

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 31 March 2023

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for February 2023

Pretoria, 31 March 2023 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R16.1 billion in February 2023. This surplus is attributable to exports of R154.3 billion and imports of R138.2 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 28 February 2023) preliminary trade balance deficit of R6.6 billion is a deterioration from the R17.1 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2022. Export flows for February 2023, at R154.3 billion, were 7.9% higher compared to February 2022 (R143.0bn) whilst import flows were 5.8% higher having increased from R130.6bn in February 2022 to R138.2 billion in the current period.

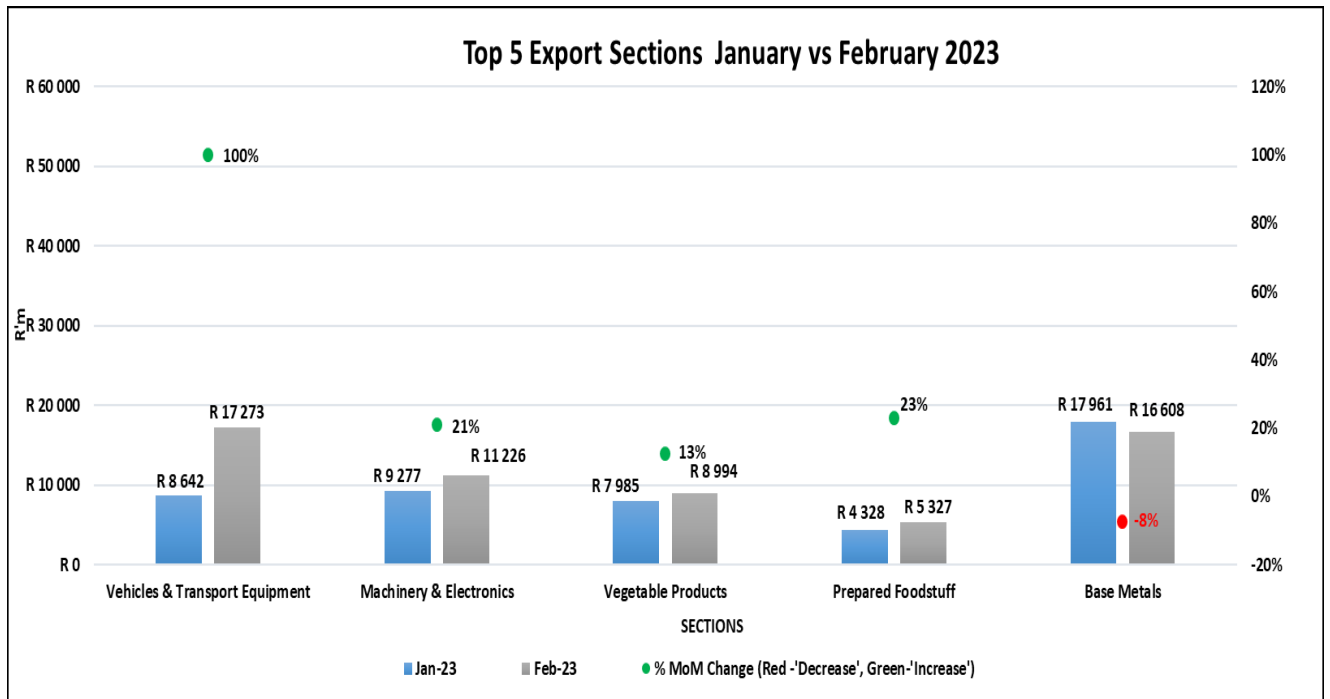
On a month-to-month basis, exports increased by R14.9 billion (10.7%) from R139.4 billion to R154.3 billion between January and February 2023 whereas imports decreased by R23.9 billion (-14.8%) from R162.1 billion to R138.2 over the same period. Export flows rebounded in February, driven by passenger and goods vehicles, as OEMs returned to full production. Value of imports declined on the back of lower importation of crude oil and petroleum oils.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC), the preliminary trade balance deficit of R23.1bn announced for January 2023 was revised downwards by R0.34 billion, with the final number at R22.7 billion.

