



International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa

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ITAC RECOMMENDS MAINTAINING CURRENT IMPORT DUTY ON FROZEN MIXED VEGETABLES

ITAC has completed its review of the customs duty on frozen mixed vegetables, classifiable under tariff subheading 0710.90. The review followed the previous rejection by the former Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition of an application by Nature's Garden (Pty) Ltd to increase the duty from 10% to 37% *ad valorem*.

After a comprehensive investigation and consideration of stakeholder submissions, ITAC found that global and domestic economic factors continue to shape the frozen vegetable market. International events, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, have contributed to ongoing food price volatility. At the same time, local food inflation and constrained household incomes have placed pressure on consumers, particularly lower-income groups.

The Commission noted that both domestic production and demand for frozen mixed vegetables declined between 2018 and 2022, largely due to electricity supply constraints and load shedding. Despite this, the domestic industry has maintained its market share, supported by a recent price advantage over imports.

Import trends shifted significantly over the period of review. While the European Union previously dominated imports into the SACU market, volumes from the EU, particularly Belgium, gradually declined. Overall import levels have decreased, indicating that import competition is not the primary driver of challenges facing the domestic industry.

Importantly, ITAC's impact assessment found that increasing the duty would disproportionately affect lower-income households, raising food costs and limiting affordability, while providing limited benefit to domestic producers.

In light of these findings, the Commission has recommended that the current customs duty of 10% *ad valorem* be maintained. ITAC will continue to monitor import trends and market developments and may review the duty structure should significant changes occur

Full details of the final determinations and recommendations are on [Notice 4014](#) and [Report 733](#).

ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA