



## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 30 April 2024*

## **SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for March 2024**

**Pretoria, 30 April 2024** – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R7.3 billion in March 2024. This surplus was attributable to exports of R164.1 billion and imports of R156.8 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2024) preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.8 billion was an improvement from the R5.7 billion trade balance deficit for the comparable period in 2023. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for March 2024 (R164.1 billion) were 15.3% lower compared to R193.7 billion recorded in March 2023, whilst import flows were 15.2% lower having decreased from R184.9 billion in March 2023 to R156.8 billion in the current period.

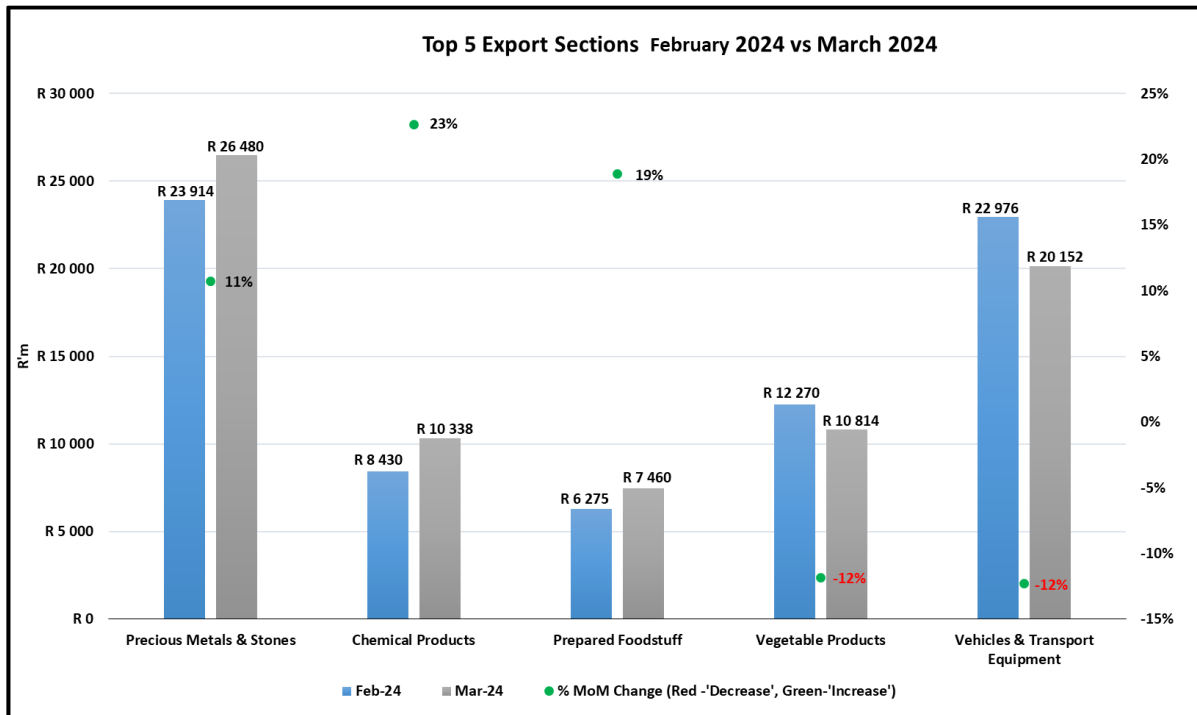
On a month-to-month basis, exports increased by R2.9 billion (1.8%) from R161.2 billion to R164.1 billion between February and March 2024, whilst imports also increased by R9.0 billion (6.1%) from R147.8 billion to R156.8 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in March, driven by Gold, Coal, and Chemical Wood Pulp. Imports flows increased on the back of sizable increases in the importation of Petroleum Oils (Excluding Crude), Crude Oil, and Banknotes.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R14.0 billion announced for February 2024 was revised downwards by R0.7 billion, with the final number at R13.3 billion.

