



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 December 2023

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for November 2023

Pretoria, 29 December 2023 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R21.0 billion in November 2023. This surplus was attributable to exports of R185.8 billion and imports of R164.8 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 November 2023) preliminary trade balance surplus of R48.5 billion was a deterioration from the R187.6 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2022. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for November 2023 were 8.2% higher compared to R171.7 billion recorded in November 2022, whilst import flows were 0.1% higher having increased from R164.6 billion in November 2022 to R164.8 billion in the current period.

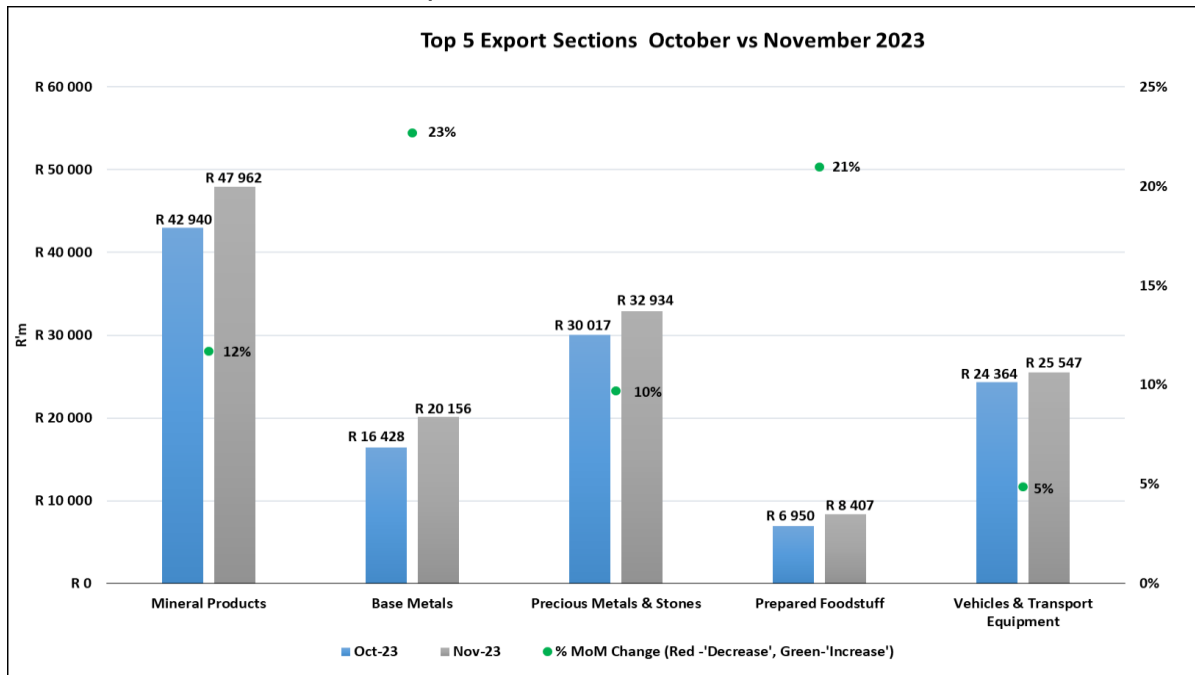
On a month-to-month basis, exports increased by R15.6 billion (9.2%) from R170.1 billion to R185.8 billion between October and November 2023, whilst imports decreased by R18.3 billion (-10.0%) from R183.0 billion to R164.8 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in November, driven by Iron Ores and Concentrates, Gold and Platinum. Value of imports decreased on the back of sizable decreases in importation of Petroleum Oils (Excl. Crude), Crude Oil and Original Equipment Components.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance deficit of R12.7 billion announced for October 2023 was revised upwards by R0.2 billion, with the final trade balance deficit at R12.9 billion.

