



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Thursday, 31 August 2023

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for July 2023

Pretoria, 31 August 2023 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R16.0 billion in July 2023. This surplus is attributable to exports of R174.0 billion and imports of R158.0 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 July 2023) preliminary trade balance surplus of R19.5 billion is a deterioration from the R154.6 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2022. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for July 2023 were 1.2% lower compared to R176.2 billion recorded in July 2022, whilst import flows were 4.0% higher having increased from R152.0 billion in July 2022 to R158.0 billion in the current period.

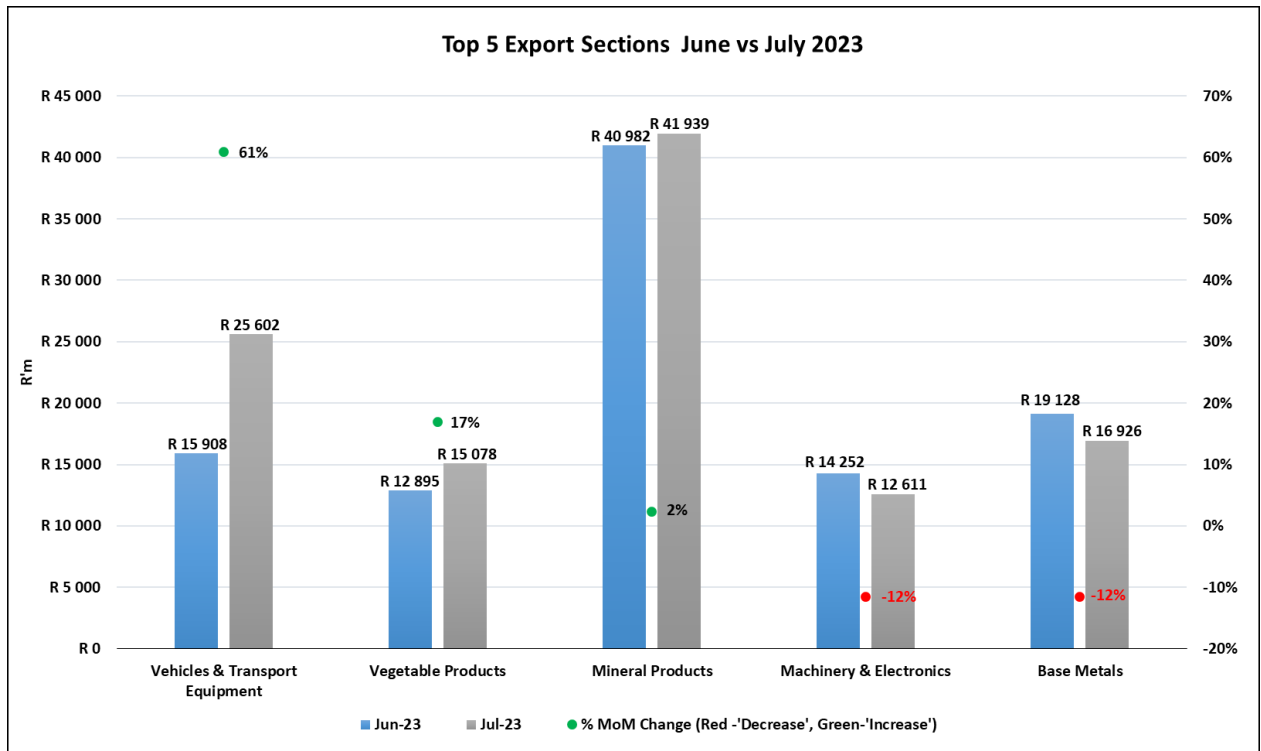
On a month-to-month basis, exports increased by R7.7 billion (4.6%) from R166.3 billion to R174.0 billion between June and July 2023, whereas imports decreased by R13.0 billion (7.6%) from R171.1 billion to R158.0 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in July, driven by Vehicles (Goods), Gold and Petroleum Oils (Excl. Crude). Value of imports declined on the back of sizable decreases in importation of Petroleum Oils (Excl. Crude), Electric Accumulators, and Electrical Transformers, Static Converters and Inductors.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the June 2023 preliminary trade balance deficit of R3.5 billion was revised downwards by R1.2 billion, to a final trade balance deficit of R4.7 billion.

