

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Thursday, 30 April 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for March 2020

Pretoria, 30 April 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for March 2020 recording a trade surplus of R24.25 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2020) trade surplus of R34.93 billion is an improvement from the R5.28 billion deficit for the comparable period in 2019. Exports increased by 13.3% year-on-year whilst imports declined by 6.2% over the same period.

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

The R24.25 billion trade surplus for March 2020 is attributable to exports of R118.45 billion and imports of R94.20 billion. Exports increased from February 2020 to March 2020 by R9.28 billion (8.5%) and imports decreased from February 2020 to March 2020 by R1.26 billion (1.3%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2020) increased by 12.8% from R291.30 billion in 2019 to R328.50 billion in 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R293.57 billion are 1.0% less than the R296.58 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019, leaving a cumulative trade surplus of R34.93 billion.

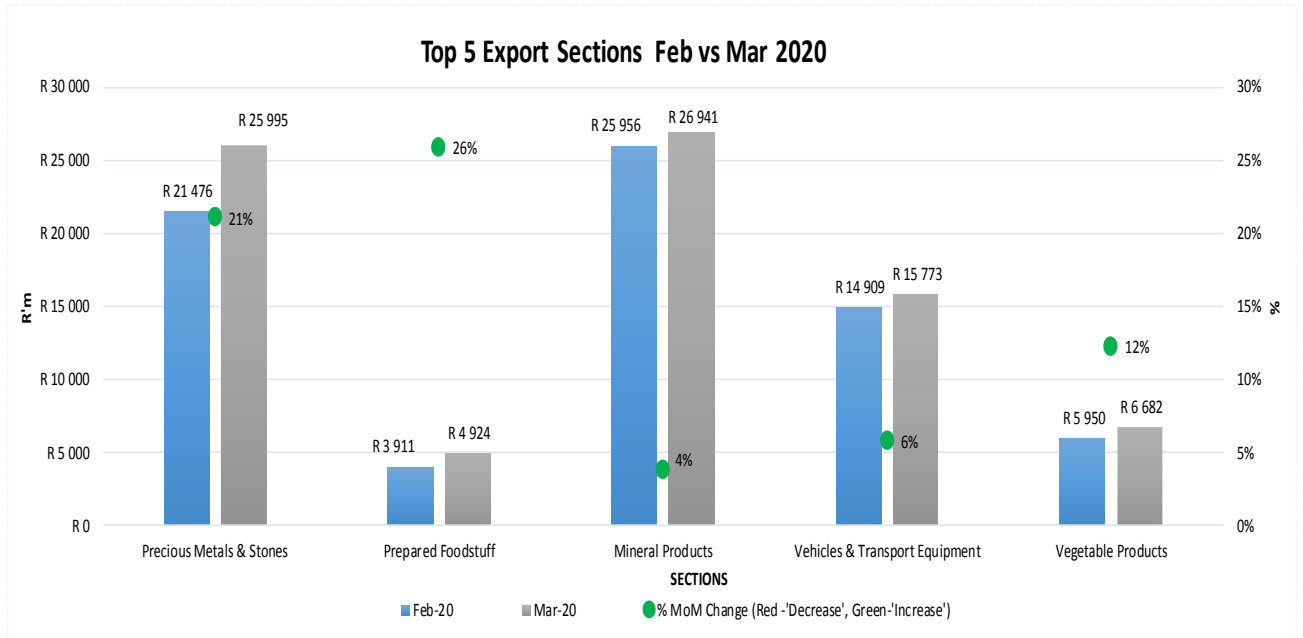
On a year-on-year basis, the R24.25 billion trade surplus for March 2020 is an improvement from the R4.15 billion surplus recorded in March 2019. Exports of R118.45 billion are 13.3% more than the R104.58 billion exports recorded in March 2019. Imports of R94.20 billion are 6.2% less than the R100.43 billion imports recorded in March 2019.

February 2020's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.44 billion. Due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's), the revision was from the preliminary surplus of R14.15 billion to the revised surplus of R13.71 billion.

