

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 30 June 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for May 2020

Pretoria, 30 June 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for May 2020 recording a trade surplus of R15.94 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 May 2020) trade surplus of R12.97 billion is an improvement from the R7.22 billion deficit for the comparable period in 2019. Exports decreased by 8.8% year-on-year whilst imports deteriorated by 21.9% over the same period.

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

The R15.94 billion trade surplus for May 2020 is attributable to exports of R101.85 billion and imports of R85.91 billion. Exports increased from April 2020 to May 2020 by R49.92 billion (96.1%) and imports decreased from April 2020 to May 2020 by R1.97 billion (2.2%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 May 2020) decreased by 5.2% from R506.44 billion in 2019 to R480.09 billion in 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R467.12 billion are 9.1% less than the R513.66 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019. The cumulative trade surplus for 2020 is R12.97 billion.

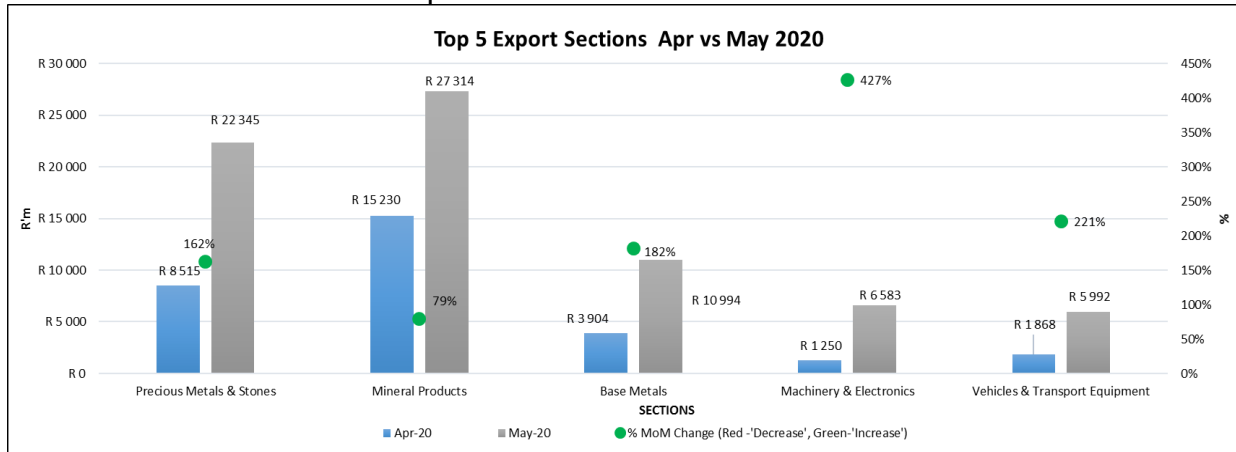
On a year-on-year basis, the R15.94 billion trade surplus for May 2020 is an improvement from the R1.64 billion surplus recorded in May 2019. Exports of R101.86 billion are 8.8% less than the R111.70 billion exports recorded in May 2019. Imports of R85.91 billion are 21.9% less than the R110.06 billion imports recorded in May 2019.

April 2020's trade deficit was revised upwards by R0.93 billion. Due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC), the revision was from the preliminary deficit of R35.02 billion to the revised deficit of R35.95 billion.

