

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 October 2021

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for September 2021

Pretoria, 29 October 2021 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for September 2021 recording a preliminary trade balance surplus of R22.24 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2021) preliminary trade balance surplus of R352.21 billion is an improvement from the R167.60 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2020. Exports increased by 16.3% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 31.9% over the same period.

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

The R22.24 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2021 is attributable to exports of R157.02 billion and imports of R134.78 billion. Exports decreased by R1.57 billion (1.0%) between August and September 2021 and imports increased by R18.47 billion (15.9%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2021) increased by 37.5% to R1 350.82 billion from R982.12 billion over the same period during 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R998.61 billion were 22.6% more than the R814.52 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2020. The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 is R352.21 billion.

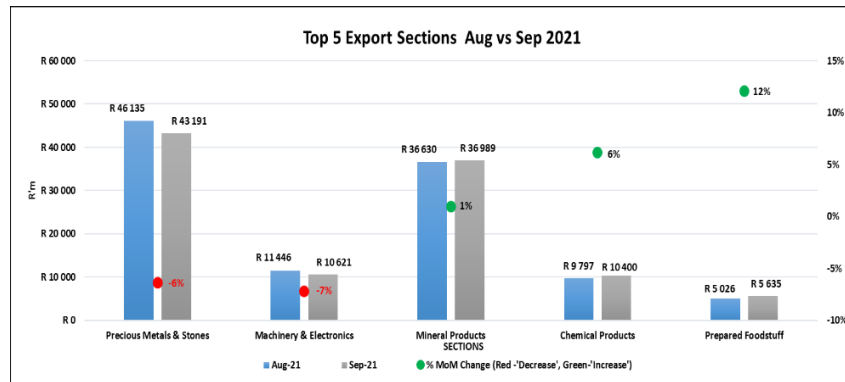
On a year-on-year basis, the R22.24 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2021 was a deterioration from the R32.86 billion trade balance surplus recorded in September 2020. Exports of R157.02 billion were 16.3% more than the R135.03 billion exports recorded in September 2020. Imports of R134.78 billion were 31.9% more than the R102.17 billion imports recorded in September 2020.

August 2021 preliminary trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.13 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary trade balance surplus of R42.40 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R42.27 billion.

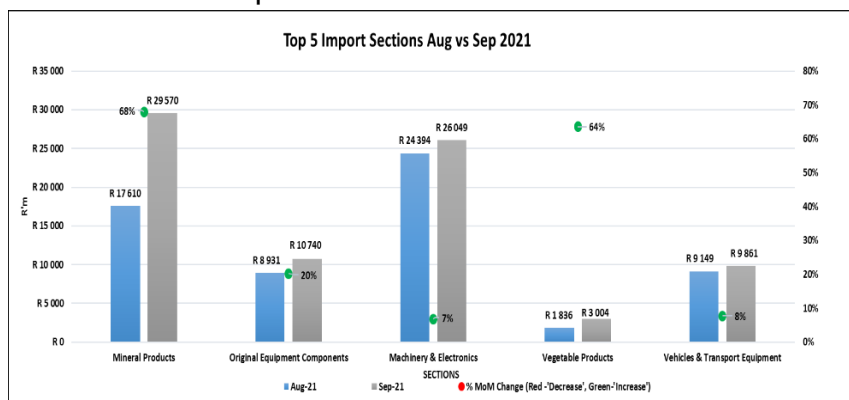
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Trade highlights by category

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 (revised) to September (preliminary) 2021 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2021	September 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	34 479	35 072	593	1.7%
	Imports	10 536	19 270	8 734	82.9%
	Trade Balance	23 943	15 803	-8 141	
America	Exports	15 545	16 491	945	6.1%
	Imports	13 614	13 183	-431	-3.2%
	Trade Balance	1 931	3 307	1 376	
Asia	Exports	52 892	52 413	-479	-0.9%
	Imports	56 643	62 949	6 306	11.1%
	Trade Balance	-3 750	-10 535	-6 785	
Europe	Exports	46 386	40 582	-5 804	-12.5%
	Imports	33 492	36 911	3 420	10.2%
	Trade Balance	12 894	3 671	-9 224	
Oceania	Exports	1 123	1 350	227	20.2%
	Imports	1 457	1 735	278	19.1%
	Trade Balance	-334	-386	-52	
Other Unclassified	Exports	7 528	10 702	3 173	42.2%
	Imports	581	739	158	27.2%
	Trade Balance	6 948	9 963	3 015	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	638	414	-224	-35.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	638	414	-224	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for September 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R13.40 billion.

