



## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 30 June 2025*

## **SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for May 2025**

**Pretoria, 30 June 2025** – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R21.7 billion in May 2025. This surplus was attributable to exports of R175.7 billion and imports of R154.1 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 May 2025) preliminary trade balance surplus of R60.3 billion was lower than the R63.9 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for May 2025 (R175.7 billion) were 2.7% lower compared to R180.6 billion recorded in May 2024. Import flows were lower by 2.5%, having decreased from R158.1 billion in May 2024 to R154.1 billion in the current period.

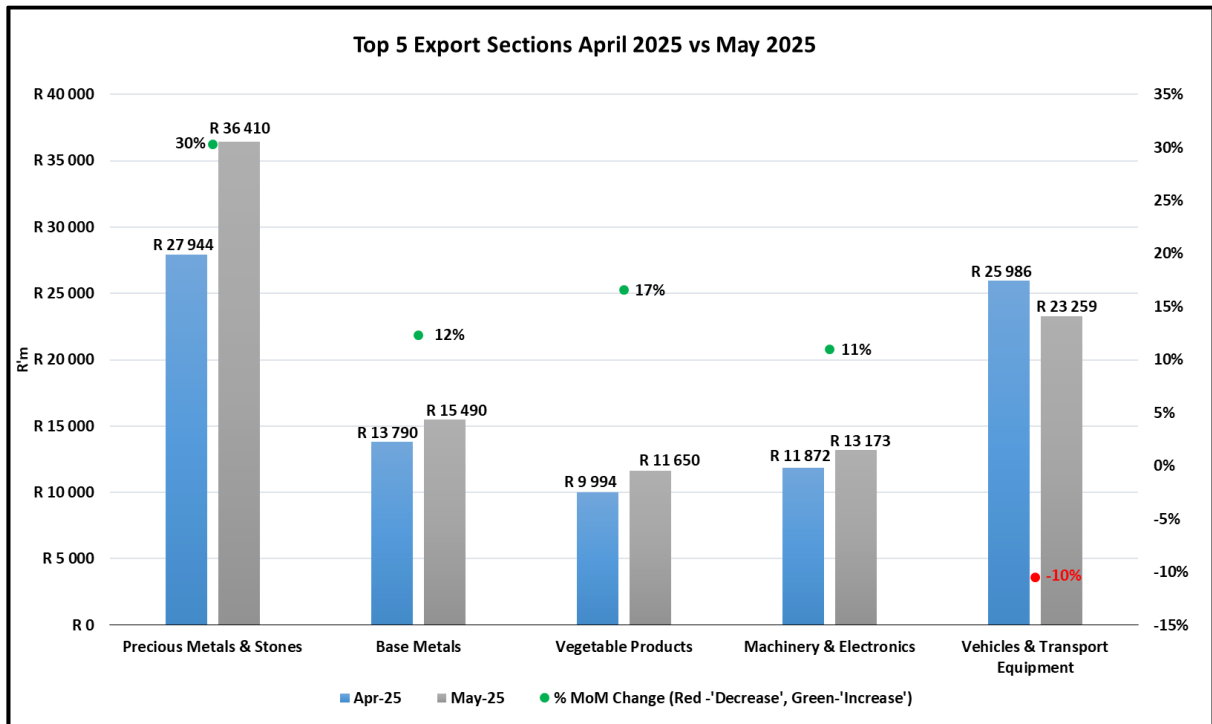
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R10.5 billion (6.3%) from R165.3 billion to R175.7 billion between April and May 2025, whilst imports increased by R1.8 billion (1.2%) from R152.3 billion to R154.1 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in May 2025, driven by exports of Gold, PGMs, and Citrus Fruits. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Crude Oil, Artificial Corundum, and Telephone Sets, Including Smartphones and Other Telephones.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R14.1 billion announced for April 2025 was revised downwards by R1.1 billion, with the final number at R13.0 billion.

