Botswana

**Post:** Pretoria

**Agricultural Economic Fact Sheet**

**Report Categories:**
- Agriculture in the Economy

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**Report Highlights:**
Agriculture accounts for about three percent of Botswana’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with diamonds and tourism the main contributors to economy. Agricultural potential is limited due to the Kalahari Desert that occupies a large area of the country. As a result, about 85 percent of Botswana’s agricultural output is derived from livestock production, mainly cattle. Post estimates that Botswana imported US$632 million worth of food and agricultural products in 2014.
Botswana
Agricultural Economic Fact Sheet
Foreign Agricultural Service
United States Embassy in South Africa
(updated June 2015)

General

- Botswana is one of the least populated countries in Africa with a population of only 2 million people and a population density of less than 3 persons per square kilometre.
- Diamonds and tourism are the main contributors to Botswana’s US$15.8 billion economy.
- Botswana is the world’s second largest producer of diamonds after Russia, and the largest in Africa.
- Diamonds represented 85 percent of Botswana’s total exports of US$7 billion in 2014.
- Agriculture accounts for about 3 percent of Botswana’s GDP.
- About 85 percent of Botswana’s agricultural output is derived from livestock production, mainly beef, with a cattle population of about 2.2 million.
- Botswana’s agricultural potential is limited due to the Kalahari Desert that occupies a large area of the country.
- Subsistence/traditional farming are the norm with less than a 1,000 commercial farming enterprises.
- Crop area represent less than 1 percent of the total land area with corn, sorghum, millet and pulses the major crops being planted.

Economic Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Facts</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP at current prices (billions)</td>
<td>$14.6</td>
<td>$14.8</td>
<td>$15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP/capita</td>
<td>$7,082</td>
<td>$7,118</td>
<td>$7,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real GDP growth</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag % of GDP</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population (million)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food inflation</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average exchange rate</td>
<td>P7.6/US$1</td>
<td>P8.4/US$1</td>
<td>P 9.0/US$1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agriitual Trade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural Trade</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural exports (millions)</td>
<td>$127</td>
<td>$187</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total Botswana exports</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural imports (millions)</td>
<td>$729</td>
<td>$674</td>
<td>$632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total Botswana imports</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trends in Angola’s Agricultural Trade:

US – Botswana Agricultural Trade

(US$ millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Botswana ag exports to US</th>
<th>Botswana ag imports from US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$0.1</td>
<td>$0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$0.0</td>
<td>$0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$0.2</td>
<td>$0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agricultural Export Destinations:

- South Africa, 62%
- United Kingdom, 15%
- Germany, 8%
- Zimbabwe, 7%
- Others, 5%
- Netherlands, 3%

Agricultural Products Exported:

- Beef, 71%
- Hides and skins, 6%
- Live cattle, 3%

Agricultural Import Countries:

- South Africa, 94%
- Others, 4%
- Namibia, 2%

Major Agricultural Products Imported:

- Sorghum, 2%
- Sugar, 9%
- Dairy, 8%
- Rice, 4%
- Fruit & veg. Juice, 4%
- Sunflower oil, 4%
- Wheat, 6%
- Corn, 7%

[Map of Botswana with highlighted areas]