

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 30 October 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for September 2020

Pretoria, 30 October 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for September 2020 recording a trade surplus of R33.51 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2020) trade surplus of R167.45 billion is an improvement from the R0.48 billion surplus for the comparable period in 2019. Exports increased by 23.2% year-on-year whilst imports declined by 3.2% over the same period.

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

The R33.51 billion trade surplus for September 2020 is attributable to exports of R135.75 billion and imports of R102.24 billion. Exports increased by R5.83 billion (4.5%) between August and September 2020 and imports increased by R11.02 billion (12.1%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2020) increased by 2.9% to R982.42 billion from R954.33 billion over the same period during 2019. Imports for the year-to-date of R814.97 billion were 14.6% less than the R953.85 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019. The cumulative trade surplus for 2020 is R167.45 billion.

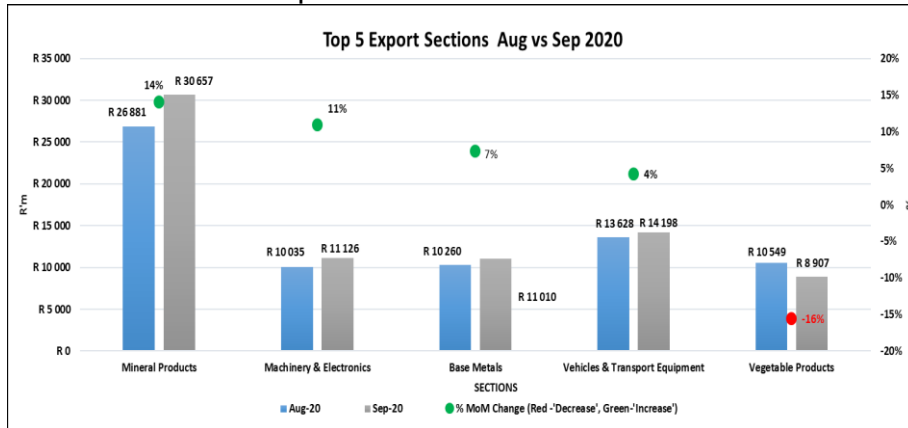
On a year-on-year basis, the R33.51 billion trade surplus for September 2020 was an improvement from the R4.55 billion surplus recorded in September 2019. Exports of R135.76 billion were 23.2% more than the R110.16 billion exports recorded in September 2019. Imports of R102.24 billion were 3.2% less than the R105.61 billion imports recorded in September 2019.

August 2020's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.17 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary surplus of R38.87 billion to the revised surplus of R38.70 billion.

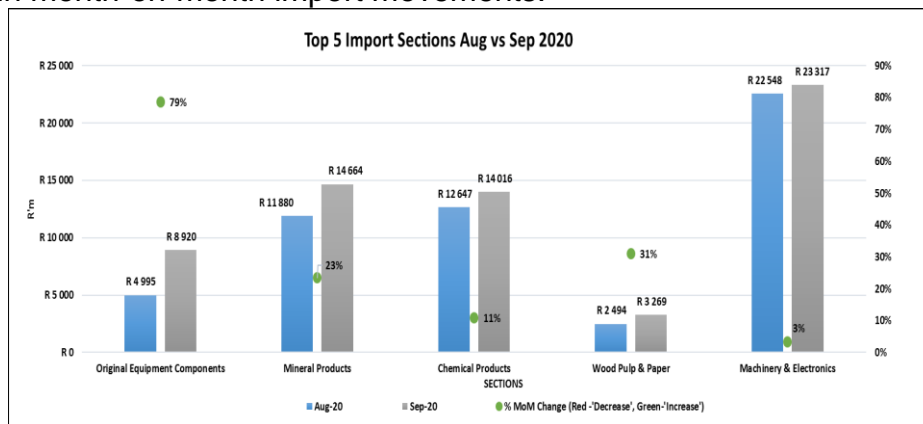
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from August 2020 (revised) to September 2020 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2020	September 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	29 008	30 615	1 607	↑ 5.5%
	Imports	8 344	10 940	2 596	↑ 31.1%
	Trade Balance	20 664	19 675	-989	
America	Exports	14 398	14 581	183	↑ 1.3%
	Imports	8 492	9 247	754	↑ 8.9%
	Trade Balance	5 906	5 334	-572	
Asia	Exports	39 421	40 764	1 343	↑ 3.4%
	Imports	42 004	50 230	8 226	↑ 19.6%
	Trade Balance	-2 583	-9 465	-6 883	
Europe	Exports	33 547	35 341	1 794	↑ 5.3%
	Imports	30 909	30 482	-427	↓ -1.4%
	Trade Balance	2 638	4 859	2 221	
Oceania	Exports	1 215	1 327	112	↑ 9.2%
	Imports	1 132	1 286	154	↑ 13.6%
	Trade Balance	83	41	-42	
Other Unclassified	Exports	11 922	11 684	-239	↓ -2.0%
	Imports	346	61	-286	↓ -82.5%
	Trade Balance	11 576	11 623	47	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	415	1 447	1 031	↑ 248.5%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	415	1 447	1 031	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for September 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R26.33 billion.