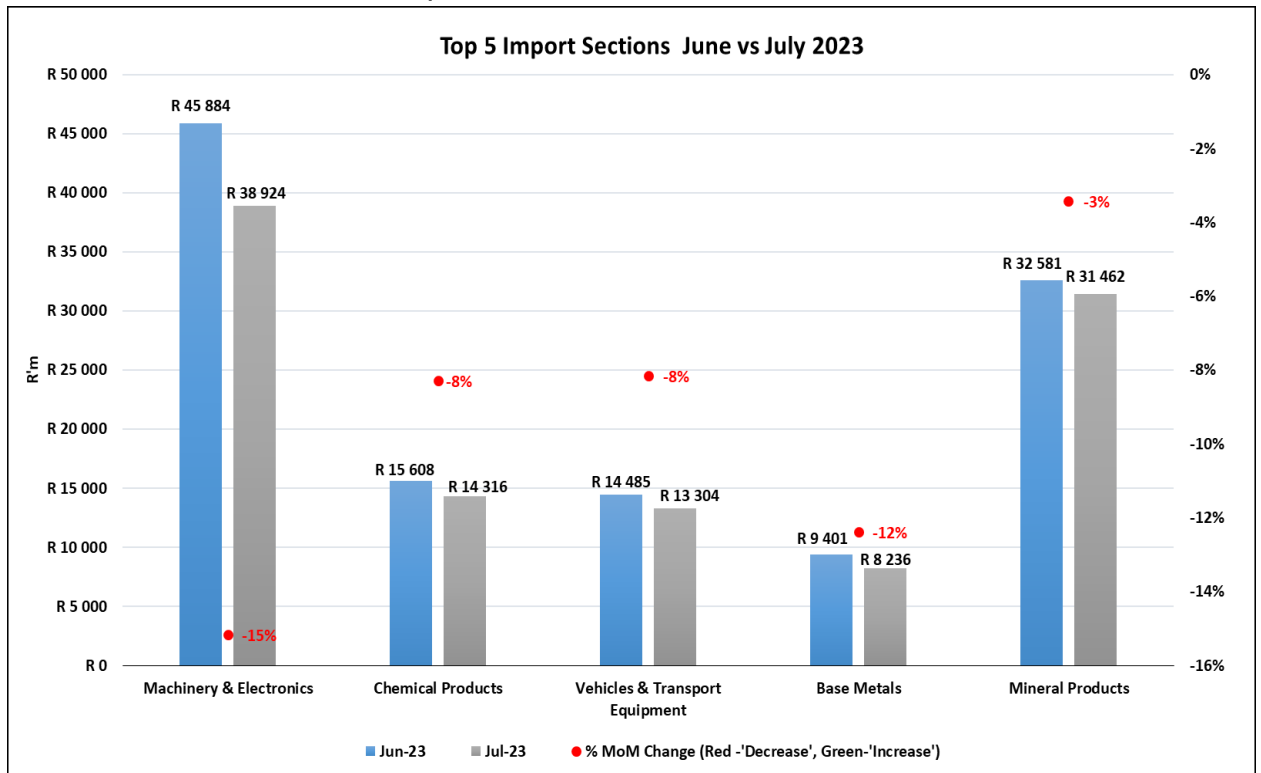
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from June (revised) to July (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	June 2023	July 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	47 064	48 690	1 626	↑ 3.5%
	Imports	14 168	14 912	745	↑ 5.3%
	Trade Balance	32 896	33 777	-	-
America	Exports	15 087	16 536	1 449	↑ 9.6%
	Imports	19 154	19 629	476	↑ 2.5%
	Trade Balance	-4 066	-3 093	-	-
Asia	Exports	54 768	48 419	-6 349	↓ -11.6%
	Imports	91 314	78 176	-13 138	↓ -14.4%
	Trade Balance	-36 546	-29 758	-	-
Europe	Exports	39 230	44 761	5 531	↑ 14.1%
	Imports	43 590	43 235	-355	↓ -0.8%
	Trade Balance	-4 360	1 526	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 810	2 255	446	↑ 24.6%
	Imports	2 307	1 772	-535	↓ -23.2%
	Trade Balance	-497	483	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	7 450	12 448	4 998	↑ 67.1%
	Imports	532	314	-218	↓ -41.1%
	Trade Balance	6 918	12 135	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	906	891	-14	↓ -1.6%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	906	891	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for July 2023 indicate a preliminary trade balance surplus of R5.3 billion.

