

## **SA Trade Statistics for August 2017**

### **SARS MEDIA RELEASE**

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 September 2017

### **SARS releases trade statistics for August 2017**

**Pretoria, 29 September 2017** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for August 2017 recording a trade balance surplus of R5.94 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 August 2017) trade balance surplus of R43.45 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2016 of R13.67 billion. Exports for the year-to-date grew by 5.8% whilst imports for the same period declined by 2.1%.

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

The R5.94 billion trade balance surplus for August 2017 is attributable to exports of R103.38 billion and imports of R97.44 billion. Exports increased from July 2017 to August 2017 by R10.28 billion (11.0%) and imports increased from July 2017 to August 2017 by R13.67 billion (16.3%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 August 2017) grew by 5.8% from R719.38 billion in 2016 to R761.24 billion in 2017. Imports for the year-to-date of R717.79 billion are 2.1% less than the imports recorded in January to August 2016 of R733.05 billion, leaving a cumulative trade balance surplus of R43.45 billion for 2017.

On a year-on-year basis, the R5.94 billion trade balance surplus for August 2017 is an improvement from the deficit recorded in August 2016 of R8.91 billion. Exports of R103.38 billion are 15.2% more than the exports recorded in August 2016 of R89.76 billion. Imports of R97.44 billion are 1.3% less than the imports recorded in August 2016 of R98.67 billion.

July 2017's trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R0.34 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R8.99 billion to a revised surplus of R9.33 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

[\*\*Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics August 2017\*\*](#)

## Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+R4 189	+21%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R2 990	+20%
Base Metals	+R1 289	+12%
Machinery & Electronics	+R 928	+12%
Chemical Products	+R 848	+15%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 637	+16%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R2 321	-17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>+R8 560</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>+R10 284</b>	<b>100%</b>

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+R5 616	+65%
Machinery & Electronics	+R2 169	+11%
Original Equipment Components	+R2 076	+29%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 916	+36%
Textiles	+R 878	+27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>+R11 655</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>+R13 674</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from July 2017 (revised) to August 2017 are given below.

### Africa:

Exports: R27 819 million – this is an increase of R2 628 million from July 2017.

Imports: R10 897 million – this is an increase of R3 100 million from July 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R16 922 million – this is a deterioration in comparison to the R17 394 million surplus recorded in July 2017.

### America:

Exports: R10 007 million – this is an increase of R1 324 million from July 2017.

Imports: R9 953 million – this is an increase of R 386 million from July 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R 54 million – this is an improvement in comparison to the R884 million deficit recorded in July 2017.

### Asia:

Exports: R31 431 million – this is an increase of R4 468 million from July 2017.

Imports: R43 661 million – this is an increase of R6 929 million from July 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R12 230 million – this is a deterioration in comparison to the R9 769 million deficit recorded in July 2017.

**Europe:**

Exports: R25 624 million – this is an increase of R 514 million from July 2017.

Imports: R31 331 million – this is an increase of R2 632 million from July 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R5 707 million – this is a deterioration in comparison to the R3 588 million deficit recorded in July 2017.

**Oceania:**

Exports: R1 396 million – this is an increase of R 73 million from July 2017.

Imports: R1 459 million – this is an increase of R 530 million from July 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R63 million – this is a deterioration in comparison to the R 395 million surplus recorded in July 2017.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for August 2017 recorded a trade balance deficit of R 1.89 billion.

#### **Summary**

The R1.89 billion deficit for August 2017 is as a result of exports of R91.55 billion and imports of R93.44 billion. Exports increased from July 2017 to August 2017 by R8.46 billion (10.2%) and imports increased from July 2017 to August 2017 by R12.98 billion (16.1%).

The cumulative deficit for 2017 is R17.08 billion compared to R83.28 billion deficit in 2016.

#### **Trade highlights by category**

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+R4 145	+23%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R2 207	+15%
Base Metals	+R1 273	+13%
Chemical Products	+R 702	+14%
Machinery & Electronics	+R 684	+11%
Wood Pulp and Paper	+R 489	+42%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R2 346	-18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>+ R7 154</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>+ R8 464</b>	<b>100%</b>

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+R5 605	+65%
Machinery & Electronics	+R2 170	+11%
Original Equipment Components	+R2 076	+29%
Base Metals	+R 859	+20%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 828	+39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>+R11 538</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>+R12 980</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Trade highlights by world zone

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

#### Africa:

Exports: R15 991 million – this is an increase of R807 million from July 2017.