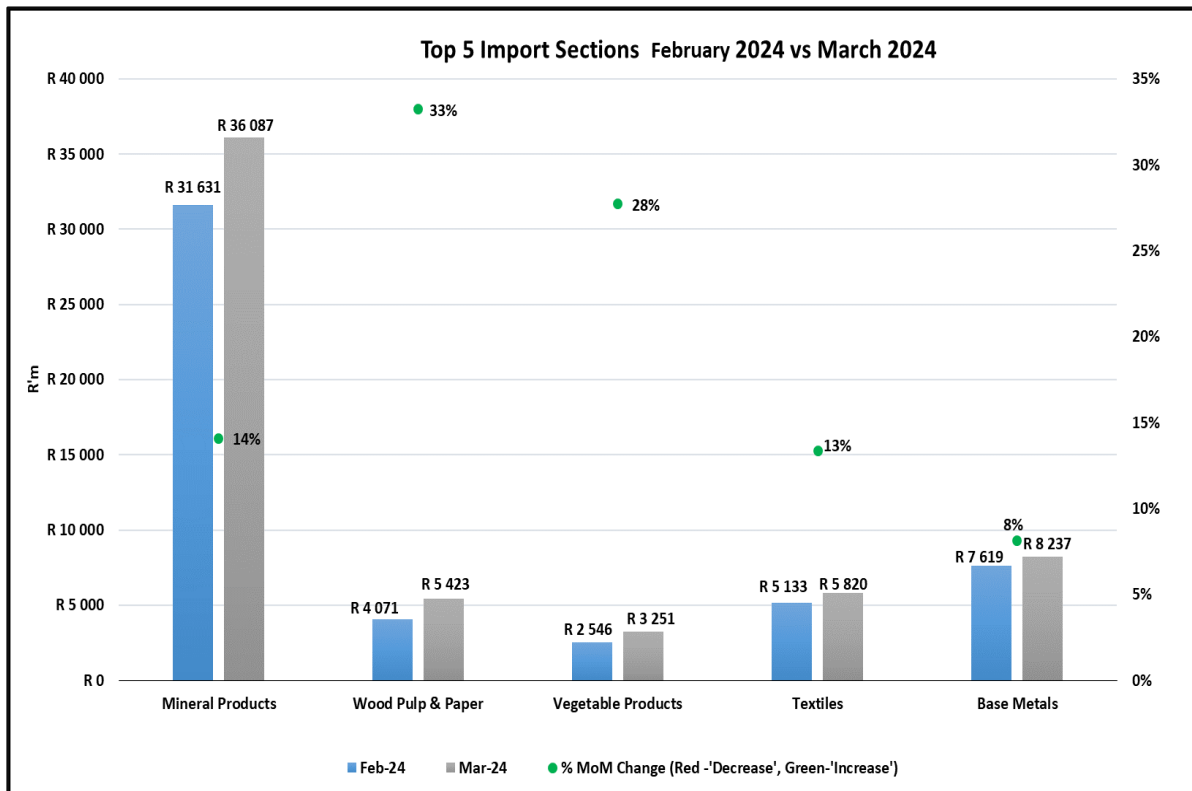
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## Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



## Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from February (revised) to March (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

### Incl BELN

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2024	March 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	45 632	45 433	-199 ↓	-0.4%
	Imports	16 504	18 666	2 163 ↑	13.1%
	Trade Balance	29 129	26 767	-	-
America	Exports	14 253	16 284	2 031 ↑	14.2%
	Imports	16 649	18 012	1 362 ↑	8.2%
	Trade Balance	-2 396	-1 728	-	-
Asia	Exports	47 856	50 928	3 073 ↑	6.4%
	Imports	69 135	76 196	7 061 ↑	10.2%
	Trade Balance	-21 279	-25 268	-	-
Europe	Exports	43 918	37 000	-6 918 ↓	-15.8%
	Imports	42 083	42 530	447 ↑	1.1%
	Trade Balance	1 835	-5 530	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 639	2 065	426 ↑	26.0%
	Imports	2 047	1 206	-841 ↓	-41.1%
	Trade Balance	-408	859	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	6 829	11 386	4 558 ↑	66.7%
	Imports	1 430	242	-1 187 ↓	-83.0%
	Trade Balance	5 399	11 144	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 055	1 027	-28 ↓	-2.7%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 055	1 027	-	-

### Excluding trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN)

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for March 2024 indicates a preliminary trade balance deficit of R3.5 billion.

