

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 30 May 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for April 2025

Pretoria, 30 May 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R14.1 billion in April 2025. This surplus was attributable to exports of R166.2 billion and imports of R152.1 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2025) preliminary trade balance surplus of R39.7 billion was lower than the R40.6 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for April 2025 (R166.2 billion) were 4.0% lower compared to R173.2 billion recorded in April 2024. Import flows were lower by 4.2%, having decreased from R158.8 billion in April 2024 to R152.1 billion in the current period.

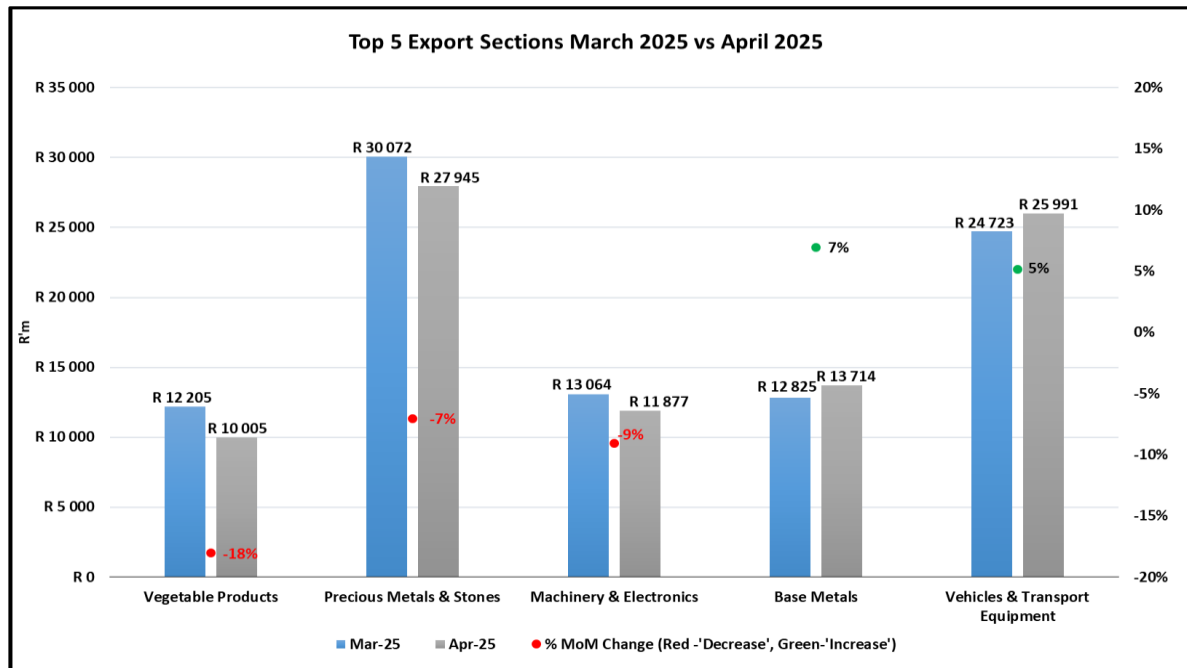
On a month-on-month basis, exports decreased by R4.3 billion (-2.5%) from R170.5 billion to R166.2 billion between March and April 2025, whilst imports increased by R4.3 billion (2.9%) from R147.8 billion to R152.1 billion over the same period. Export flows decreased in April 2025, driven by exports of Grapes; Gold; and Iron Ores and Concentrates. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Original Equipment Components; Aeroplanes; and Diamonds.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R24.8 billion announced for March 2025 was revised downwards by R2.1 billion, with the final number at R22.6 billion.

