

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 August 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for July 2025

Pretoria, 29 August 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R20.3 billion in July 2025. This surplus was attributable to exports of R184.3 billion and imports of R164.0 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 July 2025) preliminary trade balance surplus of R98.9 billion was lower than the R113.7 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for July 2025 (R184.3 billion) were 3.1% higher compared to R178.7 billion recorded in July 2024. Import flows were higher by 4.5%, having increased from R157.0 billion in July 2024 to R164.0 billion in the current period.

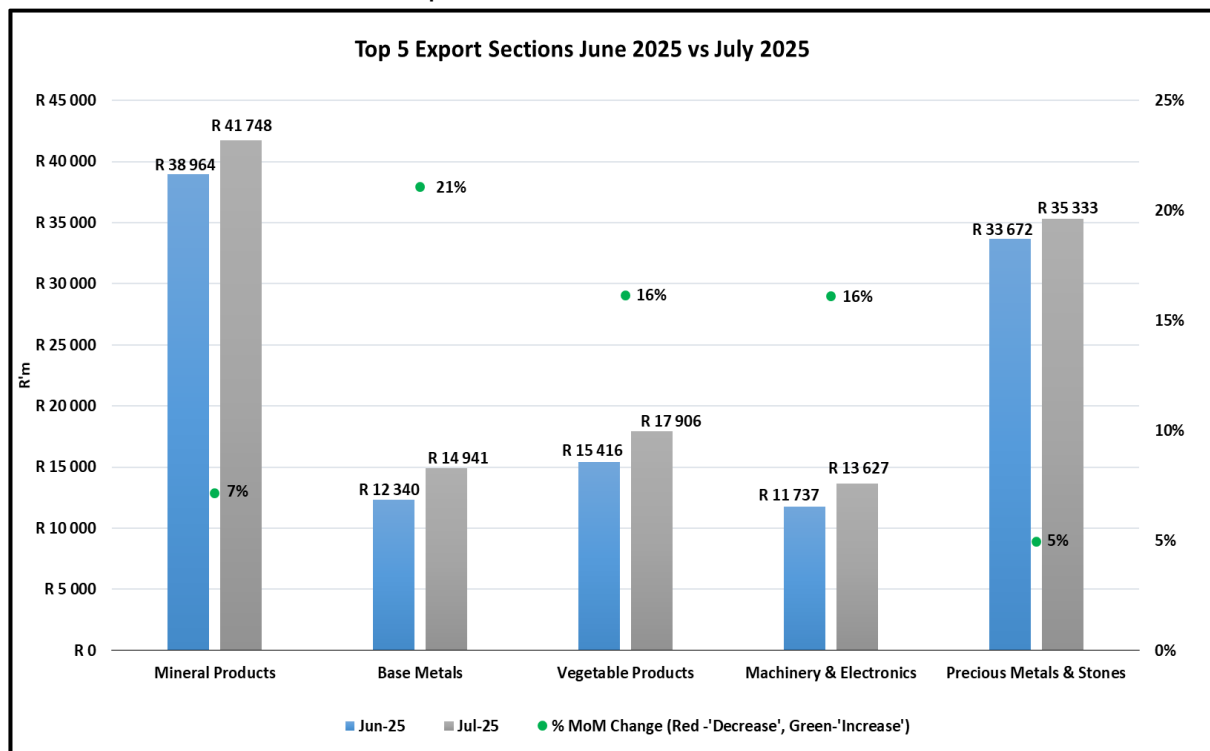
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R14.5 billion (8.5%) from R169.8 billion to R184.3 billion between June and July 2025, whilst imports increased by R15.2 billion (10.2%) from R148.8 billion to R164.0 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in July 2025, driven by Citrus Fruit, Unwrought Aluminium, and Manganese Ores and Concentrates. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Petroleum Oils (Excluding Crude), Mineral or Chemical Fertilizers, and Crude Oil.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R22.0 billion announced for June 2025 was revised downwards by R1.1 billion, with the final number at R21.0 billion.