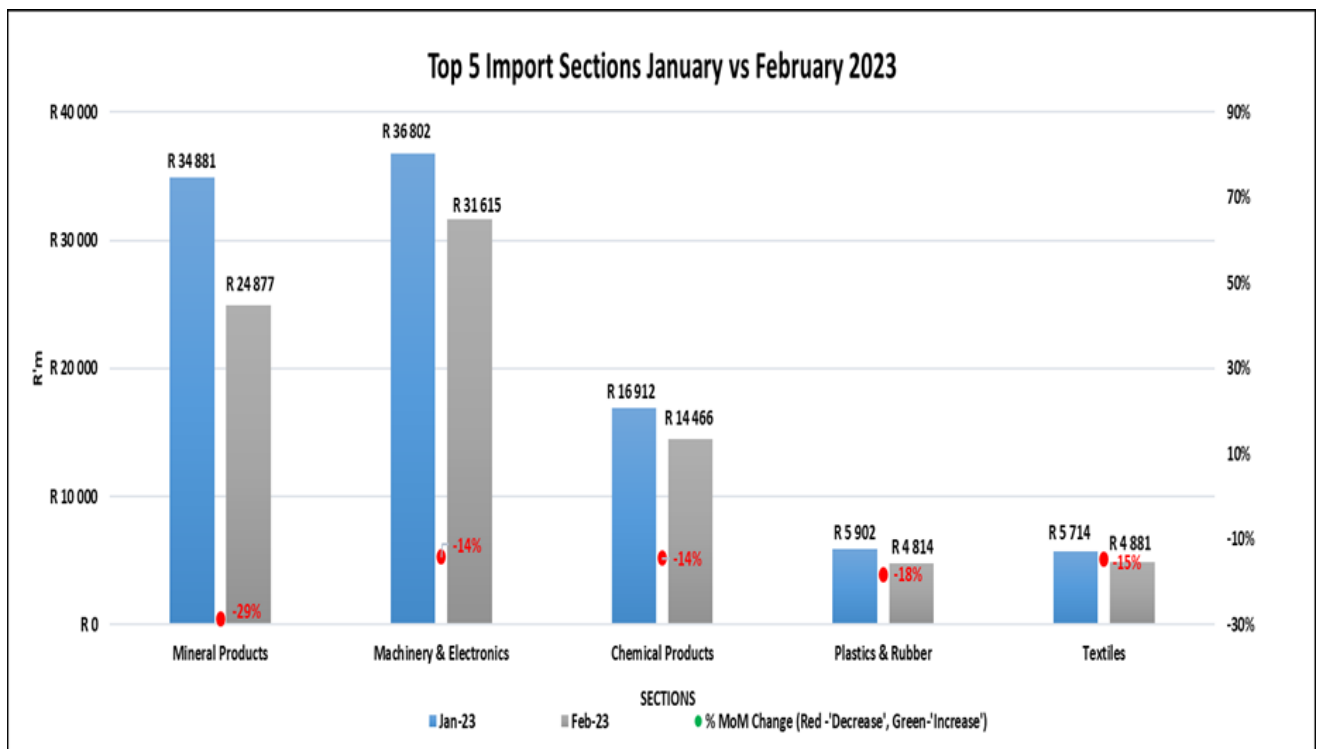
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from January (revised) to February (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2023	February 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	35 770	39 802	4 032	11.3%
	Imports	16 714	9 338	-7 375	-44.1%
	Trade Balance	19 056	30 464	-	-
America	Exports	14 078	15 077	999	7.1%
	Imports	16 999	15 199	-1 801	-10.6%
	Trade Balance	-2 921	-122	-	-
Asia	Exports	47 549	51 745	4 196	8.8%
	Imports	83 500	71 681	-11 819	-14.2%
	Trade Balance	-35 951	-19 935	-	-
Europe	Exports	32 437	37 940	5 503	17.0%
	Imports	42 808	37 931	-4 877	-11.4%
	Trade Balance	-10 371	9	-	-
Oceania	Exports	835	1 255	420	50.3%
	Imports	1 578	1 868	290	18.4%
	Trade Balance	-743	-613	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	7 736	7 958	222	2.9%
	Imports	509	2 145	1 636	321.1%
	Trade Balance	7 227	5 813	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	993	517	-476	-47.9%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	993	517	-	-

