

## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 January 2021

### **SARS releases trade statistics for December 2020**

**Pretoria, 29 January 2021** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2020 recording a trade surplus of R32.00 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2020) trade surplus of R270.63 billion is an improvement from the R23.66 billion surplus for the comparable period in 2019. Exports increased by 21.9% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 5.7% over the same period.

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

The R32.00 billion trade surplus for December 2020 is attributable to exports of R125.95 billion and imports of R93.95 billion. Exports decreased by R11.25 billion (8.2%) between November and December 2020 and imports decreased by R7.99 billion (7.8%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2020) increased by 7.5% to R1 393.99 billion from R1 296.81 billion over the same period during 2019. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 123.36 billion were 11.8% less than the R1 273.15 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019. The cumulative trade surplus for 2020 is R270.63 billion.

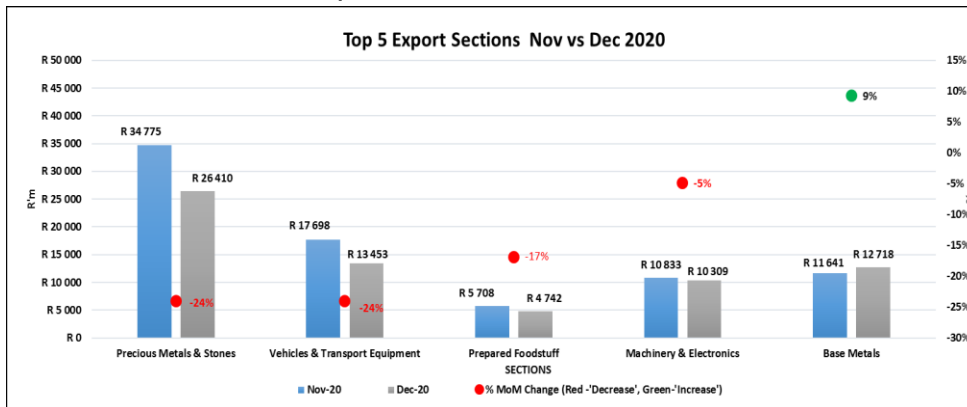
On a year-on-year basis, the R32.00 billion trade surplus for December 2020 was an improvement from the R14.43 billion surplus recorded in December 2019. Exports of R125.95 billion were 21.9% more than the R103.35 billion exports recorded in December 2019. Imports of R93.95 billion were 5.7% more than the R88.92 billion imports recorded in December 2019.

November 2020's trade surplus was revised downwards by R1.46 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary surplus of R36.72 billion to the revised surplus of R35.26 billion.

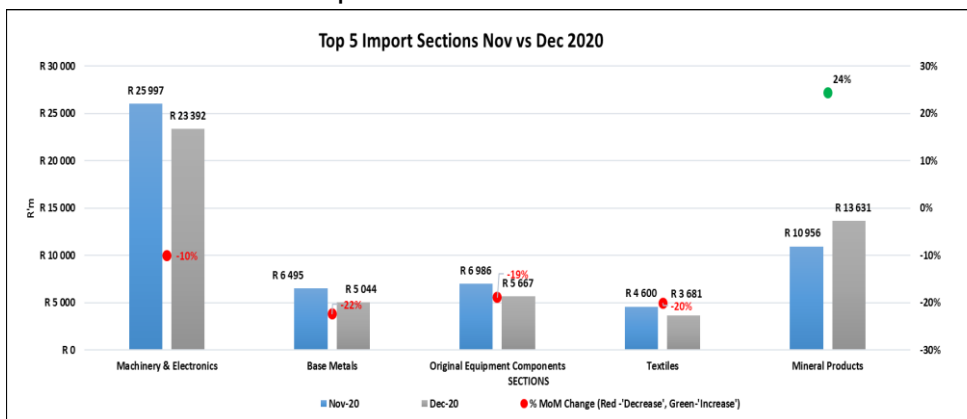
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## Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



## Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from November 2020 (revised) to December 2020 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	November 2020	December 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	32 242	29 330	-2 911	-9.0%
	Imports	9 518	10 185	666	7.0%
	Trade Balance	22 723	19 146	-3 578	
America	Exports	13 433	12 238	-1 195	-8.9%
	Imports	10 809	8 713	-2 096	-19.4%
	Trade Balance	2 624	3 525	901	
Asia	Exports	40 186	41 642	1 456	3.6%
	Imports	49 838	46 902	-2 936	-5.9%
	Trade Balance	-9 652	-5 260	4 393	
Europe	Exports	37 430	32 496	-4 934	-13.2%
	Imports	29 975	26 512	-3 463	-11.6%
	Trade Balance	7 455	5 985	-1 471	
Oceania	Exports	996	1 678	682	68.5%
	Imports	1 587	1 306	-281	-17.7%
	Trade Balance	-591	372	963	
Other Unclassified	Exports	12 277	8 097	-4 180	-34.0%
	Imports	209	331	122	58.0%
	Trade Balance	12 068	7 766	-4 302	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	634	466	-168	-26.5%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	634	466	-168	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for December 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R23.30 billion.

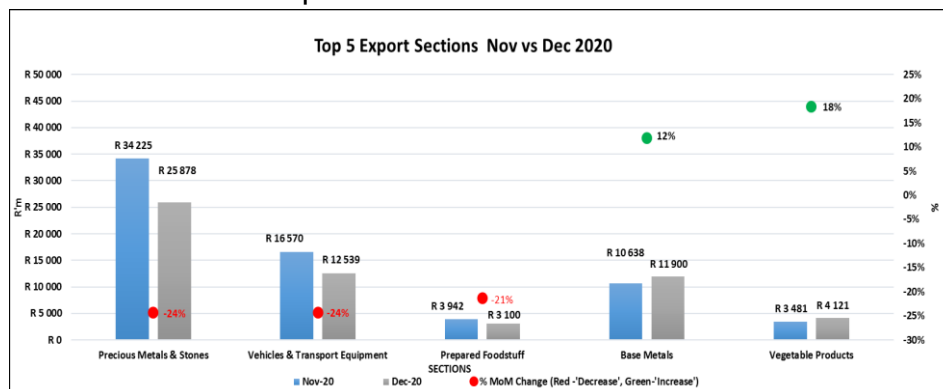
### Summary

The R23.30 billion surplus for December 2020 was as a result of exports of R113.66 billion and imports of R90.36 billion. Exports decreased by R9.67 billion (7.8%) between November and December 2020 and imports decreased by R7.36 billion (7.5%) over the same period.

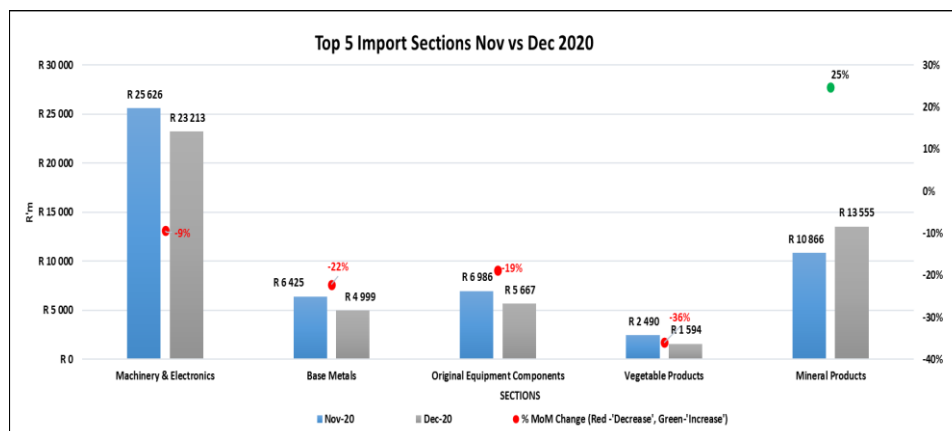
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R181.18 billion compared to R76.98 billion deficit during 2019.

