

SA Trade Statistics for March 2018

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 30 April 2018

SARS releases trade statistics for March 2018

Pretoria, 30 April 2018 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for March 2018 recording a trade balance surplus of R9.47 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2018) trade balance deficit of R18.63 billion is a deterioration on the surplus for the comparable period in 2017 of R4.22 billion. Exports year-to-date grew by 0.4% whilst imports for the same period showed an increase of 9.1%.

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

The R9.47 billion trade balance surplus for March 2018 is attributable to exports of R98.28 billion and imports of R88.81 billion. Exports increased from February 2018 to March 2018 by R8.27 billion (9.2%) and imports decreased from February 2018 to March 2018 by R1.80 billion (2.0%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 March) grew by 0.4% from R267.76 billion in 2017 to R268.77 billion in 2018. Imports for the year-to-date of R287.40 billion are 9.1% more than the imports recorded in January to March 2017 of R263.54 billion, leaving a cumulative trade balance deficit of R18.63 billion for 2018.

On a year-on-year basis, the R9.47 billion trade balance surplus for March 2018 is a deterioration from the surplus recorded in March 2017 of R11.81 billion. Exports of R98.28 billion are 3.1% less than the exports recorded in March 2017 of R101.48 billion. Imports of R88.81 billion are 1.0% less than the imports recorded in March 2017 of R89.67 billion.

February 2018's trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R1.03 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R0.43 billion to a revised deficit of R0.60 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

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

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

| R' million | Including BLNS: | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Section: | Including BLNS: | |
| Mineral Products | +R2 432 | +12% |
| Precious Metals & Stones | +R2 188 | +15% |
| Base Metals | +R1 976 | +19% |
| Machinery & Electronics | +R 724 | +10% |
| Vegetable Products | +R 715 | +19% |
| Vehicles & Transport Equipment | -R1 069 | - 9% |
| Total | +R6 966 | 84% |
| Total Movement | +R8 274 | 100% |

The main month-on-month import movements:

| R' million | Including BLNS: | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Section: | Including BLNS: | |
| Mineral Products | -R2 457 | -14% |
| Vegetable Products | -R 674 | -31% |
| Precious Metals & Stones | -R 454 | -38% |
| Footwear & Accessories | -R 332 | -26% |
| Textiles | -R 281 | - 7% |
| Base Metals | +R 566 | +13% |
| Vehicles & Transport Equipment | +R 813 | +12% |
| Machinery & Electronics | +R1 121 | + 6% |
| Total | -R1 698 | 94% |
| Total Movement | -R1 804 | 100% |

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from February 2018 (revised) to March 2018 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R26 205 million – this is an increase of R1 122 million from February 2018.

Imports: R9 334 million – this is a decrease of R1 232 million from February 2018.

Trade Balance surplus: R16 871 million – this is an improvement of R2 354 million in comparison to the R14 517 million surplus recorded in February 2018.

America:

Exports: R8 965 million – this is an increase of R1 849 million from February 2018.

Imports: R9 074 million – this is an increase of R1 385 million from February 2018.

Trade Balance deficit: R 109 million – this is an improvement of R 464 million in comparison to the R 573 million deficit recorded in February 2018.

Asia:

Exports: R31 197 million – this is an increase of R3 894 million from February 2018.
 Imports: R40 350 million – this is a decrease of R1 463 million from February 2018.
 Trade Balance deficit: R9 153 million – this is an improvement of R5 357 million in comparison to the R14 510 million deficit recorded in February 2018.

Europe:

Exports: R22 936 million – this is an increase of R1 169 million from February 2018.
 Imports: R27 895 million – this is a decrease of R 903 million from February 2018.
 Trade Balance deficit: R4 959 million – this is an improvement of R2 072 million in comparison to the R7 031 million deficit recorded in February 2018.