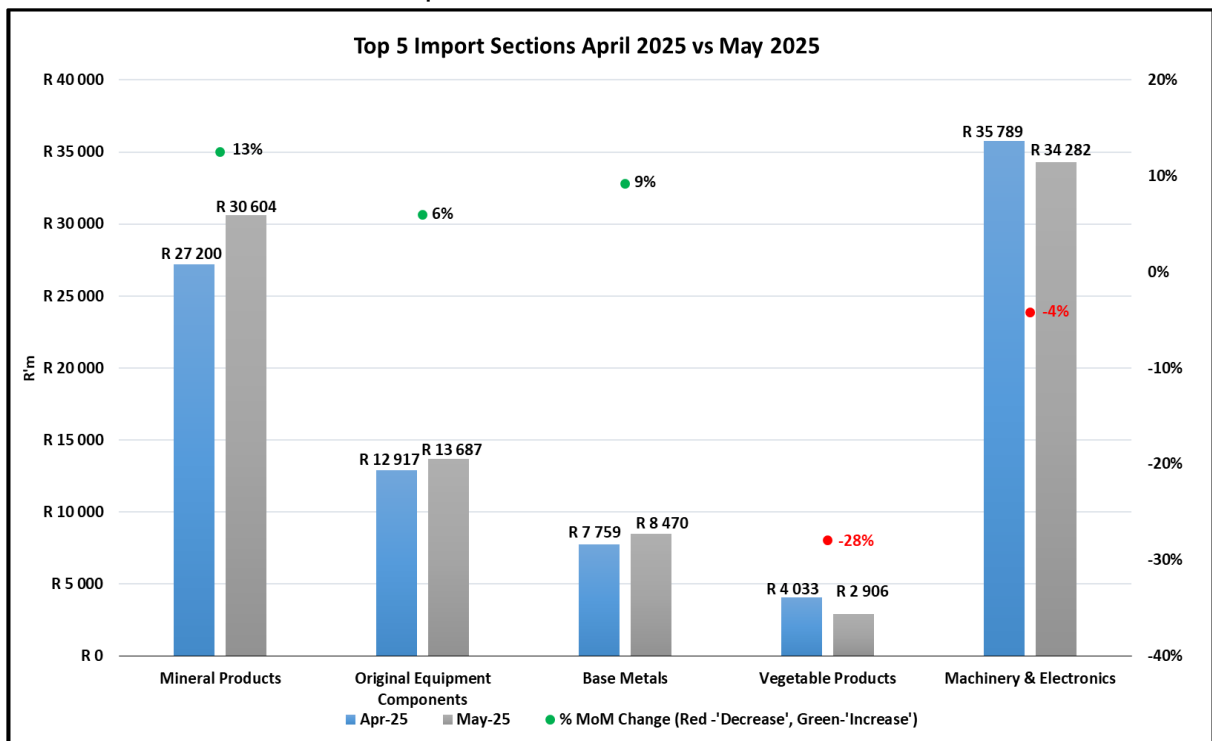
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## Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



## Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from April 2025 (revised) to May 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2025	May 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	45 915	48 046	2 131	↑ 4.6%
	Imports	12 364	16 357	3 993	↑ 32.3%
	Trade Balance	33 551	31 689	-	-
America	Exports	14 329	13 724	-606	↓ -4.2%
	Imports	16 899	16 325	-574	↓ -3.4%
	Trade Balance	-2 569	-2 601	-	-
Asia	Exports	47 737	49 244	1 506	↑ 3.2%
	Imports	79 581	78 105	-1 476	↓ -1.9%
	Trade Balance	-31 844	-28 862	-	-
Europe	Exports	40 937	46 678	5 741	↑ 14.0%
	Imports	40 514	39 624	-890	↓ -2.2%
	Trade Balance	423	7 054	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 301	1 276	-1 025	↓ -44.5%
	Imports	2 322	2 596	274	↑ 11.8%
	Trade Balance	-21	-1 320	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	12 778	15 777	3 000	↑ 23.5%
	Imports	615	1 072	457	↑ 74.3%
	Trade Balance	12 163	14 706	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 296	1 006	-290	↓ -22.4%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 296	1 006	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for May 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.0 billion.

