

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 May 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for April 2020

Pretoria, 29 May 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for April 2020 recording a trade deficit of R35.02 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2020) trade deficit of R0.33 billion is an improvement from the R8.87 billion deficit for the comparable period in 2019. Exports decreased by 3.5% year-on-year whilst imports deteriorated by 5.5% over the same period.

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

The R35.02 billion trade deficit for April 2020 is attributable to exports of R53.01 billion and imports of R88.03 billion. Exports decreased from March 2020 to April 2020 by R65.06 billion (55.1%) and imports decreased from March 2020 to April 2020 by R6.11 billion (6.5%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2020) decreased by 3.5% from R394.72 billion in 2019 to R381.08 billion in 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R381.41 billion are 5.5% less than the R403.58 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019. The cumulative trade deficit for 2020 is R0.33 billion.

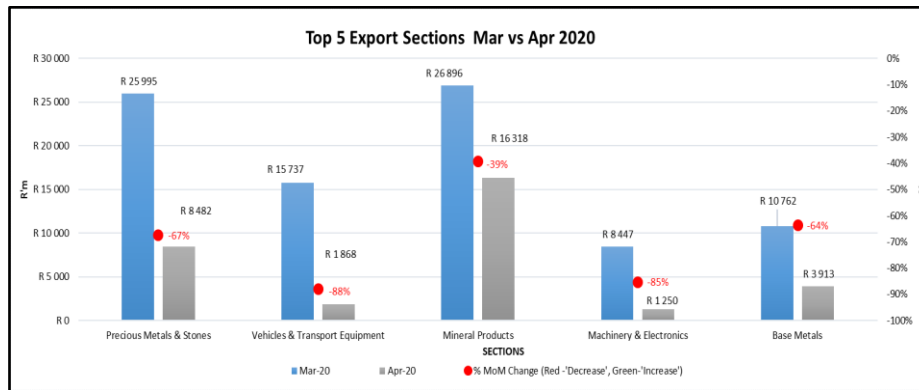
On a year-on-year basis, the R35.02 billion trade deficit for April 2020 is a deterioration from the R3.56 billion deficit recorded in April 2019. Exports of R53.01 billion are 48.8% less than the R103.45 billion exports recorded in April 2019. Imports of R88.03 billion are 17.7% less than the R107.01 billion imports recorded in April 2019.

March 2020's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.31 billion. Due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's), the revision was from the preliminary surplus of R24.25 billion to the revised surplus of R23.94 billion.

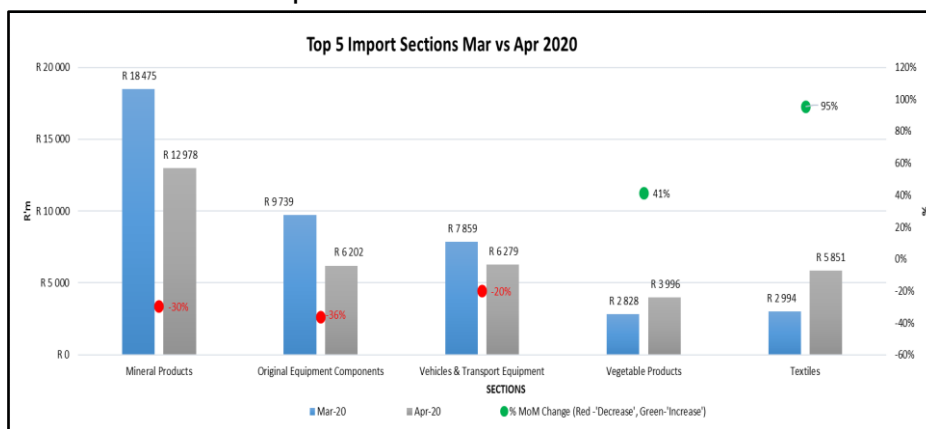
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics April 2020](#)