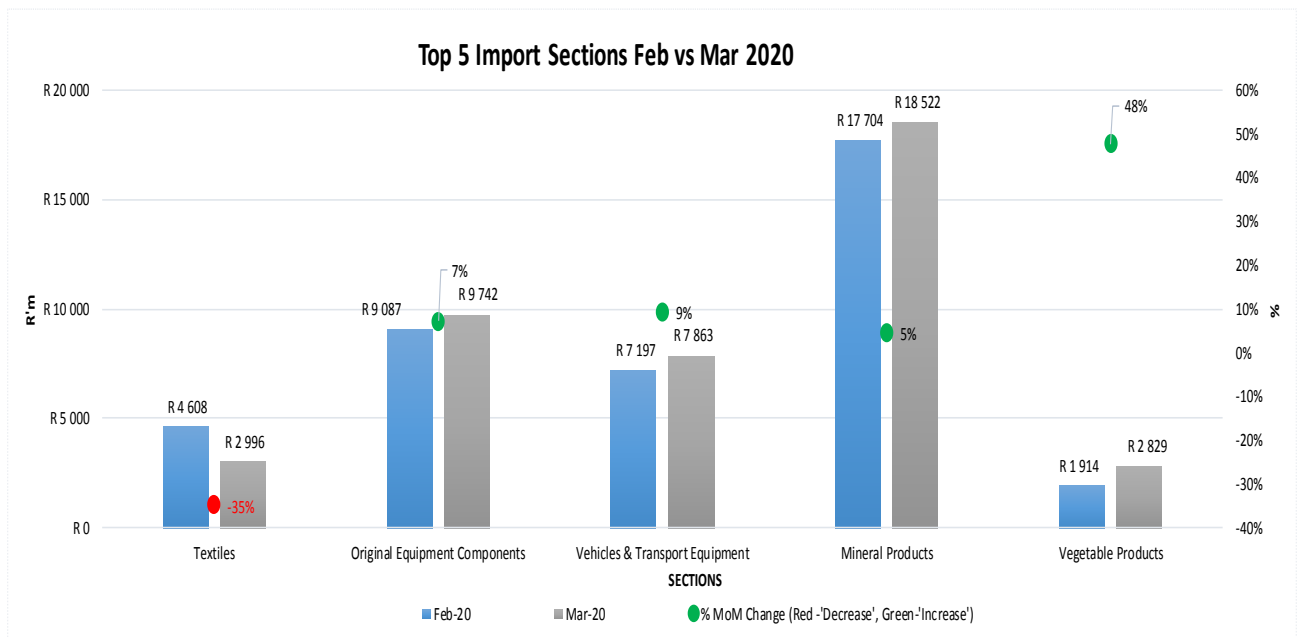
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from February 2020 (revised) to March 2020 are given below.

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2020	March 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	27 429	28 987	1 558	↑ 5.7%
	Imports	12 740	11 968	-772	↓ -6.1%
	Trade Balance	14 689	17 019	2 330	
America	Exports	9 687	9 624	-63	↓ -0.7%
	Imports	9 897	9 510	-387	↓ -3.9%
	Trade Balance	-210	114	324	
Asia	Exports	32 102	31 282	-820	↓ -2.6%
	Imports	42 538	38 061	-4 477	↓ -10.5%
	Trade Balance	-10 436	-6 779	3 658	
Europe	Exports	29 432	35 806	6 374	↑ 21.7%
	Imports	28 781	33 143	4 362	↑ 15.2%
	Trade Balance	651	2 663	2 012	
Oceania	Exports	900	1 311	410	↑ 45.6%
	Imports	1 152	1 427	274	↑ 23.8%
	Trade Balance	-252	-116	136	
Other Unclassified	Exports	8 784	10 700	1 916	↑ 21.8%
	Imports	348	89	-259	↓ -74.4%
	Trade Balance	8 436	10 611	2 175	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	834	735	-98	↓ -11.8%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	834	735	-98	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for March 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R15.84 billion.

