

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Wednesday, 30 June 2021

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for May 2021

Pretoria, 30 June 2021 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for May 2021 recording a preliminary trade balance surplus of R54.60 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 May 2021) preliminary trade balance surplus of R202.59 billion is an improvement from the R10.63 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2020. Exports increased by 62.1% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 26.9% over the same period.

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

The R54.60 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for May 2021 is attributable to exports of R163.51 billion and imports of R108.91 billion. Exports increased by R2.37 billion (1.5%) between April and May 2021 and imports decreased by R0.97 billion (0.9%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 May 2021) increased by 53.7% to R733.89 billion from R477.34 billion over the same period during 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R531.30 billion were 13.8% more than the R466.71 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2020. The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 is R202.59 billion.

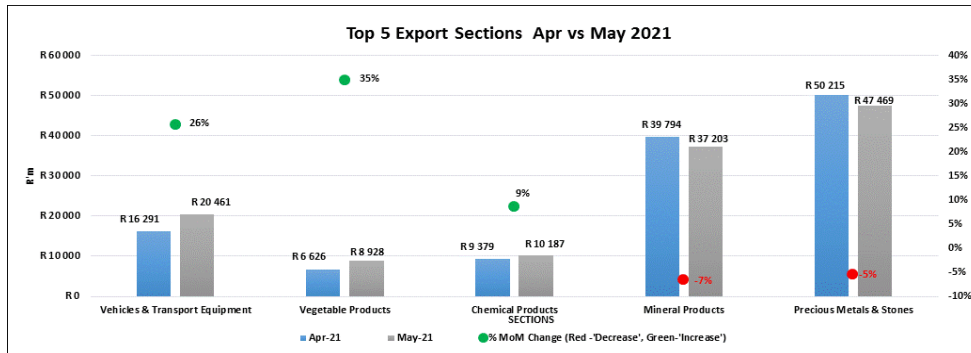
On a year-on-year basis, the R54.60 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for May 2021 was an improvement from the R15.06 billion trade balance surplus recorded in May 2020. Exports of R163.51 billion were 62.1% more than the R100.90 billion exports recorded in May 2020. Imports of R108.91 billion were 26.9% more than the R85.84 billion imports recorded in May 2020.

April 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 R51.24 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R51.25 billion.

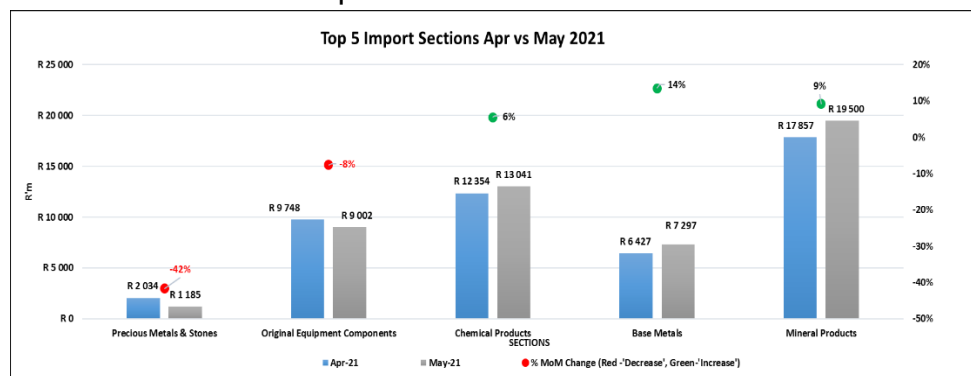
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