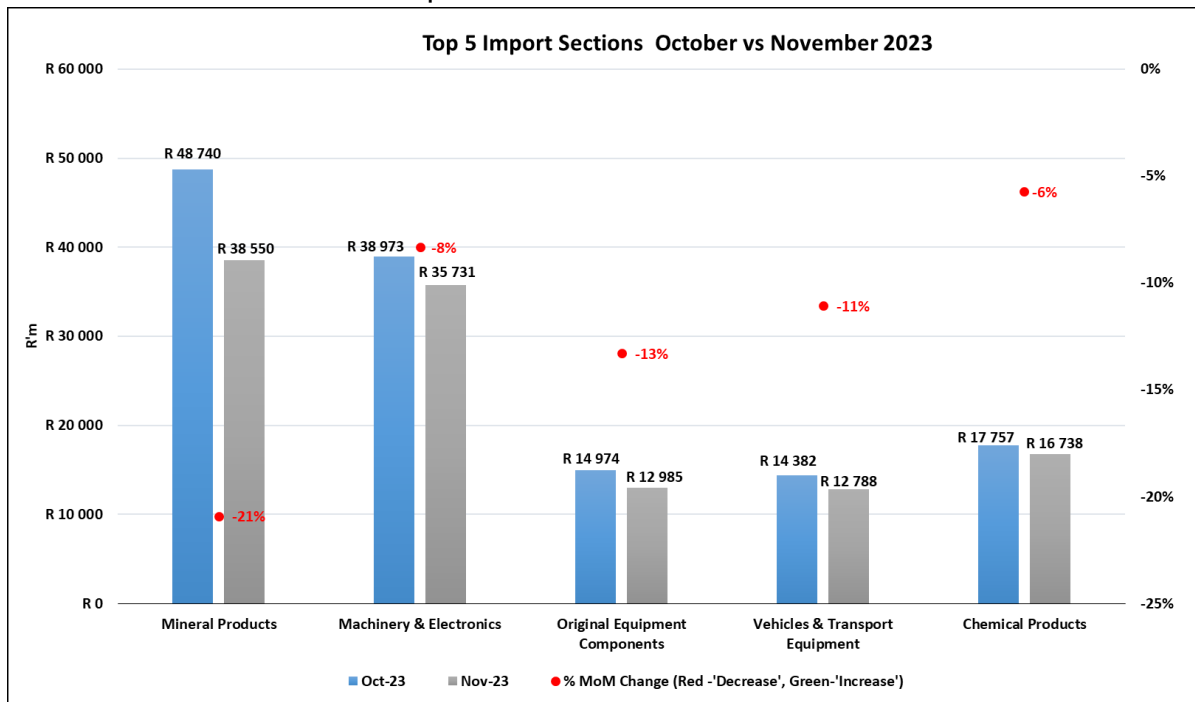
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics November 2023](#)

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 October (revised) to November (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2023	November 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	51 272	51 403	132	↑ 0.3%
	Imports	17 533	16 079	-1 453	↓ -8.3%
	Trade Balance	33 739	35 324	-	-
America	Exports	15 166	16 592	1 425	↑ 9.4%
	Imports	22 130	19 687	-2 444	↓ -11.0%
	Trade Balance	-6 964	-3 095	-	-
Asia	Exports	48 855	55 846	6 991	↑ 14.3%
	Imports	95 547	84 474	-11 072	↓ -11.6%
	Trade Balance	-46 691	-28 628	-	-
Europe	Exports	41 996	45 806	3 810	↑ 9.1%
	Imports	45 821	42 669	-3 152	↓ -6.9%
	Trade Balance	-3 825	3 137	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 004	2 453	449	↑ 22.4%
	Imports	1 365	1 463	98	↑ 7.1%
	Trade Balance	638	990	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	10 019	12 685	2 666	↑ 26.6%
	Imports	632	397	-235	↓ -37.2%
	Trade Balance	9 387	12 288	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	833	1 000	167	↑ 20.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	833	1 000	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for November 2023 indicate a preliminary trade balance surplus of R8.0 billion.

