

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 28 April 2023

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for March 2023

Pretoria, 28 April 2023 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R6.9 billion in March 2023. This surplus is attributable to exports of R192.2 billion and imports of R185.3 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2023) preliminary trade balance deficit of R6.2 billion is a deterioration from the R61.9 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2022. Export flows for March 2023, at R192.2 billion, were 3.2% higher compared to March 2022 (R186.3bn) whilst import flows were 30.9% higher having increased from R141.5 billion in March 2022 to R185.3 billion in the current period.

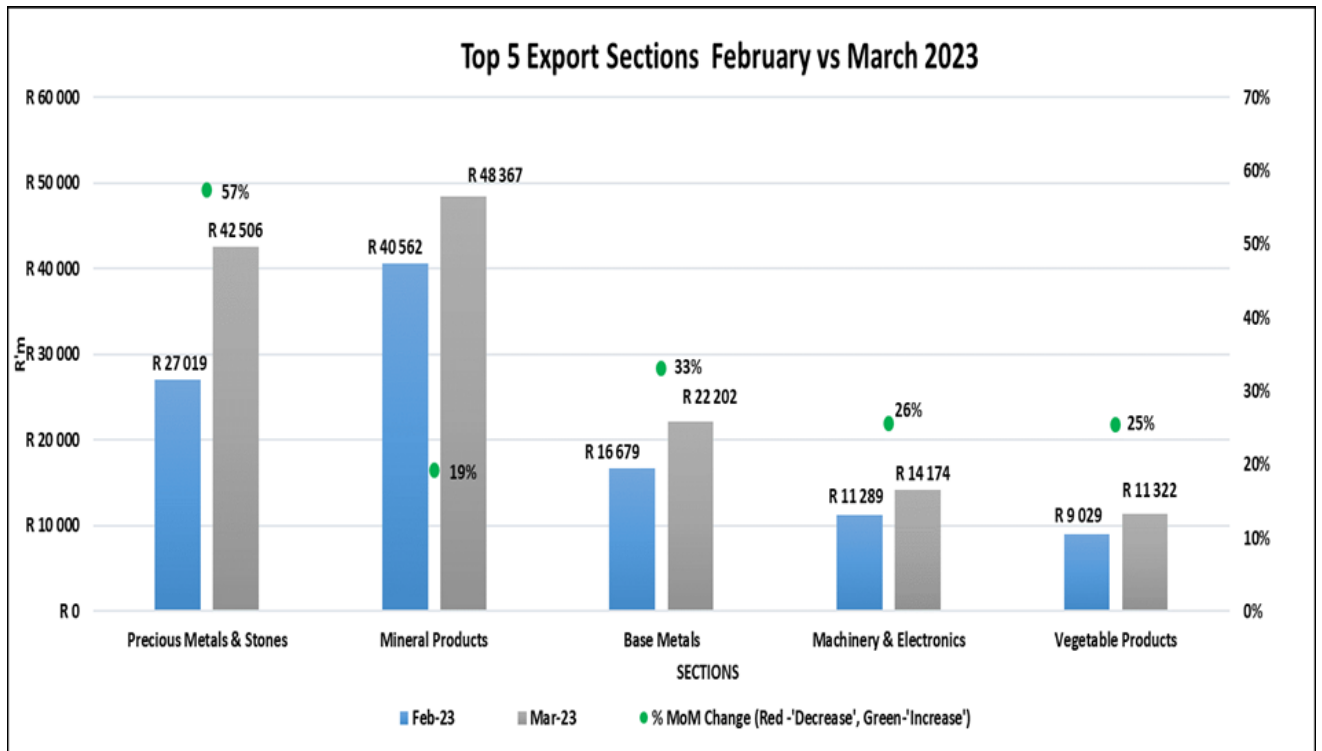
On a month-to-month basis, exports increased by R40.8 billion (26.9%) from R151.4 billion to R192.2 billion between February and March 2023 whereas imports increased by R44.6 billion (31.7%) from R140.7 billion to R185.3 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in March, driven by gold. Value of imports increased on the back of higher importation of crude oil and petroleum oils.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R16.1 billion announced for February 2023 was revised downwards by R5.4 billion, with the final number at R10.7 billion.

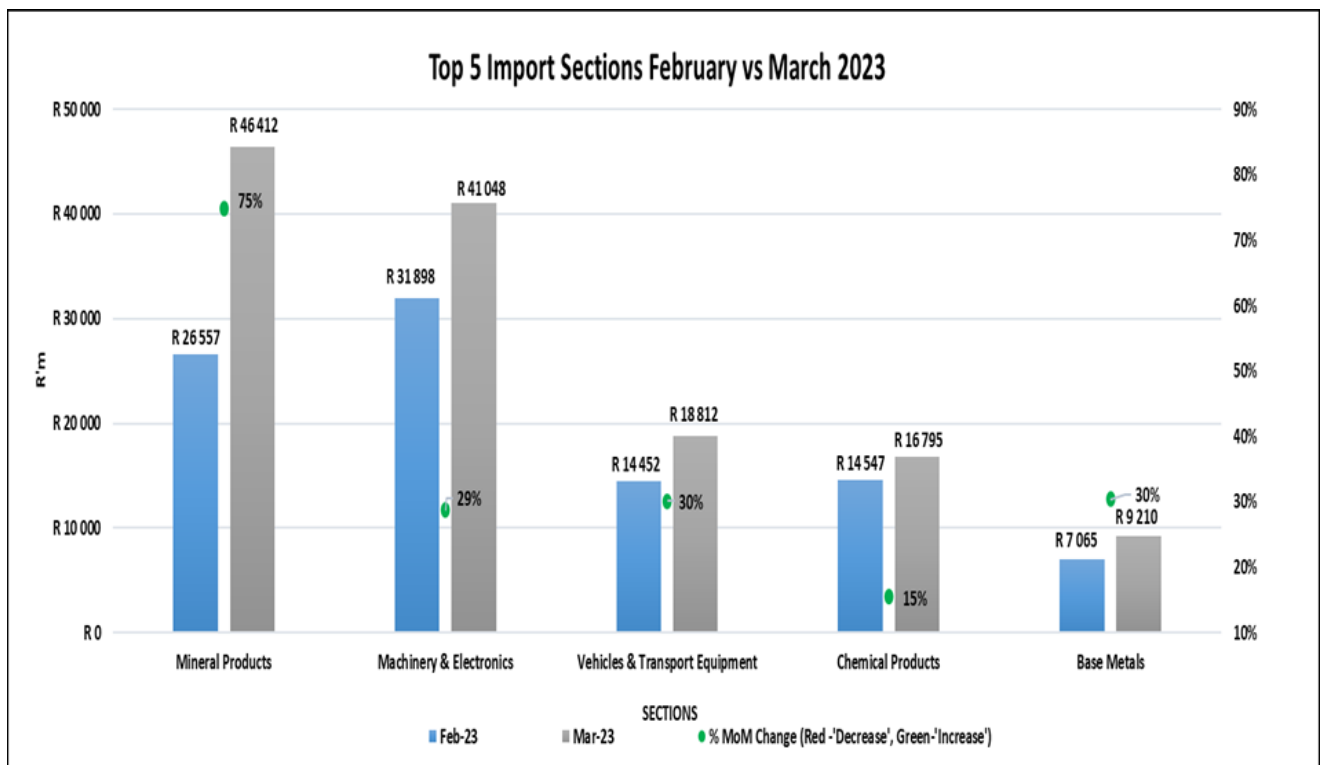
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

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

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2023	March 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	40 327	46 752	6 425	↑ 15.9%
	Imports	9 628	21 406	11 778	↑ 122.3%
	Trade Balance	30 698	25 346	-	-
America	Exports	15 082	17 823	2 741	↑ 18.2%
	Imports	15 295	19 308	4 013	↑ 26.2%
	Trade Balance	-213	-1 485	-	-
Asia	Exports	48 211	60 374	12 163	↑ 25.2%
	Imports	73 443	91 487	18 044	↑ 24.6%
	Trade Balance	-25 232	-31 113	-	-
Europe	Exports	37 945	49 089	11 143	↑ 29.4%
	Imports	38 366	50 314	11 948	↑ 31.1%
	Trade Balance	-421	-1 225	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 257	2 201	943	↑ 75.0%
	Imports	1 869	2 157	288	↑ 15.4%
	Trade Balance	-612	43	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	7 958	14 856	6 898	↑ 86.7%
	Imports	2 102	627	-1 476	↓ -70.2%
	Trade Balance	5 856	14 229	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	631	1 097	466	↑ 73.8%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	631	1 097	-	-

