

## SA Trade Statistics for March 2017

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 28 April 2017*

### SARS releases trade statistics for March 2017

**Pretoria, 28 April 2017** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for March 2017 recording a trade balance surplus of R11.44 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS). The year-to-date trade balance surplus (01 January to 31 March 2017) of R4.98 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2016 of R24.27 billion.

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

The R11.44 billion trade balance surplus for March 2017 is attributable to exports of R101.23 billion and imports of R89.79 billion. Exports increased from February 2017 to March 2017 by R13.96 billion (16.0%) and imports increased from February 2017 to March 2017 by R7.32 billion (8.9%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2017) grew by 8.0% from R248.72 billion in 2016 to R268.68 billion in 2017. Imports for the year-to-date of R263.71 billion are 3.4% less than the imports recorded in January to March 2016 of R273 billion.

On a year-on-year basis, the R11.44 billion trade balance surplus for March 2017 is an improvement from the deficit recorded in March 2016 of R0.66 billion. Exports of R101.23 billion are 10.4% more than the exports recorded in March 2016 of R91.73 billion. Imports of R89.79 billion are 2.8% less than the imports recorded in March 2016 of R92.39 billion.

February 2017's trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.43 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R5.22 billion to a revised surplus of R4.79 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

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

### Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R4 208	+ 33%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R2 014	+ 19%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R1 862	+ 27%

Mineral Products	+ R1 743	+ 8%
Chemical Products	+ R 913	+ 17%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Machinery & Electronics	+ R3 122	+ 18%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R2 925	+ 41%
Original Equipment Component	+ R 852	+ 12%
Optical Photographic Products	+ R 670	+ 30%
Textiles	- R 640	- 18%

### Trade highlights by world zone

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

#### Africa:

Exports: R27 007 million – this is an increase of R3 360 million from February 2017.

Imports: R9 785 million – this is a decrease of R 547 million from February 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R17 222 million – this is a 29.3% increase in comparison to the R13 315 million surplus recorded in February 2017.

#### America:

Exports: R8 031 million – this is an increase of R 855 million from February 2017.

Imports: R10 734 million – this is an increase of R1 487 million from February 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R2 703 million – this is a 30.5% increase in comparison to the R2 071 million deficit recorded in February 2017.

#### Asia:

Exports: R30 695 million – this is an increase of R1 876 million from February 2017.

Imports: R35 799 million – this is an increase of R 252 million from February 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R5 104 million – this is a 24.1% decrease in comparison to the R6 728 million deficit recorded in February 2017.

#### Europe:

Exports: R26 885 million – this is an increase of R5 191 million from February 2017.

Imports: R32 225 million – this is an increase of R6 625 million from February 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R5 340 million – this is a 36.7% increase in comparison to the R3 906 million deficit recorded in February 2017.

**Oceania:**

Exports: R1 314 million – this is an increase of R 338 million from February 2017.

Imports: R1 158 million – this is a decrease of R 499 million from February 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R 156 million – this is an improvement in comparison to the R 682 million deficit recorded in February 2017.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for March 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R3.47 billion.

**Summary**

The R3.47 billion surplus for March 2017 is as a result of exports of R90 billion and imports of R86.53 billion. Exports increased from February 2017 to March 2017 by R12.03 billion (15.4%) and imports increased from February 2017 to March 2017 by R6.91 billion (8.7%).

The cumulative deficit for 2017 is R15.87 billion compared to R48.65 billion deficit in 2016.

**Trade highlights by category**

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R3 604	+ 28%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R1 624	+ 17%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R1 603	+ 29%
Mineral Products	+ R1 579	+ 8%
Chemical Products	+ R 864	+ 19%
Other Unclassified	+ R 786	+ 119%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Machinery & Electronics	+ R3 109	+ 18%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R2 922	+ 41%
Original Equipment Component	+ R 852	+ 12%
Optical Photographic Products	+ R 672	+ 30%
Textiles	- R 684	- 21%

**Trade highlights by world zone**

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

**Africa:**

Exports: R15 778 million – this is an increase of R1 421 million from February 2017.

