

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 31 March 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for February 2020

Pretoria, 31 March 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for February 2020 recording a trade surplus of R14.15 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 29 February 2020) trade surplus of R11.43 billion is an improvement from the R9.40 billion deficit for the comparable period in 2019. Exports increased by 11.9% year-on-year whilst imports for the same period showed an increase of 0.8%.

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

The R14.15 billion trade surplus for February 2020 is attributable to exports of R109.60 billion and imports of R95.45 billion. Exports increased from January 2020 to February 2020 by R8.71 billion (8.6%) and imports decreased from January 2020 to February 2020 by R8.16 billion (7.9%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 29 February) increased by 12.7% from R186.74 billion in 2019 to R210.49 billion in 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R199.06 billion are 1.5% more than the R196.14 billion imports recorded in January to February 2019, leaving a cumulative trade surplus of R11.43 billion.

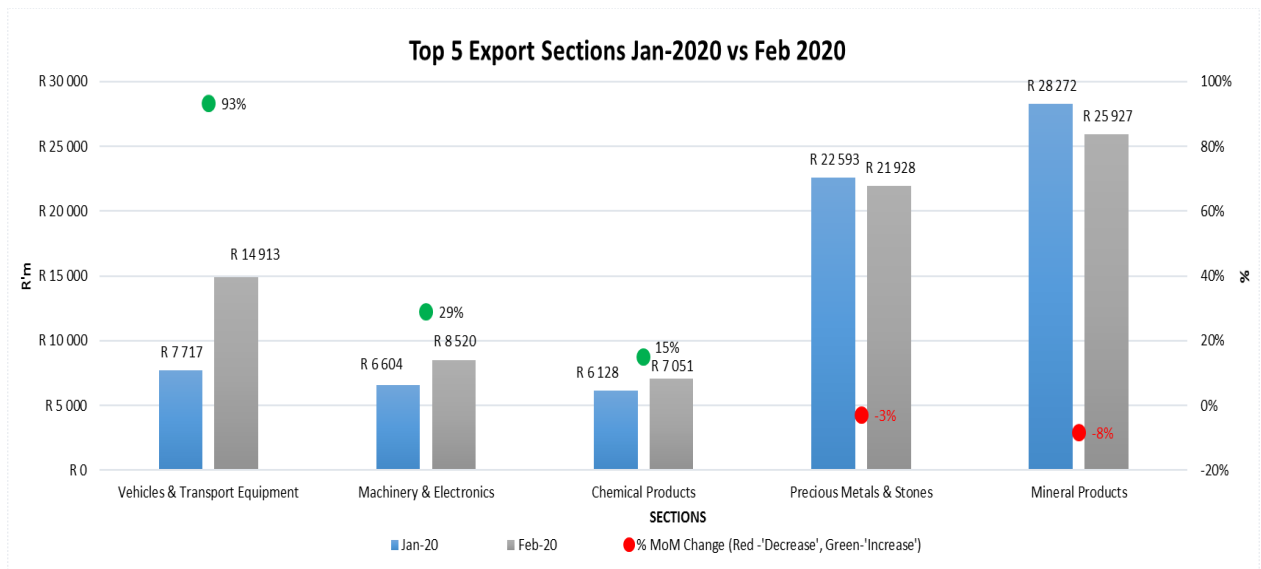
On a year-on-year basis, the R14.15 billion trade surplus for February 2020 is an improvement from the R3.30 billion surplus recorded in February 2019. Exports of R109.60 billion are 11.9% more than the R97.97 billion exports recorded in February 2019. Imports of R95.41 billion are 0.8% more than the R94.67 billion imports recorded in February 2019.

January 2020's trade deficit was revised upwards by R0.85 billion. Due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's), the revision was from the preliminary deficit of R1.87 billion to the revised deficit of R2.72 billion.

