

SA Trade Statistics for October 2018

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 30 November 2018

SARS releases trade statistics for October 2018

Pretoria, 30 November 2018 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for October 2018 recording a trade deficit of R5.55 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 October 2018) trade deficit of R8.82 billion is a deterioration on the surplus for the comparable period in 2017 of R48.94 billion. Exports year-to-date increased by 6.6% whilst imports for the same period showed an increase of 13.3%.

Including trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN)

The R5.55 billion trade deficit for October 2018 is attributable to exports of R122.32 billion and imports of R127.87 billion. Exports increased from September 2018 to October 2018 by R9.53 billion (8.5%) and imports increased from September 2018 to October 2018 by R11.26 billion (9.7%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 October) increased by 6.6% from R963.99 billion in 2017 to R1 027.94 billion in 2018. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 036.76 billion are 13.3% more than the imports recorded in January to October 2017 of R915.05 billion, leaving a cumulative trade deficit of R8.82 billion for 2018.

On a year-on-year basis, the R5.55 billion trade deficit for October 2018 is a deterioration from the surplus recorded in October 2017 of R4.18 billion. Exports of R122.32 billion are 17.8% more than the exports recorded in October 2017 of R103.83 billion. Imports of R127.87 billion are 28.3% more than the imports recorded in October 2017 of R99.65 billion.

September 2018's trade deficit was revised downwards by R0.87 billion from the previous month's preliminary deficit of R2.95 billion to a revised deficit of R3.83 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 2018](#)

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BELN:	
Mineral Products	+R3 727	+ 15%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+R2 175	+ 14%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R1 653	+ 35%
Machinery & Electronics	+R1 531	+ 18%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R1 297	+ 6%
Base Metals	+R 460	+ 4%
Other Unclassified	-R 455	- 59%
Vegetable Products	-R2 113	- 30%
Total	+ R8 275	87%
Total Movement	+ R9 532	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BELN:	
Vehicles & Transport Equipment*	+R3 181*	+ 35%
Chemical Products	+R2 505	+ 21%
Machinery & Electronics	+R1 877	+ 8%
Original Equipment Components	+R1 024	+ 11%
Textiles	+R 964	+ 24%
Vegetable Products	+R 701	+ 43%
Base Metals	+R 578	+ 10%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 410	+ 12%
Mineral Products	-R1 815	- 7%
Total	+R9 425	84%
Total Movement	+R11 255	100%

* The import trade numbers are over stated by R1.96 billion due to a BELN transaction that will be adjusted during the December trade statistics release.

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from September 2018 (revised) to October 2018 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R33 615 million – this is an increase of R 4 278 million from September 2018.

Imports: R18 746 million – this is an increase of R3 560 million from September 2018.

Trade surplus: R14 869 million – this is an improvement of R718 million in comparison to the R14 151 million surplus recorded in September 2018.

America:

Exports: R9 401 million – this is a decrease of R 387 million from September 2018.
Imports: R11 818 million – this is an increase of R 5 million from September 2018.
Trade deficit: R2 417million – this is a deterioration of R 392 million in comparison to the R2 026 million deficit recorded in September 2018.

Asia:

Exports: R37 322 million – this is an increase of R2 756 million from September 2018.
Imports: R59 438 million – this is an increase of R4 822 million from September 2018.
Trade deficit: R22 116 million – this is a deterioration of R2 065 million in comparison to the R20 051 million deficit recorded in September 2018.

Europe:

Exports: R32 726 million – this is an increase of R 279 million from September 2018.
Imports: R35 127 million – this is an increase of R2 113 million from September 2018.
Trade deficit: R2 401 million – this is a deterioration of R1 834 million in comparison to the R 567 million deficit recorded in September 2018.

Oceania:

Exports: R1 168 million – this is an increase of R 93 million from September 2018.
Imports: R1 736 million – this is an increase of R 125 million from September 2018.
Trade deficit: R 568 million – this is a deterioration of R 31 million in comparison to the R 537 million deficit recorded in September 2018.

Excluding trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN)

The trade data excluding BELN for October 2018 recorded a trade deficit of R12.97 billion.

