

SA Trade Statistics for September 2017

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 31 October 2017

SARS releases trade statistics for September 2017

Pretoria, 31 October 2017 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for September 2017 recording a trade balance surplus of R4.00 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2017) trade balance surplus of R47.12 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2016 of R6.66 billion. Exports for the year-to-date grew by 5.4% whilst imports for the same period declined by 1.2%.

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

The R4.00 billion trade balance surplus for September 2017 is attributable to exports of R101.76 billion and imports of R97.76 billion. Exports decreased from August 2017 to September 2017 by R1.61 billion (1.6%) and imports increased from August 2017 to September 2017 by R0.36 billion (0.4%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2017) grew by 5.4% from R818.59 billion in 2016 to R862.61 billion in 2017. Imports for the year-to-date of R815.49 billion are 1.2% less than the imports recorded in January to September 2016 of R825.25 billion, leaving a cumulative trade balance surplus of R47.12 billion for 2017.

On a year-on-year basis, the R4.00 billion trade balance surplus for September 2017 is a deterioration from the surplus recorded in September 2016 of R7.01 billion. Exports of R101.76 billion are 2.6% more than the exports recorded in September 2016 of R99.22 billion. Imports of R97.76 billion are 6.0% more than the imports recorded in September 2016 of R92.21 billion.

August 2017's trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R0.04 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R5.94 billion to a revised surplus of R5.98 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics September 2017](#)

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Base Metals	-R1 480	-12%
Vegetable Products	-R1 214	-16%
Chemical Products	-R1 030	-15%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R1 025	-6%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+R1 662	+14%
Mineral Products	+R1 700	+7%
Total	-R1 387	86%
Total Movement	-R1 612	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Vegetable Products	+R1 782	+107%
Mineral Products	+R 717	+5%
Chemical Products	+R 544	+5%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 374	+11%
Animals/ Vegetable Fats	+R 301	+41%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 229	-18%
Textiles	-R 384	-9%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R755	-8%
Machinery & Electronics	-R979	-4%
Original Equipment Components	-R1 105	-12%
Total	+R 266	74%
Total Movement	+R 362	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from August 2017 (revised) to September 2017 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R26 794 million – this is a decrease of R 941 million from August 2017.

Imports: R10 511 million – this is a decrease of R 383 million from August 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R16 283 million – this is a deterioration of R 559 million in comparison to the R16 841 million surplus recorded in August 2017.

America:

Exports: R10 038 million – this is an increase of R 66 million from August 2017.

Imports: R10 551 million – this is an increase of R 631 million from August 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R 513 million – this is a deterioration of R 565 million in comparison to the R52 million surplus recorded in August 2017.

Asia:

Exports: R35 537 million – this is an increase of R4 077 million from August 2017.

Imports: R43 189 million – this is a decrease of R 471 million from August 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R7 652 million – this is an improvement of R4 548 million in comparison to the R12 200 million deficit recorded in August 2017.

Europe:

Exports: R22 983 million – this is a decrease of R2 727 million from August 2017.

Imports: R31 864 million – this is an increase of R 535 million from August 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R8 881 million – this is a deterioration of R3 262 million in comparison to the R5 619 million deficit recorded in August 2017.

Oceania:

Exports: R1 393 million – this is a decrease of R 3 million from August 2017.

Imports: R1 394 million – this is a decrease of R 66 million from August 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R1 million – this is an improvement of R 62 million in comparison to the R 63 million deficit recorded in August 2017.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for September 2017 recorded a trade balance deficit of R 4.31 billion.

Summary

The R4.31 billion deficit for September 2017 is as a result of exports of R90.11 billion and imports of R94.42 billion. Exports decreased from August 2017 to September 2017 by R1.44 billion (1.6%) and imports increased from August 2017 to September 2017 by R1.01 billion (1.1%).

The cumulative deficit for 2017 is R21.69 billion compared to R85.99 billion deficit in 2016.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Vegetable Products	-R1 169	-16%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R1 168	-7%
Base Metals	-R 1 478	-13%

Chemical Products	-R 989	-18%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+R1 703	+16%
Mineral Products	+R1 756	+8%
Total	- R1 392	94%
Total Movement	- R1 438	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Excluding BLNS:	
Vegetable Products	+R1 791	+111%
Mineral Products	+R 726	+5%
Chemical Products	+R 577	+6%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 421	+14%
Animals/ Vegetable Fats	+R 309	+42%
Plastic & Rubber	+R 164	+4%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 156	+34%
Textiles	-R 430	-12%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R 763	-8%
Machinery & Electronics	-R 951	-4%
Original Equipment Components	-R1 105	-12%
Total	+R 895	88%
Total Movement	+R1 014	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BLNS from August 2017 (Revised) to September 2017 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R15 141 million – this is a decrease of R767 million from August 2017.

