

Sources of Income:

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Basic Economy

Swaziland is a lower- scale middle income country and about 63% of the population lives in poverty. An important part of Swaziland's agriculture is based off of subsistence farming. Swaziland is extremely dependent on South Africa as it receives nine tenths of their imports and 60% of their exports. There are many roads and railroads connecting the two countries together. About 70% of Swazis live in rural areas, and as population increases, the country has trouble providing new job opportunities. Swaziland has modernized it's economy and initiated more trade with foreign nations, but there are difficult challenges still affecting the economy such as soil depletion, drought, floods and H.I.V.

Imports/Exports/Agriculture:

- The sugar industry is Swaziland's essential importer and depends solely on irrigated cane. The U.S. invests in a soft drink company which is another big exporter. Wood from pine forests, pineapples and citrus fruits are other important agricultural imports and exports.
- Swaziland is also depends on mining coal and diamonds for exports.
- Swaziland's staple crop is corn, but others include beans, pumpkin, squash, peas and other vegetables. The population of cattle greatly exceeds the country's capacity, which causes a major loss in vegetation.
- Some other products grown and traded in Swaziland are cotton, tobacco, rice, peanuts, coal and textiles.
- Imports: motor vehicles, machinery, transport equipment, foodstuffs, petroleum products, chemicals
- Exports: soft drink concentrates, sugar, wood pulp, cotton yarn, refrigerators, citrus and canned fruit

Natural Resources:

- Swaziland's natural resources include coal, clay, cassiterite, forests, small gold and diamond deposits, quarry stone, and talc.
- There is barely enough farming land because of frequent droughts in Swaziland, but the usable land is developed into homesteads.
- The Swazi government does very little to help with the problems with agriculture or the economy.

Links/Resources:

- Swaziland in the CIA World Factbook
- U.S. State Department information on Swaziland
- Lower Usthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP)