

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Wednesday, 30 September 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for August 2020

Pretoria, 30 September 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for August 2020 recording a trade surplus of R38.87 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 August 2020) trade surplus of R134.05 billion is an improvement from the R4.14 billion deficit for the comparable period in 2019. Exports increased by 8.8% year-on-year whilst imports declined by 20.7% over the same period.

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

The R38.87 billion trade surplus for August 2020 is attributable to exports of R130.22 billion and imports of R91.35 billion. Exports increased by R8.01 billion (6.6%) between July and August 2020 and imports increased by R6.32 billion (7.4%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 August 2020) increased by 0.4% to R847.08 billion from R844.09 billion over the same period during 2019. Imports for the year-to-date of R713.04 billion were 15.9% less than the R848.24 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019. The cumulative trade surplus for 2020 is R134.05 billion.

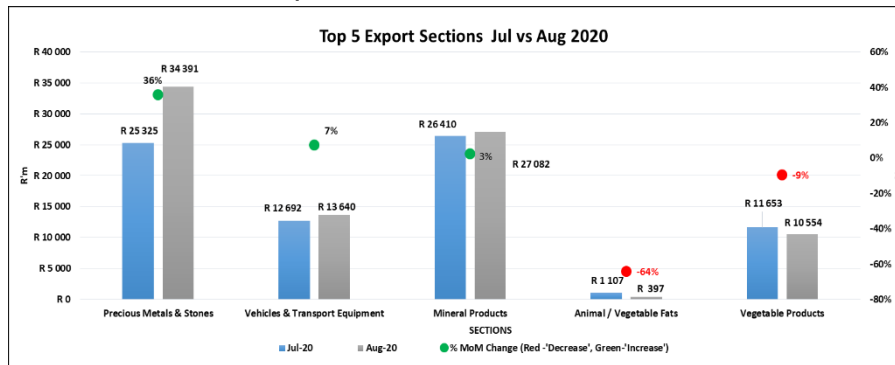
On a year-on-year basis, the R38.87 billion trade surplus for August 2020 was an improvement from the R4.50 billion surplus recorded in August 2019. Exports of R130.22 billion were 8.8% more than the R119.67 billion exports recorded in August 2019. Imports of R91.35 billion were 20.7% less than the R115.17 billion imports recorded in August 2019.

July 2020's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.24 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary surplus of R37.42 billion to the revised surplus of R37.18 billion.

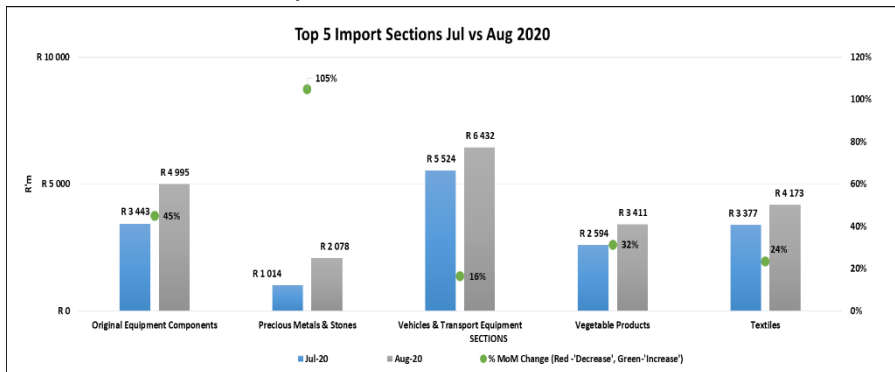
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from July 2020 (revised) to August 2020 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	July 2020	August 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 609	29 095	486	↑ 1,7%
	Imports	9 555	8 343	-1 212	↓ -12,7%
	Trade Balance	19 054	20 752	1 698	
America	Exports	11 217	14 384	3 167	↑ 28,2%
	Imports	8 466	8 493	27	↑ 0,3%
	Trade Balance	2 751	5 891	3 139	
Asia	Exports	36 753	39 598	2 845	↑ 7,7%
	Imports	37 660	42 031	4 371	↑ 11,6%
	Trade Balance	-906	-2 432	-1 526	
Europe	Exports	34 416	33 588	-827	↓ -2,4%
	Imports	28 009	31 005	2 996	↑ 10,7%
	Trade Balance	6 407	2 584	-3 823	
Oceania	Exports	1 277	1 214	-63	↓ -4,9%
	Imports	1 223	1 131	-93	↓ -7,6%
	Trade Balance	54	84	30	
Other Unclassified	Exports	9 608	11 922	2 315	↑ 24,1%
	Imports	115	346	231	↑ 201,0%
	Trade Balance	9 493	11 576	2 083	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	328	415	87	↑ 26,6%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	328	415	87	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for August 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R30.67 billion.