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from March 2020 (revised) to April 2020 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2020	April 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	16 922	7 697	-9 225	-54.5%
	Imports	8 329	6 084	-2 244	-26.9%
	Trade Balance	8 593	1 613	-6 981	
America	Exports	9 616	4 989	-4 628	-48.1%
	Imports	9 510	8 536	-975	-10.2%
	Trade Balance	106	-3 547	-3 653	
Asia	Exports	31 001	22 893	-8 108	-26.2%
	Imports	38 015	42 430	4 415	11.6%
	Trade Balance	-7 014	-19 537	-12 523	
Europe	Exports	35 771	11 564	-24 207	-67.7%
	Imports	33 132	27 881	-5 251	-15.8%
	Trade Balance	2 640	-16 316	-18 956	
Oceania	Exports	1 309	389	-920	-70.3%
	Imports	1 426	1 060	-366	-25.7%
	Trade Balance	-117	-671	-554	
Other Unclassified	Exports	10 700	704	-9 996	-93.4%
	Imports	89	34	-55	-61.4%
	Trade Balance	10 611	670	-9 941	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	735	367	-369	-50.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	735	367	-369	

Approval for the publication of April 2020 Trade Statistics at 14:00 on 29 May 2020

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

The trade data excluding BELN for April 2020 recorded a trade deficit of R37.42 billion.

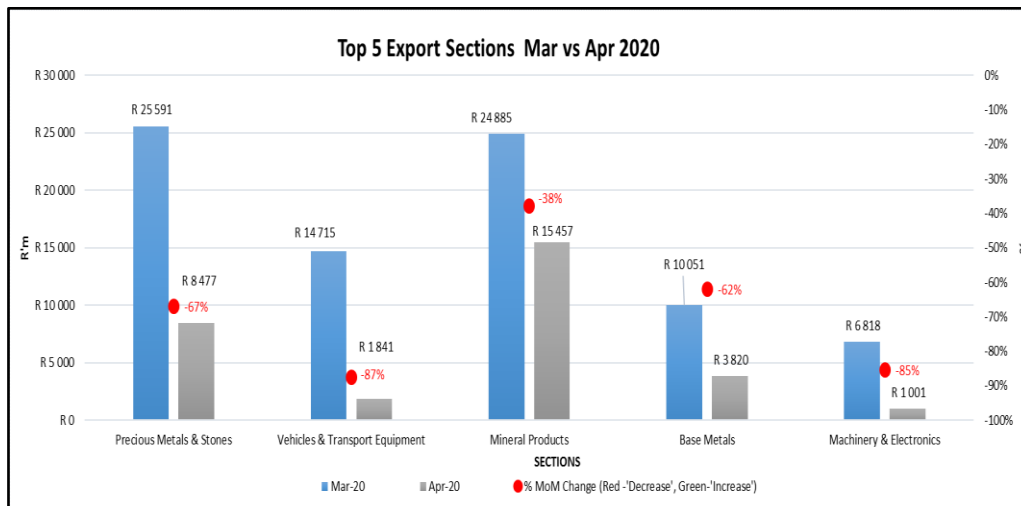
Summary

The R37.42 billion deficit for April 2020 is as a result of exports of R48.60 billion and imports of R86.02 billion. Exports decreased from March 2020 to April 2020 by R57.45 billion (54.2%) and imports decreased by R4.48 billion (4.9%) over the same period.

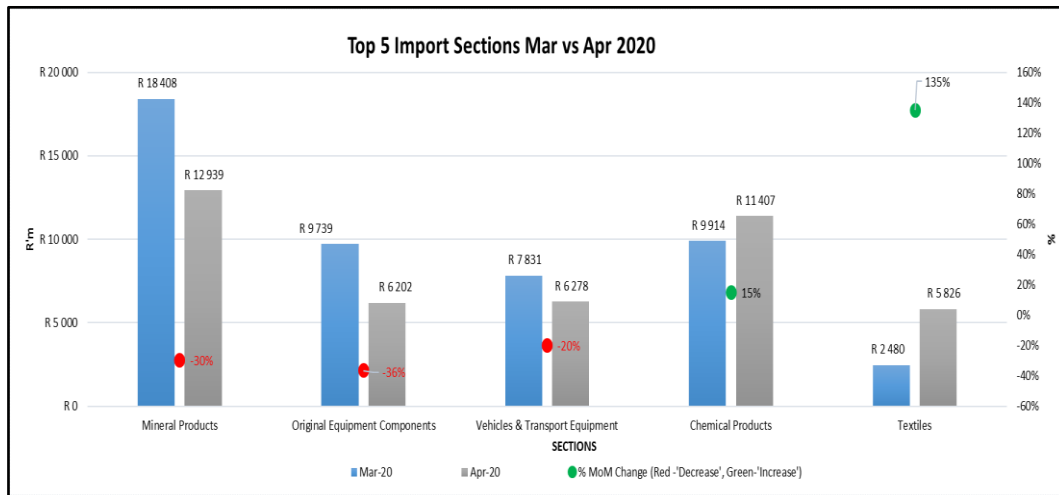
The cumulative deficit for 2020 is R25.52 billion compared to R38.29 billion deficit in 2019.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa, excluding BELN, from March 2020 (Revised) to April 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2020	April 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 943	12 110	-16 833	↓ -58.2%
	Imports	8 091	11 966	3 875	↑ 47.9%
	Trade Balance	20 852	144	20 708	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics April 2020](#)

