

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 31 January 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for December 2024

Pretoria, 31 January 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R15.5 billion in December 2024. This surplus was attributable to exports of R160.0 billion and imports of R144.6 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2024) preliminary trade balance surplus of R196.1 billion was an improvement from the R130.0 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2023. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for December 2024 (R160.0 billion) were 3.3% lower compared to R165.6 billion recorded in December 2023. Import flows were lower by 1.3%, having decreased from R146.6 billion in December 2023 to R144.6 billion in the current period.

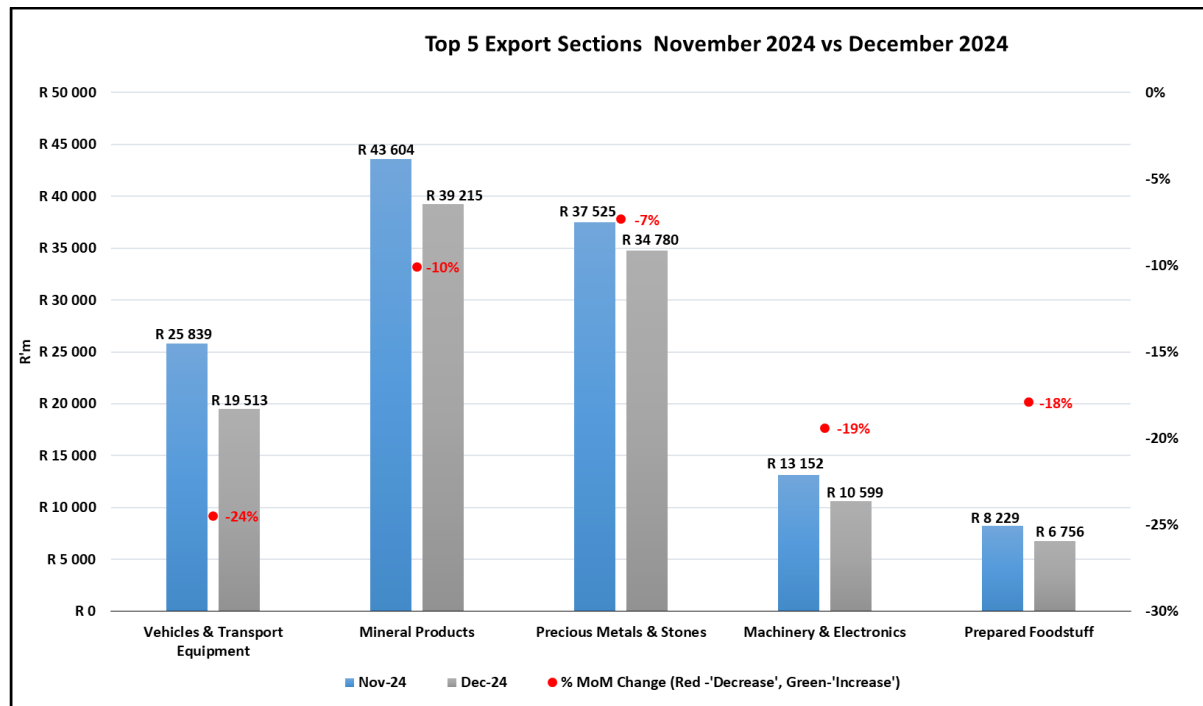
On a month-on-month basis, exports decreased by R20.2 billion (-11.2%) from R180.3 billion to R160.0 billion between November and December 2024, whilst imports decreased by R1.6 billion (-1.1%) from R146.2 billion to R144.6 billion over the same period. Export flows decreased in December 2024, driven by PGMs and Vehicles (Passengers & Goods). Import flows decreased on the back of lower importation of Rice, Electrical Transformers and Inductors, and Nitrogenous Mineral or Chemical Fertilizers.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R34.7 billion announced for November 2024 was revised downwards by R0.7 billion, with the final number at R34.0 billion.

