



## Botswana's Food and Beverage Imports Increase to P912.2 Million in April 2026

**Gaborone, July 2026** – Botswana's Food and Beverages imports rose significantly to **P912.2 million** in April 2026, representing **11.1 percent** of the country's total imports valued at **P8.22 billion**, according to the latest *International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Monthly Digest* released by Statistics Botswana.

Compared to March 2026, Food and Beverages imports increased by **P262.9 million (40.5 percent)**, while overall imports grew by **55.4 percent**, from **P5.29 billion to P8.22 billion**. The increase reflects higher imports across several major food commodity groups, particularly cereals and beverages.

**Cereals (Chapter 10)** remained Botswana's largest Food and Beverages import category during the month, accounting for **P142.7 million**, or **15.6 percent** of total Food and Beverages imports. The category was driven primarily by imports of **Other maize (corn)**, valued at **P69.8 million**, which accounted for **48.9 percent** of all cereal imports. This was followed by **Other wheat (excluding durum wheat)** at **P36.0 million (25.2 percent)** and **Semi-milled or wholly milled rice** at **P34.8 million (24.4 percent)**. Together, these staple grains accounted for more than **98 percent** of cereal imports, underscoring Botswana's continued reliance on imported grains to meet domestic consumption requirements.

The second-largest import category was **Beverages, Spirits and Vinegar (Chapter 22)**, which contributed **P124.2 million**, representing **13.6 percent** of total Food and Beverages imports. **Beer made from malt** remained the dominant beverage import at **P41.0 million**, accounting for **33.0 percent** of the category. Other significant imports included **Other fermented beverages** valued at **P21.4 million (17.2 percent)**, **Other waters** at **P18.0 million (14.5 percent)**, and **Flavored or sweetened waters** at **P16.5 million (13.3 percent)**.

Other notable Food and Beverages import categories included **Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastry cooks' products** and **Miscellaneous edible preparations**, each valued at **P89.4 million**, representing **9.8 percent** of total Food and Beverages imports. Imports of **Animal or vegetable fats and oils** amounted to **P62.4 million (6.8 percent)**, while **Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts** totaled **P61.1 million (6.7 percent)**. **Dairy produce, birds' eggs and natural honey** contributed **P58.4 million (6.4 percent)**, followed by **Prepared animal fodder** at **P48.8 million (5.4 percent)**.

Among the fastest-growing Food and Beverages import categories between March and April 2026 were **Vegetables and edible roots and tubers**, which increased by **85.8 percent**, **Products of the milling industry** (75.2 percent), **Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk** (68.5 percent), and **Dairy produce** (66.7 percent). These increases contributed to the overall growth in the country's Food and Beverages import bill during the month.

The April 2026 IMTS results continue to highlight the importance of imported staple food commodities in Botswana's supply chain, with cereals remaining the largest component of Food and Beverages imports. The findings also indicate sustained demand for processed food products and beverages, reflecting prevailing consumption patterns within the economy.

The full **International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Monthly Digest – April 2026** provides comprehensive information on Botswana's merchandise trade performance and is available on the Statistics Botswana website:

<http://www.statsbots.org.bw/sites/default/files/publications/Botswana%20Food%20and%20Beverage%20Imports%20April%202026.pdf>