

SA Trade Statistics for April 2017

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

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SARS releases trade statistics for April 2017

Pretoria, 31 May 2017– The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for April 2017 recording a trade balance surplus of R5.08 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2017) trade balance surplus of R9.89 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2016 of R26.39 billion.

Including trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS)

The R5.08 billion trade balance surplus for April 2017 is attributable to exports of R91.78 billion and imports of R86.70 billion. Exports decreased from March 2017 to April 2017 by R9.29 billion (9.2%) and imports decreased from March 2017 to April 2017 by R3.09 billion (3.4%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2017) grew by 6.4% from R338.75 billion in 2016 to R360.27 billion in 2017. Imports for the year-to-date of R350.38 billion are 4.0% less than the imports recorded in January to April 2016 of R365.14 billion.

On a year-on-year basis, the R5.08 billion trade balance surplus for April 2017 is an improvement from the deficit recorded in April 2016 of R2.12 billion. Exports of R91.78 billion are 2% more than the exports recorded in March 2016 of R90.02 billion. Imports of R86.70 billion are 5.9% less than the imports recorded in April 2016 of R92.14 billion.

March 2017's trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.16 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R11.44 billion to a revised surplus of R11.28 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R2 287	- 18%
Machinery & Electronics	- R1 591	- 18%

Precious Metals & Stones	- R1 344	- 8%
Chemical Products	- R1 232	- 19%
Vegetable Products	- R1 203	- 23%
Other Unclassified	- R 936	- 64%
Plastic & Rubber	- R 589	- 29%
Wood Pulp & Paper	- R 477	- 23%
Mineral Products	+ R2 254	+ 10%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BLNS:	
Original Equipment Components	- R1 285	- 17%
Optical Photographic Products	- R 762	- 26%
Vegetable Products	- R 435	- 22%
Chemical Products	- R 363	- 4%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R 395	+ 4%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from March 2017 (revised) to April 2017 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R22 304 million – this is a decrease of R4 663 million from March 2017.

Imports: R10 173 million – this is an increase of R 392 million from March 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R12 131 million – this is a 29.4% decrease in comparison to the R17 186 million surplus recorded in March 2017.

America:

Exports: R7 742 million – this is a decrease of R 376 million from March 2017.

Imports: R8 722 million – this is a decrease of R2 011 million from March 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R 980 million – this is a 62.5% decrease in comparison to the R2 615 million deficit recorded in March 2017.

Asia:

Exports: R29 981 million – this is a decrease of R 527 million from March 2017.

Imports: R38 804 million – this is an increase of R3 018 million from March 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R8 823 million – this is a 67.2% increase in comparison to the R5 278 million deficit recorded in March 2017.

Europe:

Exports: R23 662 million – this is a decrease of R3 192 million from March 2017.

Imports: R27 416 million – this is a decrease of R4 808 million from March 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R3 754 million – this is a 30.1% decrease in comparison to the R5 370 million deficit recorded in March 2017.

Oceania:

Exports: R1 158 million – this is a decrease of R 156 million from March 2017.

Imports: R1 011 million – this is a decrease of R 148 million from March 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R 147 million – this is a 5.8% decrease in comparison to the R 156 million surplus recorded in March 2017.

Excluding trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS)

The trade data excluding BLNS for April 2017 recorded a trade balance deficit of R1.19 billion.

Summary

The R1.19 billion deficit for April 2017 is as a result of exports of R82.66 billion and imports of R83.85 billion. Exports decreased from March 2017 to April 2017 by R7.18 billion (8.0%) and imports decreased from March 2017 to April 2017 by R2.67 billion (3.1%).

The cumulative deficit for 2017 is R17.21 billion compared to R60.33 billion deficit in 2016.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R1 908	- 17%
Machinery & Electronics	- R1 329	- 19%
Chemical Products	- R1 129	- 20%
Vegetable Products	- R1 050	- 24%
Other unclassified	- R 931	- 64%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R758	- 5%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 506	- 33%
Wood pulp & Paper	- R 428	- 23%
Mineral Products	+ R2 236	+ 10%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Original Equipment Components	- R1 285	- 17%
Optical Photographic Products	- R 765	- 26%
Vegetable Products	- R 435	- 22%
Chemical Products	- R 413	- 5%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 392	+ 95%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BLNS from March 2017 (Revised) to April 2017 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R13 187 million – this is a decrease of R2 559 million from March 2017.

Imports: R7 327 million – this is an increase of R 812 million from March 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R5 861 million – this is a 36.5% decrease in comparison to the R9 231 million surplus recorded in March 2017.

