

SA Trade Statistics for December 2016

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 31 January 2017

SARS releases trade statistics for December 2016

Pretoria, 31 January 2017 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2016 recording a trade balance surplus of R12.04 billion. The year-to-date deficit (01 January to 31 December 2016) of R2.92 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2015 of R52.18 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS).

Including trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS)

The R12.04 billion trade balance surplus for December 2016 is attributable to exports of R93.03 billion and imports of R80.99 billion. Exports decreased from November 2016 to December 2016 by R6.03 billion (6.1%) and imports decreased from November 2016 to December 2016 by R19.75 billion (19.6%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2016) grew by 5.8% from R1 036 billion in 2015 to R1 096 billion in 2016. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 099 billion are 1.0% more than the imports recorded in January to December 2015 of R1 088 billion.

On a year-on-year basis, December 2016's R12.04 billion trade balance surplus is an improvement from the surplus recorded in December 2015 of R7.04 billion. Exports of R93.03 billion are 6.3% more than the exports recorded in December 2015 of R87.51 billion. Imports of R80.99 billion are 0.6% more than the imports recorded in December 2015 of R80.47 billion.

November 2016's trade balance deficit was revised upwards by R0.59 billion from the previous month's preliminary deficit of R1.09 billion to a revised deficit of R1.68 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2016](#)

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 4 704	- 35%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 1 417	- 16%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 1 001	- 6%
Base Metals	- R 887	- 8%

Prepared Foodstuff	- R 624	- 14%
Other Unclassified	- R 490	- 53%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 451	- 20%
Chemical Products	- R 446	- 7%
Vegetable Products	+ R 1 067	+ 34%
Mineral Products	+ R 3 435	+ 15%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BLNS:	
Machinery & Electronics	- R 6 006	- 24%
Equipment Components	- R 3 124	- 53%
Chemical Products	- R 2 092	- 20%
Base Metals	- R 1 510	- 29%
Textiles	- R 1 411	- 38%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 1 336	- 30%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 1 304	- 32%
Toys & Sport Apparel	- R 958	- 45%
Photographic & Medical Equipment	- R 672	- 22%
Live Animals	- R 475	- 30%
Mineral Products	+ R 1 423	+ 10%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from November 2016 (Revised) to December 2016 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R26 372 million – this is a decrease of R3 644 million from November 2016.

Imports: R9 504 million – this is a decrease of R1 588 million from November 2016.

Trade Balance surplus: R16 868 million – this is a 10.9% decrease in comparison to the R18 923 million surplus recorded in November 2016.

America:

Exports: R7 224 million – this is a decrease of R1 845 million from November 2016.

Imports: R9 060 million – this is a decrease of R2 468 million from November 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R1 836 million – this is a 25.3% decrease in comparison to the R2 459 million deficit recorded in November 2016.

Asia:

Exports: R32 287million – this is an increase of R1 713 million from November 2016.

Imports: R35 912 million – this is a decrease of R7 069 million from November 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R3 625 million – this is a 70.8% decrease in comparison to the R12 407 million deficit recorded in November 2016.

Europe:

Exports: R21 626 million – this is a decrease of R195 million from November 2016.

Imports: R24 588 million – this is a decrease of R9 475 million from November 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R2 962 million – this is a 75.8% decrease in comparison to the R12 241 million deficit recorded in November 2016.

Oceania:

Exports: R 811 million – this is a decrease of R 364 million from November 2016.

Imports: R1 530 million – this is an increase of R 563 million from November 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R 719 million – this is a deterioration in comparison to the R 208 million surplus recorded in November 2016.

Excluding trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS)

The trade data excluding BLNS for December 2016 recorded a trade balance surplus of R3.64 billion.

Summary

The R3.64 billion surplus for December 2016 is as a result of exports of R82.33 billion and imports of R78.69 billion. Exports decreased from November 2016 to December 2016 by R3.57 billion (4.2%) and imports decreased from November 2016 to December 2016 by R18.50 billion (19.0%).