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	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(229 594 713)	0.84	(974 057 636)	0.84	2.32	4 710 937 789	5 171 435 860	1 230 234 670	1.66	6 475 714 134	6 145 493 496	1 459 829 383
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 816 713 450	1.70	14 573 957 179	2.41	12.85	18 378 772 665	24 931 920 288	6 812 789 529	4.54	7 730 735 033	10 357 963 109	3 996 076 079
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(482 348 214)	0.44	(2 550 807 371)	0.32	0.73	990 371 996	1 196 594 181	384 896 150	0.99	2 792 946 248	3 747 401 552	867 244 364
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	501 874 593	1.15	3 249 944 307	1.25	7.13	16 757 021 286	16 045 097 441	3 779 387 697	3.72	12 236 696 084	12 795 153 134	3 277 513 104
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	3 339 414 532	1.26	30 587 289 432	1.46	30.78	106 908 772 692	97 404 792 164	16 317 741 233	14.74	70 625 648 042	66 817 502 732	12 978 326 701
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(6 969 740 077)	0.41	(18 073 110 869)	0.58	9.03	25 241 452 381	25 395 803 760	4 789 019 273	13.36	42 241 355 930	43 468 914 629	11 758 759 350
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(3 351 155 849)	0.25	(8 932 172 227)	0.45	2.11	9 185 842 482	7 398 644 210	1 118 207 116	5.08	17 330 549 961	16 330 816 437	4 469 362 965
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(99 688 137)	0.38	(109 563 885)	0.89	0.11	1 093 620 786	850 020 441	60 456 874	0.18	1 138 446 337	959 584 326	160 145 011
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(99 451 755)	0.69	341 971 966	1.20	0.42	2 632 542 726	2 053 432 570	223 866 255	0.37	1 958 711 466	1 711 460 604	323 318 010
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(67 883 518)	0.96	(2 255 897 387)	0.77	3.07	3 805 946 005	7 733 125 420	1 626 519 795	1.92	10 048 419 116	9 989 022 807	1 694 403 313
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(5 524 528 206)	0.06	(12 636 679 033)	0.29	0.62	5 263 707 134	5 074 278 780	326 826 487	6.65	16 259 378 892	17 710 957 813	5 851 354 693
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(767 592 451)	0.03	(3 455 575 082)	0.16	0.05	907 017 765	669 054 160	24 120 636	0.90	4 632 214 143	4 124 629 242	791 713 087
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 017 843 872)	0.06	(2 520 761 546)	0.39	0.11	1 974 952 790	1 626 473 886	59 608 903	1.22	4 925 923 070	4 147 235 432	1 077 452 775
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	7 580 352 644	9.41	73 173 660 628	14.73	16.00	59 206 398 996	78 503 512 112	8 481 938 370	1.02	6 064 164 403	5 329 851 484	901 585 726
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	(685 924 249)	0.85	16 534 461 019	1.86	7.38	47 427 115 326	35 802 838 007	3 913 128 584	5.22	21 037 773 635	19 268 376 988	4 599 052 833
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(16 938 628 958)	0.07	(52 962 950 578)	0.32	2.36	30 798 030 698	24 819 060 048	1 249 883 769	20.66	88 653 780 349	77 782 010 626	18 188 512 727
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(4 411 428 381)	0.30	9 606 732 390	1.31	3.52	52 932 446 002	40 227 414 653	1 868 029 594	7.13	35 424 713 950	30 620 682 263	6 279 457 975
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 685 168 014)	0.13	(7 157 269 234)	0.28	0.49	2 616 754 151	2 823 001 523	261 280 385	2.21	10 424 878 975	9 980 270 757	1 946 448 399
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 029 197 695)	0.12	(3 407 724 165)	0.34	0.27	2 558 518 003	1 781 651 128	141 570 432	1.33	6 238 790 394	5 189 375 293	1 170 768 127
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(8 466 515)	0.07	197 842 233	2.74	0.00	403 547 205	311 333 772	641 081	0.01	230 805 052	113 491 539	9 107 596
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	316 677 540	11.84	717 686 775	2.32	0.65	920 912 788	1 259 815 499	345 900 955	0.03	367 012 245	542 128 724	29 223 415
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(6 201 501 101)	-	(34 273 950 449)	0.00	-	4 378 948	1 565 763	-	7.04	36 745 473 094	34 275 516 212	6 201 501 101
Total	Total SA Rand	(35 015 108 946)	0.60	(326 973 533)	1.00	100.00	394 719 060 614	381 080 865 666	53 016 047 788	100.00	403 584 130 553	381 407 839 199	88 031 156 734

