

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 30 September 2024

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for August 2024

Pretoria, 30 September 2024 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R5.6 billion in August 2024. This surplus was attributable to exports of R165.6 billion and imports of R159.9 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 August 2024) preliminary trade balance surplus of R89.0 billion was an improvement from the R44.8 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2023. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for August 2024 (R165.6 billion) were 8.2% lower compared to R180.3 billion recorded in August 2023. Import flows were lower by 3.1%, having decreased from R165.1 billion in August 2023 to R159.9 billion in the current period.

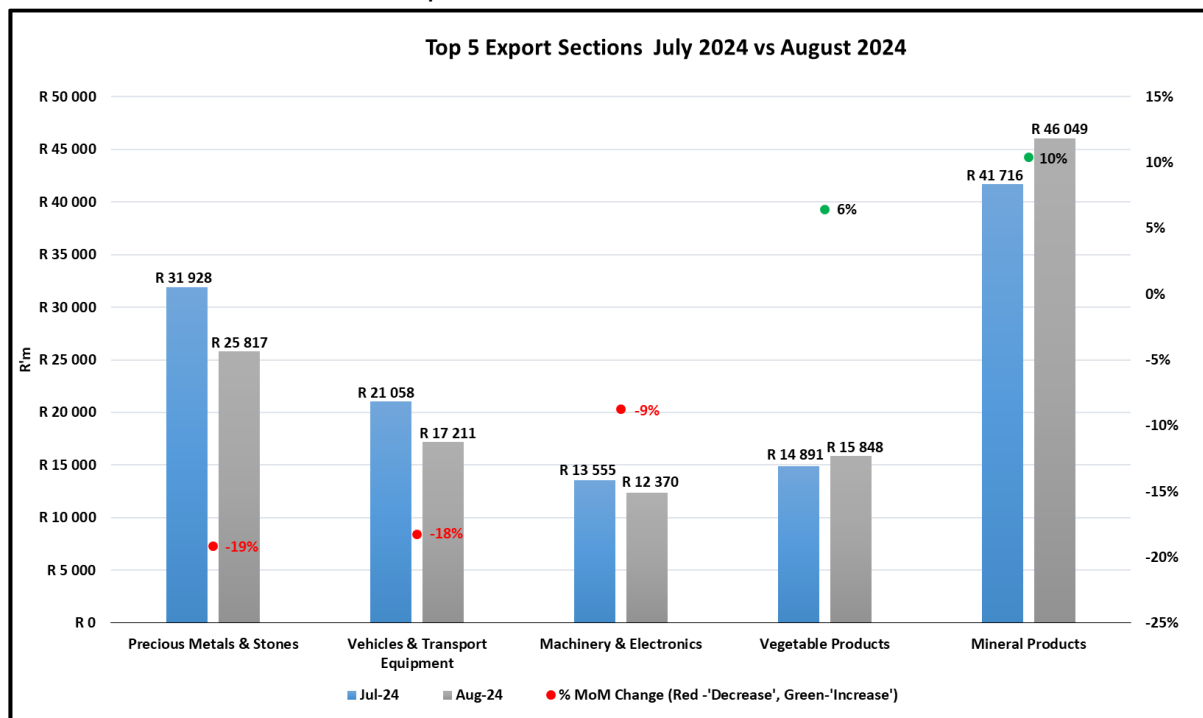
On a month-on-month basis, exports decreased by R8.6 billion (-5.0%) from R174.2 billion to R165.6 billion between July and August 2024, whilst imports increased by R2.8 billion (1.8%) from R157.1 billion to R159.9 billion over the same period. Export flows decreased in August, driven by Gold, Vehicles (Passengers), and PGMs. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Electric Generating Sets and Rotary Converters; Gold; and Crude Oil.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R17.6 billion announced for July 2024 was revised downwards by R0.5 billion, with the final number at R17.1 billion.