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SA Trade Release Table (including BLNS)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(402 152 635)	0.73	(1 034 652 403)	0.82	1.20	1 105 760 061	4 988 773 246	4 857 216 964	1.74	1 507 912 696	5 203 002 294	5 891 869 367
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 348 432 530	2.49	9 577 513 659	2.15	4.28	3 924 713 304	18 090 101 366	17 930 901 079	1.82	1 576 280 774	11 311 880 134	8 353 387 420
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(539 406 027)	0.34	(2 611 785 933)	0.29	0.30	275 200 682	1 012 514 466	1 047 458 091	0.94	814 606 709	3 131 032 736	3 659 244 024
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	702 252 810	1.26	1 572 494 410	1.13	3.70	3 397 752 957	14 707 169 341	13 422 018 886	3.11	2 695 500 147	10 666 802 860	11 849 524 476
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	11 693 438 144	1.83	37 682 186 711	1.66	28.13	25 819 301 998	66 049 217 345	94 627 158 663	16.29	14 125 863 854	45 592 105 083	56 944 971 952
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 616 260 572)	0.59	(14 539 070 155)	0.61	5.68	5 211 617 680	21 454 741 679	22 318 831 725	10.18	8 827 878 252	36 714 975 421	36 857 901 880
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 204 899 980)	0.39	(8 499 228 912)	0.45	1.56	1 432 295 560	7 178 424 567	6 843 419 516	4.20	3 637 195 540	15 588 788 267	15 342 648 428
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	119 609 521	1.46	198 125 635	1.16	0.41	378 497 677	1 594 985 186	1 402 916 865	0.30	258 888 156	1 366 693 005	1 204 791 230
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	28 898 834	1.08	377 134 411	1.22	0.45	409 698 502	2 243 567 962	2 090 508 587	0.44	380 799 668	1 948 904 764	1 713 374 176
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	565 355 420	1.54	2 339 801 562	1.48	1.75	1 607 604 858	7 279 222 208	7 204 889 168	1.20	1 042 249 438	5 760 715 173	4 865 087 606
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 751 119 864)	0.43	(7 869 537 766)	0.40	1.42	1 302 464 139	5 261 931 749	5 311 484 071	3.52	3 053 584 003	15 355 249 332	13 181 021 837
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(685 362 081)	0.25	(3 250 576 081)	0.20	0.24	224 723 991	863 259 771	829 778 214	1.05	910 086 072	5 060 589 259	4 080 354 295
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(558 172 478)	0.42	(2 330 604 875)	0.41	0.44	408 173 937	2 052 463 201	1 607 475 731	1.11	966 346 415	4 710 035 038	3 938 080 606
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	14 370 075 887	12.67	55 215 036 770	14.31	17.00	15 601 098 204	53 400 000 179	59 364 915 647	1.42	1 231 022 317	3 719 251 328	4 149 878 877
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 496 880 809	2.32	24 608 741 756	2.25	12.45	11 426 476 068	45 107 619 086	44 327 573 340	5.69	4 929 595 259	21 139 513 402	19 718 831 584
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(13 015 668 660)	0.36	(50 577 401 762)	0.36	7.88	7 229 113 618	34 081 388 225	28 642 494 164	23.35	20 244 782 278	93 670 037 324	79 219 895 926
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(172 235 077)	0.98	4 129 926 160	1.12	11.23	10 303 497 665	45 135 958 001	39 514 542 200	12.08	10 475 732 742	35 161 544 281	35 384 616 040
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 606 025 375)	0.26	(7 134 380 280)	0.27	0.60	554 604 875	2 625 474 138	2 583 465 962	2.49	2 160 630 250	10 300 659 988	9 717 846 242
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(744 455 189)	0.44	(3 097 290 770)	0.42	0.65	593 183 063	2 553 929 969	2 273 964 881	1.54	1 337 638 252	6 197 076 769	5 371 255 651
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	18 106 340	1.58	305 088 365	1.94	0.05	49 584 081	433 102 949	628 981 561	0.04	31 477 741	129 358 230	323 893 196
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	436 732 624	6.14	2 913 060 109	6.53	0.57	521 622 531	2 633 539 110	3 439 698 165	0.10	84 889 907	662 737 993	526 638 056
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(6 400 854 606)	0.00	(28 084 064 429)	0.00	0.00	619 255	1 273 348	1 441 122	7.38	6 401 473 861	31 746 500 618	28 085 505 551
Total	Total SA Rand	5 083 170 375	1.06	9 890 516 182	1.03	100.00	91 777 604 706	338 748 657 092	360 271 134 602	100.00	86 694 434 331	365 137 453 299	350 380 618 420