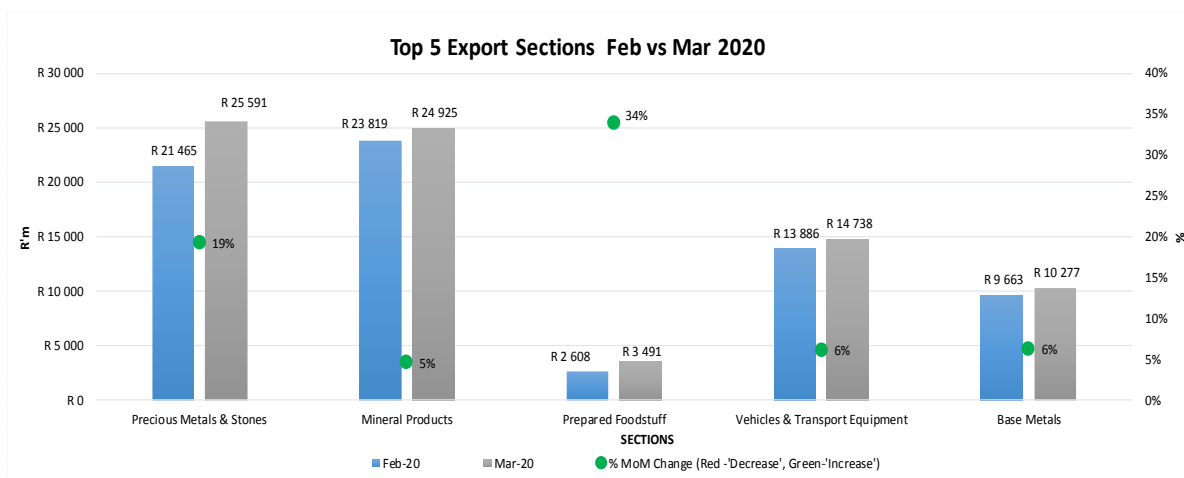
Summary

The R15.84 billion surplus for March 2020 is as a result of exports of R106.40 billion and imports of R90.56 billion. Exports increased from February 2020 to March 2020 by R8.56 billion (8.7%) and imports decreased by R1.32 billion (1.4%) over the same period.

