

## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 30 November 2020*

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

**Pretoria, 30 November 2020** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for October 2020 recording a trade surplus of R36.13 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 October 2020) trade surplus of R203.23 billion is an improvement from the R3.27 billion surplus for the comparable period in 2019. Exports increased by 21.5% year-on-year whilst imports declined by 5.7% over the same period.

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

The R36.13 billion trade surplus for October 2020 is attributable to exports of R149.16 billion and imports of R113.03 billion. Exports increased by R13.55 billion (10.0%) between September and October 2020 and imports increased by R10.78 billion (10.5%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 October 2020) increased by 5.0% to R1 130.95 billion from R1 077.03 billion over the same period during 2019. Imports for the year-to-date of R927.72 billion were 13.6% less than the R1 073.75 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019. The cumulative trade surplus for 2020 is R203.23 billion.

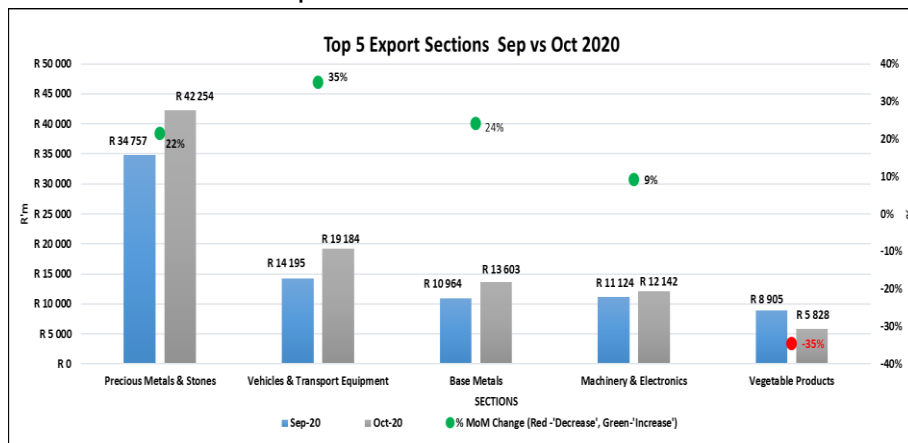
On a year-on-year basis, the R36.13 billion trade surplus for October 2020 was an improvement from the R2.82 billion surplus recorded in October 2019. Exports of R149.16 billion were 21.5% more than the R122.73 billion exports recorded in October 2019. Imports of R113.03 billion were 5.7% less than the R119.91 billion imports recorded in October 2019.

September 2020's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.15 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary surplus of R33.51 billion to the revised surplus of R33.36 billion.

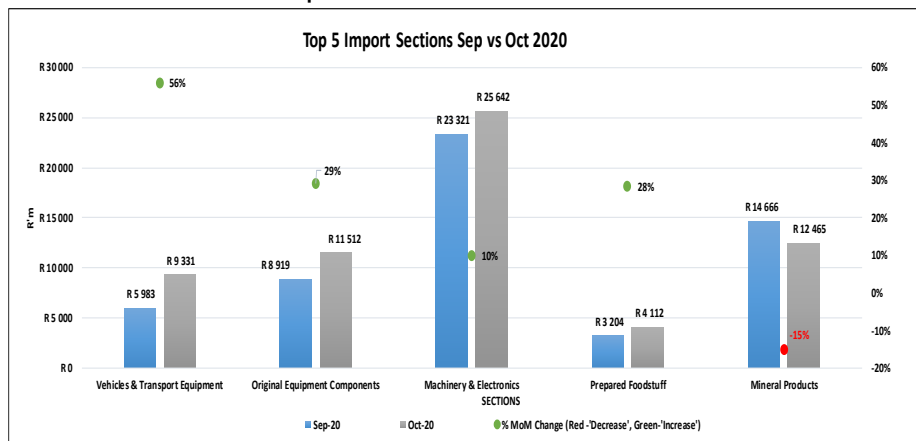
**[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 2020](#)**