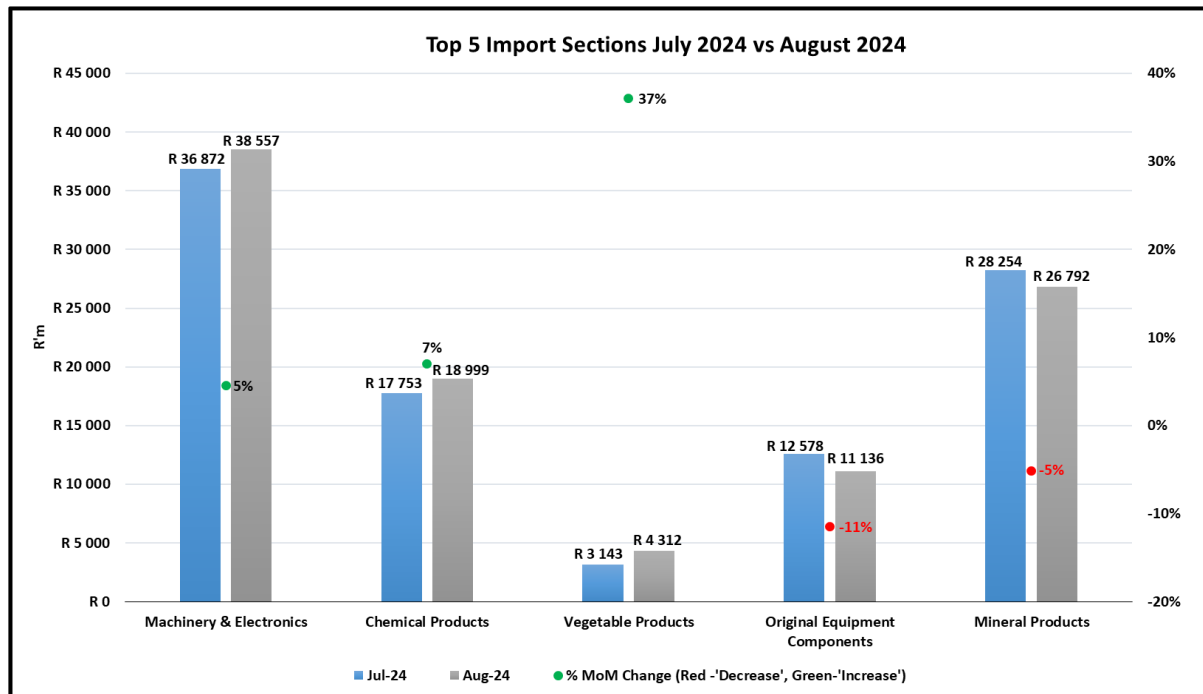
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from July (revised) to August (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	July 2024	August 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	49 691	53 467	3 775	↑ 7.6%
	Imports	16 362	18 448	2 086	↑ 12.7%
	Trade Balance	33 329	35 019	-	-
America	Exports	16 515	12 731	-3 784	↓ -22.9%
	Imports	13 328	14 787	1 459	↑ 11.0%
	Trade Balance	3 187	-2 056	-	-
Asia	Exports	51 209	52 103	894	↑ 1.7%
	Imports	82 241	83 899	1 658	↑ 2.0%
	Trade Balance	-31 032	-31 795	-	-
Europe	Exports	38 869	35 148	-3 721	↓ -9.6%
	Imports	42 080	39 514	-2 566	↓ -6.1%
	Trade Balance	-3 211	-4 366	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 152	2 001	-150	↓ -7.0%
	Imports	2 023	2 975	952	↑ 47.0%
	Trade Balance	128	-974	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	14 317	8 820	-5 496	↓ -38.4%
	Imports	1 093	309	-784	↓ -71.7%
	Trade Balance	13 223	8 511	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 443	1 289	-154	↓ -10.7%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 443	1 289	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for August 2024 indicates a preliminary trade balance deficit of R7.7 billion.