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

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2021	May 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 952	32 904	3 952	13.6%
	Imports	13 256	8 076	-5 180	-39.1%
	Trade Balance	15 696	24 828	9 132	
America	Exports	22 206	23 558	1 352	6.1%
	Imports	11 495	10 279	-1 217	-10.6%
	Trade Balance	10 711	13 279	2 568	
Asia	Exports	49 331	52 715	3 384	6.9%
	Imports	49 821	55 802	5 981	12.0%
	Trade Balance	-490	-3 087	-2 598	
Europe	Exports	49 132	44 461	-4 671	-9.5%
	Imports	33 365	32 875	-491	-1.5%
	Trade Balance	15 767	11 587	-4 180	
Oceania	Exports	1 058	1 445	387	36.6%
	Imports	1 383	1 454	71	5.1%
	Trade Balance	-326	-9	316	
Other Unclassified	Exports	10 007	8 109	-1 898	-19.0%
	Imports	557	426	-132	-23.6%
	Trade Balance	9 450	7 683	-1 767	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	448	318	-130	-29.0%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	448	318	-130	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for May 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R44.18 billion.

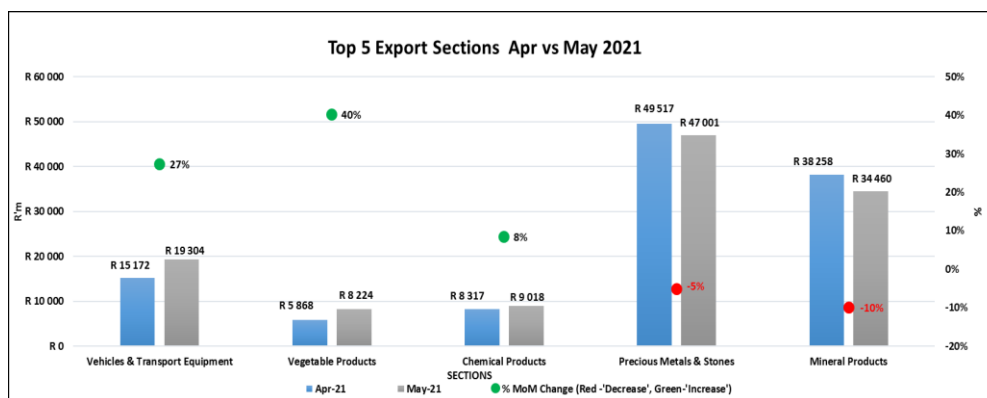
Summary

The R44.18 billion trade balance surplus for May 2021 was as a result of exports of R149.82 billion and imports of R105.64 billion. Exports increased by R0.88 billion (0.6%) between April and May 2021 and imports increased by R1.22 billion (1.2%) over the same period.

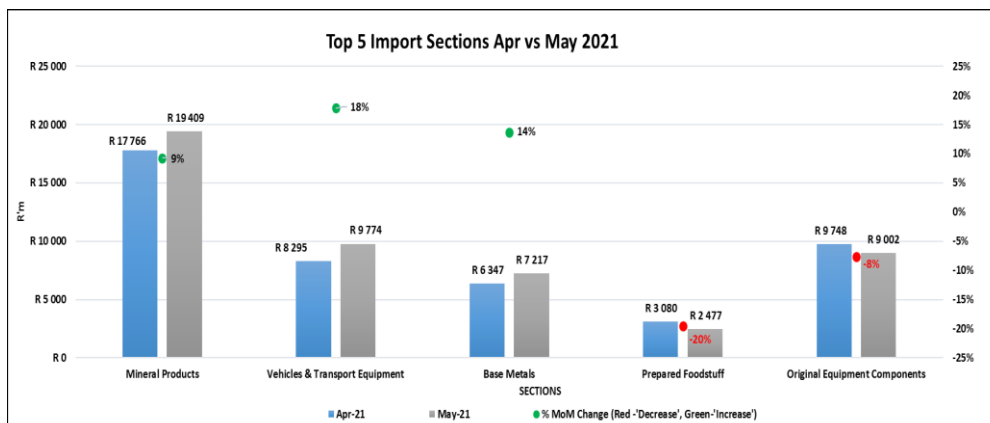
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R161.29 billion compared to R20.39 billion trade balance deficit during 2020.