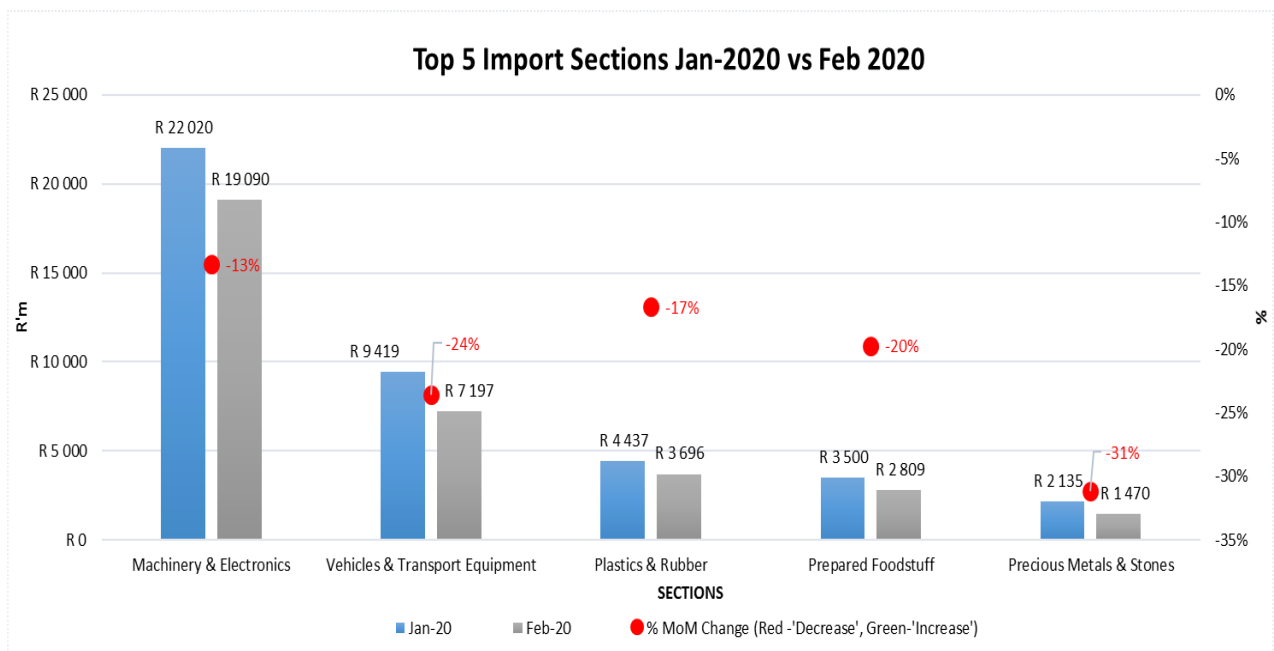
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics February 2020](#)

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 January 2020 (revised) to February 2020 are given below.

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2020	February 2020	Variance	% M-o-m
Africa	Exports	23 645	27 432	3 788	↑ 16.0%
	Imports	14 813	12 741	-2 073	↓ -14.0%
	Trade Balance	8 831	14 692	5 860	
America	Exports	9 632	9 687	56	↑ 0.6%
	Imports	9 560	9 903	343	↑ 3.6%
	Trade Balance	13 512	17 511	3 998	
Asia	Exports	35 691	32 099	-3 592	↓ -10.1%
	Imports	45 353	42 542	-2 810	↓ -6.2%
	Trade Balance	-9 662	-10 444	-782	
Europe	Exports	22 931	29 413	6 482	↑ 28.3%
	Imports	32 273	28 765	-3 508	↓ -10.9%
	Trade Balance	-9 342	648	9 990	
Oceania	Exports	788	903	115	↑ 14.6%
	Imports	1 303	1 152	-150	↓ -11.5%
	Trade Balance	-515	-250	265	
Other Unclassified	Exports	7 063	9 236	2 173	↑ 30.8%
	Imports	309	348	39	↑ 12.7%
	Trade Balance	6 754	8 888	2 134	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 141	834	-307	↓ -26.9%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	1 141	834	-307	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for February 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R6.39 billion.

