

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Thursday, 30 September 2021

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for August 2021

Pretoria, 30 September 2021 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for August 2021 recording a preliminary trade balance surplus of R42.40 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 August 2021) preliminary trade balance surplus of R332.13 billion is an improvement from the R134.95 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2020. Exports increased by 21.1% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 27.9% over the same period.

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

The R42.40 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for August 2021 is attributable to exports of R158.92 billion and imports of R116.52 billion. Exports increased by R14.06 billion (9.7%) between July and August 2021 and imports increased by R8.68 billion (8.0%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 August 2021) increased by 41.2% to R1 196.34 billion from R847.33 billion over the same period during 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R864.22 billion were 21.3% more than the R712.38 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2020. The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 is R332.13 billion.

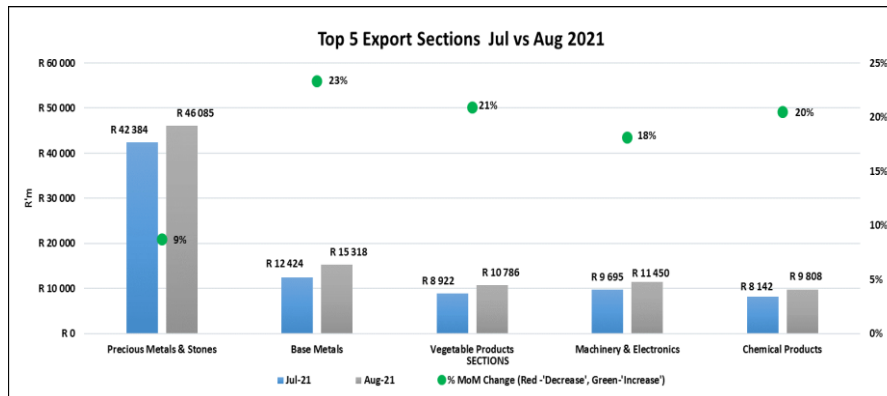
On a year-on-year basis, the R42.40 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for August 2021 was an improvement from the R40.07 billion trade balance surplus recorded in August 2020. Exports of R158.92 billion were 21.1% more than the R131.21 billion exports recorded in August 2020. Imports of R116.53 billion were 27.9% more than the R91.14 billion imports recorded in August 2020.

July 2021 preliminary trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R0.05 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary trade balance surplus of R36.96 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R37.01 billion.

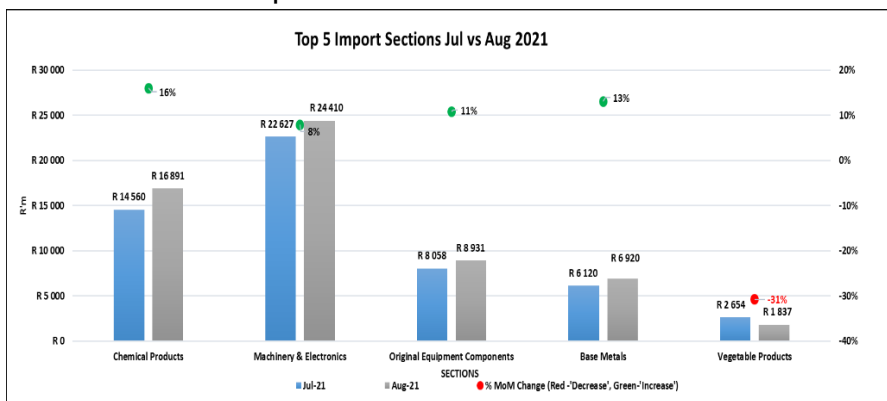
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics August 2021](#)