Oceania:

Exports: R 900 million – this is a decrease of R 361 million from February 2018.
 Imports: R1 995 million – this is an increase of R 631 million from February 2018.
 Trade Balance deficit: R1 095 million – this is a deterioration of R 993 million in comparison to the R 102 million deficit recorded in February 2018.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for March 2018 recorded a trade balance surplus of R1.99 billion.

Summary

The R1.99 billion surplus for March 2018 is as a result of exports of R87.51 billion and imports of R85.52 billion. Exports increased from February 2018 to March 2018 by R7.97 billion (10.0%) and imports decreased from February 2018 to March 2018 by R1.71 billion (2.0%).

The cumulative deficit for 2018 is R39.38 billion compared to R16.66 billion deficit in 2017.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

| R' million | Excluding BLNS: | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------|
| Section: | | |
| Mineral Products | +R2 404 | +12% |
| Precious Metals & Stones | +R2 333 | +16% |
| Base Metals | +R1 984 | +20% |
| Chemical Products | +R 694 | +14% |
| Vegetable Products | +R 665 | +20% |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Vehicles & Transport Equipment | -R1 124 | - 10% |
| Total | +R6 956 | 87% |
| Total Movement | +R7 971 | 100% |

The main month-on-month import movements:

| R' million | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Section: | Excluding BLNS: | |
| Mineral Products | -R2 447 | -14% |
| Vegetable Products | -R 673 | -31% |
| Footwear & Accessories | -R 331 | -26% |
| Textiles | -R 290 | - 9% |
| Plastics & Rubber | -R 226 | - 5% |
| Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles | -R 196 | -14% |
| Optical Photographic Products | +R 243 | +10% |
| Base Metals | +R 524 | +13% |
| Vehicles & Transport Equipment | +R 800 | +11% |
| Machinery & Electronics | +R1 091 | + 6% |
| Total | -R1 505 | 88% |
| Total Movement | -R1 713 | 100% |

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BLNS from February 2018 (Revised) to March 2018 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R15 427 million – this is an increase of R 820 million from February 2018.

Imports: R6 043 million – this is a decrease of R1 141 million from February 2018.

Trade Balance surplus: R9 384 million – this is an improvement of R1 961 million in comparison to the R7 423 million surplus recorded in February 2018.

