

## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 31 May 2022

## **SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for April 2022**

**Pretoria, 31 May 2022** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for April 2022 recording a preliminary trade balance surplus of R15.49 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2022) preliminary trade balance surplus of R79.43 billion is a deterioration from the R148.03 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2021. Exports decreased by 4.4% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 24.1% over the same period.

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

The R15.49 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2022 is attributable to exports of R151.79 billion and imports of R136.30 billion. Exports decreased by R35.81 billion (19.1%) between March and April 2022 and imports decreased by R4.10 billion (2.9%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2022) increased by 7.5% to R613.24 billion from R570.35 billion over the same period during 2021. Imports for the year-to-date of R533.81 billion were 26.4% more than the R422.31 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2021. The cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 is R79.43 billion.

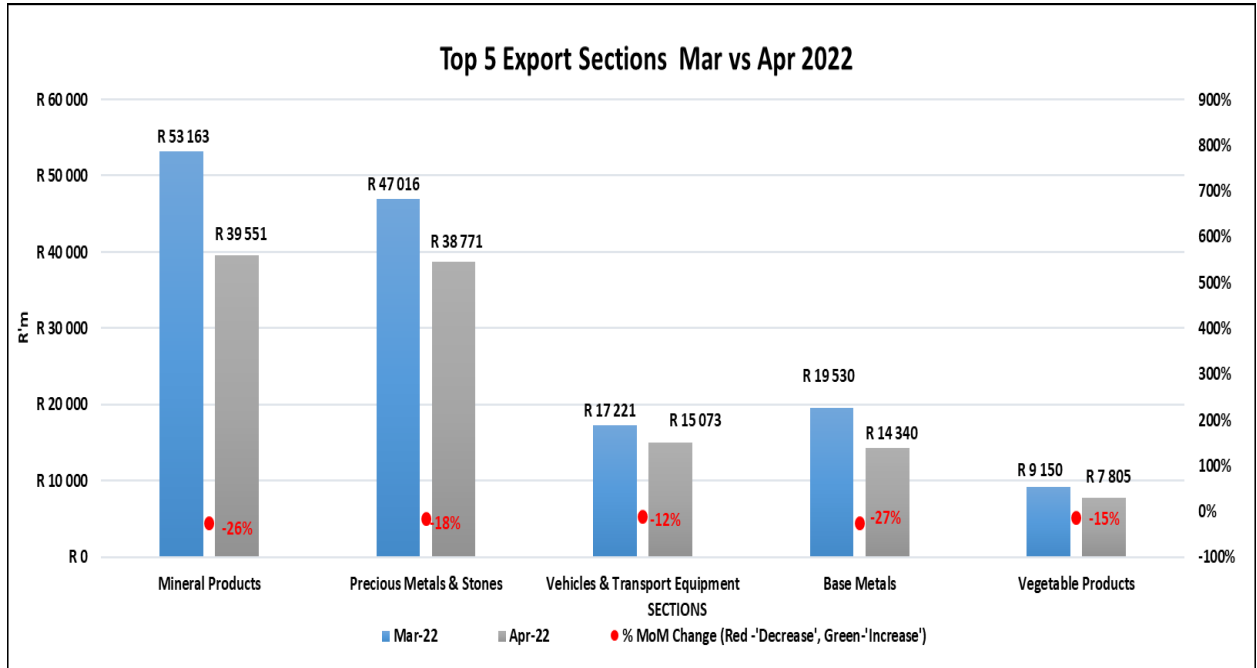
On a year-on-year basis, the R15.49 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2022 was a deterioration from the R48.99 billion trade balance surplus recorded in April 2021. Exports of R151.79 billion were 4.4% less than the R158.86 billion exports recorded in April 2021. Imports of R136.30 billion were 24.1% more than the R109.87 billion imports recorded in April 2021.

March 2022 preliminary trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R1.33 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary trade balance surplus of R45.86 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R47.29 billion.