Imports: R6 518 million – this is a decrease of R 961 million from February 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R9 260 million – this is a 34.6% increase in comparison to the R6 878 million surplus recorded in February 2017.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics March 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	(550 259 717)	0.70	(631 260 722)	0.86	1.25	1 266 452 921	3 858 979 317	3 753 059 035	2.02	1 816 712 638	3 693 226 550	4 384 319 757
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	3 114 657 787	2.55	7 226 678 342	2.07	5.06	5 127 018 629	13 485 357 003	14 005 523 904	2.24	2 012 360 842	8 969 800 111	6 778 845 562
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(603 525 296)	0.32	(2 072 002 268)	0.27	0.28	280 569 439	716 656 697	772 331 237	0.98	884 094 735	2 076 336 606	2 844 333 505
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	988 341 605	1.35	878 194 429	1.10	3.75	3 798 928 456	10 784 620 512	10 028 851 707	3.13	2 810 586 851	7 919 035 213	9 150 657 278
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	9 244 422 737	1.65	25 987 176 567	1.61	23.28	23 564 731 886	48 257 777 304	68 806 566 473	15.95	14 320 309 149	32 924 982 400	42 819 389 906
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2 757 767 184)	0.70	(10 940 405 684)	0.61	6.35	6 432 907 591	16 378 889 599	17 089 990 527	10.23	9 190 674 775	27 468 837 661	28 030 396 211
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 800 438 064)	0.53	(6 292 841 622)	0.46	2.00	2 020 969 205	5 247 627 798	5 413 194 192	4.26	3 821 407 269	11 625 822 954	11 706 035 814
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	96 713 337	1.39	78 963 637	1.08	0.34	346 438 703	1 164 177 606	1 025 086 593	0.28	249 725 366	1 101 379 054	946 122 956
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	274 858 822	1.71	347 341 731	1.26	0.65	661 955 311	1 599 045 697	1 680 033 817	0.43	387 096 489	1 529 391 792	1 332 692 086
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	874 182 562	1.71	1 793 647 313	1.47	2.08	2 103 263 399	5 700 871 931	5 616 490 885	1.37	1 229 080 837	4 457 876 256	3 822 843 572
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 330 946 782)	0.55	(6 119 869 369)	0.40	1.62	1 641 261 107	3 855 661 910	4 008 798 825	3.31	2 972 207 889	11 881 329 375	10 128 668 194
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(564 455 137)	0.32	(2 565 025 755)	0.19	0.26	264 529 437	613 701 961	605 055 477	0.92	828 984 574	4 096 804 870	3 170 081 232
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(431 136 359)	0.52	(1 772 321 816)	0.40	0.46	468 742 317	1 364 855 824	1 199 412 738	1.00	899 878 676	3 563 673 675	2 971 734 554
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	15 934 020 358	16.77	40 844 961 601	14.99	16.74	16 944 671 017	40 403 741 317	43 763 817 497	1.13	1 010 650 659	2 626 555 139	2 918 855 896
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 650 837 008	2.42	18 199 296 279	2.23	11.19	11 332 953 840	33 374 944 848	32 993 990 302	5.21	4 682 116 832	16 018 179 064	14 794 694 023
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(11 580 248 983)	0.43	(37 518 545 324)	0.36	8.76	8 866 826 001	24 945 786 051	21 467 294 988	22.77	20 447 074 984	69 660 339 350	58 985 840 312
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	2 545 730 128	1.25	4 334 774 661	1.17	12.47	12 627 428 006	30 876 771 254	29 245 201 884	11.23	10 081 697 878	26 916 569 034	24 910 427 223
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 007 743 357)	0.31	(5 525 511 804)	0.27	0.90	913 814 926	1 978 234 073	2 030 417 344	3.25	2 921 558 283	7 773 986 617	7 555 929 148
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(520 963 510)	0.55	(2 356 218 170)	0.42	0.64	648 337 850	1 842 138 713	1 681 306 026	1.30	1 169 301 360	4 773 738 291	4 037 524 196
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	294 131 252	2.73	286 982 025	1.98	0.46	464 015 102	276 384 535	579 397 480	0.19	169 883 850	94 831 766	292 415 455
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 251 201 063	7.06	2 476 182 468	6.61	1.44	1 457 783 129	1 994 862 335	2 917 909 058	0.23	206 582 066	555 002 715	441 726 590
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(7 686 418 067)	0.00	(21 684 449 634)	0.00	0.00	586 982	617 587	821 867	8.56	7 687 005 049	23 267 642 076	21 685 271 501
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>11 435 194 203</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>4 975 746 885</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>101 234 185 254</b>	<b>248 721 703 872</b>	<b>268 684 551 856</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89 798 991 051</b>	<b>272 995 340 569</b>	<b>263 708 804 971</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	17 222 003 024	2.76	40 535 782 940	2.32	26.68	27 007 107 123	71 480 719 958	71 320 171 105	10.90	9 785 104 099	29 918 680 570	30 784 388 165
AMERICA	(2 703 088 767)	0.75	(7 202 573 257)	0.75	7.93	8 030 795 949	24 530 823 891	21 800 029 852	11.95	10 733 884 716	32 226 560 378	29 002 603 109
ASIA	(5 103 591 291)	0.86	(26 441 210 478)	0.77	30.32	30 694 909 834	74 922 732 892	86 995 545 912	39.87	35 798 501 125	115 894 822 586	113 436 756 390
EUROPE	(5 340 349 590)	0.83	(19 302 098 461)	0.78	26.56	26 885 012 455	60 096 047 136	67 240 097 871	35.89	32 225 362 045	91 521 471 449	86 542 196 332
OCEANIA	155 517 258	1.13	(661 786 928)	0.82	1.30	1 313 786 482	3 162 222 259	3 003 626 575	1.29	1 158 269 224	3 053 725 478	3 665 413 503
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	5 873 111 803	61.01	15 202 148 767	55.79	5.90	5 970 981 645	13 472 400 883	15 479 596 239	0.11	97 869 842	380 080 108	277 447 472
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 331 591 766	-	2 845 484 302	-	1.32	1 331 591 766	1 056 756 853	2 845 484 302				
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 435 194 203</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>4 975 746 885</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>101 234 185 254</b>	<b>248 721 703 872</b>	<b>268 684 551 856</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89 798 991 051</b>	<b>272 995 340 569</b>	<b>263 708 804 971</b>