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 July (revised) to August (preliminary) 2021 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	July 2021	August 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	29 181	34 529	5 348	↑ 18.3%
	Imports	10 049	10 537	487	↑ 4.8%
	Trade Balance	19 132	23 992	4 860	
America	Exports	17 276	15 760	-1 516	↓ -8.8%
	Imports	12 213	13 684	1 471	↑ 12.0%
	Trade Balance	5 063	2 076	-2 987	
Asia	Exports	51 982	52 981	999	↑ 1.9%
	Imports	50 679	56 642	5 963	↑ 11.8%
	Trade Balance	1 303	-3 661	-4 964	
Europe	Exports	36 410	46 415	10 005	↑ 27.5%
	Imports	32 389	33 618	1 229	↑ 3.8%
	Trade Balance	4 020	12 796	8 776	
Oceania	Exports	959	1 123	164	↑ 17.1%
	Imports	1 720	1 464	-256	↓ -14.9%
	Trade Balance	-761	-341	420	
Other Unclassified	Exports	8 485	7 478	-1 007	↓ -11.9%
	Imports	800	581	-219	↓ -27.4%
	Trade Balance	7 685	6 898	-788	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	567	638	71	↑ 12.5%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	567	638	71	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for August 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R33.01 billion.

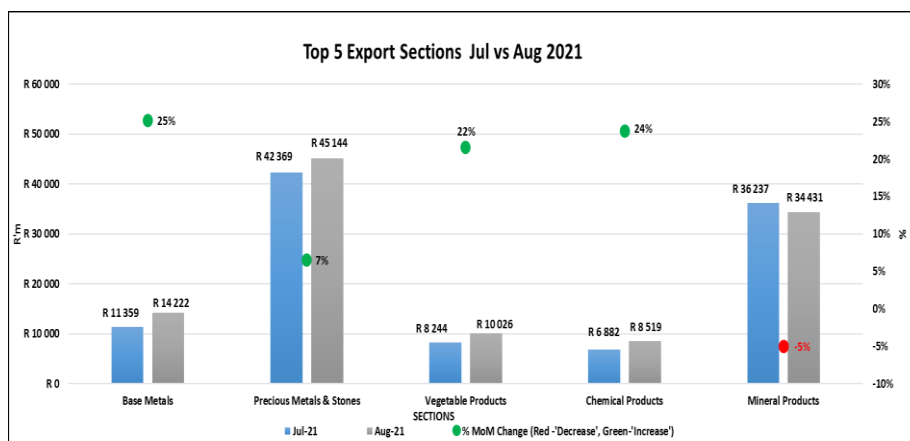
Summary

The R33.01 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for August 2021 was as a result of exports of R144.85 billion and imports of R111.84 billion. Exports increased by R11.64 billion (8.7%) between July and August 2021 and imports increased by R8.00 billion (7.7%) over the same period.

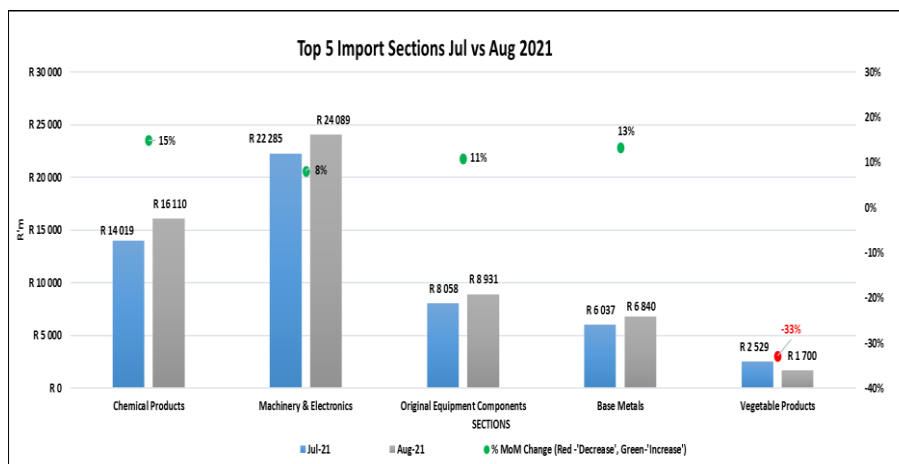
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R265.26 billion compared to R80.02 billion trade balance surplus during 2020.