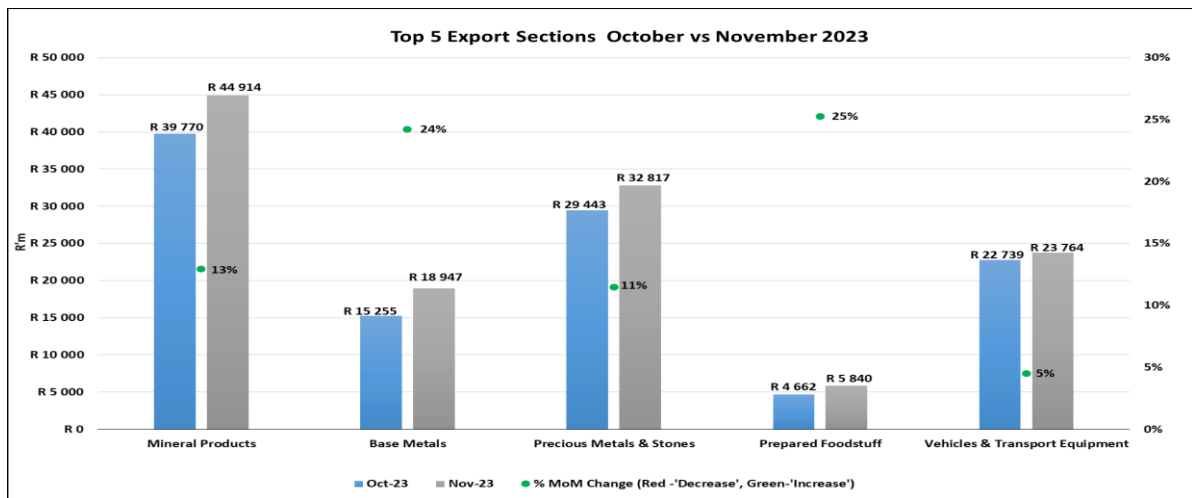
Summary

The R8.0 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2023 was as a result of exports of R166.6 billion and imports of R158.6 billion. Exports increased by R15.3 billion (10.1%) between October and November 2023 whilst imports decreased by R18.4 billion (-10.4%) over the same period.

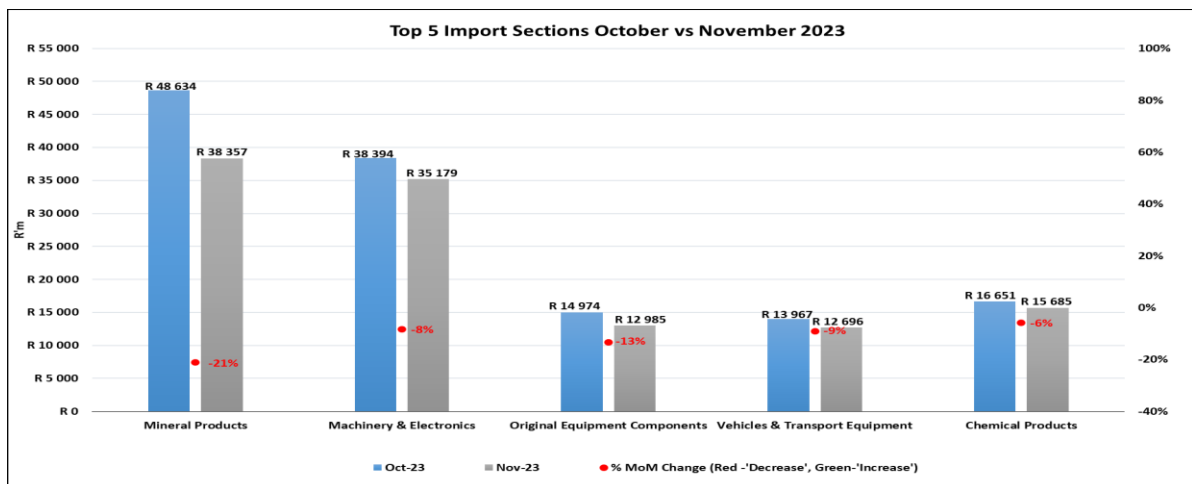
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2023 was a deficit of R71.3 billion, compared to R76.9 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2022.