Summary

The R12.97 billion deficit for October 2018 is as a result of exports of R108.61 billion and imports of R121.59 billion. Exports increased from September 2018 to October 2018 by R8.06 billion (8.0%) and imports increased from September 2018 to October 2018 by R8.38 billion (7.4%).

The cumulative deficit for 2018 is R84.06 billion compared to R28.49 billion deficit in 2017.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BELN:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+R3 439	+ 15%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+R1 993	+ 14%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R1 557	+ 8%
Machinery & Electronics	+R1 388	+ 20%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R1 363	+ 40%
Other Unclassified	-R 461	- 60%
Vegetable Products	-R2 207	- 34%
Total	+R7 072	88%
Total Movement	+R8 056	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BELN:	
Section:		
Chemical Products	+R2 110	+ 19%
Machinery & Electronics	+R1 977	+ 8%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+R1 195	+ 13%
Original Equipment Components	+R1 024	+ 11%
Textiles	+R 783	+ 22%
Vegetable Products	+R 698	+ 44%
Base Metals	+R 532	+ 10%
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 363	+ 13%
Plastics & Rubber	+R 361	+ 7%
Mineral Products	-R1 834	- 7%
Total	+R7 209	86%
Total Movement	+R8 382	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BELN from September 2018 (Revised) to October 2018 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R19 905 million – this is an increase of R2 802 million from September 2018.

Imports: R12 460 million – this is an increase of R 687 million from September 2018.

Trade surplus: R7 445 million – this is an improvement of R2 115 million in comparison to the R5 330 million surplus recorded in September 2018.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 2018](#)

SA Trade Release Table (including BELN)

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 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(335 921 105)	0.81	(4 943 186 264)	0.72	1.20	1 473 144 847	11 833 216 531	12 623 159 856	1.41	1 809 065 952	16 514 786 793	17 566 346 120
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 664 338 602	2.14	40 402 658 719	3.04	4.09	4 997 777 260	56 673 328 039	60 189 654 802	1.82	2 333 438 658	20 221 341 784	19 786 996 083
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(902 837 548)	0.22	(4 786 162 672)	0.36	0.21	251 847 695	2 977 287 599	2 685 052 410	0.90	1 154 685 243	8 307 999 417	7 471 215 082
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	2 631 480 510	1.71	13 583 771 898	1.44	5.19	6 350 569 478	39 382 047 119	44 140 853 174	2.91	3 719 088 968	30 090 004 550	30 557 081 276
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	5 174 686 435	1.22	45 969 981 363	1.24	23.65	28 932 638 351	237 388 166 427	239 758 584 610	18.58	23 757 951 916	136 822 710 129	193 788 603 247
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(7 328 366 113)	0.49	(47 821 162 993)	0.57	5.71	6 986 928 195	59 745 720 700	63 684 171 162	11.19	14 315 294 308	98 760 511 042	111 505 334 155
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 830 132 931)	0.47	(24 755 357 589)	0.46	2.02	2 474 129 046	19 381 188 617	21 001 348 878	4.15	5 304 261 977	40 064 556 290	45 756 706 467
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(111 150 133)	0.77	73 777 638	1.02	0.31	378 611 211	3 746 950 716	3 454 840 504	0.38	489 761 344	3 290 623 845	3 381 062 866
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	176 950 201	1.33	1 816 899 109	1.41	0.59	717 734 718	5 918 773 286	6 274 430 894	0.42	540 784 517	4 278 984 763	4 457 531 785
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 085 043 267)	0.67	(9 873 833 416)	0.65	1.81	2 214 529 929	17 979 418 832	18 597 236 801	2.58	3 299 573 196	13 458 266 211	28 471 070 217
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(3 070 933 497)	0.38	(22 693 483 066)	0.40	1.55	1 891 619 448	13 719 972 752	14 876 516 029	3.88	4 962 552 945	34 960 831 070	37 569 999 095
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 351 340 037)	0.19	(9 595 979 903)	0.20	0.26	316 219 193	2 409 947 319	2 394 959 262	1.30	1 667 559 230	11 350 974 288	11 990 939 165
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(791 513 230)	0.45	(6 898 764 349)	0.43	0.54	654 450 250	4 640 074 989	5 285 229 903	1.13	1 445 963 480	10 626 851 605	12 183 994 252
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	19 585 868 245	9.95	163 213 867 252	10.28	17.80	21 773 304 828	158 336 351 729	180 806 235 726	1.71	2 187 436 583	11 170 556 270	17 592 368 474
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	7 354 439 615	2.21	74 133 503 662	2.46	10.99	13 440 050 476	114 434 200 345	125 014 961 802	4.76	6 085 610 861	49 713 010 653	50 881 458 140
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(16 398 383 277)	0.38	(138 347 473 318)	0.38	8.30	10 152 139 193	78 152 520 152	83 400 449 271	20.76	26 550 522 470	210 764 028 748	221 747 922 589
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	4 993 370 733	1.40	33 599 877 289	1.37	14.20	17 372 024 009	115 931 657 860	124 560 043 930	9.68	12 378 653 276	93 203 006 913	90 960 166 641
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 306 636 612)	0.22	(19 686 003 835)	0.25	0.54	659 484 929	6 443 065 465	6 396 693 433	2.32	2 966 121 541	25 102 142 839	26 082 697 268
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 608 863 736)	0.36	(10 369 090 597)	0.40	0.74	899 100 009	6 649 095 375	6 941 106 098	1.96	2 507 963 745	16 033 153 850	17 310 196 695
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	49 388 112	3.56	112 716 961	1.16	0.06	68 649 067	995 303 357	834 493 987	0.02	19 260 955	577 090 950	721 777 026
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	223 270 240	3.35	4 008 821 415	5.01	0.26	318 457 640	7 243 281 616	5 009 303 554	0.07	95 187 400	1 163 121 357	1 000 482 139
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(10 282 545 312)	0.00	(85 970 265 600)	0.00	0.00	504 677	5 216 410	7 199 099	8.04	10 283 049 989	78 574 446 180	85 977 464 699
Total	Total SA Rand	(5 549 874 105)	0.96	(8 824 888 296)	0.99	100.00	122 323 914 449	963 986 785 235	1 027 936 525 185	100.00	127 873 788 554	915 048 999 547	1 036 761 413 481