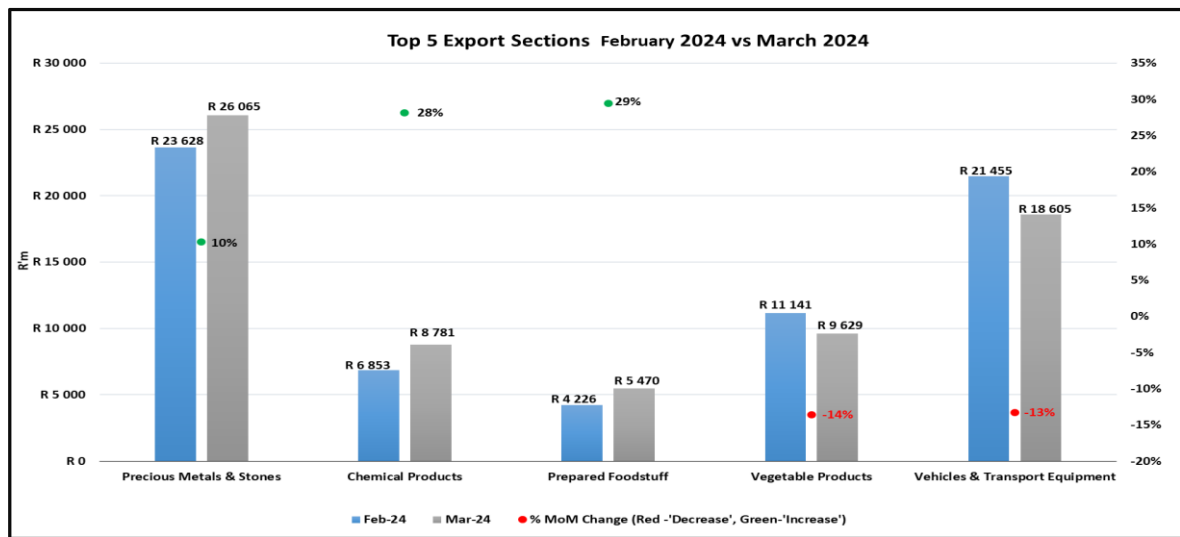
### Summary

The R3.5 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for March 2024 was as a result of exports of R147.4 billion and imports of R150.9 billion. Exports increased by R3.0 billion (2.1%) between February and March 2024 whilst imports increased by R8.8 billion (6.2%) over the same period.

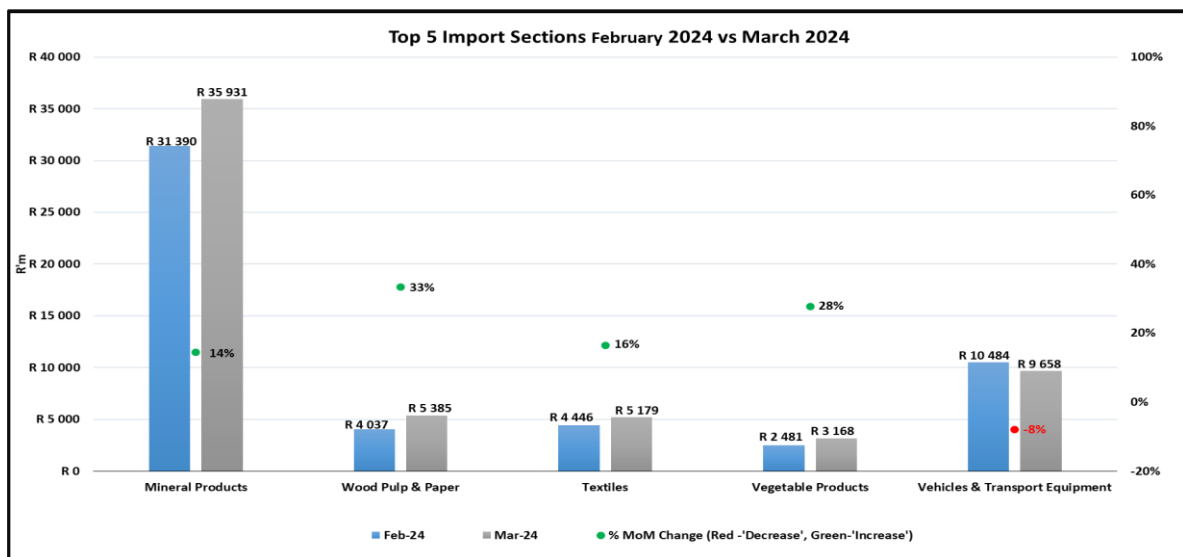
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a deficit of R20.1 billion, compared to R34.3 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2023.

## Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



## Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa, excluding BELN, between February 2024 (revised) and March (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2024	March 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 860	28 765	-96	-0.3%
	Imports	10 820	12 734	1 914	17.7%
	Trade Balance	18 040	16 031	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics March 2024](#)

## SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(288 235 491)	0.95	169 478 829	1.10	1.16	4 788 306 761	5 174 381 554	1 900 087 873	1.10	5 967 503 668	5 462 617 045	1 730 609 044
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	23 380 761 303	3.64	7 562 920 991	3.33	6.59	28 311 575 319	32 226 951 185	10 814 347 915	2.07	8 378 092 649	8 846 189 882	3 251 426 924
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(1 732 797 796)	0.50	(519 096 721)	0.58	0.44	1 568 664 390	1 734 086 897	729 738 629	0.80	2 496 932 925	3 466 884 693	1 248 835 350
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	5 502 542 939	1.42	2 905 452 733	1.64	4.55	16 689 841 185	18 741 336 603	7 459 822 942	2.90	13 964 609 020	13 238 793 664	4 554 370 209
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	36 105 252 756	1.37	7 994 136 949	1.22	26.86	133 638 084 414	133 082 835 572	44 080 923 937	23.01	107 681 756 811	96 977 582 816	36 086 786 988
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(21 188 643 949)	0.56	(5 153 759 104)	0.67	6.30	28 988 863 181	26 903 515 660	10 337 924 002	9.88	48 239 491 582	48 092 159 609	15 491 683 106
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(11 487 315 157)	0.41	(3 849 922 298)	0.41	1.66	8 747 641 464	7 880 025 136	2 723 666 667	4.19	17 067 644 927	19 367 340 293	6 573 588 965
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(144 579 202)	0.88	(27 553 539)	0.94	0.24	979 917 305	1 058 796 841	400 277 000	0.27	1 104 969 682	1 203 376 043	427 830 539
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	577 604 508	1.31	201 715 244	1.32	0.50	2 380 097 630	2 437 442 558	828 794 189	0.40	1 812 204 476	1 859 838 050	627 078 945
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(5 989 305 867)	0.58	(2 395 257 063)	0.56	1.84	9 319 071 131	8 224 241 319	3 027 586 158	3.46	13 741 960 413	14 213 547 186	5 422 843 221
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(10 142 613 188)	0.35	(3 520 779 205)	0.40	1.40	6 060 940 789	5 511 597 819	2 299 701 948	3.71	15 497 106 738	15 654 211 007	5 820 481 153
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 830 878 660)	0.20	(1 278 379 683)	0.22	0.23	910 801 231	965 907 001	371 035 670	1.05	4 369 036 047	4 796 785 661	1 649 415 353
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 962 821 974)	0.49	(665 173 987)	0.49	0.39	1 838 332 525	1 898 861 514	647 672 641	0.84	4 170 157 060	3 861 683 488	1 312 846 628
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	69 775 223 154	11.12	24 434 372 407	12.95	16.13	95 923 526 712	76 671 370 683	26 479 579 084	1.30	7 459 027 125	6 896 147 529	2 045 206 677
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	28 498 656 295	2.18	9 241 184 536	2.12	10.65	56 722 713 392	52 703 487 886	17 477 936 011	5.25	23 731 740 907	24 204 831 591	8 236 751 475
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(69 387 262 612)	0.32	(21 693 098 637)	0.35	7.10	34 762 754 045	32 685 303 243	11 658 298 933	21.26	109 855 758 649	102 072 565 855	33 351 397 570
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	22 688 614 002	1.71	10 160 697 939	2.02	12.28	44 780 261 766	54 741 460 249	20 152 037 786	6.37	48 209 312 268	32 052 846 247	9 991 339 847
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(8 985 645 539)	0.21	(3 217 281 936)	0.20	0.50	2 553 624 045	2 417 046 206	820 093 829	2.57	10 202 792 740	11 402 691 745	4 037 375 765
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 042 563 967)	0.44	(940 454 734)	0.51	0.59	2 155 078 261	2 398 549 185	967 975 802	1.22	4 876 030 165	5 441 113 152	1 908 430 536
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	290 163 090	3.32	169 175 393	20.72	0.11	329 683 549	415 123 484	177 752 182	0.01	407 646 571	124 960 394	8 576 789
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	631 851 770	1.94	513 149 721	3.01	0.47	796 051 317	1 307 432 161	768 591 364	0.16	355 506 743	675 580 391	255 441 643
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(38 480 274 863)	0.00	(12 818 923 186)	0.00	0.00	1 339 381	858 955	476 460	8.17	38 342 191 033	38 481 133 818	12 819 399 646
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>10 787 731 552</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>7 272 604 649</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>482 247 169 793</b>	<b>469 180 611 711</b>	<b>164 124 321 022</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>487 931 472 199</b>	<b>458 392 880 159</b>	<b>156 851 716 373</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
AFRICA	83 027 253 562	2.68	26 766 807 979	2.43	27.68	123 233 685 219	132 592 576 812	45 433 019 675	11.90	47 931 946 824	49 565 323 250	18 666 211 696
AMERICA	(6 531 913 096)	0.87	(1 727 593 677)	0.90	9.92	46 802 880 325	44 424 152 265	16 284 037 261	11.48	51 655 801 178	50 956 065 361	18 011 630 938
ASIA	(79 474 623 263)	0.64	(25 267 671 629)	0.67	31.03	156 309 802 237	143 056 848 537	50 928 287 423	48.58	248 144 699 317	222 531 471 800	76 195 959 052
EUROPE	(16 076 365 377)	0.87	(5 529 530 648)	0.87	22.54	118 446 121 296	112 083 914 126	37 000 468 052	27.11	131 351 213 817	128 160 279 503	42 529 998 700
OCEANIA	(187 464 604)	0.96	859 377 310	1.71	1.26	4 156 947 325	4 825 230 660	2 064 926 897	0.77	5 610 528 750	5 012 695 264	1 205 549 587
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	26 727 882 976	13.33	11 144 082 051	46.98	6.94	30 575 867 702	28 894 927 957	11 386 448 451	0.15	3 237 282 313	2 167 044 981	242 366 400
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 302 961 354	-	1 027 133 263	-	0.63	2 721 865 689	3 302 961 354	1 027 133 263				
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 787 731 552</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>7 272 604 649</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>482 247 169 793</b>	<b>469 180 611 711</b>	<b>164 124 321 022</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>487 931 472 199</b>	<b>458 392 880 159</b>	<b>156 851 716 373</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	13 429 503 640	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394