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 October (revised) and November (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2023	November 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	32 451	32 226	-224	-0.7%
	Imports	11 481	9 887	-1 594	-13.9%
	Trade Balance	20 970	22 340	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics November 2023](#)

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 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(369 229 210)	0.98	64 045 148	1.04	1.00	16 717 033 004	18 717 842 367	1 855 683 093	1.09	19 530 935 508	19 087 071 577	1 791 637 945
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	87 794 516 730	3.27	5 637 530 096	2.48	5.08	108 694 333 563	126 414 463 259	9 442 527 943	2.31	31 820 607 521	38 619 946 529	3 804 997 847
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 238 075 349)	0.52	(774 502 229)	0.42	0.31	8 037 169 235	6 818 936 518	571 071 322	0.82	18 699 279 114	13 057 011 867	1 345 573 551
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	23 254 316 921	1.46	3 895 595 824	1.86	4.53	62 064 793 938	73 439 179 502	8 407 272 265	2.74	42 695 250 257	50 184 862 581	4 511 676 441
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	99 992 944 469	1.26	9 412 729 420	1.24	25.82	521 766 191 183	485 150 920 413	47 962 278 451	23.40	381 355 095 774	385 157 975 944	38 549 549 031
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(67 450 152 704)	0.62	(5 144 656 342)	0.69	6.24	117 667 810 706	110 515 338 937	11 593 374 329	10.16	192 422 160 180	177 965 491 641	16 738 030 671
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(34 303 352 935)	0.49	(3 201 612 389)	0.48	1.60	32 963 659 010	32 944 687 573	2 979 682 988	3.75	69 824 951 144	67 248 040 508	6 181 295 377
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(557 867 005)	0.88	(91 683 982)	0.82	0.23	3 794 429 739	3 973 558 470	426 384 444	0.31	4 244 694 877	4 531 425 475	518 068 426
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 865 788 342	1.44	198 441 117	1.33	0.44	9 489 321 572	9 344 858 900	808 860 875	0.37	6 656 715 031	6 479 070 558	610 419 758
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(21 036 439 265)	0.60	(2 427 367 880)	0.50	1.31	25 479 017 961	31 010 018 420	2 440 198 026	2.95	51 656 129 141	52 046 457 685	4 867 565 906
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(33 998 692 764)	0.38	(3 243 023 946)	0.40	1.18	19 126 583 203	21 166 564 185	2 201 255 310	3.30	55 188 321 897	55 165 256 949	5 444 279 256
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(12 834 783 773)	0.23	(945 993 044)	0.35	0.27	3 544 491 874	3 816 944 577	503 201 703	0.88	17 331 209 418	16 651 728 350	1 449 194 747
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(9 020 184 507)	0.45	(700 570 220)	0.51	0.39	6 745 659 205	7 328 501 825	725 467 755	0.87	15 815 274 761	16 348 686 332	1 426 037 975
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	319 343 632 601	13.78	30 640 903 598	14.36	17.73	399 793 040 512	344 339 083 595	32 934 269 763	1.39	23 297 450 845	24 995 450 994	2 293 366 165
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	117 411 378 725	2.31	12 837 350 459	2.75	10.85	189 193 831 619	207 346 707 928	20 156 209 625	4.44	90 564 810 912	89 935 329 203	7 318 859 166
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(291 459 240 072)	0.33	(21 613 901 427)	0.40	7.60	127 354 324 191	140 790 470 771	14 116 604 988	21.69	338 449 238 244	432 249 710 843	35 730 506 415
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	66 561 227 130	1.41	12 758 908 576	2.00	13.75	172 812 144 349	227 133 481 347	25 547 020 282	7.76	133 231 701 103	160 572 254 217	12 788 111 706
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(30 572 000 956)	0.26	(2 915 406 087)	0.29	0.64	9 642 806 676	10 654 691 816	1 192 376 559	2.49	36 085 862 985	41 226 692 772	4 107 782 646
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(11 729 796 293)	0.45	(1 055 429 867)	0.50	0.56	8 763 337 050	9 732 170 411	1 039 171 978	1.27	20 924 051 815	21 461 966 704	2 094 601 845
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	929 112 065	1.98	85 615 665	2.34	0.08	1 139 166 245	1 880 303 662	149 370 808	0.04	414 658 242	951 191 597	63 755 143
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	2 555 776 534	2.62	584 196 354	4.93	0.39	5 359 670 940	4 133 559 999	732 912 454	0.09	1 431 254 180	1 577 783 465	148 716 100
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(152 659 801 386)	0.00	(12 984 268 388)	0.00	0.00	12 800 613	4 903 023	661 887	7.88	110 968 424 914	152 664 704 409	12 984 930 275
Total	Total SA Rand	48 479 077 298	1.03	21 016 900 456	1.13	100.00	1 850 161 616 388	1 876 657 187 498	185 785 856 848	100.00	1 662 608 077 863	1 828 178 110 200	164 768 956 392