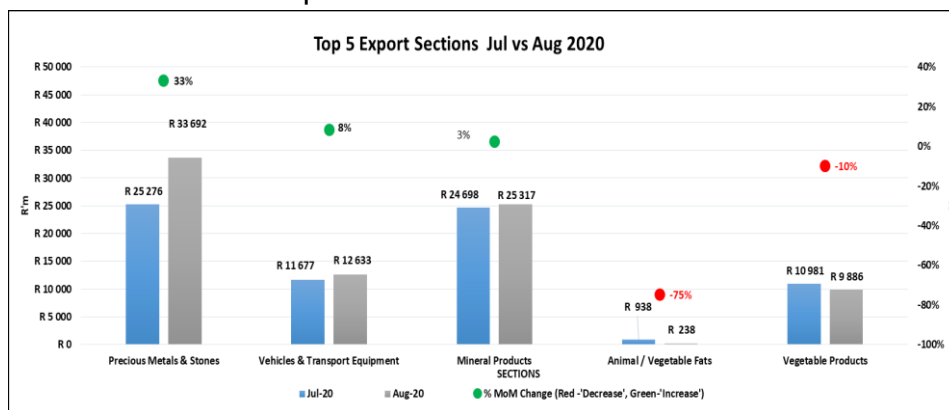
Summary

The R30.67 billion surplus for August 2020 was as a result of exports of R118.23 billion and imports of R87.56 billion. Exports increased by R7.37 billion (6.6%) between July and August 2020 and imports increased by R6.16 billion (7.6%) over the same period.

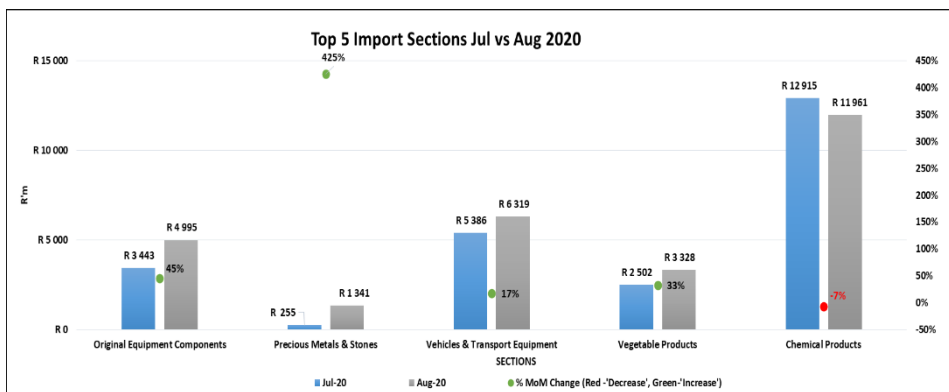
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R78.94 billion compared to R68.47 billion deficit during 2019.

