

## **SA Trade Statistics for December 2018**

### **SARS MEDIA RELEASE**

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Thursday, 31 January 2019*

### **SARS releases trade statistics for December 2018**

**Pretoria, 31 January 2019** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2018 recording a trade surplus of R17.17 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2018) trade surplus of R11.29 billion is a deterioration on the surplus for the comparable period in 2017 of R76.68 billion. Exports year-to-date increased by 5.4% whilst imports for the same period showed an increase of 11.6%.

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

The R17.17 billion trade surplus for December 2018 is attributable to exports of R102.75 billion and imports of R85.58 billion. Exports decreased from November 2018 to December 2018 by R15.92 billion (13.4%) and imports decreased from November 2018 to December 2018 by R29.80 billion (25.8%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2018) increased by 5.4% from R1 183.58 billion in 2017 to R1 246.94 billion in 2018. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 235.65 billion are 11.6% more than the R1 106.89 billion imports recorded in January to December 2017, leaving a cumulative trade surplus of R11.29 billion for 2018.

On a year-on-year basis, the R17.17 billion trade surplus for December 2018 is an improvement from the R14.47 billion surplus recorded in December 2017. Exports of R102.75 billion are 0.4% less than the R103.18 billion exports recorded in December 2017. Imports of R85.58 billion are 3.5% less than the R88.71 billion imports recorded in December 2017.

November 2018's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.21 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R3.49 billion to a revised surplus of R3.29 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

**[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2018](#)**

## Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BELN:	
Precious Metals & Stones	-R4 018	- 19%
Mineral Products	-R3 563	- 12%
Machinery & Electronics	-R2 232	- 22%
Base Metals	-R1 728	- 13%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R1 344	- 9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-R12 885</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>-R15 920</b>	<b>100%</b>

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BELN:	
Machinery & Electronics	-R8 121	- 31%
Mineral Products	-R3 503	- 16%
Original equipment components	-R3 466	- 44%
Chemical Products	-R3 182	- 24%
Base Metals	-R2 142	- 38%
Textiles	-R1 672	- 39%
Plastic & Rubber	-R1 446	- 28%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R1 061	- 11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-R24 593</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>-R29 802</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from November 2018 (revised) to December 2018 are given below.

### Africa:

Exports: R27 167 million – this is a decrease of R5 563 million from November 2018.  
Imports: R11 771 million – this is a decrease of R5 038 million from November 2018.  
Trade surplus: R15 396 million – this is a deterioration of R525 million in comparison to the R15 921 million surplus recorded in November 2018.

### America:

Exports: R9 768 million – this is a decrease of R586 million from November 2018.  
Imports: R8 912 million – this is a decrease of R2 396 million from November 2018.

Trade surplus: R856 million – this is an improvement of R1 810 million in comparison to the R954 million deficit recorded in November 2018.

**Asia:**

Exports: R33 547 million – this is a decrease of R4 624 million from November 2018.

Imports: R38 149 million – this is a decrease of R11 691 million from November 2018.

Trade deficit: R4 602 million – this is an improvement of R7 066 million in comparison to the R11 668 million deficit recorded in November 2018.

**Europe:**

Exports: R27 657 million – this is a decrease of R776 million from November 2018.

Imports: R25 224 million – this is a decrease of R9 372 million from November 2018.

Trade surplus: R2 433 million – this is an improvement of R8 595 million in comparison to the R6 162 million deficit recorded in November 2018.

**Oceania:**

Exports: R906 million – this is a decrease of R581 million from November 2018.

Imports: R1 379 million – this is a decrease of R1 123 million from November 2018.

Trade deficit: R473 million – this is an improvement of R542 million in comparison to the R1 015 million deficit recorded in November 2018.

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

The trade data excluding BELN for December 2018 recorded a trade surplus of R8.97 billion.

**Summary**

The R8.97 billion surplus for December 2018 is as a result of exports of R91.46 billion and imports of R82.49 billion. Exports decreased from November 2018 to December 2018 by R13.05 billion (12.5%) and imports decreased from November 2018 to December 2018 by R28.61 billion (25.8%).

