

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 30 September 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for August 2025

Pretoria, 30 September 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R4.0 billion in August 2025. This surplus was attributable to exports of R171.3 billion and imports of R167.4 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 August 2025) preliminary trade balance surplus of R101.8 billion was lower than the R121.4 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for August 2025 (R171.3 billion) were 2.2% higher compared to R167.6 billion recorded in August 2024. Import flows were higher by 4.7%, having increased from R159.9 billion in August 2024 to R167.4 billion in the current period.

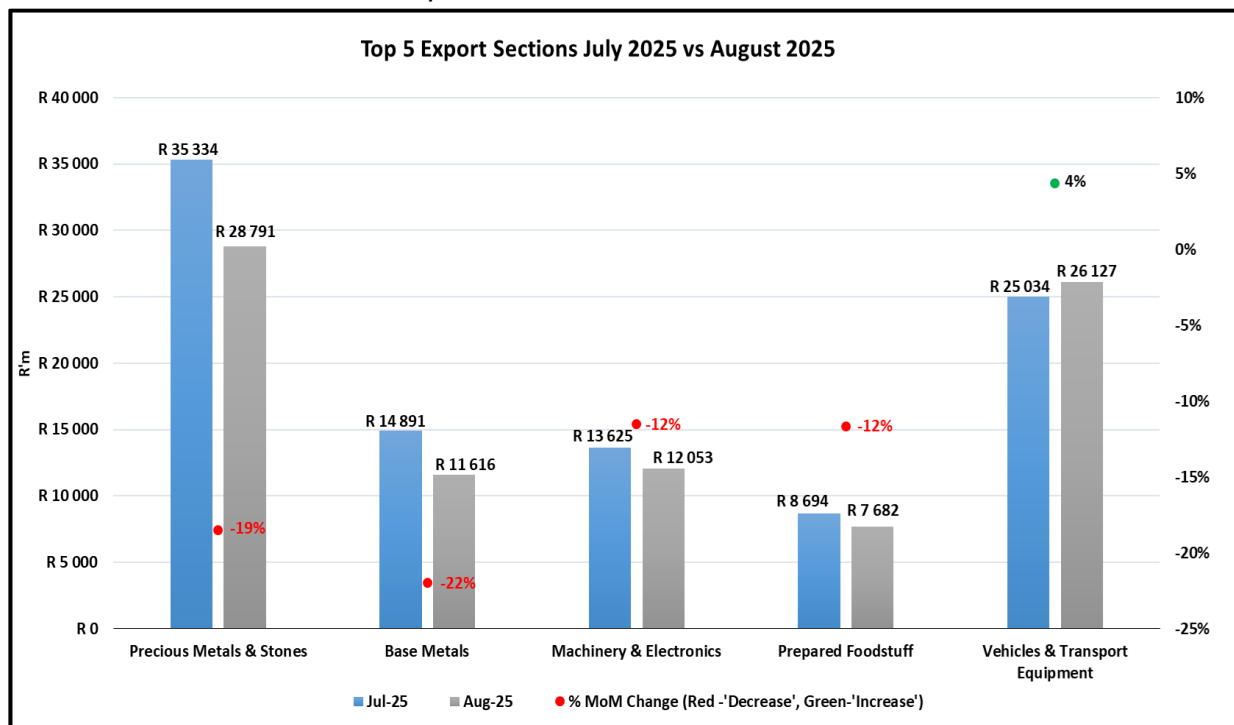
On a month-on-month basis, exports decreased by R12.4 billion (-6.8%) from R183.7 billion to R171.3 billion between July and August 2025, whilst imports increased by R3.2 billion (1.9%) from R164.2 billion to R167.4 billion over the same period. Export flows decreased in August 2025, driven by Gold, Unwrought Aluminium, and Diamonds. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Original Equipment Components, Automatic Data Processing Machines, and Aeroplanes.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R20.3 billion announced for July 2025 was revised downwards by R0.7 billion, with the final number at R19.6 billion.