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 July (Revised) and August (preliminary) 2021 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	July 2021	August 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	17 531	20 453	2 922 	16.7%
	Imports	6 038	5 848	-190 	-3.2%
	Trade Balance	11 493	14 605	3 112	

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

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 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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(1 889 064 869)	0.86	(583 349 975)	0.70	0.84	10 598 658 238	11 227 866 582	1 334 611 472	1.65	11 283 331 720	13 116 931 451	1 917 961 447
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	47 191 655 556	3.58	8 948 987 230	5.87	6.79	65 373 079 954	65 461 656 633	10 786 090 678	1.58	20 775 417 254	18 270 001 077	1 837 103 448
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 267 385 302)	0.44	(640 858 944)	0.44	0.31	3 476 218 273	3 382 129 475	493 527 234	0.97	7 530 637 678	7 649 514 777	1 134 386 178
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	9 719 615 319	1.36	1 152 202 450	1.30	3.16	35 924 774 670	36 777 320 473	5 025 848 903	3.32	24 131 428 251	27 057 705 154	3 873 646 453
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	158 516 978 261	2.16	18 991 483 701	2.08	23.03	203 314 010 389	295 170 010 822	36 607 894 458	15.12	108 534 464 047	136 653 032 561	17 616 410 757
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(34 605 563 408)	0.68	(7 082 823 784)	0.58	6.17	56 704 806 139	73 930 860 977	9 807 836 758	14.50	93 379 082 858	108 536 424 385	16 890 660 542
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(21 145 494 145)	0.48	(2 939 134 663)	0.49	1.77	16 729 264 351	19 327 087 375	2 813 665 335	4.94	30 419 839 689	40 472 581 520	5 752 799 998
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	179 430 079	1.09	34 858 728	1.13	0.20	1 774 186 821	2 234 521 879	312 065 788	0.24	1 724 146 988	2 055 091 800	277 207 060
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 524 696 618	1.38	365 997 055	1.69	0.56	4 404 679 470	5 531 305 704	894 792 127	0.45	3 078 387 577	4 006 609 086	528 795 072
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(13 552 669 338)	0.50	(1 225 622 745)	0.64	1.39	14 084 658 598	13 640 288 415	2 211 948 709	2.95	20 131 309 376	27 192 957 753	3 437 571 454
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(18 635 824 197)	0.41	(2 677 284 063)	0.36	0.96	10 718 492 486	13 087 287 196	1 526 213 668	3.61	33 381 238 039	31 723 111 393	4 203 497 731
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(7 167 173 998)	0.21	(1 045 630 015)	0.21	0.18	1 493 989 907	1 953 165 599	285 763 257	1.14	7 594 992 484	9 120 339 597	1 331 393 272
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(5 672 518 137)	0.45	(720 707 096)	0.44	0.36	3 653 039 949	4 594 241 805	570 926 080	1.11	7 233 851 017	10 266 759 942	1 291 633 176
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	323 500 732 145	24.62	44 121 345 435	23.47	29.00	186 814 647 439	337 194 995 435	46 084 763 251	1.68	10 943 523 409	13 694 263 290	1 963 417 816
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	51 022 385 959	1.96	8 398 384 899	2.21	9.64	78 177 932 979	104 284 042 029	15 317 898 248	5.94	35 939 970 714	53 261 656 070	6 919 513 349
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(100 754 507 680)	0.44	(12 959 829 569)	0.47	7.21	60 985 295 677	80 690 933 031	11 450 486 031	20.95	165 055 579 696	181 445 440 711	24 410 315 600
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	45 212 535 503	1.65	2 307 352 508	1.25	7.31	80 600 666 232	114 789 950 087	11 621 782 993	7.99	49 930 997 205	69 577 414 584	9 314 430 485
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(15 973 593 394)	0.26	(2 085 476 486)	0.25	0.44	5 683 767 275	5 678 273 973	692 470 471	2.38	20 543 741 103	21 651 867 367	2 777 946 957
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(7 575 330 899)	0.39	(987 158 863)	0.42	0.44	4 210 031 107	4 931 891 054	701 006 061	1.45	10 225 582 314	12 507 221 953	1 688 164 924
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(41 210 332)	0.94	(249 272 667)	0.24	0.05	608 213 665	621 965 395	77 850 192	0.28	168 124 340	663 175 727	327 122 859
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	987 426 641	2.22	185 521 517	2.84	0.18	1 996 664 912	1 797 727 897	286 353 468	0.09	800 675 484	810 301 256	100 831 951
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(74 448 792 837)	0.00	(8 910 872 264)	0.00	0.01	3 683 718	34 174 254	20 335 133	7.66	49 572 753 021	74 482 967 091	8 931 207 397
Total	Total SA Rand	332 126 327 545	1.38	42 398 112 389	1.36	100.00	847 330 762 249	1 196 341 696 090	158 924 130 315	100.00	712 379 074 264	864 215 368 545	116 526 017 926