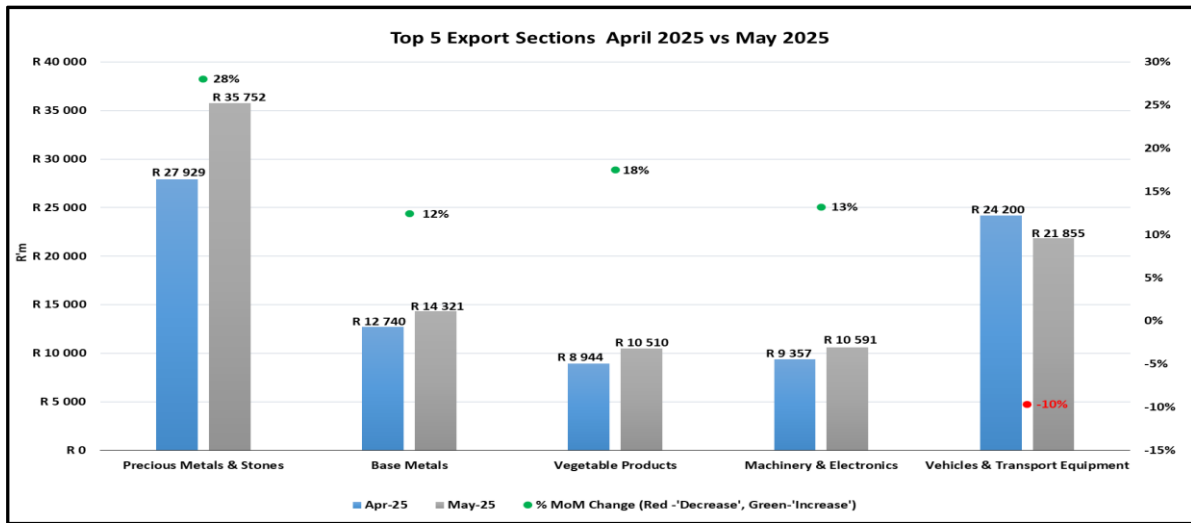
### **Summary**

The R10.0 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for May 2025 was as a result of exports of R158.5 billion and imports of R148.5 billion. Exports increased by R9.7 billion (6.5%) between April and May 2025 whilst imports increased by R1.9 billion (1.3%) over the same period.

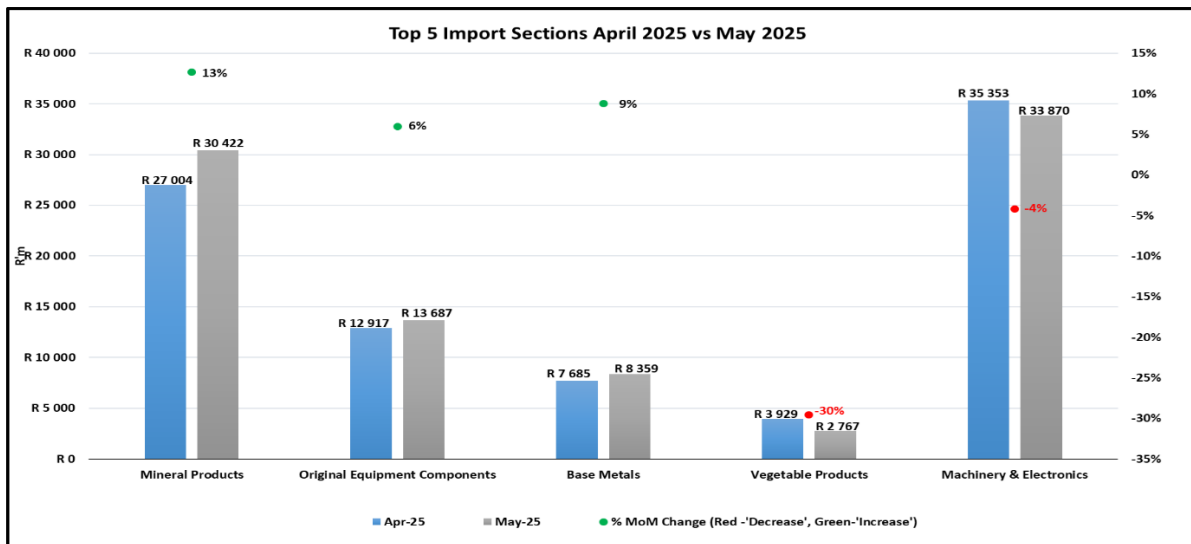
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R5.4 billion, compared to R10.1 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2024.