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 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	
AFRICA	342 300 137 449	3.09	35 324 170 032	3.20	27.67	453 039 647 938	505 949 417 429	51 403 216 628	9.76	155 627 936 816	163 649 279 980	16 079 046 596	
AMERICA	(36 483 746 265)	0.83	(3 095 104 947)	0.84	8.93	190 324 852 642	175 078 362 496	16 591 624 975	11.95	173 196 116 195	211 562 108 761	19 686 729 922	
ASIA	(351 661 559 990)	0.63	(28 628 040 970)	0.66	30.06	593 428 418 520	588 114 094 534	55 846 392 702	51.27	885 822 780 208	939 775 654 524	84 474 433 672	
EUROPE	(17 572 134 587)	0.96	3 137 191 057	1.07	24.66	508 767 891 267	468 019 240 802	45 805 988 111	25.90	417 105 337 610	485 591 375 389	42 668 797 054	
OECEANIA	411 761 205	1.02	990 105 107	1.68	1.32	14 635 940 164	20 053 840 410	2 453 023 119	0.89	22 448 813 141	19 642 079 205	1 462 918 012	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	101 490 585 646	13.75	12 288 362 719	31.95	6.83	79 788 839 371	109 448 197 987	12 685 393 855	0.24	8 407 093 893	7 957 612 341	397 031 136	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 994 033 840	-	1 000 217 458	-	0.54	10 176 026 486	9 994 033 840	1 000 217 458	-	-	-	-	-
Total	48 479 077 298	1.03	21 016 900 456	1.13	100.00	1 850 161 616 388	1 876 657 187 498	185 785 856 848	100.00	1 662 608 077 863	1 828 178 110 200	164 768 956 392	

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 693 056 442	8 587 553 552	11 670 735 407	10 030 505 291	10 892 989 774	12 278 781 949	10 425 339 173	12 326 767 333	12 623 793 235	10 841 239 699	15 231 009 548