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	161 231 810 665	3.05	23 992 181 626	3.28	21.73	199 945 893 051	239 710 864 960	34 528 839 591	9.04	80 453 841 903	78 479 054 295	10 536 657 965	
AMERICA	53 183 942 714	1.59	2 076 442 898	1.15	9.92	75 513 416 776	143 513 186 995	15 760 258 146	11.74	71 257 770 535	90 329 244 281	13 683 815 248	
ASIA	(27 464 596 411)	0.93	(3 661 348 209)	0.94	33.34	269 169 374 121	389 443 474 958	52 980 930 127	48.61	324 730 822 771	416 908 071 369	56 642 278 336	
EUROPE	79 973 233 402	1.30	12 796 431 609	1.38	29.21	219 215 897 968	342 341 318 240	46 414 604 503	28.85	224 509 264 632	262 368 084 838	33 618 172 894	
OCEANIA	(2 932 472 113)	0.76	(341 135 191)	0.77	0.71	7 764 832 087	9 055 340 588	1 123 259 880	1.26	9 698 620 947	11 987 812 701	1 464 395 071	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	64 217 086 333	16.50	6 897 520 627	12.88	4.71	67 730 965 117	68 360 187 394	7 478 219 039	0.50	1 728 753 476	4 143 101 061	580 698 412	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 917 322 955	-	638 019 029	-	0.40	7 990 383 129	3 917 322 955	638 019 029					
Total	332 126 327 545	1.38	42 398 112 389	1.36	100.00	847 330 762 249	1 196 341 696 090	158 924 130 315	100.00	712 379 074 264	864 215 368 545	116 526 017 926	
Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021					
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 250 748 847	7 449 710 604	8 831 806 869	7 719 886 851	6 989 987 025	8 977 723 495	7 555 879 092	6 977 115 085					