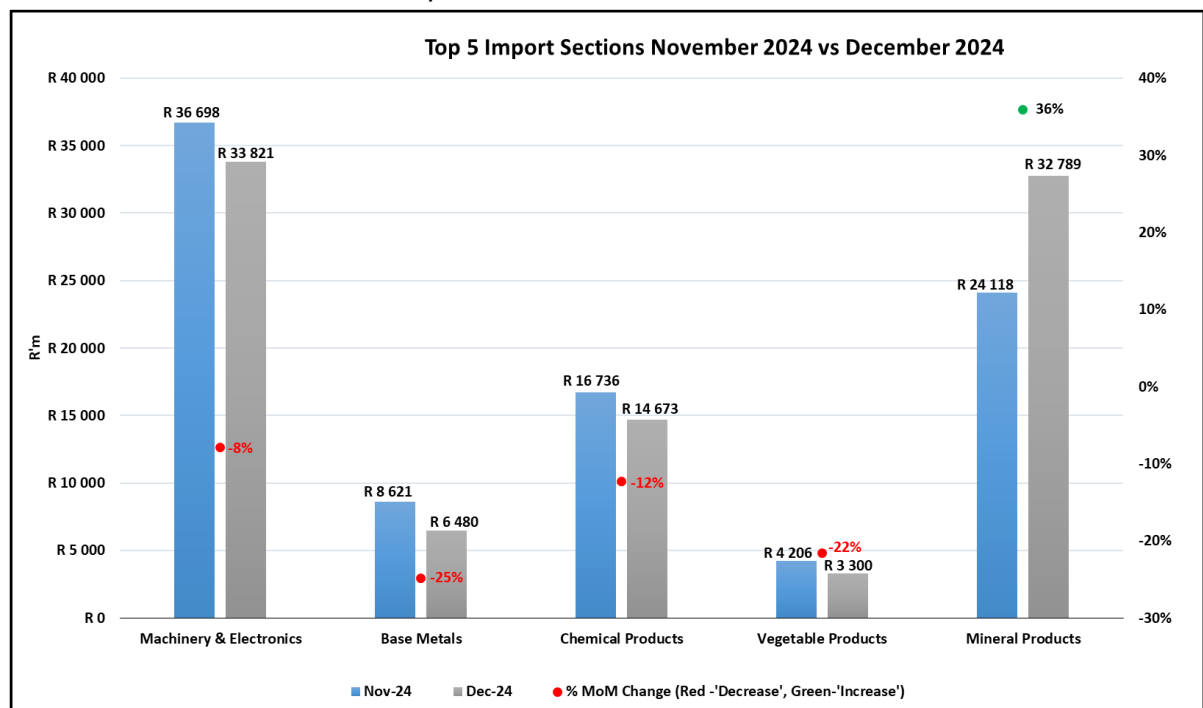
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from November (revised) to December (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	November 2024	December 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	51 458	41 446	-10 012	↓ -19.5%
	Imports	14 660	18 058	3 399	↑ 23.2%
	Trade Balance	36 798	23 388	-	-
America	Exports	15 568	12 832	-2 736	↓ -17.6%
	Imports	16 625	12 609	-4 017	↓ -24.2%
	Trade Balance	-1 058	223	-	-
Asia	Exports	51 508	49 415	-2 092	↓ -4.1%
	Imports	77 760	78 260	500	↑ 0.6%
	Trade Balance	-26 252	-28 845	-	-
Europe	Exports	44 117	38 653	-5 464	↓ -12.4%
	Imports	34 837	32 297	-2 541	↓ -7.3%
	Trade Balance	9 280	6 356	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 879	1 407	-473	↓ -25.1%
	Imports	2 009	2 743	734	↑ 36.6%
	Trade Balance	-130	-1 337	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	14 742	15 484	742	↑ 5.0%
	Imports	337	622	284	↑ 84.4%
	Trade Balance	14 405	14 863	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	986	812	-174	↓ -17.6%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	986	812	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for December 2024 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R5.2 billion.