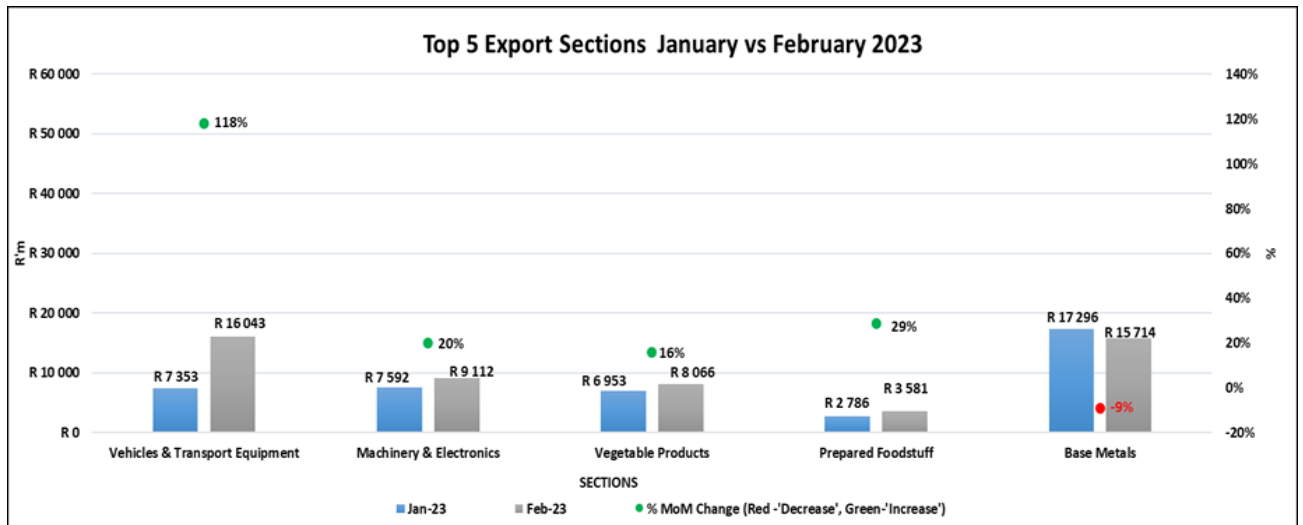
Excluding trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN)

The trade data excluding BELN for February 2023 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R7.0 billion, with export flows at R140.3 billion and import flows at R133.2 billion. The preliminary cumulative trade balance deficit for 2023 was R22.9 billion compared to R0.8 billion trade balance surplus during 2022.

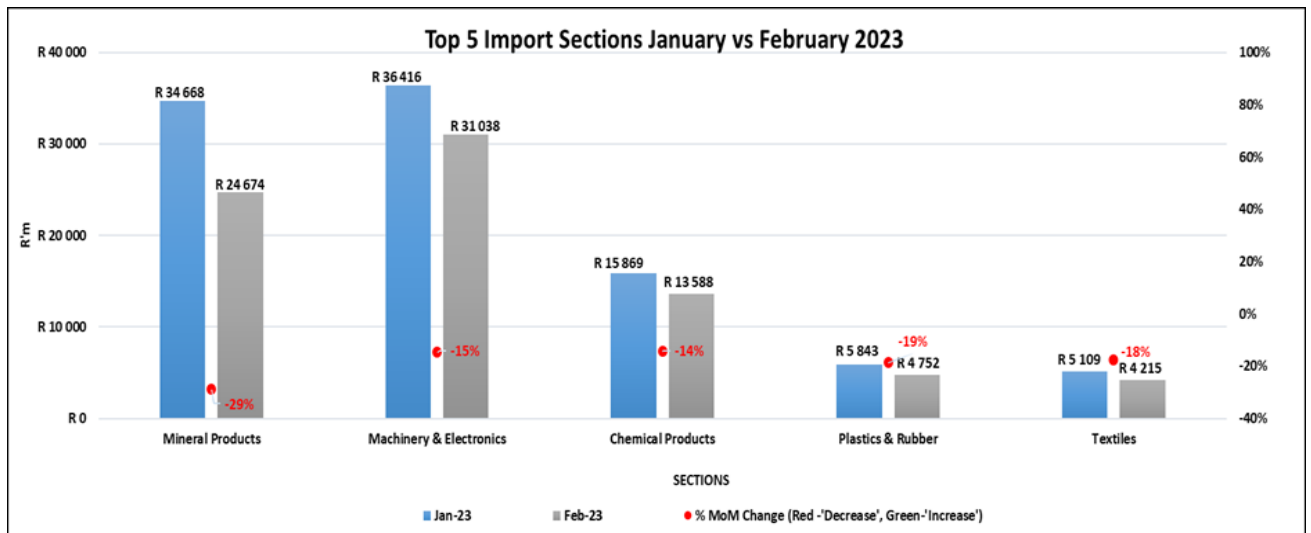
Between January and February 2023, exports increased by R13.4 billion (10.6%) whilst imports decreased by R23.6 billion (-15.0%) over the same period.