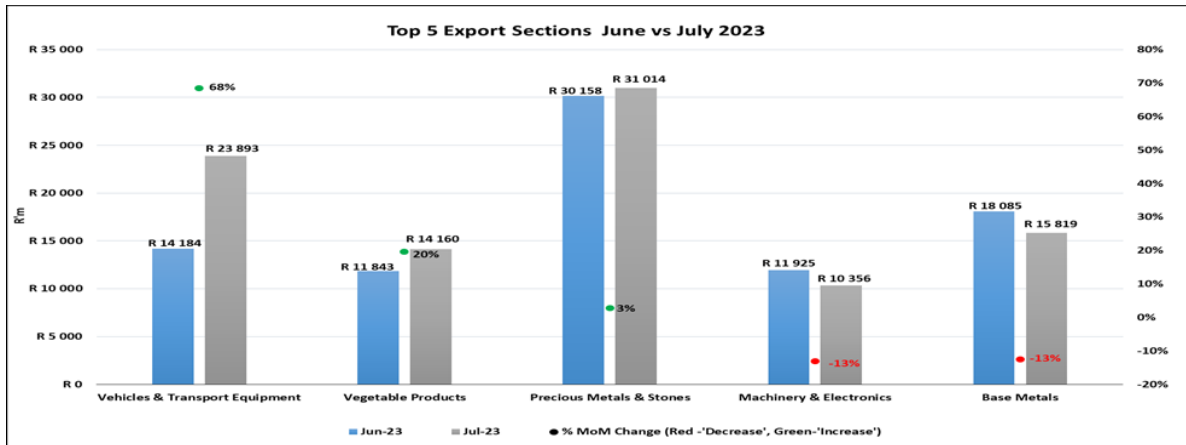
Summary

The R5.3 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for July 2023 was as a result of exports of R157.9 billion and imports of R152.6 billion. Exports increased by R7.6 billion (5.1%) between June and July 2023 whilst imports decreased by R13.6 billion (8.2%) over the same period.

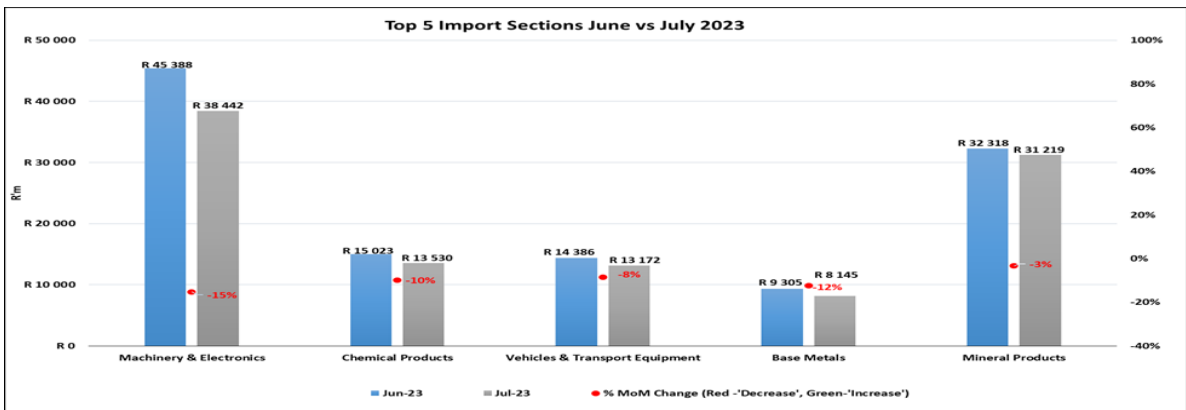
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2023 was a deficit of R51.1 billion, compared to R87.1 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2022.