Imports: R7 170 million – this is an increase of R269 million from August 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R7 971 million – this is a deterioration of R1 037 million in comparison to the R9 007 million surplus recorded in August 2017.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics September 2017](#)

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 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(732 926 982)	0.59	(4 206 226 247)	0.72	1.04	1 059 989 292	11 075 792 806	10 675 246 632	1.83	1 792 916 274	12 141 621 551	14 881 472 879
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	3 073 811 810	1.89	34 460 447 245	2.85	6.40	6 515 957 156	49 914 028 741	53 065 894 645	3.52	3 442 145 346	26 581 879 643	18 605 447 400
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(787 367 437)	0.25	(4 866 917 364)	0.36	0.25	256 398 310	2 929 529 483	2 690 679 192	1.07	1 043 765 747	6 832 566 967	7 557 596 556
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	774 674 363	1.20	8 124 472 615	1.31	4.50	4 578 788 415	36 254 741 956	34 759 492 288	3.89	3 804 114 052	25 111 584 121	26 635 019 673
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	10 623 483 260	1.71	84 630 989 709	1.68	25.18	25 621 296 701	156 609 616 990	208 657 067 458	15.34	14 997 813 441	110 703 125 733	124 026 077 749
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(5 276 180 989)	0.52	(34 060 975 014)	0.61	5.52	5 618 560 733	49 786 028 054	53 088 240 132	11.14	10 894 741 722	85 358 786 832	87 149 215 146
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 346 090 108)	0.47	(18 542 536 212)	0.48	2.01	2 050 458 594	17 745 034 243	17 167 801 207	4.50	4 396 548 702	36 290 022 850	35 710 337 419
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(11 899 705)	0.97	481 941 670	1.17	0.37	374 420 683	3 660 981 823	3 339 535 856	0.40	386 320 388	3 185 029 202	2 857 594 186
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	298 751 363	1.75	1 494 546 982	1.39	0.69	697 864 831	5 109 348 531	5 306 994 197	0.41	399 113 468	4 098 128 116	3 812 447 215
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	507 418 340	1.37	4 811 832 304	1.43	1.85	1 886 498 266	17 122 778 924	16 124 097 067	1.41	1 379 079 926	13 223 913 960	11 312 264 763
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 216 612 609)	0.40	(18 939 526 461)	0.39	1.48	1 506 343 061	11 558 708 951	11 991 941 153	3.81	3 722 955 670	33 063 509 078	30 931 467 614
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 027 899 322)	0.20	(7 931 000 507)	0.21	0.26	264 836 504	2 041 363 047	2 060 307 524	1.32	1 292 735 826	11 302 464 782	9 991 308 031
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(652 218 851)	0.46	(5 320 144 818)	0.44	0.54	546 803 172	4 640 856 210	4 113 116 096	1.23	1 199 022 023	10 584 390 608	9 433 260 914
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	15 725 468 435	15.98	134 811 258 037	15.33	16.48	16 775 097 578	137 902 025 474	144 220 137 497	1.07	1 049 629 143	9 365 117 791	9 408 879 460
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5 281 389 768	2.01	57 963 237 031	2.29	10.31	10 487 309 466	100 596 364 000	102 724 347 526	5.33	5 205 919 698	45 476 463 422	44 761 110 495
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(13 322 610 305)	0.38	(116 764 613 288)	0.37	7.97	8 115 207 782	78 286 091 746	69 489 116 835	21.93	21 437 818 087	202 561 721 980	186 253 730 123
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	4 602 165 319	1.53	19 629 040 290	1.23	13.02	13 251 302 103	112 821 746 916	104 110 235 825	8.85	8 649 136 784	77 628 757 199	84 481 195 535
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 787 705 007)	0.29	(16 456 630 610)	0.26	0.71	718 889 572	6 986 405 597	5 753 335 490	2.56	2 506 594 579	23 808 276 846	22 209 966 100
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 108 593 062)	0.40	(8 091 632 204)	0.42	0.73	742 768 253	6 290 511 536	5 879 452 157	1.89	1 851 361 315	14 907 173 632	13 971 084 361
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	42 556 333	4.35	368 392 294	1.66	0.05	55 270 534	996 311 714	922 806 636	0.01	12 714 201	406 879 813	554 414 342
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	510 099 475	5.04	5 454 362 271	6.41	0.63	636 243 944	6 261 120 391	6 461 759 254	0.13	126 144 469	1 181 689 057	1 007 396 983
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(8 167 635 362)	0.00	(69 930 249 311)	0.00	0.00	911 991	4 525 468	3 741 378	8.36	8 168 547 353	71 441 740 151	69 933 990 689
Total	Total SA Rand	4 002 078 727	1.04	47 120 068 412	1.06	100.00	101 761 216 941	818 593 912 601	862 605 346 045	100.00	97 759 138 214	825 254 843 334	815 485 277 633

