

SA Trade Statistics for October 2017

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

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SARS releases trade statistics for October 2017

Pretoria, 30 November 2017 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for October 2017 recording a trade balance surplus of R4.56 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 October 2017) trade balance surplus of R51.62 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2016 of R9.93 billion. Exports for the year-to-date grew by 6.6% whilst imports for the same period declined by 0.2%.

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

The R4.56 billion trade balance surplus for October 2017 is attributable to exports of R104.51 billion and imports of R99.95 billion. Exports increased from September 2017 to October 2017 by R2.29 billion (2.2%) and imports increased from September 2017 to October 2017 by R2.21 billion (2.3%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 October 2017) grew by 6.6% from R907.36 billion in 2016 to R966.99 billion in 2017. Imports for the year-to-date of R915.36 billion are 0.2% less than the imports recorded in January to October 2016 of R917.29 billion, leaving a cumulative trade balance surplus of R51.62 billion for 2017.

On a year-on-year basis, the R4.56 billion trade balance surplus for October 2017 is an improvement from the deficit recorded in October 2016 of R3.21 billion. Exports of R104.51 billion are 17.7% more than the exports recorded in October 2016 of R88.83 billion. Imports of R99.95 billion are 8.6% more than the imports recorded in October 2016 of R92.04 billion.

September 2017's trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R0.48 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R4.00 billion to a revised surplus of R4.48 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

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

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+R3 122	+ 12%
Base Metals	+R1 344	+ 13%
Chemical Products	+R1 100	+ 20%
Machinery & Electronics	+R 595	+ 7%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 354	+ 8%
Textiles	+R 246	+ 16%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 898	- 5%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R1 118	- 8%
Vegetable Products	-R2 897	- 44%
Total	+R1 848	81%
Total Movement	+R2 288	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Machinery & Electronics	+R3 041	+14%
Wood Pulp & Paper	+R 777	+56%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 728	+69%
Chemical Products	+R 723	+ 7%
Original Equipment Components	+R 579	+ 7%
Vegetable Products	-R1 704	- 50%
Mineral Products	-R2 182	- 15%
Total	+R1 962	89%
Total Movement	+R2 209	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from September 2017 (revised) to October 2017 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R28 100 million – this is an increase of R1 399 million from September 2017.

Imports: R9 743 million – this is a decrease of R 769 million from September 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R18 357 million – this is an improvement of R2 168 million in comparison to the R16 189 million surplus recorded in September 2017.

America:

Exports: R9 405 million – this is a decrease of R 514 million from September 2017.

Imports: R9 825 million – this is a decrease of R 723 million from September 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R 420 million – this is an improvement of R 209 million in comparison to the R 629 million deficit recorded in September 2017.

Asia:

Exports: R35 075 million – this is a decrease of R1 075 million from September 2017.

Imports: R46 590 million – this is an increase of R3 403 million from September 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R11 515 million – this is a deterioration of R4 477 million in comparison to the R7 038 million deficit recorded in September 2017.

Europe:

Exports: R23 289 million – this is an increase of R 248 million from September 2017.

Imports: R31 853 million – this is an increase of R 8 million from September 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R8 564 million – this is an improvement of R 240 million in comparison to the R8 804 million deficit recorded in September 2017.

Oceania:

Exports: R1 080 million – this is a decrease of R 312 million from September 2017.

Imports: R1 438 million – this is an increase of R 43 million from September 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R 358 million – this is a deterioration of R 356 million in comparison to the R 2 million deficit recorded in September 2017.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for October 2017 recorded a trade balance deficit of R4.19 billion.

Summary

The R4.19 billion deficit for October 2017 is as a result of exports of R91.76 billion and imports of R95.95 billion. Exports increased from September 2017 to October 2017 by R1.19 billion (1.3%) and imports increased from September 2017 to October 2017 by R1.56 billion (1.6%).