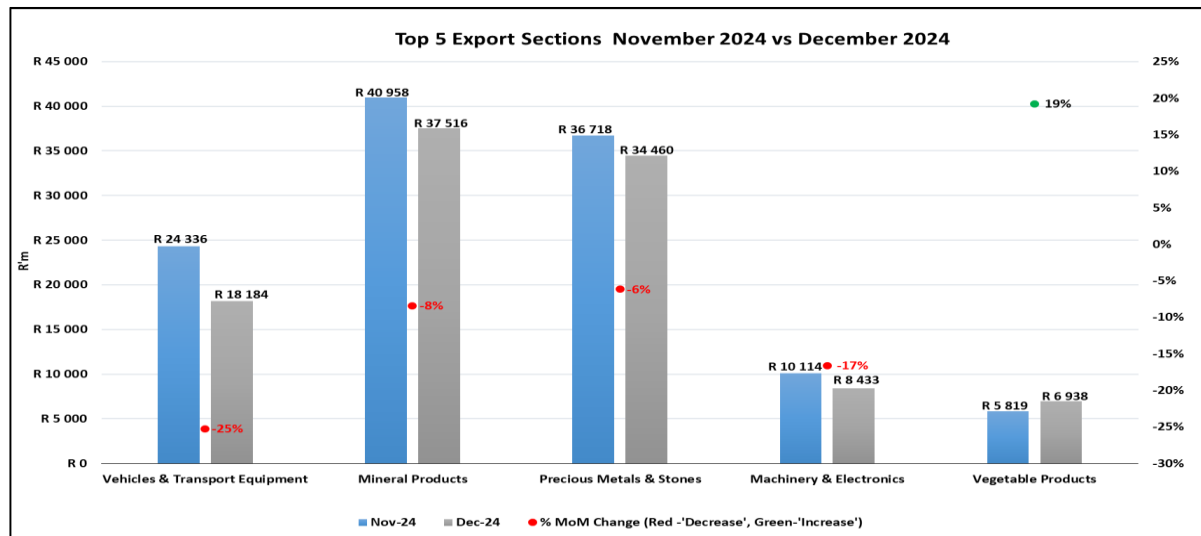
Summary

The R5.2 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2024 was as a result of exports of R144.5 billion and imports of R139.3 billion. Exports decreased by R15.1 billion (-9.5%) between November and December 2024 whilst imports decreased by R0.7 billion (-0.5%) over the same period.

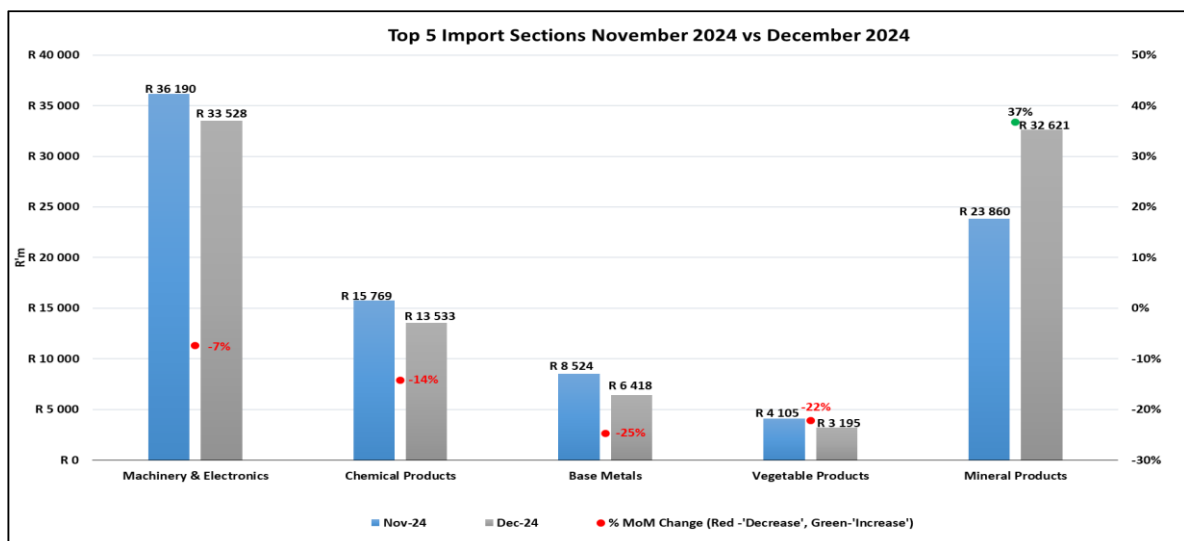
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R57.6 billion, compared to R0.9 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2023.