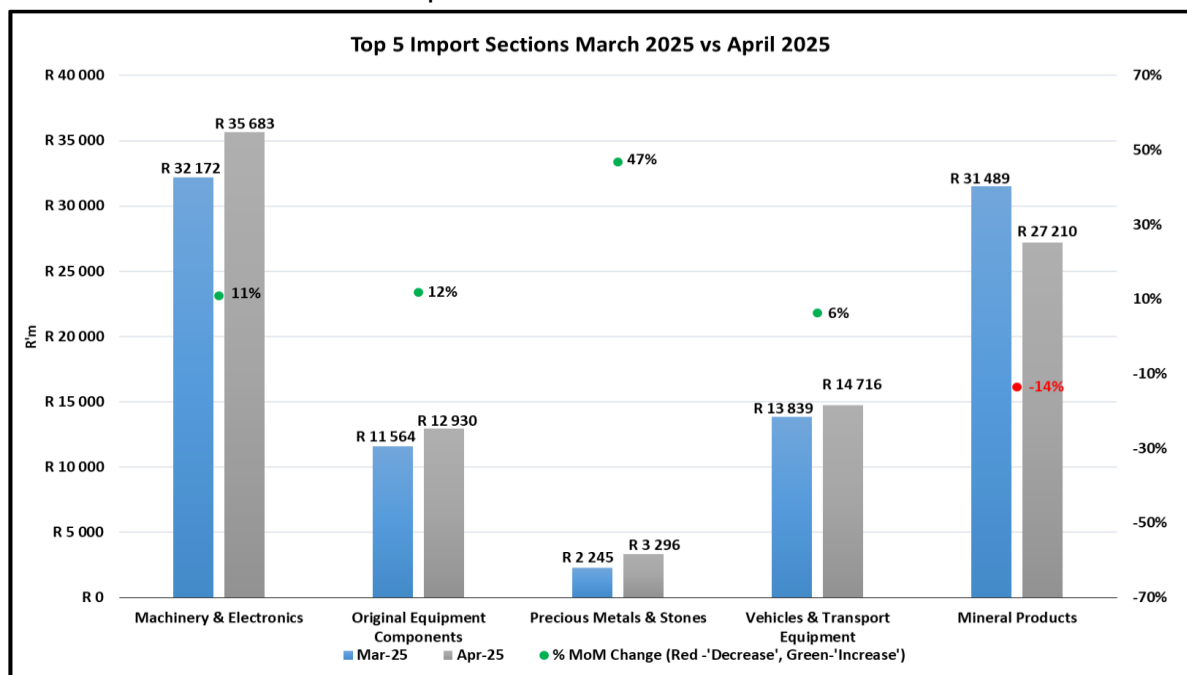
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics April 2025](#)

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 March 2025 (revised) to April 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2025	April 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	47 645	45 913	-1 732	↓ -3.6%
	Imports	14 640	12 366	-2 273	↓ -15.5%
	Trade Balance	33 005	33 547	-	-
America	Exports	11 882	14 328	2 445	↑ 20.6%
	Imports	14 957	16 886	1 928	↑ 12.9%
	Trade Balance	-3 075	-2 558	-	-
Asia	Exports	50 189	48 555	-1 634	↓ -3.3%
	Imports	77 712	79 555	1 843	↑ 2.4%
	Trade Balance	-27 523	-31 000	-	-
Europe	Exports	43 934	40 962	-2 972	↓ -6.8%
	Imports	37 609	40 485	2 876	↑ 7.6%
	Trade Balance	6 325	478	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 479	2 342	863	↑ 58.4%
	Imports	2 769	2 191	-578	↓ -20.9%
	Trade Balance	-1 290	151	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	14 548	12 778	-1 770	↓ -12.2%
	Imports	155	615	460	↑ 297.6%
	Trade Balance	14 393	12 163	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	812	1 296	484	↑ 59.6%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	812	1 296	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for April 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R3.3 billion.