The cumulative deficit for 2016 is R109.72 billion compared to R157.90 billion deficit in 2015.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 4 310	- 35%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 1 128	- 7%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 818	- 12%
Base Metals	- R 560	- 5%
Other Unclassified	- R 490	- 53%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 416	- 14%
Vegetable Products	+ R 1 191	+ 50%
Mineral Products	+ R 3 366	+ 16%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Excluding BLNS:	
Machinery & Electronics	- R 5 847	- 24%
Equipment Components	- R 3 124	- 53%
Chemical Products	- R 1 889	- 20%
Base Metals	- R 1 473	- 29%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 1 309	- 30%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 1 204	- 34%
Textiles	- R 1 066	- 35%
Toys & Sport Apparel	- R 934	- 45%
Photographic & Medical Equipment	- R 671	- 22%
Live Animals	- R 465	- 34%
Mineral Products	+ R 1 416	+ 10%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BLNS from November 2016 (Revised) to December 2016 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R15 676 million – this is a decrease of R1 184 million from November 2016.

Imports: R7 207 million – this is a decrease of R 339 million from November 2016.

Trade Balance surplus: R8 469 million – this is a 9.1% decrease in comparison to the R9 313 million surplus recorded in November 2016.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2016](#)

SA Trade Release Table (including BLNS)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	385 739 879	1.35	(897 138 760)	0.94	1.59	1 479 366 379	13 376 167 346	15 142 224 851	1.35	1 093 626 500	14 917 376 360	16 039 363 611
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 264 758 198	2.16	27 312 942 462	1.83	4.53	4 216 742 977	51 399 125 782	60 347 248 033	2.41	1 951 984 779	23 962 576 251	33 034 305 571
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(670 876 366)	0.35	(6 034 427 099)	0.40	0.39	365 356 692	3 251 211 649	4 000 398 554	1.28	1 036 233 058	7 615 322 317	10 034 825 653
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 164 169 886	1.42	13 841 486 957	1.39	4.20	3 911 444 325	44 469 723 510	49 037 136 289	3.39	2 747 274 439	31 852 075 730	35 195 649 332
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	10 548 364 997	1.67	69 614 236 475	1.46	28.36	26 380 548 727	211 408 150 716	222 413 281 965	19.55	15 832 183 730	175 452 293 478	152 799 045 490
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2 374 808 733)	0.71	(46 724 921 430)	0.59	6.27	5 833 987 090	67 011 022 816	67 509 535 920	10.14	8 208 795 823	112 887 612 540	114 234 457 350
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 348 238 403)	0.57	(24 404 919 282)	0.49	1.92	1 783 690 274	21 819 764 400	23 879 178 435	3.87	3 131 928 677	44 943 396 657	48 284 097 717
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	152 871 838	1.57	601 225 776	1.14	0.45	419 998 817	4 938 729 388	4 938 580 042	0.33	267 126 979	4 577 808 270	4 337 354 266
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	301 522 209	2.17	1 666 306 759	1.31	0.60	560 296 439	6 408 628 671	7 012 136 929	0.32	258 774 230	5 040 325 453	5 345 830 170
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	590 685 859	1.51	4 952 589 501	1.28	1.88	1 747 444 550	19 890 633 848	22 481 181 956	1.43	1 156 758 691	16 460 080 160	17 528 592 455
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(873 060 317)	0.62	(26 786 898 561)	0.38	1.55	1 440 126 320	14 881 660 276	16 239 638 868	2.86	2 313 186 637	40 385 875 868	43 026 537 429
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(520 985 836)	0.31	(11 501 991 151)	0.20	0.25	233 037 245	2 847 424 032	2 878 450 561	0.93	754 023 081	13 443 229 728	14 380 441 712
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(287 318 313)	0.62	(7 412 350 037)	0.46	0.51	473 838 554	5 807 585 593	6 188 457 383	0.94	761 156 867	12 731 684 477	13 600 807 420
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	14 355 383 468	20.17	170 790 886 537	15.56	16.24	15 104 311 943	188 960 843 542	182 518 536 307	0.92	748 928 475	7 818 423 767	11 727 649 770
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	7 109 290 229	2.93	74 273 379 931	2.25	11.60	10 791 846 326	124 489 804 947	133 475 926 966	4.55	3 682 556 097	60 233 671 750	59 202 547 035
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(11 364 798 117)	0.40	(166 591 363 892)	0.38	8.03	7 467 804 629	100 331 212 367	102 848 919 192	23.25	18 832 602 746	272 336 422 116	269 440 283 084
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(2 943 921 910)	0.75	39 457 666 073	1.36	9.47	8 806 124 080	130 195 765 551	147 821 486 292	14.51	11 750 045 990	113 251 787 570	108 363 820 219
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 548 763 483)	0.34	(22 601 550 184)	0.29	0.87	811 874 387	8 580 713 064	9 282 154 590	2.91	2 360 637 870	29 469 141 276	31 883 704 774
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(490 970 389)	0.58	(11 588 362 391)	0.43	0.74	685 359 559	8 528 630 868	8 642 596 788	1.45	1 176 329 948	19 545 956 125	20 230 959 179
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	39 940 651	2.29	504 829 537	1.74	0.08	70 879 829	854 925 150	1 183 536 728	0.04	30 939 178	434 112 576	678 707 191
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	316 037 359	3.51	6 594 206 322	5.41	0.48	441 926 579	6 476 607 194	8 089 940 116	0.16	125 889 220	1 413 854 180	1 495 733 794
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(2 768 539 517)	0.00	(87 986 491 643)	0.00	0.00	271 406	15 878 206	5 080 959	3.42	2 768 539 517	79 353 946 491	87 991 572 602
Total	Total SA Rand	12 036 483 189	1.15	(2 920 658 100)	1.00	100.00	93 026 277 127	1 035 944 208 916	1 095 935 627 724	100.00	80 989 793 938	1 088 126 973 140	1 098 856 285 824