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 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	14 869 059 439	1.79	144 021 879 137	2.11	27.48	33 615 406 678	256 036 750 575	273 501 942 741	14.66	18 746 347 239	97 347 725 346	129 480 063 604
AMERICA	(2 417 148 560)	0.80	(11 498 812 333)	0.88	7.69	9 401 113 609	86 957 369 970	87 165 064 502	9.24	11 818 262 169	98 787 644 421	98 663 876 835
ASIA	(22 116 459 217)	0.63	(147 949 341 830)	0.69	30.51	37 321 764 940	308 133 086 500	322 567 054 195	46.48	59 438 224 157	406 667 530 689	470 516 396 025
EUROPE	(2 400 432 826)	0.93	(55 630 578 249)	0.82	26.75	32 726 201 260	236 588 723 586	261 799 589 465	27.47	35 126 634 086	297 943 005 586	317 430 167 714
OCEANIA	(568 108 097)	0.67	(5 376 789 630)	0.67	0.95	1 167 512 957	11 752 311 230	10 907 120 942	1.36	1 735 621 054	12 122 928 398	16 283 910 572
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	6 846 274 570	7.79	63 456 271 988	15.46	6.42	7 854 974 419	57 572 830 576	67 843 270 719	0.79	1 008 699 849	2 180 165 107	4 386 998 731
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	236 940 586	-	4 152 482 621	-	0.19	236 940 586	6 945 712 798	4 152 482 621	-	-	-	-
Total	(5 549 874 105)	0.96	(8 824 888 296)	0.99	100.00	122 323 914 449	963 986 785 235	1 027 936 525 185	100.00	127 873 788 554	915 048 999 547	1 036 761 413 481

Temporary Imports	January 2018	February 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018	June 2018	July 2018	August 2018	September 2018	October 2018
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 757 431 501	5 102 273 660	5 725 309 521	5 750 371 888	6 352 969 693	6 887 140 064	5 754 472 340	6 685 705 916	5 789 981 833	6 528 285 785

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 BELN)