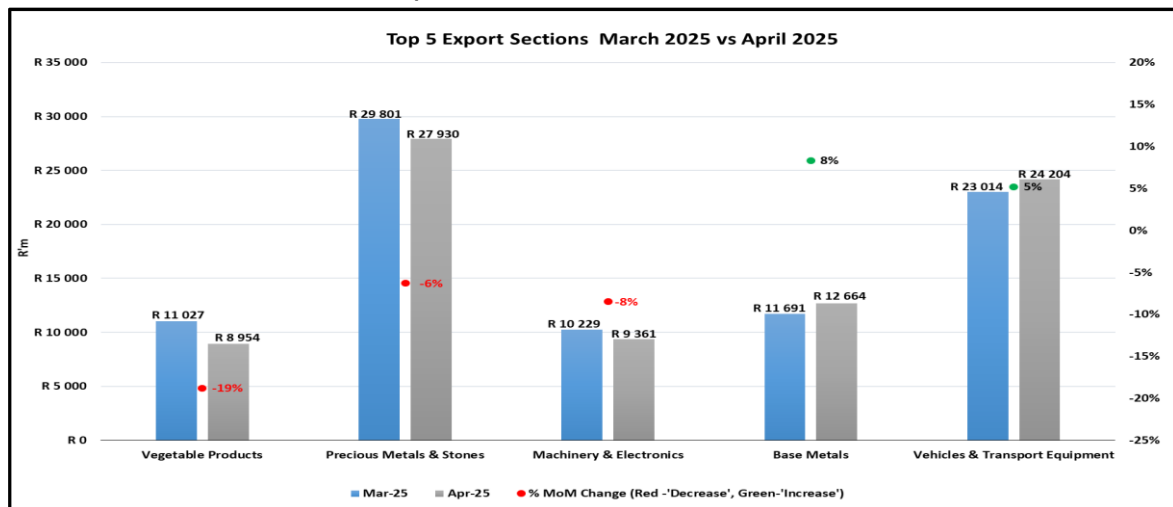
Summary

The R3.3 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2025 was as a result of exports of R149.7 billion and imports of R146.4 billion. Exports decreased by R3.6 billion (-2.4%) between March and April 2025 whilst imports increased by R4.4 billion (3.1%) over the same period.

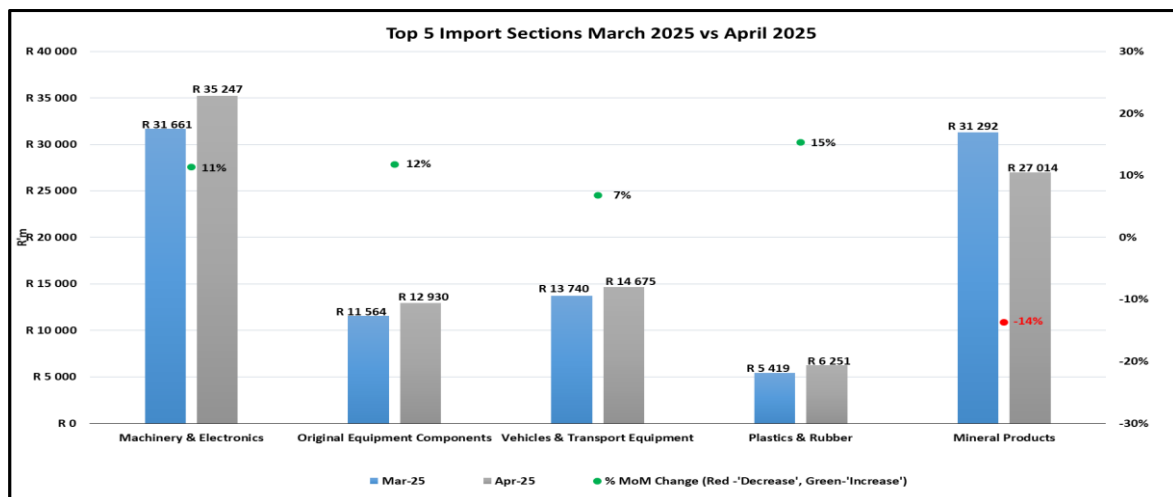
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a deficit of R3.6 billion, compared to R1.4 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2024.