Imports: R6 903 million – this is an increase of R2 407 million from July 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R9 088 million – this is a deterioration in comparison to the R 10 687 million surplus recorded in July 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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(596 046 931)	0.67	(3 477 815 463)	0.73	1.16	1 204 047 689	9 813 559 870	9 614 024 070	1.85	1 800 094 620	10 895 606 455	13 091 839 533
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	6 075 110 637	4.66	31 392 209 947	3.07	7.48	7 735 009 379	44 082 378 867	46 555 614 087	1.70	1 659 898 742	23 606 581 938	15 163 404 140
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(428 400 732)	0.42	(4 079 437 727)	0.37	0.30	314 169 612	2 564 566 247	2 434 393 082	0.76	742 570 344	5 961 010 048	6 513 830 809
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 115 813 277	1.33	7 352 060 282	1.32	4.40	4 547 531 147	31 686 307 370	30 186 295 196	3.52	3 431 717 870	22 050 313 230	22 834 234 914
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	9 611 726 739	1.67	74 339 378 211	1.68	23.11	23 893 507 639	136 852 479 598	183 368 660 461	14.66	14 281 780 900	99 249 233 887	109 029 282 250
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 697 751 925)	0.64	(28 763 751 089)	0.62	6.43	6 652 185 640	43 754 576 028	47 492 474 973	10.62	10 349 937 565	75 342 275 165	76 256 226 062
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 188 006 281)	0.48	(16 184 807 502)	0.48	1.98	2 049 337 539	15 476 212 375	15 119 245 712	4.35	4 237 343 820	32 072 448 976	31 304 053 214
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	47 433 101	1.14	494 007 910	1.20	0.38	395 589 768	3 215 547 553	2 965 118 140	0.36	348 156 667	2 763 356 406	2 471 110 230
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	185 286 238	1.41	1 197 379 940	1.35	0.61	632 368 851	4 584 866 972	4 609 850 636	0.46	447 082 613	3 674 015 443	3 412 470 696
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	573 465 501	1.42	4 299 544 983	1.43	1.87	1 935 294 884	14 844 990 279	14 235 184 531	1.40	1 361 829 383	11 640 635 920	9 935 639 548
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 755 693 900)	0.33	(16 735 849 560)	0.39	1.31	1 351 315 975	10 174 206 054	10 487 043 206	4.22	4 107 009 875	29 221 229 653	27 222 892 766
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 104 879 786)	0.20	(6 902 925 844)	0.21	0.26	273 667 103	1 761 989 200	1 795 594 428	1.41	1 378 546 889	9 935 819 962	8 698 520 272
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(600 338 645)	0.47	(4 663 133 638)	0.43	0.51	525 516 861	4 102 178 103	3 571 054 082	1.16	1 125 855 506	9 370 954 808	8 234 187 720
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	16 522 233 983	13.92	119 085 608 558	15.25	17.22	17 801 029 453	119 984 607 990	127 445 039 919	1.31	1 278 795 470	8 577 041 256	8 359 431 361
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 824 215 886	2.33	52 679 665 607	2.33	11.58	11 969 002 020	89 730 609 218	92 235 889 443	5.28	5 144 786 134	40 338 875 938	39 556 223 836
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(13 793 710 135)	0.38	(103 423 197 566)	0.37	8.34	8 624 760 389	69 861 241 133	61 390 835 735	23.01	22 418 470 524	180 521 662 370	164 814 033 301
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	2 195 076 859	1.23	15 038 714 931	1.20	11.22	11 600 186 106	98 739 787 556	90 872 616 807	9.65	9 405 109 247	69 444 595 664	75 833 901 876
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 898 557 882)	0.26	(14 671 435 079)	0.26	0.65	674 568 518	6 170 627 241	5 034 405 227	2.64	2 573 126 400	21 062 329 329	19 705 840 306
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 163 808 139)	0.38	(6 983 488 311)	0.42	0.70	719 065 095	5 493 778 432	5 135 064 483	1.93	1 882 873 234	12 762 220 636	12 118 552 794
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	502 445	1.01	325 884 821	1.60	0.06	60 998 331	687 358 230	867 584 962	0.06	60 495 886	288 968 264	541 700 141
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	321 329 348	4.34	4 942 856 113	6.60	0.40	417 467 021	5 790 878 112	5 825 515 310	0.10	96 137 673	1 074 171 883	882 659 197
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(9 304 421 435)	0.00	(61 811 333 664)	0.00	0.00	95 713	4 487 938	2 829 387	9.55	9 304 517 148	63 192 271 800	61 814 163 051
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>5 940 578 223</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>43 450 135 860</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>103 376 714 733</b>	<b>719 377 234 366</b>	<b>761 244 333 877</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>97 436 136 510</b>	<b>733 045 619 031</b>	<b>717 794 198 017</b>

Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports				
World Zones	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
AFRICA	16 921 838 872	2.55	125 551 266 138	2.63	26.91	27 818 807 513	204 367 643 305	202 653 316 735	11.18	10 896 968 641	82 473 970 430	77 102 050 597
AMERICA	53 729 231	1.01	(10 841 218 236)	0.86	9.68	10 007 002 722	68 450 906 073	67 708 520 836	10.22	9 953 273 491	85 729 492 296	78 549 739 072
ASIA	(12 229 869 863)	0.72	(80 511 844 967)	0.75	30.40	31 431 229 076	214 499 348 352	236 602 619 952	44.81	43 661 098 939	313 668 838 774	317 114 464 919
EUROPE	(5 707 253 556)	0.82	(43 017 759 453)	0.82	24.79	25 624 185 476	182 407 232 344	191 287 392 152	32.16	31 331 439 032	241 436 653 310	234 305 151 605
OCEANIA	(62 547 270)	0.96	(1 527 036)	1.00	1.35	1 396 671 724	8 809 970 482	9 287 534 542	1.50	1 459 218 994	8 760 280 893	9 289 061 578
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	6 542 348 126	49.77	46 494 467 186	33.43	6.46	6 676 485 539	37 144 373 082	47 928 197 432	0.14	134 137 413	976 383 328	1 433 730 246
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	422 332 683	-	5 776 752 228	-	0.41	422 332 683	3 697 760 728	5 776 752 228				
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 940 578 223</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>43 450 135 860</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>103 376 714 733</b>	<b>719 377 234 366</b>	<b>761 244 333 877</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>97 436 136 510</b>	<b>733 045 619 031</b>	<b>717 794 198 017</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2017</b>	<b>February 2017</b>	<b>March 2017</b>	<b>April 2017</b>	<b>May 2017</b>	<b>June 2017</b>	<b>July 2017</b>	<b>August 2017</b>				
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 456 314 562	5 524 504 610	6 386 799 884	5 816 690 251	7 099 357 038	6 392 855 491	6 215 652 071	7 216 722 094				