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 January (revised) and February (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2023	February 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	23 233	25 766	2 533 ↑	10.9%
	Imports	11 377	4 397	-6 980 ↓	-61.4%
	Trade Balance	11 856	21 369	-	-

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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 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	(1 054 462 373)	0.73	(337 694 769)	0.82	0.98	2 797 354 829	2 920 553 253	1 515 309 870	1.34	3 535 996 683	3 975 015 626	1 853 004 639
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	11 232 432 641	2.95	6 359 056 524	3.41	5.83	15 782 297 680	16 978 682 487	8 993 504 743	1.91	4 887 497 694	5 746 249 846	2 634 448 219
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(396 401 130)	0.69	(475 501 387)	0.49	0.29	1 191 404 655	868 247 354	448 296 295	0.67	4 206 702 702	1 264 648 484	923 797 682
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	866 135 746	1.10	1 105 229 326	1.26	3.45	8 777 267 642	9 654 993 896	5 327 319 444	3.06	6 765 901 253	8 788 858 150	4 222 090 118
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	28 505 973 084	1.48	19 400 887 365	1.78	28.70	73 803 083 570	88 264 213 276	44 278 374 696	18.01	47 300 561 094	59 758 240 192	24 877 487 331
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(13 469 542 806)	0.57	(5 167 966 540)	0.64	6.03	17 915 115 574	17 908 572 185	9 298 341 190	10.47	29 131 041 793	31 378 114 991	14 466 307 730
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(5 292 870 931)	0.51	(1 701 923 741)	0.65	2.02	4 683 994 340	5 423 311 733	3 112 431 360	3.48	10 978 888 321	10 716 182 664	4 814 355 101
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(226 541 970)	0.71	(27 147 081)	0.92	0.21	634 938 548	554 954 095	328 855 428	0.26	643 246 488	781 496 065	356 002 509
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	227 264 130	1.19	207 827 936	1.43	0.45	1 436 857 487	1 396 280 287	694 019 556	0.35	1 215 077 191	1 169 016 157	486 191 620
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 406 740 340)	0.83	(622 176 554)	0.84	2.06	3 772 318 471	6 839 811 434	3 172 265 237	2.75	9 602 318 384	8 246 551 774	3 794 441 791
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(7 088 299 281)	0.33	(2 677 004 138)	0.45	1.43	2 883 337 998	3 507 204 190	2 204 490 226	3.53	10 121 583 828	10 595 503 471	4 881 494 364
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(2 725 513 901)	0.16	(1 035 985 916)	0.24	0.21	447 268 567	514 022 822	319 900 066	0.98	2 910 779 887	3 239 536 723	1 355 885 982
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 443 801 837)	0.44	(489 828 021)	0.56	0.41	981 057 020	1 145 969 202	633 848 556	0.81	2 586 398 347	2 589 771 039	1 123 676 577
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	48 429 760 745	10.76	24 725 341 373	11.78	17.51	58 864 582 582	53 391 217 891	27 018 629 310	1.66	4 374 311 142	4 961 457 146	2 293 287 937
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	20 083 268 419	2.39	9 591 716 597	2.37	10.76	30 723 299 342	34 569 179 614	16 608 126 090	5.08	14 479 558 747	14 485 911 195	7 016 409 493
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(47 914 139 554)	0.30	(20 388 811 386)	0.36	7.28	19 711 816 183	20 503 065 615	11 225 927 061	22.88	56 244 659 651	68 417 205 169	31 614 738 447
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(3 433 993 999)	0.88	2 883 485 105	1.20	11.20	27 057 093 415	25 915 089 669	17 273 390 957	10.42	20 328 945 726	29 349 083 668	14 389 905 852
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(4 904 222 416)	0.22	(2 414 383 205)	0.24	0.50	1 340 246 638	1 395 986 024	769 274 800	2.30	5 821 458 691	6 300 208 440	3 183 658 005
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 912 346 657)	0.38	(668 575 876)	0.51	0.45	1 233 808 826	1 153 667 224	687 157 206	0.98	3 364 554 442	3 066 013 881	1 355 733 082
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(135 262 033)	0.60	96 425 417	4.00	0.08	121 846 121	201 414 634	128 558 462	0.02	116 552 583	336 676 667	32 133 045
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	393 484 305	3.04	164 087 610	2.78	0.17	274 143 974	586 123 907	256 212 810	0.07	151 417 603	192 639 602	92 125 200
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(24 909 525 431)	0.00	(12 392 923 856)	0.00	0.00	2 316 999	1 014 998	775 208	8.97	18 542 595 233	24 910 540 429	12 393 699 064
Total	Total SA Rand	(6 575 345 589)	0.98	16 134 134 783	1.12	100.00	274 435 450 461	293 693 575 790	154 295 008 571	100.00	257 310 047 311	300 268 921 379	138 160 873 788