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 April (Revised) and May (preliminary) 2021 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2021	May 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	16 764	19 218	2 454 	14.6%
	Imports	7 800	4 810	-2 990 	-38.3%
	Trade Balance	8 964	14 408	5 444	

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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 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	(490 219 224)	0.94	(210 522 194)	0.87	0.83	6 539 153 625	7 186 086 429	1 359 522 107	1.44	7 516 963 413	7 676 305 653	1 570 044 301
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	24 340 206 225	3.10	6 721 184 444	4.05	5.46	32 566 946 433	35 943 338 364	8 928 119 940	2.03	12 626 871 634	11 603 132 139	2 206 935 496
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 463 348 026)	0.44	(313 023 242)	0.59	0.27	1 628 080 191	1 940 908 820	446 697 661	0.70	4 924 721 248	4 404 256 846	759 720 903
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	5 783 855 228	1.34	1 845 680 044	1.61	2.98	20 153 002 747	22 554 372 163	4 878 205 160	2.78	15 713 595 165	16 770 516 935	3 032 525 116
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	99 560 683 792	2.19	17 703 065 193	1.91	22.75	121 000 277 296	183 554 656 090	37 203 220 489	17.90	77 018 063 892	83 993 972 298	19 500 155 296
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(17 487 141 942)	0.72	(2 853 322 976)	0.78	6.23	33 216 157 266	45 666 337 304	10 187 477 285	11.97	55 821 838 141	63 153 479 246	13 040 800 261
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(13 107 439 960)	0.47	(2 344 391 109)	0.52	1.58	9 334 970 134	11 522 956 604	2 576 392 949	4.52	20 082 300 934	24 630 396 564	4 920 784 058
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	138 296 302	1.11	20 504 993	1.08	0.17	1 013 417 475	1 388 377 406	277 522 710	0.24	1 099 100 860	1 250 081 104	257 017 717
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	710 734 213	1.27	232 890 941	1.45	0.46	2 458 436 637	3 326 700 239	746 916 391	0.47	2 029 131 728	2 615 966 026	514 025 450
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(7 971 240 313)	0.51	(1 854 186 228)	0.47	1.01	9 332 826 931	8 296 640 092	1 654 756 651	3.22	12 343 274 386	16 267 880 405	3 508 942 879
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(10 982 428 785)	0.44	(1 601 645 261)	0.53	1.12	6 228 631 120	8 778 284 762	1 836 030 317	3.16	23 172 078 010	19 760 713 547	3 437 675 578
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 254 917 206)	0.23	(691 617 761)	0.26	0.15	827 991 352	1 255 183 081	240 968 293	0.86	4 595 444 321	5 510 100 287	932 586 054
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 642 842 138)	0.45	(612 024 812)	0.51	0.39	1 994 998 582	2 936 412 044	637 922 566	1.15	4 925 100 780	6 579 254 182	1 249 947 378
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	195 113 725 359	28.12	46 283 550 564	40.05	29.03	100 361 245 512	202 308 787 161	47 468 788 467	1.09	6 594 525 908	7 195 061 802	1 185 237 903
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	30 186 590 101	1.93	5 537 282 831	1.76	7.85	46 794 064 678	62 724 883 106	12 834 012 337	6.70	23 952 129 606	32 538 293 005	7 296 729 506
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(63 755 191 709)	0.43	(11 990 174 913)	0.46	6.25	31 354 327 132	48 717 087 330	10 221 095 981	20.39	99 632 370 755	112 472 279 039	22 211 270 894
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	34 457 984 570	1.79	10 648 367 998	2.09	12.51	45 355 078 855	77 843 807 788	20 460 746 657	9.01	35 389 535 479	43 385 823 218	9 812 378 659
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(9 970 057 949)	0.26	(2 061 601 029)	0.25	0.42	3 368 087 259	3 530 718 338	684 236 649	2.52	12 956 758 178	13 500 776 287	2 745 837 678
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 590 522 290)	0.39	(936 041 371)	0.41	0.40	2 223 798 400	2 983 280 126	653 539 173	1.46	6 259 842 484	7 573 802 416	1 589 580 544
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	88 338 130	1.31	44 053 710	2.06	0.05	336 992 776	372 268 938	85 446 893	0.04	117 009 529	283 930 808	41 393 183
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	534 737 131	2.05	31 965 811	1.34	0.08	1 253 505 996	1 045 077 663	127 275 144	0.09	580 405 052	510 340 532	95 309 333
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(49 605 019 773)	0.00	(9 002 276 477)	0.00	0.00	1 587 659	13 789 128	10 000	8.27	39 359 496 910	49 618 808 901	9 002 286 477
Total	Total SA Rand	202 594 781 736	1.38	54 597 719 156	1.50	100.00	477 343 578 056	733 889 952 976	163 508 903 820	100.00	466 710 558 413	531 295 171 240	108 911 184 664

