

## SA Trade Statistics for January 2017

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 28 February 2017*

### SARS releases trade statistics for January 2017

**Pretoria, 28 February 2017** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for January 2017 recording a trade balance deficit of R10.81 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS).

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

The R10.81 billion trade balance deficit for January 2017 is attributable to exports of R80.59 billion and imports of R91.40 billion. Exports decreased from December 2016 to January 2017 by R13.09 billion (14.0%) and imports increased from December 2016 to January 2017 by R10.13 billion (12.5%).

On a year-on-year basis, January 2017's R10.81 billion trade balance deficit is an improvement from the deficit recorded in January 2016 of R19.55 billion. Exports of R80.59 billion are 15.8% more than the exports recorded in January 2016 of R69.62 billion. Imports of R91.40 billion are 2.5% more than the imports recorded in January 2016 of R89.17 billion.

December 2016's trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R0.37 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R12.04 billion to a revised surplus of R12.41 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

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

### Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 2 795	- 32%
Mineral Products	- R 2 710	- 10%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 1 831	- 25%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 1 063	- 7%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 1 040	- 27%
Chemical Products	- R 685	- 12%
Base Metals	- R 599	- 6%

The main month-on-month import movements:

<b>R' million</b>		
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Including BLNS:</b>	
Equipment Components	+ R 4 287	+ 149%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 2 311	+ 12%
Base Metals	+ R 1 763	+ 48%
Chemical Products	+ R 1 707	+ 21%
Plastics & Rubber	+ R 1 294	+ 41%
Textiles	+ R 1 226	+ 53%
Vegetable Products	+ R 764	+ 39%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 550	+ 20%
Footwear & Accessories	+ R 408	+ 54%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 4 047	- 34%
Mineral Products	- R 1 865	- 12%

### **Trade highlights by world zone**

The world zone results from December 2016 (Revised) to January 2017 are given below.

#### **Africa:**

Exports: R21 005 million – this is a decrease of R5 321 million from December 2016.

Imports: R10 655 million – this is an increase of R1 146 million from December 2016.

Trade Balance surplus: R10 350 million – this is a 38.5% decrease in comparison to the R16 816 million surplus recorded in December 2016.

#### **America:**

Exports: R6 571 million – this is a decrease of R 642 million from December 2016.

Imports: R9 022 million – this is a decrease of R 68 million from December 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R2 451 million – this is a 30.6% increase in comparison to the R1 876 million deficit recorded in December 2016.

#### **Asia:**

Exports: R27 560million – this is a decrease of R5 309 million from December 2016.

Imports: R41 994 million – this is an increase of R5 944 million from December 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R14 434 million – this is a 353.8% increase in comparison to the R3 181 million deficit recorded in December 2016.

#### **Europe:**

Exports: R18 671 million – this is a decrease of R3 077 million from December 2016.

Imports: R28 792 million – this is an increase of R4 098 million from December 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R10 121 million – this is a 243.6% deterioration in comparison to the R2 945 million deficit recorded in December 2016.

**Oceania:**

Exports: R 717 million – this is a decrease of R 94 million from December 2016.

Imports: R 853 million – this is a decrease of R 677 million from December 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R 136 million – this is an 81.1% decrease in comparison to the R 719 million deficit recorded in December 2016.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for January 2017 recorded a trade balance deficit of R17.57 billion.

**Summary**

The R17.57 billion deficit for January 2017 is as a result of exports of R71.30 billion and imports of R88.87 billion. Exports decreased from December 2016 to January 2017 by R11.70 billion (14.1%) and imports increased from December 2016 to January 2017 by R9.90 billion (12.5%).

The cumulative deficit for 2017 is R17.57 billion compared to R26.73 billion deficit in 2016.

**Trade highlights by category**

The main month-on-month export movements:

<b>R' million</b>		
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Excluding BLNS:</b>	
Mineral Products	- R 2 872	- 11%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 2 765	- 35%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 1 745	- 29%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 817	- 6%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 707	- 27%
Base Metals	- R 550	- 5%
Chemical Products	- R 513	- 11%

The main month-on-month import movements:

<b>R' million</b>		
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Excluding BLNS:</b>	
Equipment Components	+ R 4 287	+ 149%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 2 216	+ 12%
Chemical Products	+ R 1 793	+ 24%
Base Metals	+ R 1 734	+ 47%
Plastics & Rubber	+ R 1 285	+ 41%
Textiles	+ R 1 187	+ 61%
Vegetable Products	+ R 774	+ 40%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 616	+ 27%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 4 047	- 34%
Mineral Products	- R 1 856	- 12%

**Trade highlights by world zone**

The world zone results for Africa excluding BLNS from December 2016 (Revised) to January 2017 are given below.