### 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 November (Revised) and December 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	November 2020	December 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	18 378	17 044	-1 334	 -7.3%
	Imports	5 303	6 594	1 291	 24.3%
	Trade Balance	13 075	10 449	-2 625	

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

## SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(931 543 235)	0.95	106 960 051	1.07	1.24	15 319 236 151	16 641 112 818	1 566 163 699	1.55	19 887 093 908	17 572 656 053	1 459 203 648
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	58 923 180 386	2.93	3 298 865 192	3.00	3.93	68 407 581 716	89 399 699 184	4 948 729 041	1.76	25 289 150 867	30 476 518 798	1 649 863 849
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 843 309 948)	0.42	(581 760 365)	0.38	0.29	3 196 104 622	4 891 609 875	359 131 308	1.00	9 144 412 394	11 734 919 823	940 891 673
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	20 026 380 804	1.52	1 684 802 197	1.55	3.77	56 579 610 095	58 172 867 765	4 742 460 763	3.25	40 642 095 877	38 146 486 961	3 057 658 566
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	167 399 046 090	2.04	18 067 566 109	2.33	25.17	323 070 360 806	327 638 283 777	31 698 514 232	14.51	219 458 605 252	160 239 237 687	13 630 948 123
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(55 358 597 081)	0.62	(3 308 427 163)	0.73	7.09	79 934 400 387	90 674 097 644	8 933 420 765	13.03	135 896 846 670	146 032 694 725	12 241 847 928
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(22 816 309 110)	0.53	(1 994 347 257)	0.54	1.86	27 018 467 516	26 140 017 077	2 338 423 847	4.61	53 694 346 367	48 956 326 187	4 332 771 104
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	69 882 921	1.02	74 885 010	1.29	0.26	3 451 207 636	2 999 126 676	332 535 213	0.27	3 992 640 997	2 929 243 755	257 650 203
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 957 728 235	1.39	64 853 842	1.15	0.40	7 421 997 496	6 978 302 795	503 118 613	0.47	5 506 924 029	5 020 574 560	438 264 771
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(12 351 729 941)	0.63	(880 404 079)	0.69	1.57	17 838 513 987	20 976 398 937	1 979 067 560	3.04	36 585 118 066	33 328 128 878	2 859 471 639
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(32 962 122 632)	0.35	(1 942 967 513)	0.47	1.38	18 049 033 785	17 705 361 389	1 738 106 328	3.92	47 200 642 789	50 667 484 021	3 681 073 841
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(9 910 351 045)	0.22	(634 690 776)	0.34	0.26	3 122 367 992	2 728 597 482	325 815 588	1.02	14 563 871 166	12 638 948 527	960 506 364
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 006 894 755)	0.51	(561 528 704)	0.51	0.46	6 422 224 376	6 171 218 106	580 945 819	1.22	15 188 193 479	12 178 112 861	1 142 474 523
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	306 232 059 751	18.07	24 882 928 870	17.30	20.97	222 200 803 655	324 173 981 841	26 409 783 433	1.63	16 991 668 049	17 941 922 090	1 526 854 563
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	68 053 583 608	2.17	7 674 220 369	2.52	10.10	142 315 310 495	126 163 800 075	12 717 747 437	5.37	62 841 994 915	58 110 216 467	5 043 527 068
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(157 950 466 510)	0.40	(13 083 661 693)	0.44	8.18	104 482 971 438	105 354 989 613	10 308 830 290	24.90	285 495 494 948	263 305 456 123	23 392 491 983
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	65 372 569 937	1.82	6 486 513 653	1.93	10.68	176 186 469 140	145 148 025 191	13 452 570 877	7.41	116 244 659 650	79 775 455 254	6 966 057 224
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(23 378 351 744)	0.28	(1 931 854 729)	0.32	0.73	8 616 700 863	9 149 662 577	919 323 905	3.03	34 142 172 556	32 528 014 321	2 851 178 634
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(10 117 364 082)	0.42	(883 060 282)	0.47	0.62	8 009 942 712	7 376 600 350	775 644 298	1.77	21 354 926 612	17 493 964 432	1 658 704 580
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	786 305 979	3.80	63 569 603	2.28	0.09	1 452 369 016	1 067 156 154	113 128 315	0.05	607 242 432	280 850 175	49 558 712
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	3 085 197 173	3.30	1 058 123 826	8.56	0.95	3 701 536 911	4 426 456 641	1 198 158 614	0.15	1 039 902 960	1 341 259 468	140 034 788
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(82 646 805 122)	0.00	(5 660 342 157)	0.00	0.01	10 098 084	11 908 571	6 550 360	6.03	107 377 468 848	82 658 713 693	5 666 892 517
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>270 632 089 679</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>32 000 244 004</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 296 807 308 879</b>	<b>1 393 989 274 538</b>	<b>125 948 170 305</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 273 145 472 831</b>	<b>1 123 357 184 859</b>	<b>93 947 926 301</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	
AFRICA	201 614 993 435	2.64	19 145 683 146	2.88	23.29	346 116 469 211	324 855 697 365	29 330 410 634	10.84	152 341 885 438	123 240 703 930	10 184 727 488	
AMERICA	24 063 555 355	1.21	3 525 143 980	1.40	9.72	111 331 658 667	136 033 275 559	12 238 095 421	9.27	126 294 049 989	111 969 720 204	8 712 951 441	
ASIA	(88 767 925 094)	0.83	(5 259 745 242)	0.89	33.06	407 054 941 671	433 106 477 822	41 641 935 268	49.92	572 869 007 785	521 874 402 916	46 901 680 510	
EUROPE	15 552 556 742	1.04	5 984 583 364	1.23	25.80	339 793 406 335	364 080 931 055	32 496 250 174	28.22	400 384 935 386	348 528 374 313	26 511 666 810	
OCEANIA	(1 116 425 039)	0.93	371 984 176	1.28	1.33	12 771 380 288	13 853 039 117	1 677 986 557	1.39	17 001 606 971	14 969 464 156	1 306 002 381	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	108 087 947 428	39.96	7 766 258 228	24.47	6.43	71 290 574 842	110 862 466 768	8 097 155 899	0.35	4 253 987 262	2 774 519 340	330 897 671	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	11 197 386 852	-	466 336 352	-	0.37	8 448 877 865	11 197 386 852	466 336 352	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>270 632 089 679</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>32 000 244 004</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 296 807 308 879</b>	<b>1 393 989 274 538</b>	<b>125 948 170 305</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 273 145 472 831</b>	<b>1 123 357 184 859</b>	<b>93 947 926 301</b>	
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020	December 2020	
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	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	11 435 589 019	8 980 542 231	9 229 645 166	9 495 365 243	

