

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 31 August 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for July 2020

Pretoria, 31 August 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for July 2020 recording a trade surplus of R37.42 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 July 2020) trade surplus of R95.56 billion is an improvement from the R8.64 billion deficit for the comparable period in 2019. Exports increased by 9.4% year-on-year whilst imports declined by 26.5% over the same period.

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

The R37.42 billion trade surplus for July 2020 is attributable to exports of R122.49 billion and imports of R85.07 billion. Exports increased by R7.06 billion (6.1%) between June and July 2020 and imports increased by R15.37 billion (22.1%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 July 2020) decreased by 1.0% to R717.18 billion from R724.43 billion over the same period during 2019. Imports for the year-to-date of R621.62 billion were 15.2% less than the R733.07 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019. The cumulative trade surplus for 2020 is R95.56 billion.

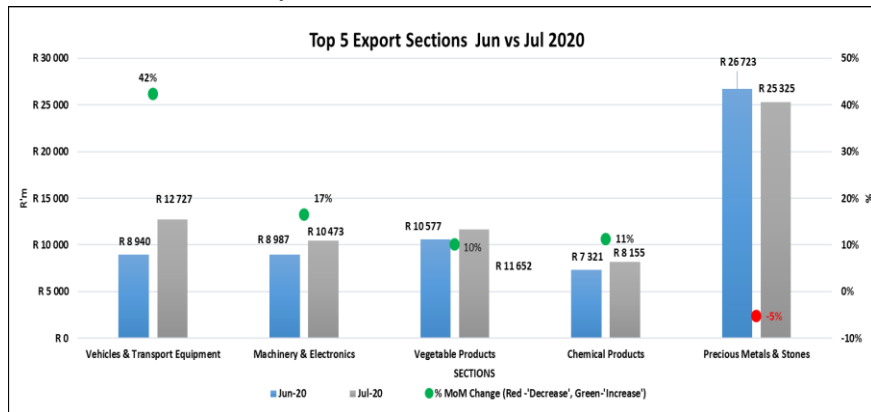
On a year-on-year basis, the R37.42 billion trade surplus for July 2020 was an improvement from the R3.86 billion deficit recorded in July 2019. Exports of R122.49 billion were 9.4% more than the R111.92 billion exports recorded in July 2019. Imports of R85.07 billion were 26.5% less than the R115.79 billion imports recorded in July 2019.

June 2020's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.90 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary surplus of R46.63 billion to the revised surplus of R45.73 billion.

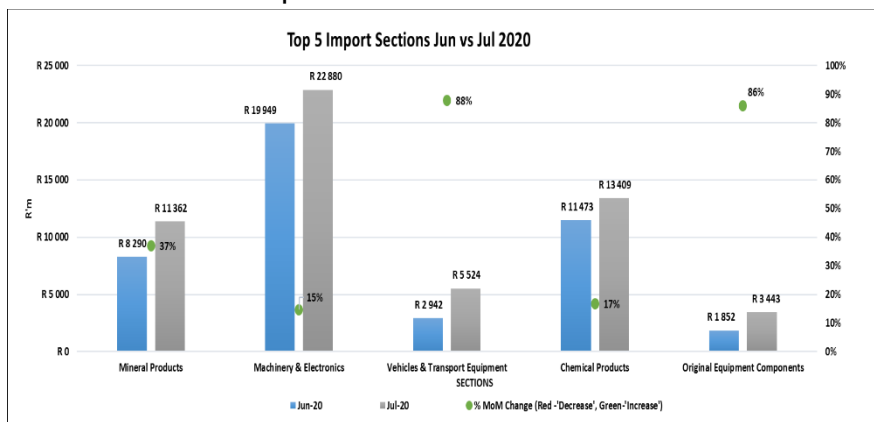
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics July 2020](#)