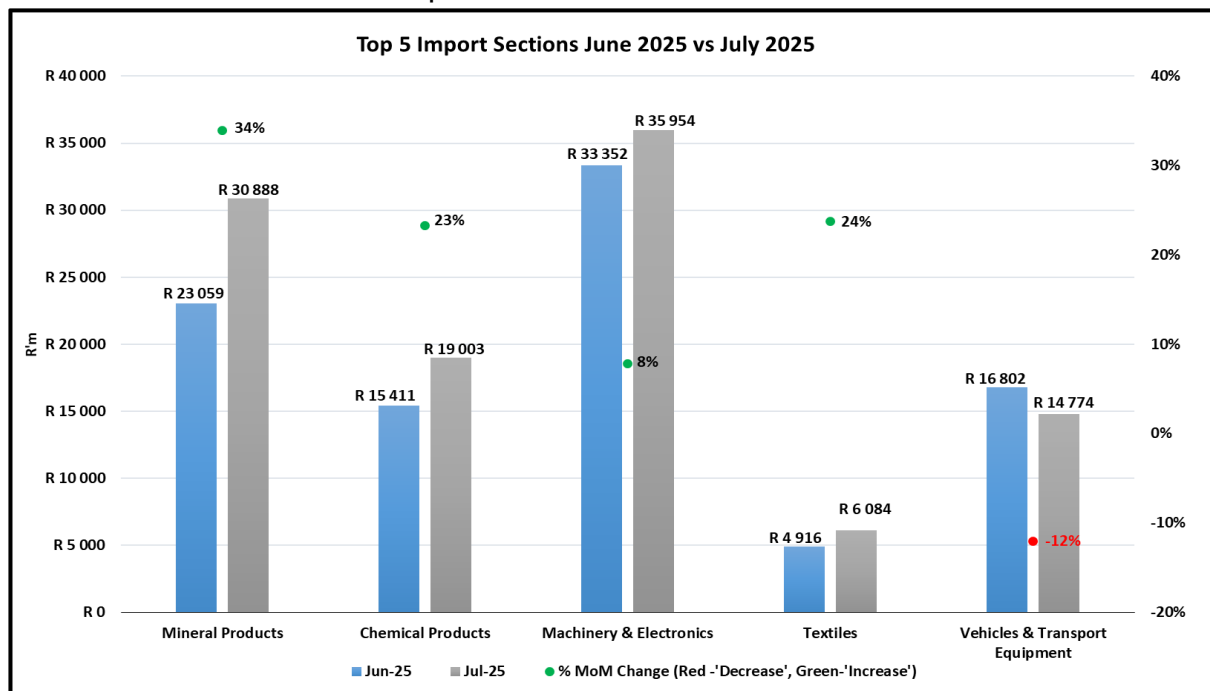
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from June 2025 (revised) to July 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	June 2025	July 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	45 892	49 286	3 393	↑ 7.4%
	Imports	13 550	14 786	1 236	↑ 9.1%
	Trade Balance	32 343	34 500	-	-
America	Exports	14 752	15 020	268	↑ 1.8%
	Imports	16 949	16 942	-7	↓ 0.0%
	Trade Balance	-2 197	-1 922	-	-
Asia	Exports	50 059	51 982	1 923	↑ 3.8%
	Imports	73 835	87 774	13 939	↑ 18.9%
	Trade Balance	-23 777	-35 792	-	-
Europe	Exports	43 092	50 162	7 069	↑ 16.4%
	Imports	42 151	42 152	1	↑ 0.0%
	Trade Balance	941	8 009	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 388	2 421	33	↑ 1.4%
	Imports	2 085	1 933	-152	↓ -7.3%
	Trade Balance	303	488	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	13 011	14 008	997	↑ 7.7%
	Imports	273	439	167	↑ 61.1%
	Trade Balance	12 739	13 569	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	608	1 438	829	↑ 136.3%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	608	1 438	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for July 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R8.9 billion.