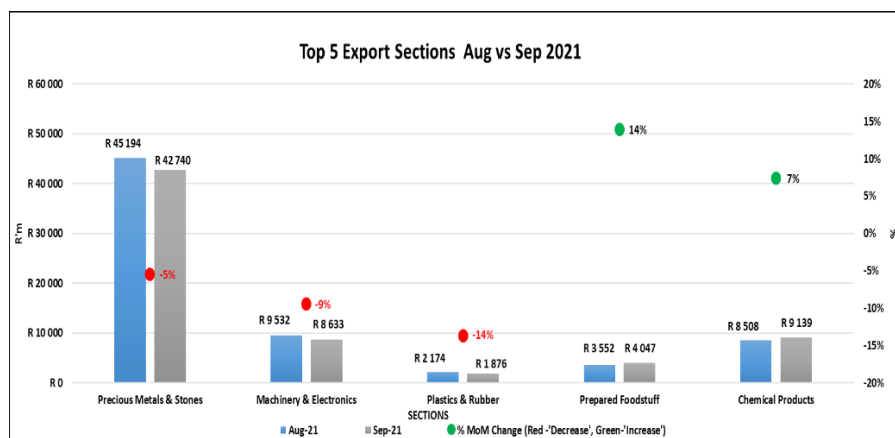
Summary

The R13.40 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2021 was as a result of exports of R143.24 billion and imports of R129.84 billion. Exports decreased by R1.29 billion (0.9%) between August and September 2021 and imports increased by R18.20 billion (16.3%) over the same period.