## 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 April 2025 (revised) and May 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2025	May 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	29 428	30 807	1 379	4.7%
	Imports	6 677	10 794	4 117	61.7%
	Trade Balance	22 751	20 014	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics May 2025](#)

## SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	3 218 378 724	1.44	777 651 958	1.56	1.23	9 239 861 079	10 500 068 918	2 155 910 947	0.89	9 459 510 216	7 281 690 194	1 378 258 989
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	35 716 520 886	2.76	8 744 062 918	4.01	6.63	52 922 409 424	56 005 560 437	11 649 624 660	1.89	17 222 721 178	20 289 039 551	2 905 561 742
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 597 224 569)	0.56	(338 935 772)	0.67	0.40	3 323 200 785	3 365 741 966	698 401 476	0.67	5 522 884 784	5 962 966 535	1 037 337 248
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	9 607 074 495	1.38	2 605 450 517	1.52	4.31	33 666 880 185	34 651 695 436	7 583 152 424	3.23	22 577 020 299	25 044 620 941	4 977 701 907
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	61 416 411 957	1.42	12 572 071 498	1.41	24.57	216 342 087 543	208 842 143 197	43 175 822 177	19.86	162 515 275 606	147 425 731 240	30 603 750 679
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(34 131 447 541)	0.58	(7 186 643 301)	0.56	5.25	47 358 534 004	47 071 406 352	9 226 206 638	10.65	81 563 139 100	81 202 853 893	16 412 849 939
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(16 751 237 059)	0.46	(3 205 674 171)	0.50	1.81	13 687 693 667	14 228 078 337	3 179 372 158	4.14	32 992 580 203	30 979 315 396	6 385 046 329
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(267 103 711)	0.87	(40 047 123)	0.90	0.20	1 844 976 251	1 712 405 828	349 926 091	0.25	1 947 837 845	1 979 509 539	389 973 214
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 160 621 150	1.72	450 975 744	1.72	0.61	4 341 578 022	5 170 792 892	1 077 664 245	0.41	3 035 486 247	3 010 171 742	626 688 501
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	3 218 116 945	1.34	722 329 633	1.38	1.50	13 640 711 198	12 767 973 186	2 639 439 938	1.24	10 117 517 533	9 549 856 241	1 917 110 305
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(16 313 301 153)	0.38	(2 712 684 800)	0.43	1.15	9 773 086 790	9 987 212 255	2 027 018 802	3.08	25 985 000 838	26 300 513 408	4 739 703 602
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(5 280 440 972)	0.27	(1 176 839 305)	0.24	0.21	1 636 216 092	1 981 630 349	371 725 542	1.01	7 360 521 404	7 262 071 321	1 548 564 847
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 015 261 328)	0.54	(530 866 961)	0.58	0.42	3 059 829 378	3 508 821 512	746 625 118	0.83	6 756 877 991	6 524 082 840	1 277 492 079
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	139 169 188 675	11.34	33 432 867 901	12.23	20.72	144 479 548 514	152 632 165 758	36 410 107 973	1.93	10 986 416 040	13 462 977 083	2 977 240 072
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	37 288 151 716	1.94	7 020 356 564	1.83	8.81	90 500 480 441	76 863 112 150	15 490 116 220	5.50	40 691 979 301	39 574 960 434	8 469 759 656