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 March 2025 (revised) and April 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2025	April 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	30 460	29 412	-1 048	↓ -3.4%
	Imports	8 822	6 683	-2 139	↓ -24.2%
	Trade Balance	21 637	22 728	-	-

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

SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance	Ratio ⁵⁾	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾	Month Total 2025	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾	Month Total 2025
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	2 442 696 376	1.41	553 183 703	1.35	1.28	7 131 136 965	8 344 060 707	2 131 742 098	1.04	7 448 918 345	5 901 364 331	1 578 558 395
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	27 118 913 401	2.57	6 102 728 842	2.56	6.02	41 412 357 414	44 370 341 351	10 004 538 012	2.57	13 386 667 059	17 251 427 950	3 901 809 170
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 255 355 078)	0.54	(660 088 020)	0.51	0.41	2 564 813 151	2 667 461 440	686 116 970	0.89	4 329 888 814	4 922 816 518	1 346 204 990
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	7 013 635 719	1.35	2 443 960 409	1.49	4.50	25 767 900 449	27 067 832 650	7 479 170 039	3.31	17 814 471 972	20 054 196 931	5 035 209 630
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	50 677 816 720	1.43	16 124 143 431	1.59	26.08	172 279 930 364	167 598 600 637	43 333 864 699	17.89	130 083 122 252	116 920 783 917	27 209 721 268
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(26 917 337 306)	0.58	(6 249 088 701)	0.61	5.90	36 947 832 731	37 847 231 309	9 806 219 109	10.56	64 732 488 029	64 764 568 615	16 055 307 810
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(13 515 607 766)	0.45	(3 407 552 094)	0.46	1.76	10 572 877 075	11 063 250 488	2 917 927 398	4.16	26 315 427 657	24 578 858 254	6 325 479 492
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(226 854 229)	0.86	(473 946)	1.00	0.21	1 470 110 271	1 362 414 279	349 642 786	0.23	1 566 694 504	1 589 268 508	350 116 732
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 704 308 588	1.72	469 319 023	1.85	0.61	3 532 870 678	4 087 505 322	1 018 453 864	0.36	2 437 651 806	2 383 196 734	549 134 841
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	2 601 676 475	1.34	792 562 160	1.41	1.65	10 699 469 928	10 234 981 148	2 744 345 406	1.28	7 970 197 166	7 633 304 673	1 951 783 246
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(13 603 541 778)	0.37	(2 478 371 531)	0.48	1.40	7 572 421 662	7 959 627 338	2 333 250 264	3.16	21 087 063 793	21 563 169 116	4 811 621 795
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 101 468 161)	0.28	(837 941 477)	0.30	0.21	1 301 451 495	1 609 953 578	357 164 565	0.79	6 068 236 082	5 711 421 739	1 195 106 042
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 477 961 533)	0.53	(642 986 322)	0.50	0.39	2 426 860 104	2 762 474 813	651 009 523	0.85	5 409 553 043	5 240 436 346	1 293 995 845
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	105 729 968 671	11.08	24 649 100 916	8.48	16.82	109 564 881 148	116 223 389 312	27 945 329 085	2.17	9 154 981 638	10 493 420 641	3 296 228 169
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	29 144 906 014	1.94	5 952 508 624	1.77	8.25	70 524 173 911	60 251 094 462	13 713 631 994	5.10	32 710 777 572	31 106 188 448	7 761 123 370
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(95 026 263 072)	0.32	(23 806 465 861)	0.33	7.15	45 150 969 384	45 378 174 608	11 876 503 653	23.46	136 386 667 847	140 404 437 680	35 682 969 514
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	34 184 881 080	1.62	11 275 152 118	1.77	15.64	90 925 874 334	89 129 841 467	25 990 823 734	9.68	44 238 861 027	54 944 960 387	14 715 671 616
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(11 532 536 427)	0.24	(3 120 667 611)	0.21	0.51	3 273 838 858	3 702 926 041	839 266 025	2.60	15 345 145 409	15 235 462 468	3 959 933 636
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 926 286 767)	0.46	(841 334 973)	0.52	0.55	3 369 874 560	3 387 326 182	906 995 367	1.15	7 254 259 225	7 313 612 949	1 748 330 340
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	161 086 982	1.55	116 215 442	7.06	0.08	588 427 937	451 754 977	135 379 732	0.01	212 396 370	290 667 995	19 164 290
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 865 296 767	3.50	570 770 566	2.50	0.57	1 590 759 853	2 611 032 742	950 856 058	0.25	825 623 550	745 735 975	380 085 492
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(49 328 383 087)	0.00	(12 927 850 300)	0.00	0.00	1 193 552	8 487 432	1 677 450	8.50	53 278 960 570	49 336 870 519	12 929 527 750
Total	Total SA Rand	39 733 591 589	1.07	14 076 824 398	1.09	100.00	648 670 025 824	648 119 762 283	166 173 907 831	100.00	608 058 053 730	608 386 170 694	152 097 083 433

