

## SA Trade Statistics for February 2017

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 31 March 2017

### SARS releases trade statistics for February 2017

**Pretoria, 31 March 2017** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for February 2017 recording a trade balance surplus of R5.22 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS). The year-to-date trade balance deficit (01 January to 28 February 2017) of R6 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2016 of R23.62 billion.

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

The R5.22 billion trade balance surplus for February 2017 is attributable to exports of R87.79 billion and imports of R82.57 billion. Exports increased from January 2017 to February 2017 by R7.57 billion (9.4%) and imports decreased from January 2017 to February 2017 by R8.86 billion (9.7%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to February 2017) grew by 7.0% from R156.98 billion in 2016 to R168 billion in 2017. Imports for the year-to-date of R174 billion are 3.7% less than the imports recorded in January to February 2016 of R180.60 billion.

On a year-on-year basis, the R5.22 billion trade balance surplus for February 2017 is an improvement from the deficit recorded in February 2016 of R5.39 billion. Exports of R87.79 billion are 2.0% more than the exports recorded in February 2016 of R86.04 billion. Imports of R82.57 billion are 9.7% less than the imports recorded in February 2016 of R91.43 billion.

January 2017's trade balance deficit was revised upwards by R0.41 billion from the previous month's preliminary deficit of R10.81 billion to a revised deficit of R11.22 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

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

### Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R4 753	+ 79%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R1 408	+ 25%
Base Metals	+ R 996	+ 10%
Plastics & Rubber	+ R 475	+ 33%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 475	+ 17%

Vegetable Products	+ R 472	+ 11%
Chemical Products	+ R 394	+ 8%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R1 345	- 10%
Mineral Products	- R1 561	- 7%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BLNS:	
Machinery & Electronics	- R3 885	- 18%
Chemical Products	- R 998	- 10%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 989	- 22%
Base Metals	- R 805	- 15%
Vegetable Products	- R 669	- 25%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 438	- 6%

### Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from January 2017 (revised) to February 2017 are given below.

#### Africa:

Exports: R23 769 million – this is an increase of R3 093 million from January 2017.

Imports: R10 364 million – this is a decrease of R 307 million from January 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R13 405 million – this is a 34.0% increase in comparison to the R10 005 million surplus recorded in January 2017.

#### America:

Exports: R7 259 million – this is an increase of R 665 million from January 2017.

Imports: R9 247 million – this is an increase of R 224 million from January 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R1 988 million – this is a 18.1% decrease in comparison to the R2 428 million deficit recorded in January 2017.

#### Asia:

Exports: R29 148 million – this is an increase of R1 646 million from January 2017.

Imports: R35 608 million – this is a decrease of R6 477 million from January 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R6 460 million – this is a 55.7% decrease in comparison to the R14 582 million deficit recorded in January 2017.

#### Europe:

Exports: R21 677 million – this is an increase of R3 013 million from January 2017.

Imports: R25 597 million – this is a decrease of R3 121 million from January 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R3 920 million – this is a 61.0% decrease in comparison to the R10 054 million deficit recorded in January 2017.

**Oceania:**

Exports: R 975 million – this is an increase of R 260 million from January 2017.

Imports: R 1 657 million – this is an increase of R 804 million from January 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R 682 million – this is a deterioration in comparison to the R 137 million deficit recorded in January 2017.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for February 2017 recorded a trade balance deficit of R1.20 billion.

**Summary**

The R1.20 billion deficit for February 2017 is as a result of exports of R78.49 billion and imports of R79.69 billion. Exports increased from January 2017 to February 2017 by R7.25 billion (10.2%) and imports decreased from January 2017 to February 2017 by R9.21 billion (10.4%).

The cumulative deficit for 2017 is R18.86 billion compared to R38.92 billion deficit in 2016.

**Trade highlights by category**

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R4 712	+ 91%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R1 236	+ 28%
Base Metals	+ R 775	+ 8%
Vegetable Products	+ R 445	+ 12%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 423	+ 23%
Plastic & Rubber	+ R 404	+ 37%
Chemical Products	+ R 309	+ 7%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 833	- 6%
Mineral Products	- R1 397	- 6%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Machinery & Electronics	- R3 940	- 19%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 992	- 23%
Chemical Products	- R 868	- 9%
Base Metals	- R 799	- 15%
Vegetable Products	- R 662	- 25%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 478	- 6%

**Trade highlights by world zone**

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

**Africa:**

Exports: R14 470 million – this is an increase of R2 775 million from January 2017.

Imports: R7 479 million – this is a decrease of R 658 million from January 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R6 991 million – this is a 96.5% increase in comparison to the R3 558 million surplus recorded in January 2017.