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

1. 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 2018 (R'm) | Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm) | Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm) | Month % of total | Month Total 2018 (R'm) | Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm) | Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm) |
| I, Ch 1-5 | Animals/Animal Products | (598 098 370) | 0.67 | (1 513 786 952) | 0.71 | 1.24 | 1 214 035 331 | 3 749 574 427 | 3 730 390 133 | 2.04 | 1 812 133 701 | 4 384 138 419 | 5 244 177 085 |
| II, Ch 6-14 | Vegetable Products | 3 031 370 820 | 2.98 | 7 031 432 512 | 2.25 | 4.64 | 4 561 560 421 | 14 001 319 235 | 12 655 454 135 | 1.72 | 1 530 189 601 | 6 774 747 873 | 5 624 021 623 |
| III, Ch 15 | Fats and Oils | (399 793 859) | 0.42 | (1 544 984 608) | 0.32 | 0.29 | 287 131 748 | 771 766 718 | 715 225 975 | 0.77 | 686 925 607 | 2 844 633 932 | 2 260 210 583 |
| IV, Ch 16-24 | Prepared Foods | 1 360 684 850 | 1.49 | 2 896 398 783 | 1.35 | 4.19 | 4 118 157 857 | 10 025 361 920 | 11 186 450 977 | 3.10 | 2 757 473 007 | 9 148 747 165 | 8 290 052 194 |
| V, Ch 25-27 | Mineral Products | 8 077 595 008 | 1.53 | 12 419 106 643 | 1.23 | 23.83 | 23 425 033 612 | 69 245 378 118 | 66 121 452 467 | 17.28 | 15 347 438 604 | 42 827 891 864 | 53 702 345 824 |
| VI, Ch 28-38 | Chemical Products | (3 493 786 522) | 0.65 | (13 203 081 136) | 0.57 | 6.50 | 6 393 378 922 | 17 101 139 183 | 17 855 551 058 | 11.13 | 9 887 165 444 | 28 035 116 801 | 31 058 632 194 |
| VII, Ch 39-40 | Plastics and Rubber | (2 010 356 772) | 0.51 | (8 079 779 740) | 0.41 | 2.10 | 2 063 735 387 | 5 410 582 400 | 5 559 202 920 | 4.59 | 4 074 092 159 | 11 723 954 919 | 13 638 982 660 |
| VIII, Ch 41-43 | Hides, Skins and Leather | 96 786 341 | 1.40 | 60 132 350 | 1.07 | 0.34 | 338 039 021 | 1 024 378 051 | 976 736 302 | 0.27 | 241 252 680 | 941 595 608 | 916 603 952 |
| IX, Ch 44-46 | Wood and articles thereof | 163 278 508 | 1.43 | 328 772 843 | 1.24 | 0.55 | 544 120 308 | 1 680 760 000 | 1 687 677 538 | 0.43 | 380 841 800 | 1 333 157 415 | 1 358 904 695 |
| X, Ch 47-49 | Pulp and Paper Products | (1 147 022 175) | 0.53 | (3 155 119 729) | 0.61 | 1.31 | 1 285 858 071 | 5 597 007 659 | 4 883 250 417 | 2.74 | 2 432 880 246 | 3 822 092 510 | 8 038 370 146 |
| XI, Ch 50-63 | Textiles and Clothing | (1 900 427 917) | 0.46 | (6 941 316 850) | 0.37 | 1.67 | 1 639 466 318 | 4 007 087 071 | 4 057 456 410 | 3.99 | 3 539 894 235 | 10 097 181 526 | 10 998 773 260 |
| XII, Ch 64-67 | Footwear and Accessories | (699 131 700) | 0.26 | (2 844 264 536) | 0.18 | 0.26 | 251 209 160 | 604 950 870 | 609 371 727 | 1.07 | 950 340 860 | 3 169 769 558 | 3 453 636 263 |
| XIII, Ch 68-70 | Stone, Plaster, etc | (497 121 322) | 0.52 | (2 057 010 594) | 0.40 | 0.55 | 544 554 226 | 1 199 308 061 | 1 391 241 217 | 1.17 | 1 041 675 548 | 2 968 566 784 | 3 448 251 811 |
| XIV, Ch 71 | Precious Stones | 16 510 393 117 | 22.89 | 41 324 018 121 | 11.21 | 17.57 | 17 264 717 011 | 42 588 451 063 | 45 371 823 006 | 0.85 | 754 323 894 | 2 790 476 685 | 4 047 804 885 |
| XV, Ch 72-83 | Base Metals | 7 775 787 451 | 2.61 | 20 399 798 409 | 2.38 | 12.84 | 12 620 299 040 | 32 925 005 820 | 35 140 430 176 | 5.45 | 4 844 511 589 | 14 786 107 236 | 14 740 631 767 |
| XVI, Ch 84-85 | Machinery and Appliances | (11 481 085 645) | 0.42 | (41 198 730 091) | 0.35 | 8.41 | 8 269 798 720 | 21 416 505 774 | 21 862 455 451 | 22.24 | 19 750 884 365 | 58 986 665 634 | 63 061 185 542 |
| XVII, Ch 86-89 | Transport Equipment | 3 500 639 434 | 1.44 | 6 114 319 583 | 1.26 | 11.57 | 11 369 591 127 | 29 204 574 887 | 29 534 471 250 | 8.86 | 7 868 951 693 | 24 907 483 468 | 23 420 151 667 |
| XVIII, Ch 90-92 | Precision Products, etc | (1 984 741 801) | 0.24 | (5 784 331 802) | 0.23 | 0.65 | 639 772 124 | 2 029 097 388 | 1 752 025 566 | 2.96 | 2 624 513 925 | 7 555 360 157 | 7 536 357 368 |
| XX, Ch 94-96 | Misc Manufactured Articles | (484 709 426) | 0.62 | (2 462 584 933) | 0.43 | 0.79 | 778 824 122 | 1 680 722 199 | 1 857 488 676 | 1.42 | 1 263 533 548 | 4 025 520 691 | 4 320 073 609 |
| XXI, Ch 97 | Works of Art/Antiques | 59 723 841 | 3.26 | 157 645 339 | 2.27 | 0.09 | 86 186 232 | 579 397 480 | 282 057 647 | 0.03 | 26 462 391 | 292 415 455 | 124 412 308 |
| XXII, Ch 99 | Other Unclassified ¹⁾ | 513 489 132 | 7.85 | 1 262 872 080 | 5.68 | 0.60 | 588 503 995 | 2 918 120 832 | 1 532 632 309 | 0.08 | 75 014 863 | 444 966 273 | 269 760 229 |
| XXIII, Ch 98 | Special Provisions ²⁾ | (6 919 028 300) | 0.00 | (21 842 001 633) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3 090 781 | 821 867 | 3 292 834 | 7.79 | 6 922 119 081 | 21 683 626 407 | 21 845 294 467 |
| Total | Total SA Rand | 9 474 444 693 | 1.11 | (18 632 495 941) | 0.94 | 100.00 | 98 287 063 534 | 267 761 311 023 | 268 766 138 191 | 100.00 | 88 812 618 841 | 263 544 216 380 | 287 398 634 132 |