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 ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)		Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)		Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)
AFRICA	4 019 312 656	1.50	44 215 752 493	1.92	22.84	105 181 234 321	92 127 887 443	12 110 172 661	9.19	47 635 623 509	47 912 134 950	8 090 860 005
AMERICA	(3 546 718 143)	0.58	(3 582 627 552)	0.90	9.41	33 795 004 612	33 919 500 349	4 988 792 422	9.70	38 574 726 736	37 502 127 901	8 535 510 565
ASIA	(19 537 080 930)	0.54	(46 689 286 672)	0.72	43.18	126 631 177 321	121 643 487 060	22 892 699 301	48.20	182 117 172 818	168 332 773 732	42 429 780 231
EUROPE	(16 316 395 244)	0.41	(22 263 020 281)	0.82	21.81	103 587 743 068	99 674 986 307	11 564 129 281	31.67	127 342 931 030	121 938 006 588	27 880 524 525
OCEANIA	(670 603 333)	0.37	(1 554 392 634)	0.69	0.73	3 972 517 155	3 387 250 248	389 493 803	1.20	6 487 213 500	4 941 642 882	1 060 097 136
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	669 619 150	20.47	26 469 991 455	34.89	1.33	20 283 826 825	27 251 144 601	704 003 422	0.04	1 426 462 960	781 153 146	34 384 272
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	366 756 898	-	3 076 609 658	-	0.69	1 267 557 312	3 076 609 658	366 756 898	-	-	-	-
Total	(35 015 108 946)	0.60	(326 973 533)	1.00	100.00	394 719 060 614	381 080 865 666	53 016 047 788	100.00	403 584 130 553	381 407 839 199	88 031 156 734
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020								
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381	11 950 974 198								