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 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(370 419 456)	0.75	(4 013 494 446)	0.71	1.03	1 122 464 880	8 704 838 595	9 625 762 240	1.23	1 492 884 336	12 761 603 614	13 639 256 686
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 091 070 739	1.92	35 462 649 794	2.83	4.02	4 370 012 666	51 247 327 130	54 819 257 469	1.87	2 278 941 927	19 885 506 965	19 356 607 675
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(1 021 406 541)	0.11	(5 889 146 551)	0.21	0.12	131 011 417	1 970 905 439	1 565 543 860	0.95	1 152 417 958	8 265 487 520	7 454 690 411
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 681 398 430	1.54	6 152 209 962	1.24	4.43	4 807 965 768	27 829 459 139	32 014 037 008	2.57	3 126 567 338	25 762 280 956	25 861 827 046
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	2 969 025 104	1.13	28 677 828 791	1.15	24.54	26 656 083 982	221 996 203 983	221 839 383 102	19.48	23 687 058 878	136 191 119 611	193 161 554 311
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(7 646 407 303)	0.43	(52 130 209 230)	0.51	5.25	5 699 267 838	50 024 664 931	53 631 320 035	10.98	13 345 675 141	92 493 683 912	105 761 529 265
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(3 349 493 603)	0.36	(29 028 682 210)	0.36	1.75	1 895 718 882	14 721 825 125	16 306 528 523	4.31	5 245 212 485	39 699 132 697	45 335 210 733
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(148 738 277)	0.69	(208 018 386)	0.94	0.30	328 258 270	3 330 771 665	3 038 522 505	0.39	476 996 547	3 135 789 950	3 246 540 891
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	141 446 049	1.36	1 523 023 051	1.48	0.49	532 534 132	4 351 095 631	4 728 608 403	0.32	391 088 083	3 102 203 496	3 205 585 352
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 359 244 250)	0.58	(12 408 309 438)	0.56	1.74	1 892 163 970	15 517 423 471	15 817 439 453	2.67	3 251 408 220	13 225 435 978	28 225 748 891
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(3 089 492 259)	0.28	(23 181 822 879)	0.29	1.12	1 219 815 054	8 258 696 664	9 471 724 566	3.54	4 309 307 313	30 145 497 686	32 653 547 445
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 557 038 730)	0.06	(11 052 980 029)	0.07	0.09	93 188 508	757 746 104	810 733 744	1.36	1 650 227 238	11 219 663 761	11 863 713 773
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(980 229 238)	0.32	(8 334 041 245)	0.31	0.42	454 761 098	3 186 917 348	3 754 517 550	1.18	1 434 990 336	10 533 136 946	12 088 558 795
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	19 512 059 506	14.29	164 164 781 891	14.95	19.32	20 980 400 229	152 478 035 835	175 930 999 512	1.21	1 468 340 723	6 018 806 015	11 766 217 621
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 612 850 905	2.12	67 723 504 990	2.37	11.54	12 528 982 087	105 399 339 033	117 309 969 137	4.87	5 916 131 182	48 927 252 582	49 586 464 147
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(17 856 879 935)	0.32	(151 108 892 090)	0.31	7.64	8 294 839 042	62 560 281 342	67 192 904 344	21.51	26 151 718 977	207 780 576 679	218 301 796 434
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	5 878 504 092	1.57	25 739 240 805	1.29	14.95	16 236 577 788	105 156 397 002	113 979 121 619	8.52	10 358 073 696	92 817 626 804	88 239 880 814
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 450 126 618)	0.17	(21 076 639 745)	0.19	0.47	509 809 547	5 051 027 468	4 950 632 938	2.43	2 959 936 165	25 047 320 257	26 027 272 683
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(2 011 151 932)	0.19	(13 191 346 048)	0.23	0.45	483 604 163	3 746 025 050	3 990 539 848	2.05	2 494 756 095	15 669 741 613	17 181 885 896
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	48 808 032	3.54	112 420 264	1.16	0.06	68 042 477	989 368 245	830 623 328	0.02	19 234 445	575 134 165	718 203 064
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	214 104 901	3.29	3 976 008 999	5.10	0.28	307 674 538	7 185 031 947	4 946 087 919	0.08	93 569 637	1 122 829 426	970 078 920
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(10 282 546 696)	0.00	(85 970 470 269)	0.00	0.00	503 293	4 640 464	6 994 430	8.46	10 283 049 989	78 574 446 180	85 977 464 699
Total	Total SA Rand	(12 973 907 080)	0.89	(84 062 384 019)	0.92	100.00	108 613 679 629	854 468 021 611	916 561 251 533	100.00	121 587 586 709	882 954 276 813	1 000 623 635 552
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 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2018 (R'm)	Cumulative 2017 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA		7 445 026 464	1.60	68 784 383 414	1.74	18.33	19 905 171 858	146 517 986 951	162 126 669 089	10.25	12 460 145 394	65 253 002 612	93 342 285 675
AMERICA		(2 417 148 560)	0.80	(11 498 812 333)	0.88	8.66	9 401 113 609	86 957 369 970	87 165 064 502	9.72	11 818 262 169	98 787 644 421	98 663 876 835
ASIA		(22 116 459 217)	0.63	(147 949 341 830)	0.69	34.36	37 321 764 940	308 133 086 500	322 567 054 195	48.89	59 438 224 157	406 667 530 689	470 516 396 025
EUROPE		(2 400 432 826)	0.93	(55 630 578 249)	0.82	30.13	32 726 201 260	236 588 723 586	261 799 589 465	28.89	35 126 634 086	297 943 005 586	317 430 167 714
OCEANIA		(568 108 097)	0.67	(5 376 789 630)	0.67	1.07	1 167 512 957	11 752 311 230	10 907 120 942	1.43	1 735 621 054	12 122 928 398	16 283 910 572
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED		6 846 274 570	7.79	63 456 271 988	15.46	7.23	7 854 974 419	57 572 830 576	67 843 270 719	0.83	1 008 699 849	2 180 165 107	4 386 998 731
SHIP/AIRCRAFT		236 940 586	-	4 152 482 621	-	0.22	236 940 586	6 945 712 798	4 152 482 621				
Total		(12 973 907 080)	0.89	(84 062 384 019)	0.92	100.00	108 613 679 629	854 468 021 611	916 561 251 533	100.00	121 587 586 709	882 954 276 813	1 000 623 635 552
Temporary Imports		January 2018	February 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018	June 2018	July 2018	August 2018	September 2018	October 2018		
Gold Imports ⁴⁾		6 757 431 501	5 102 273 660	5 725 309 521	5 750 371 888	6 352 969 693	6 887 140 064	5 754 472 340	6 685 705 916	5 789 981 833	6 528 285 785		