| 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 2018 (R'm) | Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm) | Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm) | | Month Total 2018 (R'm) | Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm) | Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm) |
| AFRICA | 16 871 237 582 | 2.81 | 40 650 209 006 | 2.24 | 26.66 | 26 205 566 174 | 70 585 939 155 | 73 347 762 928 | 10.51 | 9 334 328 592 | 30 646 157 778 | 32 697 553 922 |
| AMERICA | (109 087 420) | 0.99 | (2 863 164 934) | 0.89 | 9.12 | 8 965 395 160 | 21 907 844 296 | 23 200 173 759 | 10.22 | 9 074 482 580 | 29 003 951 142 | 26 063 338 693 |
| ASIA | (9 153 207 422) | 0.77 | (48 421 276 151) | 0.64 | 31.74 | 31 197 140 761 | 87 856 120 608 | 85 035 989 807 | 45.43 | 40 350 348 183 | 113 392 994 489 | 133 457 265 958 |
| EUROPE | (4 958 901 099) | 0.82 | (27 609 027 258) | 0.69 | 23.34 | 22 936 064 378 | 67 255 209 002 | 61 741 817 789 | 31.41 | 27 894 965 477 | 86 558 600 505 | 89 350 845 047 |
| OCEANIA | (1 094 655 233) | 0.45 | (2 265 693 385) | 0.55 | 0.92 | 900 047 519 | 3 006 372 522 | 2 785 728 808 | 2.25 | 1 994 702 752 | 3 665 099 451 | 5 051 422 193 |
| OTHER UNCLASSIFIED | 7 220 747 789 | 45.09 | 19 913 766 744 | 26.59 | 7.51 | 7 384 539 046 | 14 304 229 964 | 20 691 975 063 | 0.18 | 163 791 257 | 277 413 015 | 778 208 319 |
| SHIP/AIRCRAFT | 698 310 496 | - | 1 962 690 037 | - | 0.71 | 698 310 496 | 2 845 595 476 | 1 962 690 037 | | | | |
| Total | 9 474 444 693 | 1.11 | (18 632 495 941) | 0.94 | 100.00 | 98 287 063 534 | 267 761 311 023 | 268 766 138 191 | 100.00 | 88 812 618 841 | 263 544 216 380 | 287 398 634 132 |
| Temporary Imports | January 2018 | February 2018 | March 2018 | | | | | | | | | |
| Gold Imports ⁴⁾ | 6 754 531 429 | 5 101 992 519 | 5 722 909 870 | | | | | | | | | |