  

Temporary Imports	January 2017	February 2017	March 2017
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 254 570 496	5 524 504 610	6 181 314 986

**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	(517 743 248)	0.65	(709 131 364)	0.80	1.05	944 693 266	3 032 858 324	2 858 267 530	1.69	1 462 436 514	3 040 235 241	3 567 398 894
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 477 084 379	2.25	5 505 395 248	1.82	4.96	4 463 004 782	11 682 167 377	12 208 067 852	2.30	1 985 920 403	8 849 226 082	6 702 672 604
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(722 209 214)	0.18	(2 369 709 687)	0.16	0.17	156 901 831	475 109 620	468 262 018	1.02	879 111 045	2 068 600 254	2 837 971 705
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	342 855 544	1.15	(1 083 612 068)	0.86	2.94	2 648 714 756	7 785 584 021	6 803 155 839	2.66	2 305 859 212	6 678 234 451	7 886 767 907
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	7 849 299 028	1.55	21 902 255 415	1.51	24.54	22 087 945 387	43 286 833 682	64 538 374 339	16.45	14 238 646 359	32 760 648 136	42 636 118 924
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 117 322 959)	0.64	(11 738 323 614)	0.55	6.12	5 503 931 065	13 687 203 967	14 486 137 400	9.96	8 621 254 024	25 731 184 213	26 224 461 014
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 229 028 509)	0.41	(7 436 179 949)	0.36	1.72	1 552 573 776	3 955 537 595	4 161 767 063	4.37	3 781 602 285	11 523 918 306	11 597 947 012
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	81 666 892	1.35	16 269 970	1.02	0.35	312 046 379	1 017 868 483	916 288 735	0.27	230 379 487	1 034 634 805	900 018 765
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	232 492 172	1.85	261 631 226	1.26	0.56	504 660 570	1 189 866 949	1 272 684 147	0.31	272 168 398	1 236 315 497	1 011 052 921
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	643 831 145	1.53	1 078 145 044	1.29	2.06	1 850 927 427	5 004 549 677	4 826 088 056	1.39	1 207 096 282	4 377 886 192	3 747 943 012
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 482 908 846)	0.41	(6 304 993 221)	0.29	1.14	1 023 603 636	2 435 391 965	2 535 318 263	2.90	2 506 512 482	10 699 065 364	8 840 311 484
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(723 999 030)	0.11	(2 949 259 084)	0.06	0.10	90 188 592	192 047 770	188 681 549	0.94	814 187 622	4 043 829 945	3 137 940 633
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(573 439 593)	0.36	(2 136 081 796)	0.27	0.35	316 434 890	966 812 218	809 811 157	1.03	889 874 483	3 531 793 820	2 945 892 953
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	15 918 543 066	39.72	41 083 578 969	27.85	18.14	16 329 653 165	37 551 341 288	42 613 806 091	0.48	411 110 099	1 352 714 038	1 530 227 122
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5 989 848 167	2.30	16 436 887 192	2.13	11.78	10 604 629 207	31 296 887 167	31 030 953 611	5.33	4 614 781 040	15 818 230 308	14 594 066 419
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(12 947 795 078)	0.36	(41 011 519 875)	0.30	8.01	7 209 992 049	20 235 016 789	17 187 312 399	23.30	20 157 787 127	68 779 717 407	58 198 832 274
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	1 304 386 496	1.13	1 416 258 057	1.06	12.62	11 355 815 439	27 159 075 960	26 250 886 392	11.62	10 051 428 943	26 697 108 020	24 834 628 335
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 140 681 147)	0.27	(5 915 266 971)	0.22	0.86	776 876 364	1 558 502 490	1 626 770 553	3.37	2 917 557 511	7 757 728 958	7 542 037 524
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(767 347 830)	0.32	(2 987 439 000)	0.24	0.40	360 381 917	1 141 075 317	929 179 532	1.30	1 127 729 747	4 676 604 393	3 916 618 532