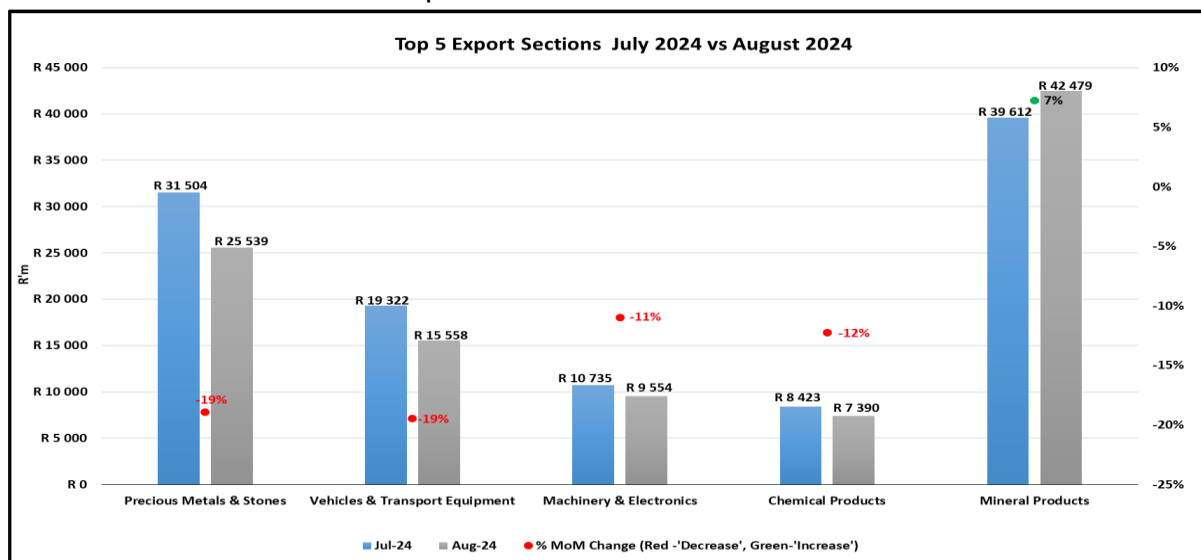
Summary

The R7.7 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for August 2024 was as a result of exports of R146.4 billion and imports of R154.0 billion. Exports decreased by R10.5 billion (-6.7%) between July and August 2024 whilst imports increased by R2.9 billion (1.9%) over the same period.

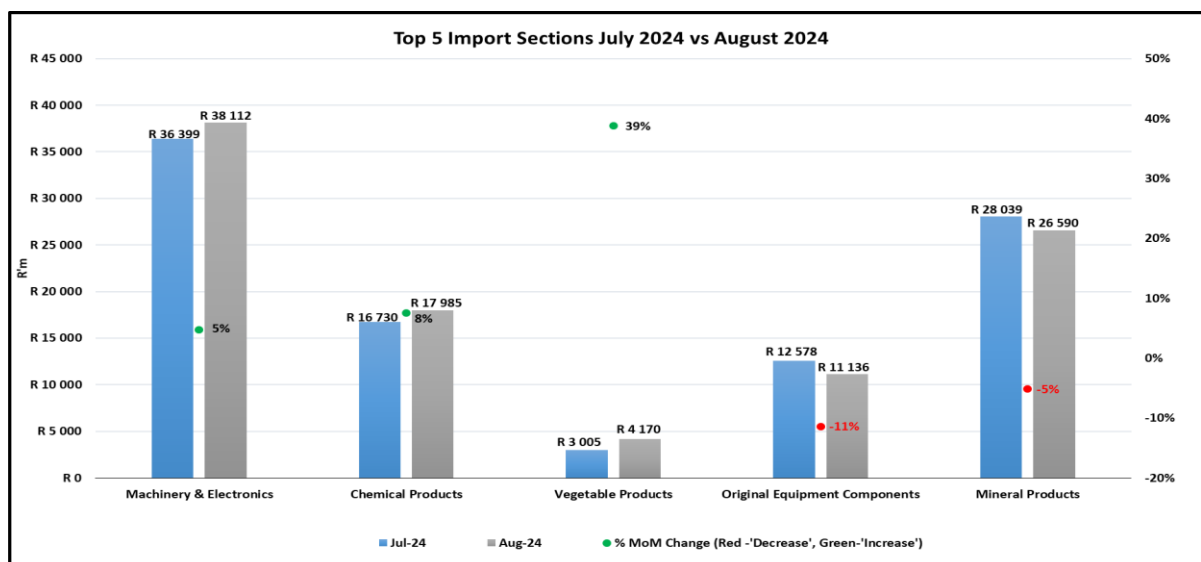
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a deficit of R0.7 billion, compared to R36.8 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2023.