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(116 274 594 279)	0.33	(21 108 968 410)	0.38	7.50	58 037 826 091	58 548 868 575	13 173 399 556	22.25	171 750 239 372	174 823 462 854	34 282 367 966
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	43 196 214 726	1.62	8 948 364 222	1.63	13.23	114 225 521 698	112 384 262 616	23 259 483 705	9.29	56 938 009 334	69 188 047 890	14 311 119 483
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(14 467 113 474)	0.24	(2 932 071 997)	0.23	0.51	4 162 062 477	4 594 907 318	891 524 668	2.48	19 096 763 924	19 062 020 792	3 823 596 665
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 893 891 701)	0.48	(1 006 714 839)	0.52	0.61	4 314 113 872	4 460 119 029	1 071 147 806	1.35	9 168 725 644	9 354 010 730	2 077 862 645
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	209 530 782	1.53	49 567 591	1.48	0.09	729 376 062	603 256 685	152 339 678	0.07	327 018 062	393 725 903	102 772 087
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	2 136 173 244	3.39	271 866 746	2.84	0.24	2 759 775 881	3 030 817 443	419 784 701	0.10	1 059 312 055	894 644 199	147 917 955
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(63 026 908 465)	0.00	(13 685 663 300)	0.00	0.00	1 263 212	9 600 994	1 113 562	8.88	69 044 461 459	63 036 509 459	13 686 776 862
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>60 317 859 048</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>21 670 455 313</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>830 047 032 666</b>	<b>822 920 641 233</b>	<b>175 749 908 085</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>766 119 298 435</b>	<b>762 602 782 185</b>	<b>154 079 452 772</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)
AFRICA	155 135 068 436	3.05	31 688 548 249	2.94	27.34	227 191 144 511	230 727 260 295	48 045 954 568	10.62	78 319 680 049	75 592 191 859	16 357 406 319
AMERICA	(8 150 434 878)	0.89	(2 601 261 053)	0.84	7.81	77 441 495 455	69 189 641 740	13 723 571 488	10.60	75 695 554 836	77 340 076 618	16 324 832 541
ASIA	(158 625 080 036)	0.60	(28 861 605 068)	0.63	28.02	247 346 063 413	237 013 570 523	49 243 579 232	50.69	380 943 674 770	395 638 650 559	78 105 184 300
EUROPE	3 401 234 246	1.02	7 053 594 736	1.18	26.56	209 843 971 365	202 826 028 855	46 677 695 626	25.72	219 137 497 816	199 424 794 609	39 624 100 890
OCEANIA	(4 367 360 193)	0.64	(1 320 091 070)	0.49	0.73	9 793 214 851	7 906 272 962	1 276 013 791	1.68	9 295 521 028	12 273 633 155	2 596 104 861
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	67 638 643 826	29.99	14 705 583 916	14.72	8.98	52 656 510 829	69 972 079 211	15 777 407 777	0.70	2 727 369 936	2 333 435 385	1 071 823 861
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	5 285 787 647	-	1 005 685 603	-	0.57	5 774 632 242	5 285 787 647	1 005 685 603				
<b>Total</b>	<b>60 317 859 048</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>21 670 455 313</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>830 047 032 666</b>	<b>822 920 641 233</b>	<b>175 749 908 085</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>766 119 298 435</b>	<b>762 602 782 185</b>	<b>154 079 452 772</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	20 295 960 338	16 291 090 563	18 047 738 364