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

## 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	131 006 936	1.10	1 276 568	1.00	1.60	1 401 033 741	2 566 932 441	2 572 807 361	1.54	1 270 026 805	2 224 200 928	2 571 530 793
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 626 572 750	2.28	4 112 507 677	1.86	5.33	4 675 351 344	8 642 555 989	8 879 047 652	2.48	2 048 778 594	5 429 299 156	4 766 539 975
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(720 634 375)	0.27	(1 468 230 136)	0.25	0.30	262 192 924	520 092 093	492 281 779	1.19	982 827 299	1 256 847 216	1 960 511 915
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	308 932 922	1.10	(111 790 658)	0.98	3.82	3 352 470 157	6 969 692 782	6 230 102 432	3.69	3 043 537 235	4 980 593 122	6 341 893 090
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	7 471 512 100	1.52	16 859 153 692	1.59	24.94	21 895 583 542	31 147 726 263	45 352 137 622	17.47	14 424 071 442	21 066 382 776	28 492 983 930
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 394 304 996)	0.62	(8 180 837 348)	0.57	6.29	5 525 304 438	10 347 675 907	10 656 805 788	10.80	8 919 609 434	18 177 450 615	18 837 643 136
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 514 596 257)	0.56	(4 493 298 784)	0.43	2.20	1 933 459 507	3 328 241 145	3 391 653 242	4.18	3 448 055 764	7 411 126 734	7 884 952 026
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	31 975 994	1.10	(17 756 846)	0.97	0.42	368 061 760	741 184 203	678 650 740	0.41	336 085 766	792 449 688	696 407 586
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	200 608 932	1.46	72 482 682	1.08	0.73	639 612 098	1 094 152 376	1 018 078 372	0.53	439 003 166	1 027 950 051	945 595 690
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	706 315 204	1.62	928 513 021	1.36	2.11	1 854 576 370	3 641 174 997	3 522 781 937	1.39	1 148 261 166	2 908 314 606	2 594 268 916
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 279 355 731)	0.37	(4 788 723 530)	0.33	1.52	1 332 858 661	2 321 286 741	2 367 801 960	4.37	3 612 214 392	8 342 700 317	7 156 525 490
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(973 410 874)	0.17	(2 000 600 340)	0.15	0.23	204 131 945	366 356 868	340 521 633	1.43	1 177 542 819	3 087 634 710	2 341 121 973
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(542 648 570)	0.42	(1 341 880 936)	0.35	0.45	396 542 563	831 716 454	730 769 605	1.14	939 191 133	2 449 047 927	2 072 650 541
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	11 703 403 352	12.32	24 911 013 210	14.06	14.51	12 736 927 377	25 323 792 264	26 819 145 206	1.25	1 033 524 025	1 655 204 639	1 908 131 996
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 776 639 209	2.46	11 752 094 324	2.16	13.02	11 433 634 880	21 305 554 960	21 871 264 419	5.64	4 656 995 671	10 928 365 143	10 119 170 095
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(10 322 263 742)	0.40	(25 937 585 448)	0.33	7.98	7 003 956 803	15 905 451 376	12 599 902 505	20.98	17 326 220 545	46 469 006 820	38 537 487 953
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	3 523 788 232	1.49	1 856 230 710	1.12	12.25	10 757 231 658	18 470 139 839	16 761 416 708	8.76	7 233 443 426	18 791 172 125	14 905 185 998
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 568 164 858)	0.30	(3 521 153 798)	0.24	0.78	682 974 819	1 238 403 367	1 111 457 013	2.73	2 251 139 677	4 952 550 774	4 632 610 811
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(703 231 263)	0.46	(1 836 268 584)	0.36	0.68	595 483 956	1 194 701 294	1 032 205 640	1.57	1 298 715 219	3 335 685 093	2 868 474 224
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	5 573 119	1.09	(6 989 227)	0.94	0.08	67 976 912	98 187 682	115 382 378	0.08	62 403 793	61 781 260	122 371 605
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	598 404 393	9.59	1 224 981 405	6.21	0.76	668 037 339	928 578 888	1 460 125 929	0.08	69 632 946	247 900 007	235 144 524
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(6 849 986 686)	0.00	(14 012 814 672)	0.00	0.00	122 985	599 121	234 885	8.30	6 850 109 671	15 004 601 980	14 013 049 557
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>5 216 135 791</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>(5 999 677 018)</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>87 787 525 779</b>	<b>156 984 197 050</b>	<b>168 004 574 806</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>82 571 389 988</b>	<b>180 600 265 687</b>	<b>174 004 251 824</b>

  