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 July 2024 (revised) and August (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	July 2024	August 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	32 353	34 257	1 904	↑ 5.9%
	Imports	10 416	12 555	2 139	↑ 20.5%
	Trade Balance	21 937	21 702	-	-

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

SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(36 337 754)	1.00	(89 953 373)	0.95	1.09	13 520 407 128	14 836 531 796	1 802 362 863	1.18	14 307 582 439	14 872 869 550	1 892 316 236
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	67 090 914 955	3.33	11 536 180 335	3.68	9.57	93 597 942 978	95 903 397 589	15 847 952 017	2.70	27 077 092 871	28 812 482 634	4 311 771 682
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 851 820 433)	0.59	(614 694 875)	0.54	0.44	5 125 810 283	5 552 322 382	728 763 146	0.84	8 486 957 390	9 404 142 815	1 343 458 021
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	18 940 323 190	1.52	2 301 541 728	1.46	4.38	51 510 461 826	55 656 438 140	7 252 892 232	3.10	36 834 099 005	36 716 114 950	4 951 350 504
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	98 748 780 097	1.40	19 257 382 844	1.72	27.81	349 354 802 837	347 311 152 288	46 049 098 864	16.75	264 161 224 065	248 562 372 191	26 791 716 020
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(56 032 001 348)	0.58	(9 896 473 001)	0.48	5.50	78 667 495 288	77 035 902 749	9 102 483 377	11.88	126 304 549 381	133 067 904 097	18 998 956 378
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(29 019 236 532)	0.44	(3 528 876 761)	0.47	1.85	24 001 228 751	23 091 764 767	3 069 905 697	4.13	48 948 510 048	52 111 001 299	6 598 782 458
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(395 261 595)	0.88	(148 257 650)	0.72	0.23	2 861 123 254	2 941 580 312	378 347 593	0.33	3 042 383 051	3 336 841 907	526 605 243
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 883 415 279	1.38	196 655 671	1.31	0.50	6 748 493 634	6 811 009 484	827 793 546	0.39	4 667 524 236	4 927 594 205	631 137 875
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	6 379 633 417	1.40	771 652 439	1.35	1.78	22 612 854 650	22 378 121 726	2 952 836 508	1.36	16 167 130 750	15 998 488 309	2 181 184 069
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(27 717 779 901)	0.35	(4 360 102 925)	0.28	1.01	15 287 381 812	14 963 410 471	1 675 880 623	3.77	39 308 932 817	42 681 190 372	6 035 983 548
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(10 636 917 666)	0.20	(1 899 204 204)	0.18	0.25	2 532 927 461	2 691 648 809	411 797 573	1.44	12 017 492 452	13 328 566 475	2 311 001 777
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(5 810 237 374)	0.47	(707 490 228)	0.49	0.41	5 297 984 852	5 084 521 892	682 599 889	0.87	12 034 508 866	10 894 759 266	1 390 090 117
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	213 285 846 119	10.70	21 251 319 719	5.65	15.59	249 994 950 719	235 285 216 300	25 817 413 251	2.86	18 686 581 055	21 999 370 181	4 566 093 532
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	74 796 216 816	2.12	9 159 124 339	2.14	10.38	152 076 179 519	141 357 178 548	17 183 669 092	5.02	66 973 176 218	66 560 961 732	8 024 544 753
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(182 183 547 306)	0.34	(26 186 822 338)	0.32	7.47	100 218 875 673	95 523 581 180	12 369 954 563	24.11	322 716 109 403	277 707 128 486	38 556 776 901
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	60 264 819 799	1.63	4 218 227 669	1.32	10.40	152 080 977 698	155 227 319 748	17 210 917 587	8.12	120 163 302 814	94 962 499 949	12 992 689 918
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(23 724 589 887)	0.22	(2 892 749 967)	0.23	0.51	7 369 428 232	6 729 371 498	840 750 455	2.33	29 247 198 521	30 453 961 385	3 733 500 422
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(8 850 278 023)	0.45	(1 740 643 310)	0.36	0.59	6 693 391 973	7 216 647 528	975 665 927	1.70	14 782 083 754	16 066 925 551	2 716 309 237
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	719 169 124	2.66	113 081 169	7.14	0.08	987 705 082	1 152 760 902	131 492 539	0.01	730 411 806	433 591 778	18 411 370
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 962 281 592	2.22	24 476 106	1.11	0.15	2 435 506 979	3 573 536 370	247 511 909	0.14	1 054 951 702	1 611 254 778	223 035 803
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(106 858 545 504)	0.00	(11 135 714 977)	0.00	0.00	4 083 254	2 263 751	333 656	6.96	110 504 957 135	106 860 809 255	11 136 048 633
Total	Total SA Rand	88 954 847 065	1.07	5 628 658 410	1.04	100.00	1 342 980 013 883	1 320 325 678 230	165 560 422 907	100.00	1 298 216 759 779	1 231 370 831 165	159 931 764 497