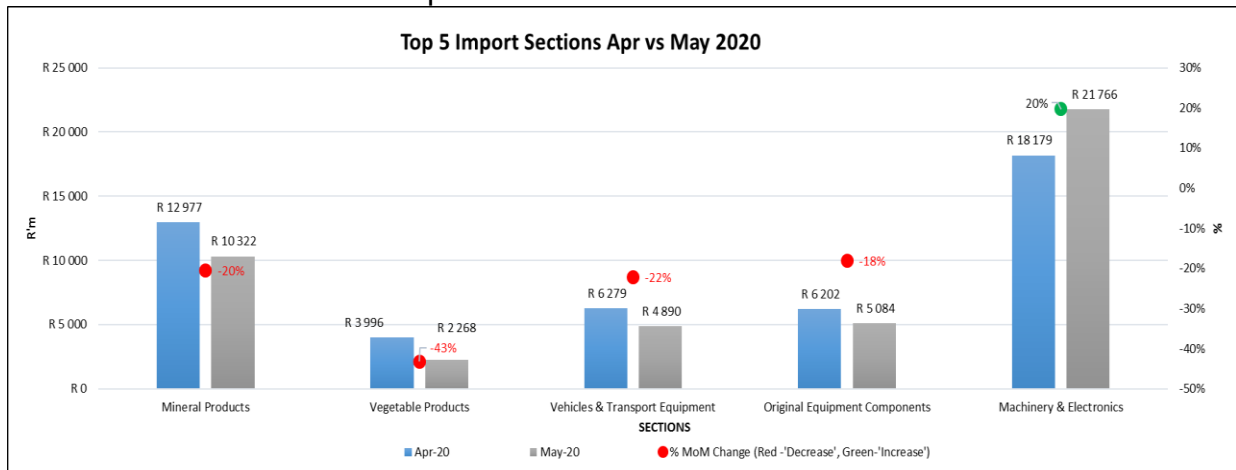
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from April 2020 (revised) to May 2020 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2020	May 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	12 104	22 741	10 637	↑ 87.9%
	Imports	8 091	7 366	-724	↓ -9.0%
	Trade Balance	4 013	15 375	11 361	
America	Exports	4 566	7 433	2 867	↑ 62.8%
	Imports	8 535	8 853	318	↑ 3.7%
	Trade Balance	-3 969	-1 420	2 549	
Asia	Exports	22 625	34 184	11 559	↑ 51.1%
	Imports	42 284	43 631	1 346	↑ 3.2%
	Trade Balance	-19 660	-9 447	10 213	
Europe	Exports	11 137	24 180	13 043	↑ 117.1%
	Imports	27 866	24 485	-3 381	↓ -12.1%
	Trade Balance	-16 730	-306	16 424	
Oceania	Exports	390	875	486	↑ 124.7%
	Imports	1 060	1 127	67	↑ 6.3%
	Trade Balance	-670	-252	419	
Other Unclassified	Exports	737	9 148	8 411	↑ 1141.6%
	Imports	34	444	409	↑ 1188.0%
	Trade Balance	702	8 704	8 002	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	367	3 285	2 918	↑ 795.6%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	367	3 285	2 918	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for May 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R9.89 billion.

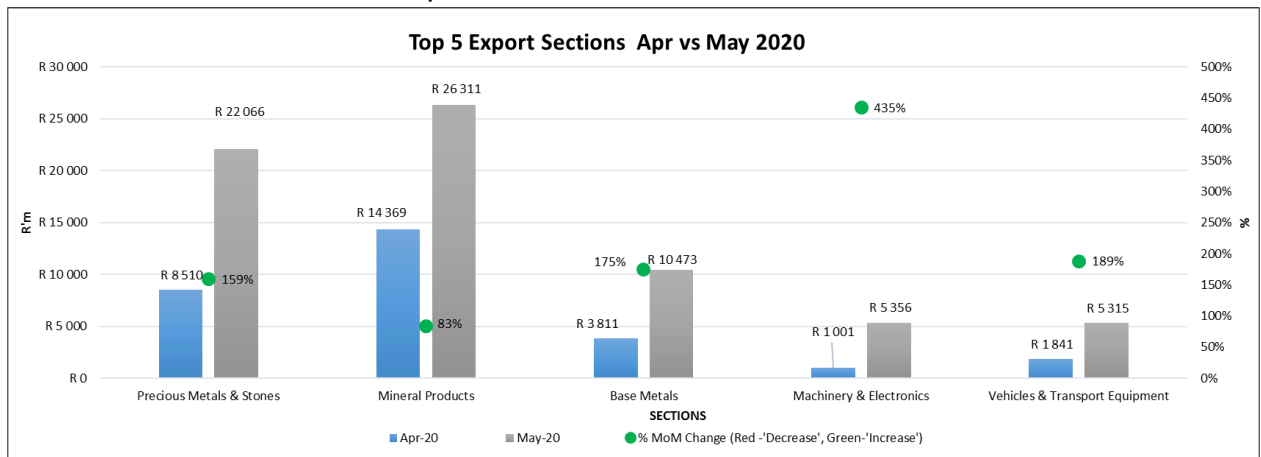
Summary

The R9.89 billion surplus for May 2020 is as a result of exports of R93.33 billion and imports of R83.44 billion. Exports increased from April 2020 to May 2020 by R45.82 billion (96.4%) and imports decreased by R2.42 billion (2.8%) over the same period.