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 June (revised) and July (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	June 2023	July 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	31 020	32 588	1 568	↑ 5.1%
	Imports	9 277	9 444	167	↑ 1.8%
	Trade Balance	21 743	23 144	-	-

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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	(926 676 962)	0.93	45 305 041	1.03	0.89	10 261 324 160	11 834 660 821	1 550 600 612	0.95	12 806 567 135	12 761 337 783	1 505 295 571
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	55 355 116 759	3.41	11 386 909 381	4.08	8.67	66 713 725 598	78 345 261 838	15 078 138 179	2.34	19 681 002 486	22 990 145 079	3 691 228 798
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 719 679 237)	0.63	(270 810 458)	0.71	0.38	5 407 599 185	4 565 075 727	661 985 728	0.59	12 038 543 676	7 284 754 964	932 796 186
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	12 190 755 691	1.38	2 675 470 125	1.62	4.03	36 394 810 307	44 205 079 885	7 009 368 510	2.74	25 111 390 630	32 014 324 194	4 333 898 385
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	75 103 317 020	1.32	10 477 452 628	1.33	24.10	320 792 658 023	309 823 112 433	41 938 999 650	19.91	223 685 830 994	234 719 795 413	31 461 547 022
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(39 940 572 236)	0.63	(4 879 757 168)	0.66	5.42	73 792 842 646	68 950 711 949	9 435 766 394	9.06	115 600 425 379	108 891 284 185	14 315 523 562
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(21 554 121 816)	0.49	(2 690 390 850)	0.54	1.81	19 120 006 277	20 823 762 421	3 144 620 627	3.69	42 570 809 832	42 377 884 237	5 835 011 477
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(131 497 293)	0.95	(30 425 744)	0.92	0.20	2 303 007 657	2 483 353 279	351 065 859	0.24	2 268 327 775	2 614 850 572	381 491 603
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 888 254 196	1.46	291 822 630	1.50	0.50	5 605 616 223	5 960 403 412	877 100 438	0.37	4 211 825 841	4 072 149 216	585 277 808
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(12 169 137 767)	0.62	(1 826 022 745)	0.57	1.40	13 779 661 925	19 823 297 186	2 442 843 012	2.70	32 893 721 868	31 992 434 953	4 268 865 757
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(20 454 137 963)	0.40	(3 498 734 228)	0.31	0.89	11 340 837 136	13 666 072 916	1 552 467 842	3.20	33 308 187 959	34 120 210 879	5 051 202 070
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(8 110 145 239)	0.21	(1 411 294 417)	0.19	0.19	1 931 818 618	2 182 586 383	324 610 857	1.10	9 668 177 716	10 292 731 622	1 735 905 274
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(5 613 676 440)	0.45	(874 963 492)	0.43	0.37	4 033 001 576	4 569 641 555	647 368 080	0.96	9 510 753 664	10 183 317 995	1 522 331 572
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	205 096 495 558	13.88	29 474 839 552	16.42	18.04	263 521 242 728	221 020 057 766	31 385 738 118	1.21	13 854 443 623	15 923 562 208	1 910 898 566
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	74 082 022 651	2.26	8 689 856 843	2.06	9.73	121 439 683 660	133 069 868 607	16 926 222 706	5.21	56 517 038 623	58 987 845 956	8 236 365 863
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(197 995 713 447)	0.30	(26 313 083 812)	0.32	7.25	76 676 471 081	86 514 387 285	12 611 365 188	24.63	202 510 455 842	284 510 100 732	38 924 449 000
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	22 911 761 201	1.22	12 297 655 477	1.92	14.71	106 064 754 351	127 699 156 293	25 601 893 568	8.42	77 053 895 026	104 787 395 092	13 304 238 091
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(18 949 731 794)	0.25	(2 670 178 304)	0.27	0.57	5 633 006 952	6 364 168 268	997 945 700	2.32	21 561 924 613	25 313 900 062	3 668 124 004
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(6 675 901 748)	0.46	(1 025 411 981)	0.48	0.54	5 069 434 615	5 686 758 852	939 136 631	1.24	12 215 110 926	12 362 660 600	1 964 548 612
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	190 967 037	1.27	61 338 893	1.88	0.08	604 481 634	889 679 793	131 356 201	0.04	207 251 320	698 712 756	70 017 308
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 222 195 644	2.39	256 521 483	2.90	0.23	2 714 168 805	2 100 634 508	391 570 922	0.09	901 213 345	878 438 864	135 049 439
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(93 281 374 908)	0.00	(14 205 202 101)	0.00	0.00	11 714 767	2 056 792	46 640	8.99	70 430 644 249	93 283 431 700	14 205 248 741
Total	Total SA Rand	19 518 518 907	1.02	15 960 896 753	1.10	100.00	1 153 211 867 924	1 170 579 787 969	174 000 211 462	100.00	998 607 542 522	1 151 061 269 062	158 039 314 709