## 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 September 2020 (revised) to October 2020 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	September 2020	October 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	30 569	33 460	2 891	9.5%
	Imports	10 941	12 121	1 180	10.8%
	Trade Balance	19 628	21 339	1 711	
America	Exports	14 526	20 417	5 890	40.5%
	Imports	9 243	11 991	2 748	29.7%
	Trade Balance	5 283	8 425	3 142	
Asia	Exports	40 783	40 928	146	0.4%
	Imports	50 222	50 274	52	0.1%
	Trade Balance	-9 439	-9 345	94	
Europe	Exports	35 271	39 698	4 427	12.6%
	Imports	30 492	37 095	6 603	21.7%
	Trade Balance	4 778	2 602	-2 176	
Oceania	Exports	1 328	2 086	758	57.1%
	Imports	1 286	1 102	-184	-14.3%
	Trade Balance	42	984	942	
Other Unclassified	Exports	11 684	11 910	226	1.9%
	Imports	61	444	383	631.1%
	Trade Balance	11 623	11 466	-157	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 447	660	-787	-54.4%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	1 447	660	-787	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for October 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R27.10 billion.

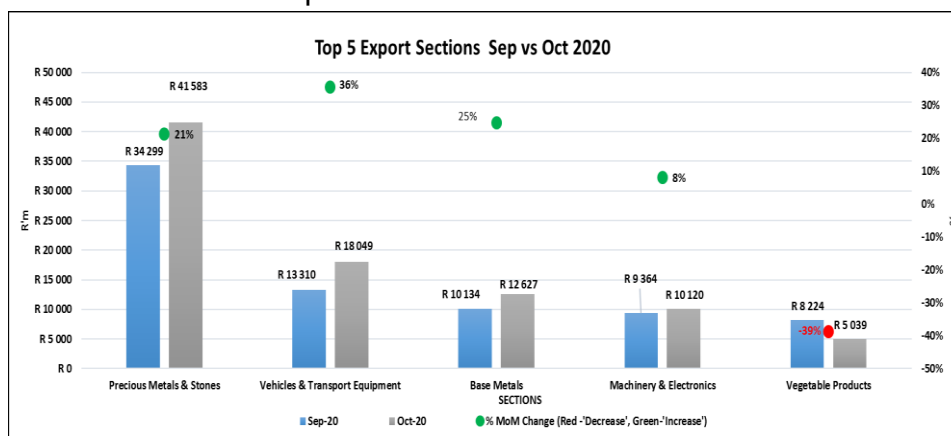
### Summary

The R27.10 billion surplus for October 2020 was as a result of exports of R135.56 billion and imports of R108.46 billion. Exports increased by R11.92 billion (9.6%) between September and October 2020 and imports increased by R11.02 billion (11.3%) over the same period.

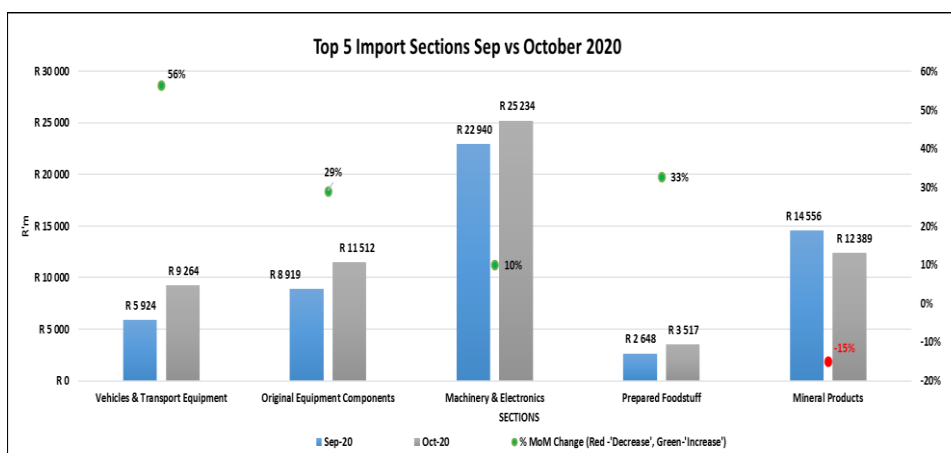
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R132.07 billion compared to R78.58 billion deficit during 2019.