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 June 2020 (revised) to July 2020 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	June 2020	July 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 277	28 686	408	1.4%
	Imports	7 293	9 554	2 261	31.0%
	Trade Balance	20 985	19 132	-1 853	
America	Exports	8 978	11 221	2 244	25.0%
	Imports	8 022	8 463	440	5.5%
	Trade Balance	955	2 759	1 803	
Asia	Exports	37 231	36 920	-311	-0.8%
	Imports	33 484	37 675	4 191	12.5%
	Trade Balance	3 748	-755	-4 502	
Europe	Exports	28 354	34 450	6 096	21.5%
	Imports	19 583	28 035	8 451	43.2%
	Trade Balance	8 770	6 415	-2 355	
Oceania	Exports	1 030	1 278	248	24.1%
	Imports	1 269	1 225	-44	-3.5%
	Trade Balance	-239	53	292	
Other Unclassified	Exports	10 564	9 608	-957	-9.1%
	Imports	43	115	72	167.4%
	Trade Balance	10 521	9 493	-1 029	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	990	326	-664	-67.0%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	990	326	-664	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for July 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R29.68 billion.

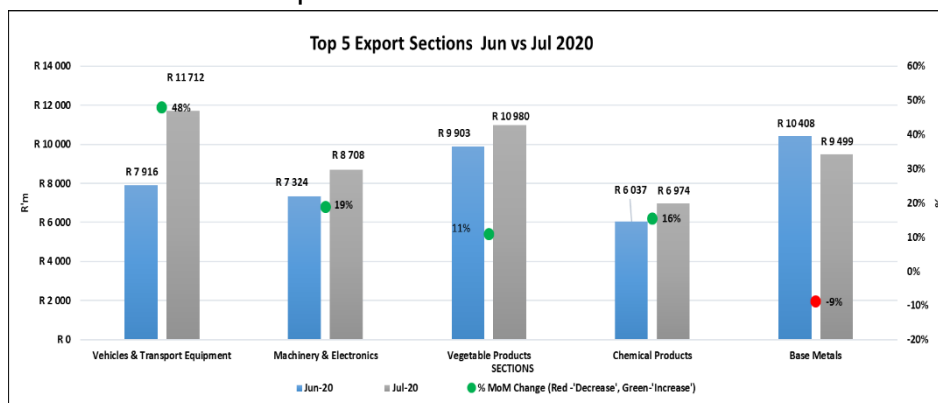
Summary

The R29.68 billion surplus for July 2020 was as a result of exports of R111.12 billion and imports of R81.44 billion. Exports increased by R6.87 billion (6.6%) between June and July 2020 and imports increased by R14.86 billion (22.3%) over the same period.

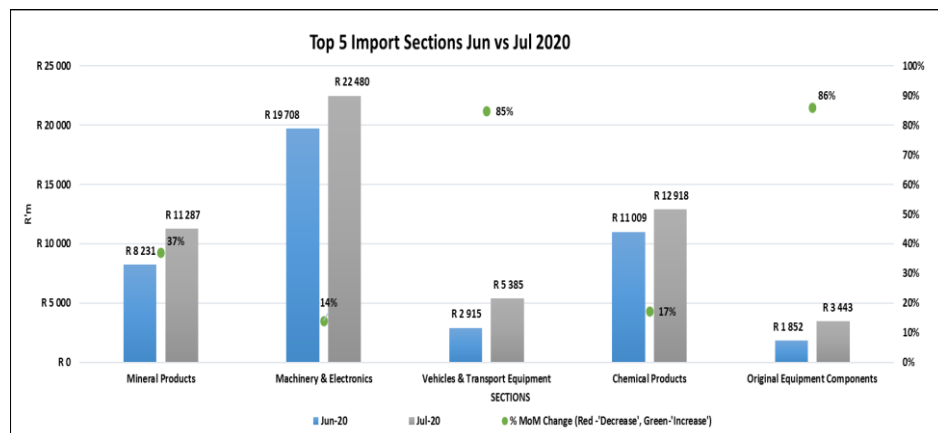
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R48.60 billion compared to R64.02 billion deficit during 2019.