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	96 036 858 301	2.96	24 827 941 617	4.07	20.12	114 247 976 943	145 149 471 019	32 904 109 309	7.42	55 275 956 971	49 112 612 718	8 076 167 692
AMERICA	39 450 840 873	1.76	13 278 857 358	2.29	14.41	40 770 080 736	91 409 787 337	23 557 586 269	9.44	46 310 263 888	51 958 946 464	10 278 728 911
ASIA	(23 839 646 567)	0.91	(3 087 365 283)	0.94	32.24	153 512 222 238	234 535 638 813	52 714 866 610	51.24	211 570 055 975	258 375 285 380	55 802 231 893
EUROPE	46 857 544 359	1.29	11 586 660 803	1.35	27.19	122 671 666 828	209 720 279 985	44 461 178 883	30.18	146 254 446 640	162 862 735 626	32 874 518 080
OCEANIA	(1 539 033 916)	0.79	(9 142 429)	0.99	0.88	4 242 260 941	5 762 205 442	1 444 598 999	1.33	6 074 727 669	7 301 239 358	1 453 741 428
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	43 522 304 497	26.84	7 682 978 602	19.04	4.96	35 641 715 025	45 206 656 191	8 108 775 262	0.39	1 225 107 270	1 684 351 694	425 796 660
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 105 914 189	-	317 788 488	-	0.19	6 257 655 345	2 105 914 189	317 788 488				
Total	202 594 781 736	1.38	54 597 719 156	1.50	100.00	477 343 578 056	733 889 952 976	163 508 903 820	100.00	466 710 558 413	531 295 171 240	108 911 184 664
Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021							
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 243 265 309	7 718 092 169	8 993 963 398	7 772 728 051	7 084 148 227							