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
AFRICA	245 421 626 432	2.87	35 019 206 811	2.90	32.29	353 866 994 582	376 675 603 947	53 466 765 369	11.53	117 441 320 577	131 253 977 515	18 447 558 558
AMERICA	1 793 134 712	1.02	(2 055 791 689)	0.86	7.69	126 631 643 780	120 099 932 474	12 731 452 077	9.25	129 883 537 561	118 306 797 762	14 787 243 766
ASIA	(220 805 153 207)	0.64	(31 795 304 485)	0.62	31.47	426 997 142 831	400 965 055 968	52 103 301 579	52.46	674 928 554 868	621 770 209 175	83 898 606 064
EUROPE	(31 282 738 859)	0.91	(4 366 122 903)	0.89	21.23	337 980 499 286	307 554 214 264	35 147 783 321	24.71	354 857 640 508	338 836 953 123	39 513 906 224
OCEANIA	(1 357 408 524)	0.92	(973 801 653)	0.67	1.21	13 274 345 092	14 821 088 273	2 001 373 666	1.86	14 734 630 022	16 178 496 797	2 975 175 319
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	85 449 167 241	18.01	8 511 201 206	28.52	5.33	76 759 063 386	90 473 564 034	8 820 475 772	0.19	6 371 076 243	5 024 396 793	309 274 566
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 736 219 270	-	1 289 271 123	-	0.78	7 470 324 926	9 736 219 270	1 289 271 123				
Total	88 954 847 065	1.07	5 628 658 410	1.04	100.00	1 342 980 013 883	1 320 325 678 230	165 560 422 907	100.00	1 298 216 759 779	1 231 370 831 165	159 931 764 497

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	14 587 876 314	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394	17 201 568 936	16 523 213 266	16 850 871 001	18 373 411 972	16 789 689 897

