

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 31 May 2021

SARS releases trade statistics for April 2021

Pretoria, 31 May 2021 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for April 2021 recording a trade balance surplus of R51.24 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2021) trade surplus of R147.83 billion is an improvement from the R4.41 billion deficit for the comparable period in 2020. Exports increased by 213.4% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 25.8% over the same period.

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

The R51.24 billion trade surplus for April 2021 is attributable to exports of R161.47 billion and imports of R110.23 billion. Exports decreased by R6.61 billion (3.9%) between March and April 2021 and imports decreased by R5.29 billion (4.6%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2021) increased by 51.6% to R570.54 billion from R376.44 billion over the same period during 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R422.71 billion were 11.0% more than the R380.85 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2020. The cumulative trade surplus for 2021 is R147.83 billion.

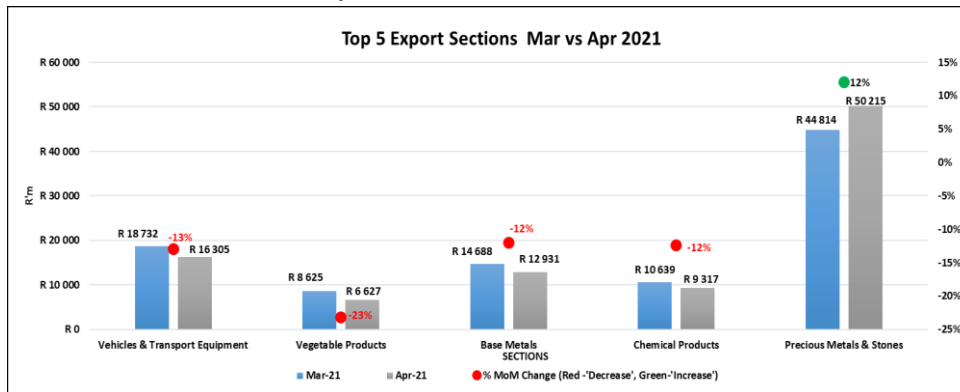
On a year-on-year basis, the R51.24 billion trade balance surplus for April 2021 was an improvement from the R36.09 billion trade balance deficit recorded in April 2020. Exports of R161.47 billion were 213.4% more than the R 51.53 billion exports recorded in April 2020. Imports of R110.23 billion were 25.8% more than the R87.61 billion imports recorded in April 2020.

March 2021 trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.20 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary surplus of R52.77 billion to the revised surplus of R52.57 billion.

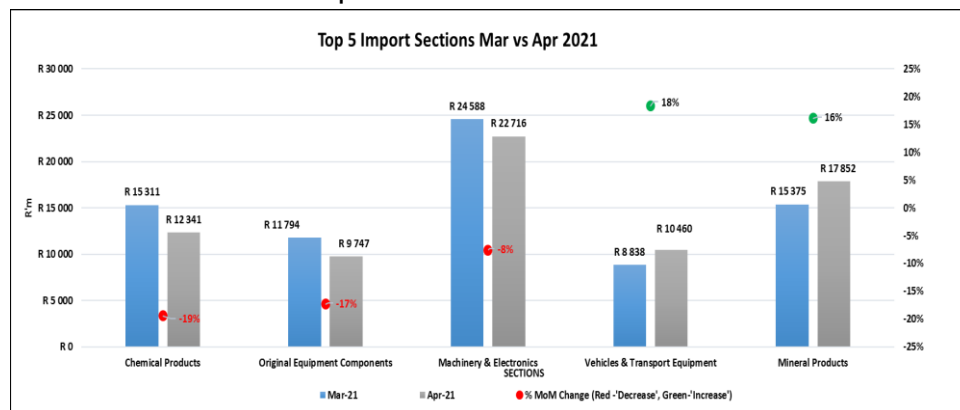
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from March (revised) to April 2021 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2021	April 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	32 989	29 008	-3 981	↓ -12.1%
	Imports	9 052	13 257	4 205	↑ 46.5%
	Trade Balance	23 937	15 751	-8 186	
America	Exports	20 361	22 250	1 889	↑ 9.3%
	Imports	11 623	11 605	-18	↓ -0.2%
	Trade Balance	8 738	10 645	1 907	
Asia	Exports	50 406	49 716	-690	↓ -1.4%
	Imports	55 707	49 817	-5 890	↓ -10.6%
	Trade Balance	-5 300	-101	5 200	
Europe	Exports	52 374	48 985	-3 389	↓ -6.5%
	Imports	36 634	33 611	-3 023	↓ -8.3%
	Trade Balance	15 740	15 374	-366	
Oceania	Exports	1 597	1 060	-537	↓ -33.6%
	Imports	2 386	1 383	-1 003	↓ -42.0%
	Trade Balance	-789	-324	466	
Other Unclassified	Exports	9 930	10 007	78	↑ 0.8%
	Imports	116	557	442	↑ 382.5%
	Trade Balance	9 814	9 450	-364	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	432	448	15	↑ 3.5%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	432	448	15	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for April 2021 recorded a trade balance surplus of R44.50 billion.

