

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 31 January 2022

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for December 2021

Pretoria, 31 January 2022 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2021 recording a preliminary trade balance surplus of R30.14 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2021) preliminary trade balance surplus of R440.75 billion is an improvement from the R271.57 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2020. Exports increased by 22.9% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 34.2% over the same period.

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

The R30.14 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2021 is attributable to exports of R156.30 billion and imports of R126.16 billion. Exports decreased by R6.49 billion (4.0%) between November and December 2021 and imports decreased by R0.79 billion (0.6%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2021) increased by 30.5% to R1 820.39 billion from R1 394.96 billion over the same period during 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 379.64 billion were 22.8% more than the R1 123.38 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2020. The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 is R440.75 billion.

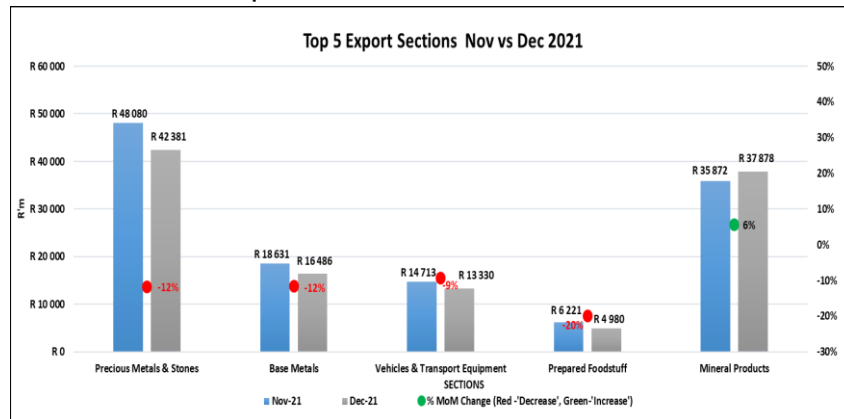
On a year-on-year basis, the R30.14 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2021 was a deterioration from the R33.20 billion trade balance surplus recorded in December 2020. Exports of R156.30 billion were 22.9% more than the R127.21 billion exports recorded in December 2020. Imports of R126.16 billion were 34.2% more than the R94.00 billion imports recorded in December 2020.

November 2021 preliminary trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R0.01 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary trade balance surplus of R35.83 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R35.84 billion.

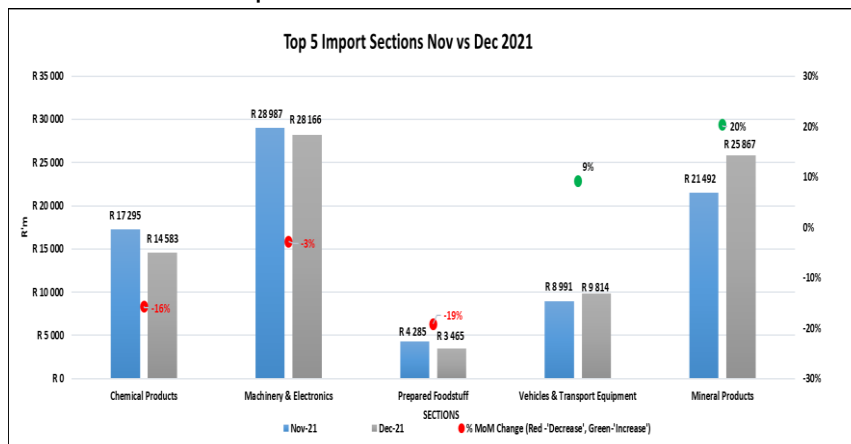
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from November (revised) to December (preliminary) 2021 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	November 2021	December 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	40 576	36 756	-3 820	↓ -9.4%
	Imports	14 177	13 450	-727	↓ -5.1%
	Trade Balance	26 398	23 306	-3 093	
America	Exports	19 694	19 723	30	↑ 0.2%
	Imports	13 440	12 597	-843	↓ -6.3%
	Trade Balance	6 254	7 127	873	
Asia	Exports	51 896	49 302	-2 594	↓ -5.0%
	Imports	62 664	69 401	6 736	↑ 10.7%
	Trade Balance	-10 768	-20 098	-9 330	
Europe	Exports	36 605	38 511	1 906	↑ 5.2%
	Imports	33 531	28 781	-4 750	↓ -14.2%
	Trade Balance	3 074	9 730	6 656	
Oceania	Exports	1 224	1 286	62	↑ 5.1%
	Imports	1 738	1 400	-337	↓ -19.4%
	Trade Balance	-514	-114	400	
Other Unclassified	Exports	12 431	10 061	-2 370	↓ -19.1%
	Imports	1 401	528	-873	↓ -62.3%
	Trade Balance	11 030	9 533	-1 497	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	363	658	295	↑ 81.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	363	658	295	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for December 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R19.88 billion.