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	12 131 113 886	2.19	52 607 003 252	2.28	24.30	22 303 889 246	97 868 085 139	93 556 248 795	11.73	10 172 775 360	40 313 224 670	40 949 245 543
AMERICA	(980 147 574)	0.89	(8 083 547 709)	0.79	8.44	7 741 882 932	33 152 633 691	29 642 594 680	10.06	8 722 030 506	43 052 322 546	37 726 142 389
ASIA	(8 822 751 195)	0.77	(35 443 086 619)	0.77	32.67	29 981 373 961	102 319 795 200	116 786 269 250	44.76	38 804 125 156	155 803 578 169	152 229 355 869
EUROPE	(3 754 427 880)	0.86	(23 088 363 826)	0.80	25.78	23 662 104 448	81 507 807 369	90 865 514 747	31.62	27 416 532 328	121 419 127 418	113 953 878 573
OCEANIA	147 066 906	1.15	(511 504 193)	0.89	1.26	1 158 008 656	4 190 334 271	4 165 015 150	1.17	1 010 941 750	3 849 756 679	4 676 519 343
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	5 682 034 598	11.00	20 884 183 365	25.70	6.81	6 250 063 829	18 228 341 297	21 729 660 068	0.66	568 029 231	699 443 817	845 476 703
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	680 281 634	-	3 525 831 912	-	0.74	680 281 634	1 481 660 125	3 525 831 912				
Total	5 083 170 375	1.06	9 890 516 182	1.03	100.00	91 777 604 706	338 748 657 092	360 271 134 602	100.00	86 694 434 331	365 137 453 299	350 380 618 420

Temporary Imports	January 2017	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 254 570 496	5 524 504 610	6 181 314 986	5 817 919 863

Notes:

1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films

2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)

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 BLNS)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(350 951 676)	0.70	(1 060 295 385)	0.78	0.99	817 820 756	3 854 538 199	3 675 515 595	1.39	1 168 772 432	4 234 783 037	4 735 810 980
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1 865 123 189	2.20	7 373 140 924	1.89	4.13	3 414 188 340	15 660 124 892	15 623 139 763	1.85	1 549 065 151	11 130 997 988	8 249 998 839
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(640 418 372)	0.21	(3 010 475 876)	0.18	0.21	172 744 380	668 432 265	640 944 750	0.97	813 162 752	3 119 551 694	3 651 420 626
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	40 673 604	1.02	(1 051 413 345)	0.90	2.81	2 323 830 240	10 707 069 002	9 122 415 754	2.72	2 283 156 636	9 024 419 433	10 173 829 099
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	10 255 606 421	1.73	32 167 474 811	1.57	29.43	24 329 825 388	59 057 276 864	88 877 530 894	16.79	14 074 218 967	45 388 465 390	56 710 056 083
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 823 229 885)	0.53	(15 543 479 842)	0.55	5.31	4 385 412 961	17 817 198 639	18 889 251 435	9.79	8 208 642 846	34 511 042 496	34 432 731 277
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 560 953 258)	0.29	(9 998 472 863)	0.34	1.27	1 046 909 195	5 378 937 936	5 206 821 646	4.30	3 607 862 453	15 447 603 713	15 205 294 509
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	103 008 803	1.42	118 823 387	1.10	0.42	348 825 705	1 398 672 530	1 264 439 172	0.29	245 816 902	1 278 348 554	1 145 615 785
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(4 564 360)	0.98	257 155 306	1.20	0.33	272 854 714	1 672 223 361	1 545 509 723	0.33	277 419 074	1 543 195 622	1 288 354 417
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	374 147 888	1.36	1 432 964 140	1.30	1.70	1 404 434 261	6 356 071 424	6 211 218 158	1.23	1 030 286 373	5 663 452 736	4 778 254 018
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 891 327 191)	0.30	(8 194 619 556)	0.29	0.96	792 475 460	3 250 649 715	3 328 197 421	3.20	2 683 802 651	13 767 107 863	11 522 816 977
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(820 045 966)	0.09	(3 769 481 156)	0.07	0.10	80 352 219	270 837 605	269 044 653	1.07	900 398 185	4 994 066 637	4 038 525 809
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(680 940 426)	0.29	(2 817 053 259)	0.28	0.34	278 467 793	1 497 747 891	1 088 247 550	1.14	959 408 219	4 668 483 870	3 905 300 809
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	14 768 402 977	19.38	55 851 981 282	24.93	18.84	15 571 928 730	49 939 384 743	58 185 734 821	0.96	803 525 753	2 424 186 967	2 333 753 539
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5 963 319 858	2.23	22 313 750 644	2.15	13.09	10 822 812 324	42 259 526 687	41 762 159 816	5.80	4 859 492 466	20 861 810 661	19 448 409 172
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(14 165 875 771)	0.29	(55 218 979 927)	0.29	7.06	5 836 493 844	27 550 554 022	22 972 135 250	23.86	20 002 369 615	92 494 109 269	78 191 115 177
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(994 471 071)	0.90	388 998 580	1.01	11.39	9 411 535 224	40 026 265 977	35 629 079 285	12.41	10 406 006 295	34 897 507 598	35 240 080 705
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 712 763 617)	0.20	(7 630 993 858)	0.21	0.53	440 370 158	2 045 503 018	2 065 620 407	2.57	2 153 133 775	10 279 152 803	9 696 614 265
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc. Manufactured Articles	(962 998 845)	0.26	(3 946 806 724)	0.24	0.42	343 354 820	1 535 061 659	1 272 258 676	1.56	1 306 353 665	6 064 797 354	5 219 065 400
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	17 506 469	1.56	303 118 760	1.94	0.06	48 982 830	429 171 591	626 930 898	0.04	31 476 361	129 219 669	323 812 138
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	434 653 554	6.27	2 906 824 843	6.71	0.63	517 169 479	2 610 779 340	3 415 947 462	0.10	82 515 925	646 086 896	509 122 619
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(6 401 163 919)	0.00	(28 084 387 395)	0.00	0.00	309 942	1 273 348	1 118 156	7.63	6 401 473 861	31 746 500 618	28 085 505 551
Total	Total SA Rand	(1 187 261 594)	0.99	(17 212 226 509)	0.95	100.00	82 661 098 763	293 987 300 708	321 673 261 285	100.00	83 848 360 357	354 314 890 868	338 885 487 794