### 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, between September (Revised) and October 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	September 2020	October 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	18 599	19 858	1 259	↑ 6.8%
	Imports	6 138	7 555	1 416	↑ 23.1%
	Trade Balance	12 461	12 304	-157	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 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	(945 209 551)	0.93	(187 201 545)	0.88	0.95	12 522 076 339	13 504 158 748	1 424 405 489	1.43	16 674 881 720	14 449 368 299	1 611 607 034
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	53 829 224 736	3.05	3 408 785 947	2.41	3.91	60 089 172 800	80 105 665 215	5 828 125 706	2.14	21 872 269 352	26 276 440 479	2 419 339 759
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(5 639 118 367)	0.43	(892 692 348)	0.28	0.23	2 653 749 457	4 179 679 082	342 751 433	1.09	7 816 580 317	9 818 797 449	1 235 443 781
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	16 257 991 276	1.52	1 773 464 650	1.43	3.95	46 563 033 158	47 734 282 309	5 885 608 074	3.64	33 601 467 745	31 476 291 033	4 112 143 424
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	127 217 151 390	1.94	17 509 837 261	2.40	20.10	270 674 822 705	262 869 232 375	29 975 121 785	11.03	179 400 179 330	135 652 080 985	12 465 284 524
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(48 385 931 297)	0.60	(5 501 041 242)	0.61	5.66	66 746 395 154	72 986 968 874	8 443 540 801	12.34	114 021 996 428	121 372 900 171	13 944 582 043
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(18 225 119 491)	0.54	(2 500 856 935)	0.50	1.66	22 795 455 173	21 557 411 003	2 482 019 338	4.41	45 539 047 350	39 782 530 494	4 982 876 273
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	33 029 300	1.01	(24 492 839)	0.93	0.21	2 871 555 552	2 381 352 150	311 994 746	0.30	3 275 982 122	2 348 322 850	336 487 585
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 671 936 352	1.41	143 986 670	1.28	0.44	6 436 605 005	5 701 936 724	650 507 433	0.45	4 705 454 373	4 030 000 372	506 520 763
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(9 649 997 966)	0.64	(2 092 797 263)	0.44	1.11	14 181 940 852	17 498 303 478	1 655 210 640	3.32	28 975 350 251	27 148 301 444	3 748 007 903
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(28 317 924 432)	0.33	(3 032 287 464)	0.37	1.21	14 518 205 069	14 078 548 496	1 808 242 261	4.28	40 083 653 311	42 396 472 928	4 840 529 725
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(8 279 358 092)	0.20	(1 231 939 429)	0.20	0.20	2 483 604 380	2 067 540 359	299 425 282	1.35	12 532 472 008	10 346 898 451	1 531 364 711
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 802 952 442)	0.51	(710 601 789)	0.49	0.45	5 352 168 936	4 951 132 272	673 474 054	1.22	12 984 860 809	9 754 084 714	1 384 075 843
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	248 505 873 897	17.22	40 067 110 272	19.32	28.33	172 959 246 318	263 825 066 520	42 254 324 280	1.94	13 941 057 164	15 319 192 623	2 187 214 008
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	56 150 992 127	2.21	7 870 312 104	2.37	9.12	119 452 298 866	102 727 350 460	13 602 733 214	5.07	53 926 179 074	46 576 358 333	5 732 421 110