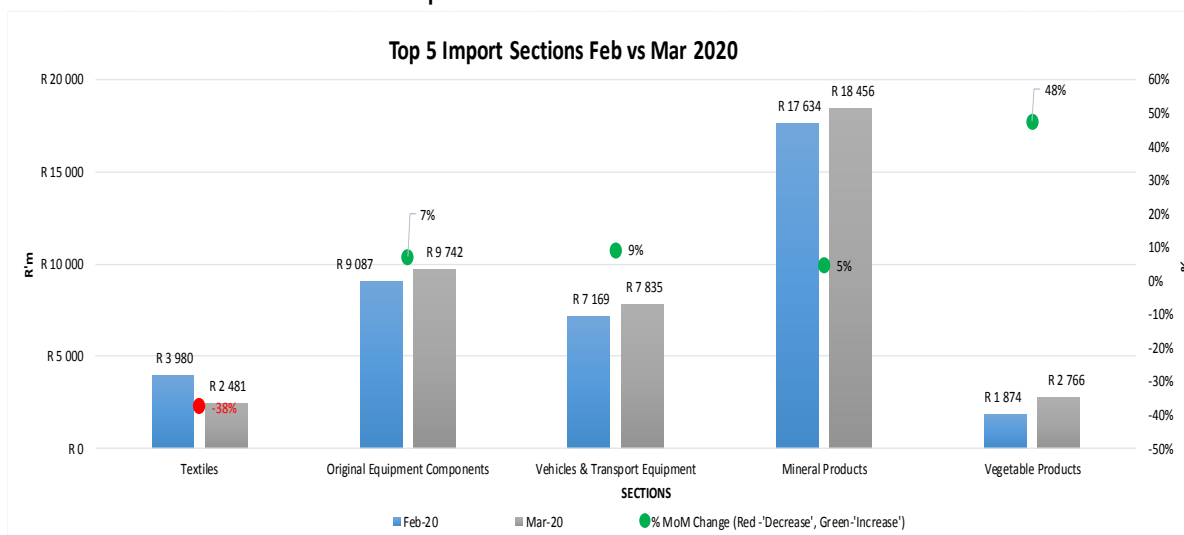
The cumulative surplus for 2020 is R12.13 billion compared to R27.01 billion deficit in 2019.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2020	March 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	16 107	16 944	837	↑ 5.2%
	Imports	9 163	8 329	-834	↓ -9.1%
	Trade Balance	6 944	8 615	-1 671	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics March 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	(140 725 285)	0.92	(744 799 658)	0.84	1.28	3 435 931 933	3 942 249 861	1 520 341 847	1.76	4 702 706 201	4 687 049 519	1 661 067 132
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	3 852 975 666	2.36	11 763 062 589	2.85	5.64	14 093 767 092	18 125 566 252	6 681 746 561	3.00	5 187 328 271	6 362 503 663	2 828 770 895
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(652 429 329)	0.37	(2 067 268 314)	0.28	0.33	712 344 533	812 795 462	385 486 285	1.10	2 047 246 833	2 880 063 776	1 037 915 614
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 713 281 503	1.53	2 753 699 321	1.29	4.16	12 027 766 373	12 272 081 101	4 923 694 423	3.41	8 965 148 835	9 518 381 780	3 210 412 920
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	8 419 664 991	1.45	27 263 172 495	1.51	22.75	79 314 235 667	81 149 559 649	26 941 396 290	19.66	50 239 749 507	53 886 387 154	18 521 731 299
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 409 475 726)	0.69	(11 072 502 113)	0.65	6.28	19 166 661 336	20 636 991 444	7 436 503 935	11.51	31 037 968 417	31 709 493 557	10 845 979 661
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 474 799 396)	0.60	(5 580 385 926)	0.53	1.91	6 680 088 511	6 285 837 749	2 258 256 703	3.96	12 691 423 910	11 866 223 675	3 733 056 099
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	89 031 134	1.54	(9 669 036)	0.99	0.21	772 112 507	789 783 422	254 248 447	0.18	897 940 295	799 452 458	165 217 313
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	304 780 860	1.73	451 786 768	1.33	0.61	1 863 335 940	1 839 943 374	722 319 227	0.44	1 523 594 056	1 388 156 606	417 538 367
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(479 649 747)	0.78	(2 184 962 152)	0.74	1.46	2 861 409 544	6 109 187 717	1 735 159 725	2.35	7 508 813 959	8 294 149 869	2 214 809 472
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 238 526 024)	0.59	(7 113 347 297)	0.40	1.48	3 902 314 174	4 747 978 545	1 757 842 602	3.18	12 449 344 334	11 861 325 842	2 996 368 626
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(431 892 324)	0.37	(2 687 848 726)	0.19	0.21	660 759 331	645 031 889	253 842 983	0.73	3 648 180 123	3 332 880 615	685 735 307
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(283 025 064)	0.66	(1 500 504 163)	0.51	0.47	1 467 153 865	1 569 167 670	559 387 040	0.89	3 628 471 322	3 069 671 833	842 412 104
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	25 171 594 277	31.58	65 635 225 839	15.82	21.95	45 250 512 382	70 063 490 176	25 994 820 225	0.87	4 750 027 566	4 428 264 337	823 225 948
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 706 889 664	2.57	17 448 888 399	2.19	9.28	34 639 045 801	32 114 971 483	10 989 344 417	4.55	15 763 846 371	14 666 083 084	4 282 454 753
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(10 038 907 891)	0.46	(36 023 436 907)	0.40	7.13	22 577 797 534	23 566 639 975	8 442 491 413	19.62	64 484 424 688	59 590 076 882	18 481 399 304
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	7 910 140 747	2.01	13 916 488 841	1.57	13.32	36 941 379 833	38 396 337 729	15 772 824 166	8.35	26 931 938 226	24 479 848 888	7 862 683 419
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 956 973 797)	0.29	(5 470 342 507)	0.32	0.69	1 968 964 227	2 562 685 752	815 971 409	2.94	7 764 728 938	8 033 028 259	2 772 945 206
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(351 235 395)	0.64	(2 375 923 244)	0.41	0.53	1 944 766 907	1 642 362 865	627 701 734	1.04	4 557 378 180	4 018 286 109	978 937 129
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	56 799 604	2.88	206 672 183	2.98	0.07	284 457 335	310 949 255	86 960 769	0.03	207 438 321	104 277 072	30 161 165
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	222 323 512	4.55	401 009 235	1.78	0.24	728 647 937	913 914 544	284 994 362	0.07	239 057 538	512 905 309	62 670 850
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(9 741 833 141)	0.00	(28 075 513 564)	0.00	0.00	4 356 303	1 565 763	72 361	10.34	27 350 042 005	28 077 079 327	9 741 905 502
Total	Total SA Rand	24 248 008 839	1.26	34 933 502 063	1.12	100.00	291 297 809 065	328 499 091 677	118 445 406 924	100.00	296 576 797 896	293 565 589 614	94 197 398 085