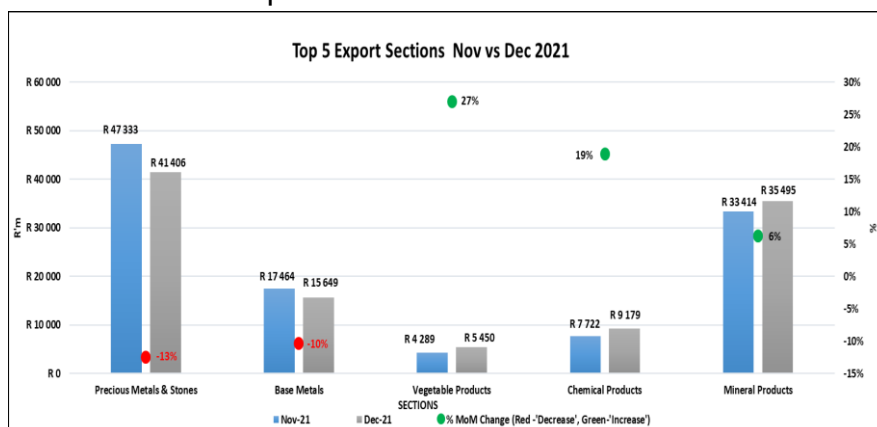
Summary

The R19.88 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2021 was as a result of exports of R142.17 billion and imports of R122.29 billion. Exports decreased by R4.26 billion (2.9%) between November and December 2021 and imports increased by R0.90 billion (0.7%) over the same period.

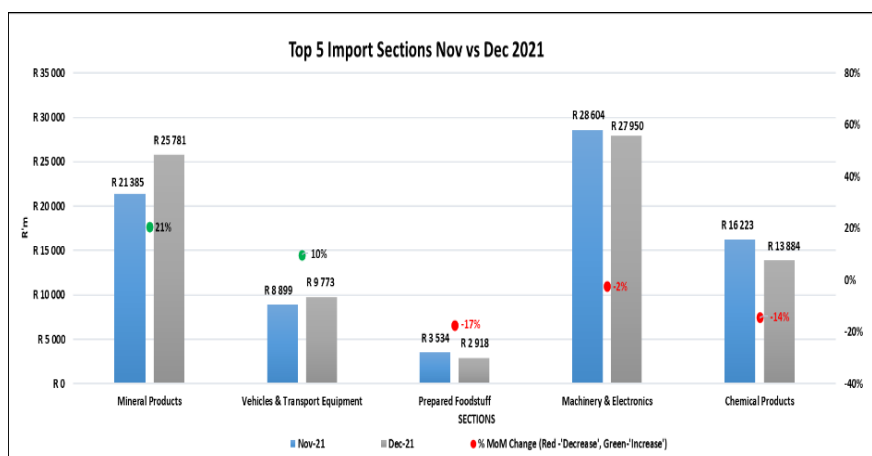
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R333.91 billion compared to R182.16 billion trade balance surplus during 2020.