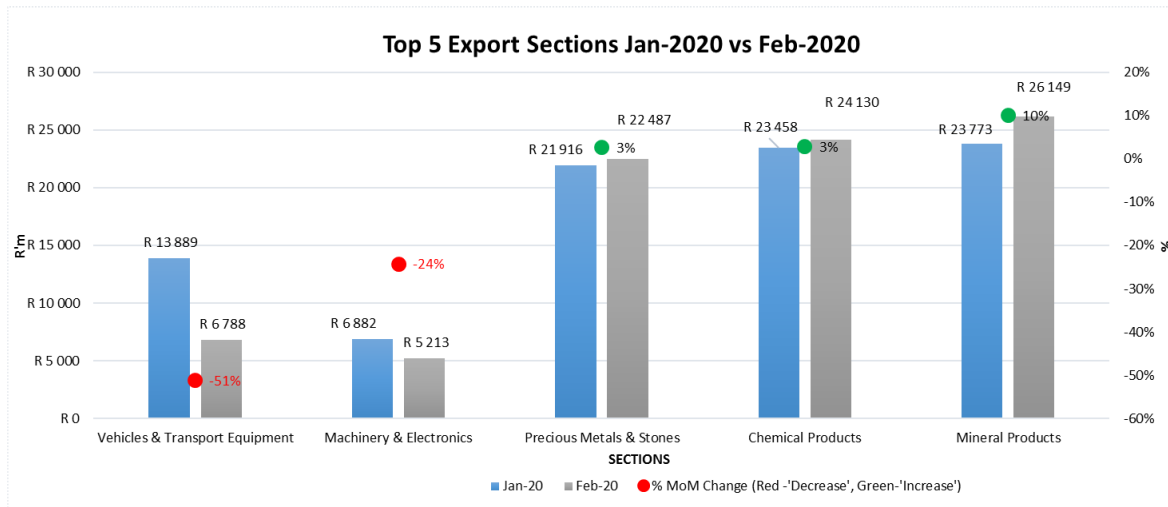
Summary

The R6.39 billion surplus for February 2020 is as a result of exports of R98.26 billion and imports of R91.87 billion. Exports increased from January 2020 to February 2020 by R7.91 billion (8.8%) and imports decreased from January 2020 to February 2020 by R7.86 billion (7.9%).

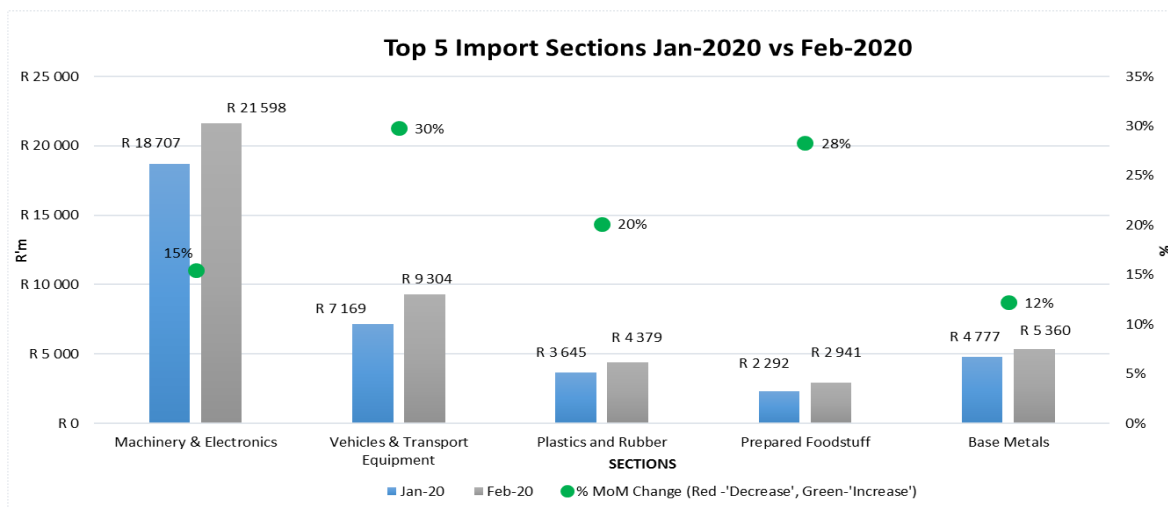
The cumulative deficit for 2020 is R2.99 billion compared to R23.70 billion deficit in 2019.