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 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)
AFRICA	123 414 391 335	3.08	33 546 774 754	3.71	27.63	179 240 623 640	182 651 980 489	45 913 231 713	8.13	63 490 298 238	59 237 589 154	12 366 456 959
AMERICA	(6 007 987 803)	0.90	(2 558 187 842)	0.85	8.62	60 006 503 153	54 992 664 597	14 327 567 152	11.10	57 978 416 393	61 000 652 400	16 885 754 994
ASIA	(128 151 187 872)	0.60	(30 999 843 707)	0.61	29.22	192 112 788 216	189 439 435 031	48 555 056 587	52.31	304 402 997 723	317 590 622 903	79 554 900 294
EUROPE	(3 853 667 997)	0.98	477 616 629	1.01	24.65	163 795 023 050	155 896 413 253	40 962 154 028	26.62	172 600 362 905	159 750 081 250	40 484 537 399
OCEANIA	(2 881 882 354)	0.70	151 258 573	1.07	1.41	7 364 318 211	6 664 078 761	2 342 085 247	1.44	7 128 701 198	9 545 961 115	2 190 826 674
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	52 933 407 561	42.97	12 162 925 860	20.79	7.69	41 588 182 829	54 194 671 433	12 777 532 973	0.40	2 457 277 273	1 261 263 872	614 607 113
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 280 518 719	-	1 296 280 131	-	0.78	4 562 586 725	4 280 518 719	1 296 280 131				
Total	39 733 591 589	1.07	14 076 824 398	1.09	100.00	648 670 025 824	648 119 762 283	166 173 907 831	100.00	608 058 053 730	608 386 170 694	152 097 083 433

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	20 297 574 638	16 297 219 221