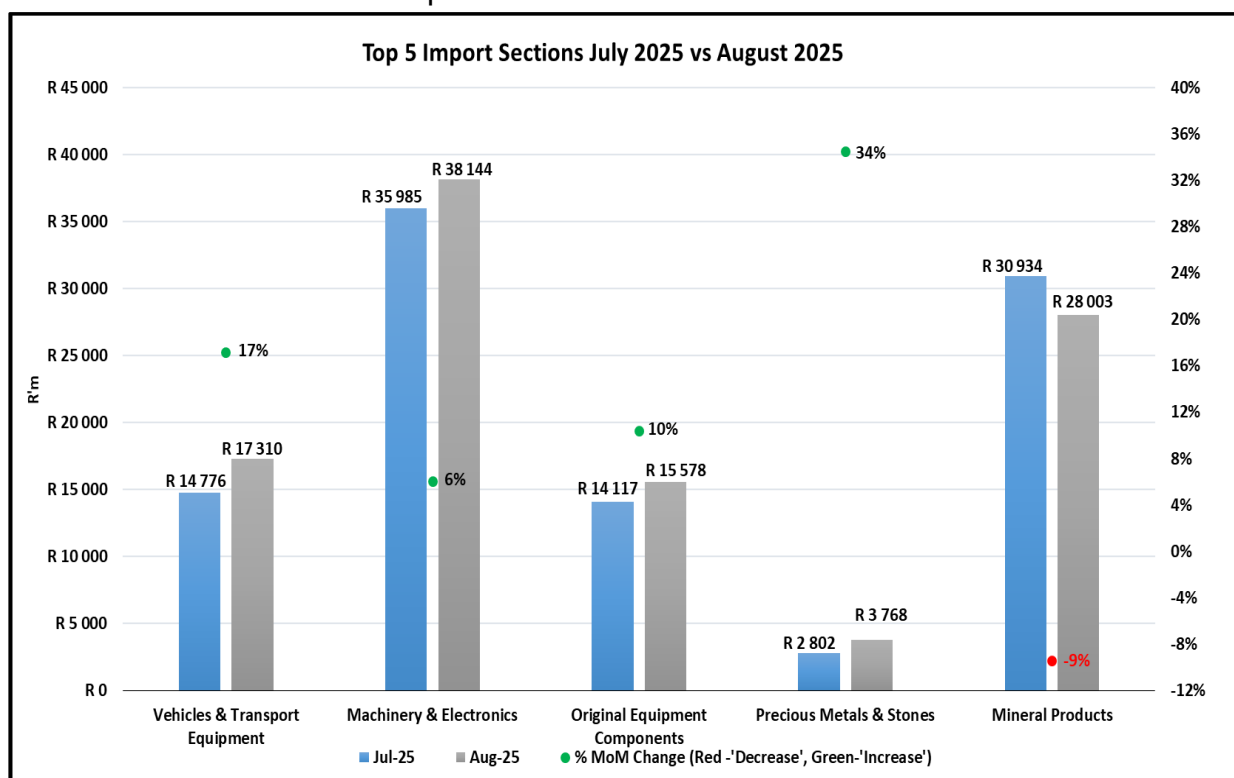
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Trade highlights by category

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 2025 (revised) to August 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	July 2025	August 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	49 218	47 524	-1 694	↓ -3.4%
	Imports	14 791	13 947	-844	↓ -5.7%
	Trade Balance	34 428	33 577	-	-
America	Exports	14 992	14 451	-542	↓ -3.6%
	Imports	16 961	17 184	223	↑ 1.3%
	Trade Balance	-1 968	-2 733	-	-
Asia	Exports	51 718	50 762	-955	↓ -1.8%
	Imports	87 893	86 149	-1 744	↓ -2.0%
	Trade Balance	-36 175	-35 387	-	-
Europe	Exports	49 951	46 996	-2 955	↓ -5.9%
	Imports	42 355	47 864	5 509	↑ 13.0%
	Trade Balance	7 596	-868	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 421	2 060	-361	↓ -14.9%
	Imports	1 744	1 916	172	↑ 9.9%
	Trade Balance	677	144	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	14 008	7 542	-6 466	↓ -46.2%
	Imports	439	301	-138	↓ -31.5%
	Trade Balance	13 569	7 241	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 438	1 994	556	↑ 38.7%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 438	1 994	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for August 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance deficit of R7.6 billion.