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	49 520 699 445	2.90	30 464 221 254	4.26	25.80	65 361 796 230	75 572 685 509	39 802 481 567	6.76	28 885 590 302	26 051 986 064	9 338 260 313	
AMERICA	(3 042 988 810)	0.91	(1 212 820 391)	0.99	9.77	26 871 824 609	29 155 228 008	15 076 901 263	11.00	28 165 954 031	32 198 216 818	15 198 721 654	
ASIA	(55 886 415 644)	0.64	(19 935 331 822)	0.72	33.54	88 919 535 406	99 294 356 413	51 745 395 486	51.88	129 128 956 580	155 180 772 057	71 680 727 308	
EUROPE	(10 362 142 997)	0.87	9 153 523	1.00	24.59	77 135 957 700	70 376 429 950	37 939 767 130	27.45	65 770 757 060	80 738 572 947	37 930 613 607	
OCEANIA	(1 355 371 526)	0.61	(612 662 576)	0.67	0.81	2 060 652 213	2 089 849 178	1 255 054 634	1.35	3 673 672 088	3 445 220 704	1 867 717 210	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	13 040 458 135	5.91	5 813 279 792	3.71	5.16	12 954 120 966	15 694 610 924	7 958 113 488	1.55	1 685 117 250	2 654 152 789	2 144 833 696	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 510 415 808	-	517 295 003	-	0.34	1 131 563 337	1 510 415 808	517 295 003					
Total	(6 575 345 589)	0.98	16 134 134 783	1.12	100.00	274 435 450 461	293 693 575 790	154 295 008 571	100.00	257 310 047 311	300 268 921 379	138 160 873 788	