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 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(98 868 564)	0.99	(28 618 457)	0.98	0.89	13 091 223 822	14 938 807 132	1 486 918 413	0.96	14 912 097 635	15 037 675 696	1 515 536 870
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	77 672 676 227	3.08	4 532 818 483	2.23	4.94	98 876 809 893	114 982 018 235	8 225 046 735	2.33	30 654 558 018	37 309 342 008	3 692 228 252
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(8 513 261 080)	0.35	(1 035 042 138)	0.23	0.19	5 404 202 156	4 528 902 737	309 071 842	0.85	18 678 179 209	13 042 163 817	1 344 113 980
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	9 985 688 436	1.24	2 156 563 490	1.59	3.51	43 575 831 435	52 306 300 236	5 839 851 287	2.32	35 268 245 628	42 320 611 800	3 683 287 797
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	71 846 066 580	1.19	6 556 942 883	1.17	26.96	493 909 948 906	454 685 042 819	44 913 964 191	24.19	379 634 443 190	382 838 976 239	38 357 021 308
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(75 021 016 056)	0.55	(6 044 025 457)	0.61	5.79	101 805 366 551	93 501 647 265	9 641 304 627	9.89	183 828 012 529	168 522 663 321	15 685 330 084
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(41 524 106 438)	0.38	(4 016 003 084)	0.34	1.25	25 596 096 230	24 921 890 427	2 076 650 787	3.84	69 166 545 727	66 445 996 865	6 092 653 871
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 009 084 665)	0.77	(155 165 328)	0.69	0.21	3 248 879 253	3 414 136 040	350 580 444	0.32	4 128 105 966	4 423 220 705	505 745 772
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	3 147 348 597	1.79	175 934 223	1.46	0.34	7 266 429 840	7 113 661 537	559 532 135	0.24	4 345 147 521	3 966 312 940	383 597 912
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(24 561 868 963)	0.52	(2 849 713 646)	0.41	1.18	22 057 636 368	26 988 073 475	1 963 586 362	3.04	51 230 703 507	51 549 942 438	4 813 300 008
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(34 148 653 359)	0.27	(3 195 288 270)	0.28	0.75	10 911 791 086	12 742 734 311	1 256 949 401	2.81	47 349 321 972	46 891 387 670	4 452 237 671
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(14 899 277 443)	0.09	(1 210 576 022)	0.15	0.12	1 329 701 037	1 516 926 348	207 616 345	0.89	17 182 242 499	16 416 203 791	1 418 192 367
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(10 914 315 540)	0.33	(902 002 479)	0.36	0.31	4 719 437 331	5 309 093 274	513 431 333	0.89	15 695 744 387	16 223 408 814	1 415 433 812
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	328 477 817 354	29.71	32 061 502 497	43.44	19.70	390 807 973 678	339 920 492 761	32 816 951 306	0.48	12 131 109 831	11 442 675 407	755 448 809
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	106 870 694 950	2.20	11 737 021 222	2.63	11.37	178 187 827 546	195 782 270 741	18 947 365 672	4.55	89 592 628 877	88 911 575 791	7 210 344 450
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(311 396 703 352)	0.27	(23 840 889 458)	0.32	6.81	104 478 409 880	115 121 074 948	11 338 582 629	22.18	333 370 839 510	426 517 778 300	35 179 472 087
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	50 455 036 343	1.32	11 067 699 008	1.87	14.26	159 413 194 565	209 827 737 015	23 764 155 790	8.01	129 914 303 081	159 372 700 672	12 696 456 782
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(32 687 362 967)	0.20	(3 118 211 420)	0.24	0.59	7 597 135 265	8 410 978 836	980 400 864	2.58	35 965 610 530	41 098 341 803	4 098 612 284
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(15 763 541 846)	0.26	(1 542 965 918)	0.26	0.32	4 775 817 383	5 574 165 740	539 609 588	1.31	20 798 942 037	21 337 707 586	2 082 575 506
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	922 451 367	1.97	85 027 216	2.34	0.09	1 130 931 552	1 872 747 731	148 707 464	0.04	413 824 277	950 296 364	63 680 248
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	2 523 167 865	2.62	581 587 796	4.97	0.44	5 303 087 276	4 078 853 719	728 057 285	0.09	1 411 500 264	1 555 685 854	146 469 489
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(152 661 494 368)	0.00	(12 984 268 388)	0.00	0.00	9 070 493	2 850 276	661 887	8.19	110 968 382 457	152 664 344 644	12 984 930 275
Total	Total SA Rand	(71 298 606 922)	0.96	8 032 326 753	1.05	100.00	1 683 496 801 546	1 697 540 405 603	166 608 996 387	100.00	1 606 640 488 652	1 768 839 012 525	158 576 669 634

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 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)
AFRICA	222 522 453 229	3.13	22 339 596 329	3.26	19.34	286 374 833 096	326 832 635 534	32 226 356 167	6.23	99 660 347 605	104 310 182 305	9 886 759 838
AMERICA	(36 483 746 265)	0.83	(3 095 104 947)	0.84	9.96	190 324 852 642	175 078 362 496	16 591 624 975	12.41	173 196 116 195	211 562 108 761	19 686 729 922
ASIA	(351 661 559 990)	0.63	(28 628 040 970)	0.66	33.52	593 428 418 520	588 114 094 534	55 846 392 702	53.27	885 822 780 208	939 775 654 524	84 474 433 672
EUROPE	(17 572 134 587)	0.96	3 137 191 057	1.07	27.49	508 767 891 267	468 019 240 802	45 805 988 111	26.91	417 105 337 610	485 591 375 389	42 668 797 054
OCEANIA	411 761 205	1.02	990 105 107	1.68	1.47	14 635 940 164	20 053 840 410	2 453 023 119	0.92	22 448 813 141	19 642 079 205	1 462 918 012
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	101 490 585 646	13.75	12 288 362 719	31.95	7.61	79 788 839 371	109 448 197 987	12 685 393 855	0.25	8 407 093 893	7 957 612 341	397 031 136
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 994 033 840	-	1 000 217 458	-	0.60	10 176 026 486	9 994 033 840	1 000 217 458				
Total	(71 298 606 922)	0.96	8 032 326 753	1.05	100.00	1 683 496 801 546	1 697 540 405 603	166 608 996 387	100.00	1 606 640 488 652	1 768 839 012 525	158 576 669 634

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 693 056 442	8 587 553 552	11 670 735 407	10 030 505 291	10 892 989 774	12 278 781 949	10 425 339 173	12 326 767 333	12 623 793 235	10 841 239 699	15 231 009 548

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)

South Africa's trade with the BELN countries for November 2023 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R13.0 billion.