- 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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(1 467 917 644)	0.90	39 956 887	1.03	1.05	11 773 592 303	12 943 619 844	1 189 318 293	1.27	15 894 961 108	14 411 537 488	1 149 361 406
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	51 063 598 982	2.72	2 527 128 336	2.59	3.63	60 270 104 554	80 757 153 782	4 120 816 893	1.76	24 585 569 134	29 693 554 800	1 593 688 557
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(8 621 489 190)	0.26	(723 137 270)	0.23	0.19	1 678 052 773	3 095 816 286	215 991 280	1.04	9 113 253 645	11 717 305 476	939 128 550
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	10 142 183 124	1.32	570 394 005	1.23	2.73	39 008 818 076	41 635 081 301	3 100 368 114	2.80	33 722 560 306	31 492 898 177	2 529 974 109
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	149 025 381 194	1.94	16 501 979 966	2.22	26.44	296 420 111 572	308 355 247 143	30 057 027 097	15.00	218 668 679 299	159 329 865 949	13 555 047 131
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(61 347 827 883)	0.56	(3 829 421 023)	0.67	6.74	66 824 266 951	76 977 464 662	7 665 084 484	12.72	127 368 707 459	138 325 292 545	11 494 505 507
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(28 104 868 308)	0.42	(2 502 530 880)	0.42	1.57	20 739 912 398	20 270 029 524	1 788 931 519	4.75	53 014 120 244	48 374 897 832	4 291 462 399
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(265 240 647)	0.91	29 307 053	1.12	0.25	2 887 432 971	2 573 866 622	281 905 738	0.28	3 887 241 238	2 839 107 269	252 598 685
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 792 764 994	1.54	35 456 565	1.12	0.30	5 414 846 040	5 101 093 834	338 633 531	0.34	3 802 889 852	3 308 328 840	303 176 966
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(15 132 011 400)	0.54	(1 167 653 434)	0.59	1.46	14 624 950 710	17 995 668 851	1 662 774 475	3.13	36 342 158 199	33 127 680 251	2 830 427 909
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(32 869 657 594)	0.26	(2 079 068 627)	0.35	0.99	11 098 419 323	11 539 937 022	1 130 475 260	3.55	40 644 583 836	44 409 594 616	3 209 543 887
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(11 508 005 133)	0.08	(821 445 157)	0.14	0.12	1 107 327 255	1 002 426 168	131 317 727	1.05	14 409 647 291	12 510 431 301	952 762 884
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 659 070 866)	0.37	(713 007 238)	0.37	0.37	4 481 240 953	4 431 433 344	420 956 235	1.25	15 069 028 638	12 090 504 210	1 133 963 473
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	311 250 185 103	38.27	25 245 038 761	40.91	22.77	218 333 279 275	319 600 788 005	25 877 621 620	0.70	9 542 350 568	8 350 602 902	632 582 859
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	60 266 471 559	2.05	6 901 197 933	2.38	10.47	133 063 750 042	117 439 721 726	11 899 954 550	5.53	61 139 293 358	57 173 250 167	4 998 756 617
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(172 928 008 356)	0.33	(14 485 772 250)	0.38	7.68	84 305 086 263	86 798 008 602	8 726 976 774	25.69	281 158 108 145	259 726 016 958	23 212 749 024
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	55 242 314 056	1.70	5 613 364 939	1.81	11.03	162 561 170 331	134 370 482 520	12 539 116 240	7.66	115 028 285 178	79 128 168 464	6 925 751 301