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(129 845 904 431)	0.39	(13 499 522 920)	0.47	8.14	87 317 084 676	84 082 455 968	12 142 011 351	22.69	241 308 346 167	213 928 360 399	25 641 534 271
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	48 763 841 620	1.75	9 853 119 856	2.06	12.86	151 622 174 163	114 006 650 956	19 183 726 940	8.26	97 400 560 674	65 242 809 336	9 330 607 084
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(19 145 569 650)	0.28	(2 233 803 387)	0.31	0.66	7 062 061 754	7 420 960 106	982 982 020	2.85	28 393 337 700	26 566 529 756	3 216 785 407
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(8 139 615 696)	0.42	(1 291 208 945)	0.39	0.55	6 817 383 025	5 775 332 287	824 140 821	1.87	18 003 057 905	13 914 947 983	2 115 349 766
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	625 792 527	3.95	75 405 717	4.17	0.07	1 304 127 409	837 815 284	99 160 678	0.02	560 712 224	212 022 757	23 754 961
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 560 234 911	2.43	139 983 596	1.94	0.19	2 595 201 129	2 654 159 355	288 586 718	0.13	878 910 762	1 093 924 444	148 603 122
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(70 007 183 675)	0.00	(11 512 077 168)	0.00	0.00	10 014 813	4 547 286	977	10.19	97 858 606 703	70 011 730 961	11 512 078 145
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>203 232 183 046</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>36 131 482 799</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 077 028 376 733</b>	<b>1 130 950 549 307</b>	<b>149 158 094 041</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 073 754 963 489</b>	<b>927 718 366 261</b>	<b>113 026 611 242</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	160 656 593 188	2.55	21 339 320 763	2.76	22.43	286 273 786 372	264 181 645 572	33 460 459 641	10.72	122 699 215 915	103 525 052 384	12 121 138 878
AMERICA	17 777 308 255	1.19	8 425 211 707	1.70	13.69	91 373 869 063	110 328 831 926	20 416 527 393	10.61	106 926 300 899	92 551 523 671	11 991 315 686
ASIA	(75 295 491 749)	0.82	(9 345 224 816)	0.81	27.44	338 286 235 087	349 904 523 148	40 928 335 528	44.48	482 874 936 318	425 200 014 897	50 273 560 344
EUROPE	1 806 762 139	1.01	2 602 371 028	1.07	26.61	286 878 943 158	293 937 460 041	39 697 548 572	32.82	343 679 711 749	292 130 697 902	37 095 177 544
OCEANIA	(899 659 150)	0.93	983 878 991	1.89	1.40	10 979 609 232	11 177 200 668	2 085 689 795	0.97	14 296 434 822	12 076 859 818	1 101 810 804
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	89 090 011 726	40.88	11 466 181 424	26.85	7.98	56 991 707 467	91 324 229 315	11 909 789 410	0.39	3 278 363 786	2 234 217 589	443 607 986
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	10 096 658 637	-	659 743 702	-	0.44	6 244 226 354	10 096 658 637	659 743 702				
<b>Total</b>	<b>203 232 183 046</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>36 131 482 799</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 077 028 376 733</b>	<b>1 130 950 549 307</b>	<b>149 158 094 041</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 073 754 963 489</b>	<b>927 718 366 261</b>	<b>113 026 611 242</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 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