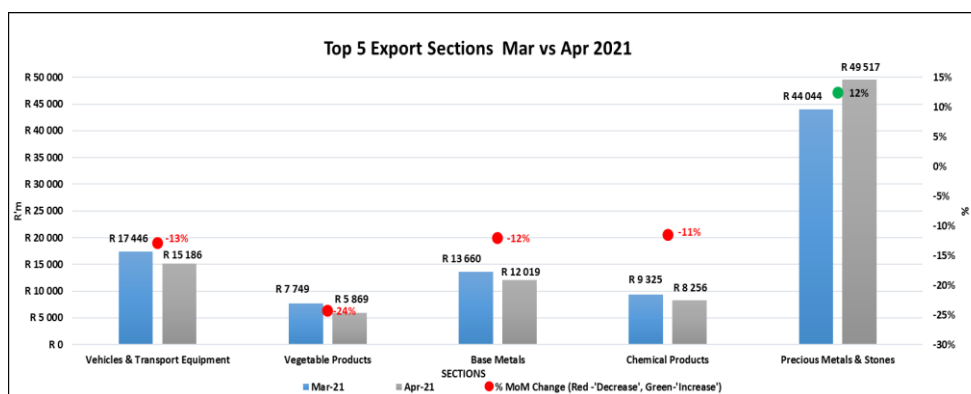
Summary

The R44.50 billion surplus for April 2021 was as a result of exports of R149.27 billion and imports of R104.77 billion. Exports decreased by R4.72 billion (3.1%) between March and April 2021 and imports decreased by R6.55 billion (5.9%) over the same period.

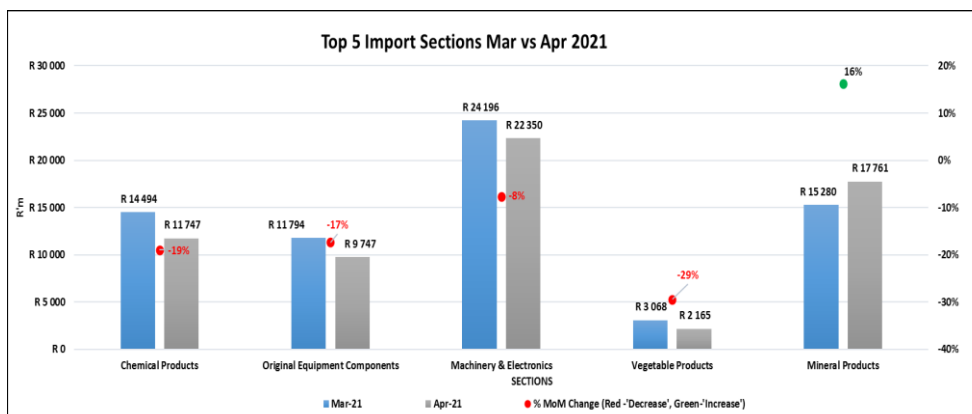
The cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R116.92 billion compared to R29.47 billion trade balance deficit during 2020.