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 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 2018 (R'm) | Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm) | Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm) | Month % of total | Month Total 2018 (R'm) | Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm) | Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm) |
| I, Ch 1-5 | Animals/Animal Products | (406 623 833) | 0.69 | (1 160 564 506) | 0.71 | 1.04 | 906 565 845 | 2 855 285 558 | 2 840 747 853 | 1.54 | 1 313 189 678 | 3 567 220 296 | 4 001 312 359 |
| II, Ch 6-14 | Vegetable Products | 2 502 511 801 | 2.66 | 5 556 415 155 | 2.00 | 4.58 | 4 008 064 917 | 12 204 050 883 | 11 098 998 123 | 1.76 | 1 505 553 116 | 6 698 603 031 | 5 542 582 968 |
| III, Ch 15 | Fats and Oils | (524 954 355) | 0.23 | (1 846 742 811) | 0.18 | 0.18 | 160 673 000 | 467 709 679 | 409 024 968 | 0.80 | 685 627 355 | 2 838 254 491 | 2 255 767 779 |
| IV, Ch 16-24 | Prepared Foods | 600 702 768 | 1.26 | 621 274 804 | 1.09 | 3.34 | 2 919 873 964 | 6 800 586 024 | 7 772 088 095 | 2.71 | 2 319 171 196 | 7 885 395 299 | 7 150 813 291 |
| V, Ch 25-27 | Mineral Products | 6 570 076 150 | 1.43 | 7 901 942 645 | 1.15 | 24.98 | 21 860 531 761 | 65 058 715 348 | 61 423 754 327 | 17.88 | 15 290 455 611 | 42 644 620 882 | 53 521 811 682 |
| VI, Ch 28-38 | Chemical Products | (3 775 993 877) | 0.59 | (14 157 002 880) | 0.52 | 6.27 | 5 483 324 393 | 14 499 225 017 | 15 105 220 958 | 10.83 | 9 259 318 270 | 26 229 182 610 | 29 262 223 838 |
| VII, Ch 39-40 | Plastics and Rubber | (2 450 877 577) | 0.39 | (9 272 057 915) | 0.31 | 1.81 | 1 582 334 794 | 4 159 382 802 | 4 249 356 322 | 4.72 | 4 033 212 371 | 11 615 934 087 | 13 521 414 237 |
| VIII, Ch 41-43 | Hides, Skins and Leather | 64 962 378 | 1.29 | (24 879 919) | 0.97 | 0.33 | 290 892 529 | 915 583 160 | 848 611 802 | 0.26 | 225 930 151 | 895 491 417 | 873 491 721 |
| IX, Ch 44-46 | Wood and articles thereof | 119 692 505 | 1.45 | 252 499 057 | 1.25 | 0.44 | 383 515 330 | 1 272 655 007 | 1 264 809 734 | 0.31 | 263 822 825 | 1 011 658 818 | 1 012 310 677 |
| X, Ch 47-49 | Pulp and Paper Products | (1 359 609 275) | 0.44 | (3 867 532 410) | 0.52 | 1.21 | 1 056 972 830 | 4 806 509 649 | 4 115 557 645 | 2.83 | 2 416 582 105 | 3 747 074 511 | 7 983 090 055 |
| XI, Ch 50-63 | Textiles and Clothing | (1 942 127 507) | 0.36 | (6 980 767 834) | 0.27 | 1.24 | 1 080 786 745 | 2 533 791 747 | 2 611 528 906 | 3.53 | 3 022 914 252 | 8 808 768 458 | 9 592 296 740 |
| XII, Ch 64-67 | Footwear and Accessories | (851 402 684) | 0.09 | (3 230 353 840) | 0.06 | 0.10 | 86 728 230 | 188 607 076 | 190 258 904 | 1.10 | 938 130 914 | 3 137 629 128 | 3 420 612 744 |
| XIII, Ch 68-70 | Stone, Plaster, etc | (643 106 532) | 0.38 | (2 428 477 354) | 0.29 | 0.45 | 389 668 582 | 809 790 811 | 992 843 869 | 1.21 | 1 032 775 114 | 2 942 725 183 | 3 421 321 223 |
| XIV, Ch 71 | Precious Stones | 16 481 288 560 | 39.97 | 42 093 274 255 | 18.75 | 19.32 | 16 904 214 763 | 41 438 439 711 | 44 464 437 473 | 0.49 | 422 926 203 | 1 531 079 643 | 2 371 163 218 |
| XV, Ch 72-83 | Base Metals | 7 193 369 027 | 2.54 | 18 732 340 778 | 2.30 | 13.56 | 11 867 344 997 | 30 963 431 128 | 33 087 907 736 | 5.47 | 4 673 975 970 | 14 585 094 873 | 14 355 566 958 |
| XVI, Ch 84-85 | Machinery and Appliances | (12 775 023 690) | 0.34 | (44 920 758 096) | 0.28 | 7.59 | 6 638 053 868 | 17 141 182 755 | 17 286 319 730 | 22.70 | 19 413 077 558 | 58 197 117 609 | 62 207 077 826 |
| XVII, Ch 86-89 | Transport Equipment | 2 411 457 827 | 1.31 | 3 130 382 687 | 1.13 | 11.69 | 10 229 227 594 | 26 212 125 674 | 26 423 737 212 | 9.14 | 7 817 769 767 | 24 832 680 680 | 23 293 354 525 |
| XVIII, Ch 90-92 | Precision Products, etc | (2 140 254 141) | 0.18 | (6 197 150 189) | 0.18 | 0.55 | 478 824 437 | 1 625 515 515 | 1 326 479 484 | 3.06 | 2 619 078 578 | 7 541 625 005 | 7 523 629 673 |
| XX, Ch 94-96 | Misc Manufactured Articles | (737 506 932) | 0.41 | (3 153 521 819) | 0.26 | 0.58 | 509 051 848 | 928 851 662 | 1 130 609 926 | 1.46 | 1 246 558 780 | 3 904 616 027 | 4 284 131 745 |
| XXI, Ch 97 | Works of Art/Antiques | 59 530 496 | 3.25 | 156 978 455 | 2.26 | 0.10 | 85 980 261 | 577 948 068 | 281 349 857 | 0.03 | 26 449 765 | 292 335 777 | 124 371 402 |
| XXII, Ch 99 | Other Unclassified ¹⁾ | 510 448 201 | 8.05 | 1 261 216 673 | 5.95 | 0.67 | 582 843 679 | 2 898 823 181 | 1 515 995 700 | 0.08 | 72 395 478 | 429 824 818 | 254 779 027 |
| XXIII, Ch 98 | Special Provisions ²⁾ | (6 919 028 300) | 0.00 | (21 842 001 633) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3 090 781 | 808 214 | 3 292 834 | 8.09 | 6 922 119 081 | 21 683 626 407 | 21 845 294 467 |
| Total | Total SA Rand | 1 987 531 010 | 1.02 | (39 375 486 697) | 0.86 | 100.00 | 87 508 565 148 | 238 359 018 669 | 238 442 931 458 | 100.00 | 85 521 034 138 | 255 020 559 050 | 277 818 418 155 |