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, between July (Revised) and August 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	July 2020	August 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	17 264	17 112	-152	↓ -0,9%
	Imports	5 929	4 559	-1 370	↓ -23,1%
	Trade Balance	11 335	12 554	1 219	

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SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio 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	(630 120 670)	0,94	(124 912 640)	0,91	0,97	9 657 014 122	10 646 613 187	1 266 801 402	1,52	13 542 235 337	11 276 733 857	1 391 714 042
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	44 599 027 849	3,15	7 142 237 703	3,09	8,10	48 191 788 544	65 387 273 581	10 553 604 076	3,73	15 726 840 115	20 788 245 732	3 411 366 373
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 058 443 423)	0,46	(702 911 509)	0,36	0,31	2 113 197 423	3 474 250 320	397 179 135	1,20	5 878 779 424	7 532 693 743	1 100 090 644
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	11 808 481 063	1,49	2 570 154 736	1,85	4,29	35 752 129 260	35 968 338 357	5 591 854 815	3,31	25 724 410 043	24 159 857 294	3 021 700 079
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	94 145 140 330	1,87	15 203 363 667	2,28	20,80	216 417 643 107	202 660 564 283	27 082 085 101	13,00	146 289 906 942	108 515 423 953	11 878 721 434
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(36 722 422 441)	0,61	(4 615 060 820)	0,64	6,17	53 073 474 108	56 728 000 675	8 033 272 532	13,85	88 041 902 996	93 450 423 116	12 648 333 352
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(13 678 972 523)	0,55	(1 266 407 555)	0,66	1,91	18 495 162 245	16 771 933 301	2 489 271 264	4,11	35 551 781 324	30 450 905 824	3 755 678 819
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	49 648 259	1,03	45 641 839	1,18	0,23	2 305 554 950	1 774 742 678	305 410 839	0,28	2 427 532 144	1 725 094 419	259 769 000
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 325 273 673	1,43	260 792 934	1,64	0,51	5 156 496 790	4 404 655 549	667 697 156	0,45	3 725 945 021	3 079 381 876	406 904 222
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(5 961 792 554)	0,70	(984 523 110)	0,61	1,16	10 279 664 899	14 169 967 741	1 510 438 425	2,73	21 967 476 048	20 131 760 295	2 494 961 535
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(22 793 597 309)	0,32	(2 825 523 964)	0,32	1,03	10 849 734 809	10 721 556 389	1 347 676 615	4,57	31 465 331 034	33 515 153 698	4 173 200 579
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(6 099 133 986)	0,20	(967 289 280)	0,20	0,18	1 872 664 687	1 494 296 635	239 978 978	1,32	9 607 780 698	7 593 430 621	1 207 268 258
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 562 321 146)	0,51	(278 872 297)	0,67	0,44	4 252 915 946	3 657 927 849	573 939 564	0,93	10 076 633 457	7 220 248 995	852 811 861
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	175 849 680 971	17,04	32 312 603 869	16,55	26,41	129 616 035 503	186 809 857 796	34 390 602 735	2,27	11 110 806 465	10 960 176 825	2 077 998 866
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	42 429 196 744	2,18	5 761 559 393	2,29	7,87	96 098 954 288	78 378 856 657	10 242 539 355	4,91	43 226 356 679	35 949 659 913	4 480 979 962
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(104 089 120 083)	0,37	(12 512 573 328)	0,45	7,72	68 368 408 820	60 858 414 122	10 050 377 599	24,70	190 909 561 009	164 947 534 205	22 562 950 927
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	30 348 376 340	1,60	7 207 678 562	2,12	10,47	118 078 463 247	80 643 925 325	13 639 547 205	7,04	78 089 086 668	50 295 548 985	6 431 868 643
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(14 899 625 613)	0,28	(1 756 884 153)	0,30	0,59	5 497 538 946	5 699 899 345	761 945 922	2,76	22 223 988 840	20 599 524 958	2 518 830 075
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(5 998 779 923)	0,41	(813 491 611)	0,47	0,56	5 317 291 365	4 224 631 944	726 723 180	1,69	13 469 695 655	10 223 411 867	1 540 214 791
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	440 363 103	3,62	62 090 670	3,44	0,07	746 091 727	608 460 264	87 506 663	0,03	372 574 290	168 097 161	25 415 993
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 195 602 136	2,49	145 341 331	2,29	0,20	1 947 592 216	1 996 292 609	257 745 924	0,12	671 533 903	800 690 473	112 404 593
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(49 649 747 173)	0,00	(4 993 567 654)	0,00	0,00	6 469 391	3 683 718	1 255 422	5,47	78 135 448 126	49 653 430 891	4 994 823 076
Total	Total SA Rand	134 046 713 624	1,19	38 869 446 783	1,43	100,00	844 094 286 393	847 084 142 325	130 217 453 907	100,00	848 235 605 318	713 037 428 701	91 348 007 124

