

## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 28 February 2023*

## **SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for January 2023**

**Pretoria, 28 February 2023** – In the year 2022, South Africa recorded a fully year total trade balance surplus of R211.6bn (exports of R2.02trn and imports of R1.81trn constituting a total trade of R3.83trn).

Today, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) releases trade statistics for January 2023 recording a preliminary trade balance deficit of R23.05 billion. The R23.05 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for January 2023 is attributable to exports of R139.36 billion and imports of R162.41 billion.

These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 January 2023) preliminary trade balance deficit of R23.05 billion is a deterioration from the R4.64 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2022. Against January 2022, the January 2023 exports increased by 6.1% (from R131.39bn to R139.36bn) whilst imports increased by 28.1% (from R126.76bn to R162.41 billion).

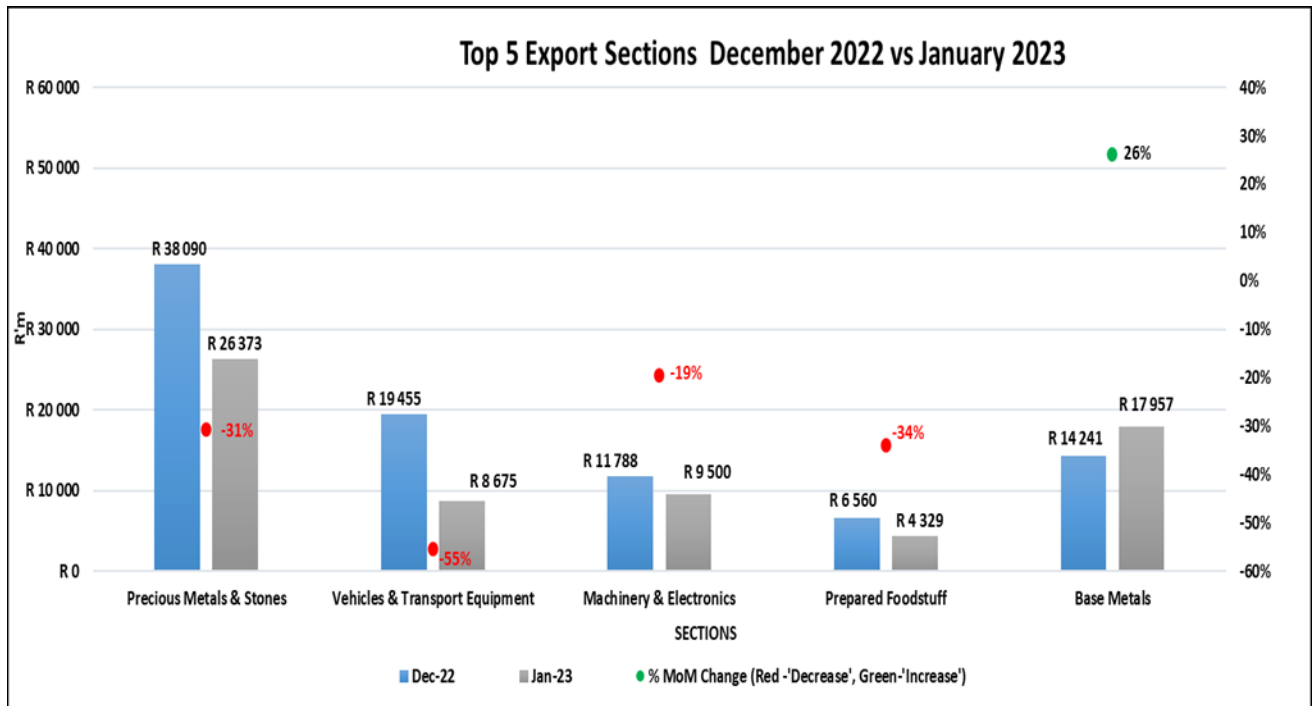
On a month-to-month basis, exports decreased by R23.48 billion from R162.83 billion to R139.36 billion (-14.4%) between December 2022 and January 2023 and imports increased by R4.56 billion from R157.85 billion to R162.41 (2.9%) over the same period.

December 2022 preliminary trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.45 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary trade balance surplus of R5.43 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R4.98 billion.