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 November (Revised) and December (preliminary) 2021 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	November 2021	December 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	24 216	22 625	-1 592 	-6.6%
	Imports	8 610	9 580	971 	11.3%
	Trade Balance	15 606	13 044	-2 562	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 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	(2 744 721 280)	0.86	(50 590 152)	0.97	1.10	16 642 190 252	17 461 963 311	1 726 957 544	1.41	17 593 261 562	20 206 684 591	1 777 547 696
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	67 771 419 864	3.46	4 714 285 708	3.87	4.07	89 376 963 845	95 293 884 671	6 357 897 668	1.30	30 475 885 739	27 522 464 807	1 643 611 960
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(7 376 225 595)	0.43	(790 922 230)	0.43	0.39	4 890 589 054	5 553 956 239	608 791 098	1.11	11 732 876 870	12 930 181 834	1 399 713 328
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	17 726 597 052	1.42	1 515 242 398	1.44	3.19	58 152 918 098	59 574 415 925	4 979 962 255	2.75	38 120 747 581	41 847 818 873	3 464 719 857
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	205 023 486 985	1.88	12 011 800 399	1.46	24.23	329 449 970 385	438 534 188 047	37 878 397 009	20.50	160 260 657 392	233 510 701 062	25 866 596 610
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(60 279 580 782)	0.65	(4 173 885 316)	0.71	6.66	90 640 708 594	113 011 744 179	10 409 072 171	11.56	146 009 056 822	173 291 324 961	14 582 957 487
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(34 168 640 804)	0.46	(3 312 000 940)	0.43	1.57	26 159 000 965	29 423 964 741	2 461 406 761	4.58	48 916 399 119	63 592 605 545	5 773 407 701
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	116 857 112	1.03	(35 509 110)	0.90	0.21	2 997 305 647	3 607 432 382	331 491 416	0.29	2 928 172 601	3 490 575 270	367 000 526
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 567 866 197	1.41	213 453 348	1.37	0.51	6 977 585 345	8 795 699 322	798 049 611	0.46	5 020 290 459	6 227 833 125	584 596 263
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(19 506 469 099)	0.54	(570 061 393)	0.83	1.84	20 859 590 971	22 528 584 059	2 876 813 018	2.73	33 330 522 338	42 035 053 158	3 446 874 411
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(30 274 479 856)	0.41	(2 449 979 435)	0.46	1.32	17 705 025 810	20 852 964 029	2 065 680 297	3.58	50 640 620 071	51 127 443 885	4 515 659 732
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(11 427 731 762)	0.22	(1 088 495 481)	0.22	0.20	2 728 208 096	3 258 508 950	312 450 111	1.11	12 638 839 574	14 686 240 712	1 400 945 592
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(8 067 065 264)	0.47	(658 385 896)	0.47	0.38	6 156 679 890	7 197 235 368	593 469 376	0.99	12 205 395 981	15 264 300 632	1 251 855 272
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	491 355 667 768	23.40	40 557 094 256	23.23	27.12	324 174 416 195	513 288 438 319	42 381 276 051	1.45	17 886 880 897	21 932 770 551	1 824 181 795
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	85 710 266 039	2.02	8 500 070 938	2.06	10.55	126 060 631 246	169 985 561 484	16 485 774 583	6.33	58 089 343 865	84 275 295 445	7 985 703 645
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(170 822 867 889)	0.42	(17 571 531 475)	0.38	6.78	105 119 163 693	123 024 538 817	10 594 780 392	22.33	263 513 568 470	293 847 406 706	28 166 311 867
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	61 749 504 221	1.58	3 516 221 038	1.36	8.53	144 843 294 128	167 782 911 084	13 329 859 699	7.78	79 822 337 765	106 033 406 863	9 813 638 661
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(25 292 329 738)	0.26	(2 278 803 142)	0.27	0.54	9 144 746 612	9 036 358 178	838 882 691	2.47	32 438 339 367	34 328 687 916	3 117 685 833
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(13 047 547 860)	0.38	(1 296 681 396)	0.36	0.47	7 375 156 064	8 044 194 470	727 390 388	1.60	17 500 479 075	21 091 742 330	2 024 071 784
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	293 565 055	1.38	29 826 557	2.12	0.04	1 067 051 687	1 057 372 371	56 465 042	0.02	280 640 806	763 807 316	26 638 485
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 770 999 182	2.45	378 519 746	4.68	0.31	4 426 265 362	2 992 502 013	481 309 466	0.08	1 339 495 276	1 221 502 831	102 789 720
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(110 328 131 299)	0.00	(7 018 723 414)	0.00	0.00	11 908 571	88 205 165	1 073 133	5.56	82 640 641 453	110 416 336 464	7 019 796 547
Total	Total SA Rand	440 750 438 247	1.32	30 140 945 008	1.24	100.00	1 394 959 370 510	1 820 394 623 124	156 297 249 780	100.00	1 123 384 453 083	1 379 644 184 877	126 156 304 772