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month % of total	Exports			Month % of total	Imports		
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)		Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)		Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	16 282 607 135	2.55	141 649 990 827	2.62	26.33	26 793 876 548	232 579 168 989	229 259 298 773	10.75	10 511 269 413	91 383 882 432	87 609 307 946
AMERICA	(513 100 625)	0.95	(11 352 786 910)	0.87	9.86	10 038 373 921	78 588 743 024	77 694 073 039	10.79	10 551 474 546	96 548 315 274	89 046 859 949
ASIA	(7 652 136 777)	0.82	(88 412 716 996)	0.75	34.92	35 537 250 581	244 263 821 200	271 884 500 062	44.18	43 189 387 358	354 822 867 670	360 297 217 058
EUROPE	(8 880 775 608)	0.72	(51 798 804 088)	0.81	22.59	22 982 802 125	208 178 821 687	214 366 894 221	32.59	31 863 577 733	271 351 354 638	266 165 698 309
OCEANIA	(1 001 645)	1.00	(3 121 765)	1.00	1.37	1 392 779 553	9 970 033 399	10 679 630 437	1.43	1 393 781 198	9 909 950 627	10 682 752 202
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	4 374 580 449	18.52	50 868 983 678	31.22	4.54	4 624 228 415	40 745 078 246	52 552 425 847	0.26	249 647 966	1 238 472 693	1 683 442 169
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	391 905 798	-	6 168 523 666	-	0.39	391 905 798	4 268 246 056	6 168 523 666				
Total	4 002 078 727	1.04	47 120 068 412	1.06	100.00	101 761 216 941	818 593 912 601	862 605 346 045	100.00	97 759 138 214	825 254 843 334	815 485 277 633
Temporary Imports	January 2017	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017	August 2017	September 2017			
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 456 314 562	5 524 504 610	6 390 471 105	5 839 448 237	7 100 087 994	6 392 121 381	6 215 652 071	7 216 722 094	6 601 860 212			

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 ³⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(661 127 921)	0.52	(3 580 654 124)	0.69	0.81	726 284 079	8 414 304 568	7 908 208 850	1.47	1 387 412 000	9 878 840 136	11 488 862 974
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 632 764 290	1.77	29 863 130 102	2.63	6.70	6 041 635 468	44 281 655 422	48 169 302 180	3.61	3 408 871 178	26 002 789 540	18 306 172 078
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(870 765 554)	0.16	(5 734 167 659)	0.24	0.19	170 339 707	1 946 465 901	1 786 627 591	1.10	1 041 105 261	6 799 162 560	7 520 795 250
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(44 314 718)	0.99	1 795 266 826	1.08	3.69	3 321 731 991	26 407 561 788	24 603 047 702	3.57	3 366 046 709	21 167 010 832	22 807 780 876
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	9 051 647 092	1.61	71 488 957 636	1.58	26.62	23 987 633 512	140 533 559 459	194 950 815 052	15.82	14 935 986 420	110 257 056 987	123 461 857 416
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(5 572 093 248)	0.45	(37 225 080 438)	0.55	5.09	4 584 845 507	41 206 942 433	44 615 023 788	10.76	10 156 938 755	80 623 791 289	81 840 104 226
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 831 953 275)	0.35	(22 303 367 700)	0.37	1.70	1 528 528 120	13 430 780 216	13 086 087 885	4.62	4 360 481 395	35 953 494 076	35 389 455 585
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(37 180 719)	0.90	264 451 269	1.10	0.36	328 197 016	3 206 819 955	2 983 479 755	0.39	365 377 735	2 953 601 059	2 719 028 486
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	226 292 999	1.80	1 167 847 218	1.42	0.57	509 774 744	3 716 234 777	3 931 597 977	0.30	283 481 745	3 070 784 941	2 763 750 759
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	281 628 613	1.21	2 839 013 245	1.26	1.81	1 633 241 142	14 946 815 778	13 953 216 748	1.43	1 351 612 529	13 010 200 348	11 114 203 503
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 241 615 931)	0.29	(19 628 647 993)	0.27	1.01	911 997 659	6 811 250 731	7 189 289 081	3.34	3 153 613 590	29 240 818 528	26 817 937 074
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 204 022 142)	0.06	(9 224 026 320)	0.07	0.08	74 115 582	626 771 020	653 976 128	1.35	1 278 137 724	11 160 609 312	9 878 002 448
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(809 410 506)	0.32	(6 513 205 575)	0.30	0.42	379 620 591	3 222 134 075	2 837 170 768	1.26	1 189 031 097	10 482 036 458	9 350 376 343
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	15 226 184 388	25.82	134 091 971 654	28.42	17.58	15 839 530 853	132 098 494 239	138 982 750 196	0.65	613 346 465	6 716 825 661	4 890 778 542
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4 587 202 898	1.90	50 473 086 035	2.14	10.77	9 708 824 553	93 750 998 814	94 565 214 225	5.42	5 121 621 655	44 800 386 713	44 092 128 190
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(14 664 014 627)	0.31	(127 821 531 125)	0.30	7.19	6 478 795 404	63 128 062 835	55 763 792 877	22.39	21 142 810 031	199 988 009 073	183 585 324 002
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	3 545 569 368	1.41	10 406 785 770	1.12	13.50	12 165 587 430	100 394 908 925	94 528 824 990	9.13	8 620 018 062	77 139 096 703	84 122 039 220
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 909 580 232)	0.24	(17 649 000 148)	0.20	0.65	589 133 447	5 559 451 571	4 509 275 712	2.65	2 498 713 679	23 754 656 039	22 158 275 860
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 399 258 931)	0.24	(10 276 016 784)	0.25	0.49	442 638 423	3 717 269 331	3 343 154 740	1.95	1 841 897 354	14 596 625 541	13 619 171 524
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	42 283 156	4.36	365 808 330	1.66	0.06	54 849 579	989 609 914	918 351 626	0.01	12 566 423	406 222 178	552 543 296
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	509 604 736	5.22	5 438 008 787	6.61	0.70	630 268 233	6 215 412 805	6 407 695 720	0.13	120 663 497	1 151 460 068	969 686 933
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(8 167 635 362)	0.00	(69 930 823 577)	0.00	0.00	911 991	4 515 521	3 167 112	8.65	8 168 547 353	71 441 740 151	69 933 990 689
Total	Total SA Rand	(4 309 795 626)	0.95	(21 692 194 571)	0.97	100.00	90 108 485 031	714 610 020 078	765 690 070 703	100.00	94 418 280 657	800 595 218 193	787 382 265 274