| 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 2018 (R'm) | Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm) | Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm) | | Month Total 2018 (R'm) | Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm) | Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm) |
| AFRICA | 9 384 323 899 | 2.55 | 19 907 218 250 | 1.86 | 17.63 | 15 427 067 788 | 41 183 646 801 | 43 024 556 195 | 7.07 | 6 042 743 889 | 22 122 500 448 | 23 117 337 945 |
| AMERICA | (109 087 420) | 0.99 | (2 863 164 934) | 0.89 | 10.25 | 8 965 395 160 | 21 907 844 296 | 23 200 173 759 | 10.61 | 9 074 482 580 | 29 003 951 142 | 26 063 338 693 |
| ASIA | (9 153 207 422) | 0.77 | (48 421 276 151) | 0.64 | 35.65 | 31 197 140 761 | 87 856 120 608 | 85 035 989 807 | 47.18 | 40 350 348 183 | 113 392 994 489 | 133 457 265 958 |
| EUROPE | (4 958 901 099) | 0.82 | (27 609 027 258) | 0.69 | 26.21 | 22 936 064 378 | 67 255 209 002 | 61 741 817 789 | 32.62 | 27 894 965 477 | 86 558 600 505 | 89 350 845 047 |
| OCEANIA | (1 094 655 233) | 0.45 | (2 265 693 385) | 0.55 | 1.03 | 900 047 519 | 3 006 372 522 | 2 785 728 808 | 2.33 | 1 994 702 752 | 3 665 099 451 | 5 051 422 193 |
| OTHER UNCLASSIFIED | 7 220 747 789 | 45.09 | 19 913 766 744 | 26.59 | 8.44 | 7 384 539 046 | 14 304 229 964 | 20 691 975 063 | 0.19 | 163 791 257 | 277 413 015 | 778 208 319 |
| SHIP/AIRCRAFT | 698 310 496 | - | 1 962 690 037 | - | 0.80 | 698 310 496 | 2 845 595 476 | 1 962 690 037 | | | | |
| Total | 1 987 531 010 | 1.02 | (39 375 486 697) | 0.86 | 100.00 | 87 508 565 148 | 238 359 018 669 | 238 442 931 458 | 100.00 | 85 521 034 138 | 255 020 559 050 | 277 818 418 155 |
| Temporary Imports | January 2018 | February 2018 | March 2018 | | | | | | | | | |
| Gold Imports ⁴⁾ | 6 754 531 429 | 5 101 992 519 | 5 722 909 870 | | | | | | | | | |