The cumulative deficit for 2018 is R83.95 billion compared to R18.03 billion deficit in 2017.

## Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BELN:	
Section:	Excluding BELN:	
Precious Metals & Stones	-R4 238	- 20%
Mineral Products	-R3 443	- 13%
Machinery & Electronics	-R1 597	- 20%
Base Metals	- R1 385	- 11%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R903	- 7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-R11 566</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>-R13 053</b>	<b>100%</b>

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BELN:	
Section:	Excluding BELN:	
Machinery & Electronics	-R7 893	- 30%
Original Equipment Components	-R3 466	- 44%
Mineral Products	-R3 454	- 16%
Chemical Products	-R3 063	- 25%
Base Metals	-R2 076	- 38%
Plastic & Rubber	-R1 416	- 28%
Textiles	-R1 298	- 36%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R1 010	- 11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-R23 676</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>-R28 612</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BELN from November 2018 (Revised) to December 2018 are given below.

### Africa:

Exports: R15 879 million – this is a decrease of R2 696 million from November 2018.

Imports: R8 678 million – this is a decrease of R3 848 million from November 2018.

Trade surplus: R7 201 million – this is an improvement of R1 152 million in comparison to the R6 048 million surplus recorded in November 2018.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2018](#)

# 1. SA Trade Release Table (including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/ Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(81 061 583)	0.94	(5 543 183 865)	0.73	1.26	1 298 910 715	14 573 004 954	15 236 531 882	1.61	1 379 972 298	19 689 694 075	20 779 715 747
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 515 658 334	2.89	44 725 359 435	2.94	3.74	3 844 806 064	63 941 195 138	67 726 574 878	1.55	1 329 147 730	23 407 539 336	23 001 215 443
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(198 862 033)	0.56	(5 540 058 878)	0.37	0.25	254 778 424	3 591 327 439	3 230 702 449	0.53	453 640 457	10 159 229 747	8 770 761 327
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 471 706 808	1.49	15 757 306 444	1.42	4.36	4 482 945 119	49 156 386 031	53 181 242 460	3.52	3 011 238 311	36 601 164 919	37 423 936 016
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	8 014 574 950	1.45	60 474 466 948	1.26	25.19	25 881 390 552	296 628 786 855	293 511 322 279	20.88	17 866 815 602	167 638 028 776	233 036 855 331
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2 792 260 056)	0.72	(56 351 917 302)	0.58	6.91	7 101 768 660	72 776 391 431	78 092 058 976	11.56	9 894 028 716	120 589 906 486	134 443 976 278
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 770 739 768)	0.52	(29 245 401 147)	0.46	1.85	1 895 741 732	23 745 314 321	25 291 738 590	4.28	3 666 481 500	48 722 495 959	54 537 139 737
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	89 367 592	1.37	74 616 117	1.02	0.32	329 322 370	4 658 969 521	4 172 488 092	0.28	239 954 778	4 044 214 281	4 097 871 975
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	376 686 353	2.26	2 508 822 768	1.47	0.66	674 615 564	7 201 413 183	7 798 911 285	0.35	297 929 211	5 064 412 482	5 290 088 517
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 207 011 346)	0.59	(12 315 156 859)	0.65	1.69	1 740 642 713	21 945 627 592	22 673 512 323	3.44	2 947 654 059	19 549 227 378	34 988 669 182
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 153 438 006)	0.57	(26 116 587 572)	0.41	1.46	1 499 204 541	17 401 019 356	18 422 311 886	3.10	2 652 642 547	41 502 305 130	44 538 899 458
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(510 183 554)	0.34	(10 917 722 690)	0.22	0.26	263 071 406	3 051 708 727	3 004 959 606	0.90	773 254 960	13 069 195 436	13 922 682 296
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(436 319 515)	0.52	(8 220 826 040)	0.44	0.47	479 423 786	5 705 046 611	6 396 816 583	1.07	915 743 301	12 694 590 335	14 617 642 623