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	(421 241 679)	0.93	(182 271 861)	0.85	0.69	5 162 374 382	5 635 931 307	1 030 741 263	1.15	6 145 276 676	6 057 172 986	1 213 013 124
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	20 871 236 088	2.84	6 070 341 740	3.82	5.49	29 085 909 721	32 216 539 504	8 223 589 398	2.04	12 376 141 804	11 345 303 416	2 153 247 658
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 284 924 491)	0.25	(491 303 076)	0.35	0.18	954 823 658	1 113 663 746	267 386 058	0.72	4 920 745 515	4 398 588 237	758 689 134
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 628 575 276	1.12	1 037 146 463	1.42	2.35	14 186 556 251	15 721 558 214	3 514 432 068	2.34	13 070 738 338	14 092 982 938	2 477 285 605
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	90 808 994 916	2.09	15 051 722 854	1.78	23.00	112 983 958 035	174 383 591 187	34 460 489 250	18.37	76 681 678 678	83 574 596 271	19 408 766 396
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(19 859 536 357)	0.67	(3 334 036 807)	0.73	6.02	28 142 096 366	39 960 182 297	9 017 889 013	11.69	53 203 928 994	59 819 718 654	12 351 925 820
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(15 496 341 954)	0.36	(2 865 332 769)	0.41	1.33	7 335 881 831	8 820 332 984	1 988 954 222	4.59	19 886 332 033	24 316 674 938	4 854 286 991
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(52 456 200)	0.96	(17 787 412)	0.93	0.15	883 819 070	1 145 784 797	227 802 919	0.23	1 078 923 486	1 198 240 997	245 590 331
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	675 596 414	1.39	234 577 202	1.75	0.36	1 830 157 226	2 423 973 943	545 329 509	0.29	1 451 003 192	1 748 377 529	310 752 307
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(9 080 795 624)	0.44	(2 092 759 963)	0.40	0.94	8 235 149 954	7 099 876 327	1 401 694 020	3.31	12 264 975 541	16 180 671 951	3 494 453 983
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(11 385 106 648)	0.33	(1 736 344 495)	0.42	0.83	4 187 903 263	5 672 795 239	1 243 048 660	2.82	21 244 453 972	17 057 901 887	2 979 393 155
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(5 006 158 389)	0.08	(836 509 299)	0.10	0.06	312 043 988	464 048 832	90 727 120	0.88	4 563 659 564	5 470 207 221	927 236 419
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 409 371 455)	0.33	(769 602 552)	0.38	0.32	1 448 975 681	2 127 614 463	472 604 945	1.18	4 899 341 625	6 536 985 918	1 242 207 497
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	195 949 946 648	50.69	46 159 185 210	55.85	31.37	99 556 446 896	199 893 497 835	47 000 797 449	0.80	3 104 776 817	3 943 551 187	841 612 239
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	26 066 575 714	1.81	4 610 951 871	1.64	7.89	44 101 423 527	58 241 998 869	11 827 911 787	6.83	23 478 363 552	32 175 423 155	7 216 959 916
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(71 004 782 127)	0.36	(13 782 502 112)	0.37	5.44	25 239 102 498	39 727 418 939	8 154 342 730	20.76	98 374 296 890	110 732 201 066	21 936 844 842
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	31 101 786 443	1.75	9 529 821 952	1.98	12.88	41 684 492 011	72 299 224 797	19 303 673 626	9.25	35 201 801 770	41 197 438 354	9 773 851 674
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(10 812 839 998)	0.20	(2 229 226 090)	0.19	0.34	2 660 614 115	2 644 858 558	510 388 856	2.59	12 925 401 670	13 457 698 556	2 739 614 946
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(5 985 882 274)	0.20	(1 241 134 113)	0.22	0.23	1 184 089 854	1 543 473 750	340 007 161	1.50	6 213 482 847	7 529 356 024	1 581 141 274
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	86 060 418	1.30	43 559 905	2.05	0.06	331 295 939	369 868 505	84 930 897	0.04	116 911 448	283 808 087	41 370 992
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	519 710 751	2.04	22 027 394	1.23	0.08	1 238 408 674	1 017 395 900	116 368 711	0.09	573 917 138	497 685 149	94 341 317
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(49 618 119 773)	0.00	(9 002 276 477)	0.00	0.00	1 587 659	689 128	10 000	8.52	39 359 496 910	49 618 808 901	9 002 286 477
Total	Total SA Rand	161 290 925 699	1.32	44 178 247 565	1.42	100.00	430 747 110 599	672 524 319 121	149 823 119 662	100.00	451 135 648 460	511 233 393 422	105 644 872 097