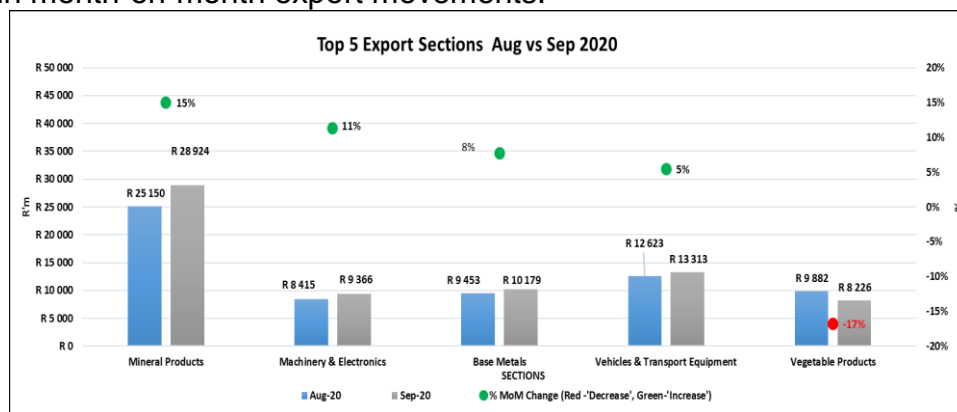
Summary

The R26.33 billion surplus for September 2020 was as a result of exports of R123.77 billion and imports of R97.44 billion. Exports increased by R5.79 billion (4.9%) between August and September 2020 and imports increased by R10.00 billion (11.4%) over the same period.

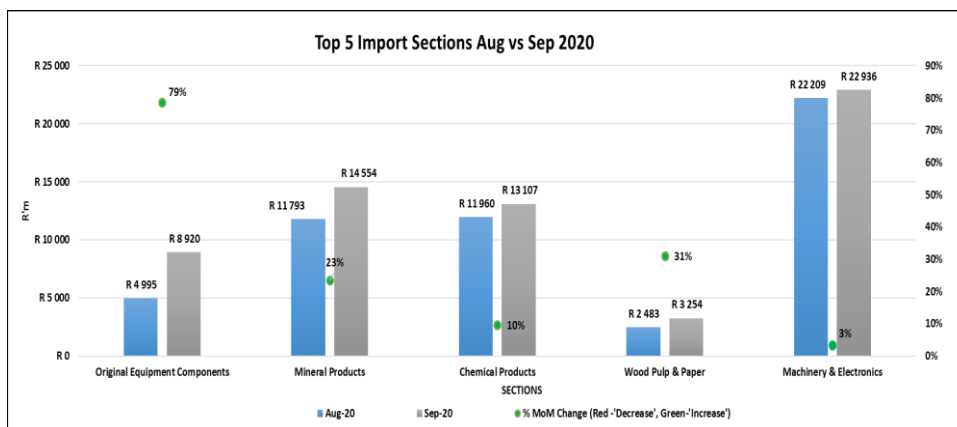
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R105.25 billion compared to R71.89 billion deficit during 2019.