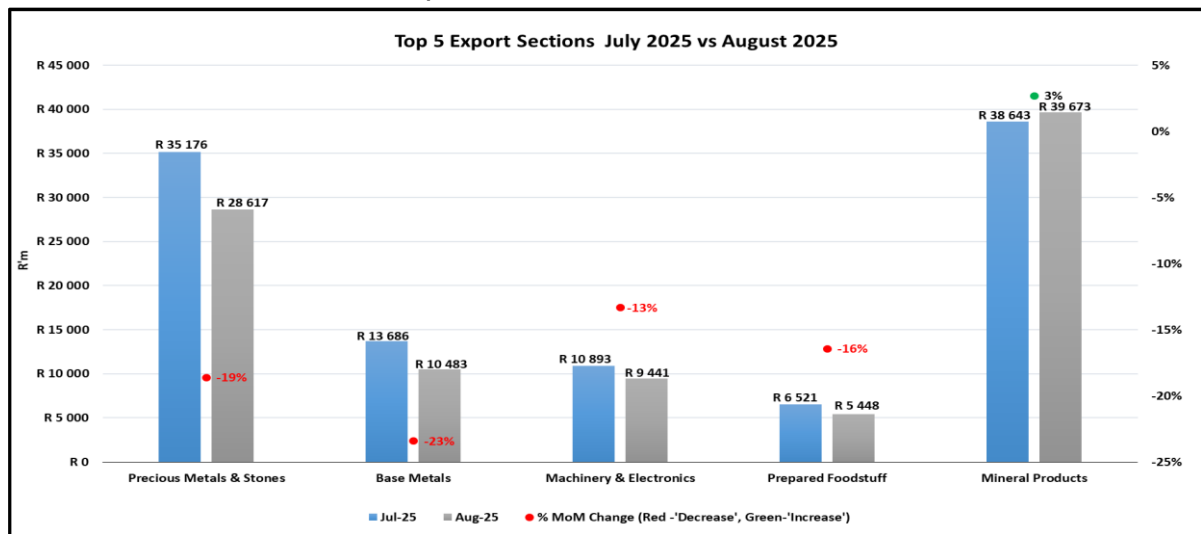
Summary

The R7.6 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for August 2025 was as a result of exports of R153.7 billion and imports of R161.3 billion. Exports decreased by R12.3 billion (-7.4%) between July and August 2025 whilst imports increased by R3.4 billion (2.1%) over the same period.

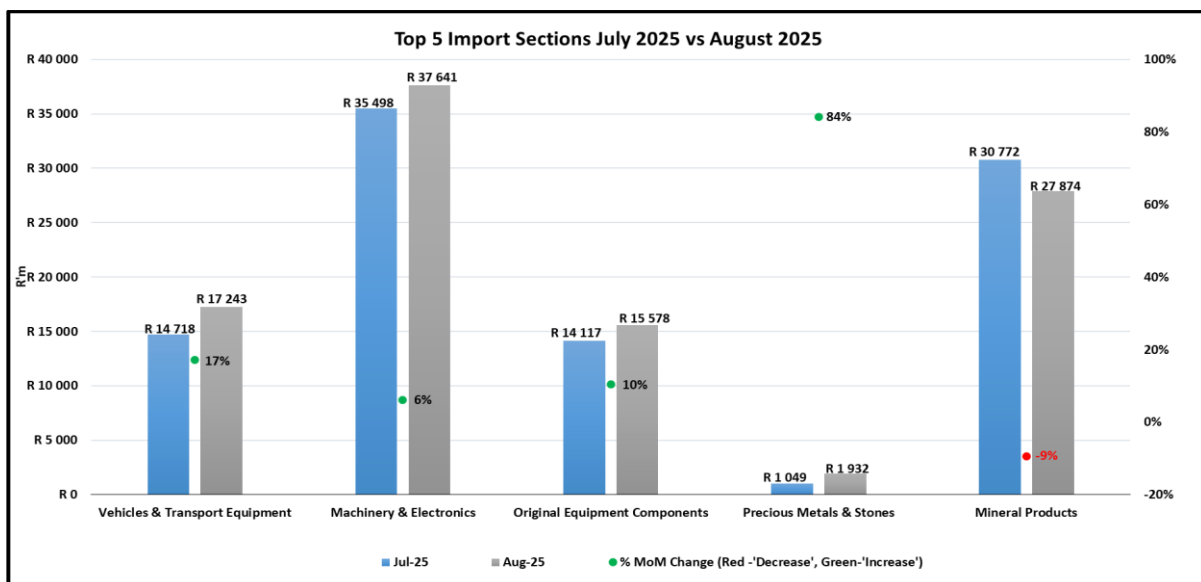
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R13.9 billion, compared to R32.0 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2024.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	July 2025	August 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	31 511	29 893	-1 618	↓ -5.1%
	Imports	8 501	7 860	-641	↓ -7.5%
	Trade Balance	23 010	22 033	-	-