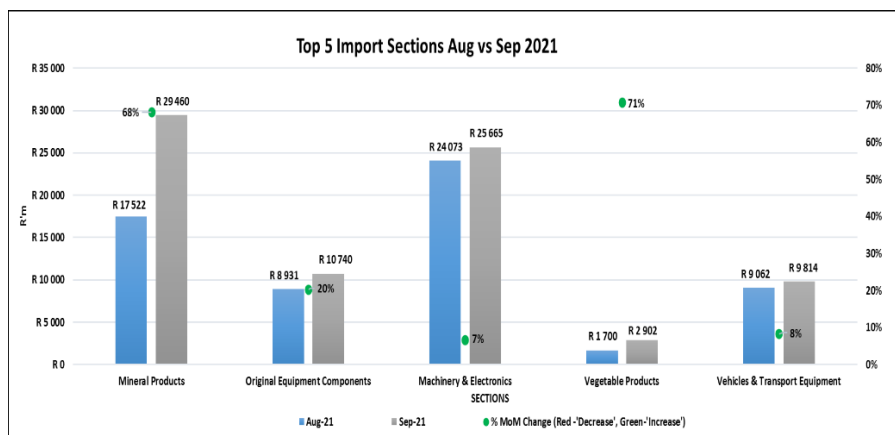
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R276.56 billion compared to R105.51 billion trade balance surplus during 2020.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2021	September 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	20 410	21 283	873	 4.3%
	Imports	5 848	14 320	8 472	 144.9%
	Trade Balance	14 562	6 963	-7 599	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics September 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	(2 155 066 782)	0.85	(263 597 193)	0.84	0.90	12 078 824 529	12 632 117 973	1 408 654 161	1.24	12 836 670 051	14 787 184 755	1 672 251 354
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	55 137 760 068	3.59	7 948 484 846	3.65	6.98	74 278 942 518	76 410 631 881	10 952 627 040	2.23	23 855 707 288	21 272 871 813	3 004 142 194
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 993 618 197)	0.44	(725 718 546)	0.40	0.30	3 836 683 070	3 857 216 006	475 613 202	0.89	8 581 297 572	8 850 834 203	1 201 331 748
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	11 920 341 256	1.39	2 204 339 355	1.64	3.59	41 832 117 337	42 411 367 378	5 634 831 724	2.55	27 340 980 635	30 491 026 122	3 430 492 369
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	163 331 321 762	1.98	7 419 412 746	1.25	23.56	234 261 227 883	329 553 047 462	36 989 332 129	21.94	123 173 317 372	166 221 725 700	29 569 919 383
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(41 411 259 891)	0.67	(6 801 001 848)	0.60	6.62	64 523 274 451	84 317 593 508	10 399 910 939	12.76	107 352 067 093	125 728 853 399	17 200 912 787
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(24 448 875 740)	0.47	(3 278 891 986)	0.43	1.59	19 060 915 692	21 802 350 258	2 502 245 725	4.29	34 766 403 816	46 251 225 998	5 781 137 711
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	205 448 607	1.09	26 584 011	1.08	0.22	2 068 602 178	2 586 200 143	352 041 175	0.24	2 010 420 050	2 380 751 536	325 457 164
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 865 439 685	1.41	342 478 030	1.69	0.53	5 051 182 321	6 365 393 481	835 869 031	0.37	3 522 696 638	4 499 953 796	493 391 001
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(14 978 859 877)	0.51	(1 326 026 985)	0.62	1.39	15 840 249 228	15 716 838 941	2 182 060 055	2.60	23 403 059 141	30 695 698 818	3 508 087 040
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(21 943 763 536)	0.40	(3 308 542 802)	0.32	1.00	12 266 064 806	14 663 073 881	1 576 628 675	3.62	37 503 556 094	36 606 837 417	4 885 171 477
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(8 231 954 530)	0.21	(1 065 422 235)	0.21	0.18	1 767 895 088	2 236 006 090	282 840 491	1.00	8 815 389 310	10 467 960 620	1 348 262 726
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 260 791 577)	0.46	(587 572 477)	0.53	0.43	4 273 438 483	5 261 731 193	669 035 687	0.93	8 386 191 724	11 522 522 770	1 256 608 164
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	364 707 977 691	24.18	41 150 673 184	21.17	27.51	220 771 830 869	380 442 177 697	43 190 588 340	1.51	13 101 342 765	15 734 200 006	2 039 915 156
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	59 072 036 312	1.98	7 790 590 991	2.08	9.55	89 053 793 172	119 494 284 156	14 999 596 998	5.35	40 831 356 165	60 422 247 844	7 209 006 007
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(116 146 214 838)	0.44	(15 427 271 283)	0.41	6.76	71 869 158 806	91 308 442 398	10 621 427 811	19.33	188 434 681 240	207 454 657 236	26 048 699 094
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	47 315 719 702	1.60	1 870 145 080	1.19	7.47	94 790 501 539	126 473 493 153	11 731 523 542	7.32	55 915 580 933	79 157 773 451	9 861 378 462
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(18 022 827 142)	0.27	(2 052 432 915)	0.32	0.61	6 437 401 613	6 629 360 539	950 030 884	2.23	23 268 316 423	24 652 187 681	3 002 463 799
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(8 947 367 570)	0.39	(1 369 717 039)	0.35	0.46	4 948 915 686	5 661 063 158	729 409 913	1.56	11 798 464 107	14 608 430 728	2 099 126 952
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	68 426 102	1.10	106 447 201	5.39	0.08	738 573 273	755 849 025	130 683 597	0.02	188 294 975	687 422 923	24 236 396
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 311 714 862	2.47	323 704 666	4.79	0.26	2 365 570 027	2 206 773 952	409 046 055	0.06	945 346 757	895 059 090	85 341 389
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(85 186 052 938)	0.00	(10 739 889 679)	0.00	0.00	4 546 309	34 238 686	64 432	7.97	58 489 651 414	85 220 291 624	10 739 954 111
Total	Total SA Rand	352 209 533 429	1.35	22 236 775 122	1.16	100.00	982 119 708 878	1 350 819 250 959	157 024 061 606	100.00	814 520 791 563	998 609 717 530	134 787 286 484

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	176 953 087 560	2.81	15 802 710 555	1.82	22.34	230 468 707 438	274 719 315 978	35 072 400 511	14.30	91 392 431 102	97 766 228 418	19 269 689 956
AMERICA	56 725 081 534	1.55	3 307 463 562	1.25	10.50	89 931 598 054	160 148 733 728	16 490 730 924	9.78	80 479 752 296	103 423 652 194	13 183 267 362
ASIA	(39 413 581 501)	0.92	(10 535 473 182)	0.83	33.38	310 266 578 735	440 391 889 564	52 413 469 033	46.70	374 886 842 002	479 805 471 065	62 948 942 215
EUROPE	82 692 970 287	1.28	3 670 556 072	1.10	25.84	254 297 208 453	381 704 568 167	40 582 028 989	27.38	254 988 920 119	299 011 597 880	36 911 472 917
OCEANIA	(3 316 641 518)	0.76	(385 645 755)	0.78	0.86	9 104 294 637	10 404 907 643	1 349 704 622	1.29	10 984 375 334	13 721 549 161	1 735 350 377
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	74 237 188 591	16.21	9 963 058 349	14.49	6.82	78 614 406 626	79 118 407 403	10 701 622 006	0.55	1 788 470 710	4 881 218 812	738 563 657
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 331 428 476	-	414 105 521	-	0.26	9 436 914 935	4 331 428 476	414 105 521				
Total	352 209 533 429	1.35	22 236 775 122	1.16	100.00	982 119 708 878	1 350 819 250 959	157 024 061 606	100.00	814 520 791 563	998 609 717 530	134 787 286 484