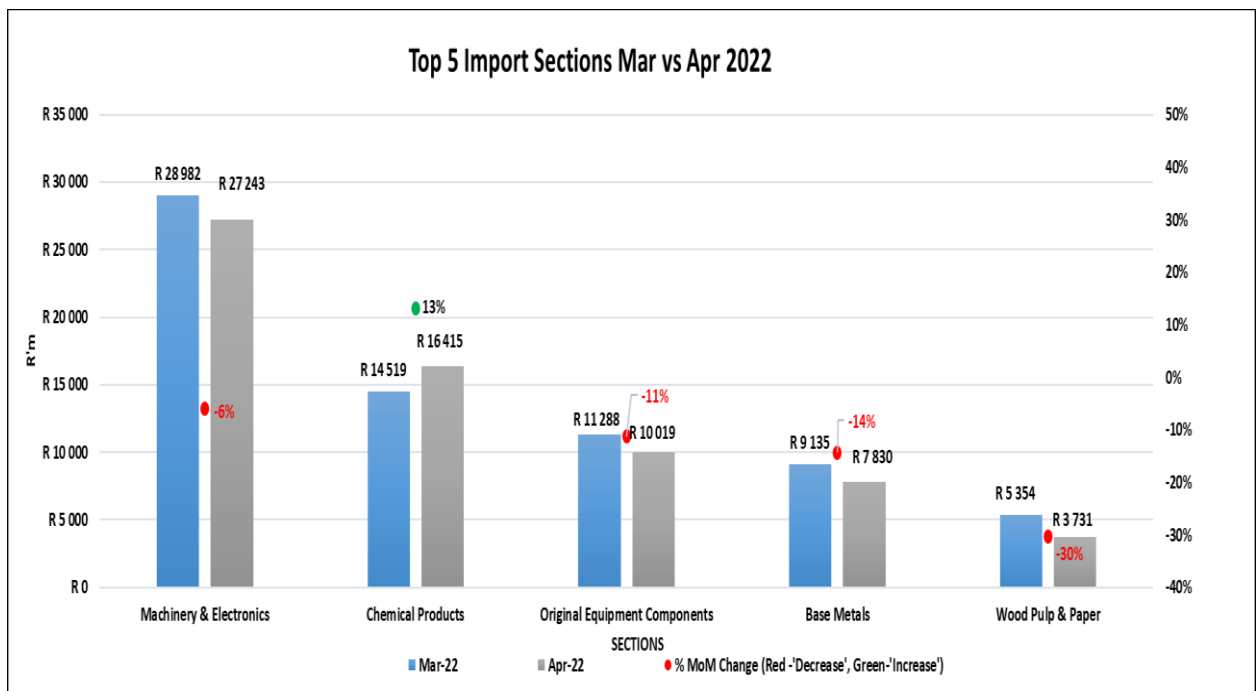
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## Trade highlights by category

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 (preliminary) 2022 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2022	April 2022	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	43 598	36 881	-6 717	↓ -15.4%
	Imports	15 185	14 083	-1 102	↓ -7.3%
	Trade Balance	28 413	22 799	-5 614	
America	Exports	18 483	16 129	-2 354	↓ -12.7%
	Imports	17 159	13 566	-3 592	↓ -20.9%
	Trade Balance	1 324	2 563	1 239	
Asia	Exports	63 836	44 199	-19 637	↓ -30.8%
	Imports	71 565	70 783	-783	↓ -1.1%
	Trade Balance	-7 729	-26 583	-18 854	
Europe	Exports	52 342	45 398	-6 944	↓ -13.3%
	Imports	34 165	34 287	122	↑ 0.4%
	Trade Balance	18 178	11 112	-7 066	
Oceania	Exports	1 637	1 397	-240	↓ -14.7%
	Imports	1 787	2 836	1 049	↑ 58.7%
	Trade Balance	-151	-1 440	-1 289	
Other Unclassified	Exports	6 610	6 459	-151	↓ -2.3%
	Imports	540	743	203	↑ 37.7%
	Trade Balance	6 071	5 717	-354	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 090	1 327	236	↑ 21.7%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	1 090	1 327	236	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for April 2022 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R7.00 billion.