**Africa:**

Exports: R11 718 million – this is a decrease of R3 931 million from December 2016.

Imports: R8 122 million – this is an increase of R 910 million from December 2016.

Trade Balance surplus: R3 596 million – this is a 57.4% decrease in comparison to the R8 437 million surplus recorded in December 2016.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics January 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	(129 820 797)	0.90	(129 820 797)	0.90	1.45	1 171 683 020	1 139 237 202	1 171 683 020	1.42	1 301 503 817	1 124 344 729	1 301 503 817
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1 485 769 152	1.55	1 485 769 152	1.55	5.22	4 203 738 449	3 678 939 547	4 203 738 449	2.97	2 717 969 297	2 375 754 907	2 717 969 297
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(747 595 761)	0.24	(747 595 761)	0.24	0.29	230 088 855	286 913 146	230 088 855	1.07	977 684 616	605 762 167	977 684 616
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(419 631 407)	0.87	(419 631 407)	0.87	3.57	2 879 069 760	2 761 153 010	2 879 069 760	3.61	3 298 701 167	2 500 430 433	3 298 701 167
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	9 919 826 012	1.71	9 919 826 012	1.71	29.64	23 888 391 564	15 507 184 768	23 888 391 564	15.28	13 968 565 552	10 896 471 973	13 968 565 552
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(4 774 959 536)	0.52	(4 774 959 536)	0.52	6.39	5 147 617 081	4 561 051 563	5 147 617 081	10.86	9 922 576 617	9 000 692 830	9 922 576 617
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 987 173 134)	0.33	(2 987 173 134)	0.33	1.80	1 448 468 619	1 494 937 292	1 448 468 619	4.85	4 435 641 753	3 925 308 303	4 435 641 753
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(49 838 562)	0.86	(49 838 562)	0.86	0.39	310 589 417	315 051 405	310 589 417	0.39	360 427 979	394 706 614	360 427 979
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(127 977 977)	0.75	(127 977 977)	0.75	0.47	378 643 425	380 451 951	378 643 425	0.55	506 621 402	558 508 661	506 621 402
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	262 062 399	1.18	262 062 399	1.18	2.12	1 709 006 888	1 786 963 645	1 709 006 888	1.58	1 446 944 489	1 458 457 390	1 446 944 489
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 511 533 597)	0.29	(2 511 533 597)	0.29	1.28	1 034 941 461	980 399 518	1 034 941 461	3.88	3 546 475 058	3 730 940 482	3 546 475 058
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 027 240 372)	0.12	(1 027 240 372)	0.12	0.17	136 393 315	133 736 781	136 393 315	1.27	1 163 633 687	1 400 128 987	1 163 633 687
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(799 025 268)	0.29	(799 025 268)	0.29	0.41	334 227 146	392 765 634	334 227 146	1.24	1 133 252 414	1 267 940 178	1 133 252 414
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	13 207 673 065	16.10	13 207 673 065	16.10	17.47	14 082 217 829	11 378 952 542	14 082 217 829	0.96	874 544 764	732 914 496	874 544 764
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4 834 294 779	1.89	4 834 294 779	1.89	12.78	10 296 701 497	10 400 141 457	10 296 701 497	5.98	5 462 406 718	5 434 508 122	5 462 406 718
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(15 589 284 291)	0.27	(15 589 284 291)	0.27	6.98	5 621 313 004	6 973 255 639	5 621 313 004	23.21	21 210 597 295	24 073 975 704	21 210 597 295
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1 721 791 036)	0.78	(1 721 791 036)	0.78	7.46	6 010 805 653	5 922 475 694	6 010 805 653	8.46	7 732 596 689	8 558 902 623	7 732 596 689
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 952 422 423)	0.18	(1 952 422 423)	0.18	0.53	428 387 989	610 886 450	428 387 989	2.60	2 380 810 412	2 253 441 907	2 380 810 412
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 133 672 163)	0.28	(1 133 672 163)	0.28	0.54	436 734 743	518 314 386	436 734 743	1.72	1 570 406 906	1 694 742 612	1 570 406 906
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(12 554 218)	0.79	(12 554 218)	0.79	0.06	47 405 466	39 307 306	47 405 466	0.07	59 959 684	48 593 144	59 959 684
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	626 530 052	4.78	626 530 052	4.78	0.98	792 088 590	357 488 821	792 088 590	0.18	165 558 538	92 621 014	165 558 538
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(7 163 225 817)	0.00	(7 163 225 817)	0.00	0.00	111 900	223 006	111 900	7.84	7 163 337 717	7 038 379 681	7 163 337 717
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(10 811 590 900)</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>(10 811 590 900)</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>80 588 625 671</b>	<b>69 619 830 763</b>	<b>80 588 625 671</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>91 400 216 571</b>	<b>89 167 526 957</b>	<b>91 400 216 571</b>
World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports				
	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	10 349 735 445	1.97	10 349 735 445	1.97	26.06	21 005 128 181	20 928 077 245	21 005 128 181	11.66	10 655 392 736	9 562 121 709	10 655 392 736	
AMERICA	(2 450 604 252)	0.73	(2 450 604 252)	0.73	8.15	6 571 059 732	5 645 366 646	6 571 059 732	9.87	9 021 663 984	9 157 171 384	9 021 663 984	
ASIA	(14 433 643 889)	0.66	(14 433 643 889)	0.66	34.20	27 560 080 004	21 646 725 537	27 560 080 004	45.94	41 993 723 893	40 070 141 014	41 993 723 893	
EUROPE	(10 120 511 746)	0.65	(10 120 511 746)	0.65	23.17	18 671 667 861	16 231 625 830	18 671 667 861	31.50	28 792 179 607	29 378 738 683	28 792 179 607	
OCEANIA	(135 657 165)	0.84	(135 657 165)	0.84	0.89	717 010 834	651 253 295	717 010 834	0.93	852 667 999	951 025 968	852 667 999	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	5 225 045 923	62.77	5 225 045 923	62.77	6.59	5 309 634 275	4 237 134 521	5 309 634 275	0.09	84 588 352	48 328 199	84 588 352	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	754 044 784	-	754 044 784	-	0.94	754 044 784	279 647 689	754 044 784					
<b>Total</b>	<b>(10 811 590 900)</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>(10 811 590 900)</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>80 588 625 671</b>	<b>69 619 830 763</b>	<b>80 588 625 671</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>91 400 216 571</b>	<b>89 167 526 957</b>	<b>91 400 216 571</b>	
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2017</b>												
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 254 570 496												

