

# Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): SOUTH AFRICA

## What is SelectUSA?

SelectUSA is the U.S. government program to promote and facilitate business investment in the United States.

## How do we help?

We work with companies and U.S. economic development organizations to provide information, facilitate direct connections, and resolve questions regarding federal regulations. We also provide a promotional platform for U.S. state and local governments.

# \$5.3 Billion

Total 2021 stock of FDI from  
South Africa  
to the United States

(by UBO)

## Contact Us

Write: [SelectUSA@trade.gov](mailto:SelectUSA@trade.gov)

Tweet: [@SelectUSA](https://twitter.com/SelectUSA)

[www.selectusa.gov](http://www.selectusa.gov)



Supporting U.S. Jobs  
**7,000**

Number of U.S. workers employed by  
U.S. affiliates of majority  
South African-owned firms in 2020.



Investing in Innovative R&D  
**\$36.0 million**

Value of research and development (R&D)  
spending by U.S. affiliates of majority  
African-owned firms  
in 2020.\*



Expanding U.S. Exports  
**\$389.0 million**

Value of U.S. goods exports by majority  
South African-owned firms  
operating in the United States in 2020.

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis (latest available as of February 22, 2023), fDi Markets (data from January 2013 - December 2022)

\*Regional data is used when market-specific data has been suppressed or has not met a certain threshold

## South African FDI in the USA (in USD millions)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Position (UBO)</b>	\$4,037	\$4,225	\$4,049	\$4,455	<b>\$5,321</b>
<b>Flow</b>	\$569	\$12	-\$171	\$538	<b>\$515</b>

## U.S. FDI in South Africa (in USD millions)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Position</b>	\$8,058	\$9,088	\$7,943	\$7,242	<b>\$7,553</b>
<b>Flow</b>	\$429	\$201	\$453	-\$62	<b>\$302</b>

## TOP 6 INDUSTRY SECTORS

By # of announced South African FDI  
projects in the USA

- #1 Software & IT Services
- #2 Food & Beverages
- #3 Paper & Packaging
- #4 Communications
- #5 Chemicals
- #6 Financial Services

TERMINOLOGY - UBO: Ultimate Beneficial Owner; the entity at the top of an affiliate's ownership chain.

Position/Stock: Snapshot of cumulative FDI taken at year end. Flow: FDI coming into a country over a period of time.

Last Updated February 2023