- 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	(1 366 361 358)	0.89	(219 614 944)	0.83	0.80	9 625 767 416	10 540 018 571	1 078 492 116	1.20	13 208 277 358	11 906 379 929	1 298 107 060
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	47 529 149 778	2.86	2 685 982 277	2.14	3.72	53 469 503 455	73 140 024 275	5 039 410 104	2.17	21 295 394 213	25 610 874 497	2 353 427 827
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(7 095 676 187)	0.28	(1 065 994 352)	0.14	0.12	1 430 538 067	2 709 524 958	168 518 153	1.14	7 787 433 909	9 805 201 145	1 234 512 505
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	8 637 047 074	1.33	704 003 383	1.20	3.11	32 497 407 647	34 602 396 282	4 221 386 824	3.24	27 953 582 339	25 965 349 208	3 517 383 441
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	111 987 313 171	1.83	15 946 931 715	2.29	20.90	248 795 836 519	246 896 546 655	28 336 073 959	11.42	178 768 224 791	134 909 233 484	12 389 142 244
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(53 452 985 570)	0.54	(5 891 713 239)	0.55	5.28	56 045 977 524	61 855 967 375	7 156 955 925	12.03	107 260 177 150	115 308 952 945	13 048 669 164
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(22 430 553 243)	0.43	(3 053 586 766)	0.38	1.37	17 598 038 058	16 872 210 083	1 859 327 881	4.53	44 969 068 591	39 302 763 326	4 912 914 647
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(209 489 578)	0.91	(56 723 732)	0.82	0.20	2 427 757 173	2 068 054 254	264 696 956	0.30	3 188 015 129	2 277 543 832	321 420 688
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 563 673 898	1.59	111 059 422	1.33	0.33	4 772 432 876	4 199 393 556	448 916 196	0.31	3 262 602 334	2 635 719 658	337 856 774
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(11 856 067 550)	0.56	(2 359 399 666)	0.37	1.01	11 597 470 714	15 144 494 306	1 369 695 371	3.44	28 803 887 425	27 000 561 856	3 729 095 037
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(28 163 650 960)	0.25	(2 903 741 024)	0.28	0.82	8 779 177 858	9 260 098 754	1 110 818 581	3.70	34 570 857 749	37 423 749 714	4 014 559 605
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(9 471 446 341)	0.08	(1 411 937 715)	0.07	0.08	888 073 353	780 458 771	101 679 048	1.40	12 407 056 264	10 251 905 112	1 513 166 763
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 120 858 467)	0.37	(914 456 332)	0.34	0.34	3 758 582 644	3 565 706 512	461 220 339	1.27	12 882 810 658	9 686 564 979	1 375 676 671
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	253 087 574 521	35.93	40 316 232 285	32.83	30.68	169 975 050 598	260 333 775 460	41 582 754 972	1.17	7 754 613 886	7 246 200 939	1 266 522 687
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	50 068 306 027	2.09	6 974 961 566	2.23	9.31	111 771 878 102	95 823 503 834	12 626 970 814	5.21	52 424 689 020	45 755 197 807	5 652 009 248
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(141 765 078 904)	0.33	(15 113 726 166)	0.40	7.47	70 461 447 953	69 135 980 896	10 120 013 609	23.27	237 495 368 923	210 901 059 800	25 233 739 775
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	40 611 619 155	1.63	8 784 579 398	1.95	13.31	140 273 447 443	105 270 171 969	18 049 027 905	8.54	96 335 904 912	64 658 552 814	9 264 448 507
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(20 788 058 771)	0.22	(2 449 838 483)	0.24	0.56	5 534 885 570	5 708 596 721	760 514 422	2.96	28 311 902 202	26 496 655 492	3 210 352 905
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(10 830 996 540)	0.22	(1 686 569 802)	0.20	0.31	3 745 465 220	2 993 468 477	417 444 425	1.94	17 885 159 949	13 824 465 017	2 104 014 227
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	614 938 960	3.90	74 835 658	4.15	0.07	1 299 239 293	826 806 831	98 586 772	0.02	556 573 742	211 867 871	23 751 114
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 531 473 317	2.43	136 696 648	1.93	0.21	2 495 846 653	2 602 414 018	283 566 939	0.14	855 810 290	1 070 940 701	146 870 291
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(70 007 187 875)	0.00	(11 512 077 145)	-	-	9 344 572	4 542 086	-	10.61	97 858 606 703	70 011 729 961	11 512 077 145
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>132 072 684 557</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>27 095 902 986</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>957 253 168 708</b>	<b>1 024 334 154 644</b>	<b>135 556 071 311</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 035 836 017 537</b>	<b>892 261 470 087</b>	<b>108 460 168 325</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	89 497 094 699	2.31	12 303 740 950	2.63	14.65	166 498 578 347	157 565 250 909	19 858 436 911	6.97	84 780 269 963	68 068 156 210	7 554 695 961
AMERICA	17 777 308 255	1.19	8 425 211 707	1.70	15.06	91 373 869 063	110 328 831 926	20 416 527 393	11.06	106 926 300 899	92 551 523 671	11 991 315 686
ASIA	(75 295 491 749)	0.82	(9 345 224 816)	0.81	30.19	338 286 235 087	349 904 523 148	40 928 335 528	46.35	482 874 936 318	425 200 014 897	50 273 560 344
EUROPE	1 806 762 139	1.01	2 602 371 028	1.07	29.28	286 878 943 158	293 937 460 041	39 697 548 572	34.20	343 679 711 749	292 130 697 902	37 095 177 544
OCEANIA	(899 659 150)	0.93	983 878 991	1.89	1.54	10 979 609 232	11 177 200 668	2 085 689 795	1.02	14 296 434 822	12 076 859 818	1 101 810 804
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	89 090 011 726	40.88	11 466 181 424	26.85	8.79	56 991 707 467	91 324 229 315	11 909 789 410	0.41	3 278 363 786	2 234 217 589	443 607 986
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	10 096 658 637	-	659 743 702	-	0.49	6 244 226 354	10 096 658 637	659 743 702	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>132 072 684 557</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>27 095 902 986</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>957 253 168 708</b>	<b>1 024 334 154 644</b>	<b>135 556 071 311</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1 035 836 017 537</b>	<b>892 261 470 087</b>	<b>108 460 168 325</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>		
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		