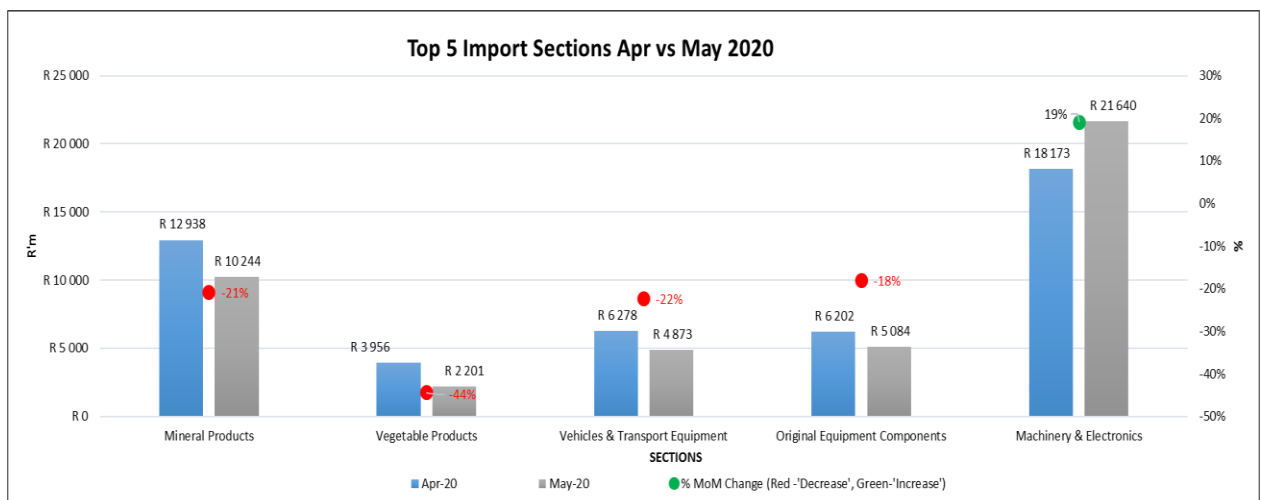
The cumulative deficit for 2020 is R18.25 billion compared to R45.58 billion deficit during 2019.