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	16 868 102 675	2.77	196 512 831 974	2.64	28.35	26 372 508 911	302 212 983 245	316 564 716 912	11.74	9 504 406 236	118 753 135 548	120 051 884 938
AMERICA	(1 836 030 878)	0.80	(24 197 503 530)	0.81	7.77	7 224 430 945	100 842 807 972	103 259 696 997	11.19	9 060 461 823	120 720 510 228	127 457 200 527
ASIA	(3 625 303 906)	0.90	(145 250 627 093)	0.70	34.71	32 286 785 223	301 184 426 857	331 556 543 666	44.34	35 912 089 129	491 388 111 944	476 807 170 759
EUROPE	(2 961 538 740)	0.88	(88 073 240 405)	0.75	23.25	21 626 460 271	238 620 433 186	271 169 150 613	30.36	24 587 999 011	340 609 330 885	359 242 391 018
OCEANIA	(719 342 997)	0.53	(605 323 523)	0.95	0.87	810 685 820	12 472 685 044	12 838 755 837	1.89	1 530 028 817	14 723 396 084	13 444 079 360
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	3 839 313 674	10.72	52 943 282 638	29.56	4.55	4 234 122 596	71 369 936 594	54 796 841 860	0.49	394 808 922	1 932 488 451	1 853 559 222
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	471 283 361	-	5 749 921 839	-	0.51	471 283 361	9 240 936 018	5 749 921 839				
Total	12 036 483 189	1.15	(2 920 658 100)	1.00	100.00	93 026 277 127	1 035 944 208 916	1 095 935 627 724	100.00	80 989 793 938	1 088 126 973 140	1 098 856 285 824
Temporary Imports	January 2016	February 2016	March 2016	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	August 2016	September 2016	October 2016	November 2016	December 2016
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	5 957 954 299	7 360 070 985	8 176 403 170	6 310 188 601	8 661 828 630	8 427 391 120	8 570 191 743	9 567 853 458	8 889 590 072	7 290 735 230	7 797 316 597	6 616 194 109