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 August (Revised) and September 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2020	September 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	17 062	18 630	1 568	↑ 9.2%
	Imports	4 559	6 138	1 579	↑ 34.6%
	Trade Balance	12 503	12 493	-10	

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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	(756 538 409)	0.94	(79 098 787)	0.95	1.09	11 045 857 073	12 080 243 933	1 479 923 642	1.52	15 079 267 470	12 836 782 342	1 559 022 429
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	50 435 218 471	3.11	5 829 717 281	2.89	6.56	55 579 278 349	74 289 013 973	8 907 175 242	3.01	19 429 863 631	23 853 795 502	3 077 457 961
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 745 376 773)	0.45	(689 107 455)	0.34	0.27	2 360 236 918	3 837 976 895	361 552 439	1.03	6 713 604 519	8 583 353 668	1 050 659 894
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	14 513 850 548	1.53	2 710 111 060	1.85	4.36	41 123 331 512	41 875 625 148	5 912 416 932	3.13	29 251 590 094	27 361 774 600	3 202 305 872
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	110 149 185 882	1.89	15 992 655 513	2.09	22.58	242 489 903 053	233 330 137 294	30 656 892 555	14.34	159 146 435 795	123 180 951 412	14 664 237 042
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(42 848 125 562)	0.60	(6 146 182 616)	0.56	5.80	59 500 647 440	64 589 266 608	7 869 947 702	13.71	100 186 994 991	107 437 392 170	14 016 130 318
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(15 709 757 639)	0.55	(1 999 266 368)	0.54	1.73	20 354 165 389	19 095 579 666	2 353 243 594	4.26	40 381 626 197	34 805 337 305	4 352 509 962
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	57 863 364	1.03	8 318 569	1.03	0.22	2 580 177 760	2 069 656 748	294 928 789	0.28	2 844 603 553	2 011 793 384	286 610 220
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 527 960 899	1.43	201 927 409	1.45	0.48	5 841 619 673	5 051 766 064	646 631 437	0.43	4 157 199 556	3 523 805 165	444 704 028
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(7 469 380 519)	0.68	(1 478 666 348)	0.55	1.32	12 184 542 468	15 930 655 744	1 790 829 607	3.20	25 156 278 385	23 400 036 263	3 269 495 955
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(25 331 473 140)	0.33	(2 569 954 193)	0.38	1.14	12 505 479 076	12 274 182 840	1 553 589 595	4.03	35 589 474 508	37 605 655 980	4 123 543 788
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(7 047 852 964)	0.20	(946 399 569)	0.22	0.20	2 141 729 755	1 768 188 147	273 914 817	1.19	11 029 825 936	8 816 041 111	1 220 314 386
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 091 318 682)	0.51	(527 934 191)	0.54	0.46	4 754 551 021	4 278 472 774	620 721 345	1.12	11 402 308 894	8 369 791 456	1 148 655 536
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	208 391 222 870	16.87	32 538 139 717	15.98	25.57	148 179 619 901	221 523 321 994	34 710 062 014	2.12	12 570 178 837	13 132 099 124	2 171 922 297
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	48 293 189 022	2.18	6 113 292 013	2.25	8.11	107 027 346 032	89 136 946 252	11 010 488 590	4.79	48 348 417 911	40 843 757 230	4 897 196 577
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(116 299 846 693)	0.38	(12 190 683 584)	0.48	8.20	77 191 942 182	71 956 142 066	11 126 470 109	22.81	215 583 703 657	188 255 988 759	23 317 153 693
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	38 738 042 813	1.69	8 214 518 048	2.37	10.46	134 323 136 377	94 826 266 628	14 198 022 366	5.85	87 687 435 970	56 088 223 815	5 983 504 318
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(16 897 997 871)	0.28	(2 042 042 530)	0.27	0.55	6 129 563 256	6 454 119 593	753 424 178	2.73	25 266 268 703	23 352 117 464	2 795 466 708
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(6 855 038 796)	0.42	(839 873 195)	0.47	0.54	5 988 380 331	4 947 638 480	738 979 217	1.54	15 691 410 162	11 802 677 276	1 578 852 412
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	550 554 775	3.92	110 191 672	6.46	0.10	887 563 472	738 822 571	130 362 307	0.02	411 313 236	188 267 796	20 170 635
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 420 335 595	2.50	224 258 750	2.55	0.27	2 128 022 157	2 365 655 183	368 905 115	0.14	797 120 814	945 319 588	144 646 365
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(58 569 768 933)	0.00	(8 919 393 040)	0.00	0.00	9 973 708	4 546 309	862 591	8.72	87 120 446 197	58 574 315 242	8 920 255 631
Total	Total SA Rand	167 454 948 258	1.21	33 514 528 156	1.33	100.00	954 327 066 903	982 424 224 910	135 759 344 183	100.00	953 845 369 016	814 969 276 652	102 244 816 027