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 ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	119 200 705	1.01	(146 427 289)	0.90	0.95	10 814 459 088	11 859 259 547	1 387 217 553	1.00	11 138 902 771	11 740 058 842	1 533 644 842
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	58 502 659 694	3.09	10 357 691 530	3.48	9.93	85 540 955 653	86 445 827 962	14 527 451 893	2.71	26 123 259 694	27 943 168 268	4 169 760 363
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(5 496 029 371)	0.41	(850 919 455)	0.36	0.33	3 575 146 201	3 889 424 141	487 913 050	0.87	8 477 326 322	9 385 453 512	1 338 832 505
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	8 727 361 490	1.28	940 167 766	1.23	3.43	37 154 559 122	39 400 279 497	5 012 637 005	2.64	31 324 165 778	30 672 918 007	4 072 469 239
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	79 157 564 605	1.32	15 889 386 147	1.60	29.03	328 962 646 858	325 999 588 040	42 479 128 777	17.26	262 265 673 772	246 842 023 435	26 589 742 630
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(60 927 320 401)	0.51	(10 595 189 417)	0.41	5.05	67 114 828 331	64 512 802 813	7 389 600 336	11.68	119 975 933 741	125 440 123 214	17 984 789 753
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(34 395 601 845)	0.33	(4 285 505 283)	0.34	1.52	18 508 660 641	17 071 614 740	2 227 196 855	4.23	48 402 278 646	51 467 216 585	6 512 702 138
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(680 182 395)	0.79	(186 812 979)	0.64	0.22	2 496 785 566	2 569 945 555	327 434 681	0.33	2 973 265 438	3 250 127 950	514 247 660
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 015 773 453	1.66	198 566 048	1.53	0.39	5 215 092 283	5 075 050 604	576 608 542	0.25	2 880 347 418	3 059 277 151	378 042 494
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	4 001 398 883	1.26	451 239 404	1.21	1.76	19 850 846 985	19 628 073 676	2 580 121 220	1.38	15 846 503 008	15 626 674 793	2 128 881 816
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(28 672 871 362)	0.23	(4 492 968 796)	0.14	0.49	9 505 963 307	8 558 442 073	720 253 647	3.38	33 792 094 862	37 231 313 435	5 213 222 443
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(12 098 885 341)	0.08	(2 157 008 378)	0.06	0.09	1 045 249 733	1 082 300 070	132 434 704	1.49	11 870 570 169	13 181 185 411	2 289 443 082
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 273 884 997)	0.33	(916 568 896)	0.34	0.32	3 877 062 166	3 531 464 732	463 998 907	0.90	11 944 253 622	10 805 349 729	1 380 567 803
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	221 890 098 028	21.70	22 398 661 597	8.13	17.45	246 831 098 830	232 610 628 903	25 539 157 635	2.04	8 907 806 032	10 720 530 875	3 140 496 038
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	66 574 858 686	2.01	7 940 299 465	2.00	10.85	144 095 723 107	132 448 613 889	15 886 357 117	5.16	66 270 632 132	65 873 755 203	7 946 057 652
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(198 784 639 328)	0.27	(28 558 444 588)	0.25	6.53	82 564 453 217	75 025 467 585	9 554 007 409	24.74	318 589 788 416	273 810 106 913	38 112 451 997
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	48 159 558 961	1.51	2 620 973 605	1.20	10.63	139 759 415 115	142 764 371 342	15 557 883 611	8.40	119 827 590 981	94 604 812 381	12 936 910 006
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(25 416 217 245)	0.16	(3 101 911 675)	0.17	0.42	5 772 598 315	4 952 081 802	613 154 877	2.41	29 168 303 944	30 368 299 047	3 715 066 552
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(11 934 124 787)	0.25	(2 189 424 698)	0.19	0.35	3 917 538 239	4 044 019 911	515 334 236	1.76	14 694 585 856	15 978 144 698	2 704 758 934
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	707 662 846	2.63	111 506 859	7.08	0.09	982 038 580	1 140 577 714	129 833 854	0.01	729 868 983	432 914 868	18 326 995
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 941 703 181	2.21	20 331 877	1.09	0.17	2 393 887 077	3 540 772 108	242 913 983	0.14	1 040 769 804	1 599 068 927	222 582 106
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(106 858 934 968)	0.00	(11 135 730 172)	0.00	0.00	2 042 782	1 854 287	318 461	7.23	110 504 597 370	106 860 789 255	11 136 048 633
Total	Total SA Rand	(740 851 508)	1.00	(7 688 087 328)	0.95	100.00	1 219 981 051 196	1 186 152 460 991	146 350 958 353	100.00	1 256 748 518 759	1 186 893 312 499	154 039 045 681

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
AFRICA	155 725 927 859	2.79	21 702 461 073	2.73	23.41	230 868 031 895	242 502 386 708	34 257 300 815	8.15	75 973 079 557	86 776 458 849	12 554 839 742
AMERICA	1 793 134 712	1.02	(2 055 791 689)	0.86	8.70	126 631 643 780	120 099 932 474	12 731 452 077	9.60	129 883 537 561	118 306 797 762	14 787 243 766
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EUROPE	(31 282 738 859)	0.91	(4 366 122 903)	0.89	24.02	337 980 499 286	307 554 214 264	35 147 783 321	25.65	354 857 640 508	338 836 953 123	39 513 906 224
OCEANIA	(1 357 408 524)	0.92	(973 801 653)	0.67	1.37	13 274 345 092	14 821 088 273	2 001 373 666	1.93	14 734 630 022	16 178 496 797	2 975 175 319
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	85 449 167 241	18.01	8 511 201 206	28.52	6.03	76 759 063 386	90 473 564 034	8 820 475 772	0.20	6 371 076 243	5 024 396 793	309 274 566
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 736 219 270	-	1 289 271 123	-	0.88	7 470 324 926	9 736 219 270	1 289 271 123				
Total	(740 851 508)	1.00	(7 688 087 328)	0.95	100.00	1 219 981 051 196	1 186 152 460 991	146 350 958 353	100.00	1 256 748 518 759	1 186 893 312 499	154 039 045 681
Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024				
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	14 587 876 314	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394	17 201 568 936	16 523 213 266	16 850 871 001	18 373 411 972	16 789 689 897				