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	Ratio ⁵⁾	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾	Month Total 2025	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾	Month Total 2025
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	1 838 297 956	1.37	423 806 768	1.32	1.17	5 733 687 032	6 830 416 752	1 752 196 388	0.91	5 932 785 297	4 992 118 796	1 328 389 620
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	22 934 133 475	2.36	5 155 696 467	2.36	5.98	36 775 017 577	39 796 276 362	8 953 607 495	2.59	13 047 081 281	16 862 142 887	3 797 911 028
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 042 722 407)	0.38	(848 174 295)	0.36	0.32	1 819 253 883	1 843 172 650	473 585 791	0.90	4 324 254 544	4 885 895 057	1 321 760 086
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	2 074 465 004	1.12	1 336 964 901	1.31	3.75	17 868 138 656	18 946 872 701	5 606 495 790	2.92	15 092 380 882	16 872 407 697	4 269 530 889
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	40 576 022 543	1.35	13 531 892 139	1.50	27.09	161 704 268 683	156 758 010 402	40 545 469 233	18.45	129 248 636 663	116 181 987 859	27 013 577 094
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(29 509 818 016)	0.52	(7 052 071 242)	0.54	5.51	30 942 041 143	31 394 892 289	8 243 495 077	10.45	60 522 135 803	60 904 710 305	15 295 566 319
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(16 082 569 742)	0.34	(4 020 374 994)	0.36	1.49	7 720 585 795	8 186 925 227	2 230 985 309	4.27	25 999 517 973	24 269 494 969	6 251 360 303
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(374 858 595)	0.76	(34 476 842)	0.90	0.20	1 282 059 323	1 177 720 607	303 212 095	0.23	1 526 585 330	1 552 579 202	337 688 937
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 656 679 254	2.11	441 216 987	2.31	0.52	2 723 865 740	3 147 246 429	778 009 980	0.23	1 565 335 076	1 490 567 175	336 792 993
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	1 484 847 568	1.20	529 971 151	1.28	1.62	9 315 615 940	8 922 211 313	2 431 280 682	1.30	7 794 800 222	7 437 363 745	1 901 309 531
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(14 212 476 432)	0.25	(2 751 891 173)	0.34	0.95	4 585 179 798	4 615 160 083	1 425 079 289	2.85	18 520 304 504	18 827 636 515	4 176 970 462
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 844 696 241)	0.14	(1 025 951 448)	0.13	0.10	565 131 535	796 811 486	152 603 019	0.80	6 004 661 095	5 641 507 727	1 178 554 467
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 294 510 181)	0.37	(826 371 220)	0.35	0.30	1 726 818 581	1 898 394 177	454 712 988	0.87	5 365 842 761	5 192 904 358	1 281 084 208
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	112 207 259 246	35.05	26 627 657 678	21.45	18.66	108 450 122 537	115 502 447 260	27 930 049 860	0.89	3 237 149 291	3 295 188 014	1 302 392 182
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	25 413 204 556	1.83	4 976 328 404	1.65	8.46	66 381 825 430	56 041 429 725	12 664 061 998	5.25	32 373 749 012	30 628 225 169	7 687 733 594
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(103 436 298 408)	0.25	(25 885 502 879)	0.27	6.25	35 613 830 659	35 161 185 085	9 361 454 018	24.07	134 380 548 255	138 597 483 493	35 246 956 897
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	28 246 076 058	1.52	9 529 565 918	1.65	16.17	84 670 952 558	83 004 207 383	24 204 208 063	10.02	44 041 729 938	54 758 131 325	14 674 642 145
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(12 427 879 204)	0.18	(3 359 875 362)	0.15	0.39	2 420 194 291	2 768 206 105	590 134 638	2.70	15 303 816 437	15 196 085 309	3 950 010 000
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(5 456 975 608)	0.25	(1 246 856 466)	0.28	0.33	1 903 294 102	1 811 817 538	487 106 425	1.18	7 214 380 383	7 268 793 146	1 733 962 891
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	157 957 828	1.54	115 206 210	7.03	0.09	581 641 988	448 100 487	134 300 078	0.01	212 098 028	290 142 659	19 093 868
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 857 887 060	3.51	569 441 578	2.50	0.63	1 573 582 881	2 597 474 970	948 615 698	0.26	819 355 992	739 587 910	379 174 120
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(49 328 452 362)	0.00	(12 927 865 188)	0.00	0.00	799 363	8 418 157	1 662 562	8.83	53 278 940 570	49 336 870 519	12 929 527 750
Total	Total SA Rand	(3 564 426 648)	0.99	3 258 337 092	1.02	100.00	584 357 907 495	581 657 397 188	149 672 326 476	100.00	585 806 089 337	585 221 823 836	146 413 989 384

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 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)
AFRICA	80 116 373 098	3.22	22 728 287 448	4.40	19.65	114 928 505 311	116 189 615 394	29 411 650 358	4.56	41 238 333 845	36 073 242 296	6 683 362 910
AMERICA	(6 007 987 803)	0.90	(2 558 187 842)	0.85	9.57	60 006 503 153	54 992 664 597	14 327 567 152	11.53	57 978 416 393	61 000 652 400	16 885 754 994
ASIA	(128 151 187 872)	0.60	(30 999 843 707)	0.61	32.44	192 112 788 216	189 439 435 031	48 555 056 587	54.34	304 402 997 723	317 590 622 903	79 554 900 294
EUROPE	(3 853 667 997)	0.98	477 616 629	1.01	27.37	163 795 023 050	155 896 413 253	40 962 154 028	27.65	172 600 362 905	159 750 081 250	40 484 537 399
OCEANIA	(2 881 882 354)	0.70	151 258 573	1.07	1.56	7 364 318 211	6 664 078 761	2 342 085 247	1.50	7 128 701 198	9 545 961 115	2 190 826 674
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	52 933 407 561	42.97	12 162 925 860	20.79	8.54	41 588 182 829	54 194 671 433	12 777 532 973	0.42	2 457 277 273	1 261 263 872	614 607 113
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 280 518 719	-	1 296 280 131	-	0.87	4 562 586 725	4 280 518 719	1 296 280 131				
Total	(3 564 426 648)	0.99	3 258 337 092	1.02	100.00	584 357 907 495	581 657 397 188	149 672 326 476	100.00	585 806 089 337	585 221 823 836	146 413 989 384
Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025								
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	20 297 574 638	16 297 219 221								

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 April 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.8 billion.