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 November 2024 (revised) and December (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	November 2024	December 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	30 820	25 884	-4 936	↓ -16.0%
	Imports	8 457	12 788	4 331	↑ 51.2%
	Trade Balance	22 362	13 096	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 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	1 751 812 892	1.08	472 852 105	1.27	1.37	20 397 072 097	23 301 907 812	2 198 885 492	1.19	20 872 280 619	21 550 094 920	1 726 033 387
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	91 825 387 935	3.07	4 909 889 038	2.49	5.13	134 439 436 526	136 231 629 880	8 209 744 776	2.28	41 027 645 407	44 406 241 945	3 299 855 738
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(7 512 128 827)	0.51	(1 003 873 939)	0.38	0.39	7 283 790 432	7 902 464 359	622 910 179	1.13	14 180 428 567	15 414 593 186	1 626 784 118
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	28 697 499 735	1.49	2 054 131 099	1.44	4.22	81 744 122 321	86 729 745 209	6 755 587 892	3.25	54 317 850 533	58 032 245 474	4 701 456 793
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	147 203 889 022	1.40	6 425 309 366	1.20	24.50	523 270 716 768	511 939 997 931	39 214 653 985	22.68	421 650 426 297	364 736 108 909	32 789 344 619
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(83 581 607 116)	0.58	(4 919 394 592)	0.66	6.09	119 758 773 464	116 906 525 407	9 753 133 003	10.15	194 773 346 539	200 488 132 523	14 672 527 595
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(42 847 458 536)	0.45	(2 878 316 703)	0.50	1.83	35 641 913 058	35 177 896 534	2 923 677 284	4.01	73 338 811 816	78 025 355 070	5 801 993 987
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 049 318 194)	0.81	(106 512 729)	0.75	0.20	4 333 305 108	4 422 946 509	320 998 424	0.30	4 981 002 278	5 472 264 703	427 511 153
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	3 326 177 781	1.45	653 472 374	2.35	0.71	10 039 468 555	10 705 448 701	1 137 948 435	0.34	6 982 494 773	7 379 270 920	484 476 061
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	9 159 660 325	1.37	455 503 675	1.24	1.49	34 304 406 854	33 914 514 630	2 391 893 432	1.34	24 136 282 940	24 754 854 305	1 936 389 757
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(41 897 156 463)	0.36	(2 799 855 885)	0.40	1.17	23 155 888 407	23 578 835 901	1 878 248 435	3.24	59 528 878 206	65 475 992 364	4 678 104 320
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(16 556 417 736)	0.21	(1 323 865 745)	0.23	0.24	4 241 539 631	4 407 077 619	387 619 695	1.18	18 040 558 259	20 963 495 355	1 711 485 440
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(8 292 660 614)	0.49	(505 891 853)	0.53	0.35	7 866 860 705	7 823 946 103	566 899 615	0.74	17 535 366 309	16 116 606 717	1 072 791 468
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	343 656 033 449	11.21	32 355 154 107	14.34	21.73	371 985 408 665	377 322 427 473	34 779 937 663	1.68	27 198 245 739	33 666 394 024	2 424 783 556
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	107 426 716 237	2.08	9 730 712 668	2.50	10.13	225 299 782 785	206 983 802 569	16 210 804 056	4.48	96 496 890 141	99 557 086 332	6 480 091 388
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(271 280 652 758)	0.35	(23 222 161 068)	0.31	6.62	152 653 591 315	145 628 324 850	10 598 756 061	23.39	465 230 812 044	416 908 977 608	33 820 917 129
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	127 055 112 777	1.85	6 811 453 798	1.54	12.19	286 978 773 539	276 482 843 629	19 512 621 471	8.78	171 862 888 479	149 427 730 852	12 701 167 673
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(35 362 875 949)	0.24	(2 811 879 956)	0.25	0.60	11 668 012 548	11 031 418 089	960 357 979	2.61	45 188 804 099	46 394 294 038	3 772 237 935
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(13 820 667 086)	0.45	(920 399 627)	0.50	0.56	10 614 824 438	11 283 526 112	904 069 733	1.26	23 424 555 271	25 104 193 198	1 824 469 360
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	778 104 293	1.81	83 063 066	3.60	0.07	2 177 286 139	1 732 838 374	114 996 700	0.02	987 968 949	954 734 081	31 933 634
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	4 667 880 779	3.19	492 451 339	5.39	0.38	5 573 617 790	6 799 310 535	604 577 265	0.08	1 703 670 000	2 131 429 756	112 125 926
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(147 252 692 364)	0.00	(8 492 267 233)	0.00	0.00	4 891 479	6 125 114	162 804	5.87	159 984 522 300	147 258 817 478	8 492 430 037
Total	Total SA Rand	196 094 639 582	1.11	15 459 573 305	1.11	100.00	2 073 433 482 624	2 040 313 553 340	160 048 484 379	100.00	1 943 443 729 565	1 844 218 913 758	144 588 911 074