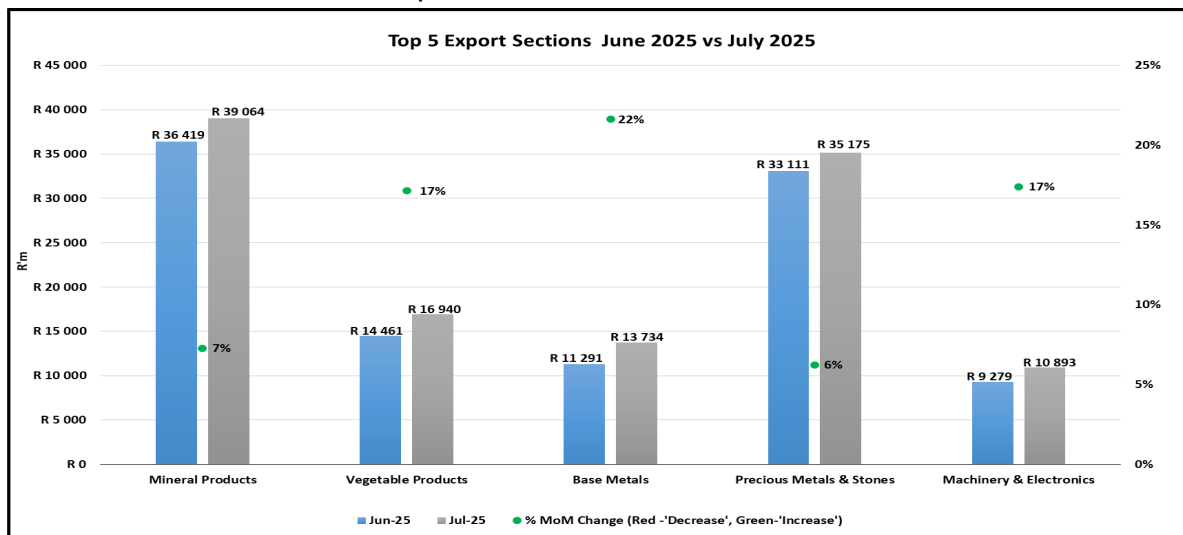
Summary

The R8.9 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for July 2025 was as a result of exports of R166.6 billion and imports of R157.7 billion. Exports increased by R13.3 billion (8.7%) between June and July 2025 whilst imports increased by R15.2 billion (10.7%) over the same period.

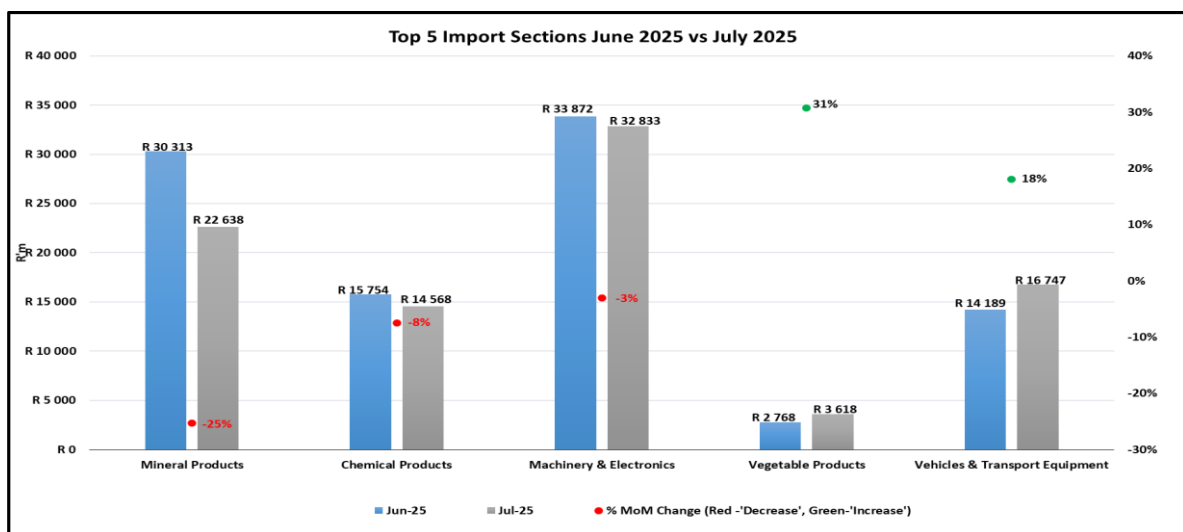
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R22.4 billion, compared to R37.6 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2024.