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio 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)
AFRICA	120 018 070 079	2,49	20 752 348 417	3,49	22,34	223 806 822 760	200 505 588 567	29 095 157 811	9,13	97 245 277 332	80 487 518 488	8 342 809 394
AMERICA	3 986 518 906	1,06	5 890 547 906	1,69	11,05	71 911 376 062	75 371 456 391	14 383 581 023	9,30	85 005 085 991	71 384 937 485	8 493 033 117
ASIA	(56 222 695 199)	0,83	(2 432 300 948)	0,94	30,41	268 226 029 014	268 580 947 557	39 598 406 307	46,01	381 002 259 261	324 803 642 756	42 030 707 255
EUROPE	(5 847 519 600)	0,97	2 583 774 492	1,08	25,79	225 787 264 211	219 090 280 614	33 588 376 769	33,94	269 949 496 197	224 937 800 214	31 004 602 277
OCEANIA	(1 932 839 134)	0,80	83 819 364	1,07	0,93	8 742 701 155	7 761 206 183	1 214 348 383	1,24	12 066 694 804	9 694 045 317	1 130 529 019
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	66 054 028 643	39,19	11 576 172 850	34,43	9,16	41 917 890 553	67 783 513 084	11 922 498 912	0,38	2 966 791 733	1 729 484 441	346 326 062
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	7 991 149 929	-	415 084 702	-	0,32	3 702 202 638	7 991 149 929	415 084 702				
Total	134 046 713 624	1,19	38 869 446 783	1,43	100,00	844 094 286 393	847 084 142 325	130 217 453 907	100,00	848 235 605 318	713 037 428 701	91 348 007 124

Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381	11 950 974 198	10 547 791 565	9 909 450 939	9 288 710 036	10 302 915 385

Notes:

1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films

2) Special Provisions: Automotive Production and Development Programme (APDP)

