



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## **South Africa, Republic of**

### **Kosher Foods**

## **2000**

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**U.S. Embassy**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**The exact size of the market for kosher products in South Africa is difficult to measure, but it is estimated that the consumption of Koshered products is substantial. About 80 percent of the Kosher products in the market are produced locally, while the remaining 20 percent is imported from the United States, Canada, Israel and EU. South African food regulation requires that imported Kosher products, like any other imported products comply with its Sanitary and Phytosanitary requirements. Major export market for South African Kosher products include the United States, Israel, Canada and Australia.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
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## **Summary**

A variety of kosher products is consumed in South Africa by both Jewish and non-Jewish consumers. According to South African kosher trade sources, the size of the Jewish community is estimated at about 150,000, and consumption of kosher products is substantial. The main products consumed are; meat, fish, dairy products, soya products, baked goods and confectionery, chocolates, and sweets. The consumption trends are similar to the non-kosher market, and there are many products that are similar to non-kosher products. The Johannesburg Beth-Din kosher certification mark helps kosher consumers buy kosher products. In the absence of the “halaal” sign on products, the Muslim community will buy kosher products.

In addition to domestic production, kosher food products are imported. Eighty percent of the products are produced locally and 20 percent are imported, indicating a growing number of large local manufacturers that are having products certified as kosher. All imported kosher products need the kosher certification mark from the country of origin. Kosher food imports, like other food products, need to comply with South African sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. Numerous products have duties applied to them; but some important products such as matzo for Passover, and others, are exempt from duty.

South Africa exports kosher products to Israel, the United States, Australia, Canada, and other countries. The depreciating South African currency and strong domestic production are making it difficult for imported foodstuffs to be competitive in the South African market. However, this does not totally exclude imported kosher products from the local market.

South Africa does not have any kosher trade shows; U.S. producers can promote kosher product through direct communication with the Johannesburg Beth-Din, Kashrut Department. Also, trade missions could be organized for South African importers to visit the United States to meet with kosher product producers.

## **Domestic Production**

Due to the demand for kosher foods, the number of local manufacturers is growing. Most of the food companies producing food for the regular market are also producing kosher products. The kosher trends are similar to those of the non-kosher market. The Johannesburg Beth-Din kosher certification mark helps consumers identify kosher products. Kosher products are produced in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Johannesburg Beth-Din, Kashrut Department, which also controls the packaging and labeling of the products. Locally produced kosher products include, milk, cottage cheese, yoghurt, spices, vinegar, sauces, salt, tea, coffee, instant coffee, porridge, biscuits, potato chips, sweets, chocolates, cocoa powder, ice cream, chocolate coating, jam, cake mixes, bread mixes, ice cream mixes, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pickles, and frozen fish.

## Market Size

According to the Johannesburg Beth-Din, there are about 150, 000 Jews in South Africa. In addition, Muslim communities and some members of the general public consume kosher products that bear the Beth-Din certification. There is a growing demand for kosher products, including ready-prepared kosher meals for business lunches and dinners. These food products are on the menu of many top-grade hotels and game lodges in South Africa.

All queries regarding kosher food or beverages should be directed to: the Johannesburg Beth-Din, Kashrut Department. Tel.: 27-11-485-4865; Fax: 27-11-640-7528; E-mail: kashrut@uos.co.za or Cape Town, Tel.: 27-21-438-7191; Fax: 27-21-642-777. Johannesburg 24-hour service tel.: 27-11-485-5459.

## Consumption

According to local trade sources, South African supermarkets stock a large selection of products bearing the Beth-Din kosher certification mark. The certification is applicable to both locally produced and imported products. To ensure the quality and uniformity of products, kosher authorities are strict on locally produced kosher foods as well as imported products. Only products bearing the stickers with a Beth-Din sign are allowed.

In addition, details such as whether the product is dairy or pareve (containing neither dairy nor meat), the name of the producer, date, and internal control number sequence should be included on a sticker. Normal duties are applicable to kosher products, but some important products such as matzo for Passover and others are exempt from duties. The largest retailers of kosher foods are: Pick n Pay, Shoprite Checkers, Woolworths, and Spar chains as well as specialized outlets such as Thrupps.

## Trade

According to the Johannesburg Beth-Din, South African supermarkets, distributors, importers, and manufacturers import kosher products mainly from the United States, Israel, Canada, the United Kingdom, and other European countries. Many of the locally produced kosher products are exported to Israel, the United States, Australia, and Canada.