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 June (Revised) and July 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	June 2020	July 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	17 103	17 320	217	↑ 1.3%
	Imports	4 181	5 929	1 747	↑ 41.8%
	Trade Balance	12 922	11 392	-1 530	

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

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	(492 335 272)	0.95	119 794 304	1.09	1.15	8 486 652 964	9 381 222 337	1 402 593 461	1.51	11 779 096 473	9 873 557 609	1 282 799 157
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	37 409 473 497	3.15	9 032 584 536	4.45	9.51	39 256 635 646	54 806 930 524	11 651 608 067	3.08	13 163 508 615	17 397 457 027	2 619 023 531
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 355 155 291)	0.48	246 335 467	1.29	0.91	1 833 893 239	3 077 523 016	1 108 981 307	1.01	5 192 817 903	6 432 678 307	862 645 840
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	9 235 687 336	1.44	2 542 354 809	1.90	4.38	30 724 571 633	30 375 773 465	5 364 871 765	3.32	22 003 785 916	21 140 086 129	2 822 516 956
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	79 142 768 412	1.82	15 169 216 745	2.34	21.66	187 433 971 287	175 779 367 332	26 531 238 928	13.36	130 142 484 152	96 636 598 920	11 362 022 183
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(32 073 876 210)	0.60	(5 254 155 642)	0.61	6.66	46 054 220 617	48 705 644 820	8 154 925 865	15.76	75 149 387 846	80 779 521 030	13 409 081 507
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(12 410 994 665)	0.54	(530 367 348)	0.84	2.22	16 255 161 001	14 279 546 106	2 721 825 196	3.82	30 862 938 261	26 690 540 771	3 252 192 544
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	4 454 796	1.00	72 288 655	1.35	0.23	2 000 750 682	1 469 281 937	276 477 380	0.24	2 078 550 786	1 464 827 141	204 188 725
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 064 860 158	1.40	162 534 610	1.43	0.44	4 633 360 500	3 736 644 391	541 320 700	0.45	3 271 216 469	2 671 784 233	378 786 090
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(4 963 346 312)	0.72	(1 168 346 755)	0.58	1.33	8 325 748 171	12 663 746 030	1 634 555 586	3.29	18 485 243 989	17 627 092 342	2 802 902 341
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(19 995 780 466)	0.32	(1 702 243 182)	0.50	1.37	9 195 635 036	9 368 348 307	1 673 375 302	3.97	27 333 039 357	29 364 128 773	3 375 618 484
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(5 121 847 345)	0.20	(839 024 506)	0.23	0.20	1 591 430 721	1 254 732 149	250 451 099	1.28	8 145 612 323	6 376 579 494	1 089 475 605
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 281 125 992)	0.48	(167 100 375)	0.78	0.47	3 681 638 411	3 082 738 864	577 931 852	0.88	8 617 736 798	6 363 864 856	745 032 227
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	143 527 814 733	17.16	24 310 642 201	24.98	20.67	111 205 938 054	152 409 985 810	25 324 535 331	1.19	9 703 295 901	8 882 171 077	1 013 893 130
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	36 759 004 646	2.17	6 361 849 360	2.60	8.45	84 524 567 640	68 223 949 856	10 344 531 525	4.68	37 592 027 432	31 464 945 210	3 982 682 165
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(91 516 730 455)	0.36	(12 407 153 457)	0.46	8.55	57 893 353 607	50 833 812 033	10 472 845 826	26.90	163 612 803 286	142 350 542 488	22 879 999 283
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	23 170 900 328	1.53	7 203 484 858	2.30	10.39	99 675 205 892	67 030 401 904	12 727 325 254	6.49	67 184 582 606	43 859 501 576	5 523 840 396
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(13 135 174 331)	0.27	(1 915 264 224)	0.28	0.61	4 744 332 801	4 937 301 871	743 776 666	3.13	18 966 505 153	18 072 476 202	2 659 040 890
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(5 181 843 592)	0.40	(574 515 978)	0.55	0.57	4 591 984 548	3 498 128 075	694 836 698	1.49	11 508 815 837	8 679 971 667	1 269 352 676
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	378 296 005	3.65	66 858 841	3.84	0.07	632 993 960	520 977 173	90 370 698	0.03	326 379 191	142 681 168	23 511 857
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 049 473 552	2.52	136 026 817	3.11	0.16	1 677 686 870	1 737 901 183	200 421 103	0.08	608 626 083	688 427 631	64 394 286
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(44 655 930 600)	0.00	(3 441 872 139)	0.00	0.00	6 244 217	2 434 690	701 305	4.05	67 337 878 543	44 658 365 290	3 442 573 444
Total	Total SA Rand	95 558 592 932	1.15	37 423 927 597	1.44	100.00	724 425 977 497	717 176 391 873	122 489 500 914	100.00	733 066 332 920	621 617 798 941	85 065 573 317