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, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (Only)

Trade Statistics with BLNS countries

Trade statistics with the BLNS for March 2018 recorded a trade balance surplus of R7.49 billion.

Summary

The R7.49 billion surplus for March 2018 is as a result of exports of R10.78 billion and imports of R3.29 billion.

Exports increased from February 2018 to March 2018 by R0.30 billion (2.9%) and imports decreased from February 2018 to March 2018 by R0.09 billion (2.7%).

The cumulative surplus for 2018 is R20.74 billion compared to R20.88 billion in 2017.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

| R' million | BLNS: | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Section: | BLNS: | |
| Prepared Foodstuff | +R 86 | + 8% |
| Machinery & Electronics | +R 72 | + 5% |
| Vehicles & Transport Equipment | +R 55 | + 5% |
| Vegetable Products | +R 50 | +10% |
| Textiles | +R 50 | +10% |
| Animal & Vegetable Fats | +R 36 | +40% |
| Plastics & Rubber | +R 29 | + 6% |
| Mineral Products | +R 28 | + 2% |
| Live Animals | +R 27 | +10% |
| Wood Pulp & Paper | -R 33 | -13% |
| Precious Metals & Stones | -R 145 | -29% |
| Total | +R 255 | 84% |
| Total Movement | +R 302 | 100% |

The main month-on-month import movements:

| R' million | BLNS: | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Section: | BLNS: | |
| Precious Metals & Stones | -R 287 | -46% |
| Machinery & Electronics | +R 30 | +10% |
| Base Metals | +R 42 | +33% |
| Prepared Foodstuff | +R 66 | +18% |
| Live Animals | +R 67 | +16% |
| Total | -R 82 | 91% |
| Total Movement | -R 90 | 100% |

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

ENDS.

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