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 for Africa, excluding BELN, between March (Revised) and April 2021 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2021	April 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	18,898	16,807	-2,091 	-11.1%
	Imports	4,858	7,800	2,941 	60.5%
	Trade Balance	14,039	9,007	-5,032	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics April 2021](#)

SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance	Ratio ⁵⁾	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾	Month Total 2021	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾	Month Total 2021
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(276 982 505)	0.95	(179 311 444)	0.90	0.98	5 167 558 324	5 827 603 387	1 581 791 313	1.60	6 151 759 660	6 104 585 892	1 761 102 757
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	17 619 782 111	2.88	4 407 029 337	2.99	4.10	24 913 222 813	27 016 075 117	6 626 765 096	2.01	10 354 847 364	9 396 293 006	2 219 735 759
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 147 930 123)	0.41	(805 092 787)	0.34	0.26	1 194 515 722	1 496 526 230	417 197 381	1.11	3 747 453 318	3 644 456 353	1 222 290 168
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	3 942 427 069	1.29	874 404 898	1.24	2.82	15 944 351 773	17 682 008 147	4 554 118 535	3.34	12 784 272 531	13 739 581 078	3 679 713 637
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	81 919 134 972	2.27	22 078 640 620	2.24	24.73	94 414 121 446	146 385 427 720	39 930 411 589	16.20	66 672 665 788	64 466 292 748	17 851 770 969
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(14 693 561 388)	0.71	(3 023 038 535)	0.76	5.77	25 375 038 529	35 417 173 473	9 317 490 468	11.20	43 352 071 543	50 110 734 861	12 340 529 003
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(10 740 199 316)	0.46	(3 074 931 341)	0.43	1.42	7 336 347 390	8 969 785 990	2 292 608 826	4.87	16 318 751 261	19 709 985 306	5 367 540 167
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	118 036 851	1.12	85 448 727	1.40	0.19	850 014 300	1 111 006 710	301 139 102	0.20	959 622 657	992 969 859	215 690 375
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	476 878 593	1.23	137 800 468	1.26	0.41	2 053 477 405	2 579 063 182	668 906 854	0.48	1 710 956 942	2 102 184 589	531 106 386
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(6 112 921 830)	0.52	(1 644 324 808)	0.51	1.08	7 725 792 680	6 645 422 736	1 743 611 277	3.07	9 987 510 870	12 758 344 566	3 387 936 085
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(9 377 922 043)	0.43	(1 721 553 741)	0.53	1.18	5 071 103 322	6 945 956 427	1 905 664 313	3.29	17 469 826 627	16 323 878 470	3 627 218 054
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 562 664 715)	0.22	(618 074 448)	0.30	0.17	668 756 499	1 014 554 692	268 740 686	0.80	4 125 943 927	4 577 219 407	886 815 134
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 029 830 411)	0.43	(822 192 340)	0.42	0.37	1 625 201 670	2 298 620 169	597 891 965	1.29	4 171 557 268	5 328 450 580	1 420 084 305
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	148 809 086 098	25.75	48 179 054 909	24.67	31.10	78 021 206 374	154 820 513 719	50 214 713 962	1.85	5 329 851 577	6 011 427 621	2 035 659 053
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	24 779 743 808	1.98	6 500 079 806	2.01	8.01	35 849 893 901	50 030 946 642	12 930 909 766	5.83	19 258 564 221	25 251 202 834	6 430 829 960
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(51 715 320 995)	0.43	(12 612 719 147)	0.44	6.26	24 789 812 805	38 508 456 942	10 102 957 287	20.61	77 864 816 900	90 223 777 937	22 715 676 434
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	23 443 031 589	1.69	5 844 478 817	1.56	10.10	39 385 708 663	57 396 034 275	16 304 613 559	9.49	30 495 295 481	33 953 002 686	10 460 134 742
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(7 908 313 897)	0.26	(2 161 421 436)	0.23	0.41	2 814 902 597	2 846 458 795	658 029 746	2.56	9 966 334 563	10 754 772 692	2 819 451 182
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 654 232 386)	0.39	(810 165 357)	0.43	0.38	1 780 543 201	2 331 151 609	610 412 913	1.29	5 193 974 543	5 985 383 995	1 420 578 270
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	44 798 312	1.19	67 277 893	9.46	0.05	310 983 719	286 684 052	75 231 899	0.01	114 052 949	241 885 740	7 954 006
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	502 569 226	2.21	289 219 050	4.58	0.23	1 144 075 205	917 589 134	369 962 893	0.07	542 099 159	415 019 908	80 743 843
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(40 602 060 905)	0.00	(9 747 388 944)	0.00	0.00	1 565 763	13 779 128	37 627	8.84	34 275 945 439	40 615 840 033	9 747 426 571
Total	Total SA Rand	147 833 548 115	1.35	51 243 220 197	1.46	100.00	376 438 194 101	570 540 838 276	161 473 207 057	100.00	380 848 174 588	422 707 290 161	110 229 986 860