### 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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	2 444 475 378	1.40	605 841 245	1.52	1.11	7 461 356 616	8 591 145 317	1 760 160 527	0.78	7 511 399 687	6 146 669 939	1 154 319 282
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	30 531 496 778	2.55	7 743 111 369	3.80	6.63	47 036 212 456	50 292 403 431	10 509 887 045	1.86	16 743 730 417	19 760 906 653	2 766 775 676
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 621 706 849)	0.39	(576 050 723)	0.44	0.29	2 370 257 897	2 298 850 438	455 798 738	0.69	5 515 333 612	5 920 557 287	1 031 849 461
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	3 416 767 955	1.16	1 353 640 338	1.33	3.43	23 695 195 412	24 377 728 129	5 430 335 114	2.74	19 114 619 497	20 960 960 174	4 076 694 776
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	49 247 954 184	1.34	10 503 087 687	1.35	25.82	203 148 293 610	195 753 362 376	40 924 973 132	20.48	161 446 319 403	146 505 408 192	30 421 885 445
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(37 893 931 146)	0.51	(8 354 067 375)	0.47	4.67	39 796 376 808	38 792 153 006	7 401 871 133	10.61	76 684 667 922	76 686 084 152	15 755 938 508
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(19 989 944 927)	0.35	(3 881 034 706)	0.38	1.53	10 048 994 445	10 604 540 913	2 428 505 103	4.25	32 593 255 296	30 594 485 840	6 309 539 809
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(451 053 420)	0.77	(75 927 008)	0.80	0.19	1 611 042 344	1 482 843 490	305 122 883	0.26	1 895 724 877	1 933 896 910	381 049 891
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 128 186 121	2.15	465 005 553	2.30	0.52	3 309 934 943	3 976 694 747	822 970 393	0.24	1 920 772 572	1 848 508 626	357 964 840
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	1 847 143 882	1.20	468 371 981	1.25	1.47	11 938 955 629	11 151 160 836	2 335 658 512	1.26	9 880 570 982	9 304 016 954	1 867 286 531
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(17 129 360 091)	0.25	(2 919 770 660)	0.28	0.70	5 923 986 854	5 724 002 137	1 108 315 974	2.71	22 773 040 267	22 853 362 228	4 028 086 634
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(6 217 058 302)	0.13	(1 370 224 051)	0.11	0.10	693 406 538	958 285 570	161 527 359	1.03	7 277 696 372	7 175 343 872	1 531 751 410
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 006 594 791)	0.38	(705 930 013)	0.44	0.35	2 164 550 373	2 452 894 951	554 500 956	0.85	6 698 763 567	6 459 489 742	1 260 430 969
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	146 719 313 585	33.36	34 505 729 275	28.69	22.55	142 995 481 857	151 252 915 697	35 751 827 003	0.84	3 815 497 747	4 533 602 112	1 246 097 728
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	32 498 573 032	1.83	5 962 361 319	1.71	9.03	85 179 127 838	71 484 613 980	14 321 361 598	5.63	40 262 821 558	38 986 040 948	8 359 000 279
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(126 855 127 775)	0.27	(23 278 818 969)	0.31	6.68	45 714 809 656	45 748 824 639	10 590 991 193	22.81	169 236 563 408	172 603 952 414	33 869 810 162
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	35 884 121 506	1.52	7 573 864 284	1.53	13.79	106 708 472 795	104 853 649 576	21 854 826 716	9.62	56 710 774 158	68 969 528 070	14 280 962 432
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(15 625 895 602)	0.18	(3 195 427 778)	0.16	0.39	3 070 615 487	3 389 676 110	621 068 326	2.57	19 044 951 947	19 015 571 712	3 816 496 104
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(6 880 106 273)	0.26	(1 461 452 792)	0.29	0.38	2 430 944 416	2 415 125 159	602 451 652	1.39	9 115 214 034	9 295 231 432	2 063 904 444
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	205 685 176	1.52	48 851 139	1.48	0.10	720 182 366	598 837 243	151 574 726	0.07	326 568 867	393 152 067	102 723 587
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	2 126 982 127	3.40	270 085 336	2.85	0.26	2 738 724 560	3 013 903 121	416 428 151	0.10	1 051 663 010	886 920 994	146 342 815
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(63 026 978 465)	0.00	(13 685 664 025)	0.00	0.00	869 023	9 530 994	1 112 837	9.22	69 044 441 459	63 036 509 459	13 686 776 862
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>5 352 942 083</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>9 995 581 426</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>748 757 791 923</b>	<b>739 223 141 860</b>	<b>158 511 269 071</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>738 664 390 659</b>	<b>733 870 199 777</b>	<b>148 515 687 645</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	
AFRICA	100 170 151 471	3.14	20 013 674 362	2.85	19.44	145 901 903 768	147 029 760 922	30 807 315 554	7.27	50 864 772 273	46 859 609 451	10 793 641 192	
AMERICA	(8 150 434 878)	0.89	(2 601 261 053)	0.84	8.66	77 441 495 455	69 189 641 740	13 723 571 488	10.99	75 695 554 836	77 340 076 618	16 324 832 541	
ASIA	(158 625 080 036)	0.60	(28 861 605 068)	0.63	31.07	247 346 063 413	237 013 570 523	49 243 579 232	52.59	380 943 674 770	395 638 650 559	78 105 184 300	
EUROPE	3 401 234 246	1.02	7 053 594 736	1.18	29.45	209 843 971 365	202 826 028 855	46 677 695 626	26.68	219 137 497 816	199 424 794 609	39 624 100 890	
OCEANIA	(4 367 360 193)	0.64	(1 320 091 070)	0.49	0.80	9 793 214 851	7 906 272 962	1 276 013 791	1.75	9 295 521 028	12 273 633 155	2 596 104 861	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	67 638 643 826	29.99	14 705 583 916	14.72	9.95	52 656 510 829	69 972 079 211	15 777 407 777	0.72	2 727 369 936	2 333 435 385	1 071 823 861	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	5 285 787 647	-	1 005 685 603	-	0.63	5 774 632 242	5 285 787 647	1 005 685 603	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 352 942 083</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>9 995 581 426</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>748 757 791 923</b>	<b>739 223 141 860</b>	<b>158 511 269 071</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>738 664 390 659</b>	<b>733 870 199 777</b>	<b>148 515 687 645</b>	