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	200 626 216 191	2.89	33 777 313 622	3.27	27.98	275 093 412 464	306 540 279 978	48 689 807 122	9.44	93 276 821 055	105 914 063 787	14 912 493 500
AMERICA	(17 659 018 413)	0.86	(3 093 214 208)	0.84	9.50	114 888 131 058	112 678 429 759	16 536 268 094	12.42	107 504 847 710	130 337 448 172	19 629 482 302
ASIA	(217 361 879 923)	0.63	(29 757 505 573)	0.62	27.83	374 642 856 189	372 519 633 257	48 418 874 067	49.47	521 394 287 584	589 881 513 180	78 176 379 640
EUROPE	(12 613 057 932)	0.96	1 525 520 210	1.04	25.72	320 560 505 177	293 776 395 840	44 760 605 950	27.36	255 968 359 672	306 389 453 772	43 235 085 740
OCEANIA	(1 665 371 890)	0.87	482 844 468	1.27	1.30	8 773 978 046	11 651 170 996	2 255 210 496	1.12	14 986 533 226	13 316 542 886	1 772 366 028
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	61 831 352 826	12.84	12 134 619 252	39.71	7.15	52 162 032 125	67 053 600 091	12 448 126 751	0.20	5 476 693 275	5 222 247 265	313 507 499
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	6 360 278 048	-	891 318 982	-	0.51	7 090 952 865	6 360 278 048	891 318 982				
Total	19 518 518 907	1.02	15 960 896 753	1.10	100.00	1 153 211 867 924	1 170 579 787 969	174 000 211 462	100.00	998 607 542 522	1 151 061 269 062	158 039 314 709

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 692 068 261	8 587 358 074	11 657 698 104	10 019 498 103	10 892 989 774	12 278 781 949	10 425 339 173