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, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (Only)

Trade Statistics with BELN countries

Trade statistics with the BELN for October 2018 recorded a trade surplus of R7.42 billion.

Summary

The R7.42 billion surplus for October 2018 is as a result of exports of R13.71 billion and imports of R6.29 billion.

Exports increased from September 2018 to October 2018 by R1.48 billion (12.1%) and imports increased from September 2018 to October 2018 by R2.87 billion (84.2%).

The cumulative surplus for 2018 is R75.24 billion compared to R77.42 billion in 2017.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BELN:	
Section:	BELN:	
Prepared Foodstuff	+R 290	+ 23%
Mineral Products	+R 288	+ 14%
Chemical Products	+R 245	+ 24%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+R 182	+ 19%
Machinery & Electronics	+R 143	+ 8%
Base Metals	+R 138	+ 18%
Textiles	+R 120	+ 22%
Misc Manufactured Articles	+R 105	+ 34%
Vegetable Products	+R 95	+ 18%
Plastics & Rubber	+R 76	+ 15%
Wood Pulp & Paper	-R 148	- 31%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 261	- 25%
Total	+R1 273	86 %
Total Movement	+R1 476	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BELN:	
Section:	BELN:	
Vehicles & Transport Equipment*	+R1 986*	+5 669%
Chemical Products	+R 395	+ 69%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 276	+ 62%
Textiles	+R 181	+ 38%
Machinery & Electronics	-R 100	- 20%
Total	+R2 738	95%
Total Movement	+R2 873	100%

* The import trade numbers are over stated by R1.96 billion due to a transaction that will be adjusted *during the December trade statistics release*.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 2018](#)

ENDS.

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