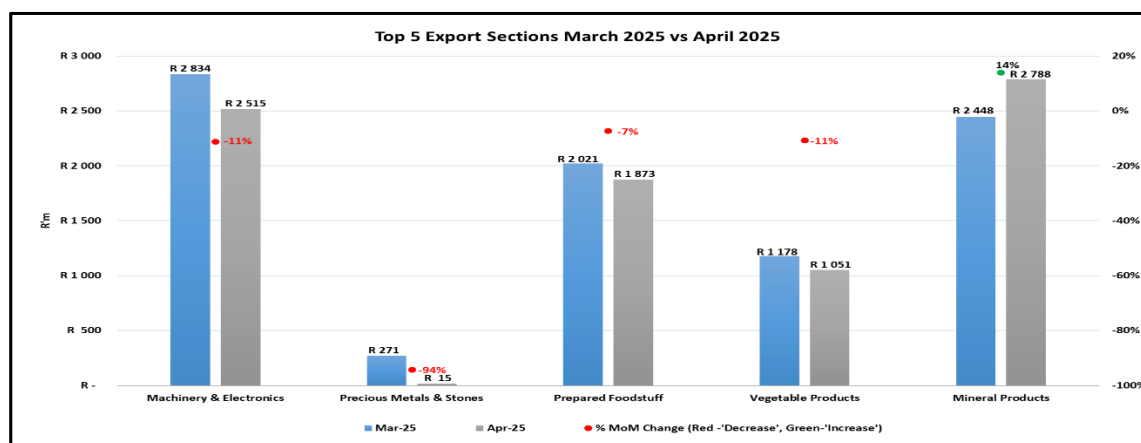
Summary

The R10.8 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2025 was as a result of exports of R16.5 billion and imports of R5.7 billion. Exports decreased by R0.7 billion (-4.0%) between March and April 2025 and imports decreased by R0.1 billion (-2.3%) over the same period.

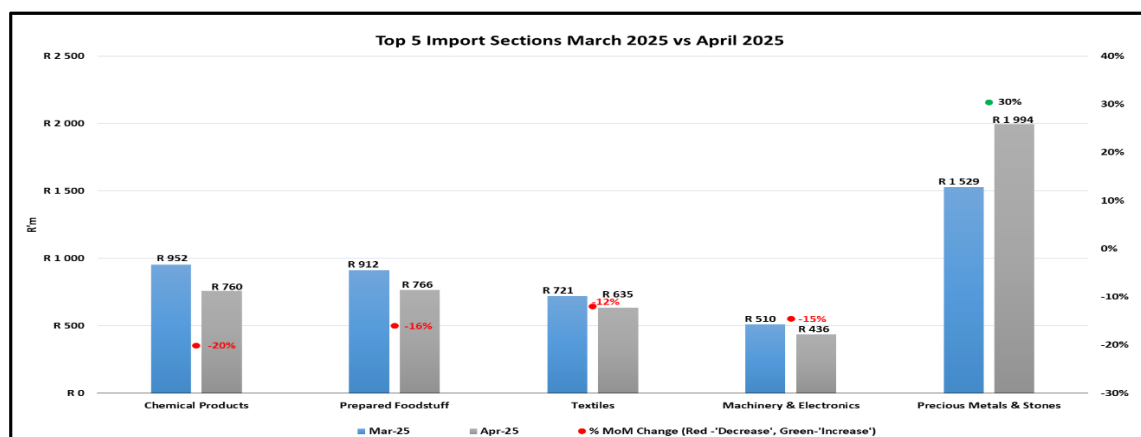
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R43.3 billion, compared to R42.1 billion surplus in 2024.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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

ENDS.

For any enquiries, please send your queries to SARSMedia@sars.gov.za or TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za