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	139 516 920 891	2.53	19 675 446 720	2.80	22.55	253 296 366 775	230 921 891 586	30 615 320 212	10.70	107 795 654 665	91 404 970 695	10 939 873 492
AMERICA	9 283 297 284	1.12	5 334 171 994	1.58	10.74	81 109 721 675	89 878 582 182	14 580 866 658	9.04	94 512 092 370	80 595 284 898	9 246 694 664
ASIA	(65 569 176 848)	0.83	(9 465 260 801)	0.81	30.03	301 481 597 879	309 399 958 706	40 764 402 814	49.13	429 510 253 045	374 969 135 554	50 229 663 615
EUROPE	(953 842 845)	1.00	4 859 203 882	1.16	26.03	256 156 470 954	254 280 652 225	35 341 456 872	29.81	305 853 842 406	255 234 495 070	30 482 252 990
OCEANIA	(1 883 918 180)	0.83	41 330 904	1.03	0.98	10 004 047 609	9 091 018 571	1 327 025 982	1.26	13 085 368 224	10 974 936 751	1 285 695 078
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	77 623 986 221	44.35	11 623 103 651	192.69	8.61	47 408 447 826	79 414 439 905	11 683 739 839	0.06	3 088 158 306	1 790 453 684	60 636 188
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 437 681 735	-	1 446 531 806	-	1.07	4 870 414 185	9 437 681 735	1 446 531 806				
Total	167 454 948 258	1.21	33 514 528 156	1.33	100.00	954 327 066 903	982 424 224 910	135 759 344 183	100.00	953 845 369 016	814 969 276 652	102 244 816 027

Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 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	10 302 915 385	11 435 589 019