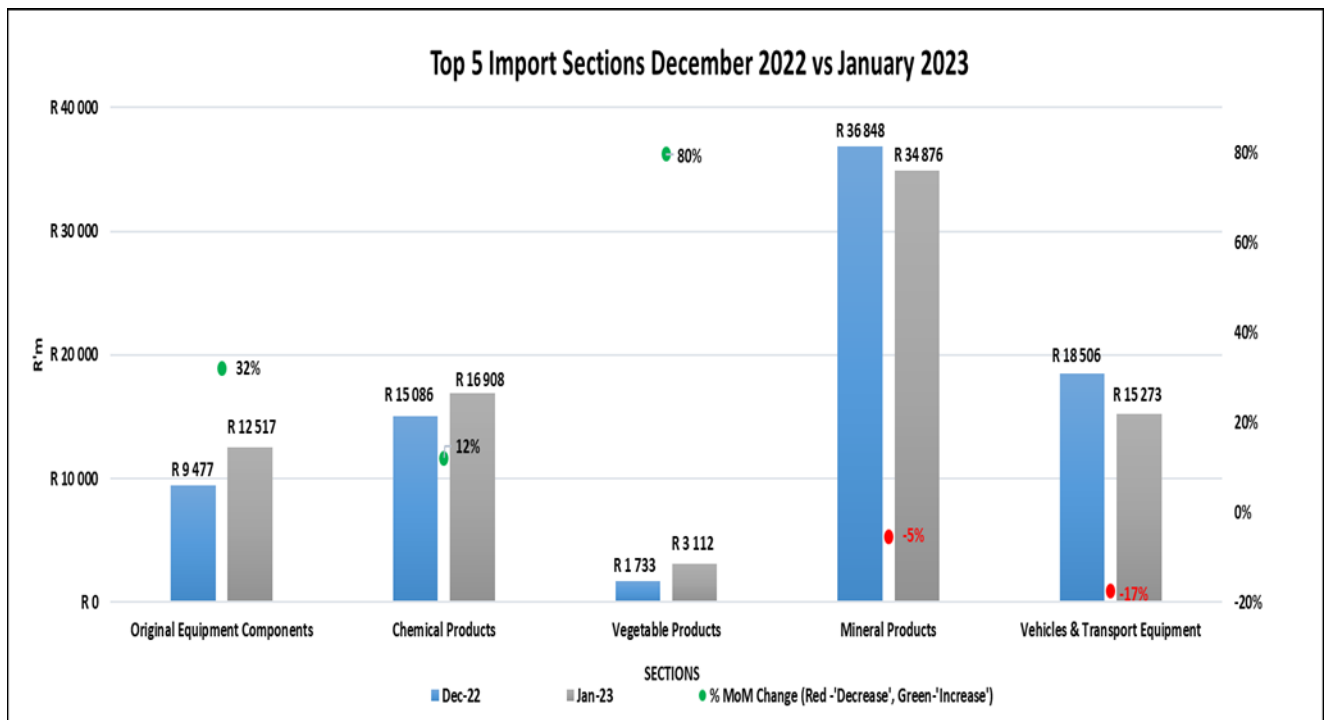
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## Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



## Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from December (revised) 2022 to January (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	December 2022	January 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	40 886	35 802	-5 083	↓ -12.4%
	Imports	10 442	16 709	6 267	↑ 60.0%
	Trade Balance	30 444	19 093	-	-
America	Exports	19 071	14 025	-5 045	↓ -26.5%
	Imports	18 600	16 994	-1 606	↓ -8.6%
	Trade Balance	471	-2 968	-	-
Asia	Exports	47 478	47 528	50	↑ 0.1%
	Imports	90 716	83 514	-7 202	↓ -7.9%
	Trade Balance	-43 237	-35 986	-	-
Europe	Exports	44 881	32 425	-12 456	↓ -27.8%
	Imports	35 911	43 107	7 195	↑ 20.0%
	Trade Balance	8 970	-10 681	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 269	844	-425	↓ -33.5%
	Imports	1 396	1 577	181	↑ 12.9%
	Trade Balance	-127	-733	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	8 123	7 736	-387	↓ -4.8%
	Imports	788	509	-278	↓ -35.3%
	Trade Balance	7 336	7 227	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 130	993	-137	↓ -12.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 130	993	-	-

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

The trade data excluding BELN for January 2023 recorded a preliminary trade balance deficit of R30.26 billion.