The cumulative deficit for 2017 is R25.90 billion compared to R98.75 billion deficit in 2016.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:	Excluding BLNS:	
Mineral Products	+R2 975	+12%
Base Metals	+R1 245	+13%
Chemical Products	+R 883	+19%
Machinery & Electronics	+R 352	+ 5%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 214	+ 7%
Textiles	+R 161	+18%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 584	- 4%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R1 233	-10%
Vegetable Products	-R2 952	-49%
Total	+R1 062	89%
Total Movement	+R1 193	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:	Excluding BLNS:	
Machinery & Electronics	+R3 022	+14%
Wood Pulp & Paper	+R 770	+57%
Original Equipment Components	+R 579	+ 7%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 516	+84%
Chemical Products	+R 503	+ 5%
Vegetable Products	-R1 708	-50%
Mineral Products	-R2 188	-15%
Total	+R1 494	96%
Total Movement	+R1 556	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

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

Africa:

Exports: R15 355 million – this is an increase of R 304 million from September 2017.

Imports: R5 751 million – this is a decrease of R1 422 million from September 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R9 603 million – this is an improvement of R1 725 million in comparison to the R7 878 million surplus recorded in September 2017.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 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 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	(468 213 045)	0.71	(4 676 449 474)	0.72	1.12	1 165 720 483	12 320 543 747	11 834 506 456	1.63	1 633 933 528	13 376 080 158	16 510 955 930
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1 885 613 451	2.09	36 352 193 198	2.79	3.46	3 618 338 596	52 958 105 018	56 684 353 726	1.73	1 732 725 145	28 729 120 276	20 332 160 528
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(462 762 226)	0.38	(5 330 476 609)	0.36	0.28	287 644 379	3 273 096 851	2 977 511 860	0.75	750 406 605	7 884 245 558	8 307 988 469
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 468 826 769	1.43	9 576 103 221	1.32	4.70	4 915 174 036	40 570 523 431	39 656 734 365	3.45	3 446 347 267	28 393 449 972	30 080 631 144
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	16 506 993 141	2.29	101 564 430 263	1.74	28.06	29 323 156 989	176 697 028 164	238 396 869 432	12.82	12 816 163 848	122 703 376 000	136 832 439 169
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(4 910 901 486)	0.58	(38 985 895 986)	0.61	6.42	6 704 593 628	55 393 150 764	59 776 837 344	11.62	11 615 495 114	95 767 255 921	98 762 733 330
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 132 921 064)	0.51	(20 664 341 857)	0.48	2.14	2 232 524 198	19 867 283 972	19 408 503 935	4.37	4 365 445 262	40 758 696 238	40 072 845 792
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(31 642 108)	0.93	451 994 127	1.14	0.39	408 789 340	4 119 796 006	3 748 290 069	0.44	440 431 448	3 621 929 363	3 296 295 942
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	126 740 485	1.27	1 622 591 110	1.38	0.57	594 501 249	5 774 523 797	5 902 740 201	0.47	467 760 764	4 587 202 935	4 280 149 091
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(302 069 559)	0.86	4 515 134 327	1.34	1.77	1 853 686 095	18 922 478 533	17 981 156 615	2.16	2 155 755 654	14 838 805 549	13 466 022 288
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 309 208 398)	0.43	(21 242 789 415)	0.39	1.68	1 751 534 669	13 024 388 995	13 740 688 389	4.06	4 060 743 067	36 889 291 771	34 983 477 804
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 009 456 916)	0.26	(8 940 105 738)	0.21	0.34	351 815 408	2 336 217 386	2 412 129 307	1.36	1 361 271 964	12 517 170 035	11 352 235 045
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(669 861 478)	0.44	(5 988 261 054)	0.44	0.50	527 044 672	5 170 839 726	4 640 193 858	1.20	1 196 906 150	11 721 985 999	10 628 454 912
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	14 100 172 213	8.94	148 538 869 650	14.28	15.19	15 877 086 997	151 308 623 245	159 724 063 962	1.78	1 776 914 784	10 011 806 311	11 185 194 312
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 794 449 824	2.37	64 703 155 452	2.30	11.25	11 752 375 396	111 078 295 873	114 418 978 488	4.96	4 957 925 572	50 321 176 225	49 715 823 036
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(15 780 694 392)	0.36	(132 631 726 902)	0.37	8.33	8 704 474 835	86 452 628 575	78 126 592 398	24.50	24 485 169 227	225 786 213 745	210 758 319 300
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	3 323 458 399	1.38	22 944 449 311	1.25	11.60	12 123 337 157	125 474 926 889	116 219 691 270	8.80	8 799 878 758	84 929 903 929	93 275 241 959
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 210 439 275)	0.24	(18 665 070 635)	0.26	0.66	688 858 845	7 775 990 901	6 443 192 338	2.90	2 899 298 120	26 496 082 585	25 108 262 973
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 302 328 193)	0.37	(9 391 400 186)	0.41	0.74	770 260 312	7 108 872 011	6 650 288 173	2.07	2 072 588 505	16 919 085 317	16 041 688 359
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	49 687 678	3.09	419 374 972	1.73	0.07	73 443 421	1 058 495 610	996 250 057	0.02	23 755 743	437 776 680	576 875 085
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	625 707 965	5.01	6 078 856 433	6.22	0.75	781 838 899	6 670 258 050	7 243 132 380	0.16	156 130 934	1 280 724 906	1 164 275 947
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(8 729 589 844)	0.00	(78 626 705 800)	0.00	0.00	1 638 745	4 659 458	5 380 123	8.74	8 731 228 589	79 320 704 328	78 632 085 923
Total	Total SA Rand	4 561 561 941	1.05	51 623 928 408	1.06	100.00	104 507 837 989	907 360 727 002	966 988 084 746	100.00	99 946 276 048	917 292 083 801	915 364 156 338