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	15 991 847 038	12.20	199 647 199 386	10.99	16.95	17 419 836 722	196 246 278 120	219 639 024 629	1.67	1 427 989 684	13 532 039 222	19 991 825 243
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	8 514 443 552	3.44	90 735 710 297	2.51	11.68	12 005 366 557	140 465 291 733	150 742 227 005	4.08	3 490 923 005	58 449 032 651	60 006 516 708
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(10 630 158 203)	0.42	(165 524 671 165)	0.38	7.51	7 714 314 169	95 576 191 395	101 033 528 174	21.43	18 344 472 378	259 547 971 509	266 558 199 339
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	5 348 155 873	1.63	46 603 314 432	1.44	13.44	13 809 679 779	140 783 415 848	153 506 058 424	9.89	8 461 523 906	110 928 361 489	106 902 743 992
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 975 769 318)	0.24	(23 982 873 996)	0.24	0.61	629 182 674	7 985 765 964	7 757 281 234	3.04	2 604 951 992	30 312 873 674	31 740 155 230
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(564 445 356)	0.54	(12 151 784 719)	0.41	0.64	657 353 392	8 272 991 261	8 447 562 479	1.43	1 221 798 748	19 428 234 705	20 599 347 198
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	21 429 993	1.68	242 744 051	1.31	0.05	52 727 752	1 165 987 334	1 024 279 194	0.04	31 297 759	674 165 389	781 535 143
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	640 608 437	9.76	4 860 975 073	5.12	0.69	713 758 461	8 684 576 544	6 040 423 439	0.09	73 150 024	1 363 097 655	1 179 448 366
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(4 496 824 243)	0.00	(98 431 317 485)	0.00	0.00	983 387	21 995 319	8 272 184	5.26	4 497 807 630	89 926 075 135	98 439 589 669
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>17 167 405 949</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>11 289 013 233</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>102 749 824 539</b>	<b>1 183 578 684 677</b>	<b>1 246 937 828 051</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>85 582 418 590</b>	<b>1 106 893 855 769</b>	<b>1 235 648 814 818</b>
World Zones		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/ Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
AFRICA		15 395 902 439	2.31	176 558 881 823	2.13	26.44	27 166 794 693	312 540 653 183	332 654 610 766	13.75	11 770 892 254	115 811 704 226	156 095 728 943
AMERICA		855 711 538	1.10	(11 789 966 686)	0.90	9.51	9 767 777 100	108 635 276 194	107 149 675 007	10.41	8 912 065 562	117 643 321 182	118 939 641 693
ASIA		(4 602 158 597)	0.88	(165 673 292 314)	0.70	32.65	33 546 907 980	384 859 950 931	392 810 408 112	44.58	38 149 066 577	495 350 749 975	558 483 700 426
EUROPE		2 433 327 405	1.10	(59 255 707 949)	0.84	26.92	27 657 014 456	282 580 450 484	317 832 404 664	29.47	25 223 687 051	359 485 083 456	377 088 112 613
OCEANIA		(472 801 698)	0.66	(6 881 556 530)	0.66	0.88	905 996 160	14 011 891 686	13 294 769 782	1.61	1 378 797 858	15 793 962 070	20 176 326 312
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED		3 253 383 170	23.00	73 559 520 249	16.12	3.31	3 401 292 458	72 831 813 475	78 424 825 080	0.17	147 909 288	2 809 034 860	4 865 304 831
SHIP/AIRCRAFT		304 041 692	-	4 771 134 640	-	0.30	304 041 692	8 118 648 724	4 771 134 640				
<b>Total</b>		<b>17 167 405 949</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>11 289 013 233</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>102 749 824 539</b>	<b>1 183 578 684 677</b>	<b>1 246 937 828 051</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>85 582 418 590</b>	<b>1 106 893 855 769</b>	<b>1 235 648 814 818</b>
Temporary Imports		January 2018	February 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018	June 2018	July 2018	August 2018	September 2018	October 2018	November 2018	December 2018
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>		6 757 431 501	5 102 273 660	5 725 309 521	5 750 371 888	6 353 502 491	6 885 286 673	5 754 472 340	6 688 140 336	5 791 124 367	6 528 285 785	6 305 266 332	6 335 758 178

**Notes:**

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)
- 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