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	99 396 536 320	2.38	19 131 956 588	3.00	23.42	192 644 551 459	171 529 399 948	28 685 582 188	11.23	87 274 063 998	72 132 863 628	9 553 625 600
AMERICA	(1 872 696 663)	0.97	2 758 899 699	1.33	9.16	61 495 379 539	60 984 862 195	11 221 474 945	9.95	72 342 087 723	62 857 558 858	8 462 575 246
ASIA	(53 742 340 779)	0.81	(754 668 135)	0.98	30.14	232 486 158 917	229 044 624 019	36 920 199 098	44.29	330 148 565 582	282 786 964 798	37 674 867 233
EUROPE	(8 382 983 750)	0.96	6 415 053 805	1.23	28.12	191 410 291 195	185 510 659 530	34 449 724 759	32.96	230 416 863 485	193 893 643 280	28 034 670 954
OCEANIA	(2 015 168 858)	0.76	53 331 553	1.04	1.04	7 656 412 682	6 548 819 905	1 278 166 704	1.44	10 221 494 139	8 563 988 763	1 224 835 151
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	54 497 118 547	40.41	9 492 904 291	83.55	7.84	35 808 966 886	55 879 898 161	9 607 903 424	0.14	2 663 257 993	1 382 779 614	114 999 133
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	7 678 128 115	-	326 449 796	-	0.27	2 924 216 819	7 678 128 115	326 449 796				
Total	95 558 592 932	1.15	37 423 927 597	1.44	100.00	724 425 977 497	717 176 391 873	122 489 500 914	100.00	733 066 332 920	621 617 798 941	85 065 573 317
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 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					

