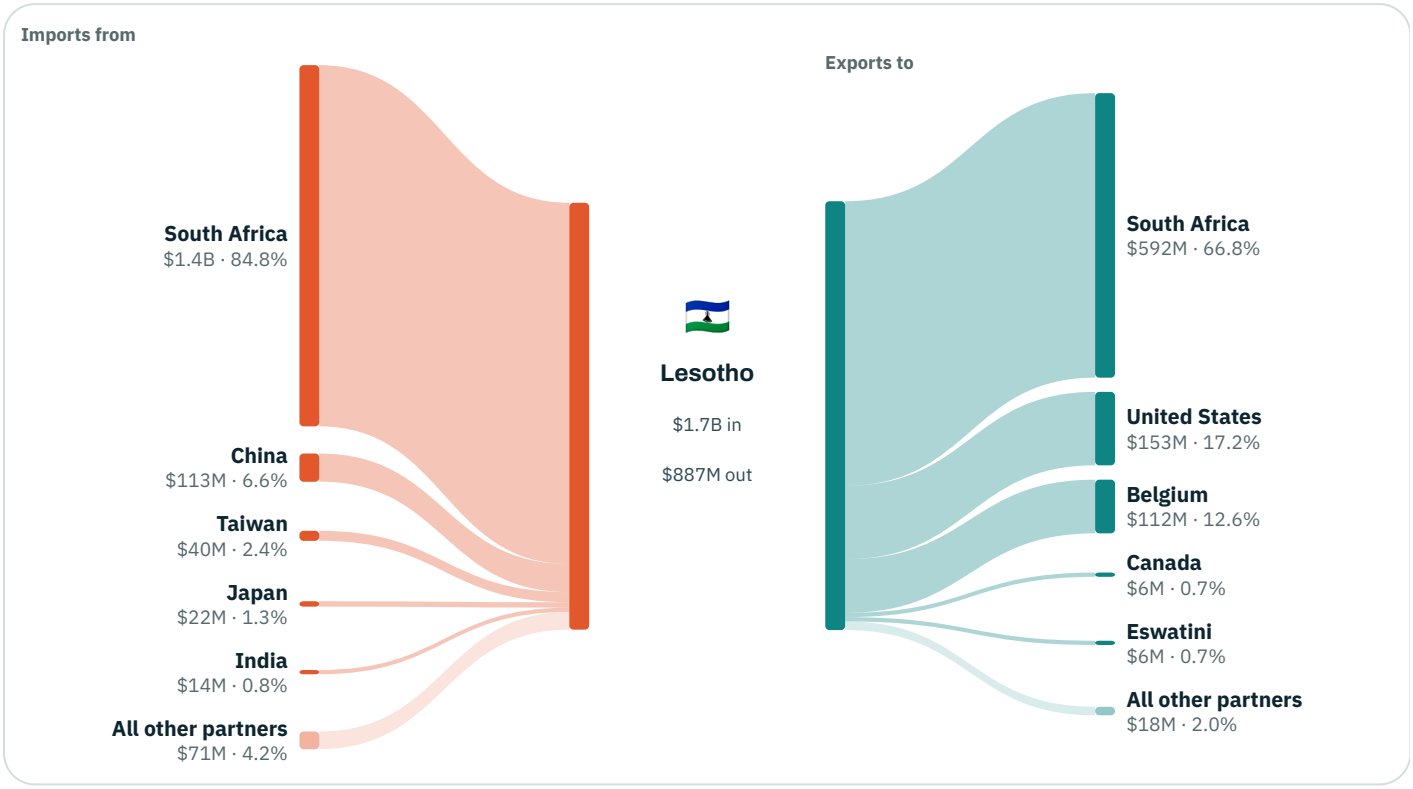
Supplier	2025	Change on 2024	Share	Jan–Jul 2026	Change on Jan–Jul 2025
South Africa †	$1.4B	+0.5%	84.8%	$1.1B	+34.3%
China †	$113M	+14.6%	6.6%	$54M	−10.1%
Taiwan †	$40M	+20.8%	2.4%	$14M	−50.4%
Japan †	$22M	−8.0%	1.3%	$7M	−48.2%
India †	$14M	+20.2%	0.8%	$4M	−49.6%
Zambia †	$13M	−7.0%	0.8%	$4M	−16.7%
Hong Kong †	$8M	+48.1%	0.5%	$2M	−53.8%
Mozambique †	$6M	+27.5%	0.4%	$999,000	−57.5%
Brazil †	$4M	+539.1%	0.2%	$385,000	−89.8%
Eswatini †	$3M	+21.7%	0.2%	$2M	+15.8%

† Lesotho had not yet reported this flow, so the IMF derived it from the partner's own records. Treat these as provisional.