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	248 179 741 401	2.79	23 305 630 077	2.73	23.52	324 501 155 523	387 093 298 079	36 755 636 707	10.66	123 212 530 792	138 913 556 678	13 450 006 630
AMERICA	74 341 609 248	1.52	7 126 616 442	1.57	12.62	135 991 607 502	218 146 885 935	19 723 401 656	9.99	111 989 851 892	143 805 276 687	12 596 785 214
ASIA	(93 876 159 365)	0.86	(20 098 030 652)	0.71	31.54	434 263 231 365	582 838 029 728	49 302 481 854	55.01	522 002 595 211	676 714 189 093	69 400 512 506
EUROPE	109 368 582 889	1.28	9 730 068 701	1.34	24.64	364 281 292 473	503 466 370 465	38 511 280 567	22.81	348 421 859 332	394 097 787 576	28 781 211 866
OCEANIA	(5 109 823 246)	0.73	(114 208 302)	0.92	0.82	13 863 233 532	13 832 244 362	1 285 880 170	1.11	14 985 571 038	18 942 067 608	1 400 088 472
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	102 202 952 851	15.25	9 533 236 393	19.07	6.44	110 862 466 768	109 374 260 086	10 060 936 477	0.42	2 772 044 818	7 171 307 235	527 700 084
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	5 643 534 469	-	657 632 349	-	0.42	11 196 383 347	5 643 534 469	657 632 349				
Total	440 750 438 247	1.32	30 140 945 008	1.24	100.00	1 394 959 370 510	1 820 394 623 124	156 297 249 780	100.00	1 123 384 453 083	1 379 644 184 877	126 156 304 772

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 250 748 847	7 449 710 604	8 833 315 542	7 720 363 895	6 989 987 025	8 951 919 048	7 535 116 453	6 944 429 352	8 829 119 241	7 465 107 009	8 076 103 290	9 242 893 682