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	17 019 036 167	2.42	40 232 050 426	2.01	24.47	77 629 477 143	80 056 108 756	28 987 326 439	12.71	34 336 087 290	39 824 058 330	11 968 290 272
AMERICA	114 417 626	1.01	(25 367 732)	1.00	8.13	24 776 041 845	28 941 284 988	9 624 182 524	10.10	27 353 806 716	28 966 652 720	9 509 764 898
ASIA	(6 778 785 447)	0.82	(26 866 513 356)	0.79	26.41	94 138 694 441	99 080 178 315	31 282 214 734	40.41	135 119 712 877	125 946 691 671	38 061 000 181
EUROPE	2 663 001 611	1.08	(6 034 473 769)	0.94	30.23	75 669 717 794	88 165 265 195	35 805 524 226	35.18	94 237 739 213	94 199 738 964	33 142 522 615
OCEANIA	(115 743 386)	0.92	(882 585 885)	0.77	1.11	2 544 467 186	2 999 145 568	1 310 846 884	1.51	4 744 629 006	3 881 731 453	1 426 590 270
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	10 610 667 624	119.91	25 800 476 603	35.55	9.03	15 561 271 624	26 547 193 079	10 699 897 473	0.09	784 822 794	746 716 476	89 229 849
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	735 414 644	-	2 709 915 776	-	0.62	978 139 032	2 709 915 776	735 414 644				
Total	24 248 008 839	1.26	34 933 502 063	1.12	100.00	291 297 809 065	328 499 091 677	118 445 406 924	100.00	296 576 797 896	293 565 589 614	94 197 398 085

Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381

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 ³⁾ (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	(42 059 548)	0.97	(591 495 732)	0.84	1.11	2 649 052 407	3 039 132 210	1 181 176 217	1.35	3 739 702 016	3 630 627 942	1 223 235 765
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	3 127 986 737	2.13	9 717 297 210	2.56	5.54	12 140 292 572	15 936 772 584	5 893 586 947	3.05	5 088 675 552	6 219 475 374	2 765 600 210
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(808 819 096)	0.22	(2 451 169 595)	0.15	0.22	403 543 181	427 630 997	228 861 305	1.15	2 043 066 084	2 878 800 592	1 037 680 401
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	878 493 038	1.34	366 865 272	1.05	3.28	8 187 002 996	8 211 666 662	3 490 919 838	2.88	7 467 132 652	7 844 801 390	2 612 426 800
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	6 469 754 447	1.35	21 206 795 710	1.40	23.43	73 614 799 829	74 873 620 584	24 925 445 503	20.38	50 042 693 667	53 666 824 874	18 455 691 056
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 708 788 353)	0.63	(12 419 477 638)	0.58	5.83	16 148 267 378	17 307 005 155	6 204 709 135	10.95	29 000 428 387	29 726 482 793	9 913 497 488
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 946 448 292)	0.47	(6 860 348 863)	0.41	1.63	5 224 652 299	4 849 036 402	1 739 093 433	4.07	12 532 428 276	11 709 385 265	3 685 541 725
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	60 246 721	1.38	(103 830 207)	0.87	0.21	650 026 296	675 531 922	1 379 365 578	0.17	874 985 276	779 362 129	158 458 857
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	268 946 404	1.91	403 026 580	1.40	0.53	1 410 978 975	1 402 324 745	564 844 082	0.33	1 133 670 631	999 298 165	295 897 678
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(725 214 252)	0.67	(2 919 754 441)	0.65	1.38	2 104 031 277	5 319 369 387	1 469 825 837	2.42	7 455 332 873	8 239 123 828	2 195 040 089
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 277 705 460)	0.49	(7 003 596 027)	0.31	1.13	2 340 121 235	3 169 315 780	1 203 574 815	2.74	11 013 928 812	10 172 911 807	2 481 280 275
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(570 451 075)	0.16	(3 084 538 385)	0.07	0.10	229 386 452	219 503 140	107 366 793	0.75	3 616 453 068	3 304 041 525	677 817 868
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(422 209 917)	0.50	(1 921 383 597)	0.37	0.39	1 027 952 940	1 125 324 477	414 009 847	0.92	3 598 341 248	3 046 708 074	836 219 764
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	25 093 340 224	51.37	67 041 913 651	27.80	24.05	44 246 933 057	69 543 060 399	25 591 488 853	0.55	2 821 247 666	2 501 146 748	498 148 629
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 116 427 265	2.47	15 736 157 359	2.10	9.66	32 530 776 321	30 033 264 400	10 276 704 974	4.59	15 246 658 508	14 297 107 041	4 160 277 709
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(11 347 465 548)	0.38	(39 557 512 603)	0.32	6.40	17 955 842 526	18 906 779 770	6 813 343 900	20.05	63 390 085 060	58 464 292 373	18 160 809 448
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	6 903 460 227	1.88	11 100 319 244	1.46	13.85	34 026 532 878	35 409 527 319	14 738 115 567	8.65	26 456 807 495	24 309 208 075	7 834 655 340
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 125 676 894)	0.23	(5 897 152 929)	0.26	0.60	1 544 766 941	2 113 534 991	640 671 792	3.05	7 748 261 218	8 010 687 920	2 766 348 686
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(628 608 887)	0.35	(3 152 722 848)	0.21	0.32	1 187 561 367	832 977 086	338 842 332	1.07	4 523 972 340	3 985 699 934	967 451 219
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	52 766 004	2.75	201 118 691	2.93	0.08	282 705 412	305 297 682	82 880 462	0.03	207 191 073	104 178 991	30 114 458
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	217 796 151	4.62	392 311 507	1.77	0.26	665 296 895	899 210 714	277 995 426	0.07	230 205 652	506 899 207	60 199 275
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(9 741 833 141)	0.00	(28 075 513 564)	0.00	0.00	4 356 041	1 565 763	72 361	10.76	27 350 042 005	28 077 079 327	9 741 905 502
Total	Total SA Rand	15 843 936 755	1.17	12 127 308 795	1.04	100.00	258 574 879 275	294 601 452 169	106 402 234 997	100.00	285 581 309 559	282 474 143 374	90 558 298 242

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ³⁾ (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	8 614 964 083	2.03	17 425 857 158	1.61	15.92	44 906 547 353	46 158 469 248	16 944 154 512	9.20	23 340 598 953	28 732 612 090	8 329 190 429	
AMERICA	114 417 626	1.01	(25 367 732)	1.00	9.05	24 776 041 845	28 941 284 988	9 624 182 524	10.50	27 353 806 716	28 966 652 720	9 509 764 898	
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	735 414 644	-	2 709 915 776	-	0.69	978 139 032	2 709 915 776	735 414 644					
Total	15 843 936 755	1.17	12 127 308 795	1.04	100.00	258 574 879 275	294 601 452 169	106 402 234 997	100.00	285 581 309 559	282 474 143 374	90 558 298 242	
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020										
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381										

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

Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (Only)

Trade statistics with the BELN countries for March 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R8.40 billion.