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ³⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	
AFRICA	7 970 732 782	2.11	72 837 727 844	2.22	16.80	15 141 144 638	128 595 276 466	132 344 023 431	7.59	7 170 411 856	66 724 257 291	59 506 295 587	
AMERICA	(513 100 625)	0.95	(11 352 786 910)	0.87	11.14	10 038 373 921	78 588 743 024	77 694 073 039	11.18	10 551 474 546	96 548 315 274	89 046 859 949	
ASIA	(7 652 136 777)	0.82	(88 412 716 996)	0.75	39.44	35 537 250 581	244 263 821 200	271 884 500 062	45.74	43 189 387 358	354 822 867 670	360 297 217 058	
EUROPE	(8 880 775 608)	0.72	(51 798 804 088)	0.81	25.51	22 982 802 125	208 178 821 687	214 366 894 221	33.75	31 863 577 733	271 351 354 638	266 165 698 309	
OCEANIA	(1 001 645)	1.00	(3 121 765)	1.00	1.55	1 392 779 553	9 970 033 399	10 679 630 437	1.48	1 393 781 198	9 909 950 627	10 682 752 202	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	4 374 580 449	18.52	50 868 983 678	31.22	5.13	4 624 228 415	40 745 078 246	52 552 425 847	0.26	249 647 966	1 238 472 693	1 683 442 169	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	391 905 798	-	6 168 523 666	-	0.43	391 905 798	4 268 246 056	6 168 523 666	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(4 309 795 626)	0.95	(21 692 194 571)	0.97	100.00	90 108 485 031	714 610 020 078	765 690 070 703	100.00	94 418 280 657	800 595 218 193	787 382 265 274	

Temporary Imports	January 2017	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017	August 2017	September 2017
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 456 314 562	5 524 504 610	6 390 471 105	5 839 448 237	7 100 087 994	6 392 121 381	6 215 652 071	7 216 722 094	6 601 860 212

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 September 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R8.31 billion.

Summary

The R8.31 billion surplus for September 2017 is as a result of exports of R11.65 billion and imports of R3.34 billion.

Exports decreased from August 2017 to September 2017 by R0.17 billion (1.5%) and imports decreased from August 2017 to September 2017 by R0.65 billion (16.3%).

The cumulative surplus for 2017 is R68.81 billion compared to R79.32 billion in 2016.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Machinery & Electronics	-R 82	-5%
Mineral Products	-R 57	-3%
Vegetable Products	-R 45	-9%
Chemical Products	-R 42	-4%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R 41	-4%
Optical Photographic Products	-R 26	-17%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 142	+18%
Total	-R 150	86%
Total Movement	-R 174	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 385	-47%
Live Animals	-R 122	-23%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R 47	-10%
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-R 45	-83%
Textiles	+R 46	+9%
Total	- R 553	85%
Total Movement	- R 652	100%

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics September 2017](#)

ENDS.

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