- 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	(2 615 982 900)	0.84	(88 347 485)	0.94	0.95	12 948 196 559	13 435 444 577	1 353 710 262	1.18	14 429 914 588	16 051 427 477	1 442 057 747
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	59 544 303 434	3.24	3 864 238 771	3.44	3.83	80 735 581 591	86 180 610 293	5 449 583 985	1.30	29 693 142 924	26 636 306 859	1 585 345 214
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(9 671 920 125)	0.25	(1 010 860 699)	0.28	0.27	3 095 767 668	3 233 219 800	384 480 745	1.14	11 715 262 523	12 905 139 925	1 395 341 444
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	6 938 148 593	1.20	329 668 593	1.11	2.28	41 621 800 217	41 515 631 109	3 247 932 017	2.39	31 466 272 342	34 577 482 516	2 918 263 424
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	181 753 086 678	1.78	9 714 473 376	1.38	24.97	310 217 245 083	414 130 671 007	35 495 457 581	21.08	159 351 916 933	232 377 584 329	25 780 984 205
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(66 654 328 520)	0.60	(4 704 999 443)	0.66	6.46	76 949 546 120	98 084 547 663	9 179 027 232	11.35	138 302 430 603	164 738 876 183	13 884 026 675
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(40 657 247 532)	0.35	(3 929 954 369)	0.31	1.27	20 292 356 500	22 215 612 402	1 806 046 114	4.69	48 335 366 444	62 872 859 934	5 736 000 483
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(327 337 078)	0.90	(80 373 948)	0.78	0.20	2 572 063 601	3 031 984 121	280 386 061	0.30	2 838 036 315	3 359 321 199	360 760 009
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 457 356 273	1.62	181 660 346	1.41	0.44	5 101 363 348	6 422 227 954	621 517 672	0.36	3 308 124 851	3 964 871 681	439 857 326
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(22 446 105 125)	0.46	(850 438 966)	0.75	1.81	17 881 214 139	19 335 054 758	2 568 830 012	2.80	33 130 222 989	41 781 159 883	3 419 268 978
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(30 490 066 130)	0.30	(2 701 869 552)	0.33	0.92	11 537 811 383	12 942 202 066	1 314 280 319	3.28	44 374 429 945	43 432 268 196	4 016 149 871
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(13 402 865 311)	0.08	(1 277 414 650)	0.08	0.08	1 001 777 944	1 157 788 728	118 238 923	1.14	12 510 322 348	14 560 654 039	1 395 653 573
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(9 997 744 836)	0.34	(808 521 910)	0.35	0.30	4 417 453 488	5 148 459 411	431 047 780	1.01	12 117 900 087	15 146 204 247	1 239 569 690
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	494 396 626 931	43.43	40 645 703 280	54.43	29.13	319 601 222 359	506 049 948 224	41 406 433 221	0.62	8 351 081 059	11 653 321 293	760 729 941
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	75 096 301 357	1.90	7 724 311 410	1.97	11.01	117 338 005 652	158 438 307 286	15 649 271 693	6.48	57 152 759 045	83 342 005 929	7 924 960 283
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(188 905 267 328)	0.35	(19 060 177 333)	0.32	6.25	86 566 939 993	100 869 313 669	8 890 230 489	22.86	259 930 693 201	289 774 580 997	27 950 407 822
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	51 396 508 906	1.50	2 600 153 125	1.27	8.70	134 073 483 994	154 514 801 861	12 373 114 528	7.99	79 176 687 164	103 118 292 955	9 772 961 403
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(27 403 834 299)	0.20	(2 443 503 831)	0.21	0.47	7 091 680 929	6 830 845 088	661 528 837	2.54	32 358 937 117	34 234 679 387	3 105 032 668
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(16 761 184 305)	0.20	(1 610 651 281)	0.20	0.28	3 852 000 371	4 199 510 944	403 603 889	1.65	17 393 828 979	20 960 695 249	2 014 255 170
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	287 590 633	1.38	29 691 460	2.13	0.04	1 055 212 636	1 050 761 089	56 065 314	0.02	280 426 481	763 170 456	26 373 854
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 735 517 392	2.46	375 637 304	4.80	0.33	4 363 518 885	2 924 976 179	474 486 069	0.08	1 305 893 111	1 189 458 787	98 848 765
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(110 361 586 299)	0.00	(7 018 723 414)	0.00	0.00	11 109 911	54 750 165	1 073 133	5.74	82 640 640 453	110 416 336 464	7 019 796 547
Total	Total SA Rand	333 909 970 409	1.25	19 879 700 784	1.16	100.00	1 262 325 352 371	1 661 766 668 394	142 166 345 876	100.00	1 080 164 289 502	1 327 856 697 985	122 286 645 092