## 2. SA Trade Release Table (excluding BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>3)</sup> (Exports/ Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(128 396 731)	0.88	(4 688 312 271)	0.71	1.05	961 054 594	10 722 351 545	11 543 969 776	1.32	1 089 451 325	15 350 564 931	16 232 282 047
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1 946 633 655	2.52	38 587 261 100	2.72	3.52	3 223 184 831	57 373 193 738	61 053 551 272	1.55	1 276 551 176	22 976 386 331	22 466 290 172
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(314 485 713)	0.31	(6 908 696 094)	0.21	0.15	138 775 576	2 332 159 776	1 843 846 180	0.55	453 261 289	10 113 291 651	8 752 542 274
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	609 097 325	1.25	6 439 315 861	1.20	3.38	3 087 333 342	34 649 235 507	37 984 793 527	3.00	2 478 236 017	31 245 385 011	31 545 477 666
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	5 997 191 492	1.34	39 100 421 936	1.17	26.05	23 824 313 454	277 674 315 071	271 381 806 673	21.61	17 827 121 962	166 892 156 457	232 281 384 737
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2 979 397 337)	0.67	(61 237 421 206)	0.52	6.70	6 127 329 996	60 807 181 133	65 769 136 888	11.04	9 106 727 333	112 728 085 038	127 006 558 094
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 184 992 963)	0.40	(34 486 106 912)	0.36	1.58	1 449 072 836	18 016 371 292	19 535 540 009	4.41	3 634 065 799	48 281 265 705	54 021 646 921
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	44 537 351	1.19	(304 454 004)	0.92	0.31	279 553 591	4 120 812 066	3 642 225 566	0.28	235 016 240	3 864 386 805	3 946 679 570
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	338 889 290	2.73	2 136 264 070	1.57	0.58	534 403 450	5 300 013 895	5 913 207 258	0.24	195 514 160	3 669 710 722	3 776 943 188
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 484 050 591)	0.49	(15 437 540 742)	0.55	1.57	1 433 547 128	18 931 626 725	19 231 377 329	3.54	2 917 597 719	19 241 837 275	34 668 918 071
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 275 730 696)	0.45	(26 706 070 009)	0.31	1.12	1 027 289 583	10 741 031 635	11 843 586 521	2.79	2 303 020 279	35 627 852 421	38 549 656 530
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(662 876 533)	0.14	(12 733 848 718)	0.08	0.11	103 820 327	962 262 399	1 036 118 389	0.93	766 696 860	12 899 533 073	13 769 967 107
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(572 626 805)	0.37	(9 966 949 451)	0.31	0.37	336 531 398	3 926 310 955	4 536 452 604	1.10	909 158 203	12 581 934 152	14 503 402 055
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	15 681 678 697	18.16	200 216 587 352	16.26	18.14	16 595 375 641	189 190 790 001	213 335 561 707	1.11	913 696 944	7 201 136 947	13 118 974 355
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	7 990 525 609	3.35	83 002 438 429	2.42	12.45	11 388 522 953	129 838 220 119	141 460 066 407	4.12	3 397 997 344	57 489 148 682	58 457 627 978
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(11 791 323 824)	0.35	(181 013 330 758)	0.31	6.95	6 352 449 191	76 567 489 594	81 469 541 297	22.00	18 143 773 015	256 052 144 131	262 482 872 055
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	4 507 736 822	1.53	34 711 831 176	1.33	14.15	12 943 544 039	127 916 473 564	140 751 846 862	10.23	8 435 807 217	110 427 900 121	106 040 015 686
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 085 325 067)	0.20	(25 644 109 605)	0.19	0.56	509 994 488	6 310 899 437	6 018 484 864	3.15	2 595 319 555	30 251 192 977	31 662 594 469
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(831 619 210)	0.32	(15 651 839 700)	0.23	0.42	384 572 181	4 645 598 094	4 802 436 594	1.47	1 216 191 391	19 044 722 293	20 454 276 294
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	20 538 971	1.66	240 612 131	1.31	0.06	51 821 956	1 158 591 639	1 018 433 090	0.04	31 282 985	672 168 209	777 820 959
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	643 034 082	10.89	4 827 747 517	5.24	0.77	708 053 136	8 617 081 687	5 965 561 893	0.08	65 019 054	1 311 717 899	1 137 814 376
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(4 496 824 243)	0.00	(98 431 523 948)	0.00	0.00	983 387	21 419 373	8 065 721	5.45	4 497 807 630	89 926 075 135	98 439 589 669
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>8 972 213 581</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>(83 947 723 846)</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>91 461 527 078</b>	<b>1 049 823 429 245</b>	<b>1 110 145 610 427</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>82 489 313 497</b>	<b>1 067 848 595 966</b>	<b>1 194 093 334 273</b>