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 692 068 261	8 587 358 074

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	(856 607 902)	0.73	(238 130 959)	0.84	0.88	2 206 188 394	2 340 435 332	1 234 959 390	1.11	2 786 142 921	3 197 043 234	1 473 090 349
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	9 413 264 344	2.68	5 498 916 758	3.14	5.75	14 020 842 585	15 018 820 932	8 066 027 547	1.93	4 813 894 183	5 605 556 588	2 567 110 789
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(679 940 715)	0.46	(615 211 067)	0.33	0.22	844 833 471	583 161 073	307 834 407	0.69	4 201 873 775	1 263 101 788	923 045 474
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(1 151 287 465)	0.85	14 626 326	1.00	2.55	5 856 980 201	6 366 892 278	3 581 120 711	2.68	5 578 661 589	7 518 179 743	3 566 494 385
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	24 305 275 953	1.41	17 262 604 799	1.70	29.90	69 802 116 306	83 647 136 150	41 936 172 723	18.52	47 084 391 285	59 341 860 197	24 673 567 924
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(14 110 905 044)	0.52	(5 598 926 238)	0.59	5.70	15 469 855 984	15 346 434 760	7 989 063 260	10.20	27 597 219 289	29 457 339 804	13 587 989 498
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(6 330 786 244)	0.40	(2 265 480 496)	0.52	1.77	3 490 633 695	4 264 199 043	2 486 913 172	3.57	10 884 542 578	10 594 985 287	4 752 393 668
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(302 559 720)	0.61	(62 002 812)	0.82	0.21	549 091 919	466 838 183	288 416 325	0.26	628 834 746	769 397 903	350 419 137
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	269 242 303	1.34	213 212 524	1.67	0.38	1 077 629 169	1 071 706 165	532 171 769	0.24	849 633 302	802 463 862	318 959 245
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(2 005 345 769)	0.75	(895 808 997)	0.76	2.05	3 224 313 751	6 159 918 165	2 873 275 054	2.83	9 553 049 015	8 165 263 934	3 769 084 051
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(7 103 555 119)	0.24	(2 729 986 943)	0.35	1.06	1 622 481 786	2 220 863 079	1 485 145 821	3.16	8 907 969 536	9 324 418 198	4 215 132 764
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 019 309 642)	0.06	(1 205 430 560)	0.10	0.09	144 497 712	187 694 054	130 471 949	1.00	2 889 125 842	3 207 003 696	1 335 902 509
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 729 206 877)	0.33	(648 143 819)	0.42	0.33	672 335 415	836 954 432	464 762 174	0.84	2 564 941 311	2 566 161 309	1 112 905 993
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	50 645 503 609	22.21	25 435 594 448	21.58	19.02	57 769 297 865	53 033 669 589	26 671 528 302	0.93	2 010 404 845	2 388 165 980	1 235 933 854
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	18 673 649 184	2.30	8 781 967 055	2.27	11.20	29 013 817 357	33 010 036 911	15 713 809 424	5.20	14 310 987 587	14 336 387 727	6 931 842 369
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(50 750 254 196)	0.25	(21 926 318 414)	0.29	6.50	16 037 321 549	16 703 979 339	9 111 934 505	23.30	55 535 540 351	67 454 233 535	31 038 252 919
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(5 838 259 576)	0.80	1 713 930 552	1.12	11.44	24 956 959 894	23 396 061 274	16 043 157 383	10.76	19 893 826 917	29 234 320 850	14 329 226 831
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(5 251 515 560)	0.16	(2 615 166 564)	0.18	0.40	1 015 695 337	1 028 253 589	561 426 977	2.38	5 807 494 353	6 279 769 149	3 176 593 541
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(2 390 494 284)	0.22	(945 215 201)	0.30	0.29	629 528 044	659 723 518	401 308 543	1.01	3 330 508 799	3 050 217 802	1 346 523 744
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(135 887 625)	0.60	96 101 906	3.99	0.09	120 928 224	200 732 774	128 204 268	0.02	116 396 954	336 620 399	32 102 362
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	388 258 538	3.07	161 101 226	2.80	0.18	263 709 880	576 203 011	250 518 117	0.07	147 017 663	187 944 473	89 416 891
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(24 909 525 431)	0.00	(12 392 923 856)	0.00	0.00	62 772	1 014 998	775 208	9.30	18 542 595 233	24 910 540 429	12 393 699 064
Total	Total SA Rand	(22 870 247 238)	0.92	7 039 309 668	1.05	100.00	248 789 121 310	267 120 728 649	140 258 997 029	100.00	248 035 052 074	289 990 975 887	133 219 687 361

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	33 225 797 796	3.11	21 369 396 139	5.86	18.37	39 715 467 079	48 999 838 368	25 766 470 025	3.30	19 610 595 065	15 774 040 572	4 397 073 886
AMERICA	(3 042 988 810)	0.91	(121 820 391)	0.99	10.75	26 871 824 609	29 155 228 008	15 076 901 263	11.41	28 165 954 031	32 198 216 818	15 198 721 654
ASIA	(55 886 415 644)	0.64	(19 935 331 822)	0.72	36.89	88 919 535 406	99 294 356 413	51 745 395 486	53.81	129 128 956 580	155 180 772 057	71 680 727 308
EUROPE	(10 362 142 997)	0.87	9 153 523	1.00	27.05	77 135 957 700	70 376 429 950	37 939 767 130	28.47	65 770 757 060	80 738 572 947	37 930 613 607
OCEANIA	(1 355 371 526)	0.61	(612 662 576)	0.67	0.89	2 060 652 213	2 089 849 178	1 255 054 634	1.40	3 673 672 088	3 445 220 704	1 867 717 210
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	13 040 458 135	5.91	5 813 279 792	3.71	5.67	12 954 120 966	15 694 610 924	7 958 113 488	1.61	1 685 117 250	2 654 152 789	2 144 833 696
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 510 415 808	-	517 295 003	-	0.37	1 131 563 337	1 510 415 808	517 295 003				
Total	(22 870 247 238)	0.92	7 039 309 668	1.05	100.00	248 789 121 310	267 120 728 649	140 258 997 029	100.00	248 035 052 074	289 990 975 887	133 219 687 361

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 692 068 261	8 587 358 074

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 February 2023 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R9.09 billion.