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	5 860 681 917	1.80	25 504 260 561	1.87	15.95	13 187 383 303	53 106 728 755	54 958 375 478	8.74	7 326 701 386	29 490 662 239	29 454 114 917
AMERICA	(980 147 574)	0.89	(8 083 547 709)	0.79	9.37	7 741 882 932	33 152 633 691	29 642 594 680	10.40	8 722 030 506	43 052 322 546	37 726 142 389
ASIA	(8 822 751 195)	0.77	(35 443 086 619)	0.77	36.27	29 981 373 961	102 319 795 200	116 786 269 250	46.28	38 804 125 156	155 803 578 169	152 229 355 869
EUROPE	(3 754 427 880)	0.86	(23 088 363 826)	0.80	28.63	23 662 104 448	81 507 807 369	90 865 514 747	32.70	27 416 532 328	121 419 127 418	113 953 878 573
OCEANIA	147 066 906	1.15	(511 504 193)	0.89	1.40	1 158 008 656	4 190 334 271	4 165 015 150	1.21	1 010 941 750	3 849 756 679	4 676 519 343
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	5 682 034 598	11.00	20 884 183 365	25.70	7.56	6 250 063 829	18 228 341 297	21 729 660 068	0.68	568 029 231	699 443 817	845 476 703
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	680 281 634	-	3 525 831 912	-	0.82	680 281 634	1 481 660 125	3 525 831 912				
Total	(1 187 261 594)	0.99	(17 212 226 509)	0.95	100.00	82 661 098 763	293 987 300 708	321 673 261 285	100.00	83 848 360 357	354 314 890 868	338 885 487 794

Temporary Imports	January 2017	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 254 570 496	5 524 504 610	6 181 314 986	5 817 919 863

Notes:

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)
- 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, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (Only)

Trade Statistics with BLNS countries

Trade statistics with the BLNS for April 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R6.27 billion.

Summary

The R6.27 billion surplus for April 2017 is as a result of exports of R9.12 billion and imports of R2.85 billion.

Exports decreased from March 2017 to April 2017 by R2.10 billion (18.8%) and imports also decreased from March 2017 to April 2017 by R0.42 billion (12.9%).

The cumulative surplus for 2017 is R27.10 billion compared to R33.94 billion in 2016.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 586	- 95%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 379	- 30%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 262	- 16%
Vegetable Products	- R 153	- 23%
Base Metals	- R 124	- 17%
Textiles	- R 108	-17%
Chemical Products	- R 103	- 11%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 172	- 29%
Textiles	- R 96	- 21%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 92	- 18%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 46	- 16%
Chemical Products	+ R 50	+ 9%

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For any enquiries please contact Mr Sandile Memela on SMemela2@sars.gov.za