### Notes:

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Automotive Production and Development Programme (APDP)
- 3) Current month data is preliminary and all other data is revised
- 4) Temporary gold imports are not included in imports or export numbers for the trade balance calculation
- 5) The ratio is the value of total exports divided by the value of total imports

## SA Trade Release Table (Excluding BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(175 628 484)	0.96	242 570 852	1.19	1.05	3 853 796 975	4 164 938 973	1 544 538 432	0.86	4 722 310 280	4 340 567 457	1 301 967 580
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	20 146 974 925	3.33	6 460 642 359	3.04	6.53	25 214 019 394	28 777 545 472	9 628 833 648	2.10	8 149 471 646	8 630 570 547	3 168 191 289
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 266 539 509)	0.35	(705 438 969)	0.43	0.37	1 101 884 599	1 197 044 730	541 856 322	0.83	2 494 393 457	3 463 584 239	1 247 295 291
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 680 155 445	1.15	1 623 119 349	1.42	3.71	11 565 519 904	12 800 439 525	5 469 948 014	2.55	12 030 775 347	11 120 284 080	3 846 828 665
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	28 389 237 162	1.29	5 332 280 694	1.15	27.98	125 701 093 481	124 735 467 760	41 263 140 345	23.81	106 979 625 312	96 346 230 598	35 930 859 651
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(22 314 881 242)	0.50	(5 544 541 604)	0.61	5.96	24 875 746 562	22 329 881 874	8 781 087 467	9.49	45 532 577 574	44 644 763 116	14 325 629 071
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(13 376 364 102)	0.30	(4 477 851 756)	0.31	1.37	6 813 655 908	5 766 553 549	2 015 011 591	4.30	16 865 188 111	19 142 917 651	6 492 863 347
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(258 396 023)	0.78	(66 876 649)	0.84	0.24	837 952 688	916 033 865	351 202 809	0.28	1 083 269 337	1 174 429 888	418 079 458
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	622 028 544	1.51	204 270 627	1.50	0.41	1 850 901 599	1 834 548 494	609 234 375	0.27	1 203 125 671	1 212 519 950	404 963 748
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(6 911 177 099)	0.51	(2 680 454 492)	0.50	1.83	8 171 626 963	7 168 851 834	2 704 842 645	3.57	13 635 829 935	14 080 028 933	5 385 297 137
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(10 352 971 214)	0.25	(3 663 559 112)	0.29	1.03	3 913 991 247	3 397 986 533	1 515 556 976	3.43	13 462 468 469	13 750 957 747	5 179 116 088
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 314 919 644)	0.09	(1 458 775 732)	0.11	0.12	348 149 360	435 951 825	175 396 304	1.08	4 314 157 774	4 750 871 469	1 634 172 036
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 457 628 845)	0.36	(827 848 747)	0.36	0.32	1 329 422 718	1 371 880 345	473 061 857	0.86	4 137 096 895	3 829 509 190	1 300 910 604
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	73 048 620 264	30.00	25 421 506 997	40.52	17.68	94 815 905 788	75 567 307 769	26 064 773 316	0.43	3 651 583 442	2 518 687 505	643 266 319
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	25 731 982 813	2.07	8 264 461 665	2.02	11.13	54 037 015 345	49 680 134 450	16 405 275 533	5.39	23 495 436 325	23 948 151 637	8 140 813 868
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(74 868 903 339)	0.26	(23 679 869 237)	0.28	6.21	28 523 789 363	25 710 959 970	9 152 936 950	21.76	108 320 421 498	100 579 863 309	32 832 806 187
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	18 744 137 032	1.60	8 947 376 749	1.93	12.62	40 558 636 803	50 203 682 711	18 605 276 625	6.40	48 027 736 080	31 459 545 679	9 657 899 876