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	373 315 819 412	2.87	23 387 636 043	2.30	25.90	548 482 858 757	572 801 191 303	41 445 883 100	12.49	177 733 455 715	199 485 371 891	18 058 247 057
AMERICA	4 795 816 848	1.03	222 931 052	1.02	8.02	191 576 940 236	187 253 015 321	12 831 864 666	8.72	198 668 546 919	182 457 198 473	12 608 933 614
ASIA	(339 046 381 114)	0.64	(28 844 925 126)	0.63	30.88	646 121 462 220	604 079 234 033	49 415 074 823	54.13	1 016 339 765 938	943 125 615 147	78 259 999 949
EUROPE	(935 721 733)	1.00	6 355 802 560	1.20	24.15	534 494 015 417	487 139 250 312	38 652 623 152	22.34	520 846 613 166	488 074 972 045	32 296 820 592
OCEANIA	(1 681 281 216)	0.93	(1 336 691 287)	0.51	0.88	24 087 763 917	22 420 881 173	1 406 693 901	1.90	21 661 336 249	24 102 162 389	2 743 385 188
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	145 414 916 651	21.85	14 862 580 680	24.91	9.67	117 792 552 466	152 388 510 464	15 484 105 354	0.43	8 194 011 578	6 973 593 813	621 524 674
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	14 231 470 734	-	812 239 383	-	0.51	10 877 889 611	14 231 470 734	812 239 383				
Total	196 094 639 582	1.11	15 459 573 305	1.11	100.00	2 073 433 482 624	2 040 313 553 340	160 048 484 379	100.00	1 943 443 729 565	1 844 218 913 758	144 588 911 074

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 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	16 774 916 101	19 882 565 613	14 345 446 781	14 975 769 159	16 352 383 871