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 2020 (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(302 938 343)	0.77	(894 463 130)	0.82	2.06	999 842 139	3 640 051 835	4 038 251 928	1.51	1 302 780 482	5 103 867 311	4 932 715 058
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 219 845 639	1.56	11 931 361 376	2.17	12.71	6 175 929 122	15 837 963 074	22 106 303 600	4.60	3 956 083 483	7 582 461 752	10 174 942 224
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(620 813 230)	0.28	(3 071 953 597)	0.18	0.51	245 828 353	565 659 464	673 581 990	1.01	866 641 583	2 786 040 933	3 745 535 587
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	102 966 082	1.04	463 973 714	1.04	6.04	2 933 680 352	11 650 030 777	11 139 341 662	3.29	2 830 714 270	10 183 288 293	10 675 367 948
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	2 518 199 304	1.19	23 714 673 473	1.36	31.80	15 457 233 190	99 121 265 256	90 273 321 110	15.04	12 939 033 886	70 364 722 766	66 558 647 637
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(7 326 717 608)	0.36	(19 775 975 165)	0.52	8.39	4 080 115 307	21 284 254 762	21 358 047 315	13.26	11 406 832 915	39 624 957 982	41 134 022 480
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(3 524 270 140)	0.21	(10 384 990 667)	0.36	1.93	935 979 419	7 226 258 533	5 779 873 954	5.18	4 460 249 559	17 109 139 972	16 164 864 621
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(100 964 946)	0.37	(204 996 467)	0.78	0.12	59 105 121	932 088 061	734 422 586	0.19	160 070 067	1 105 463 095	939 419 053
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(129 991 252)	0.51	262 685 605	1.21	0.28	137 883 615	2 030 180 093	1 529 863 690	0.31	267 874 867	1 446 864 524	1 267 178 085
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(193 823 219)	0.89	(3 116 435 646)	0.69	3.08	1 495 968 164	2 808 353 705	6 812 936 302	1.96	1 689 791 383	9 981 449 059	9 929 371 948
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(5 572 713 029)	0.04	(12 576 109 886)	0.21	0.52	253 491 528	3 112 003 457	3 422 691 232	6.77	5 826 204 557	14 294 240 541	15 998 801 118
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(770 415 006)	0.03	(3 854 989 299)	0.06	0.04	21 277 635	322 921 198	240 780 407	0.92	791 692 641	4 587 192 737	4 095 769 706
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 026 605 483)	0.05	(2 950 367 981)	0.28	0.10	50 846 596	1 394 349 765	1 173 902 996	1.25	1 077 452 079	4 884 270 537	4 124 270 977
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	8 433 819 749	197.64	75 433 815 974	30.65	17.44	8 476 710 282	58 063 751 228	77 977 854 676	0.05	42 890 533	3 828 692 445	2 544 038 702
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	(777 648 462)	0.83	14 731 292 157	1.78	7.86	3 820 080 104	44 588 961 085	33 628 994 058	5.34	4 597 728 566	20 397 545 514	18 897 701 901
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(17 182 326 608)	0.06	(56 740 311 309)	0.26	2.06	1 000 642 320	24 548 409 074	19 910 235 559	21.14	18 182 968 928	87 212 495 207	76 650 546 868
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(4 436 644 782)	0.29	6 778 782 073	1.22	3.79	1 841 374 253	48 976 123 274	37 227 384 583	7.30	6 278 019 035	34 807 662 374	30 448 602 510
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 758 574 627)	0.09	(7 657 501 463)	0.23	0.38	184 226 624	2 068 911 129	2 296 800 897	2.26	1 942 801 251	10 402 359 542	9 954 302 360
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 078 693 111)	0.07	(4 233 820 101)	0.18	0.18	86 330 563	1 507 135 116	917 248 242	1.35	1 165 023 674	6 193 089 258	5 151 068 343
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(8 466 515)	0.07	192 288 741	2.70	0.00	641 081	401 535 149	305 682 199	0.01	9 107 596	230 482 330	113 393 458
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	316 666 922	11.84	708 978 429	2.32	0.71	345 889 387	851 055 962	1 245 100 101	0.03	29 222 465	355 992 277	536 121 672
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(6 201 501 101)	-	(34 273 950 449)	0.00	-	-	4 357 041	1 565 763	7.21	6 201 501 101	36 745 473 094	34 275 516 212
Total	Total SA Rand	(37 421 609 766)	0.56	(25 518 013 618)	0.93	100.00	48 603 075 155	350 935 619 038	342 794 184 850	100.00	86 024 684 921	389 227 751 543	368 312 198 468
World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month % of total	Exports			Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)		Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	
AFRICA	1 612 811 836	1.27	19 024 712 408	1.55	15.84	7 697 200 028	61 397 792 745	53 841 206 627	7.07	6 084 388 192	33 279 244 499	34 816 494 219	
AMERICA	(3 546 718 143)	0.58	(3 582 627 552)	0.90	10.26	4 988 792 422	33 795 004 612	33 919 500 349	9.92	8 535 510 565	38 574 726 736	37 502 127 901	
ASIA	(19 537 080 930)	0.54	(46 689 286 672)	0.72	47.10	22 892 699 301	126 631 177 321	121 643 487 060	49.32	42 429 780 231	182 117 172 818	168 332 773 732	
EUROPE	(16 316 395 244)	0.41	(22 263 020 281)	0.82	23.79	11 564 129 281	103 587 743 068	99 674 986 307	32.41	27 880 524 525	127 342 931 030	121 938 006 588	
OCEANIA	(670 603 333)	0.37	(1 554 392 634)	0.69	0.80	389 493 803	3 972 517 155	3 387 250 248	1.23	1 060 097 136	6 487 213 500	4 941 642 882	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	669 619 150	20.47	26 469 991 455	34.89	1.45	704 003 422	20 283 826 825	27 251 144 601	0.04	34 384 272	1 426 462 960	781 153 146	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	366 756 898	-	3 076 609 658	-	0.75	366 756 898	1 267 557 312	3 076 609 658	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(37 421 609 766)	0.56	(25 518 013 618)	0.93	100.00	48 603 075 155	350 935 619 038	342 794 184 850	100.00	86 024 684 921	389 227 751 543	368 312 198 468	
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020									
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381	11 950 974 198									

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

Approval for the publication of April 2020 Trade Statistics at 14:00 on 29 May 2020

Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (Only)

Trade statistics with the BELN countries for April 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R2.41 billion.