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		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio 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	(909 768 555)	0,90	(210 263 104)	0,82	0,82	7 401 182 512	8 367 950 356	966 786 422	1,34	10 673 512 034	9 277 718 911	1 177 049 526
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	39 629 436 246	2,96	6 558 194 578	2,97	8,36	42 983 675 117	59 891 185 619	9 886 368 828	3,80	15 296 430 762	20 261 749 373	3 328 174 250
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(5 188 307 541)	0,31	(861 008 960)	0,22	0,20	1 189 370 622	2 333 222 057	237 996 203	1,26	5 855 126 865	7 521 529 598	1 099 005 163
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	6 086 330 474	1,31	1 666 345 038	1,68	3,48	24 916 952 033	25 885 850 614	4 111 615 614	2,79	21 316 278 948	19 799 520 140	2 445 270 576
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	81 949 912 105	1,76	13 525 833 146	2,15	21,41	199 103 302 952	189 908 798 328	25 317 440 557	13,47	145 810 352 090	107 958 886 223	11 791 607 411
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(41 126 055 394)	0,54	(5 046 704 709)	0,58	5,85	44 756 539 778	48 064 978 847	6 914 412 375	13,66	82 952 660 802	89 191 034 241	11 961 117 084
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(16 840 560 500)	0,44	(1 739 705 629)	0,53	1,66	14 384 764 968	13 260 007 964	1 965 580 602	4,23	35 103 906 162	30 100 568 464	3 705 286 231
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(132 744 645)	0,92	14 311 988	1,06	0,23	1 969 246 825	1 549 728 418	268 441 581	0,29	2 359 131 656	1 682 473 063	254 129 593
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 275 914 207	1,63	261 613 458	2,11	0,42	3 873 867 143	3 295 006 113	497 582 037	0,27	2 599 772 987	2 019 091 906	235 968 579
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(7 660 981 579)	0,62	(1 205 544 595)	0,51	1,08	8 303 261 137	12 357 173 900	1 278 045 042	2,84	21 844 023 917	20 018 155 479	2 483 589 637
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(22 851 169 100)	0,24	(2 748 292 270)	0,23	0,69	6 416 272 709	7 189 012 653	820 619 048	4,08	27 312 544 279	30 040 181 753	3 568 911 318
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(6 946 177 501)	0,08	(1 107 682 598)	0,07	0,07	697 735 535	582 933 256	85 935 726	1,36	9 513 421 041	7 529 110 757	1 193 618 324
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 509 436 437)	0,37	(449 347 082)	0,47	0,33	3 024 350 360	2 659 792 212	394 289 755	0,96	9 996 585 325	7 169 228 649	843 636 837
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	179 192 199 366	35,09	32 351 337 566	25,12	28,50	127 445 069 640	184 448 524 102	33 692 351 698	1,53	6 762 572 491	5 256 324 736	1 341 014 132
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	38 002 831 932	2,08	5 003 265 769	2,13	7,98	90 143 299 530	73 281 105 906	9 435 485 098	5,06	42 014 951 887	35 278 273 974	4 432 219 329
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(113 027 375 578)	0,31	(13 792 820 545)	0,38	7,13	55 238 624 892	49 680 568 449	8 430 329 432	25,38	187 884 091 025	162 707 944 027	22 223 149 977
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	24 095 313 347	1,48	6 313 494 006	2,00	10,68	108 929 852 230	73 925 278 854	12 632 743 157	7,22	77 143 965 768	49 829 965 507	6 319 249 151
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(16 136 670 579)	0,21	(1 939 162 380)	0,23	0,48	4 316 610 666	4 408 811 057	568 137 500	2,86	22 155 383 792	20 545 481 636	2 507 299 880
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(7 939 457 267)	0,22	(1 142 127 664)	0,25	0,33	2 956 914 454	2 214 942 752	388 951 807	1,75	13 377 128 201	10 154 400 019	1 531 079 471
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	432 018 081	3,57	60 529 808	3,38	0,07	742 284 815	599 981 768	85 934 937	0,03	369 732 944	167 963 687	25 405 129
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 191 642 796	2,53	152 084 116	2,49	0,22	1 855 495 068	1 972 641 672	254 444 811	0,12	651 398 732	780 998 876	102 360 695
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(49 649 751 396)	0,00	(4 993 571 652)	0,00	0,00	5 799 150	3 679 495	1 251 424	5,70	78 135 448 126	49 653 430 891	4 994 823 076
Total	Total SA Rand	78 937 142 482	1,11	30 670 778 285	1,35	100,00	750 654 472 136	765 881 174 392	118 234 743 654	100,00	819 128 419 834	686 944 031 910	87 563 965 369

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio 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)
AFRICA	64 908 498 937	2,19	12 553 679 919	3,75	14,47	130 367 008 503	119 302 620 634	17 112 447 558	5,21	68 138 091 848	54 394 121 697	4 558 767 639
AMERICA	3 986 518 906	1,06	5 890 547 906	1,69	12,17	71 911 376 062	75 371 456 391	14 383 581 023	9,70	85 005 085 991	71 384 937 485	8 493 033 117
ASIA	(56 222 695 199)	0,83	(2 432 300 948)	0,94	33,49	268 226 029 014	268 580 947 557	39 598 406 307	48,00	381 002 259 261	324 803 642 756	42 030 707 255
EUROPE	(5 847 519 600)	0,97	2 583 774 492	1,08	28,41	225 787 264 211	219 090 280 614	33 588 376 769	35,41	269 949 496 197	224 937 800 214	31 004 602 277
OCEANIA	(1 932 839 134)	0,80	83 819 364	1,07	1,03	8 742 701 155	7 761 206 183	1 214 348 383	1,29	12 066 694 804	9 694 045 317	1 130 529 019
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	66 054 028 643	39,19	11 576 172 850	34,43	10,08	41 917 890 553	67 783 513 084	11 922 498 912	0,40	2 966 791 733	1 729 484 441	346 326 062
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	7 991 149 929	-	415 084 702	-	0,35	3 702 202 638	7 991 149 929	415 084 702				
Total	78 937 142 482	1,11	30 670 778 285	1,35	100,00	750 654 472 136	765 881 174 392	118 234 743 654	100,00	819 128 419 834	686 944 031 910	87 563 965 369
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020				
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381	11 950 974 198	10 547 791 565	9 909 450 939	9 288 710 036	10 302 915 385				