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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 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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	5 403 591 333	1.48	642 402 031	1.45	1.21	14 827 633 499	16 586 830 883	2 080 180 058	0.86	14 866 777 919	11 183 239 550	1 437 778 027
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	75 193 781 520	3.41	13 199 419 495	4.31	10.03	95 782 403 147	106 375 071 936	17 184 157 080	2.38	28 823 172 708	31 181 290 416	3 984 737 585
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 630 332 283)	0.53	(768 902 764)	0.43	0.34	5 536 475 697	5 297 712 656	576 045 565	0.80	9 405 815 463	9 928 044 939	1 344 948 329
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	18 196 700 421	1.45	2 843 222 876	1.59	4.48	55 619 087 041	58 637 717 332	7 681 758 356	2.89	36 656 054 524	40 441 016 911	4 838 535 480
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	100 451 072 830	1.44	14 312 789 361	1.51	24.70	344 215 600 097	329 747 691 272	42 316 194 078	16.73	248 076 569 448	229 296 618 442	28 003 404 717
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(58 319 602 016)	0.57	(8 642 254 756)	0.55	6.21	76 989 324 820	76 627 089 838	10 634 885 114	11.52	133 128 672 324	134 946 691 854	19 277 139 870
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(26 655 927 185)	0.47	(3 473 997 047)	0.45	1.68	23 070 505 543	23 842 701 750	2 883 469 150	3.80	52 115 616 345	50 498 628 935	6 357 466 197
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(634 891 849)	0.81	(208 943 220)	0.59	0.17	2 941 574 334	2 763 813 015	298 046 192	0.30	3 337 660 796	3 398 704 864	506 989 412
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	3 675 413 241	1.74	471 900 216	1.69	0.67	6 806 277 523	8 660 907 382	1 153 368 561	0.41	4 925 802 431	4 985 494 141	681 468 345
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	5 137 083 087	1.33	444 110 200	1.21	1.52	22 262 624 025	20 926 035 125	2 596 778 840	1.29	16 002 495 612	15 788 952 038	2 152 668 640
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(27 135 443 178)	0.37	(3 862 234 849)	0.31	1.00	14 961 175 972	15 769 192 319	1 713 866 462	3.33	42 694 646 096	42 904 635 497	5 576 101 311
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(10 300 890 242)	0.23	(1 672 434 252)	0.19	0.23	2 691 157 865	3 114 331 542	389 702 944	1.23	13 328 297 938	13 415 221 784	2 062 137 196
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(5 222 514 923)	0.52	(793 575 150)	0.46	0.40	5 080 230 989	5 559 621 890	681 981 689	0.88	10 898 247 056	10 782 136 813	1 475 556 839
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	227 317 990 484	10.84	25 022 964 540	7.64	16.80	235 289 930 843	250 426 048 653	28 790 538 045	2.25	21 937 908 203	23 108 058 169	3 767 573 505
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	51 235 569 276	1.80	3 768 865 496	1.48	6.78	144 936 521 273	115 553 652 798	11 616 446 526	4.69	66 498 545 678	64 318 083 522	7 847 581 030
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(187 163 867 193)	0.34	(26 091 285 420)	0.32	7.03	95 537 308 539	95 153 626 984	12 052 844 616	22.79	277 649 739 108	282 317 494 177	38 144 130 036
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	70 788 425 011	1.60	8 817 476 987	1.51	15.25	186 882 891 263	188 527 720 612	26 127 368 494	10.34	94 963 952 343	117 739 295 601	17 309 891 507
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(23 942 435 164)	0.23	(3 311 664 678)	0.20	0.49	6 721 946 312	7 316 769 902	839 374 315	2.48	30 481 481 034	31 259 205 066	4 151 038 993
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(8 825 015 166)	0.47	(1 558 821 325)	0.41	0.62	7 216 235 318	7 693 821 748	1 070 608 114	1.57	16 069 309 237	16 518 836 914	2 629 429 439
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	514 105 762	1.98	56 636 423	2.12	0.06	1 152 743 588	1 040 172 140	107 247 373	0.03	433 767 138	526 066 378	50 610 950
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	3 690 381 861	3.63	350 349 874	2.91	0.31	3 573 494 550	5 093 144 471	533 686 670	0.11	1 609 413 930	1 402 762 610	183 336 796
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(106 931 559 043)	0.00	(15 577 990 474)	0.00	0.00	2 263 751	11 417 741	17 585	9.31	106 809 800 848	106 942 976 784	15 578 008 059
Total	Total SA Rand	101 841 636 584	1.08	3 968 033 564	1.02	100.00	1 352 097 405 989	1 344 725 091 989	171 328 565 827	100.00	1 230 713 746 179	1 242 883 455 405	167 360 532 263