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	September 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	8 829 119 241

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	(1 870 450 700)	0.84	(261 407 200)	0.80	0.72	9 461 991 166	9 753 693 179	1 031 829 941	1.00	10 601 514 004	11 624 143 879	1 293 237 141
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	49 303 183 625	3.40	7 301 981 019	3.52	7.12	68 102 263 635	69 868 202 064	10 203 899 814	2.24	23 256 053 238	20 565 018 439	2 901 918 795
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 638 666 229)	0.25	(928 852 419)	0.23	0.19	2 540 955 024	2 198 691 422	270 830 070	0.92	8 568 632 544	8 837 357 651	1 199 682 489
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	4 676 248 333	1.19	1 303 345 723	1.47	2.83	30 367 968 118	29 859 806 639	4 047 486 421	2.11	22 425 306 904	25 183 558 306	2 744 140 698
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	146 667 590 267	1.89	5 275 724 597	1.18	24.25	219 978 494 289	312 046 938 331	34 735 997 802	22.69	122 506 613 049	165 379 348 064	29 460 273 205
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(46 140 458 767)	0.61	(7 266 559 951)	0.56	6.38	54 682 761 242	73 609 522 289	9 138 848 063	12.64	102 184 032 746	119 749 981 056	16 405 408 014
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(29 023 639 103)	0.36	(3 844 646 950)	0.33	1.31	15 000 689 352	16 662 840 071	1 876 336 177	4.41	34 356 611 198	45 686 479 174	5 720 983 127
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(104 200 522)	0.95	(14 904 459)	0.95	0.21	1 802 603 455	2 183 852 217	299 312 567	0.24	1 954 708 129	2 288 052 739	314 217 026
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 790 541 201	1.63	338 987 409	2.23	0.43	3 750 439 955	4 610 378 254	613 812 871	0.21	2 297 176 208	2 819 837 053	274 825 462
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(17 006 524 171)	0.44	(1 585 088 828)	0.55	1.33	13 772 723 500	13 521 013 938	1 901 069 756	2.69	23 274 402 575	30 527 538 109	3 486 158 584
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(21 986 050 040)	0.30	(3 250 949 310)	0.22	0.62	8 142 985 278	9 233 665 761	891 293 170	3.19	33 356 782 732	31 219 715 801	4 142 242 480
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(9 571 178 494)	0.08	(1 255 787 759)	0.06	0.05	678 467 904	805 778 834	74 061 724	1.02	8 738 143 919	10 376 957 328	1 329 849 483
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 666 519 525)	0.33	(764 973 306)	0.39	0.34	3 100 608 082	3 775 664 806	480 939 589	0.96	8 327 143 521	11 442 184 331	1 245 912 895
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	367 277 632 367	42.98	41 956 032 904	54.50	29.84	217 952 109 117	376 026 583 917	42 740 222 794	0.60	5 979 578 574	8 748 951 550	784 189 890
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	51 092 819 609	1.86	6 850 992 509	1.96	9.76	83 126 610 099	110 819 596 394	13 974 537 049	5.49	40 090 229 904	59 726 776 785	7 123 544 540
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(129 273 634 488)	0.37	(17 032 348 664)	0.34	6.03	58 945 417 035	75 020 313 791	8 632 563 387	19.77	185 813 352 759	204 293 948 279	25 664 912 051
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	40 080 756 535	1.52	826 170 853	1.08	7.43	87 190 571 486	116 491 302 851	10 639 970 221	7.56	55 398 127 550	76 410 546 316	9 813 799 368
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(19 595 218 443)	0.20	(2 220 436 436)	0.26	0.54	4 947 741 869	4 987 641 420	775 569 092	2.31	23 207 049 444	24 582 859 863	2 996 005 528
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(11 581 713 959)	0.20	(1 718 844 067)	0.18	0.26	2 573 757 674	2 936 757 825	370 097 789	1.61	11 719 315 480	14 518 471 784	2 088 941 856
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	63 981 949	1.09	106 164 418	5.39	0.09	728 138 726	751 190 040	130 362 456	0.02	188 143 936	687 208 091	24 198 038
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 287 768 643	2.48	322 470 145	4.86	0.28	2 318 844 469	2 159 280 174	405 992 076	0.06	924 095 845	871 511 531	83 521 931
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(85 219 475 938)	0.00	(10 739 889 679)	0.00	0.00	4 542 086	815 686	64 432	8.27	58 489 651 414	85 220 291 624	10 739 954 111
Total	Total SA Rand	276 562 792 150	1.29	13 397 180 549	1.10	100.00	889 170 683 561	1 237 323 529 903	143 235 097 261	100.00	783 656 665 673	960 760 737 753	129 837 916 712