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	(464 852 439)	0.95	39 312 725	1.03	0.77	8 051 073 397	9 520 991 727	1 211 527 563	0.77	9 623 592 281	9 985 844 166	1 172 214 838
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	49 052 100 420	3.21	10 624 596 331	4.00	8.97	60 690 948 462	71 273 482 187	14 160 489 983	2.32	19 056 564 403	22 221 381 767	3 535 893 652
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 022 143 076)	0.45	(491 049 692)	0.47	0.28	3 903 220 251	3 255 093 083	440 065 822	0.61	12 025 886 606	7 277 236 159	931 115 514
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	4 533 791 500	1.17	1 565 164 053	1.44	3.26	25 606 841 493	31 788 014 154	5 154 251 961	2.35	20 869 604 554	27 254 222 654	3 589 087 908
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	58 183 949 782	1.25	7 800 110 613	1.25	24.71	303 908 991 898	291 152 907 775	39 019 293 942	20.46	222 794 432 428	232 968 957 993	31 219 183 329
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(44 486 381 768)	0.57	(5 536 419 658)	0.59	5.06	64 538 593 729	59 035 746 131	7 993 159 148	8.87	110 877 269 312	103 522 127 899	13 529 578 806
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(25 827 552 402)	0.38	(3 337 937 976)	0.42	1.54	14 673 006 827	16 075 024 454	2 428 979 784	3.78	42 183 937 246	41 902 576 856	5 766 917 760
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(387 010 232)	0.85	(62 790 346)	0.83	0.20	1 991 214 386	2 171 578 393	310 557 099	0.24	2 197 843 702	2 558 588 625	373 347 445
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 121 561 467	1.83	363 235 848	2.12	0.44	4 264 803 821	4 662 824 147	688 197 456	0.21	2 821 376 924	2 541 262 680	324 961 608
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(14 297 921 218)	0.55	(2 121 150 761)	0.50	1.34	11 829 364 508	17 429 918 027	2 114 944 966	2.78	32 686 352 184	31 727 839 245	4 236 095 727
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(20 760 170 413)	0.29	(3 407 560 224)	0.20	0.53	6 390 158 728	8 639 104 096	833 694 644	2.78	28 849 893 691	29 399 274 509	4 241 254 868
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(9 243 449 192)	0.09	(1 587 107 553)	0.07	0.08	768 722 570	925 132 254	127 201 212	1.12	9 584 727 730	10 168 581 446	1 714 308 765
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 771 506 340)	0.33	(1 034 177 466)	0.32	0.30	2 832 260 297	3 335 277 681	477 332 147	0.99	9 436 340 514	10 106 784 021	1 511 509 613
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	211 028 513 405	29.53	30 363 391 815	47.65	19.64	258 141 827 859	218 425 903 117	31 014 203 291	0.43	7 012 632 357	7 397 389 712	650 811 476
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	67 849 255 053	2.16	7 673 878 155	1.94	10.02	114 601 471 814	126 239 165 621	15 819 023 947	5.34	55 871 495 778	58 389 910 568	8 145 145 792
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(209 528 764 855)	0.25	(28 086 183 336)	0.27	6.56	62 698 852 774	71 459 072 432	10 356 299 348	25.20	199 485 499 560	280 987 837 287	38 442 482 684
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	13 030 578 865	1.13	10 721 293 992	1.81	15.13	98 354 710 151	117 231 888 536	23 893 444 961	8.63	76 016 296 269	104 201 309 671	13 172 150 969
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(20 240 483 227)	0.20	(2 874 033 895)	0.21	0.50	4 359 761 286	5 001 473 656	782 375 989	2.40	21 485 863 876	25 241 956 883	3 656 409 884
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(8 934 978 813)	0.27	(1 394 725 342)	0.29	0.35	2 718 174 624	3 352 208 862	556 291 848	1.28	12 131 259 609	12 287 187 675	1 951 017 190
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	186 461 368	1.27	60 954 565	1.87	0.08	600 129 948	884 711 306	130 861 820	0.05	206 722 875	698 249 938	69 907 255
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 198 750 411	2.39	253 346 085	2.91	0.24	2 679 179 349	2 063 868 112	386 155 575	0.09	887 745 727	865 117 701	132 809 490
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(93 281 029 153)	0.00	(14 204 854 577)	0.00	0.00	7 985 007	2 042 782	34 399	9.31	70 430 644 249	93 283 071 935	14 204 888 976
Total	Total SA Rand	(51 061 280 857)	0.95	5 327 293 356	1.03	100.00	1 053 611 293 179	1 063 925 428 533	157 898 386 905	100.00	966 535 981 875	1 114 986 709 390	152 571 093 549

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	130 046 416 427	2.86	23 143 710 225	3.45	20.64	175 492 837 719	199 885 920 542	32 587 982 565	6.19	61 205 260 408	69 839 504 115	9 444 272 340
AMERICA	(17 659 018 413)	0.86	(3 093 214 208)	0.84	10.47	114 888 131 058	112 678 429 759	16 536 268 094	12.87	107 504 847 710	130 337 448 172	19 629 482 302
ASIA	(217 361 879 923)	0.63	(29 757 505 573)	0.62	30.66	374 642 856 189	372 519 633 257	48 418 874 067	51.24	521 394 287 584	589 881 513 180	78 176 379 640
EUROPE	(12 613 057 932)	0.96	1 525 520 210	1.04	28.35	320 560 505 177	293 776 395 840	44 760 605 950	28.34	255 968 359 672	306 389 453 772	43 235 085 740
OCEANIA	(1 665 371 890)	0.87	482 844 468	1.27	1.43	8 773 978 046	11 651 170 996	2 255 210 496	1.16	14 986 533 226	13 316 542 886	1 772 366 028
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	61 831 352 826	12.84	12 134 619 252	39.71	7.88	52 162 032 125	67 053 600 091	12 448 126 751	0.21	5 476 693 275	5 222 247 265	313 507 499
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	6 360 278 048	-	891 318 982	-	0.56	7 090 952 865	6 360 278 048	891 318 982				
Total	(51 061 280 857)	0.95	5 327 293 356	1.03	100.00	1 053 611 293 179	1 063 925 428 533	157 898 386 905	100.00	966 535 981 875	1 114 986 709 390	152 571 093 549

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 692 068 261	8 587 358 074	11 657 698 104	10 019 498 103	10 892 989 774	12 278 781 949	10 425 339 173

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 July 2023 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.6 billion.