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	293 935 452	2.73	285 612 291	1.98	0.52	463 778 280	272 914 919	577 948 068	0.20	169 842 828	94 744 621	292 335 777
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 248 399 936	7.26	2 472 026 272	6.79	1.61	1 447 937 002	1 981 273 562	2 898 611 407	0.23	199 537 066	541 088 091	426 585 135
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(7 686 418 181)	0.00	(21 684 463 287)	0.00	0.00	586 868	617 587	808 214	8.88	7 687 005 049	23 267 642 076	21 685 271 501
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>3 473 448 642</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>(15 867 920 232)</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>90 005 276 648</b>	<b>215 908 536 727</b>	<b>239 189 180 215</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>86 531 828 006</b>	<b>264 561 150 218</b>	<b>255 057 100 447</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	9 260 257 463	2.42	19 692 115 823	1.89	17.53	15 778 198 517	38 667 552 813	41 824 799 464	7.53	6 517 941 054	21 484 490 219	22 132 683 641
AMERICA	(2 703 088 767)	0.75	(7 202 573 257)	0.75	8.92	8 030 795 949	24 530 823 891	21 800 029 852	12.40	10 733 884 716	32 226 560 378	29 002 603 109
ASIA	(5 103 591 291)	0.86	(26 441 210 478)	0.77	34.10	30 694 909 834	74 922 732 892	86 995 545 912	41.37	35 798 501 125	115 894 822 586	113 436 756 390
EUROPE	(5 340 349 590)	0.83	(19 302 098 461)	0.78	29.87	26 885 012 455	60 096 047 136	67 240 097 871	37.24	32 225 362 045	91 521 471 449	86 542 196 332
OCEANIA	155 517 258	1.13	(661 786 928)	0.82	1.46	1 313 786 482	3 162 222 259	3 003 626 575	1.34	1 158 269 224	3 053 725 478	3 665 413 503
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	5 873 111 803	61.01	15 202 148 767	55.79	6.63	5 970 981 645	13 472 400 883	15 479 596 239	0.11	97 869 842	380 080 108	277 447 472
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 331 591 766	-	2 845 484 302	-	1.48	1 331 591 766	1 056 756 853	2 845 484 302				
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 473 448 642</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>(15 867 920 232)</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>90 005 276 648</b>	<b>215 908 536 727</b>	<b>239 189 180 215</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>86 531 828 006</b>	<b>264 561 150 218</b>	<b>255 057 100 447</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2017</b>	<b>February 2017</b>	<b>March 2017</b>									
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	6 254 570 496	5 524 504 610	6 181 314 986									

**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 March 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R7.96 billion.

#### Summary

The R7.96 billion surplus for March 2017 is as a result of exports of R11.23 billion and imports of R3.27 billion.

Exports increased from February 2017 to March 2017 by R1.94 billion (20.9%) and imports increased from February 2017 to March 2017 by R0.41 billion (14.5%).

The cumulative surplus for 2017 is R20.84 billion compared to R24.38 billion in 2016.

#### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 604	+ 5 325%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R 390	+ 44%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 259	+ 19%
Mineral Products	+ R 164	+ 13%
Textiles	+ R 128	+ 26%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 87	+ 8%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 116	+ 30%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 95	+ 19%
Live Animals	+ R 63	+ 22%
Textiles	+ R 44	+ 10%
Mineral Products	+ R 30	+ 57%

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**ENDS.**

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