**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 October 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R9.04 billion.

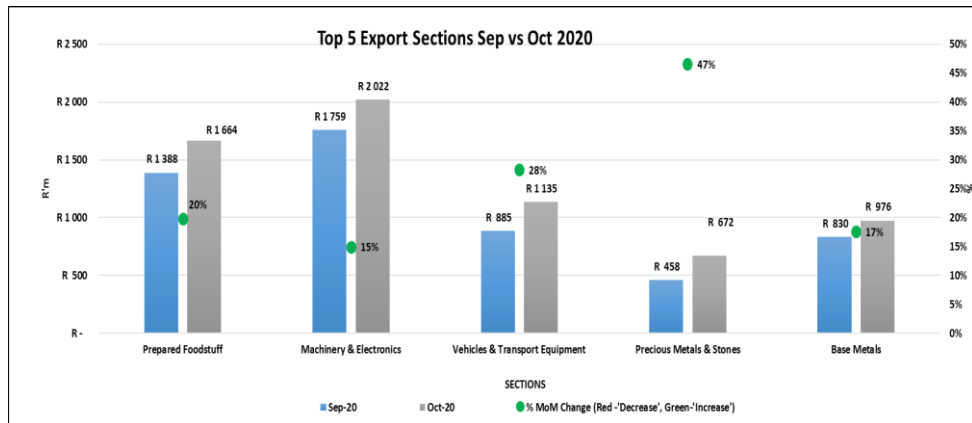
### Summary

The R9.04 billion surplus for October 2020 was as a result of exports of R13.60 billion and imports of R4.56 billion. Exports increased by R1.63 billion (13.6%) between September and October 2020 and imports decreased by R0.24 billion (4.9%) over the same period.

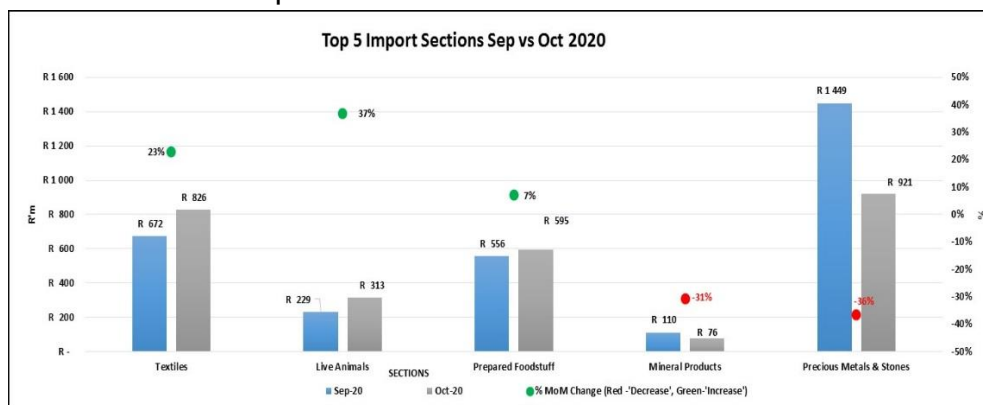
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R71.16 billion compared to R81.86 billion in 2019.

### 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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