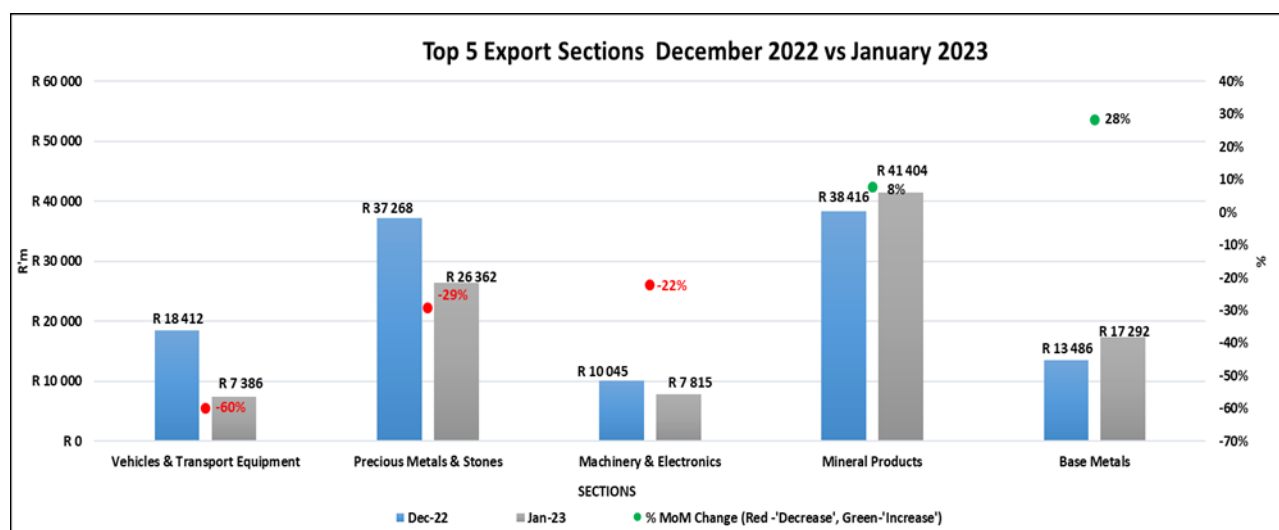
### Summary

The R30.26 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for January 2023 was as a result of exports of R126.81 billion and imports of R157.07 billion. Exports decreased by R20.82 billion (-14.1%) between December 2022 and January 2023 and imports increased by R3.22 billion (2.1%) over the same period.

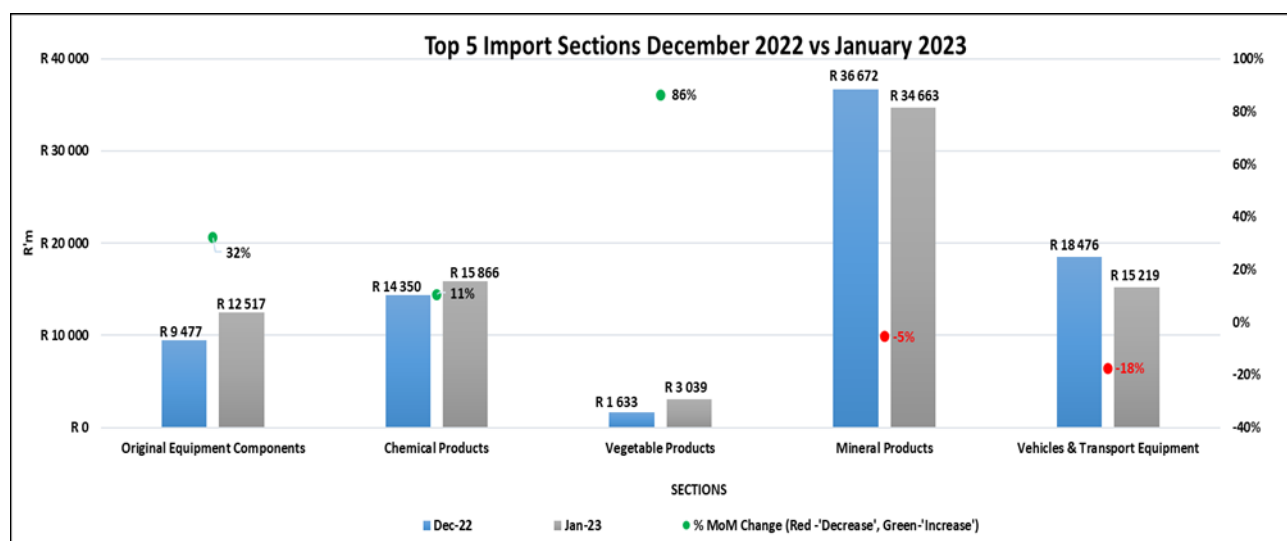
The preliminary cumulative trade balance deficit for 2023 was R30.26 billion compared to R2.63 billion trade balance deficit during 2022.