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 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)
AFRICA	71 305 482 452	2.74	15 751 214 161	2.19	17.96	91 685 283 272	112 342 564 019	29 008 192 187	12.03	47 906 474 681	41 037 081 567	13 256 978 026
AMERICA	26 091 503 121	1.62	10 644 598 681	1.92	13.78	33 345 046 346	67 903 135 263	22 249 738 095	10.53	37 426 412 719	41 811 632 142	11 605 139 414
ASIA	(20 528 926 916)	0.90	(100 583 479)	1.00	30.79	119 917 028 382	182 028 752 143	49 716 354 506	45.19	167 993 104 397	202 557 679 059	49 816 937 985
EUROPE	34 866 334 000	1.27	15 374 248 354	1.46	30.34	98 522 297 746	165 061 040 989	48 984 758 651	30.49	121 803 236 478	130 194 706 989	33 610 510 297
OCEANIA	(1 528 296 138)	0.74	(323 540 422)	0.77	0.66	3 381 548 397	4 319 339 232	1 059 554 795	1.25	4 937 685 630	5 847 635 370	1 383 095 217
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	35 839 325 895	29.48	9 449 778 024	17.96	6.20	26 510 380 300	37 097 880 929	10 007 103 945	0.51	781 260 683	1 258 555 034	557 325 921
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 788 125 701	-	447 504 878	-	0.28	3 076 609 658	1 788 125 701	447 504 878				
Total	147 833 548 115	1.35	51 243 220 197	1.46	100.00	376 438 194 101	570 540 838 276	161 473 207 057	100.00	380 848 174 588	422 707 290 161	110 229 986 860

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 243 265 309	7 718 092 169	8 993 963 398	7 772 728 051