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 June 2025 (revised) and July 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	June 2025	July 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	29 425	31 573	2 148	7.3%
	Imports	7 221	8 502	1 281	17.7%
	Trade Balance	22 204	23 072	-	-

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Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (Only)

South Africa's trade with the BELN countries for July 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.4 billion.

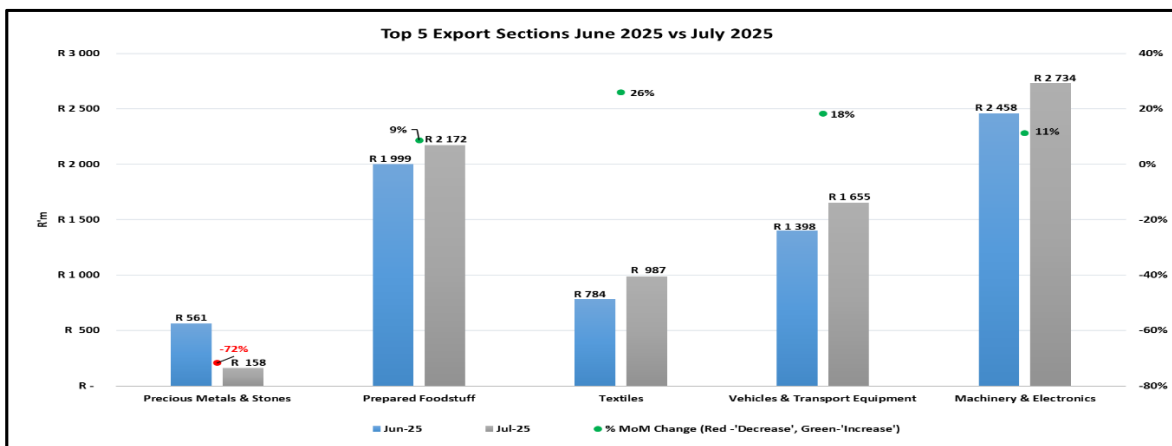
Summary

The R11.4 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for July 2025 was as a result of exports of R17.7 billion and imports of R6.3 billion. Exports increased by R1.2 billion (7.6%) between June and July 2025, and imports decreased by R0.05 billion (-0.7%) over the same period.

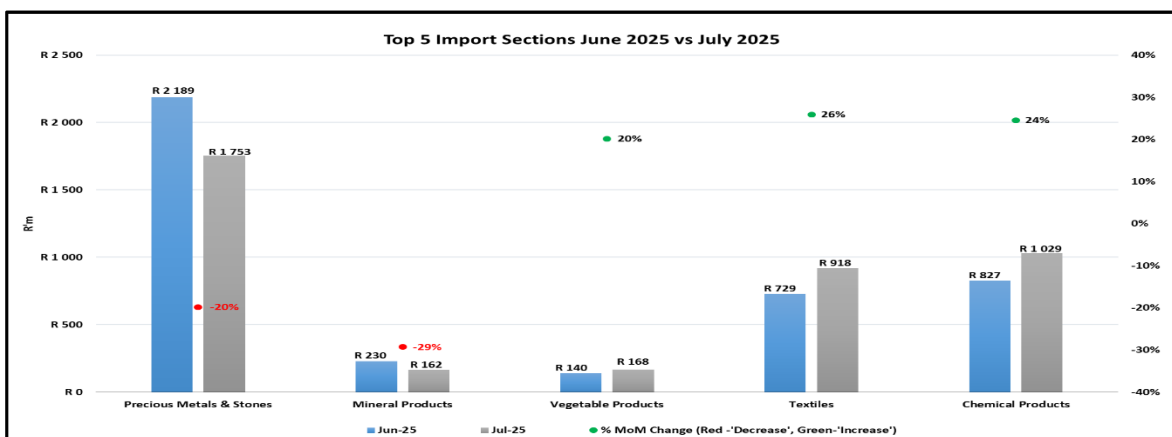
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R76.5 billion, compared to R76.2 billion surplus in 2024.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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