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 August 2024 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R13.3 billion.

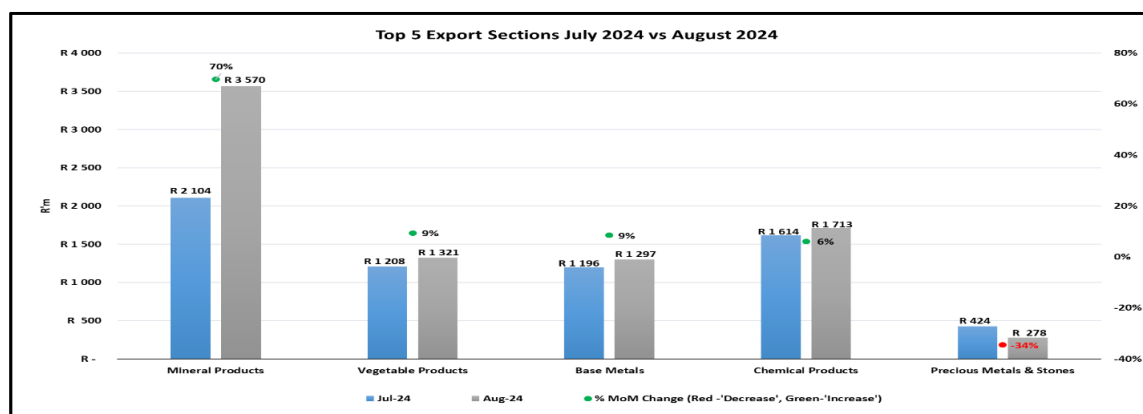
Summary

The R13.3 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for August 2024 was as a result of exports of R19.2 billion and imports of R5.9 billion. Exports increased by R1.9 billion (10.8%) between July and August 2024, whereas imports decreased by R0.05 billion (-0.9%) over the same period.

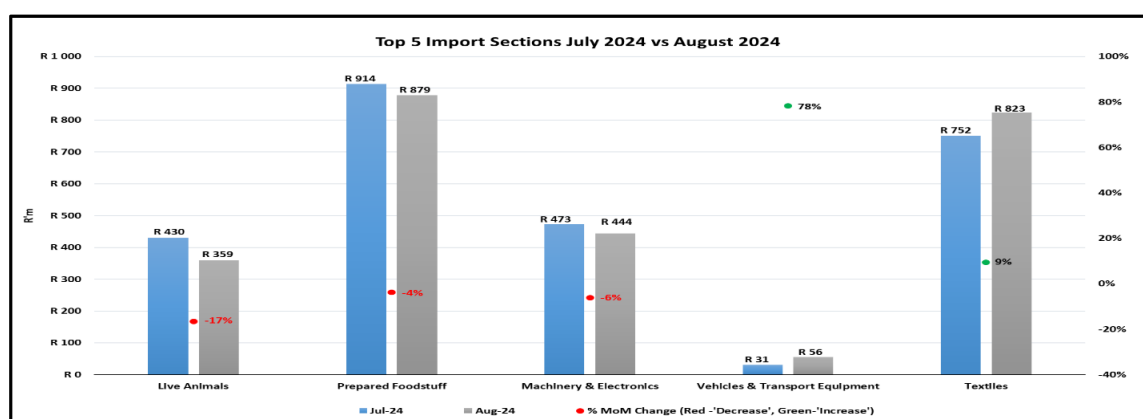
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R89.7 billion, compared to R81.5 billion in 2023.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

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