- 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	(1 145 844 574)	0.89	(190 360 607)	0.86	0.92	8 487 777 588	9 462 017 129	1 140 332 919	1.37	11 912 439 643	10 607 861 703	1 330 693 526
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	44 857 826 678	2.93	5 221 838 227	2.74	6.65	49 707 181 814	68 111 959 570	8 226 031 204	3.08	18 930 860 047	23 254 132 892	3 004 192 977
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 028 043 069)	0.30	(841 909 633)	0.20	0.17	1 297 173 139	2 542 645 571	207 249 378	1.08	6 686 545 250	8 570 688 640	1 049 159 011
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	7 960 043 342	1.35	1 877 810 248	1.71	3.66	28 714 190 468	30 405 368 989	4 524 024 005	2.72	24 279 345 527	22 445 325 647	2 646 213 757
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	96 420 156 985	1.79	14 369 912 400	1.99	23.37	222 904 533 711	218 934 547 176	28 924 125 901	14.94	158 596 689 831	122 514 390 191	14 554 213 501
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(47 526 254 357)	0.54	(6 420 244 036)	0.51	5.40	50 072 885 187	54 743 103 466	6 687 035 430	13.45	94 246 362 324	102 269 357 823	13 107 279 466
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(19 362 697 355)	0.44	(2 491 956 478)	0.42	1.46	15 725 442 389	15 032 829 641	1 801 077 932	4.41	39 874 980 669	34 395 526 996	4 293 034 410
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(152 422 395)	0.92	(19 573 862)	0.93	0.21	2 194 207 845	1 803 658 868	253 945 593	0.28	2 766 420 756	1 956 081 263	273 519 455
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 452 671 326	1.63	176 071 530	1.63	0.37	4 389 059 669	3 750 820 616	455 332 653	0.29	2 884 246 546	2 298 149 290	279 261 123
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(9 408 861 787)	0.60	(1 718 644 461)	0.47	1.24	9 925 825 884	13 862 362 309	1 535 644 503	3.34	25 019 279 602	23 271 224 096	3 254 288 964
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(25 305 729 777)	0.24	(2 486 650 476)	0.28	0.78	7 472 595 070	8 153 153 109	965 092 163	3.54	30 818 691 226	33 458 882 886	3 451 742 639
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(8 059 943 527)	0.08	(1 111 467 006)	0.08	0.08	783 097 769	678 852 193	95 921 853	1.24	10 921 898 285	8 738 795 720	1 207 388 859
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(5 205 483 508)	0.37	(694 893 094)	0.39	0.36	3 352 440 311	3 105 188 099	445 597 270	1.17	11 311 030 545	8 310 671 607	1 140 490 364
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	212 723 937 481	36.57	33 528 335 933	47.35	27.67	145 555 751 358	218 703 600 242	34 251 673 956	0.74	7 172 551 649	5 979 662 761	723 338 023
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	43 104 737 875	2.07	5 350 508 434	2.11	8.22	100 280 754 779	83 208 228 725	10 179 418 668	4.96	47 015 809 400	40 103 490 850	4 828 910 234
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(126 616 640 598)	0.32	(13 569 754 231)	0.41	7.57	62 389 264 865	59 019 301 640	9 366 458 023	23.54	212 133 630 880	185 635 942 238	22 936 212 254
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	31 653 432 299	1.57	7 387 929 029	2.25	10.76	124 164 621 759	87 223 542 169	13 312 727 532	6.08	86 703 441 790	55 570 109 870	5 924 798 503
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(18 324 041 189)	0.21	(2 231 049 446)	0.20	0.45	4 809 624 133	4 964 272 654	554 656 563	2.86	25 191 311 304	23 288 313 843	2 785 706 009
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(9 151 043 720)	0.22	(1 195 729 856)	0.24	0.30	3 311 149 604	2 572 486 129	372 986 977	1.61	15 586 255 721	11 723 529 849	1 568 716 833
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	540 271 267	3.87	108 253 186	6.37	0.10	883 246 904	728 388 024	128 406 256	0.02	407 187 688	188 116 757	20 153 070
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 394 860 949	2.51	202 743 444	2.42	0.28	2 032 291 490	2 318 929 625	345 830 494	0.15	775 783 722	924 068 676	143 087 050
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(58 569 773 156)	0.00	(8 919 393 040)	0.00	0.00	9 303 467	4 542 086	862 591	9.15	87 120 446 197	58 574 315 242	8 920 255 631
Total	Total SA Rand	105 251 159 190	1.13	26 331 776 205	1.27	100.00	848 462 419 203	889 329 798 030	123 774 431 864	100.00	920 355 208 602	784 078 638 840	97 442 655 659