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	1 154 989 782	1.07	270 117 935	1.18	1.21	16 298 480 164	18 522 510 461	1 751 394 864	1.06	16 567 830 423	17 367 520 679	1 481 276 929
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	78 543 631 282	2.82	3 742 793 569	2.17	4.80	121 988 650 985	121 643 640 134	6 938 216 085	2.29	39 621 195 955	43 100 008 852	3 195 422 516
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(10 072 720 815)	0.35	(1 258 374 143)	0.22	0.25	4 789 028 631	5 306 875 372	361 812 949	1.16	14 164 384 754	15 379 596 187	1 620 187 092
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	11 969 241 912	1.25	456 319 671	1.12	3.05	58 491 528 631	60 606 486 143	4 409 065 933	2.84	45 776 971 876	48 637 244 231	3 952 746 262
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	119 263 846 010	1.33	4 894 663 722	1.15	25.96	491 508 531 269	481 393 377 500	37 515 672 779	23.41	419 142 531 197	362 129 531 490	32 621 009 057
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(91 549 877 777)	0.51	(5 414 690 831)	0.60	5.62	101 234 529 621	96 989 260 861	8 118 755 760	9.71	184 130 851 685	188 539 138 638	13 533 446 591
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(51 160 325 725)	0.34	(3 456 188 490)	0.40	1.58	26 981 008 096	25 882 122 196	2 282 829 113	4.12	72 476 597 722	77 042 447 921	5 739 017 603
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 561 265 121)	0.71	(167 882 785)	0.60	0.18	3 710 511 182	3 784 526 688	256 005 751	0.30	4 868 432 725	5 345 791 809	423 888 536
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	3 395 427 568	1.74	622 736 576	3.07	0.64	7 617 554 631	7 968 878 763	923 881 826	0.22	4 321 932 487	4 573 451 195	301 145 250
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	5 334 136 462	1.22	112 565 803	1.06	1.39	29 884 956 912	29 511 806 789	2 006 078 582	1.36	23 614 475 646	24 177 670 327	1 893 512 779
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(43 274 132 994)	0.23	(2 969 640 404)	0.28	0.79	14 104 026 604	13 291 158 648	1 148 592 748	2.96	50 731 206 398	56 565 291 642	4 118 233 152
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(19 079 807 074)	0.08	(1 539 194 835)	0.09	0.11	1 710 729 685	1 646 023 230	161 283 040	1.22	17 794 085 778	20 725 830 304	1 700 477 875
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(10 597 572 389)	0.34	(684 652 043)	0.36	0.26	5 681 987 657	5 394 026 031	381 022 189	0.76	17 400 480 528	15 991 598 420	1 065 674 232
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	357 476 916 491	23.44	33 612 759 655	40.68	23.85	367 325 775 880	373 404 120 128	34 459 771 288	0.61	12 083 471 792	15 927 203 637	847 011 633
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	94 775 957 385	1.96	8 838 337 681	2.38	10.56	212 845 295 443	193 308 234 533	15 256 502 516	4.61	95 424 558 581	98 532 277 148	6 418 164 835
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(296 972 092 753)	0.28	(25 094 552 171)	0.25	5.84	124 972 999 169	114 227 737 954	8 433 406 947	24.07	459 283 407 678	411 199 830 707	33 527 959 118
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	108 762 120 943	1.73	5 518 632 492	1.44	12.59	268 497 833 364	257 650 047 091	18 183 948 883	9.09	171 327 878 081	148 887 926 148	12 665 316 391
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(38 068 229 649)	0.18	(3 074 435 356)	0.18	0.48	9 239 841 305	8 212 330 237	688 279 066	2.70	45 055 226 791	46 280 559 886	3 762 714 422
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(18 811 700 785)	0.25	(1 321 833 084)	0.27	0.34	6 086 088 338	6 155 961 706	495 306 615	1.30	23 295 336 834	24 967 662 491	1 817 139 699
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	733 268 192	1.77	81 574 677	3.57	0.08	2 169 251 379	1 686 844 028	113 354 339	0.02	986 969 160	953 575 836	31 779 662
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	4 635 307 984	3.20	490 787 608	5.45	0.42	5 512 547 379	6 745 135 613	601 177 591	0.08	1 679 752 917	2 109 827 629	110 389 983
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(147 254 782 406)	0.00	(8 492 267 233)	0.00	0.00	2 850 276	4 015 072	162 804	6.10	159 984 162 535	147 258 797 478	8 492 430 037
Total	Total SA Rand	57 642 336 523	1.03	5 167 578 014	1.04	100.00	1 880 654 006 601	1 833 335 119 178	144 486 521 668	100.00	1 879 731 741 543	1 775 692 782 655	139 318 943 654

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	234 863 516 353	2.79	13 095 640 752	2.02	17.91	355 703 382 734	365 822 757 141	25 883 920 389	9.18	114 021 467 693	130 959 240 788	12 788 279 637
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OCEANIA	(1 681 281 216)	0.93	(1 336 691 287)	0.51	0.97	24 087 763 917	22 420 881 173	1 406 693 901	1.97	21 661 336 249	24 102 162 389	2 743 385 188
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	145 414 916 651	21.85	14 862 580 680	24.91	10.72	117 792 552 466	152 388 510 464	15 484 105 354	0.45	8 194 011 578	6 973 593 813	621 524 674
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	14 231 470 734	-	812 239 383	-	0.56	10 877 889 611	14 231 470 734	812 239 383				
Total	57 642 336 523	1.03	5 167 578 014	1.04	100.00	1 880 654 006 601	1 833 335 119 178	144 486 521 668	100.00	1 879 731 741 543	1 775 692 782 655	139 318 943 654

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 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	16 774 916 101	19 882 565 613	14 345 446 781	14 975 769 159	16 352 383 871

Notes:

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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 December 2024 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.3 billion.