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	101 306 346 281	2.69	6 963 115 982	1.49	14.86	137 519 682 121	161 223 594 922	21 283 436 166	11.03	60 528 305 212	59 917 248 641	14 320 320 184
AMERICA	56 725 081 534	1.55	3 307 463 562	1.25	11.51	89 931 598 054	160 148 733 728	16 490 730 924	10.15	80 479 752 296	103 423 652 194	13 183 267 362
ASIA	(39 413 581 501)	0.92	(10 535 473 182)	0.83	36.59	310 266 578 735	440 391 889 564	52 413 469 033	48.48	374 886 842 002	479 805 471 065	62 948 942 215
EUROPE	82 692 970 287	1.28	3 670 556 072	1.10	28.33	254 297 208 453	381 704 568 167	40 582 028 989	28.43	254 988 920 119	299 011 597 880	36 911 472 917
OCEANIA	(3 316 641 518)	0.76	(385 645 755)	0.78	0.94	9 104 294 637	10 404 907 643	1 349 704 622	1.34	10 984 375 334	13 721 549 161	1 735 350 377
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	74 237 188 591	16.21	9 963 058 349	14.49	7.47	78 614 406 626	79 118 407 403	10 701 622 006	0.57	1 788 470 710	4 881 218 812	738 563 657
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 331 428 476	-	414 105 521	-	0.29	9 436 914 935	4 331 428 476	414 105 521				
Total	276 562 792 150	1.29	13 397 180 549	1.10	100.00	889 170 683 561	1 237 323 529 903	143 235 097 261	100.00	783 656 665 673	960 760 737 753	129 837 916 712

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	September 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	8 829 119 241

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 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R8.84 billion.

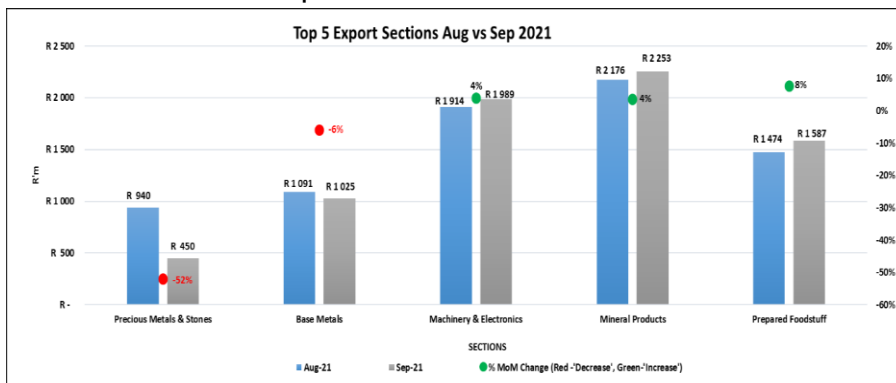
Summary

The R8.84 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2021 was as a result of exports of R13.79 billion and imports of R4.95 billion. Exports decreased by R0.28 billion (2.0%) between August and September 2021 and imports increased by R0.26 billion (5.6%) over the same period.

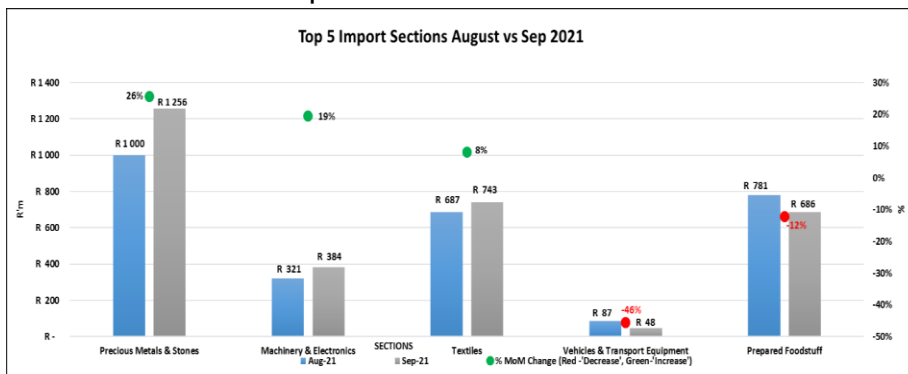
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R75.65 billion compared to R62.08 billion in 2020.

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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