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	255 221 352 744	3.16	33 577 157 418	3.41	27.74	376 057 545 888	373 187 469 667	47 524 022 069	8.33	131 158 057 852	117 966 116 923	13 946 864 651
AMERICA	(15 204 097 629)	0.88	(2 733 012 560)	0.84	8.43	127 383 275 583	113 297 857 241	14 450 732 766	10.27	118 283 520 376	128 501 954 870	17 183 745 326
ASIA	(255 567 329 111)	0.60	(35 386 663 670)	0.59	29.63	400 693 034 203	387 849 200 130	50 762 326 206	51.48	621 142 930 184	643 416 529 241	86 148 989 876
EUROPE	10 125 698 985	1.03	(868 360 252)	0.98	27.43	332 065 958 949	341 760 209 597	46 995 801 636	28.60	338 949 617 945	331 634 510 612	47 864 161 888
OCEANIA	(3 245 955 872)	0.82	143 977 592	1.08	1.20	15 711 206 850	14 771 462 212	2 059 807 138	1.14	16 202 243 396	18 017 418 084	1 915 829 546
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	101 186 109 700	31.23	7 240 910 291	25.06	4.40	90 450 361 800	104 533 035 375	7 541 851 267	0.18	4 977 376 426	3 346 925 675	300 940 976
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 325 857 767	-	1 994 024 745	-	1.16	9 736 022 716	9 325 857 767	1 994 024 745				
Total	101 841 636 584	1.08	3 968 033 564	1.02	100.00	1 352 097 405 989	1 344 725 091 989	171 328 565 827	100.00	1 230 713 746 179	1 242 883 455 405	167 360 532 263
Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025				
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	20 295 960 338	16 291 090 563	18 039 877 152	22 438 545 013	20 676 435 274	18 791 834 365				