### 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	(243 016 768)	0.78	(243 016 768)	0.78	1.24	887 160 216	882 902 899	887 160 216	1.27	1 130 176 984	965 706 871	1 130 176 984
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	960 500 235	1.36	960 500 235	1.36	5.12	3 650 054 691	3 106 405 066	3 650 054 691	3.03	2 689 554 456	2 327 884 359	2 689 554 456
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(833 083 489)	0.15	(833 083 489)	0.15	0.20	144 293 331	204 534 937	144 293 331	1.10	977 376 820	604 412 421	977 376 820
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(1 061 213 760)	0.64	(1 061 213 760)	0.64	2.62	1 867 230 087	1 794 243 966	1 867 230 087	3.30	2 928 443 847	2 035 545 653	2 928 443 847
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	8 205 893 913	1.59	8 205 893 913	1.59	31.03	22 124 980 661	13 678 978 849	22 124 980 661	15.66	13 919 086 748	10 855 291 482	13 919 086 748
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(4 886 692 080)	0.47	(4 886 692 080)	0.47	6.10	4 352 483 656	3 764 647 536	4 352 483 656	10.40	9 239 175 736	8 454 370 772	9 239 175 736
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(3 310 745 900)	0.25	(3 310 745 900)	0.25	1.53	1 092 482 110	1 126 315 025	1 092 482 110	4.95	4 403 228 010	3 896 707 444	4 403 228 010
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(72 557 129)	0.79	(72 557 129)	0.79	0.38	272 171 785	269 592 782	272 171 785	0.39	344 728 914	378 510 672	344 728 914
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(138 115 415)	0.66	(138 115 415)	0.66	0.37	265 127 615	273 350 995	265 127 615	0.45	403 243 030	471 250 659	403 243 030
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	13 107 295	1.01	13 107 295	1.01	2.01	1 430 655 415	1 543 660 696	1 430 655 415	1.60	1 417 548 120	1 436 050 135	1 417 548 120
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 476 818 971)	0.21	(2 476 818 971)	0.21	0.94	669 115 851	623 536 720	669 115 851	3.54	3 145 934 822	3 400 842 340	3 145 934 822
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 121 232 482)	0.03	(1 121 232 482)	0.03	0.05	37 021 906	32 596 192	37 021 906	1.30	1 158 254 388	1 382 813 354	1 158 254 388
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(901 441 407)	0.20	(901 441 407)	0.20	0.32	224 601 184	273 646 675	224 601 184	1.27	1 126 042 591	1 256 619 673	1 126 042 591
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	12 968 436 201	22.98	12 968 436 201	22.98	19.02	13 558 561 143	10 546 617 452	13 558 561 143	0.66	590 124 942	361 169 700	590 124 942
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4 398 274 474	1.82	4 398 274 474	1.82	13.73	9 789 874 751	9 841 837 526	9 789 874 751	6.07	5 391 600 277	5 382 275 410	5 391 600 277
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(16 620 204 281)	0.21	(16 620 204 281)	0.21	6.13	4 368 726 673	5 664 031 522	4 368 726 673	23.62	20 988 930 954	23 810 831 854	20 988 930 954
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(2 544 191 024)	0.67	(2 544 191 024)	0.67	7.25	5 170 097 898	5 005 186 993	5 170 097 898	8.68	7 714 288 922	8 479 045 229	7 714 288 922
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 058 540 507)	0.13	(2 058 540 507)	0.13	0.45	317 657 041	507 342 844	317 657 041	2.67	2 376 197 548	2 247 701 533	2 376 197 548
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 294 860 987)	0.16	(1 294 860 987)	0.16	0.34	242 847 074	334 932 611	242 847 074	1.73	1 537 708 061	1 669 574 082	1 537 708 061
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(12 866 855)	0.79	(12 866 855)	0.79	0.07	47 079 403	36 718 759	47 079 403	0.07	59 946 258	48 575 085	59 946 258
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	627 118 116	4.88	627 118 116	4.88	1.11	788 714 239	352 861 369	788 714 239	0.18	161 596 123	88 649 617	161 596 123
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(7 163 229 627)	0.00	(7 163 229 627)	0.00	0.00	108 090	223 006	108 090	8.06	7 163 337 717	7 038 379 681	7 163 337 717
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(17 565 480 448)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>(17 565 480 448)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71 301 044 820</b>	<b>59 864 164 420</b>	<b>71 301 044 820</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>88 866 525 268</b>	<b>86 592 208 026</b>	<b>88 866 525 268</b>