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	141 339 273 563	2.62	13 044 385 853	2.36	15.91	191 867 137 384	228 465 343 349	22 624 732 803	7.83	79 992 367 211	87 126 069 786	9 580 346 950
AMERICA	74 341 609 248	1.52	7 126 616 442	1.57	13.87	135 991 607 502	218 146 885 935	19 723 401 656	10.30	111 989 851 892	143 805 276 687	12 596 785 214
ASIA	(93 876 159 365)	0.86	(20 098 030 652)	0.71	34.68	434 263 231 365	582 838 029 728	49 302 481 854	56.75	522 002 595 211	676 714 189 093	69 400 512 506
EUROPE	109 368 582 889	1.28	9 730 068 701	1.34	27.09	364 281 292 473	503 466 370 465	38 511 280 567	23.54	348 421 859 332	394 097 787 576	28 781 211 866
OCEANIA	(5 109 823 246)	0.73	(114 208 302)	0.92	0.90	13 863 233 532	13 832 244 362	1 285 880 170	1.14	14 985 571 038	18 942 067 608	1 400 088 472
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	102 202 952 851	15.25	9 533 236 393	19.07	7.08	110 862 466 768	109 374 260 086	10 060 936 477	0.43	2 772 044 818	7 171 307 235	527 700 084
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	5 643 534 469	-	657 632 349	-	0.46	11 196 383 347	5 643 534 469	657 632 349				
Total	333 909 970 409	1.25	19 879 700 784	1.16	100.00	1 262 325 352 371	1 661 766 668 394	142 166 345 876	100.00	1 080 164 289 502	1 327 856 697 985	122 286 645 092

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 250 748 847	7 449 710 604	8 833 315 542	7 720 363 895	6 989 987 025	8 951 919 048	7 535 116 453	6 944 429 352	8 829 119 241	7 465 107 009	8 076 103 290	9 242 893 682

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 December 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.26 billion.

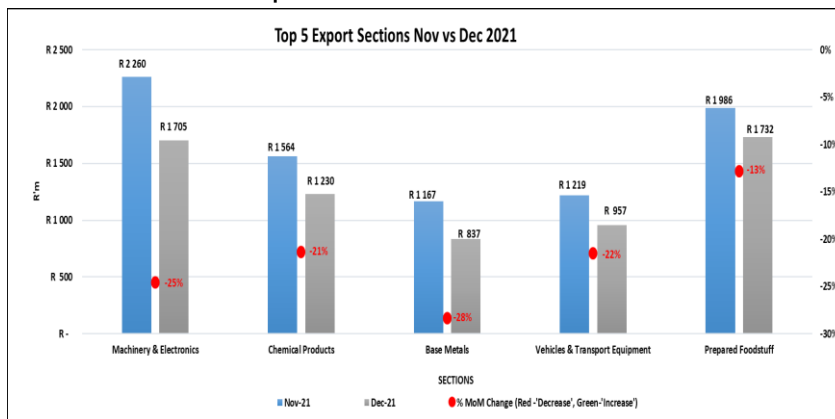
Summary

The R10.26 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2021 was as a result of exports of R14.13 billion and imports of R3.87 billion. Exports decreased by R2.23 billion (13.6%) between November and December 2021 and imports decreased by R1.70 billion (30.5%) over the same period.

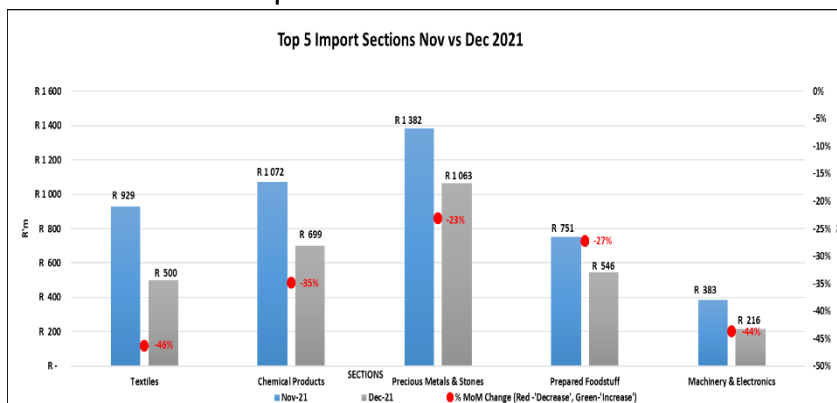
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R106.84 billion compared to R89.41 billion in 2020.

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