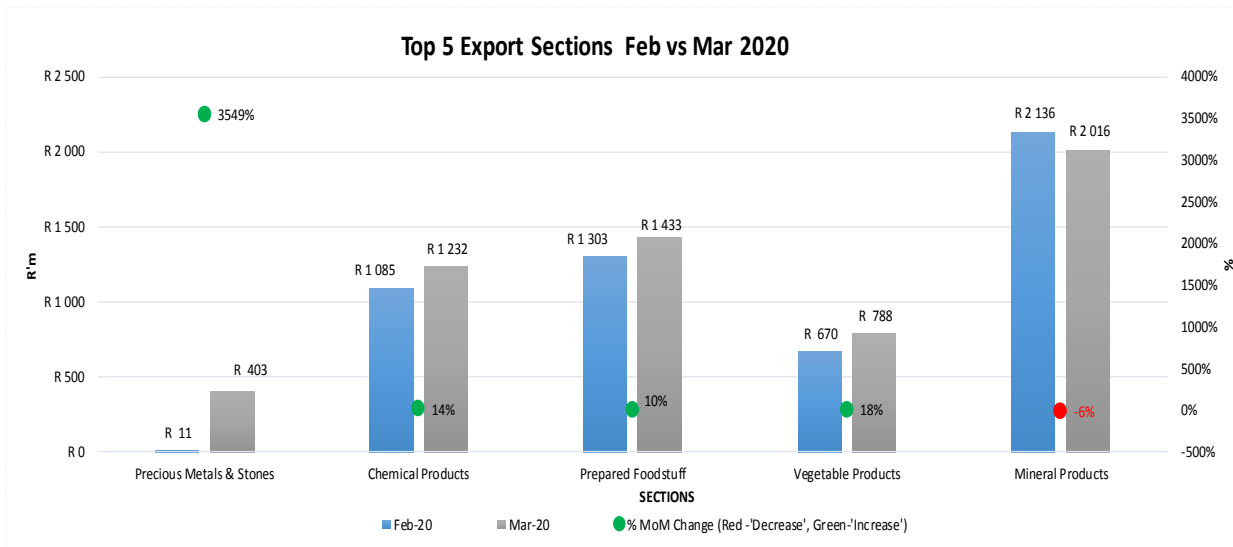
Summary

The R8.40 billion surplus for March 2020 is as a result of exports of R12.04 billion and imports of R3.64 billion. Exports increased from February 2020 to March 2020 by R0.72 billion (6.4%) and imports increased from February 2020 to March 2020 by R0.06 billion (1.7%).

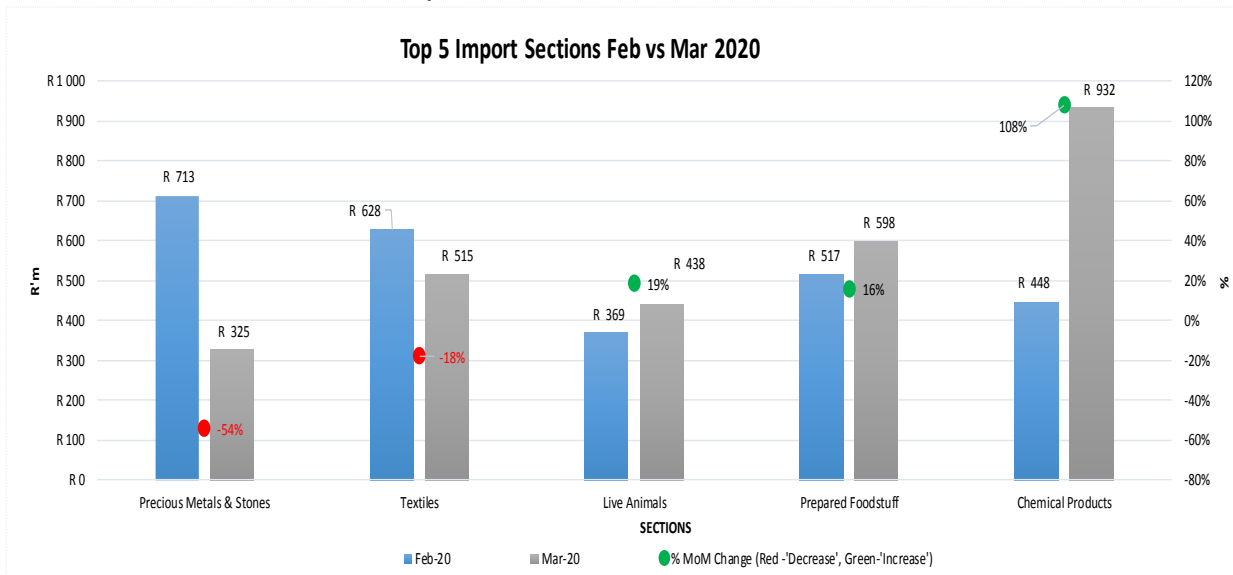
The cumulative surplus for 2020 is R22.81 billion compared to R21.73 billion in 2019.

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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