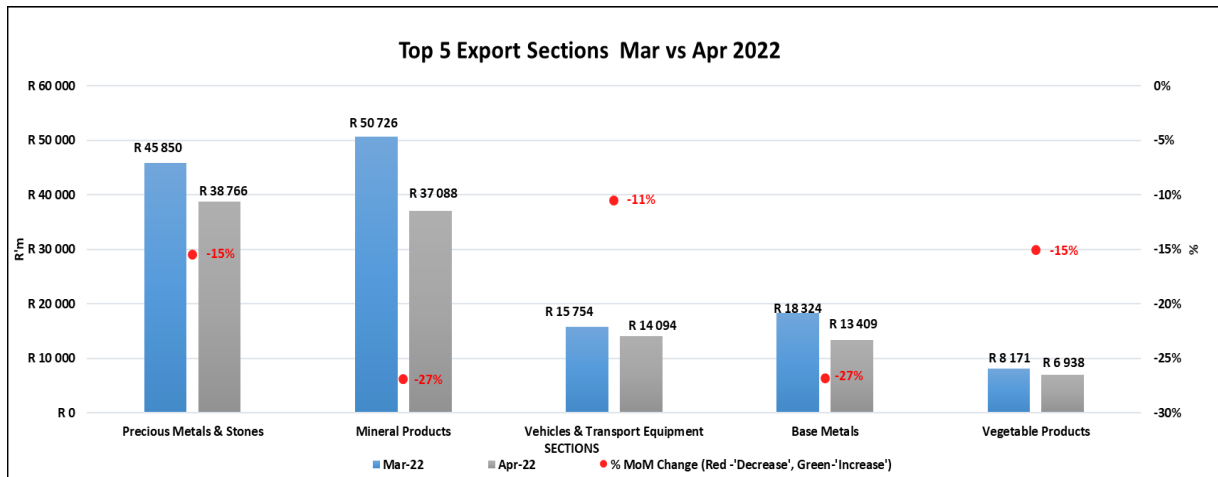
### Summary

The R7.00 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2022 was as a result of exports of R139.19 billion and imports of R132.19 billion. Exports decreased by R32.20 billion (18.8%) between March and April 2022 and imports decreased by R3.55 billion (2.6%) over the same period.

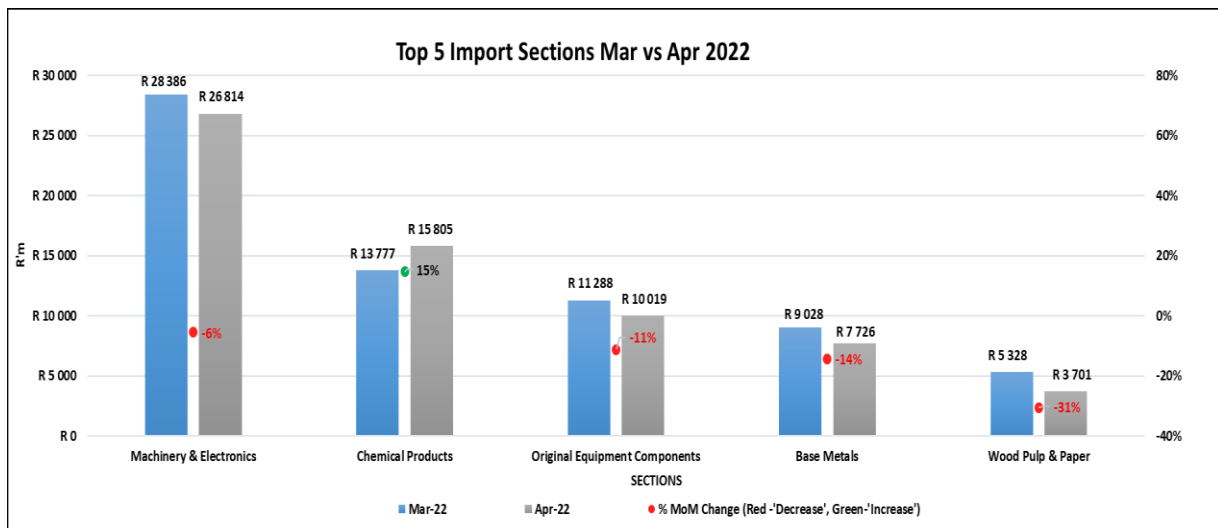
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 was R43.01 billion compared to R117.28 billion trade balance surplus during 2021.