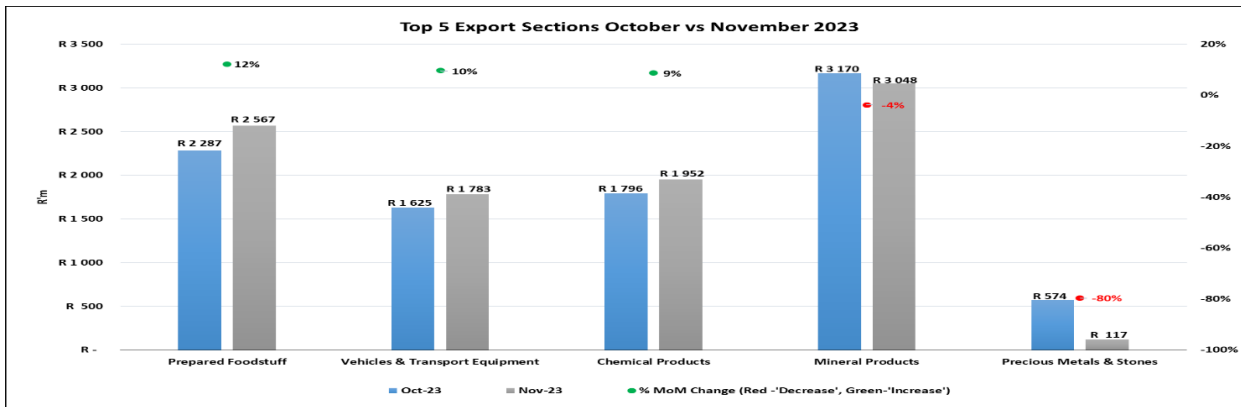
Summary

The R13.0 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2023 was as a result of exports of R19.2 billion and imports of R6.2 billion. Exports increased by R0.4 billion (1.9%) between October and November 2023 and imports increased by R0.1 billion (2.3%) over the same period.

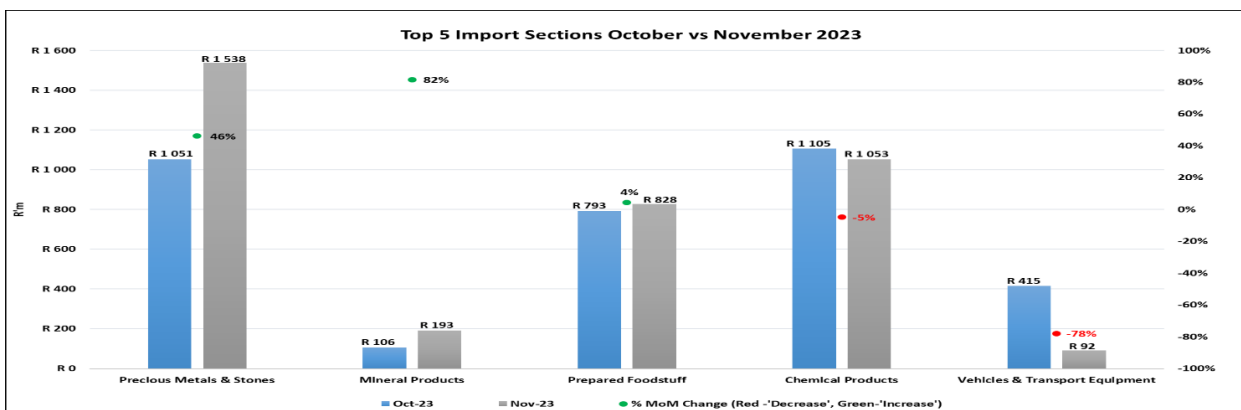
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2023 was a surplus of R119.8 billion, compared to R110.7 billion in 2022.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics November 2023](#)

ENDS.

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