Notes:

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Automotive Production and Development Programme (APDP)
- 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 the BELN countries for August 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R8.20 billion.

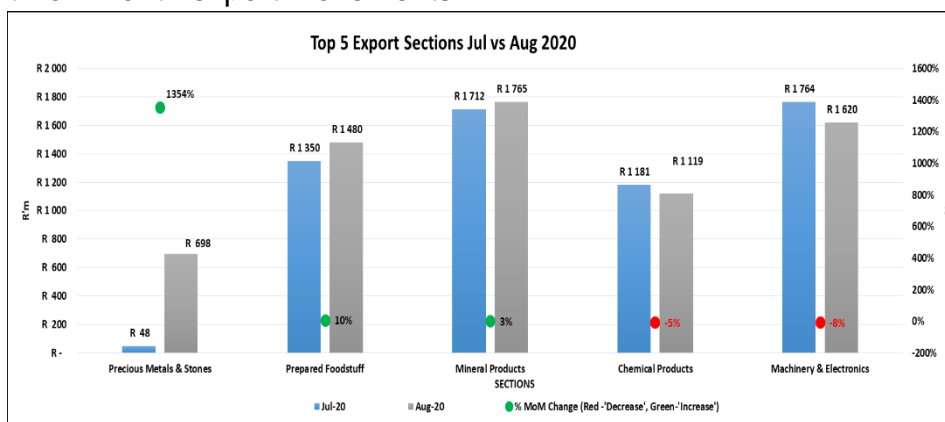
Summary

The R8.20 billion surplus for August 2020 was as a result of exports of R11.98 billion and imports of R3.78 billion. Exports increased by R0.64 billion (5.6%) between July and August 2020 and imports increased by R0.16 billion (4.4%) over the same period.

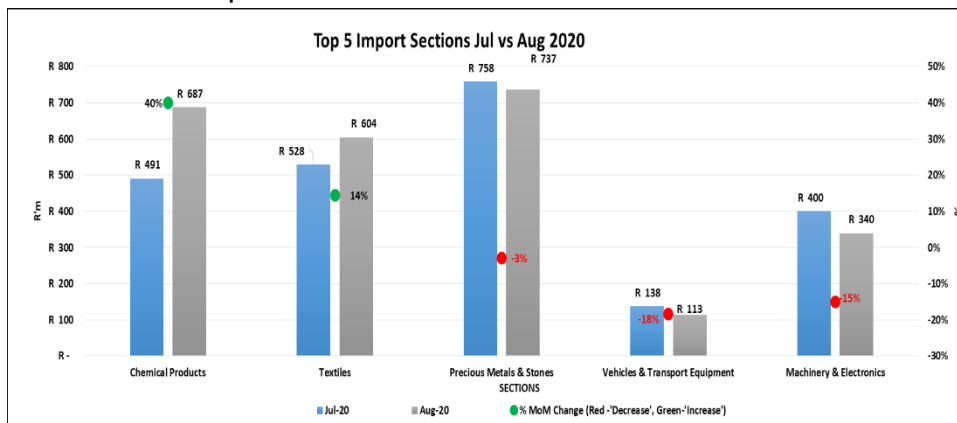
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R55.11 billion compared to R64.33 billion in 2019.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

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