Source: International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country, retrieved 2026-11-15. The IMF collects each economy's national customs figures and converts them to US dollars at the average exchange rate of the month the goods moved. Imports include freight and insurance; exports do not. The product and partner sections further down use BACI's reconciled figures for 2024, which can differ noticeably for the same year, so compare like with like.

Where Lesotho's goods come from, and where they go

The five largest suppliers and the five largest markets in 2025. Ribbon width is in proportion to value within each side.



What Lesotho exports, 2024



Reconciled figures (BACI): exports of $1.1B on that basis. 2024 is the newest year with product detail for every economy.

Largest export products

Product	2024	Share
Diamonds; non-industrial, unworked or simply sawn... 7102.31	$325M	29.5%
Waters; mineral and aerated, including natural or... 2201.10	$81M	7.3%
Trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts... 6203.42	$53M	4.8%
Diamonds; non-industrial, (other than unworked or simply... 7102.39	$43M	3.9%
Electrical apparatus; automatic circuit breakers, for a... 8536.20	$41M	3.7%
Wool; (other than shorn), greasy (including fleece-washed... 5101.19	$38M	3.4%
Trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts... 6104.63	$36M	3.2%
Shirts; men's or boys', of man-made fibres, knitted or... 6105.20	$32M	2.9%

What Lesotho imports, 2024



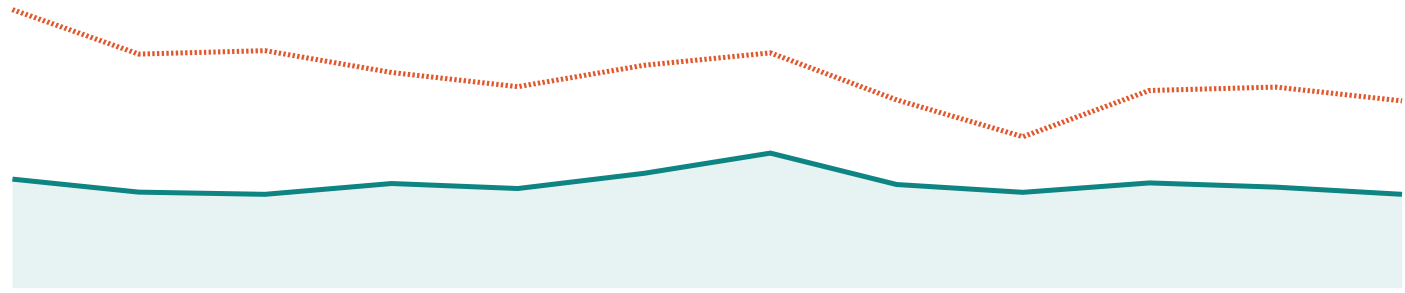
Reconciled figures (BACI): imports of $1.9B on that basis.

Largest import products

Product	2024	Share
Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, not... 2710.00	$201M	10.5%
Electrical energy 2716.00	$59M	3.1%
Fabrics; knitted or crocheted fabrics, other than those... 6003.30	$37M	1.9%
Cereal flour; of maize (corn) 1102.20	$31M	1.6%
Cereals; maize (corn), other than seed 1005.90	$30M	1.5%
Coal or rock cutters and tunnelling machinery... 8430.31	$28M	1.5%
Electrical apparatus; parts suitable for use solely or... 8538.90	$27M	1.4%
Cotton; not carded or combed 5201.00	$26M	1.3%

Lesotho's trade over the long run

Merchandise exports and imports, World Bank series, current US dollars.



Exports Imports 2012–2023

Sources and method

- **2024 products:** BACI (CEPII), which reconciles what exporters and importers each reported to UN Comtrade, six-digit HS, current US dollars.
- **Totals and partners, latest year and current year:** International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country: each economy's own monthly customs figures, converted to US dollars at the average exchange rate of each month. Values marked † were derived by the IMF from partners' records because the economy had not yet reported.
- **Long-run totals:** World Bank, merchandise exports and imports, current US dollars.
- The two sources use different methods and can give different totals for the same year. Compare like with like.
- Product classification: Harmonized System, © World Customs Organization.

World Trade Data is an independent reference published by Evolve Tech Pvt. Ltd. It is not affiliated with any government, the IMF, the WCO or the United Nations. Free to share with attribution. The live page, with every partner and product, is at world.customsnepal.com/trade/lesotho.