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	20 295 960 338	16 291 090 563	18 047 738 364

### Notes:

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- 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 May 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.7 billion.

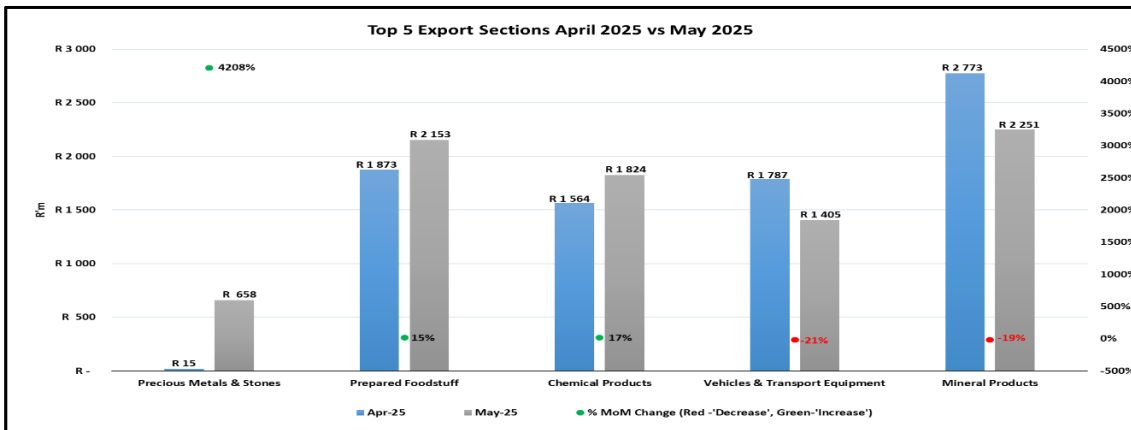
### Summary

The R11.7 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for May 2025 was as a result of exports of R17.2 billion and imports of R5.6 billion. Exports increased by R0.8 billion (4.6%) between April and May 2025 and imports decreased by R0.1 billion (-2.2%) over the same period.

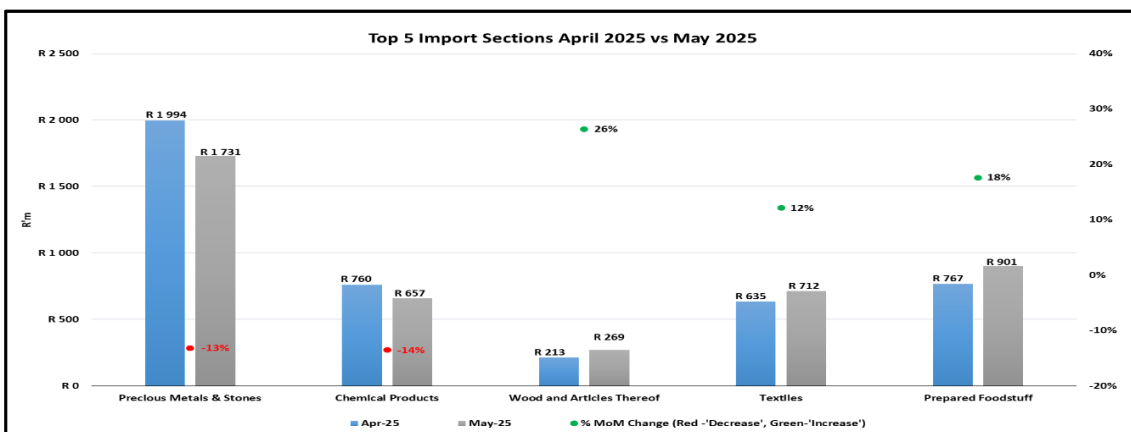
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R55.0 billion, compared to R53.8 billion surplus in 2024.

### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics May 2025](#)

ENDS.

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