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month % of total	Exports			Month % of total	Imports		
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)		Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)		Month Total 2017 (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
AFRICA	13 405 299 073	2.29	23 410 439 647	2.11	27.08	23 769 784 339	45 736 181 035	44 446 219 768	12.55	10 364 485 266	20 109 244 951	21 035 780 121
AMERICA	(1 987 672 330)	0.79	(4 416 074 049)	0.76	8.27	7 258 909 710	14 322 999 321	13 852 972 468	11.20	9 246 582 040	20 460 870 569	18 269 046 517
ASIA	(6 459 649 975)	0.82	(21 042 134 706)	0.73	33.20	29 148 139 824	47 351 259 924	56 650 739 337	43.12	35 607 789 799	79 066 076 731	77 692 874 043
EUROPE	(3 920 321 677)	0.85	(13 974 217 115)	0.74	24.69	21 677 346 203	39 046 913 781	40 341 902 740	31.00	25 597 667 880	58 907 438 038	54 316 119 855
OCEANIA	(682 024 496)	0.59	(819 454 397)	0.67	1.11	975 465 311	2 150 011 273	1 691 181 042	2.01	1 657 489 807	1 931 965 544	2 510 635 439
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	4 101 442 251	43.12	9 328 655 873	52.88	4.78	4 198 817 447	7 663 365 382	9 508 451 722	0.12	97 375 196	124 669 854	179 795 849
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	759 062 945	-	1 513 107 729	-	0.86	759 062 945	713 466 334	1 513 107 729				
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 216 135 791</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>(5 999 677 018)</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>87 787 525 779</b>	<b>156 984 197 050</b>	<b>168 004 574 806</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>82 571 389 988</b>	<b>180 600 265 687</b>	<b>174 004 251 824</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2017</b>	<b>February 2017</b>										
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 254 570 496	5 524 504 610										