## 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 December (Revised) 2022 and January (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	December 2022	January 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	25 675	23 257	-2 417	-9.4%
	Imports	6 443	11 373	4 931	76.5%
	Trade Balance	19 232	11 884	-	-

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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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(717 214 220)	0.66	(717 214 220)	0.66	1.01	1 371 997 152	1 404 668 625	1 404 668 625	1.31	1 853 728 675	2 121 882 845	2 121 882 845
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	4 774 966 194	2.53	4 774 966 194	2.53	5.66	7 750 387 871	7 887 450 960	7 887 450 960	1.92	2 009 067 589	3 112 484 766	3 112 484 766
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	79 113 242	1.23	79 113 242	1.23	0.30	473 322 697	419 951 059	419 951 059	0.21	2 362 068 090	340 837 817	340 837 817
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(237 919 831)	0.95	(237 919 831)	0.95	3.11	4 187 092 773	4 328 624 133	4 328 624 133	2.81	3 449 330 410	4 566 543 964	4 566 543 964
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	8 802 056 220	1.25	8 802 056 220	1.25	31.34	34 936 915 899	43 677 582 771	43 677 582 771	21.47	20 158 613 169	34 875 526 551	34 875 526 551
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(8 296 873 584)	0.51	(8 296 873 584)	0.51	6.18	9 046 284 557	8 611 147 764	8 611 147 764	10.41	14 780 567 648	16 908 021 348	16 908 021 348
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(3 587 947 722)	0.39	(3 587 947 722)	0.39	1.66	2 213 430 243	2 311 914 252	2 311 914 252	3.63	5 594 295 268	5 899 861 974	5 899 861 974
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(199 282 995)	0.53	(199 282 995)	0.53	0.16	290 180 024	226 098 667	226 098 667	0.26	299 226 403	425 381 662	425 381 662
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	25 654 680	1.04	25 654 680	1.04	0.51	648 970 920	708 332 955	708 332 955	0.42	632 866 914	682 678 275	682 678 275
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(690 457 973)	0.84	(690 457 973)	0.84	2.70	1 800 945 154	3 759 377 869	3 759 377 869	2.74	5 030 499 956	4 449 835 842	4 449 835 842
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(4 420 170 755)	0.23	(4 420 170 755)	0.23	0.93	1 128 803 259	1 302 582 876	1 302 582 876	3.52	4 842 090 079	5 722 753 631	5 722 753 631
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 689 407 018)	0.10	(1 689 407 018)	0.10	0.14	177 029 469	194 173 387	194 173 387	1.16	1 333 492 601	1 883 580 405	1 883 580 405
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(955 388 741)	0.35	(955 388 741)	0.35	0.37	431 113 912	512 240 249	512 240 249	0.90	1 409 610 484	1 467 628 990	1 467 628 990
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	23 704 456 062	9.88	23 704 456 062	9.88	18.92	31 253 998 483	26 372 588 581	26 372 588 581	1.64	2 473 214 045	2 668 132 519	2 668 132 519
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	10 486 959 450	2.40	10 486 959 450	2.40	12.89	16 185 081 171	17 957 048 413	17 957 048 413	4.60	6 744 714 701	7 470 088 963	7 470 088 963