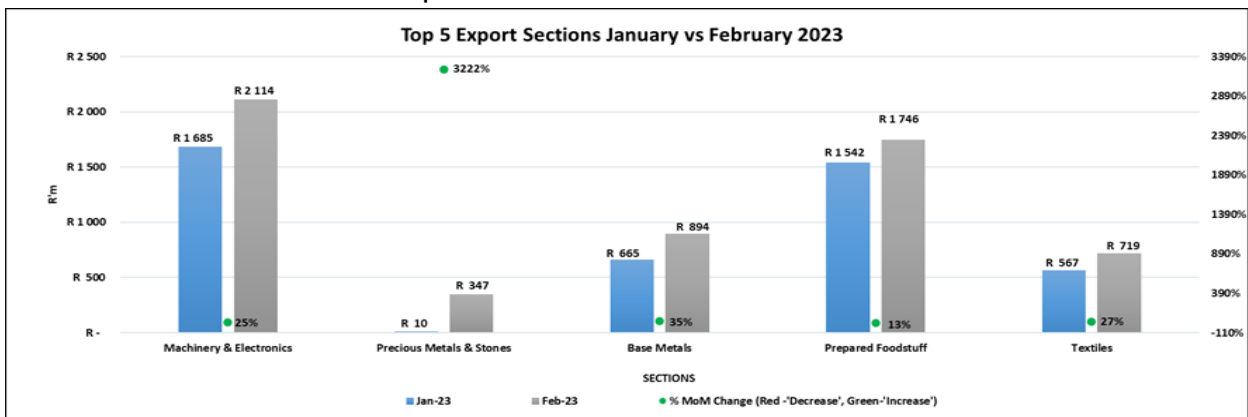
Summary

The R9.09 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for February 2023 was as a result of exports of R14.03 billion and imports of R4.94 billion. Exports increased by R1.50 billion (12.0%) between January and February 2023 and imports decreased by R0.40 billion (-7.4%) over the same period.

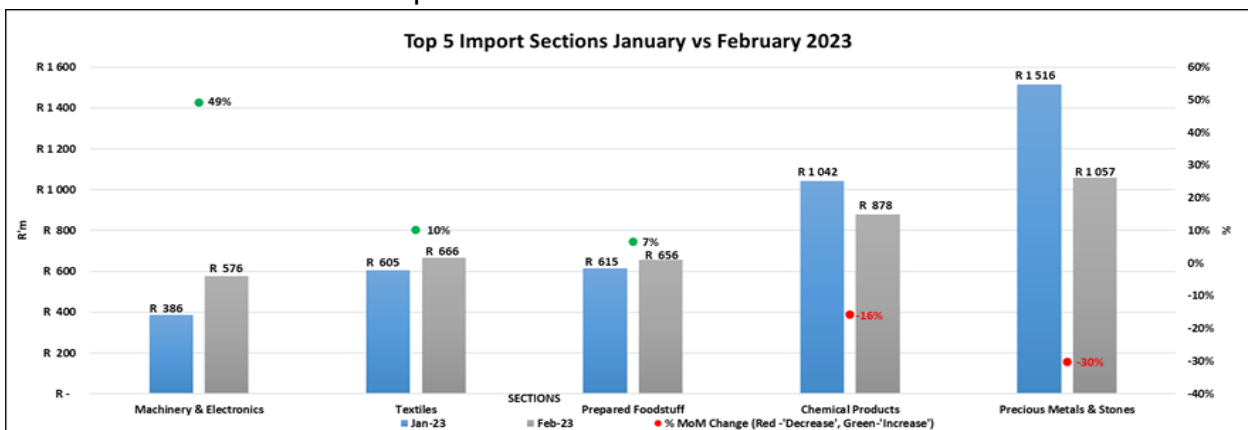
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2023 was R16.29 billion compared to R16.37 billion in 2022.

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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