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, from April 2020 (Revised) to May 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2020	May 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	7 693	14 231	6 537	 85.0%
	Imports	6 084	4 901	-1 184	 -19.5%
	Trade Balance	1 609	9 330	7 721	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics May 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	7 833 492	1.01	(967 989 486)	0.87	1.35	6 069 786 159	6 542 675 548	1 371 750 773	1.59	8 220 712 584	7 510 665 034	1 363 917 281
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	5 389 129 461	3.38	19 961 399 765	2.58	7.52	24 226 660 009	32 586 749 879	7 657 521 226	2.64	9 622 881 256	12 625 350 114	2 268 391 765
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(743 925 725)	0.37	(3 296 381 321)	0.33	0.43	1 287 768 740	1 628 378 476	433 380 754	1.37	3 609 089 397	4 924 759 797	1 177 306 479
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 259 124 388	1.43	4 502 214 454	1.29	4.14	21 649 705 964	20 256 915 227	4 217 736 512	3.44	15 610 037 264	15 754 700 773	2 958 612 124
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	16 992 751 449	2.65	46 056 667 686	1.60	26.82	134 940 085 743	123 194 185 548	27 314 432 976	12.02	90 129 021 872	77 137 517 862	10 321 681 527
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(4 573 517 396)	0.63	(22 665 864 183)	0.59	7.74	32 774 270 048	33 267 098 365	7 887 476 948	14.51	53 834 305 966	55 932 962 548	12 460 994 344
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 759 767 746)	0.53	(10 733 869 283)	0.47	1.97	11 656 798 267	9 363 583 112	2 010 107 771	4.39	21 868 400 371	20 097 452 395	3 769 875 517
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	25 221 273	1.18	(84 256 618)	0.92	0.16	1 445 853 050	1 013 353 941	163 675 107	0.16	1 420 235 777	1 097 610 559	138 453 834
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	86 902 829	1.27	429 137 089	1.21	0.40	3 374 174 820	2 458 634 438	405 221 608	0.37	2 408 860 014	2 029 497 349	318 318 779
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(721 290 609)	0.69	(2 982 992 489)	0.76	1.61	4 815 909 114	9 364 015 702	1 636 159 222	2.74	12 614 280 494	12 347 008 191	2 357 449 831
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(4 591 974 116)	0.20	(17 080 658 093)	0.27	1.14	6 765 389 118	6 232 272 572	1 159 148 130	6.69	19 866 526 339	23 312 930 665	5 751 122 246
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(310 652 271)	0.34	(3 766 378 032)	0.18	0.16	1 160 457 459	828 792 505	159 525 119	0.55	5 623 720 107	4 595 170 537	470 177 390
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(381 969 063)	0.49	(2 910 868 071)	0.41	0.36	2 597 267 519	1 996 218 132	371 245 731	0.88	6 186 675 419	4 907 086 203	753 214 794
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	21 080 419 853	17.67	93 758 383 381	15.22	21.94	77 086 571 396	100 352 863 654	22 345 048 642	1.47	7 383 259 966	6 594 480 273	1 264 628 789
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6 302 351 688	2.34	22 811 776 925	1.95	10.79	60 904 864 319	46 765 328 428	10 993 547 315	5.46	26 810 061 093	23 953 551 503	4 691 195 627
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(15 182 600 962)	0.30	(68 158 762 101)	0.32	6.46	39 945 074 472	31 383 986 559	6 583 401 619	25.34	114 554 551 882	99 542 748 660	21 766 002 581
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	1 102 309 652	1.23	10 076 527 723	1.28	5.88	67 433 073 201	45 537 733 693	5 992 030 064	5.69	46 022 706 607	35 461 205 970	4 889 720 412
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 430 520 618)	0.19	(9 596 380 279)	0.26	0.55	3 346 269 901	3 378 445 982	562 928 318	3.48	13 290 701 637	12 974 826 261	2 993 448 936
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(621 279 733)	0.42	(4 029 365 301)	0.36	0.44	3 266 126 140	2 227 446 838	444 582 517	1.24	7 951 060 694	6 256 812 139	1 065 862 250
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	23 052 477	8.80	220 299 085	2.88	0.03	477 740 515	337 308 614	26 009 057	0.00	254 175 073	117 009 529	2 956 580
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	72 011 756	2.88	789 703 531	2.36	0.11	1 212 308 750	1 370 097 604	110 282 105	0.04	456 307 750	580 394 073	38 270 349
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(5 084 322 083)	0.00	(39 363 325 851)	0.00	0.00	5 328 967	1 587 659	21 896	5.92	45 924 664 267	39 364 913 510	5 084 343 979
Total	Total SA Rand	15 939 287 996	1.19	12 969 018 531	1.03	100.00	506 441 483 671	480 087 672 476	101 845 233 410	100.00	513 662 235 829	467 118 653 945	85 905 945 414

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports				
	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)	
AFRICA	15 374 624 981	3.09	59 542 763 840	2.08	22.33	135 025 981 414	114 823 273 935	22 740 994 763	8.57	60 986 399 484	55 280 510 095	7 366 369 782	
AMERICA	(1 420 022 172)	0.84	(5 542 713 150)	0.88	7.30	44 099 755 361	40 813 288 686	7 433 219 261	10.31	50 750 237 034	46 356 001 836	8 853 241 433	
ASIA	(9 446 794 407)	0.78	(56 699 083 882)	0.73	33.56	163 796 685 242	155 123 694 807	34 183 715 175	50.79	231 508 424 768	211 822 778 689	43 630 509 582	
EUROPE	(305 569 386)	0.99	(23 565 705 041)	0.84	23.74	132 834 117 705	122 801 213 841	24 179 642 288	28.50	160 691 471 395	146 366 918 882	24 485 211 674	
OCEANIA	(251 658 573)	0.78	(1 805 597 460)	0.70	0.86	4 984 275 607	4 262 118 097	875 390 520	1.31	7 857 205 692	6 067 715 557	1 127 049 093	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	8 704 143 417	20.62	34 678 180 430	29.31	8.98	24 147 469 396	35 902 909 316	9 147 707 267	0.52	1 868 497 456	1 224 728 886	443 563 850	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 284 564 136	-	6 361 173 794	-	3.23	1 553 198 946	6 361 173 794	3 284 564 136					
Total	15 939 287 996	1.19	12 969 018 531	1.03	100.00	506 441 483 671	480 087 672 476	101 845 233 410	100.00	513 662 235 829	467 118 653 945	85 905 945 414	
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020								
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381	11 950 974 198	10 547 791 565								