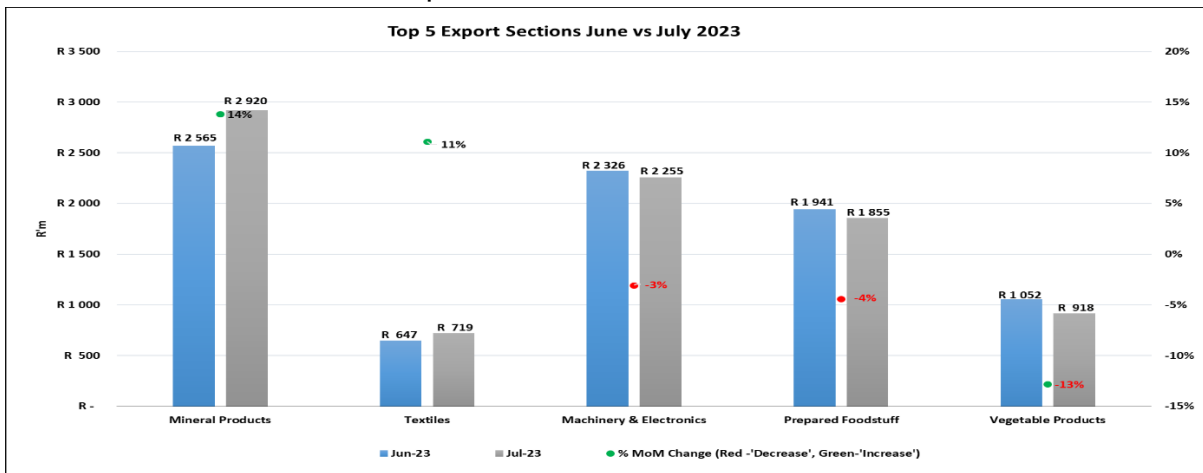
Summary

The R10.6 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for July 2023 was as a result of exports of R16.1 billion and imports of R5.5 billion. Exports increased by R0.1 billion (0.4%) between June and July 2023 and imports increased by R0.6 billion (11.8%) over the same period.

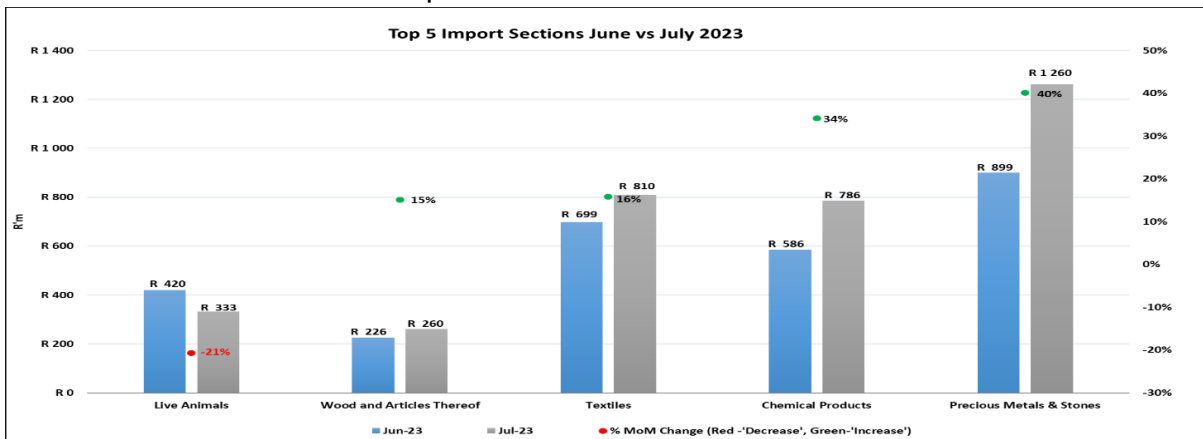
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2023 was a surplus of R70.6 billion, compared to R67.5 billion in 2022.

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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