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	54 733 002 264	2.88	14 408 470 026	4.00	12.83	67 651 509 486	83 783 837 164	19 218 325 151	4.55	39 701 047 018	29 050 834 900	4 809 855 125
AMERICA	39 450 840 873	1.76	13 278 857 358	2.29	15.72	40 770 080 736	91 409 787 337	23 557 586 269	9.73	46 310 263 888	51 958 946 464	10 278 728 911
ASIA	(23 839 646 567)	0.91	(3 087 365 283)	0.94	35.18	153 512 222 238	234 535 638 813	52 714 866 610	52.82	211 570 055 975	258 375 285 380	55 802 231 893
EUROPE	46 857 544 359	1.29	11 586 660 803	1.35	29.68	122 671 666 828	209 720 279 985	44 461 178 883	31.12	146 254 446 640	162 862 735 626	32 874 518 080
OCEANIA	(1 539 033 916)	0.79	(9 142 429)	0.99	0.96	4 242 260 941	5 762 205 442	1 444 598 999	1.38	6 074 727 669	7 301 239 358	1 453 741 428
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	43 522 304 497	26.84	7 682 978 602	19.04	5.41	35 641 715 025	45 206 656 191	8 108 775 262	0.40	1 225 107 270	1 684 351 694	425 796 660
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 105 914 189	-	317 788 488	-	0.21	6 257 655 345	2 105 914 189	317 788 488				
Total	161 290 925 699	1.32	44 178 247 565	1.42	100.00	430 747 110 599	672 524 319 121	149 823 119 662	100.00	451 135 648 460	511 233 393 422	105 644 872 097

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 243 265 309	7 718 092 169	8 993 963 398	7 772 728 051	7 084 148 227

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 May 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.42 billion.

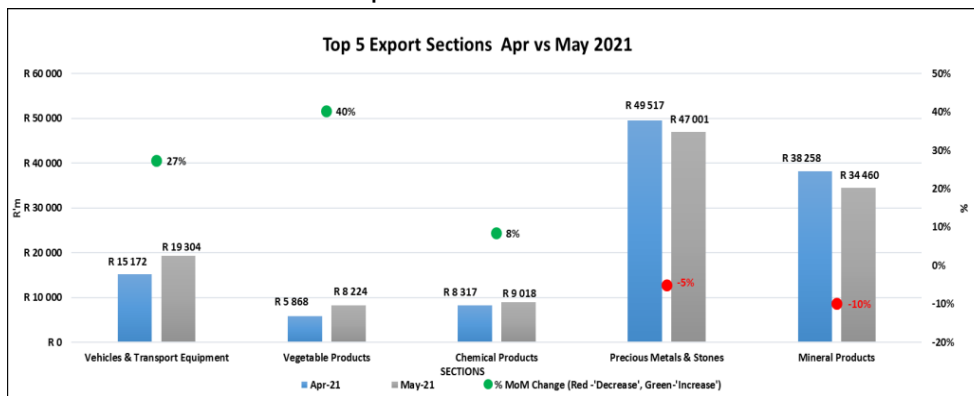
Summary

The R10.42 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for May 2021 was as a result of exports of R13.69 billion and imports of R3.27 billion. Exports increased by R1.50 billion (12.3%) between April and May 2021 and imports decreased by R2.19 billion (-40.1%) over the same period.

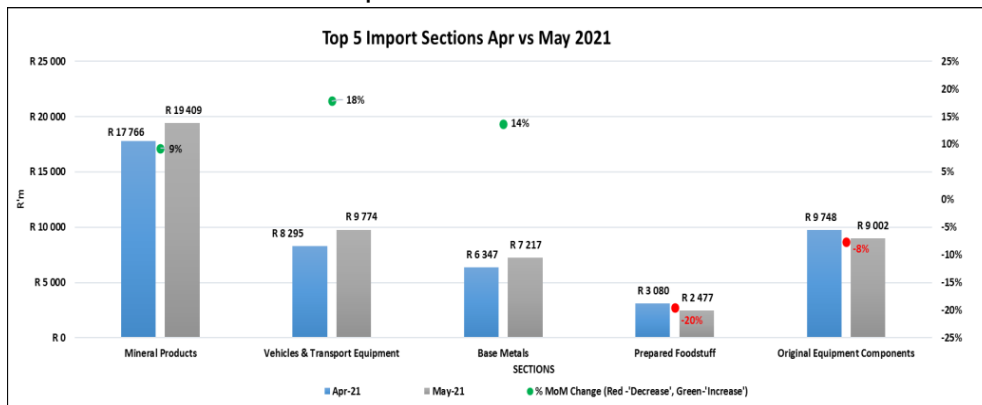
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R41.30 billion compared to R31.02 billion in 2020.

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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