## Products and Retail Prices

### Sample Retail Prices

Product	Weight	Approximate Price in South African Rand
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Baby Biscuits		
Daniella baby biscuits	180gm	R11.55

## Beverages

All Gold tomato juice	1LT	R8.29
Clearly cape mineral water	1LT	R5.59
Snapple ice teas	473ml	R6.45

## Biscuits-Sweet and Savory

B&B Round wheat crackers	300gm	R11.55
BP Gourmet cookies	113gm	R23.95
BP Gourmet Croutons	142gm	R18.60
Mosmarks cake meal	500gm	R16.95
Osem Deli crackers	200gm	R11.29
Willys waffles	6's	R8.59

## Breakfast Cereals

Bokomo Mabels morning munch	500gm	R15.95
Bokomo Mabels honey munch	500gm	R16.35
KS Puffed rice	250gm	R7.59
Kelloggs corn flakes	500gm	R16.39
Kelloggs rice krispies	500gm	R17.99
Kelloggs nutritic	450gm	R11.15
Kelloggs high fibre bran	375gm	R13.45

## Coffee and Tea

Ciro pure coffee	200gm	R39.95
House of Coffees - ground	250gm	R20.95
Jacobs Mocca ground	100gm	R20.55
Jacobs Day and Night	250gm	R28.35
Wissotzky Vanilla teabags	25's	R15.85
Wissotzky rosehip teabags	25's	R16.55
Wissotzky caffeine free teabags	25's	R23.75

## Groceries - Miscellaneous

Bacchini couscous	1kg	R18.95
Goldcrest tuna	200gm	R7.65
Ina Paarmans poultry stuffing	100gm	R9.25
Kelloggs corn flakes crumbs	250gm	R8.19
Telma falafel mix	180gm	R14.95
Telma latkes	180gm	R18.30
Telma kneidl	84gm	R14.95
Telma vegetable dip mix	112gm	R11.59

## Herbs and Spices

Cape Herb and Spice

Company - Entire range

## Jams and Spreads

All golds connoisseur jams	320gm	R11.29
Carmel sandwich spread	270gm	R9.99
Ilovo golden syrup	500gm	R7.59
Marmite	250gm	R15.99
Nola yum yum peanut butter	410gm	R7.25
Skippy peanut butter	410gm	R8.99
Selwyn segal jams	350gm	R8.49

## Organic/Health Section

Blue Diamond nuts	150gm	R19.99
Caffe D'Amore non-dairy cappuccino	198gm	R42.45
Caffe D'Amore Latte	170gm	R33.95
Caravan figs	250gm	R9.15
Celestial herbal teas	20's	R23.95
Imagine non dairy rice puddings	2's	R16.29
Nutribev soya drink	1LT	R6.45

## Pickles

Beit Hashita pickled cucumbers	560gm	R10.69
Carmel sweet n sour cucumbers	740gm	R15.95
Carmel mild dill cucumbers	740gm	R15.95
Judy's pickle mix	780gm	R15.55

## Rice

Old millstream quick cook brown	250gm	R8.65
Tastic quick cook savory rice	200gm	R8.15

## Salad dressings

Hellmans light mayonnaise	375ml	R9.29
Hellmans mayonnaise	340gm	R14.55
Ina Paarmans salad dressings	250ml	R8.35
Kraft miracle whip	483gm	R12.89

## Sauces and Gravies

Bisto gravy powder	125gm	R2.99
Ina Paarmans basting sauces	500ml	R12.39
Ina Paarmans Coat & Cook	200ml	R6.45

Nandos cooking sauces	200ml	R12.65
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## Soups and Stocks

Ina Paarmans vegetable stock	150gm	R12.39
Osem soup mixes	400gm	R28.29
Telma soup cubes	3's	R5.55
Telma stock cubes	3's	R5.55

## Sugar

Hulett's yellow sugar	750gm	R6.99
Hulett's brown sugar	1kg	R4.99
Selati white sugar	1kg	R4.89

## Sweets and Chocolates

Beacon anytime chocolate almonds	150gm	R13.75
Cote D'or Mignonettes	240gm	R27.35
Cote D'or Bouchees	4's	R11.50
Kees Beyers choc. covered coffee beans	100gm	R14.35
Kees Beyers choc. covered orange peel	100gm	R14.35
Kees Beyers assorted truffles	500gm	R69.65
Sally Williams Nougat	160gm	R19.99
Valor Spanish Truffles	190gm	R42.39

## Tinned fruit

Goldcrest sliced mangoes	425gm	R8.35
Illovo ginger in syrup	350gm	R19.85
Silverleaf strawberries	165gm	R9.99
Silverleaf grapefruit segments	215gm	R7.99