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		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	(91 057 130)	0.93	(986 188 087)	0.84	1.21	4 691 213 558	5 164 063 231	1 126 228 320	1.46	6 420 177 413	6 150 251 318	1 217 285 450
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	4 801 805 911	3.18	16 732 097 699	2.35	7.50	20 986 920 353	29 106 614 154	7 002 394 902	2.64	9 401 347 697	12 374 516 455	2 200 588 991
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(892 793 416)	0.24	(3 965 865 992)	0.19	0.30	742 846 566	954 918 072	282 403 295	1.41	3 597 860 621	4 920 784 064	1 175 196 711
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	716 339 254	1.29	1 174 300 047	1.09	3.38	15 084 391 531	14 286 802 206	3 152 537 950	2.92	12 977 020 714	13 112 502 159	2 436 198 696
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	16 067 501 291	2.57	38 258 743 950	1.50	28.19	124 990 435 276	115 059 726 823	26 311 417 784	12.28	89 809 939 304	76 800 982 873	10 243 916 493
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(5 354 559 410)	0.56	(25 147 747 851)	0.53	7.31	27 700 241 474	28 167 305 550	6 823 420 029	14.59	50 567 279 794	53 315 053 401	12 177 979 439
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 114 138 261)	0.43	(12 540 985 461)	0.37	1.74	9 151 206 983	7 360 488 977	1 625 714 929	4.48	21 585 965 112	19 901 474 438	3 739 853 190
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	11 571 842	1.08	(193 528 581)	0.82	0.16	1 241 805 147	883 904 604	149 823 636	0.17	1 380 721 188	1 077 433 185	138 251 794
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	116 711 710	1.63	379 382 921	1.26	0.32	2 599 297 257	1 830 712 584	300 869 493	0.22	1 741 727 579	1 451 329 663	184 157 783
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(880 432 663)	0.62	(4 002 688 891)	0.67	1.56	3 572 699 576	8 266 148 603	1 458 497 330	2.80	12 532 816 928	12 268 837 494	2 338 929 993
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(4 767 375 443)	0.14	(17 194 938 826)	0.20	0.82	4 013 483 845	4 190 376 979	768 192 086	6.63	17 406 711 215	21 385 315 805	5 535 567 529
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(395 722 345)	0.15	(4 250 874 800)	0.07	0.08	434 220 036	312 510 980	71 529 824	0.56	5 568 370 878	4 563 385 780	467 252 169
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(472 932 885)	0.37	(3 431 480 960)	0.30	0.30	1 856 341 655	1 449 852 023	277 496 009	0.90	6 134 569 698	4 881 332 983	750 428 894
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	21 505 211 164	39.35	96 443 330 038	32.06	23.64	75 657 327 210	99 548 061 220	22 065 903 644	0.67	4 499 922 948	3 104 731 182	560 692 480
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5 883 986 979	2.28	20 590 520 853	1.88	11.22	57 289 397 233	44 071 105 661	10 472 992 001	5.50	26 019 302 016	23 480 584 808	4 589 005 022
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(16 284 269 497)	0.25	(73 037 464 760)	0.26	5.74	32 000 166 304	25 247 082 083	5 355 572 005	25.93	112 756 509 492	98 284 546 843	21 639 841 502
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	441 415 948	1.09	6 589 044 445	1.19	5.69	61 788 458 831	41 861 879 438	5 314 890 468	5.84	45 367 570 472	35 272 834 993	4 873 474 520
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 617 685 583)	0.12	(10 274 820 127)	0.21	0.40	2 641 854 406	2 668 554 028	371 144 092	3.58	13 251 980 511	12 943 374 155	2 988 829 675
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(789 748 838)	0.25	(5 023 929 329)	0.19	0.29	1 897 150 312	1 186 523 173	268 060 725	1.27	7 893 610 601	6 210 452 502	1 057 809 563
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	23 007 213	8.78	214 700 329	2.84	0.03	475 133 040	331 611 777	25 963 793	0.00	253 786 845	116 911 448	2 956 580
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	72 066 454	2.91	781 049 883	2.36	0.12	1 136 873 237	1 354 956 042	109 855 941	0.05	444 146 985	573 906 159	37 789 487
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(5 084 322 083)	0.00	(39 363 325 851)	0.00	0.00	5 307 060	1 587 659	21 896	6.09	45 924 664 267	39 364 913 510	5 084 343 979
Total	Total SA Rand	9 894 580 212	1.12	(18 250 669 351)	0.96	100.00	449 956 770 890	433 304 785 867	93 334 930 152	100.00	495 536 002 278	451 555 455 218	83 440 349 940