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(9 575 598 800)	0.16	(3 400 842 071)	0.16	0.43	1 972 532 041	1 798 128 803	628 321 532	2.67	10 168 101 350	11 373 727 603	4 029 163 603
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 053 272 083)	0.25	(1 312 699 521)	0.31	0.40	1 281 284 402	1 357 690 520	584 441 318	1.26	4 849 008 452	5 410 962 603	1 897 140 839
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	288 374 056	3.31	168 178 243	21.04	0.12	327 311 384	413 089 874	176 571 966	0.01	407 553 704	124 715 818	8 393 723
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	622 394 190	1.93	510 114 089	3.01	0.52	780 670 695	1 292 649 523	764 201 856	0.17	348 364 857	670 255 333	254 087 767
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(38 480 447 805)	0.00	(12 818 950 045)	0.00	0.00	1 337 631	686 013	449 601	8.49	38 342 191 033	38 481 133 818	12 819 399 646
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(20 132 823 758)</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>(3 463 186 311)</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>437 876 244 760</b>	<b>420 921 454 412</b>	<b>147 455 959 482</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>472 220 686 549</b>	<b>441 054 278 170</b>	<b>150 919 145 793</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Month % of total	Exports			Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports		Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
AFRICA	52 106 698 252	2.62	16 031 017 019	2.26	19.51	78 862 760 186	84 333 419 513	28 764 658 135	8.44	32 221 161 174	32 226 721 261	12 733 641 116
AMERICA	(6 531 913 096)	0.87	(1 727 593 677)	0.90	11.04	46 802 880 325	44 424 152 265	16 284 037 261	11.93	51 655 801 178	50 956 065 361	18 011 630 938
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EUROPE	(16 076 365 377)	0.87	(5 529 530 648)	0.87	25.09	118 446 121 296	112 083 914 126	37 000 468 052	28.18	131 351 213 817	128 160 279 503	42 529 998 700
OCEANIA	(187 464 604)	0.96	859 377 310	1.71	1.40	4 156 947 325	4 825 230 660	2 064 926 897	0.80	5 610 528 750	5 012 695 264	1 205 549 587
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	26 727 882 976	13.33	11 144 082 051	46.98	7.72	30 575 867 702	28 894 927 957	11 386 448 451	0.16	3 237 282 313	2 167 044 981	242 366 400
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 302 961 354	-	1 027 133 263	-	0.70	2 721 865 689	3 302 961 354	1 027 133 263				
<b>Total</b>	<b>(20 132 823 758)</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>(3 463 186 311)</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>437 876 244 760</b>	<b>420 921 454 412</b>	<b>147 455 959 482</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>472 220 686 549</b>	<b>441 054 278 170</b>	<b>150 919 145 793</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	13 429 503 640	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394

### Notes:

1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films

2) Special Provisions: Automotive Production and Development Programme (APDP)

3) Current month data is preliminary and all other data is revised

4) Temporary gold imports are not included in imports or export numbers for the trade balance calculation

5) The ratio is the value of total exports divided by the value of total imports

## Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (Only)

South Africa's trade with the BELN countries for March 2024 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.7 billion.