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	18 357 444 659	2.88	159 827 228 285	2.64	26.89	28 100 672 853	260 740 434 729	257 177 123 920	9.75	9 743 228 194	99 473 533 054	97 349 895 635
AMERICA	(420 368 504)	0.96	(11 944 519 916)	0.88	9.00	9 404 477 072	86 860 824 291	86 914 257 415	9.83	9 824 845 576	106 907 303 167	98 858 777 331
ASIA	(11 515 324 513)	0.75	(98 875 112 808)	0.76	33.56	35 075 074 438	271 315 665 942	307 992 615 408	46.62	46 590 398 951	397 913 331 810	406 867 728 216
EUROPE	(8 564 232 433)	0.73	(60 747 452 337)	0.80	22.28	23 289 038 193	228 155 274 917	237 238 761 811	31.87	31 853 270 626	300 700 696 970	297 986 214 148
OCEANIA	(357 599 777)	0.75	(361 960 970)	0.97	1.03	1 080 011 387	10 855 401 347	11 759 207 175	1.44	1 437 611 164	10 948 305 889	12 121 168 145
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	6 283 617 874	13.65	56 779 197 853	27.04	6.49	6 780 539 411	44 714 531 305	58 959 570 716	0.50	496 921 537	1 348 912 911	2 180 372 863
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	778 024 635	-	6 946 548 301	-	0.74	778 024 635	4 718 594 471	6 946 548 301				
Total	4 561 561 941	1.05	51 623 928 408	1.06	100.00	104 507 837 989	907 360 727 002	966 988 084 746	100.00	99 946 276 048	917 292 083 801	915 364 156 338

Temporary Imports	January 2017	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017	August 2017	September 2017	October 2017
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 456 314 562	5 524 504 610	6 390 471 105	5 838 701 260	7 100 087 994	6 392 121 381	6 215 652 071	7 216 722 094	6 601 860 212	6 150 881 459