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 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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(1 607 724 026)	0.84	(542 271 022)	0.65	0.69	8 321 337 418	8 726 188 234	995 017 960	1.37	9 277 072 333	10 333 912 260	1 537 288 982
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	42 003 951 060	3.38	8 325 879 326	5.90	6.92	59 877 518 158	59 667 947 644	10 026 141 483	1.52	20 249 019 628	17 663 996 584	1 700 262 157
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(5 709 826 132)	0.25	(866 111 693)	0.24	0.18	2 334 480 394	1 927 861 352	266 552 361	1.01	7 519 473 533	7 637 687 484	1 132 664 054
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	3 370 266 802	1.15	459 890 919	1.15	2.45	25 847 963 939	25 813 049 828	3 551 824 952	2.76	19 771 245 520	22 442 783 026	3 091 934 033
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	143 962 222 848	2.06	16 902 900 404	1.96	23.77	190 726 462 909	279 882 481 116	34 430 993 561	15.67	107 977 793 772	135 920 258 268	17 528 093 157
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(38 875 495 236)	0.62	(7 590 890 167)	0.53	5.88	48 046 484 951	64 486 127 036	8 518 843 730	14.40	89 119 899 363	103 361 622 272	16 109 733 897
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(25 154 499 214)	0.37	(3 516 877 696)	0.38	1.50	13 220 573 039	14 813 516 816	2 179 784 450	5.09	30 069 354 642	39 968 016 030	5 696 662 146
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(88 730 080)	0.96	10 007 335	1.04	0.19	1 549 171 294	1 884 903 061	275 228 567	0.24	1 681 525 832	1 973 633 141	265 221 232
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 453 260 705	1.57	345 051 281	2.09	0.46	3 295 153 697	3 998 318 587	660 848 146	0.28	2 018 276 377	2 545 057 882	315 796 865
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(15 321 348 440)	0.43	(1 454 248 418)	0.57	1.35	12 271 777 967	11 725 392 090	1 959 733 797	3.05	20 017 657 676	27 046 740 530	3 413 982 215
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(18 738 292 179)	0.31	(2 608 904 243)	0.26	0.63	7 186 211 708	8 342 544 780	906 547 137	3.14	29 906 286 094	27 080 836 959	3 515 451 380
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(8 316 032 438)	0.08	(1 215 861 196)	0.08	0.07	582 660 155	731 717 110	103 839 942	1.18	7 530 672 620	9 047 749 548	1 319 701 138
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 900 837 516)	0.32	(888 066 340)	0.31	0.27	2 655 130 892	3 296 279 256	395 425 063	1.15	7 182 895 626	10 197 116 772	1 283 491 403
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	325 265 026 656	41.84	44 180 779 044	46.85	31.17	184 453 313 745	333 229 766 756	45 144 299 349	0.86	5 256 162 699	7 964 740 100	963 520 305
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	43 975 589 253	1.84	7 381 774 280	2.08	9.82	73 080 884 367	96 628 133 679	14 221 739 090	6.12	35 267 475 831	52 652 544 426	6 839 964 810
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(112 276 762 973)	0.37	(14 552 328 138)	0.40	6.58	49 820 550 094	66 391 669 683	9 536 600 195	21.54	162 815 092 209	178 668 432 656	24 088 928 333
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	39 021 580 401	1.58	1 253 576 113	1.14	7.24	73 884 904 825	105 899 346 944	10 480 647 569	8.25	49 472 072 341	66 877 766 543	9 227 071 456
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(17 377 693 205)	0.20	(2 279 289 663)	0.18	0.34	4 392 896 907	4 211 291 926	495 131 956	2.48	20 492 234 823	21 588 985 131	2 774 421 619
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(9 860 262 465)	0.21	(1 334 276 908)	0.20	0.24	2 200 992 627	2 567 185 640	342 240 802	1.50	10 156 569 266	12 427 448 105	1 676 517 710
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(45 371 702)	0.93	(250 245 643)	0.23	0.05	599 735 169	617 627 551	76 864 995	0.29	167 990 866	662 999 253	327 110 638
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	964 714 943	2.22	181 781 976	2.85	0.19	1 973 013 975	1 753 288 098	280 114 836	0.09	780 983 887	788 573 155	98 332 860
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(74 482 215 837)	0.00	(8 931 194 964)	0.00	0.00	3 679 495	751 254	12 433	7.99	49 572 753 021	74 482 967 091	8 931 207 397
Total	Total SA Rand	265 261 521 225	1.32	33 011 074 587	1.30	100.00	766 324 897 725	1 096 595 388 441	144 848 432 374	100.00	686 302 507 959	831 333 867 216	111 837 357 787