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

SA Trade Release Table (excluding BLNS)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	233 772 662	1.26	(1 714 941 342)	0.87	1.38	1 135 802 002	9 880 180 982	11 493 277 755	1.15	902 029 340	11 517 872 241	13 208 219 097
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1 664 093 161	1.87	20 267 889 341	1.63	4.35	3 578 074 090	44 905 503 848	52 567 705 211	2.43	1 913 980 929	23 527 449 534	32 299 815 870
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(769 195 313)	0.26	(7 320 405 872)	0.27	0.32	265 812 995	2 144 671 166	2 675 866 919	1.32	1 035 008 308	7 598 698 754	9 996 272 791
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	260 535 442	1.11	5 178 899 836	1.17	3.12	2 571 209 434	31 646 721 054	34 945 279 409	2.94	2 310 673 992	26 894 170 646	29 766 379 573
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	8 975 387 468	1.57	49 432 829 039	1.32	30.06	24 749 787 754	189 179 381 232	201 608 280 639	20.05	15 774 400 286	174 885 202 790	152 175 451 600
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2 572 569 051)	0.65	(51 288 531 504)	0.52	5.91	4 867 403 517	55 086 333 490	55 674 843 732	9.45	7 439 972 568	105 985 530 208	106 963 375 236
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 768 445 530)	0.43	(29 866 157 226)	0.38	1.63	1 339 466 257	15 651 127 774	17 958 719 710	3.95	3 107 911 787	44 519 743 325	47 824 876 936
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	112 651 846	1.44	305 332 086	1.08	0.45	368 527 436	4 321 969 863	4 309 075 251	0.33	255 875 590	4 184 016 328	4 003 743 165
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	247 514 350	2.42	1 139 184 344	1.29	0.51	422 242 041	4 689 737 122	5 101 824 898	0.22	174 727 691	3 999 239 348	3 962 640 554
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	367 860 509	1.33	2 276 839 580	1.13	1.80	1 479 588 268	16 940 970 845	19 448 231 148	1.41	1 111 727 759	15 972 738 416	17 171 391 568
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(985 767 455)	0.50	(27 813 536 867)	0.26	1.17	966 495 035	8 796 225 108	9 748 762 293	2.48	1 952 262 490	35 989 054 650	37 562 299 160
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(669 129 146)	0.09	(13 332 866 066)	0.06	0.08	67 894 077	824 963 646	852 183 737	0.94	737 023 223	13 199 461 673	14 185 049 803
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(420 440 495)	0.44	(9 226 384 209)	0.31	0.40	333 158 228	3 879 987 298	4 239 108 145	0.96	753 598 723	12 598 013 539	13 465 492 354
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	13 618 119 148	20.02	165 785 316 461	19.97	17.41	14 334 203 946	182 589 047 581	174 524 137 080	0.91	716 084 798	5 283 151 127	8 738 820 619
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 553 506 652	2.80	65 949 128 444	2.13	12.38	10 195 025 082	115 162 592 725	124 276 412 869	4.63	3 641 518 430	59 246 044 378	58 327 284 425
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(12 576 750 749)	0.33	(183 558 151 849)	0.31	7.44	6 128 434 761	80 529 414 426	82 603 007 747	23.77	18 705 185 510	269 426 659 349	266 161 159 596
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(3 795 573 584)	0.68	24 197 696 918	1.22	9.64	7 935 534 444	114 331 557 004	132 006 867 214	14.91	11 731 108 028	112 838 680 310	107 809 170 296
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 678 232 934)	0.29	(24 428 931 205)	0.23	0.82	677 054 811	6 785 684 416	7 382 149 513	2.99	2 355 287 745	29 408 018 014	31 811 080 718
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(746 844 563)	0.35	(14 785 517 256)	0.25	0.50	408 288 089	4 994 062 981	5 030 474 808	1.47	1 155 132 652	19 274 269 460	19 815 992 064
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	39 729 706	2.29	497 691 115	1.73	0.09	70 583 530	848 436 019	1 175 551 854	0.04	30 853 824	433 348 703	677 860 739
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	315 296 088	3.63	6 569 989 978	5.52	0.53	435 093 169	6 401 579 838	8 024 850 792	0.15	119 797 081	1 373 768 236	1 454 860 814
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(2 768 539 517)	0.00	(87 986 501 590)	0.00	0.00	271 406	14 718 235	5 071 012	3.52	2 768 810 923	79 353 771 905	87 991 572 602
Total	Total SA Rand	3 636 978 695	1.05	(109 721 127 844)	0.90	100.00	82 329 950 372	899 604 866 653	955 651 681 736	100.00	78 692 971 677	1 057 508 902 934	1 065 372 809 580