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	(474 394 237)	0.63	(4 058 245 016)	0.68	0.88	803 736 945	9 341 076 244	8 705 486 022	1.33	1 278 131 182	10 937 930 269	12 763 731 038
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1 392 265 425	1.82	31 261 775 915	2.56	3.37	3 088 369 477	46 580 415 660	51 258 040 028	1.77	1 696 104 052	28 078 640 913	19 996 264 113
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(559 579 199)	0.25	(6 294 529 419)	0.24	0.20	185 116 815	2 171 984 972	1 970 947 153	0.78	744 696 014	7 849 893 113	8 265 476 572
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	571 265 041	1.19	2 350 215 668	1.09	3.83	3 517 974 878	29 368 310 550	28 103 196 036	3.07	2 946 709 837	23 937 851 324	25 752 980 368
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	14 794 067 139	2.16	86 741 148 620	1.64	30.02	27 542 809 613	159 088 333 243	222 941 946 082	13.29	12 748 742 474	122 189 023 232	136 200 797 462
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(5 203 225 177)	0.51	(42 441 672 462)	0.54	5.94	5 454 683 072	45 697 077 621	50 054 365 761	11.11	10 657 908 249	90 236 561 057	92 496 038 223
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 665 280 312)	0.38	(24 957 623 248)	0.37	1.80	1 655 363 893	14 996 882 750	14 749 753 521	4.50	4 320 644 205	40 374 145 565	39 707 376 769
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(76 699 657)	0.82	189 452 311	1.06	0.38	347 463 596	3 601 177 500	3 330 914 358	0.44	424 163 253	3 336 526 393	3 141 462 047
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	61 056 760	1.18	1 231 227 588	1.40	0.44	400 802 502	4 199 245 588	4 334 665 201	0.35	339 745 742	3 417 084 374	3 103 437 613
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(558 856 062)	0.74	2 285 560 354	1.17	1.70	1 562 329 279	16 481 563 165	15 518 897 096	2.21	2 121 185 341	14 590 394 034	13 233 336 742
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 286 098 708)	0.32	(21 908 932 475)	0.27	1.17	1 072 830 069	7 687 828 215	8 259 200 499	3.50	3 358 928 777	32 491 237 770	30 168 132 974
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 237 537 786)	0.08	(10 461 208 616)	0.07	0.12	105 729 234	701 793 450	759 715 902	1.40	1 343 267 020	12 359 645 912	11 220 924 518
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(836 369 410)	0.29	(7 347 875 267)	0.30	0.38	349 673 170	3 559 343 670	3 186 831 504	1.24	1 186 042 580	11 605 266 378	10 534 706 771
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	14 127 079 853	13.51	147 846 491 062	25.56	16.63	15 256 155 031	144 727 868 667	153 865 744 850	1.18	1 129 075 178	7 332 503 895	6 019 253 788
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 025 924 986	2.24	56 445 786 736	2.15	11.85	10 874 376 348	103 394 422 547	105 381 920 820	5.05	4 848 451 362	49 564 373 786	48 936 134 084
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(17 345 652 072)	0.28	(145 251 882 229)	0.30	7.44	6 825 977 174	69 471 813 954	62 524 542 070	25.19	24 171 629 246	222 923 431 793	207 776 424 299
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	2 149 721 643	1.25	12 552 445 504	1.14	11.90	10 923 469 886	111 797 884 857	105 442 515 633	9.14	8 773 748 243	84 420 337 210	92 890 070 129
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 355 314 626)	0.19	(20 002 566 873)	0.20	0.59	540 261 512	6 178 749 232	5 050 405 264	3.02	2 895 576 138	26 435 075 335	25 052 972 137
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 657 762 341)	0.20	(11 931 227 602)	0.24	0.44	403 324 446	4 189 303 771	3 747 046 850	2.15	2 061 086 787	16 570 630 138	15 678 274 452
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	48 293 315	3.04	415 396 645	1.72	0.08	71 963 319	1 051 422 069	990 314 945	0.02	23 670 004	437 078 875	574 918 300
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	624 303 711	5.07	6 060 898 695	6.39	0.85	777 652 764	6 618 965 006	7 184 882 711	0.16	153 349 053	1 248 558 226	1 123 984 016
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(8 729 591 524)	0.00	(78 627 281 746)	0.00	0.00	1 637 065	4 649 511	4 804 177	9.10	8 731 228 589	79 320 704 328	78 632 085 923
Total	Total SA Rand	(4 192 383 238)	0.96	(25 902 645 855)	0.97	100.00	91 761 700 088	790 910 112 242	857 366 136 483	100.00	95 954 083 326	889 656 893 920	883 268 782 338