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 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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	4 219 576 661	1.45	526 001 498	1.44	1.11	11 852 643 393	13 536 940 917	1 711 815 073	0.74	11 730 151 668	9 317 364 256	1 185 813 575
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	67 602 585 422	3.24	12 407 200 766	4.26	10.55	86 338 528 613	97 768 151 534	16 211 153 016	2.36	27 954 161 315	30 165 566 112	3 803 952 250
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 440 145 607)	0.35	(1 035 028 776)	0.23	0.20	3 875 150 790	3 434 770 143	306 648 610	0.83	9 387 126 160	9 874 915 750	1 341 677 386
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	8 142 273 523	1.24	1 434 792 753	1.36	3.54	39 369 723 361	41 960 014 657	5 448 337 071	2.49	30 612 381 236	33 817 741 134	4 013 544 318
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	80 996 959 914	1.36	11 799 595 794	1.42	25.81	323 173 181 810	308 851 974 079	39 673 388 012	17.28	246 358 390 556	227 855 014 165	27 873 792 218
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(64 530 613 792)	0.49	(9 454 892 783)	0.49	5.82	64 467 725 114	63 172 984 739	8 951 054 888	11.41	125 499 816 844	127 703 598 531	18 405 947 671
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(31 992 186 026)	0.36	(4 215 720 701)	0.33	1.34	17 051 983 200	17 871 294 841	2 066 564 245	3.90	51 472 483 624	49 863 480 867	6 282 284 946
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(933 168 945)	0.72	(247 068 774)	0.50	0.16	2 569 935 838	2 382 262 994	246 696 585	0.31	3 250 946 839	3 315 431 939	493 765 359
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	3 735 822 069	2.27	508 022 602	2.37	0.57	5 071 759 137	6 685 364 285	878 755 988	0.23	3 057 565 466	2 949 542 216	370 733 386
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	2 853 244 049	1.19	121 359 346	1.06	1.45	19 513 197 625	18 245 472 465	2 221 783 978	1.30	15 630 826 710	15 392 228 416	2 100 424 632
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(28 159 065 655)	0.24	(3 953 142 632)	0.17	0.52	8 556 441 759	8 829 727 659	804 406 770	2.95	37 244 652 042	36 988 793 314	4 757 549 402
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(11 857 108 358)	0.11	(1 931 648 946)	0.06	0.08	1 082 216 459	1 413 884 741	118 153 441	1.27	13 180 909 667	13 270 993 099	2 049 802 387
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 824 181 401)	0.36	(1 019 830 962)	0.30	0.29	3 528 087 567	3 854 022 354	441 652 150	0.91	10 808 860 707	10 678 203 755	1 461 483 112
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	239 752 617 673	29.54	26 684 916 495	14.81	18.62	232 615 375 446	248 153 977 257	28 616 954 403	1.20	10 677 545 328	8 401 359 584	1 932 037 908
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	43 353 087 968	1.68	2 731 675 025	1.35	6.82	136 033 479 099	106 790 069 463	10 483 233 319	4.81	65 809 849 767	63 436 981 495	7 751 558 294
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(204 070 820 023)	0.27	(28 199 312 219)	0.25	6.14	75 045 797 994	74 560 718 128	9 441 188 298	23.34	273 753 830 004	278 631 538 151	37 640 500 517
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	58 732 343 137	1.50	6 992 273 133	1.41	15.77	174 452 041 035	176 052 235 954	24 234 884 657	10.69	94 604 496 706	117 319 892 817	17 242 611 524
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(25 789 881 710)	0.17	(3 537 013 622)	0.15	0.39	4 951 342 783	5 386 709 947	600 829 327	2.57	30 396 754 736	31 176 591 657	4 137 842 949
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(12 155 210 828)	0.26	(2 004 218 172)	0.23	0.40	4 044 846 043	4 267 725 244	613 403 539	1.62	15 980 589 409	16 422 936 072	2 617 621 711
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	504 580 601	1.96	52 298 589	2.04	0.07	1 140 560 400	1 029 621 900	102 666 009	0.03	433 090 228	525 041 299	50 367 420
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	3 659 633 175	3.63	341 881 661	2.87	0.34	3 540 733 288	5 049 553 872	524 419 101	0.11	1 597 233 079	1 389 920 697	182 537 440
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(106 931 639 583)	0.00	(15 577 990 474)	0.00	0.00	1 854 287	11 337 201	17 585	9.66	106 809 780 848	106 942 976 784	15 578 008 059
Total	Total SA Rand	13 868 702 264	1.01	(7 575 850 399)	0.95	100.00	1 218 276 605 041	1 209 308 814 374	153 698 006 065	100.00	1 186 251 442 939	1 195 440 112 110	161 273 856 464

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	167 248 418 424	3.37	22 033 273 455	3.80	19.45	242 236 744 940	237 771 192 052	29 893 462 307	4.87	86 695 754 612	70 522 773 628	7 860 188 852
AMERICA	(15 204 097 629)	0.88	(2 733 012 560)	0.84	9.40	127 383 275 583	113 297 857 241	14 450 732 766	10.66	118 283 520 376	128 501 954 870	17 183 745 326
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 325 857 767	-	1 994 024 745	-	1.30	9 736 022 716	9 325 857 767	1 994 024 745				
Total	13 868 702 264	1.01	(7 575 850 399)	0.95	100.00	1 218 276 605 041	1 209 308 814 374	153 698 006 065	100.00	1 186 251 442 939	1 195 440 112 110	161 273 856 464

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	20 295 960 338	16 291 090 563	18 039 877 152	22 438 545 013	20 676 435 274	18 791 834 365

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 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.5 billion.