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	94 367 004 345	3.07	14 605 143 824	3.50	14.12	118 940 028 527	139 964 557 311	20 453 141 650	5.23	54 377 275 598	45 597 552 966	5 847 997 826	
AMERICA	53 183 942 714	1.59	2 076 442 898	1.15	10.88	75 513 416 776	143 513 186 995	15 760 258 146	12.24	71 257 770 535	90 329 244 281	13 683 815 248	
ASIA	(27 464 596 411)	0.93	(3 661 348 209)	0.94	36.58	269 169 374 121	389 443 474 958	52 980 930 127	50.65	324 730 822 771	416 908 071 369	56 642 278 336	
EUROPE	79 973 233 402	1.30	12 796 431 609	1.38	32.04	219 215 897 968	342 341 318 240	46 414 604 503	30.06	224 509 264 632	262 368 084 838	33 618 172 894	
OCEANIA	(2 932 472 113)	0.76	(341 135 191)	0.77	0.78	7 764 832 087	9 055 340 588	1 123 259 880	1.31	9 698 620 947	11 987 812 701	1 464 395 071	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	64 217 086 333	16.50	6 897 520 627	12.88	5.16	67 730 965 117	68 360 187 394	7 478 219 039	0.52	1 728 753 476	4 143 101 061	580 698 412	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 917 322 955	-	638 019 029	-	0.44	7 990 383 129	3 917 322 955	638 019 029					
Total	265 261 521 225	1.32	33 011 074 587	1.30	100.00	766 324 897 725	1 096 595 388 441	144 848 432 374	100.00	686 302 507 959	831 333 867 216	111 837 357 787	
Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021					
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 250 748 847	7 449 710 604	8 831 806 869	7 719 886 851	6 989 987 025	8 977 723 495	7 555 879 092	6 977 115 085					

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 August 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R9.39 billion.

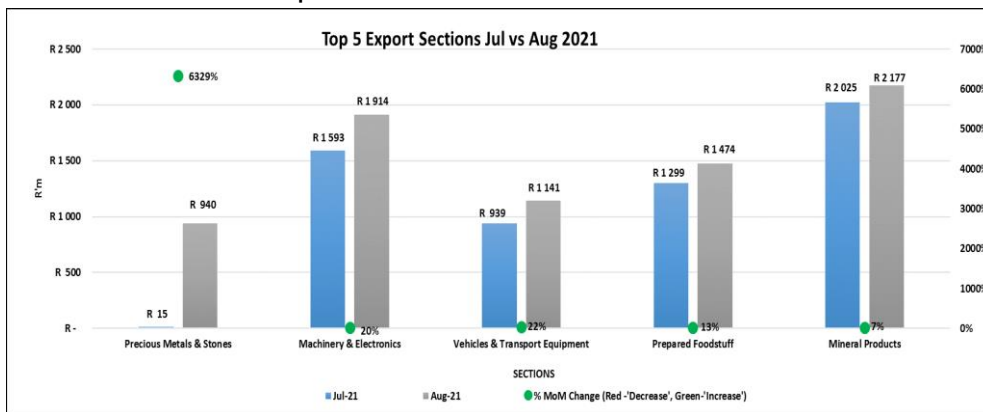
Summary

The R9.39 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for August 2021 was as a result of exports of R14.08 billion and imports of R4.69 billion. Exports increased by R2.43 billion (20.8%) between July and August 2021 and imports increased by R0.68 billion (16.9%) over the same period.

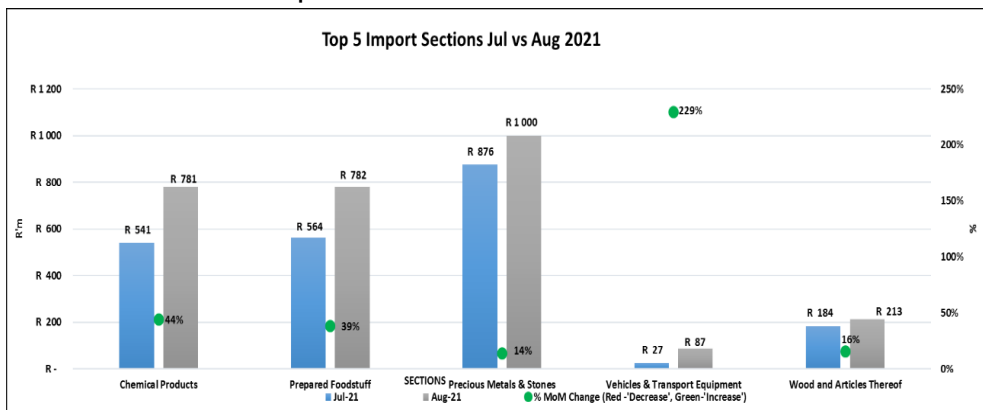
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R66.86 billion compared to R54.93 billion in 2020.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

For any enquiries, please send your queries to SARSMedia@sars.gov.za or TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za