## 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 for Africa, excluding BELN, between March (Revised) and April (preliminary) 2022 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2022	April 2022	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	27 386	24 276	-3 110	↓ -11.4%
	Imports	10 519	9 972	-547	↓ -5.2%
	Trade Balance	16 868	14 305	-2 563	

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## SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance	Ratio <sup>5)</sup>	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 <sup>3)</sup>	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup>	Month Total 2022	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 <sup>3)</sup>	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup>	Month Total 2022
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(1 434 277 012)	0.80	(291 777 194)	0.83	0.91	5 826 315 165	5 717 496 083	1 382 920 847	1.23	6 105 852 139	7 151 773 095	1 674 698 041
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	22 005 737 916	3.05	4 671 901 598	2.49	5.14	27 002 340 517	32 737 909 024	7 805 213 075	2.30	9 396 950 412	10 732 171 108	3 133 311 477
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 900 894 605)	0.44	(199 608 990)	0.85	0.74	1 494 521 244	3 119 361 681	1 130 585 423	0.98	3 644 514 392	7 020 256 286	1 330 194 413
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	5 230 189 150	1.39	1 379 133 953	1.40	3.20	17 696 265 675	18 739 014 900	4 851 868 585	2.55	13 738 731 053	13 508 825 750	3 472 734 632
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	56 239 475 011	1.51	7 885 017 688	1.25	26.06	149 403 734 397	165 876 713 859	39 551 247 977	23.23	64 554 928 566	109 637 238 848	31 666 230 289
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(22 842 127 439)	0.62	(7 473 978 556)	0.54	5.89	35 445 670 947	37 155 335 699	8 940 693 816	12.04	50 114 025 699	59 997 463 138	16 414 672 372
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(12 464 237 353)	0.45	(3 669 369 661)	0.39	1.52	8 981 379 857	10 001 034 029	2 307 722 144	4.39	19 695 961 585	22 465 271 382	5 977 091 805
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	89 131 865	1.07	34 383 492	1.14	0.19	1 110 665 646	1 295 959 152	281 712 561	0.18	992 973 851	1 206 827 287	247 329 069
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	489 515 306	1.20	158 554 953	1.29	0.46	2 579 089 157	2 920 917 485	697 102 142	0.40	2 101 379 699	2 431 402 179	538 547 189
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(11 022 629 121)	0.41	(1 669 757 777)	0.55	1.36	6 636 183 456	7 666 844 178	2 061 471 132	2.74	12 760 363 370	18 689 473 299	3 731 228 909
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(12 617 738 600)	0.34	(2 767 912 410)	0.35	0.97	6 940 103 110	6 400 326 756	1 471 711 211	3.11	16 330 062 022	19 018 065 356	4 239 623 621
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 094 760 068)	0.20	(785 228 862)	0.25	0.18	1 014 207 505	1 011 512 197	266 689 817	0.77	4 576 409 576	5 106 272 265	1 051 918 679
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 083 875 017)	0.41	(842 303 517)	0.39	0.36	2 297 811 968	2 131 670 031	544 444 085	1.02	5 338 592 288	5 215 545 048	1 386 747 602
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	136 218 588 643	17.16	36 598 999 862	17.85	25.54	151 034 114 741	144 649 257 878	38 770 839 777	1.59	6 001 616 738	8 430 669 235	2 171 839 915