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	9 603 499 480	2.67	82 300 654 022	2.26	16.73	15 354 534 952	144 289 819 969	147 555 175 657	5.99	5 751 035 472	71 838 343 173	65 254 521 635
AMERICA	(420 368 504)	0.96	(11 944 519 916)	0.88	10.25	9 404 477 072	86 860 824 291	86 914 257 415	10.24	9 824 845 576	106 907 303 167	98 858 777 331
ASIA	(11 515 324 513)	0.75	(98 875 112 808)	0.76	38.22	35 075 074 438	271 315 665 942	307 992 615 408	48.55	46 590 398 951	397 913 331 810	406 867 728 216
EUROPE	(8 564 232 433)	0.73	(60 747 452 337)	0.80	25.38	23 289 038 193	228 155 274 917	237 238 761 811	33.20	31 853 270 626	300 700 696 970	297 986 214 148
OCEANIA	(357 599 777)	0.75	(361 960 970)	0.97	1.18	1 080 011 387	10 855 401 347	11 759 207 175	1.50	1 437 611 164	10 948 305 889	12 121 168 145
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	6 283 617 874	13.65	56 779 197 853	27.04	7.39	6 780 539 411	44 714 531 305	58 959 570 716	0.52	496 921 537	1 348 912 911	2 180 372 863
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	778 024 635	-	6 946 548 301	-	0.85	778 024 635	4 718 594 471	6 946 548 301				
Total	(4 192 383 238)	0.96	(25 902 645 855)	0.97	100.00	91 761 700 088	790 910 112 242	857 366 136 483	100.00	95 954 083 326	889 656 893 920	883 268 782 338
Temporary Imports	January 2017	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017	August 2017	September 2017	October 2017		
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 456 314 562	5 524 504 610	6 390 471 105	5 838 701 260	7 100 087 994	6 392 121 381	6 215 652 071	7 216 722 094	6 601 860 212	6 150 881 459		

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 October 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R8.75 billion.

Summary

The R8.75 billion surplus for October 2017 is as a result of exports of R12.74 billion and imports of R3.99 billion.

Exports increased from September 2017 to October 2017 by R1.1 billion (9.4%) and imports increased from September 2017 to October 2017 by R0.65 billion (19.5%).

The cumulative surplus for 2017 is R77.53 billion compared to R88.82 billion in 2016.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:	BLNS:	
Machinery & Electronics	+R 242	+15%
Chemical Products	+R 217	+21%
Mineral Products	+R 146	+9%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 140	+11%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+R 115	+11%
Base Metals	+R 100	+13%
Textiles	+R 84	+14%
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	+R 67	+22%
Vegetable Products	+R 56	+12%
Footwear & Accessories	+R 55	+29%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 315	-34%
Total	+R 907	83%
Total Movement	+R1 095	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:	BLNS:	
Chemical Products	+R 220	+30%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 212	+48%
Textiles	+R 132	+23%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 62	+14%
Live Animals	-R 49	-12%
Total	+R 577	88%
Total Movement	+R 653	100%

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

ENDS.

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