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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(394 668 368)	0.69	(2 923 556 201)	0.71	0.96	878 391 704	7 502 369 251	7 180 691 501	1.36	1 273 060 072	8 827 092 120	10 104 247 702
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	5 597 309 747	4.46	27 235 936 299	2.83	7.88	7 215 734 065	39 120 324 866	42 133 339 285	1.73	1 618 424 318	23 114 479 535	14 897 402 986
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(518 729 745)	0.29	(4 863 289 905)	0.25	0.23	213 243 772	1 715 633 785	1 616 400 084	0.78	731 973 517	5 928 071 287	6 479 689 989
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	344 258 102	1.12	1 841 947 976	1.09	3.59	3 290 951 454	23 181 539 381	21 287 011 436	3.15	2 946 693 352	18 591 489 869	19 445 063 460
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	7 994 873 711	1.56	62 738 042 314	1.58	24.26	22 205 335 147	122 517 516 447	171 264 299 150	15.21	14 210 461 436	98 844 559 503	108 526 256 836
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(4 001 573 637)	0.58	(31 631 968 750)	0.56	6.09	5 576 751 148	36 148 144 981	40 052 974 089	10.25	9 578 324 785	71 189 171 541	71 684 942 839
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 669 614 239)	0.36	(19 459 764 412)	0.37	1.67	1 529 841 461	11 728 739 253	11 559 462 344	4.49	4 199 455 700	31 780 398 588	31 019 226 756
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	13 513 533	1.04	301 798 523	1.13	0.38	348 236 110	2 820 310 262	2 655 285 706	0.36	334 722 577	2 567 645 172	2 353 487 183
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	142 650 681	1.46	943 128 000	1.38	0.49	452 528 261	3 354 154 577	3 422 526 968	0.33	309 877 580	2 766 852 697	2 479 398 968
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	330 531 795	1.25	2 552 497 473	1.26	1.82	1 663 866 549	12 956 466 055	12 317 560 338	1.43	1 333 334 754	11 460 423 549	9 765 062 865
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 828 546 967)	0.21	(17 400 531 060)	0.27	0.82	755 121 797	6 039 578 814	6 278 736 536	3.84	3 583 668 764	25 949 394 462	23 679 267 596
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 271 064 779)	0.07	(8 019 831 299)	0.07	0.10	90 697 452	547 722 279	579 981 492	1.46	1 361 762 231	9 817 184 816	8 599 812 791
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(754 200 686)	0.32	(5 699 035 948)	0.30	0.39	361 319 455	2 863 377 506	2 462 258 127	1.19	1 115 520 141	9 281 594 658	8 161 294 075
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	16 549 965 681	37.18	118 865 794 260	28.79	18.58	17 007 442 216	114 821 687 897	123 143 219 343	0.49	457 476 535	6 104 963 225	4 277 425 083
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 131 310 082	2.21	45 883 383 226	2.18	12.22	11 187 821 411	83 695 236 899	84 855 269 604	5.41	5 056 511 329	39 730 660 280	38 971 886 378
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(15 189 400 147)	0.31	(113 138 012 735)	0.30	7.54	6 905 909 685	56 520 459 053	49 301 834 030	23.65	22 095 309 832	178 218 651 846	162 439 846 765
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	1 087 351 897	1.12	6 870 632 548	1.09	11.44	10 471 130 805	87 795 606 232	82 374 494 718	10.04	9 383 778 908	69 012 287 295	75 503 862 170
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 046 610 324)	0.20	(15 741 929 392)	0.20	0.57	518 979 843	4 925 717 719	3 920 101 574	2.75	2 565 590 167	21 015 018 541	19 662 030 966
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 425 850 973)	0.22	(8 877 190 163)	0.25	0.44	402 898 835	3 258 678 267	2 898 913 755	1.96	1 828 749 808	12 498 915 073	11 776 103 918
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	319 152	1.01	323 574 034	1.60	0.07	60 795 375	681 222 251	863 550 907	0.06	60 476 223	288 401 500	539 976 873
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	319 447 156	4.44	4 926 997 368	6.79	0.45	412 247 711	5 749 233 718	5 777 427 487	0.10	92 800 555	1 045 245 707	850 430 119
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(9 304 422 735)	0.00	(61 811 907 930)	0.00	0.00	94 413	4 486 675	2 255 121	9.96	9 304 517 148	63 192 271 800	61 814 163 051
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(1 893 151 063)</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>(17 083 285 774)</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>91 549 338 669</b>	<b>627 948 206 168</b>	<b>675 947 593 595</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>93 442 489 732</b>	<b>711 224 773 064</b>	<b>693 030 879 369</b>
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
World Zones	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	
AFRICA	9 088 109 586	2.32	65 017 844 504	2.24	17.47	15 991 431 449	112 938 615 107	117 356 576 453	7.39	6 903 321 863	60 653 124 463	52 338 731 949	
AMERICA	53 729 231	1.01	(10 841 218 236)	0.86	10.93	10 007 002 722	68 450 906 073	67 708 520 836	10.65	9 953 273 491	85 729 492 296	78 549 739 072	
ASIA	(12 229 869 863)	0.72	(80 511 844 967)	0.75	34.33	31 431 229 076	214 499 348 352	236 602 619 952	46.73	43 661 098 939	313 668 838 774	317 114 464 919	
EUROPE	(5 707 253 556)	0.82	(43 017 759 453)	0.82	27.99	25 624 185 476	182 407 232 344	191 287 392 152	33.53	31 331 439 032	241 436 653 310	234 305 151 605	
OCEANIA	(62 547 270)	0.96	(1 527 036)	1.00	1.53	1 396 671 724	8 809 970 482	9 287 534 542	1.56	1 459 218 994	8 760 280 893	9 289 061 578	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	6 542 348 126	49.77	46 494 467 186	33.43	7.29	6 676 485 539	37 144 373 082	47 928 197 432	0.14	134 137 413	976 383 328	1 433 730 246	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	422 332 683	-	5 776 752 228	-	0.46	422 332 683	3 697 760 728	5 776 752 228					
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1 893 151 063)</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>(17 083 285 774)</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>91 549 338 669</b>	<b>627 948 206 168</b>	<b>675 947 593 595</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>93 442 489 732</b>	<b>711 224 773 064</b>	<b>693 030 879 369</b>	
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2017</b>	<b>February 2017</b>	<b>March 2017</b>	<b>April 2017</b>	<b>May 2017</b>	<b>June 2017</b>	<b>July 2017</b>	<b>August 2017</b>					
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 456 314 562	5 524 504 610	6 386 799 884	5 816 690 251	7 099 357 038	6 392 855 491	6 215 652 071	7 216 722 094					

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 August 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R7.83 billion.

#### **Summary**

The R7.83 billion surplus for August 2017 is as a result of exports of R11.82 billion and imports of R3.99 billion.

Exports increased from July 2017 to August 2017 by R1.82 billion (18.2%) and imports increased from July 2017 to August 2017 by R0.69 billion (21.0%).

The cumulative surplus for 2017 is R60.53 billion compared to R69.61 billion in 2016.

#### **Trade Highlights by Category**

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 783	+7266%
Machinery & Electronics	+R 244	+17%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 192	+18%
Chemical Products	+R 146	+16%
Plastics and Rubber	+R 85	+20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>+R1 451</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>+R1 820</b>	<b>100%</b>

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Chemical Products	+R 230	+42%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 224	+38%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 88	+22%
Live Animals	+R 61	+13%
Textiles	+R 51	+11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>+ R 655</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>+ R 694</b>	<b>100%</b>

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics August 2017](#)

**ENDS.**

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