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 January 2020 (Revised) to February 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2020	February 2020	Variance	% M-o-m
Africa	Exports	16 093	17 767	1 674	↑ 10.4%
	Imports	10 635	10 972	337	↑ 3.2%
	Trade Balance	5 458	6 795	-1 337	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics February 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)	Cumulative 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(484 868 072)	0.69	(604 111 914)	0.80	2 217 065 983	2 422 007 588	1 101 126 557	1.00	3 045 806 876	3 026 119 502	1 585 994 629	1.66
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	4 039 781 276	3.11	7 914 017 316	3.24	9 282 380 713	11 450 792 587	5 956 668 332	5.43	3 430 717 524	3 536 775 271	1 916 887 056	2.01
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(552 099 357)	0.28	(1 414 837 635)	0.23	442 952 807	427 310 527	215 868 746	0.20	1 282 636 179	1 842 148 162	767 968 103	0.80
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 102 374 588	1.39	1 040 220 447	1.16	7 807 685 399	7 348 863 655	3 911 465 589	3.57	6 061 220 843	6 308 643 208	2 809 091 001	2.94
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	8 225 503 178	1.46	19 139 706 900	1.55	51 677 413 526	54 199 294 455	25 926 911 613	23.66	30 952 075 954	35 059 587 555	17 701 408 435	18.54
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 203 641 435)	0.69	(7 676 085 347)	0.63	12 454 972 710	13 178 562 052	7 050 530 756	6.43	20 450 304 982	20 854 647 399	10 254 172 191	10.74
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 580 448 134)	0.57	(4 092 844 305)	0.50	4 317 828 669	4 040 406 433	2 116 039 364	1.93	8 956 580 762	8 133 250 738	3 696 487 498	3.87
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	3 941 481	1.01	(98 682 481)	0.84	457 413 245	535 531 324	281 448 844	0.26	706 192 845	634 213 805	277 507 363	0.29
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	114 686 236	1.24	147 155 341	1.15	1 261 643 821	1 118 240 932	600 856 922	0.55	1 099 708 703	971 085 591	486 170 686	0.51
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(568 836 317)	0.80	(1 704 526 964)	0.72	1 989 223 096	4 374 867 218	2 219 478 399	2.03	5 061 861 932	6 079 394 182	2 788 314 716	2.92
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 866 250 055)	0.38	(5 873 519 885)	0.34	2 448 630 505	2 990 881 618	1 740 632 939	1.59	9 100 448 018	8 864 401 503	4 606 882 994	4.83
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 070 520 981)	0.17	(2 255 825 894)	0.15	390 875 052	391 211 288	226 028 580	0.21	2 840 812 866	2 647 037 182	1 296 549 561	1.36
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(461 530 261)	0.53	(1 217 552 734)	0.45	914 541 757	1 009 782 754	530 571 998	0.48	2 576 590 781	2 227 335 488	992 102 259	1.04
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	20 457 446 558	14.92	40 915 341 960	12.35	29 133 289 298	44 520 233 018	21 927 511 898	20.01	3 249 064 597	3 604 891 058	1 470 065 340	1.54
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5 537 576 933	2.13	10 741 137 346	2.03	22 763 374 840	21 125 679 906	10 445 092 409	9.53	10 984 909 665	10 384 542 560	4 907 515 476	5.14
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(10 570 576 454)	0.45	(25 987 003 611)	0.37	14 143 504 873	15 123 298 690	8 519 610 809	7.77	43 971 790 520	41 110 302 301	19 090 187 263	20.00
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	7 715 565 346	2.07	6 013 362 501	1.36	22 143 749 535	22 629 393 134	14 912 552 354	13.61	17 157 379 211	16 616 030 633	7 196 987 008	7.54
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 725 942 669)	0.36	(3 521 878 497)	0.33	1 244 831 442	1 737 544 847	952 077 984	0.87	4 970 199 714	5 259 423 344	2 678 020 653	2.81
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(856 846 975)	0.40	(2 024 068 471)	0.33	1 029 888 316	1 014 633 124	575 107 286	0.52	3 345 880 886	3 038 701 595	1 431 954 261	1.50
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	103 833 022	4.08	149 872 579	3.02	196 226 339	223 988 486	137 529 333	0.13	92 303 076	74 115 907	33 696 311	0.04
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	(117 454 470)	0.68	178 786 083	1.40	423 323 607	629 023 542	254 728 323	0.23	151 796 292	450 237 459	372 182 793	0.39
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(9 089 886 535)	0.00	(18 337 563 482)	0.00	3 202 627	1 493 402	1 375 294	0.00	16 656 380 839	18 339 056 884	9 091 261 829	9.52
Total	Total SA Rand	14 151 806 903	1.15	11 431 099 253	1.06	186 744 018 160	210 493 040 580	109 603 214 329	100.00	196 144 663 065	199 061 941 327	95 451 407 426	100.00