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	33 172 215 925	2.05	6 510 545 606	1.83	9.45	50 513 301 433	64 615 472 937	14 340 346 841	5.74	25 091 257 147	31 443 257 012	7 829 801 235
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(70 453 741 281)	0.37	(16 755 736 906)	0.38	6.91	38 699 631 897	41 946 526 138	10 487 546 505	19.99	90 274 839 119	112 400 267 419	27 243 283 411
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	19 090 533 293	1.47	5 322 588 770	1.55	9.93	57 358 271 642	59 373 187 246	15 073 388 023	7.15	33 573 595 092	40 282 653 953	9 750 799 253
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(8 811 314 176)	0.26	(1 879 842 600)	0.32	0.59	2 846 461 755	3 148 338 379	898 003 525	2.04	10 772 338 152	11 959 652 555	2 777 846 125
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 830 546 495)	0.41	(853 648 087)	0.43	0.42	2 326 033 672	2 633 550 352	631 069 870	1.09	5 985 142 360	6 464 096 847	1 484 717 957
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	134 884 002	1.86	68 785 064	6.45	0.05	286 824 944	291 763 204	81 403 300	0.01	242 508 125	156 879 202	12 618 236
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 158 705 815	2.80	69 945 176	1.49	0.14	840 969 995	1 803 648 973	213 053 243	0.10	415 027 199	644 943 158	143 108 067
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(39 843 170 554)	0.00	(10 017 413 713)	0.00	0.00	13 779 128	4 271 480	1 922 149	7.35	40 606 911 571	39 847 442 034	10 019 335 862
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>79 429 665 205</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>15 493 277 889</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>570 347 677 851</b>	<b>613 240 111 661</b>	<b>151 790 956 048</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>422 313 979 525</b>	<b>533 810 446 456</b>	<b>136 297 678 159</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)
AFRICA	87 756 615 612	2.51	22 798 580 114	2.62	24.30	111 939 375 316	145 906 666 625	36 881 292 033	10.33	41 040 213 467	58 150 051 013	14 082 711 919
AMERICA	2 602 587 683	1.04	2 562 833 795	1.19	10.63	68 382 531 452	61 475 927 668	16 129 322 746	9.95	41 690 786 345	58 873 339 985	13 566 488 951
ASIA	(74 979 835 458)	0.72	(26 583 357 975)	0.62	29.12	184 090 093 169	196 413 222 478	44 199 364 591	51.93	202 486 868 246	271 393 057 936	70 782 722 566
EUROPE	40 580 138 415	1.30	11 111 785 849	1.32	29.91	166 540 496 443	174 760 910 789	45 398 423 813	25.16	129 975 189 455	134 180 772 374	34 286 637 964
OCEANIA	(3 131 849 988)	0.62	(1 439 721 733)	0.49	0.92	4 319 067 330	5 113 377 699	1 396 582 843	2.08	5 862 703 959	8 245 227 687	2 836 304 576
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	23 053 622 463	8.77	5 716 657 202	8.70	4.26	33 288 901 381	26 021 619 924	6 459 469 385	0.54	1 258 218 053	2 967 997 461	742 812 183
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 548 386 478	-	1 326 500 637	-	0.87	1 787 212 760	3 548 386 478	1 326 500 637				
<b>Total</b>	<b>79 429 665 205</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>15 493 277 889</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>570 347 677 851</b>	<b>613 240 111 661</b>	<b>151 790 956 048</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>422 313 979 525</b>	<b>533 810 446 456</b>	<b>136 297 678 159</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2022</b>	<b>February 2022</b>	<b>March 2022</b>	<b>April 2022</b>								
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	7 517 354 453	7 876 530 173	9 728 657 074	8 285 156 817								