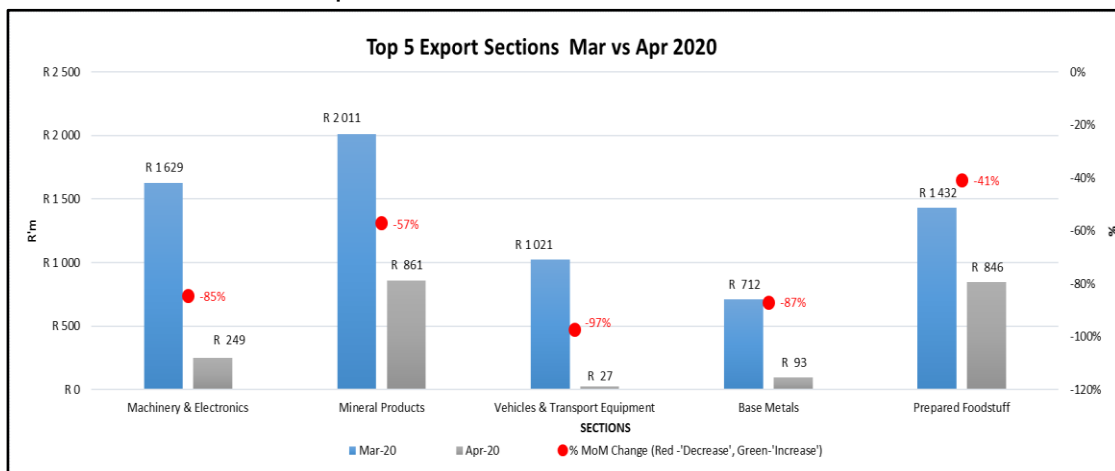
Summary

The R2.41 billion surplus for April 2020 is as a result of exports of R4.41 billion and imports of R2.01 billion. Exports decreased from March 2020 to April 2020 by R7.61 billion (63.3%) and imports decreased from March 2020 to April 2020 by R1.63 billion (44.8%).

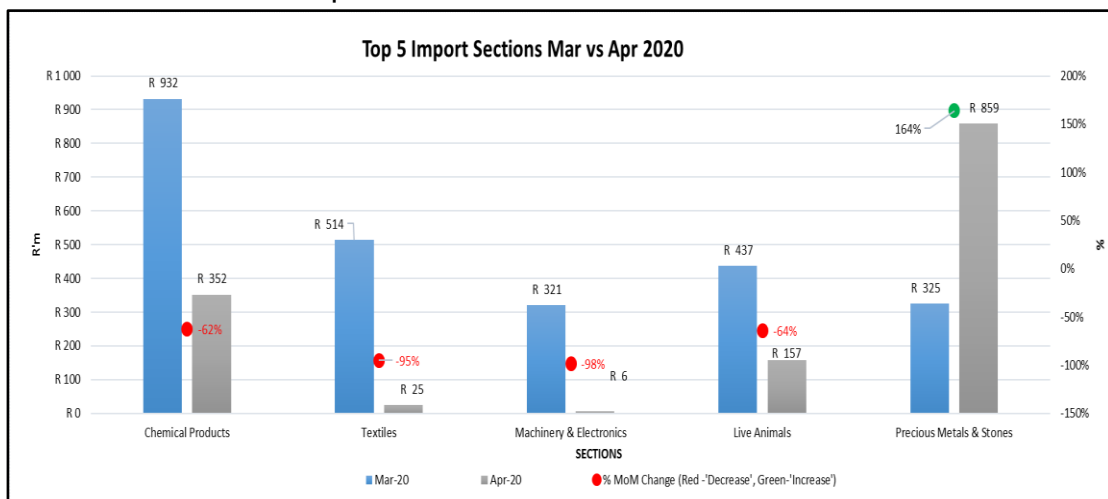
The cumulative surplus for 2020 is R25.19 billion compared to R29.43 billion in 2019.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements



[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics April 2020](#)

ENDS.

For any enquiries, please send your queries to SARSMedia@sars.gov.za or TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za