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	Ratio ⁵⁾	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾	Month Total 2021	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾	Month Total 2021
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(237 860 938)	0.95	(173 368 254)	0.88	0.84	4 035 785 870	4 605 890 815	1 249 057 264	1.36	4 928 472 958	4 843 751 753	1 422 425 518
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	14 801 587 263	2.61	3 703 829 332	2.71	3.93	22 087 221 577	23 993 739 384	5 868 786 533	2.07	10 171 920 308	9 192 152 121	2 164 957 201
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 793 533 731)	0.23	(978 098 721)	0.20	0.16	672 036 801	846 285 782	243 103 004	1.17	3 745 587 353	3 639 819 513	1 221 201 725
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	594 979 218	1.05	82 862 769	1.03	2.12	11 041 913 757	12 212 413 060	3 162 704 252	2.94	10 663 826 648	11 617 433 842	3 079 841 483
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	75 793 677 041	2.18	20 623 839 841	2.16	25.71	87 365 222 716	139 931 983 382	38 385 082 144	16.95	66 413 929 886	64 138 306 341	17 761 242 303
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(16 585 326 057)	0.65	(3 491 148 637)	0.70	5.53	21 343 752 786	30 880 523 969	8 255 570 047	11.21	41 017 177 301	47 465 850 026	11 746 718 684
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(12 608 752 677)	0.35	(3 576 807 055)	0.32	1.15	5 719 358 606	6 853 964 150	1 720 128 260	5.06	16 152 797 471	19 462 716 827	5 296 935 315
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(34 737 942)	0.96	54 677 293	1.27	0.17	734 236 571	917 819 196	256 086 354	0.19	939 647 323	952 557 138	201 409 061
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	440 336 333	1.31	116 578 976	1.33	0.32	1 529 758 062	1 878 201 668	471 805 052	0.34	1 266 989 402	1 437 865 335	355 226 076
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(6 983 635 819)	0.45	(1 854 502 165)	0.45	1.02	6 805 710 879	5 702 000 522	1 521 076 980	3.22	9 927 860 011	12 685 636 341	3 375 579 145
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(9 648 293 179)	0.31	(1 867 982 013)	0.40	0.83	3 420 604 197	4 431 056 916	1 234 015 308	2.96	15 757 757 306	14 079 350 095	3 101 997 321
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 169 348 253)	0.08	(779 845 610)	0.11	0.07	240 635 133	373 327 515	97 301 058	0.84	4 097 084 391	4 542 675 768	877 146 668
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 638 793 081)	0.31	(969 844 939)	0.31	0.30	1 172 632 530	1 655 129 116	440 870 794	1.35	4 148 589 948	5 293 922 197	1 410 715 733
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	149 769 604 971	49.26	48 190 276 873	37.31	33.17	77 495 548 938	152 873 147 641	49 517 468 645	1.27	2 544 038 795	3 103 542 670	1 327 191 772
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	21 586 189 144	1.86	5 668 530 495	1.89	8.05	33 676 752 834	46 553 941 776	12 018 531 381	6.06	18 887 142 319	24 967 752 632	6 350 000 886
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(57 172 457 059)	0.36	(13 960 327 254)	0.38	5.62	19 894 581 643	31 585 641 085	8 389 344 121	21.33	76 732 899 312	88 758 098 144	22 349 671 375
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	21 205 419 636	1.67	6 505 606 596	1.75	10.17	36 390 171 403	53 008 564 443	15 185 705 408	8.28	30 323 806 464	31 803 144 807	8 680 098 812
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(8 581 655 755)	0.20	(2 312 546 658)	0.18	0.33	2 297 284 863	2 134 219 760	494 779 278	2.68	9 939 561 063	10 715 875 515	2 807 325 936
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 745 032 924)	0.20	(1 090 603 271)	0.23	0.21	916 219 076	1 204 343 949	319 819 689	1.35	5 155 667 593	5 949 376 873	1 410 422 960
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	43 014 406	1.18	66 976 479	9.46	0.05	305 332 146	284 799 616	74 893 890	0.01	113 954 868	241 785 210	7 917 411
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	497 481 263	2.23	288 646 225	4.74	0.25	1 129 404 047	900 813 804	365 724 470	0.07	536 092 107	403 332 541	77 078 245
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(40 615 160 905)	0.00	(9 747 388 944)	0.00	0.00	1 565 763	679 128	37 627	9.30	34 275 945 439	40 615 840 033	9 747 426 571
Total	Total SA Rand	116 917 700 955	1.29	44 499 361 358	1.42	100.00	338 275 730 198	522 828 486 677	149 271 891 559	100.00	367 740 748 266	405 910 785 722	104 772 530 201

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 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)
AFRICA	40 389 635 292	2.67	9 007 355 322	2.15	11.26	53 522 819 369	64 630 212 420	16 806 876 689	7.44	34 799 048 359	24 240 577 128	7 799 521 367
AMERICA	26 091 503 121	1.62	10 644 598 681	1.92	14.91	33 345 046 346	67 903 135 263	22 249 738 095	11.08	37 426 412 719	41 811 632 142	11 605 139 414
ASIA	(20 528 926 916)	0.90	(100 583 479)	1.00	33.31	119 917 028 382	182 028 752 143	49 716 354 506	47.55	167 993 104 397	202 557 679 059	49 816 937 985
EUROPE	34 866 334 000	1.27	15 374 248 354	1.46	32.82	98 522 297 746	165 061 040 989	48 984 758 651	32.08	121 803 236 478	130 194 706 989	33 610 510 297
OCEANIA	(1 528 296 138)	0.74	(323 540 422)	0.77	0.71	3 381 548 397	4 319 339 232	1 059 554 795	1.32	4 937 685 630	5 847 635 370	1 383 095 217
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	35 839 325 895	29.48	9 449 778 024	17.96	6.70	26 510 380 300	37 097 880 929	10 007 103 945	0.53	781 260 683	1 258 555 034	557 325 921
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 788 125 701	-	447 504 878	-	0.30	3 076 609 658	1 788 125 701	447 504 878				
Total	116 917 700 955	1.29	44 499 361 358	1.42	100.00	338 275 730 198	522 828 486 677	149 271 891 559	100.00	367 740 748 266	405 910 785 722	104 772 530 201
Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021								
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 243 265 309	7 718 092 169	8 993 963 398	7 772 728 051								

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 April 2021 recorded a trade balance surplus of R6.74 billion.