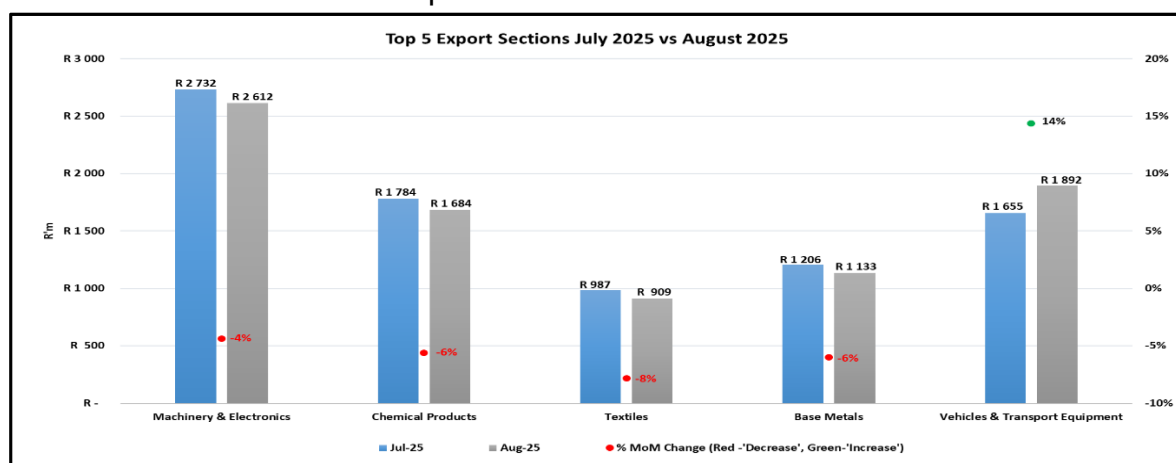
Summary

The R11.5 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for August 2025 was as a result of exports of R17.6 billion and imports of R6.1 billion. Exports decreased by R0.08 billion (-0.4%) between July and August 2025, and imports decreased by R0.2 billion (-3.2%) over the same period.

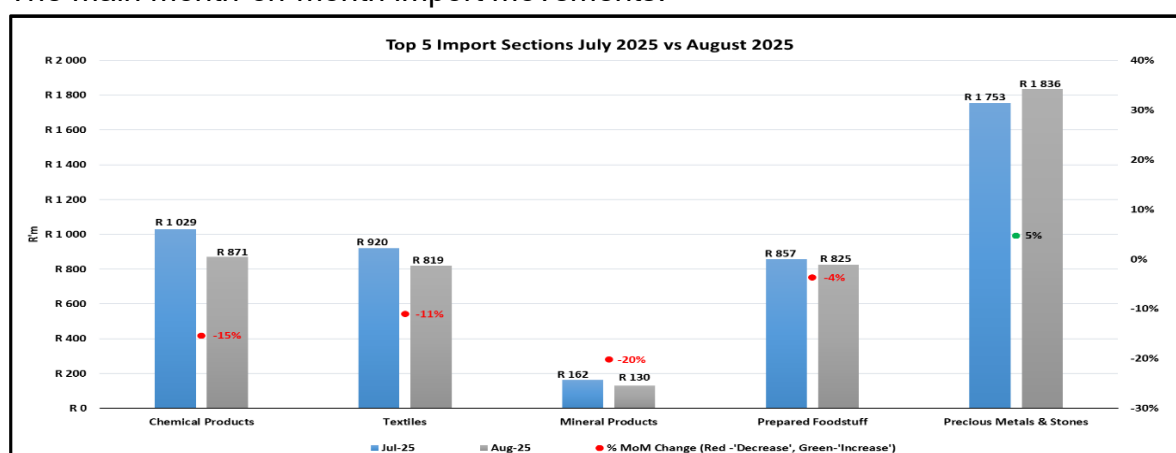
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R88.0 billion, compared to R89.4 billion surplus in 2024.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

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