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(25 347 477 308)	0.22	(2 083 346 298)	0.27	0.67	6 820 557 886	7 096 268 690	764 344 216	3.15	34 047 765 990	32 443 745 998	2 847 690 514
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(13 534 279 540)	0.22	(1 215 943 210)	0.26	0.38	4 209 598 002	3 853 034 252	437 027 008	1.83	21 221 970 214	17 387 313 792	1 652 970 218
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	774 681 253	3.76	63 133 408	2.27	0.10	1 446 435 652	1 055 317 103	112 680 397	0.05	603 066 731	280 635 850	49 546 989
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	3 056 052 861	3.34	1 058 726 292	8.86	1.05	3 595 101 591	4 363 710 164	1 193 495 364	0.15	1 008 990 073	1 307 657 303	134 769 072
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(82 647 602 782)	0.00	(5 660 342 657)	0.00	0.01	9 425 818	11 109 911	6 549 860	6.27	107 377 468 848	82 658 712 693	5 666 892 517
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>181 180 176 475</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>23 304 016 101</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 150 673 480 739</b>	<b>1 261 267 279 356</b>	<b>113 661 366 675</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 227 650 699 354</b>	<b>1 080 087 102 881</b>	<b>90 357 350 574</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)
AFRICA	112 163 080 231	2.40	10 449 455 243	2.58	15.00	199 982 641 071	192 133 702 183	17 043 607 004	7.30	106 847 111 961	79 970 621 952	6 594 151 761
AMERICA	24 063 555 355	1.21	3 525 143 980	1.40	10.77	111 331 658 667	136 033 275 559	12 238 095 421	9.64	126 294 049 989	111 969 720 204	8 712 951 441
ASIA	(88 767 925 094)	0.83	(5 259 745 242)	0.89	36.64	407 054 941 671	433 106 477 822	41 641 935 268	51.91	572 869 007 785	521 874 402 916	46 901 680 510
EUROPE	15 552 556 742	1.04	5 984 583 364	1.23	28.59	339 793 406 335	364 080 931 055	32 496 250 174	29.34	400 384 935 386	348 528 374 313	26 511 666 810
OCEANIA	(1 116 425 039)	0.93	371 984 176	1.28	1.48	12 771 380 288	13 853 039 117	1 677 986 557	1.45	17 001 606 971	14 969 464 156	1 306 002 381
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	108 087 947 428	39.96	7 766 258 228	24.47	7.12	71 290 574 842	110 862 466 768	8 097 155 899	0.37	4 253 987 262	2 774 519 340	330 897 671
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	11 197 386 852	-	466 336 352	-	0.41	8 448 877 865	11 197 386 852	466 336 352				
<b>Total</b>	<b>181 180 176 475</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>23 304 016 101</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 150 673 480 739</b>	<b>1 261 267 279 356</b>	<b>113 661 366 675</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 227 650 699 354</b>	<b>1 080 087 102 881</b>	<b>90 357 350 574</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2020</b>	<b>February 2020</b>	<b>March 2020</b>	<b>April 2020</b>	<b>May 2020</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	<b>July 2020</b>	<b>August 2020</b>	<b>September 2020</b>	<b>October 2020</b>	<b>November 2020</b>	<b>December 2020</b>
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	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	11 435 589 019	8 980 542 231	9 229 645 166	9 495 365 243