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(27 297 098 483)	0.26	(27 297 098 483)	0.26	6.82	8 526 313 211	9 499 805 507	9 499 805 507	22.66	28 722 242 776	36 796 903 990	36 796 903 990
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(6 598 568 132)	0.57	(6 598 568 132)	0.57	6.22	9 687 150 606	8 674 557 096	8 674 557 096	9.40	11 203 791 433	15 273 125 228	15 273 125 228
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 488 856 991)	0.20	(2 488 856 991)	0.20	0.45	627 608 857	626 887 817	626 887 817	1.92	2 719 446 019	3 115 744 808	3 115 744 808
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 230 031 309)	0.28	(1 230 031 309)	0.28	0.34	473 971 672	476 633 985	476 633 985	1.05	1 639 183 241	1 706 665 294	1 706 665 294
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(231 687 450)	0.24	(231 687 450)	0.24	0.05	42 047 095	72 856 172	72 856 172	0.19	94 574 396	304 543 622	304 543 622
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	229 795 795	3.29	229 795 795	3.29	0.24	138 793 722	330 310 197	330 310 197	0.06	82 746 545	100 514 402	100 514 402
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(12 516 559 710)	0.00	(12 516 559 710)	0.00	0.00	72 342	239 790	239 790	7.71	9 320 673 015	12 516 799 500	12 516 799 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(23 054 463 271)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>(23 054 463 271)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>131 391 511 089</b>	<b>139 355 073 125</b>	<b>139 355 073 125</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>126 756 043 457</b>	<b>162 409 536 396</b>	<b>162 409 536 396</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 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)
AFRICA	19 093 441 947	2.14	19 093 441 947	2.14	25.69	31 575 370 819	35 802 388 043	35 802 388 043	10.29	12 383 569 620	16 708 946 096	16 708 946 096
AMERICA	(2 968 387 527)	0.83	(2 968 387 527)	0.83	10.06	11 737 518 179	14 025 264 981	14 025 264 981	10.46	14 058 232 131	16 993 652 508	16 993 652 508
ASIA	(35 985 620 465)	0.57	(35 985 620 465)	0.57	34.11	43 322 738 843	47 528 399 353	47 528 399 353	51.42	64 846 836 794	83 514 019 818	83 514 019 818
EUROPE	(10 681 309 227)	0.75	(10 681 309 227)	0.75	23.27	35 575 937 970	32 425 249 991	32 425 249 991	26.54	32 395 586 426	43 106 559 218	43 106 559 218
OCEANIA	(732 887 147)	0.54	(732 887 147)	0.54	0.61	942 953 689	844 152 516	844 152 516	0.97	1 760 995 563	1 577 039 663	1 577 039 663
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	7 227 178 343	15.19	7 227 178 343	15.19	5.55	7 792 417 092	7 736 497 436	7 736 497 436	0.31	1 310 822 923	509 319 093	509 319 093
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	993 120 805	-	993 120 805	-	0.71	444 574 497	993 120 805	993 120 805				
<b>Total</b>	<b>(23 054 463 271)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>(23 054 463 271)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>131 391 511 089</b>	<b>139 355 073 125</b>	<b>139 355 073 125</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>126 756 043 457</b>	<b>162 409 536 396</b>	<b>162 409 536 396</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2023
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	9 692 068 261