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports				
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AFRICA	9 329 917 197	2.90	28 323 075 958	1.71	15.25	78 541 268 633	68 040 387 326	14 230 691 505	5.87	42 860 165 933	39 717 311 368	4 900 774 308	
AMERICA	(1 420 022 172)	0.84	(5 542 713 150)	0.88	7.96	44 099 755 361	40 813 288 686	7 433 219 261	10.61	50 750 237 034	46 356 001 836	8 853 241 433	
ASIA	(9 446 794 407)	0.78	(56 699 083 882)	0.73	36.62	163 796 685 242	155 123 694 807	34 183 715 175	52.29	231 508 424 768	211 822 778 689	43 630 509 582	
EUROPE	(305 569 386)	0.99	(23 565 705 041)	0.84	25.91	132 834 117 705	122 801 213 841	24 179 642 288	29.34	160 691 471 395	146 366 918 882	24 485 211 674	
OCEANIA	(251 658 573)	0.78	(1 805 597 460)	0.70	0.94	4 984 275 607	4 262 118 097	875 390 520	1.35	7 857 205 692	6 067 715 557	1 127 049 093	
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 284 564 136	-	6 361 173 794	-	3.52	1 553 198 946	6 361 173 794	3 284 564 136					
Total	9 894 580 212	1.12	(18 250 669 351)	0.96	100.00	449 956 770 890	433 304 785 867	93 334 930 152	100.00	495 536 002 278	451 555 455 218	83 440 349 940	
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020								
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381	11 950 974 198	10 547 791 565								

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 May 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R6.04 billion.