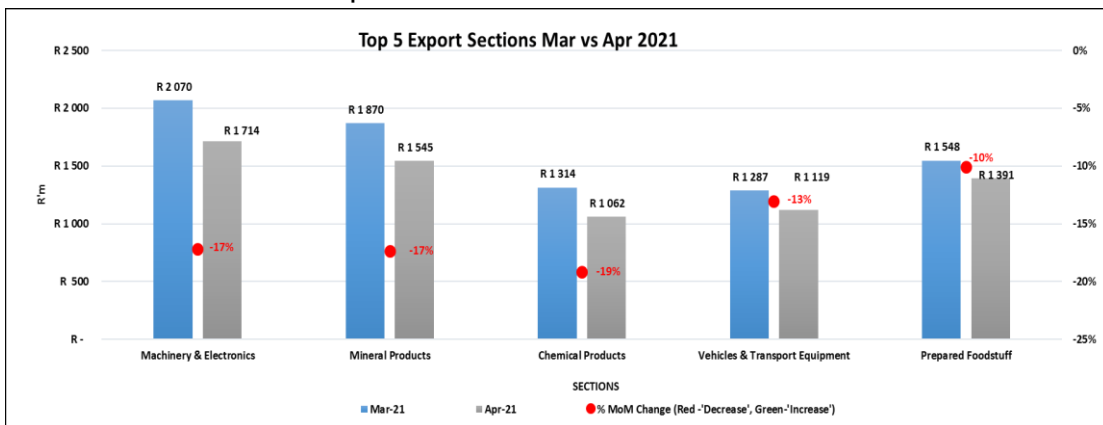
Summary

The R6.74 billion trade balance surplus for April 2021 was as a result of exports of R12.20 billion and imports of R5.46 billion. Exports decreased by R1.89 billion (13.4%) between March and April 2021 and imports increased by R1.26 billion (30.1%) over the same period.

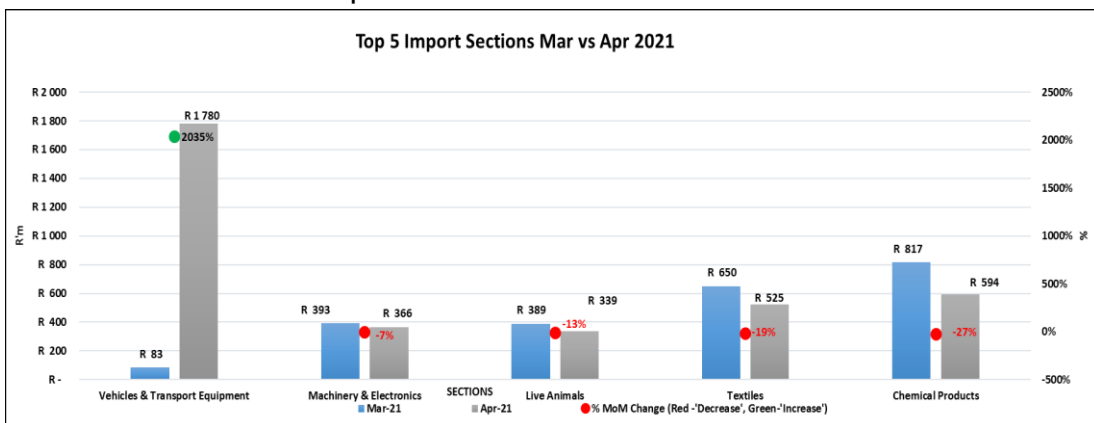
The cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R30.92 billion compared to R25.06 billion in 2020.

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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