### 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	133 815 296	1.14	(109 111 043)	0.95	1.42	1 112 524 195	2 030 430 940	1 999 775 011	1.23	978 708 899	1 838 705 687	2 108 886 054
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 067 964 121	2.02	3 028 641 931	1.64	5.22	4 095 416 957	7 471 324 780	7 745 449 387	2.54	2 027 452 836	5 346 856 981	4 716 807 456
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(814 686 866)	0.17	(1 647 770 355)	0.16	0.21	167 070 119	353 958 214	311 363 450	1.23	981 756 985	1 249 921 751	1 959 133 805
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(365 908 007)	0.86	(1 428 213 940)	0.74	2.92	2 288 724 816	5 001 805 092	4 154 517 418	3.33	2 654 632 823	4 072 938 644	5 582 731 358
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	6 203 668 182	1.43	14 156 759 851	1.50	26.21	20 575 580 602	27 784 713 841	42 548 135 589	18.04	14 371 912 420	20 957 196 018	28 391 375 738
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 721 107 529)	0.56	(8 619 327 587)	0.51	5.92	4 645 388 340	8 672 475 026	8 981 801 103	10.50	8 366 495 869	16 962 514 602	17 601 128 690
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 905 893 692)	0.44	(5 208 172 166)	0.33	1.92	1 506 291 997	2 482 458 872	2 608 496 042	4.28	3 412 185 689	7 345 991 581	7 816 668 208
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	7 093 595	1.02	(65 357 812)	0.90	0.42	332 073 858	649 073 613	604 245 206	0.41	324 980 263	750 787 235	669 603 018
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	167 405 750	1.50	29 138 977	1.04	0.64	503 047 110	837 397 384	768 023 593	0.42	335 641 360	838 981 448	738 884 616
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	469 845 484	1.42	443 088 197	1.17	2.03	1 594 541 632	3 176 559 035	2 984 395 726	1.41	1 124 696 148	2 854 209 760	2 541 307 529
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 347 230 334)	0.26	(4 821 887 707)	0.24	1.07	842 858 791	1 464 428 081	1 511 976 480	4.00	3 190 089 125	7 572 191 243	6 333 864 187
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 104 111 974)	0.05	(2 225 293 550)	0.04	0.08	61 466 497	110 794 847	98 484 776	1.46	1 165 578 471	3 043 548 949	2 323 778 326
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(661 689 177)	0.29	(1 563 337 682)	0.24	0.34	268 874 371	579 836 124	493 475 451	1.17	930 563 548	2 426 792 206	2 056 813 133
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	12 196 734 876	24.06	25 165 107 870	23.49	16.21	12 725 590 509	23 415 522 673	26 284 151 652	0.66	528 855 633	796 525 143	1 119 043 782
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 113 153 572	2.33	10 652 645 981	2.07	13.64	10 705 667 668	19 975 852 195	20 636 470 461	5.76	4 592 514 096	10 805 330 433	9 983 824 480
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(11 443 709 913)	0.33	(28 062 924 589)	0.26	7.14	5 606 169 246	12 943 758 938	9 976 750 637	21.40	17 049 879 159	45 881 023 811	38 039 675 226
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	2 700 113 342	1.38	210 155 732	1.01	12.58	9 875 141 554	16 244 105 345	15 038 618 849	9.00	7 175 028 212	18 619 012 799	14 828 463 117
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 718 592 758)	0.23	(3 777 933 987)	0.18	0.67	527 089 931	993 358 397	844 746 972	2.82	2 245 682 689	4 941 783 184	4 622 680 959
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(926 605 046)	0.26	(2 220 835 380)	0.20	0.41	325 474 967	753 794 107	568 304 793	1.57	1 252 080 013	3 270 849 598	2 789 140 173
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	4 711 822	1.08	(8 163 161)	0.93	0.09	67 090 385	95 006 760	114 169 788	0.08	62 378 563	61 739 441	122 332 949
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	596 461 260	10.11	1 223 626 336	6.39	0.84	661 960 166	918 299 043	1 450 674 405	0.08	65 498 906	237 734 855	227 048 069
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(6 849 996 415)	0.00	(14 012 828 211)	0.00	0.00	113 256	599 121	221 346	8.60	6 850 109 671	15 004 601 980	14 013 049 557
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(1 198 564 411)</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>(18 861 992 295)</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>78 488 156 967</b>	<b>135 955 552 428</b>	<b>149 724 248 135</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>79 686 721 378</b>	<b>174 879 237 349</b>	<b>168 586 240 430</b>
World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month % of total	Exports			Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)		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	6 990 598 871	1.93	10 548 124 370	1.68	18.44	14 470 415 527	24 707 536 413	26 165 893 097	9.39	7 479 816 656	14 388 216 613	15 617 768 727	
AMERICA	(1 987 672 330)	0.79	(4 416 074 049)	0.76	9.25	7 258 909 710	14 322 999 321	13 852 972 468	11.60	9 246 582 040	20 460 870 569	18 269 046 517	
ASIA	(6 459 649 975)	0.82	(21 042 134 706)	0.73	37.14	29 148 139 824	47 351 259 924	56 650 739 337	44.68	35 607 789 799	79 066 076 731	77 692 874 043	
EUROPE	(3 920 321 677)	0.85	(13 974 217 115)	0.74	27.62	21 677 346 203	39 046 913 781	40 341 902 740	32.12	25 597 667 880	58 907 438 038	54 316 119 855	
OCEANIA	(682 024 496)	0.59	(819 454 397)	0.67	1.24	975 465 311	2 150 011 273	1 691 181 042	2.08	1 657 489 807	1 931 965 544	2 510 635 439	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	4 101 442 251	43.12	9 328 655 873	52.88	5.35	4 198 817 447	7 663 365 382	9 508 451 722	0.12	97 375 196	124 669 854	179 795 849	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	759 062 945	-	1 513 107 729	-	0.97	759 062 945	713 466 334	1 513 107 729					
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1 198 564 411)</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>(18 861 992 295)</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>78 488 156 967</b>	<b>135 955 552 428</b>	<b>149 724 248 135</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>79 686 721 378</b>	<b>174 879 237 349</b>	<b>168 586 240 430</b>	
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2017</b>	<b>February 2017</b>											
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 254 570 496	5 524 504 610											

### Notes:

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)
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- 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 February 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R6.41 billion.

#### Summary

The R6.41 billion surplus for February 2017 is as a result of exports of R9.30 billion and imports of R2.89 billion.

Exports increased from January 2017 to February 2017 by R0.32 billion (3.5%) and imports increased from January 2017 to February 2017 by R0.35 billion (13.9%).

The cumulative surplus for 2017 is R12.86 billion compared to R15.31 billion in 2016.

#### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Base Metals	+ R 221	+ 44%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 172	+ 14%
Textiles	+ R 124	+ 34%
Chemical Product	+ R 85	+ 11%
Misc. Manufactured Articles	+ R 76	+ 39%
Plastics & Rubber	+ R 71	+ 20%
Optical Photographic Products	+ R 45	+ 41%
Footwear	+ R 43	+ 44%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R 41	+ 5%
Vegetable Products	+ R 26	+ 5%
Mineral Products	- R 164	- 11%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 512	- 98%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 220	+ 77%
Live Animals	+ R 120	+ 70%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 55	+ 25%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R 40	+ 219%
Chemical Products	- R 130	- 19%

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

**ENDS.**

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