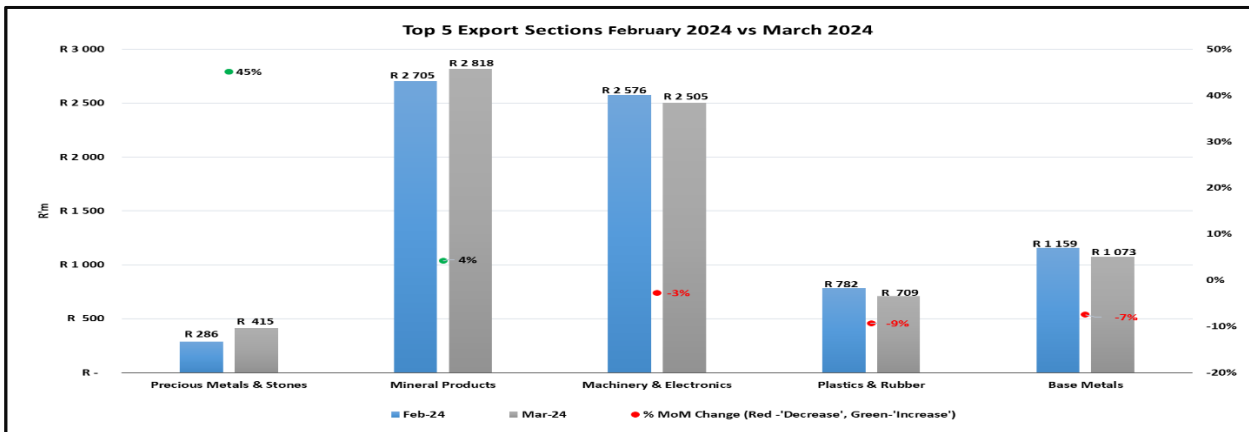
### Summary

The R10.7 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2024 was as a result of exports of R16.6 billion and imports of R5.9 billion. Exports decreased by R0.1 billion (-0.6%) between February and March 2024 and imports increased by R0.2 billion (4.4%) over the same period.

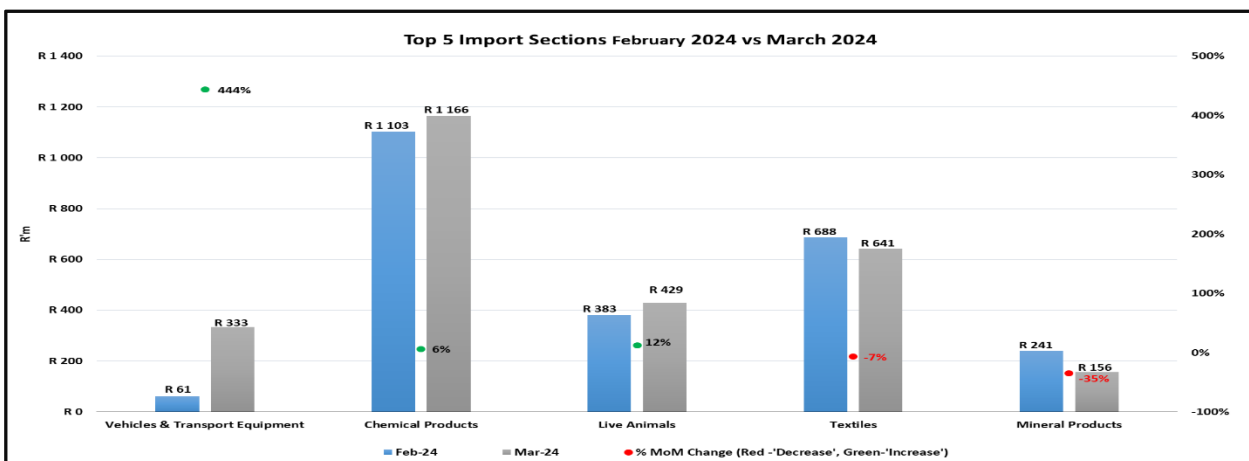
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R30.9 billion, compared to R28.7 billion in 2023.

### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics March 2024](#)

ENDS.

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