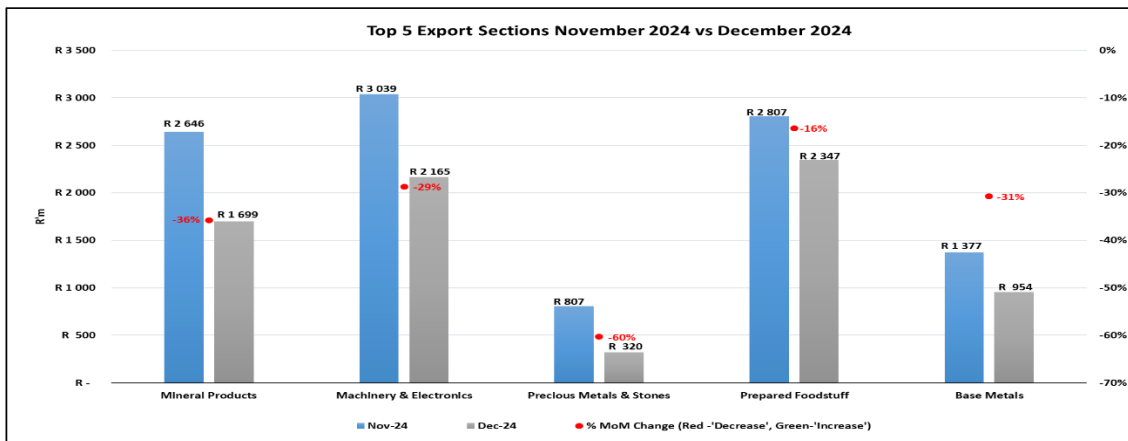
Summary

The R10.3 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2024 was as a result of exports of R15.6 billion and imports of R5.3 billion. Exports decreased by R5.1 billion (-24.6%) between November and December 2024 and imports decreased by R0.9 billion (-15.0%) over the same period.

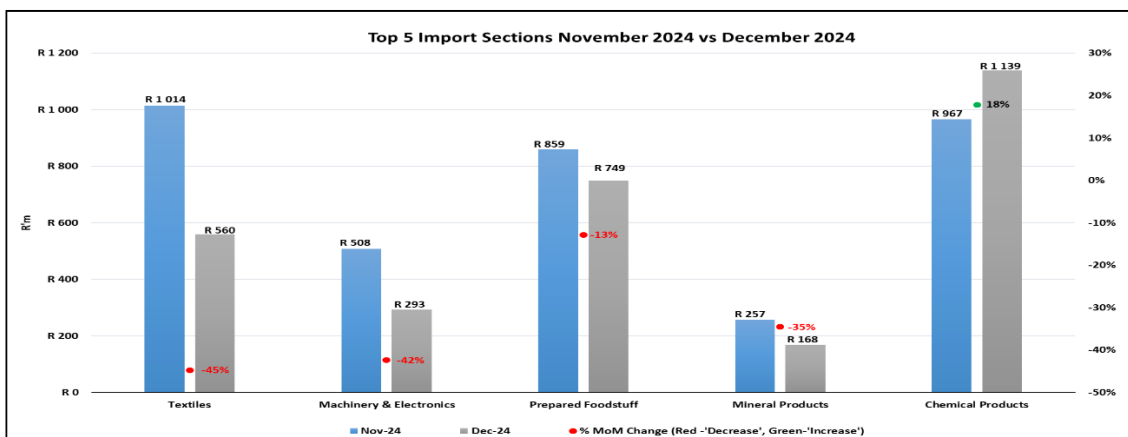
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R138.5 billion, compared to R129.1 billion in 2023.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

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