- 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	(689 333 471)	0.91	34 672 162	1.03	0.98	6 531 835 049	7 403 028 260	1 087 709 767	1.29	9 256 060 996	8 092 361 731	1 053 037 605
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	33 025 552 846	2.95	8 452 850 608	4.34	9.88	34 741 717 630	49 979 831 883	10 980 077 879	3.10	12 788 752 034	16 954 279 037	2 527 227 271
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 326 985 773)	0.33	79 089 365	1.09	0.85	1 044 445 147	2 095 613 870	939 865 975	1.06	5 173 128 433	6 422 599 643	860 776 610
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	4 419 181 938	1.25	1 771 695 813	1.79	3.61	21 447 708 780	21 776 472 488	4 014 653 347	2.75	18 203 487 423	17 357 290 550	2 242 957 534
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	68 584 176 567	1.71	13 514 127 852	2.20	22.32	172 530 705 988	164 751 389 298	24 801 290 835	13.86	129 723 522 306	96 167 212 731	11 287 162 983
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(36 050 061 773)	0.53	(5 944 210 820)	0.54	6.28	38 881 786 176	41 157 378 464	6 974 196 684	15.86	70 772 351 961	77 207 440 237	12 918 407 504
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(15 099 237 320)	0.43	(984 701 913)	0.69	1.99	12 720 483 960	11 291 418 817	2 212 131 741	3.93	30 466 770 880	26 390 656 137	3 196 833 654
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(146 618 169)	0.90	49 934 160	1.25	0.22	1 711 982 579	1 281 213 781	246 607 291	0.24	2 021 529 462	1 427 831 950	196 673 131
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 014 044 589	1.57	155 509 000	1.72	0.33	3 529 891 516	2 797 289 042	371 657 978	0.27	2 297 360 573	1 783 244 453	216 148 978
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(6 441 015 019)	0.63	(1 396 402 395)	0.50	1.25	6 600 346 473	11 083 844 405	1 393 059 648	3.43	18 376 858 217	17 524 859 424	2 789 462 043
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(20 130 904 953)	0.24	(1 689 855 775)	0.41	1.04	5 388 785 764	6 362 680 596	1 157 506 253	3.50	23 795 783 241	26 493 585 549	2 847 362 028
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(5 828 549 418)	0.08	(960 529 833)	0.11	0.11	603 092 406	497 360 096	119 215 965	1.33	8 067 332 407	6 325 909 514	1 079 745 798
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 057 980 625)	0.36	(302 736 403)	0.59	0.39	2 632 882 120	2 264 046 397	432 645 276	0.90	8 548 449 338	6 322 027 022	735 381 679
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	146 831 590 194	38.50	25 020 990 370	98.93	22.75	109 046 507 969	150 746 893 916	25 276 492 492	0.31	5 882 711 291	3 915 303 722	255 502 122
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	33 093 552 884	2.07	5 573 989 543	2.42	8.55	79 394 414 405	63 936 171 425	9 499 246 360	4.82	36 526 150 544	30 842 618 541	3 925 256 817
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(99 178 541 662)	0.29	(13 772 049 455)	0.39	7.84	46 590 683 122	41 272 091 537	8 708 011 848	27.60	160 992 655 637	140 450 633 199	22 480 061 303
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	17 812 898 162	1.41	6 326 475 499	2.17	10.54	91 821 704 630	61 318 768 285	11 711 837 148	6.61	66 304 777 004	43 505 870 123	5 385 361 649
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(14 190 251 377)	0.21	(2 099 939 139)	0.21	0.50	3 734 419 920	3 839 513 947	552 921 204	3.26	18 909 609 386	18 029 765 324	2 652 860 343
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(6 794 334 993)	0.21	(904 625 394)	0.28	0.32	2 590 632 159	1 825 742 166	357 249 723	1.55	11 428 050 251	8 620 077 159	1 261 875 117
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	371 511 845	3.61	66 640 766	3.84	0.08	629 595 175	514 070 403	90 136 479	0.03	325 942 779	142 558 558	23 495 713
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 038 755 718	2.53	134 500 679	3.15	0.18	1 592 910 737	1 717 491 899	196 942 555	0.08	591 951 322	678 736 181	62 441 876
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(44 655 930 825)	0.00	(3 441 872 139)	0.00	0.00	5 573 976	2 434 465	701 305	4.23	67 337 878 543	44 658 365 290	3 442 573 444
Total	Total SA Rand	48 601 519 365	1.08	29 683 552 551	1.36	100.00	643 772 105 681	647 914 745 440	111 124 157 753	100.00	707 791 114 028	599 313 226 075	81 440 605 202