  

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	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	3 595 845 897	1.44	3 595 845 897	1.44	16.43	11 717 547 330	11 172 410 902	11 717 547 330	9.14	8 121 701 433	6 986 802 778	8 121 701 433
AMERICA	(2 450 604 252)	0.73	(2 450 604 252)	0.73	9.22	6 571 059 732	5 645 366 646	6 571 059 732	10.15	9 021 663 984	9 157 171 384	9 021 663 984
ASIA	(14 433 643 889)	0.66	(14 433 643 889)	0.66	38.65	27 560 080 004	21 646 725 537	27 560 080 004	47.25	41 993 723 893	40 070 141 014	41 993 723 893
EUROPE	(10 120 511 746)	0.65	(10 120 511 746)	0.65	26.19	18 671 667 861	16 231 625 830	18 671 667 861	32.40	28 792 179 607	29 378 738 683	28 792 179 607
OCEANIA	(135 657 165)	0.84	(135 657 165)	0.84	1.01	717 010 834	651 253 295	717 010 834	0.96	852 667 999	951 025 968	852 667 999
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	5 225 045 923	62.77	5 225 045 923	62.77	7.45	5 309 634 275	4 237 134 521	5 309 634 275	0.10	84 588 352	48 328 199	84 588 352
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	754 044 784	-	754 044 784	-	1.06	754 044 784	279 647 689	754 044 784				
<b>Total</b>	<b>(17 565 480 448)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>(17 565 480 448)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71 301 044 820</b>	<b>59 864 164 420</b>	<b>71 301 044 820</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>88 866 525 268</b>	<b>86 592 208 026</b>	<b>88 866 525 268</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2017</b>											
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 254 570 496											

**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 January 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R6.75 billion.

#### Summary

The R6.75 billion surplus for January 2017 is as a result of exports of R9.29 billion and imports of R2.53 billion.

Exports decreased from December 2016 to January 2017 by R1.39 billion (13.0%) and imports increased from December 2016 to January 2017 by R0.24 billion (10.2%).

The cumulative surplus for 2017 is R6.75 billion compared to R7.18 billion in 2016.

#### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 333	- 25%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 246	- 32%
Chemical Products	- R 172	- 18%
Textiles	- R 109	- 23%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 89	- 20%
Base Metals	- R 89	- 15%
Vegetable Products	- R 86	- 13%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 85	- 6%
Misc. Manufactured Articles	- R 84	- 30%
Mineral Products	+ R 162	+ 10%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 252	+ 766%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 94	+ 74%
Textiles	+ R 39	+ 11%
Chemical Products	- R 85	- 11%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 67	- 15%
Live Animals	- R 21	- 11%

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

**ENDS.**

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