## Tinned vegetables

All Gold diced tomatoes	410gm	R4.79
Goldcrest palm hearts	400gm	R21.99
Goldcrest asparagus tips	225gm	R9.80
Goldcrest peeled potatoes	425gm	R5.40
Koo beetroot salad	405gm	R4.99
Koo sauerkraut	400gm	R6.65
Koo garden peas	410gm	R5.79
Koo green beans	410gm	R5.65
Koo baked beans	420gm	R4.99
Koo mixed vegetables	410gm	R5.65
Koo creamed sweetcorn	420gm	R4.79

Koo sugar beans	410gm	R3.65
Vinegars and Oils		
Cook n Bake Olive Oil Spray	300ml	R15.35
Debras spirit vinegar	750ml	R4.35
Kosher Balsamic Vinegar-Monari	500ml	R37.50
Misty Valley Avocado Oil	250ml	R18.99
Vesuvio Virgin Olive Oil	750ml	R45.95
Vinegar Tree spirit vinegar	750ml	R4.25
Wines		
Kedem Classic Red wine	187ml	R7.60
Kedem Classic White wine	187ml	R7.60
Kedem 144 peach	750ml	R53.85
Yrachmiel red wine	750ml	R33.35

## Contact Information

The following list contains some kosher food importers/manufacturers/retailers in South Africa:

Ms. Jacqui Hanns, International Buyer  
 Thrupps Retail CC  
 Tel: 27-11-788 2145  
 Fax: 27-11-880-1475  
 e-mail:shop@thrupps.co.za  
 web-site:www.thrupps.co.za  
 (Retailer, Importer, Exporter)

Mr. Roy Fitzsimmons, Sales Director  
 Patleys  
 Tel.: 27-11-626-3100  
 Fax: 27-11-626-2654  
 E-mail:patleysjhb@patleys.co.za  
 (Sales, Importer, and Distributor of kosher sauces)

Mr. G. Williams, Managing Member  
 Entreshar Enterprises CC  
 Tel.: 27-21-930-5651  
 Fax: 27-21-930-5655  
 E-mail:entresha@iafrica.com  
 (Sales and Importer of kosher spices)

Mr. D. Andley, Marketing Director



Sea Harvest Corporation Ltd.

Tel.: 27-22-701-4100

Fax: 27-22-714-3555

E-mail:alvonaw@seaharvest.co.za

(Manufacturer and Services of frozen haddock, frozen hake, and frozen fish)

Mr. Fazel Butler, Food Chief

Pick n Pay Hypermarket, Norwood

Tel.: 27-11-483-3357

Fax: 27-11-728-3660

(Retailer, Importer)

Mr. Cyril Bolel, Sales Manager

Sharol Bolel Chemicals Marketing

Tel.: 27-11-648-2774

Fax: 27-11-648-1663

E-mail:bolel@cis.co.za

(Sales, Importer and Distributor of chocolate kosher)

Mr. Johan Louw, Manager

Parmalat SA (Pty) Ltd

Tel.: 27-21-809-1400

Fax: 27-21-886-6939

(Manufacturer, Sales, Importer, Distributor, and Exporter of kosher cottage cheese)

Mr. H I Abdulla, Director

Hyperchek (Pty) Ltd

Tel.: 27-31-304-5786

Fax: 27-31-301-9786

(Manufacturer, Sales, and Importer of kosher canned vegetables)

Woolworths Foods

Cape Town

Tel.: 27-21-407-9111

Fax: 27-21-461-5520

Spar South Africa

Pine Town

Tel.: 27-31-701-8401

Fax:27-31-701-2030

Mr. Peter Kruger, Sales Manager

Fine Foods (Pty.) Ltd

Tel.: 27-31-500-3400

Fax:27-31-508-3034

[E-mail:info@robfoodservice.co.za](mailto:info@robfoodservice.co.za)

(Manufacturer, Distributor, and Sales of kosher spices and kosher vinegar)

Shoprite-Checkers

Brackenfell

Tel.: 27-21-980-4354

Fax: 27-21-980-4349

Mr. L. Baverey, Executive Director, Sales

National Brands Ltd. (Export Services Division)

Tel: 27-11-239-7000

Fax: 27-11-807-1552

(Manufacturer, Sales, Importer, and Distributor of kosher biscuits and potato chips)

## **Post Contacts**

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report or need assistance exporting to South Africa, please contact the office below.

Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA

American Embassy-Pretoria

Washington, DC 20521-9300

Tel.: 27-12-342-1048 ext. 2235

Fax: 27-12-342-2264

Email [address:AgPretoria@fas.usda.gov](mailto:address:AgPretoria@fas.usda.gov)

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