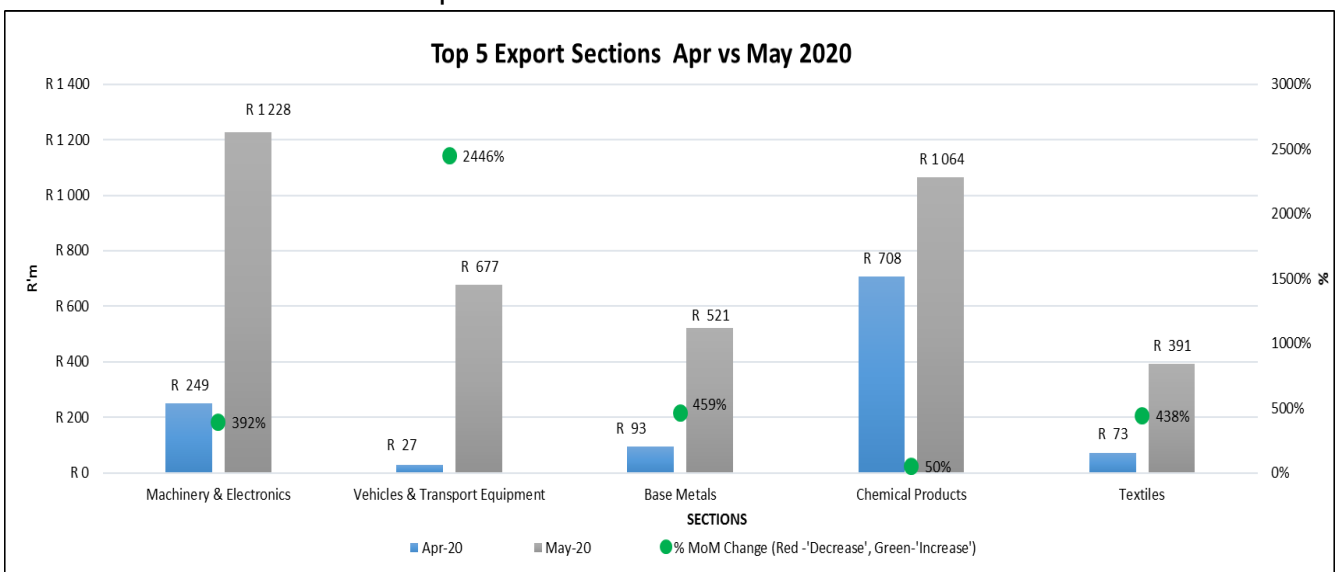
Summary

The R6.04 billion surplus for May 2020 is as a result of exports of R8.51 billion and imports of R2.47 billion. Exports increased from April 2020 to May 2020 by R4.10 billion (92.9%) and imports increased from April 2020 to May 2020 by R0.46 billion (22.9%).

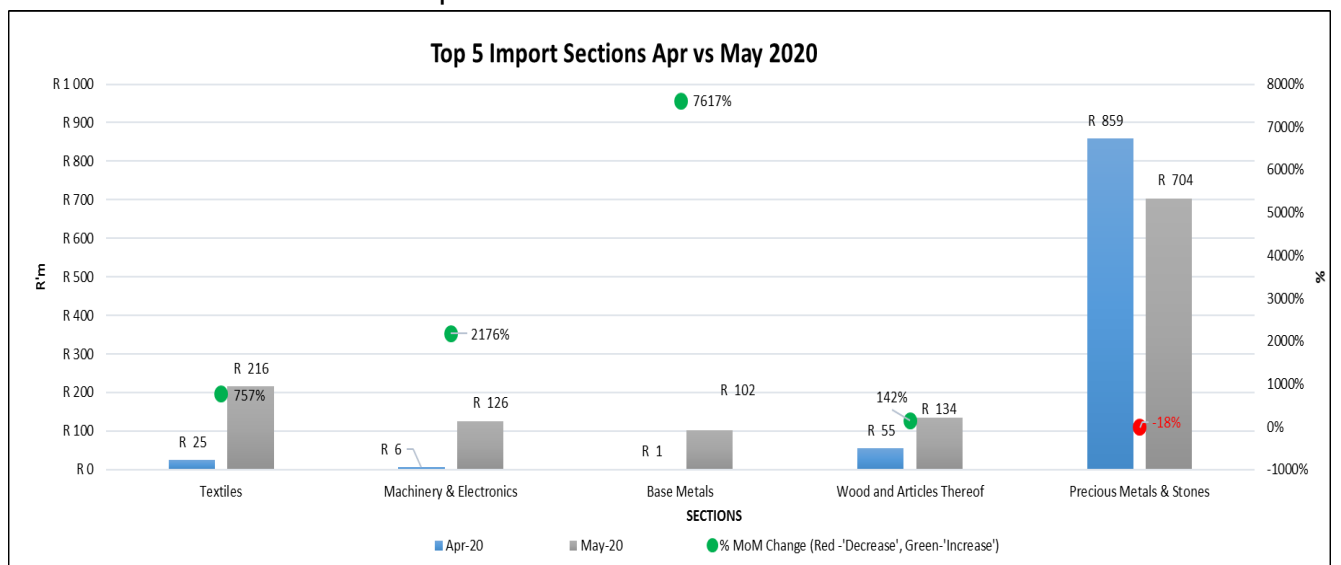
The cumulative surplus for 2020 is R31.22 billion compared to R38.36 billion in 2019.

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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