**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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(619 185 402)	0.64	(619 185 402)	0.64	0.87	1 063 115 040	1 104 899 845	1 104 899 845	1.10	1 483 033 349	1 724 085 247	1 724 085 247
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	3 815 937 082	2.26	3 815 937 082	2.26	5.41	6 826 435 210	6 855 066 020	6 855 066 020	1.93	1 969 112 207	3 039 128 938	3 039 128 938
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(64 716 663)	0.81	(64 716 663)	0.81	0.22	317 314 266	275 326 666	275 326 666	0.22	2 360 570 902	3 40 043 329	3 40 043 329
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(1 165 460 227)	0.71	(1 165 460 227)	0.71	2.20	2 755 788 909	2 786 140 123	2 786 140 123	2.52	2 843 078 980	3 951 600 350	3 951 600 350
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	6 740 984 579	1.19	6 740 984 579	1.19	32.65	32 861 986 084	41 404 244 848	41 404 244 848	22.07	20 024 814 474	34 663 260 269	34 663 260 269
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(8 507 281 851)	0.46	(8 507 281 851)	0.46	5.80	7 834 348 619	7 358 286 502	7 358 286 502	10.10	13 950 658 157	15 865 568 353	15 865 568 353
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(4 062 268 191)	0.30	(4 062 268 191)	0.30	1.40	1 665 517 184	1 778 320 084	1 778 320 084	3.72	5 549 670 697	5 840 588 275	5 840 588 275
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(240 445 014)	0.43	(240 445 014)	0.43	0.14	246 593 732	178 421 858	178 421 858	0.27	291 979 231	418 866 872	418 866 872
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	62 245 610	1.13	62 245 610	1.13	0.43	493 547 679	545 603 965	545 603 965	0.31	451 791 411	483 358 355	483 358 355
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 015 430 545)	0.77	(1 015 430 545)	0.77	2.66	1 523 458 136	3 378 474 843	3 378 474 843	2.80	5 004 666 255	4 393 905 388	4 393 905 388
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(4 382 643 531)	0.14	(4 382 643 531)	0.14	0.58	544 972 645	735 568 492	735 568 492	3.26	4 272 771 749	5 118 212 023	5 118 212 023
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 813 739 723)	0.03	(1 813 739 723)	0.03	0.05	46 043 546	57 272 736	57 272 736	1.19	1 325 099 764	1 871 012 459	1 871 012 459
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 082 475 983)	0.26	(1 082 475 983)	0.26	0.29	285 256 833	372 313 861	372 313 861	0.93	1 399 734 997	1 454 789 844	1 454 789 844
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	25 209 945 851	22.88	25 209 945 851	22.88	20.79	30 871 855 502	26 362 141 287	26 362 141 287	0.73	1 171 045 820	1 152 195 436	1 152 195 436
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	9 886 713 561	2.34	9 886 713 561	2.34	13.64	15 426 842 961	17 292 225 938	17 292 225 938	4.71	6 666 384 164	7 405 512 377	7 405 512 377
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(28 595 818 961)	0.21	(28 595 818 961)	0.21	6.16	6 882 027 453	7 814 571 180	7 814 571 180	23.18	28 433 590 466	36 410 390 141	36 410 390 141
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(7 833 284 305)	0.49	(7 833 284 305)	0.49	5.82	8 727 429 753	7 385 757 126	7 385 757 126	9.69	10 859 871 200	15 219 041 431	15 219 041 431
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 635 376 409)	0.15	(2 635 376 409)	0.15	0.37	472 836 900	466 993 572	466 993 572	1.98	2 712 349 812	3 102 369 981	3 102 369 981
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 440 560 508)	0.15	(1 440 560 508)	0.15	0.20	239 747 445	259 518 495	259 518 495	1.08	1 620 827 891	1 700 079 003	1 700 079 003
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(231 989 531)	0.24	(231 989 531)	0.24	0.06	41 567 800	72 528 506	72 528 506	0.19	94 476 538	304 518 037	304 518 037
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	227 556 412	3.31	227 556 412	3.31	0.26	132 837 902	326 083 994	326 083 994	0.06	80 025 291	98 527 582	98 527 582
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(12 516 559 710)	0.00	(12 516 559 710)	0.00	0.00	49 984	239 790	239 790	7.97	9 320 673 015	12 516 799 500	12 516 799 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(30 263 853 459)</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>(30 263 853 459)</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>119 259 573 583</b>	<b>126 809 999 731</b>	<b>126 809 999 731</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>121 886 226 370</b>	<b>157 073 853 190</b>	<b>157 073 853 190</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 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2022 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2023 (R'm)
AFRICA	11 884 051 759	2.04	11 884 051 759	2.04	18.34	19 443 433 313	23 257 314 649	23 257 314 649	7.24	7 513 752 533	11 373 262 890	11 373 262 890
AMERICA	(2 968 387 527)	0.83	(2 968 387 527)	0.83	11.06	11 737 518 179	14 025 264 981	14 025 264 981	10.82	14 058 232 131	16 993 652 508	16 993 652 508
ASIA	(35 985 620 465)	0.57	(35 985 620 465)	0.57	37.48	43 322 738 843	47 528 399 353	47 528 399 353	53.17	64 846 836 794	83 514 019 818	83 514 019 818
EUROPE	(10 681 309 227)	0.75	(10 681 309 227)	0.75	25.57	35 575 937 970	32 425 249 991	32 425 249 991	27.44	32 395 586 426	43 106 559 218	43 106 559 218
OCEANIA	(732 887 147)	0.54	(732 887 147)	0.54	0.67	942 953 689	844 152 516	844 152 516	1.00	1 760 995 563	1 577 039 663	1 577 039 663
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	7 227 178 343	15.19	7 227 178 343	15.19	6.10	7 792 417 092	7 736 497 436	7 736 497 436	0.32	1 310 822 923	509 319 093	509 319 093
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	993 120 805	-	993 120 805	-	0.78	444 574 497	993 120 805	993 120 805				
<b>Total</b>	<b>(30 263 853 459)</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>(30 263 853 459)</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>119 259 573 583</b>	<b>126 809 999 731</b>	<b>126 809 999 731</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>121 886 226 370</b>	<b>157 073 853 190</b>	<b>157 073 853 190</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2023</b>											
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	9 692 068 261											