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	8 468 598 181	2.17	89 712 362 230	2.04	19.04	15 676 182 156	165 873 640 982	176 280 770 924	9.16	7 207 583 975	88 135 065 342	86 568 408 694
AMERICA	(1 836 030 878)	0.80	(24 197 503 530)	0.81	8.77	7 224 430 945	100 842 807 972	103 259 696 997	11.51	9 060 461 823	120 720 510 228	127 457 200 527
ASIA	(3 625 303 906)	0.90	(145 250 627 093)	0.70	39.22	32 286 785 223	301 184 426 857	331 556 543 666	45.64	35 912 089 129	491 388 111 944	476 807 170 759
EUROPE	(2 961 538 740)	0.88	(88 073 240 405)	0.75	26.27	21 626 460 271	238 620 433 186	271 169 150 613	31.25	24 587 999 011	340 609 330 885	359 242 391 018
OCEANIA	(719 342 997)	0.53	(605 323 523)	0.95	0.98	810 685 820	12 472 685 044	12 838 755 837	1.94	1 530 028 817	14 723 396 084	13 444 079 360
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	3 839 313 674	10.72	52 943 282 638	29.56	5.14	4 234 122 596	71 369 936 594	54 796 841 860	0.50	394 808 922	1 932 488 451	1 853 559 222
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	471 283 361	-	5 749 921 839	-	0.57	471 283 361	9 240 936 018	5 749 921 839				
Total	3 636 978 695	1.05	(109 721 127 844)	0.90	100.00	82 329 950 372	899 604 866 653	955 651 681 736	100.00	78 692 971 677	1 057 508 902 934	1 065 372 809 580

Temporary Imports	January 2016	February 2016	March 2016	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	August 2016	September 2016	October 2016	November 2016	December 2016
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	5 957 954 299	7 360 070 985	8 176 403 170	6 310 188 601	8 661 828 630	8 427 391 120	8 570 191 743	9 567 853 458	8 889 590 072	7 290 735 230	7 797 316 597	6 616 194 109

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

Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (Only)

Trade Statistics with BLNS countries

Trade statistics with the BLNS for December 2016 recorded a trade balance surplus of R8.40 billion.

Summary

The R8.40 billion surplus for December 2016 is as a result of exports of R10.70 billion and imports of R2.30 billion.

Exports decreased from November 2016 to December 2016 by R2.46 billion (18.7%) and imports decreased from November 2016 to December 2016 by R1.25 billion (35.2%).

The cumulative surplus for 2016 is R106.80 billion compared to R105.72 billion in 2015.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Machinery & Electronics	- R 599	- 31%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 394	- 31%
Base Metals	- R 327	- 35%
Textiles	- R 208	- 30%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 208	- 13%
Chemical Products	- R 206	- 18%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 160	- 27%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 127	+ 20%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Textiles	- R 344	- 49%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 244	- 88%
Chemical Products	- R 203	- 21%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 159	- 55%
Mineral Products	+ R 6	+ 12%

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2016](#)

ENDS.

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