### 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 <sup>5)</sup>	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 <sup>3)</sup>	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup>	Month Total 2022	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 <sup>3)</sup>	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup>	Month Total 2022
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(1 064 309 191)	0.81	(196 949 936)	0.84	0.76	4 604 948 863	4 444 649 383	1 057 835 405	0.95	4 843 209 155	5 508 958 574	1 254 785 341
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	18 579 130 585	2.76	3 862 490 796	2.26	4.98	23 980 093 150	29 129 427 546	6 938 156 702	2.33	9 192 831 866	10 550 296 961	3 075 665 906
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 748 973 004)	0.32	(423 145 182)	0.68	0.65	846 278 083	2 263 354 958	904 864 540	1.00	3 639 884 734	7 012 327 962	1 328 009 722
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 313 118 931	1.12	271 324 502	1.09	2.42	12 226 872 912	12 645 950 955	3 369 734 759	2.34	11 616 518 466	11 332 832 024	3 098 410 257
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	47 762 748 392	1.44	5 524 903 936	1.18	26.65	143 107 523 319	156 975 288 768	37 088 126 172	23.88	64 227 015 913	109 212 540 376	31 563 222 236
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(24 960 188 904)	0.56	(8 010 224 842)	0.49	5.60	30 899 169 281	32 151 338 914	7 794 292 819	11.96	47 469 053 686	57 111 527 818	15 804 517 661
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(14 703 507 095)	0.34	(4 185 846 235)	0.29	1.25	6 864 332 282	7 562 238 859	1 737 106 527	4.48	19 449 372 503	22 265 745 954	5 922 952 762
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(40 276 614)	0.97	8 217 799	1.03	0.18	917 796 836	1 131 692 076	246 211 445	0.18	952 561 130	1 171 968 690	237 993 646
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	509 660 775	1.31	166 019 955	1.47	0.37	1 878 416 271	2 180 102 787	520 964 611	0.27	1 437 063 276	1 670 442 012	354 944 656
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(12 044 525 836)	0.35	(1 908 494 906)	0.48	1.29	5 692 191 109	6 538 775 189	1 792 161 331	2.80	12 687 653 425	18 583 301 025	3 700 656 237
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(12 898 121 506)	0.22	(2 870 666 135)	0.23	0.61	4 429 643 195	3 692 252 579	846 422 374	2.81	14 075 910 162	16 590 374 085	3 717 088 509
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 702 996 737)	0.07	(927 551 533)	0.11	0.08	373 317 903	358 122 890	116 029 019	0.79	4 541 866 145	5 061 119 627	1 043 580 552
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 678 884 445)	0.29	(996 793 585)	0.28	0.27	1 654 482 143	1 495 494 343	380 699 088	1.04	5 304 063 905	5 174 378 788	1 377 492 673
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	138 252 876 654	34.48	37 653 153 644	34.83	27.85	149 086 816 433	142 382 636 745	38 766 219 944	0.84	3 101 973 313	4 129 760 091	1 113 066 300
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	29 703 181 784	1.96	5 682 638 231	1.74	9.63	47 038 555 553	60 767 344 629	13 408 769 048	5.84	24 808 981 046	31 064 162 845	7 726 130 817
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(76 336 277 210)	0.31	(18 029 691 204)	0.33	6.31	31 780 205 261	34 325 258 780	8 784 282 126	20.28	88 807 458 369	110 661 535 990	26 813 973 330
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	15 129 180 523	1.38	4 457 750 117	1.46	10.13	52 972 078 090	54 826 262 389	14 093 584 532	7.29	31 425 324 539	39 697 081 866	9 635 834 415
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(9 455 534 416)	0.21	(2 037 532 809)	0.26	0.53	2 134 497 036	2 457 443 390	731 912 228	2.10	10 735 481 693	11 912 977 806	2 769 445 037
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(5 039 777 655)	0.21	(1 157 393 218)	0.22	0.23	1 198 835 162	1 368 618 399	317 762 716	1.12	5 949 135 238	6 408 396 054	1 475 155 934
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	132 399 431	1.85	67 486 673	6.36	0.06	284 940 507	288 951 972	80 068 672	0.01	242 407 595	156 552 541	12 581 999
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 147 523 407	2.80	68 453 259	1.48	0.15	824 205 365	1 783 336 237	210 092 656	0.11	403 339 832	635 812 830	141 639 397
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(39 846 896 350)	0.00	(10 018 861 482)	0.00	0.00	679 128	545 684	474 380	7.58	40 606 911 571	39 847 442 034	10 019 335 862
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>43 009 551 519</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>6 999 287 845</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>522 795 877 882</b>	<b>558 769 087 472</b>	<b>139 185 771 094</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>405 518 017 562</b>	<b>515 759 535 953</b>	<b>132 186 483 249</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)
AFRICA	51 336 501 926	2.28	14 304 590 070	2.43	17.44	64 387 575 347	91 435 642 436	24 276 107 079	7.54	24 244 251 504	40 099 140 510	9 971 517 009
AMERICA	2 602 587 683	1.04	2 562 833 795	1.19	11.59	68 382 531 452	61 475 927 668	16 129 322 746	10.26	41 690 786 345	58 873 339 985	13 566 488 951
ASIA	(74 979 835 458)	0.72	(26 583 357 975)	0.62	31.76	184 090 093 169	196 413 222 478	44 199 364 591	53.55	202 486 868 246	271 393 057 936	70 782 722 566
EUROPE	40 580 138 415	1.30	11 111 785 849	1.32	32.62	166 540 496 443	174 760 910 789	45 398 423 813	25.94	129 975 189 455	134 180 772 374	34 286 637 964
OCEANIA	(3 131 849 988)	0.62	(1 439 721 733)	0.49	1.00	4 319 067 330	5 113 377 699	1 396 582 843	2.15	5 862 703 959	8 245 227 687	2 836 304 576
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	23 053 622 463	8.77	5 716 657 202	8.70	4.64	33 288 901 381	26 021 619 924	6 459 469 385	0.56	1 258 218 053	2 967 997 461	742 812 183
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 548 386 478	-	1 326 500 637	-	0.95	1 787 212 760	3 548 386 478	1 326 500 637				
<b>Total</b>	<b>43 009 551 519</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>6 999 287 845</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>522 795 877 882</b>	<b>558 769 087 472</b>	<b>139 185 771 094</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>405 518 017 562</b>	<b>515 759 535 953</b>	<b>132 186 483 249</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	7 517 354 453	7 876 530 173	9 728 657 074	8 285 156 817