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Cumulative 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total
AFRICA	14 691 794 599	2.15	23 523 178 123	1.85	49 509 077 731	51 076 974 029	27 432 352 683	25.03	22 735 176 078	27 553 795 906	12 740 558 084	13.35
AMERICA	(215 511 944)	0.98	(143 432 650)	0.99	17 057 103 543	19 319 090 939	9 687 301 584	8.84	17 717 700 466	19 462 523 589	9 902 813 528	10.37
ASIA	(10 443 783 279)	0.75	(20 105 298 417)	0.77	61 119 406 620	67 789 703 721	32 098 705 443	29.29	91 792 755 729	87 895 002 138	42 542 488 722	44.57
EUROPE	647 775 358	1.02	(8 694 716 792)	0.86	47 177 415 140	52 343 432 975	29 412 693 943	26.84	60 517 697 016	61 038 149 767	28 764 918 585	30.14
OCEANIA	(249 796 376)	0.78	(764 609 377)	0.69	1 497 754 394	1 690 479 111	902 572 121	0.82	2 828 448 073	2 455 088 488	1 152 368 497	1.21
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	8 887 601 271	26.52	15 641 477 234	24.79	9 705 680 218	16 298 858 673	9 235 861 281	8.43	552 885 703	657 381 439	348 260 010	0.36
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	833 727 274	-	1 974 501 132	-	677 580 514	1 974 501 132	833 727 274	0.76				
Total	14 151 806 903	1.15	11 431 099 253	1.06	186 744 018 160	210 493 040 580	109 603 214 329	100.00	196 144 663 065	199 061 941 327	95 451 407 426	100.00
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020										
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247										

Notes:

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

2) Special Provisions: The 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		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ³⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Cumulative 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(383 416 864)	0.68	(549 473 725)	0.77	1 711 702 226	1 858 055 567	833 361 066	0.85	2 505 469 912	2 407 529 292	1 216 777 930	1.32
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	3 409 654 712	2.82	6 593 320 462	2.91	8 036 891 245	10 050 238 129	5 286 369 762	5.38	3 364 514 301	3 456 917 667	1 876 715 050	2.04
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(663 999 643)	0.13	(1 642 349 149)	0.11	247 631 683	198 771 042	103 272 326	0.11	1 280 870 234	1 841 120 191	767 271 969	0.84
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	315 988 404	1.14	(511 674 132)	0.90	5 259 960 310	4 721 236 538	2 608 188 152	2.65	5 135 069 459	5 232 910 670	2 292 199 748	2.49
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	6 140 998 695	1.35	15 015 481 215	1.43	47 837 816 191	49 921 388 547	23 772 544 810	24.19	30 819 011 557	34 905 907 332	17 631 546 115	19.19
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 840 285 136)	0.61	(8 723 506 969)	0.56	10 420 027 330	11 080 611 839	5 965 935 885	6.07	19 138 381 344	19 804 118 808	9 806 221 021	10.67
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 018 557 205)	0.45	(4 901 151 317)	0.39	3 402 525 866	3 122 775 385	1 626 595 211	1.66	8 857 139 304	8 023 926 702	3 645 152 416	3.97
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(34 499 314)	0.87	(164 056 309)	0.74	379 253 375	456 825 623	236 740 968	0.24	688 802 180	620 881 932	271 240 282	0.30
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	83 058 055	1.24	134 014 550	1.19	984 130 979	837 811 644	432 941 082	0.44	846 529 219	703 797 094	349 883 027	0.38
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(793 995 050)	0.71	(2 193 724 303)	0.64	1 469 781 692	3 850 408 221	1 976 946 652	2.01	5 022 580 620	6 044 132 524	2 770 941 702	3.02
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 827 515 093)	0.29	(5 724 625 559)	0.26	1 492 208 276	1 966 427 265	1 151 434 889	1.17	8 188 901 717	7 691 052 824	3 978 949 982	4.33
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 221 151 517)	0.05	(2 513 979 453)	0.04	133 669 680	112 136 078	62 798 852	0.06	2 819 221 318	2 626 115 531	1 283 950 369	1.40
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(607 105 196)	0.38	(1 499 240 939)	0.32	644 957 743	711 323 130	376 947 737	0.38	2 556 752 003	2 210 564 069	984 052 933	1.07
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	21 159 407 312	28.95	42 400 283 825	22.17	28 643 112 295	44 403 134 613	21 916 457 937	22.30	1 979 093 890	2 002 850 788	757 050 625	0.82
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4 884 072 277	2.02	9 618 589 877	1.95	21 426 483 870	19 756 356 329	9 661 484 825	9.83	10 690 040 776	10 137 766 452	4 777 412 548	5.20
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(11 825 479 162)	0.37	(28 209 891 791)	0.30	11 202 667 177	12 095 215 857	6 881 898 931	7.00	43 290 567 805	40 305 107 648	18 707 378 093	20.36
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	6 720 243 586	1.94	4 203 889 674	1.26	20 310 831 509	20 677 277 573	13 889 165 157	14.13	17 066 050 237	16 473 387 899	7 168 921 571	7.80
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 862 885 764)	0.30	(3 779 973 070)	0.28	970 060 350	1 463 706 455	809 382 568	0.82	4 962 279 251	5 243 679 525	2 672 268 332	2.91
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 135 789 069)	0.20	(2 523 463 518)	0.16	542 912 376	494 137 812	284 696 086	0.29	3 324 438 372	3 017 601 330	1 420 485 155	1.55
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	102 647 719	4.05	148 352 687	3.00	195 734 647	222 417 220	136 294 137	0.14	92 247 803	74 064 533	33 646 418	0.04
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	(119 056 434)	0.68	174 615 716	1.39	411 599 642	621 318 648	251 541 662	0.26	146 259 713	446 702 932	370 598 096	0.40
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(9 089 886 535)	0.00	(18 337 563 482)	0.00	3 202 365	1 493 402	1 375 294	0.00	16 656 380 839	18 339 056 884	9 091 261 829	9.90
Total	Total SA Rand	6 392 448 778	1.07	(2 986 125 710)	0.98	165 727 160 827	188 623 066 917	98 266 373 989	100.00	189 430 601 854	191 609 192 627	91 873 925 211	100.00