### 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 January 2023 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R7.21 billion.

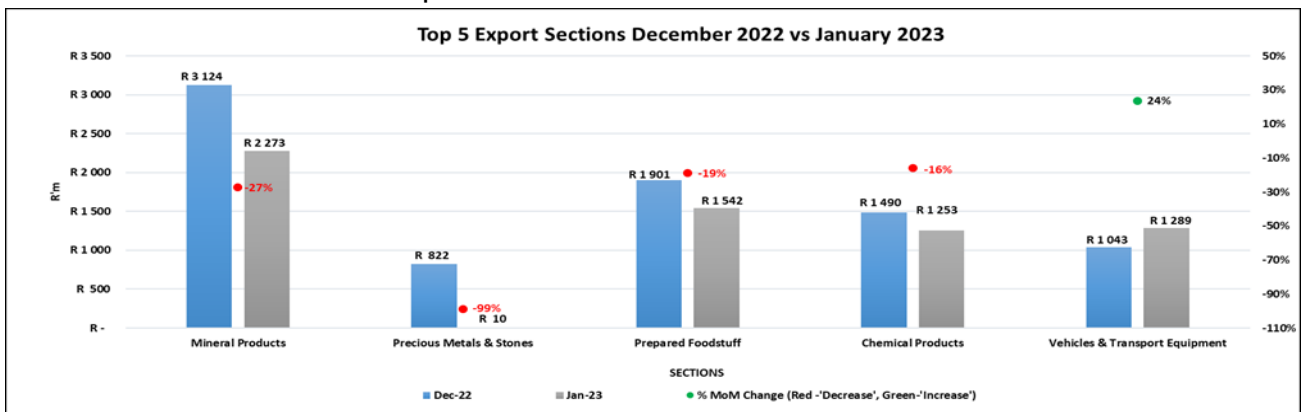
### Summary

The R7.21 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for January 2023 was as a result of exports of R12.55 billion and imports of R5.34 billion. Exports decreased by R2.67 billion (-17.5%) between December 2022 and January 2023 and imports increased by R1.34 billion (33.4%) over the same period.

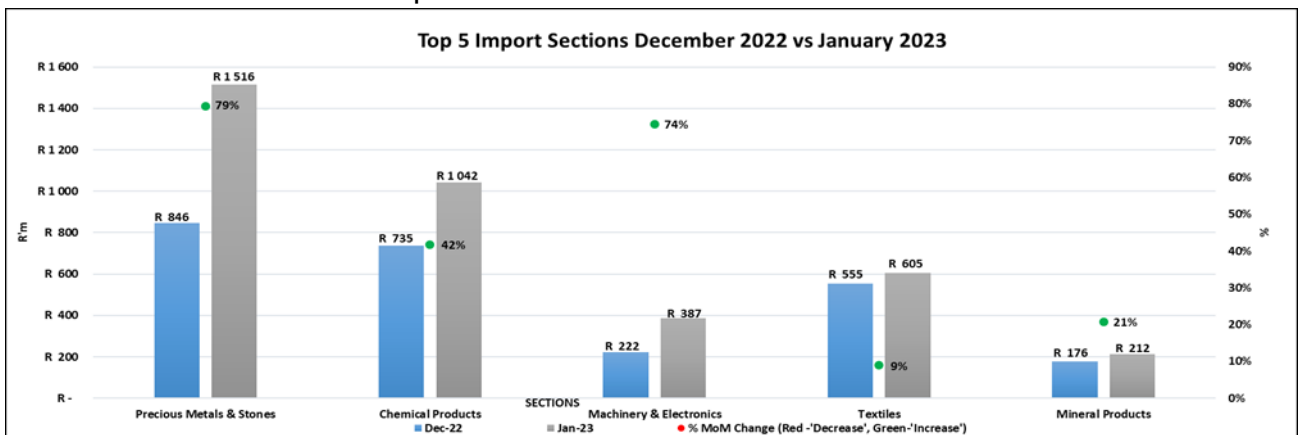
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2023 was R7.21 billion compared to R7.26 billion in 2022.

### 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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