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
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AFRICA	52 439 462 753	2.05	11 391 581 542	2.92	15.59	111 990 679 643	102 267 753 515	17 320 239 027	7.28	61 998 845 106	49 828 290 762	5 928 657 485
AMERICA	(1 872 696 663)	0.97	2 758 899 699	1.33	10.10	61 495 379 539	60 984 862 195	11 221 474 945	10.39	72 342 087 723	62 857 558 858	8 462 575 246
ASIA	(53 742 340 779)	0.81	(754 668 135)	0.98	33.22	232 486 158 917	229 044 624 019	36 920 199 098	46.26	330 148 565 582	282 786 964 798	37 674 867 233
EUROPE	(8 382 983 750)	0.96	6 415 053 805	1.23	31.00	191 410 291 195	185 510 659 530	34 449 724 759	34.42	230 416 863 485	193 893 643 280	28 034 670 954
OCEANIA	(2 015 168 858)	0.76	53 331 553	1.04	1.15	7 656 412 682	6 548 819 905	1 278 166 704	1.50	10 221 494 139	8 563 988 763	1 224 835 151
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	54 497 118 547	40.41	9 492 904 291	83.55	8.65	35 808 966 886	55 879 898 161	9 607 903 424	0.14	2 663 257 993	1 382 779 614	114 999 133
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	7 678 128 115	-	326 449 796	-	0.29	2 924 216 819	7 678 128 115	326 449 796				
Total	48 601 519 365	1.08	29 683 552 551	1.36	100.00	643 772 105 681	647 914 745 440	111 124 157 753	100.00	707 791 114 028	599 313 226 075	81 440 605 202

Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 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

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 July 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R7.74 billion.

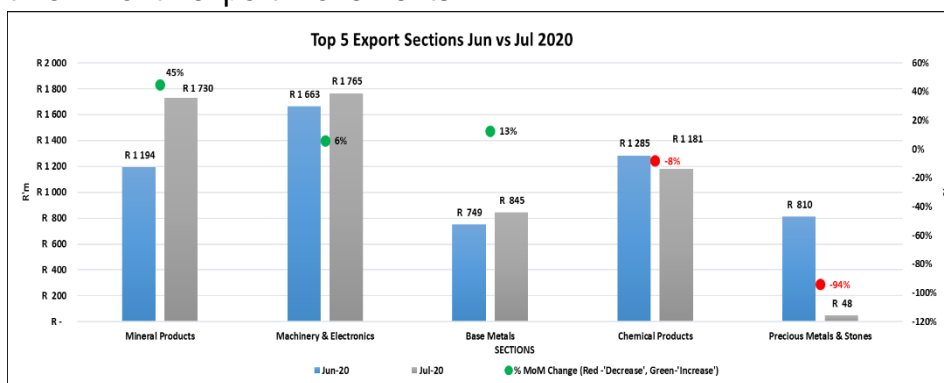
Summary

The R7.74 billion surplus for July 2020 was as a result of exports of R11.36 billion and imports of R3.62 billion. Exports increased by R0.19 billion (1.7%) between June and July 2020 and imports increased by R0.51 billion (16.5%) over the same period.

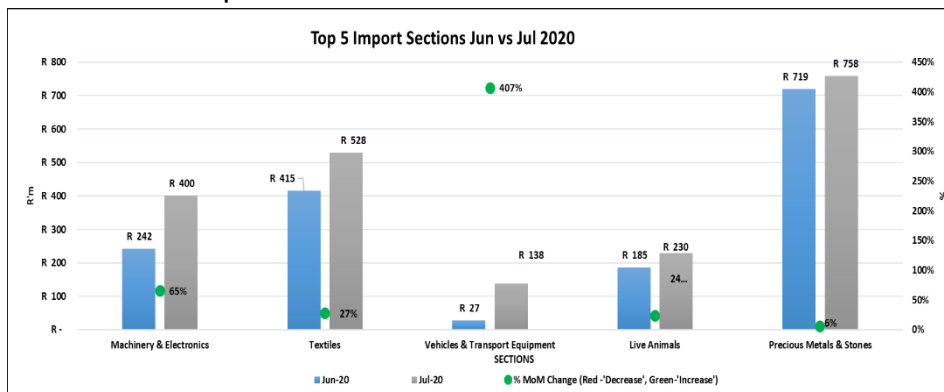
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R46.96 billion compared to R55.38 billion in 2019.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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

ENDS.

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