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	77 313 131 823	2.28	12 492 694 769	3.04	15.05	147 431 719 075	137 827 464 706	18 630 407 893	6.30	74 305 494 251	60 514 332 883	6 137 713 124
AMERICA	9 283 297 284	1.12	5 334 171 994	1.58	11.78	81 109 721 675	89 878 582 182	14 580 866 658	9.49	94 512 092 370	80 595 284 898	9 246 694 664
ASIA	(65 569 176 848)	0.83	(9 465 260 801)	0.81	32.93	301 481 597 879	309 399 958 706	40 764 402 814	51.55	429 510 253 045	374 969 135 554	50 229 663 615
EUROPE	(953 842 845)	1.00	4 859 203 882	1.16	28.55	256 156 470 954	254 280 652 225	35 341 456 872	31.28	305 853 842 406	255 234 495 070	30 482 252 990
OCEANIA	(1 883 918 180)	0.83	41 330 904	1.03	1.07	10 004 047 609	9 091 018 571	1 327 025 982	1.32	13 085 368 224	10 974 936 751	1 285 695 078
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	77 623 986 221	44.35	11 623 103 651	192.69	9.44	47 408 447 826	79 414 439 905	11 683 739 839	0.06	3 088 158 306	1 790 453 684	60 636 188
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 437 681 735	-	1 446 531 806	-	1.17	4 870 414 185	9 437 681 735	1 446 531 806				
Total	105 251 159 190	1.13	26 331 776 205	1.27	100.00	848 462 419 203	889 329 798 030	123 774 431 864	100.00	920 355 208 602	784 078 638 840	97 442 655 659
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 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	10 302 915 385	11 435 589 019			

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 September 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R7.18 billion.

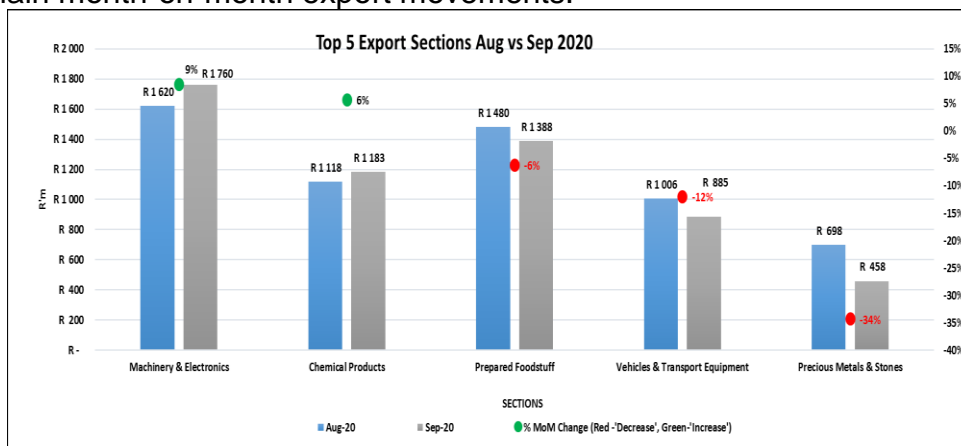
Summary

The R7.18 billion surplus for September 2020 was as a result of exports of R11.98 billion and imports of R4.80 billion. Exports increased by R0.04 billion (0.3%) between August and September 2020 and imports increased by R1.02 billion (26.9%) over the same period.

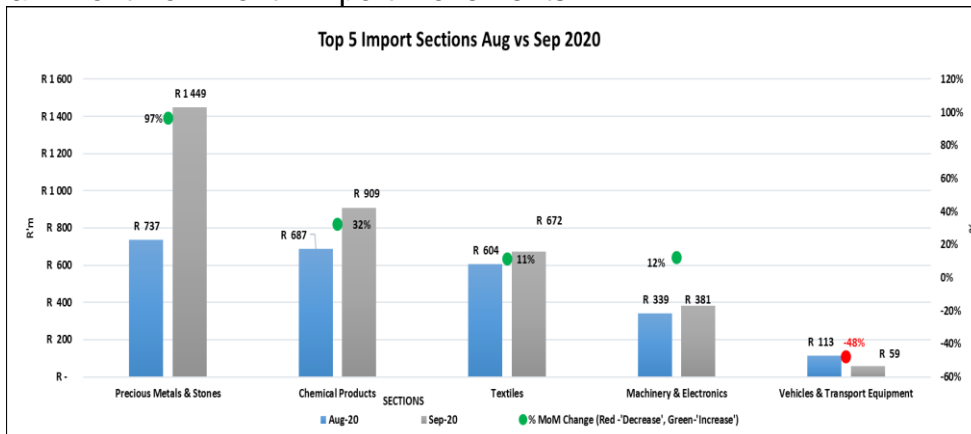
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R62.20 billion compared to R72.37 billion in 2019.

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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