  

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>3)</sup> (Exports/ Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
AFRICA	7 200 710 071	1.83	81 322 144 744	1.71	17.36	15 878 497 232	178 785 397 751	195 862 393 142	10.52	8 677 787 161	76 766 444 423	114 540 248 398
AMERICA	855 711 538	1.10	(11 789 966 686)	0.90	10.68	9 767 777 100	108 635 276 194	107 149 675 007	10.80	8 912 065 562	117 643 321 182	118 939 641 693
ASIA	(4 602 158 597)	0.88	(165 673 292 314)	0.70	36.68	33 546 907 980	384 859 950 931	392 810 408 112	46.25	38 149 066 577	495 350 749 975	558 483 700 426
EUROPE	2 433 327 405	1.10	(59 255 707 949)	0.84	30.24	27 657 014 456	282 580 450 484	317 832 404 664	30.58	25 223 687 051	359 485 083 456	377 088 112 613
OCEANIA	(472 801 698)	0.66	(6 881 556 530)	0.66	0.99	905 996 160	14 011 891 686	13 294 769 782	1.67	1 378 797 858	15 793 962 070	20 176 326 312
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	3 253 383 170	23.00	73 559 520 249	16.12	3.72	3 401 292 458	72 831 813 475	78 424 825 080	0.18	147 909 288	2 809 034 860	4 865 304 831
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	304 041 692	-	4 771 134 640	-	0.33	304 041 692	8 118 648 724	4 771 134 640				
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 972 213 581</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>(83 947 723 846)</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>91 461 527 078</b>	<b>1 049 823 429 245</b>	<b>1 110 145 610 427</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>82 489 313 497</b>	<b>1 067 848 595 966</b>	<b>1 194 093 334 273</b>

  

Temporary Imports	January 2018	February 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018	June 2018	July 2018	August 2018	September 2018	October 2018	November 2018	December 2018
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 757 431 501	5 102 273 660	5 725 309 521	5 750 371 888	6 353 502 491	6 885 286 673	5 754 472 340	6 688 140 336	5 791 124 367	6 528 285 785	6 305 266 332	6 335 758 178

**Notes:**

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)
- 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

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

#### Trade Statistics with BELN countries

The trade data with the BELN for December 2018 recorded a trade surplus of R8.20 billion.

#### Summary

The R8.20 billion surplus for December 2018 is as a result of exports of R11.29 billion and imports of R3.09 billion. Exports decreased from November 2018 to December 2018 by R2.87 billion (20.3%) and imports decreased from November 2018 to December 2018 by R1.19 billion (27.8%).

The cumulative surplus for 2018 is R95.24 billion compared to R94.71 billion surplus in 2017.

#### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BELN:	
Section:	BELN:	
Machinery & Electronics	-R 635	- 32%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R 441	- 34%
Base Metals	-R 343	- 36%
Chemical Products	-R 320	- 25%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R 279	- 17%
Textiles	-R 230	- 33%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 221	- 37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-R2 469</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>-R2 867</b>	<b>100%</b>

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BELN:	
Section:	BELN:	
Textiles	-R 374	- 52%
Machinery & Electronics	-R 228	- 53%
Chemical Products	-R 119	- 13%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R 117	- 18%
Base Metals	-R 66	- 42%
Wood & Articles thereof	-R 56	- 36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-R 960</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>-R1 190</b>	<b>100%</b>

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2018](#)

ENDS.

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