- 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 December 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R8.70 billion.

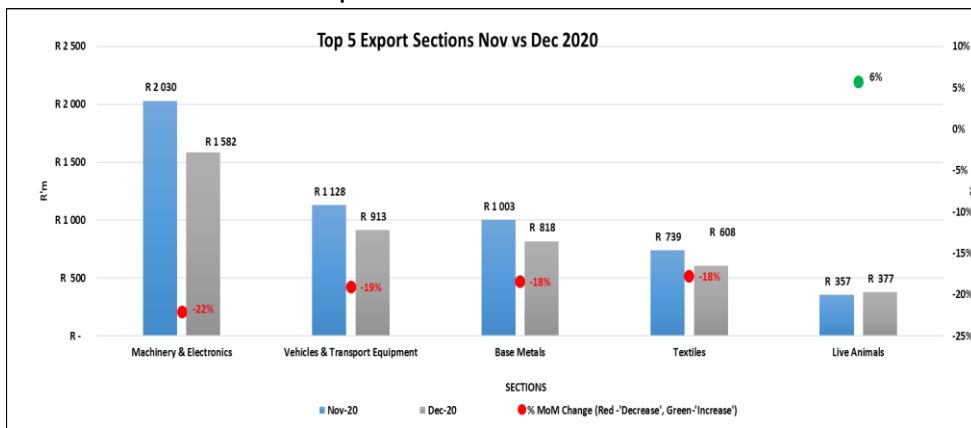
### Summary

The R8.70 billion surplus for December 2020 was as a result of exports of R12.29 billion and imports of R3.59 billion. Exports decreased by R1.58 billion (11.4%) between November and December 2020 and imports decreased by R0.62 billion (14.8%) over the same period.

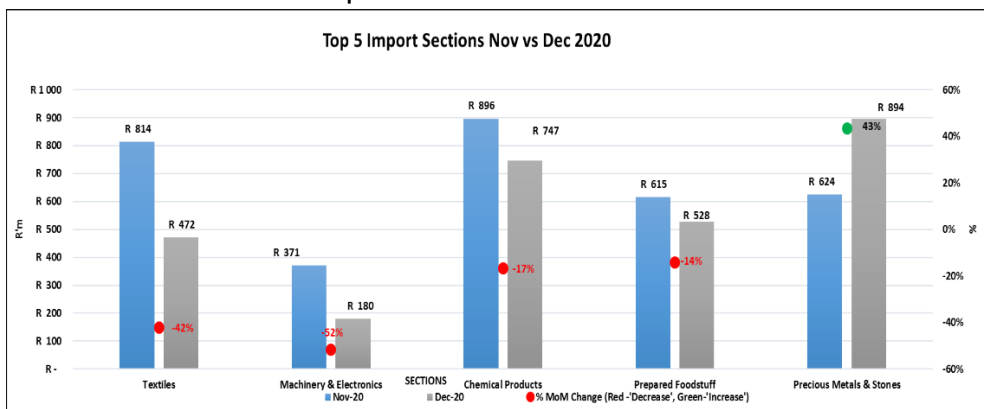
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R89.45 billion compared to R100.64 billion in 2019.

### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

For any enquiries, please send your queries to [SARSMedia@sars.gov.za](mailto:SARSMedia@sars.gov.za) or [TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za](mailto:TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za)