### 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 2022 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R8.49 billion.

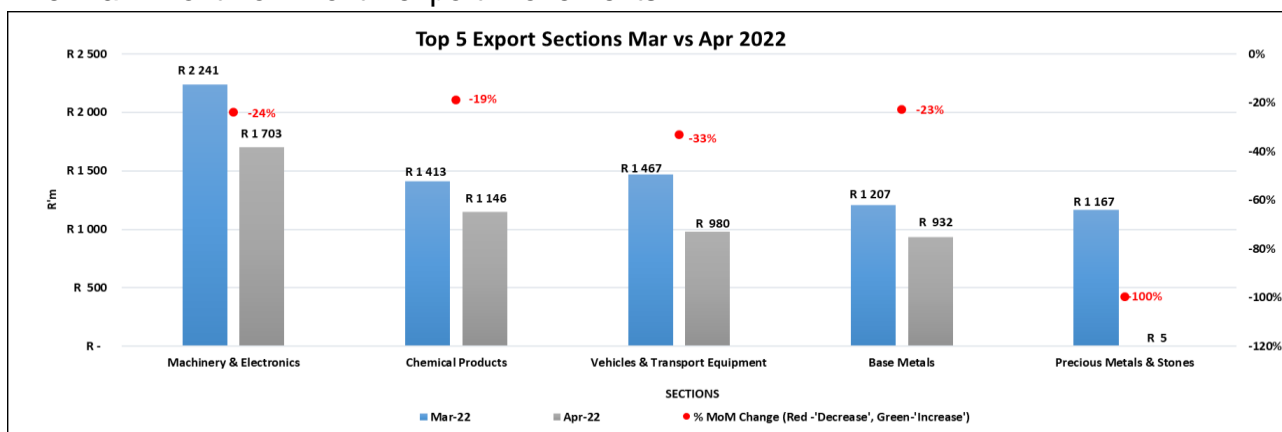
### Summary

The R8.49 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2022 was as a result of exports of R12.60 billion and imports of R4.11 billion. Exports decreased by R3.61 billion (22.2%) between March and April 2022 and imports decreased by R0.56 billion (11.9%) over the same period.

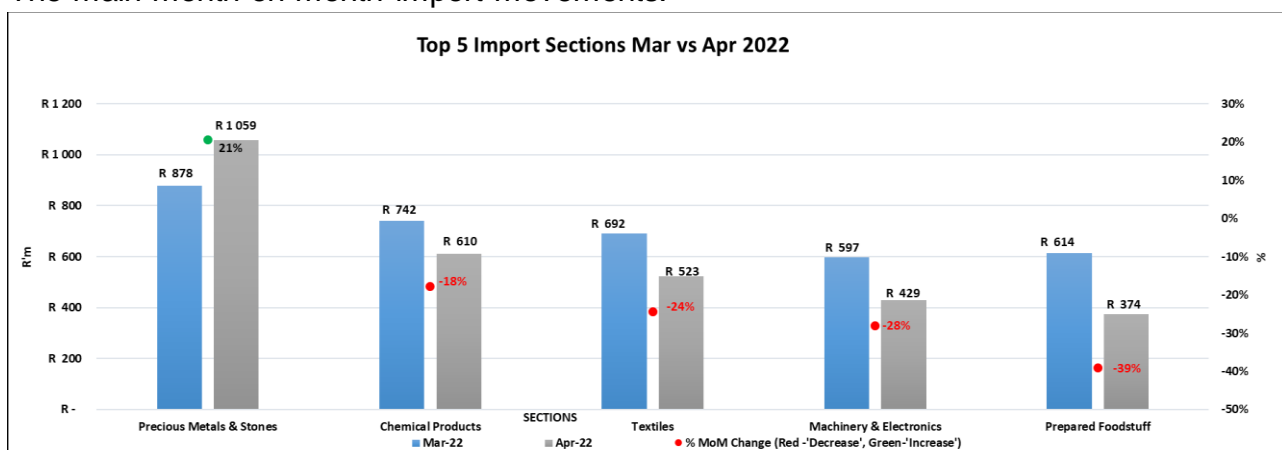
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 was R36.42 billion compared to R30.76 billion in 2021.

### 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](mailto:SARSMedia@sars.gov.za) or [TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za](mailto:TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za)