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
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AFRICA	6 932 436 474	1.76	9 105 953 160	1.45	28 492 220 398	29 207 000 366	16 095 512 343	16.38	16 021 114 867	20 101 047 206	9 163 075 869	9.97
AMERICA	(215 511 944)	0.98	(143 432 650)	0.99	17 057 103 543	19 319 090 939	9 687 301 584	9.86	17 717 700 466	19 462 523 589	9 902 813 528	10.78
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	833 727 274	-	1 974 501 132	-	677 580 514	1 974 501 132	833 727 274	0.85	-	-	-	-
Total	6 392 448 778	1.07	(2 986 125 710)	0.98	165 727 160 827	188 623 066 917	98 266 373 989	100.00	189 430 601 854	191 609 192 627	91 873 925 211	100.00
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020										
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247										

Notes:

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

2) Special Provisions: The 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 for February 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R7.76 billion.

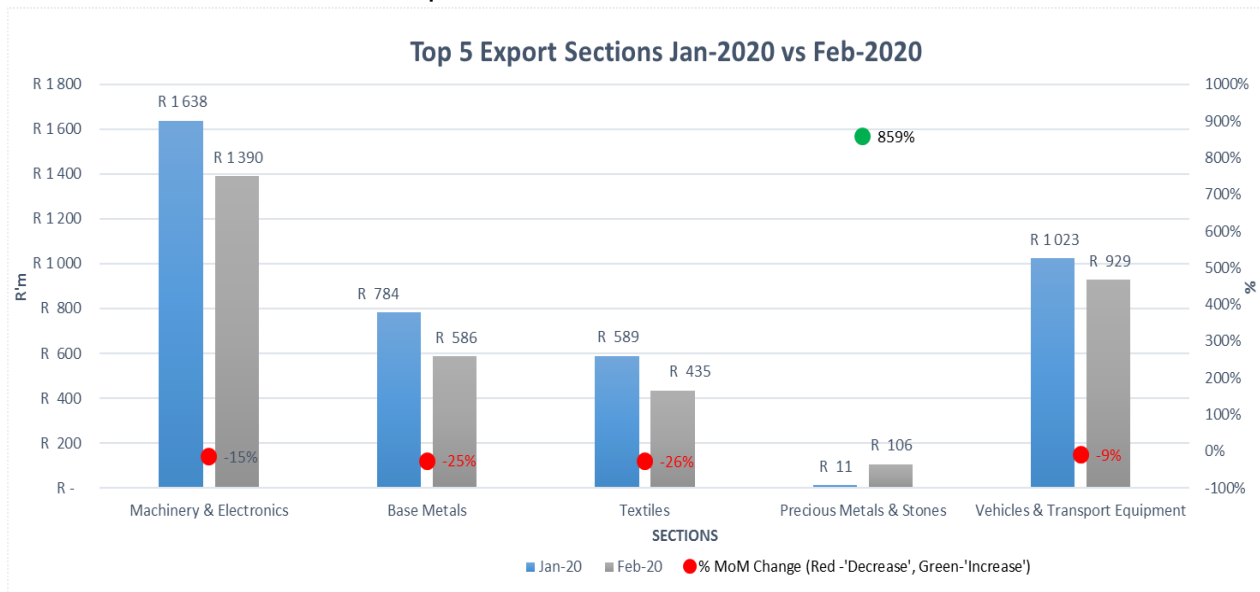
Summary

The R7.76 billion surplus for February 2020 is as a result of exports of R11.34 billion and imports of R3.58 billion. Exports increased from January 2020 to February 2020 by R0.80 billion (7.6%) and imports decreased from January 2020 to February 2020 by R0.30 billion (7.7%).

The cumulative surplus for 2020 is R14.42 billion compared to R14.30 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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