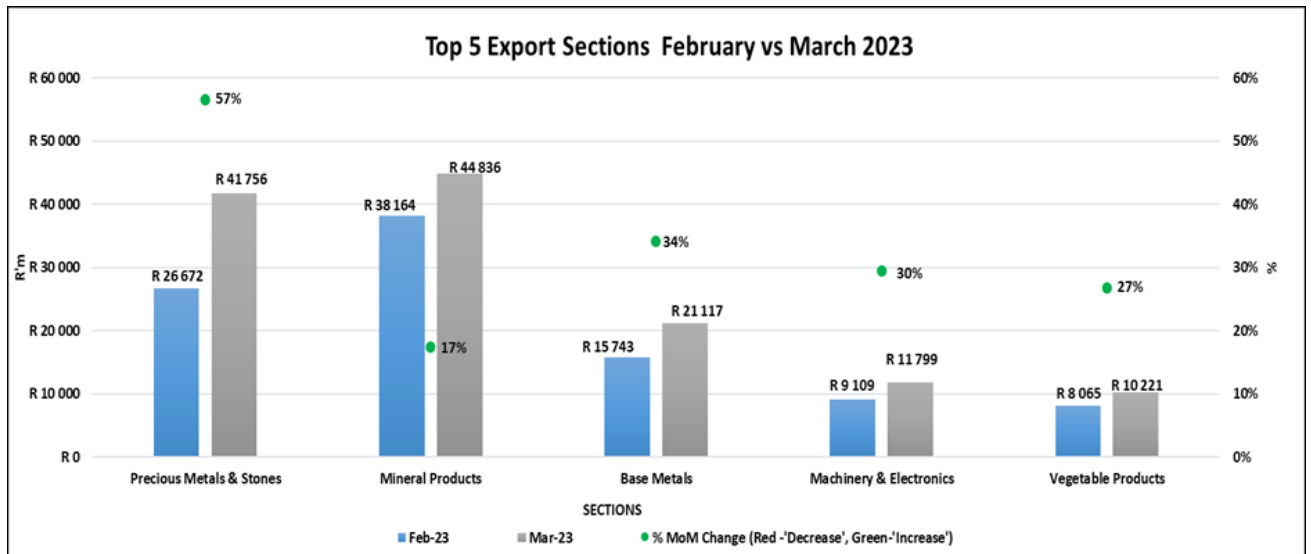
Excluding trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN)

The trade data excluding BELN for March 2023 recorded a preliminary trade balance deficit of R5.3 billion, with export flows at R174.7 billion and import flows at R180.0 billion. The preliminary cumulative trade balance deficit for 2023 was R35.1 billion compared to R34.0 billion trade balance surplus during 2022.

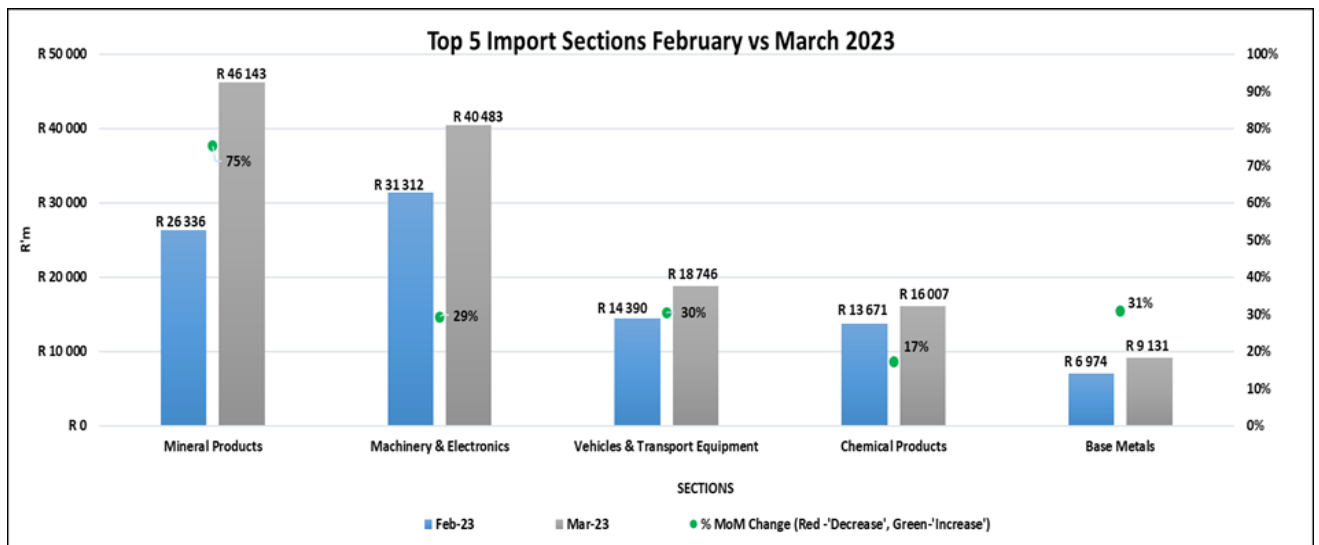
Between February and March 2023, exports increased by R37.9 billion (27.7%) whilst imports increased by R44.4 billion (32.7%) over the same period.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2023	March 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	25 712	29 246	3 534	13.7%
	Imports	4 562	16 105	11 543	253.1%
	Trade Balance	21 150	13 141	-	-

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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	(1 190 805 894)	0.80	(115 405 756)	0.94	0.97	4 333 489 926	4 789 296 221	1 861 520 884	1.07	5 476 406 499	5 980 102 115	1 976 926 640
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	19 954 860 037	3.38	8 699 232 190	4.32	5.89	24 918 562 777	28 333 968 600	11 321 589 971	1.42	7 590 762 696	8 379 108 563	2 622 357 781
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(925 648 770)	0.63	(535 732 007)	0.56	0.36	2 029 059 819	1 571 326 632	695 682 140	0.66	5 686 438 849	2 496 975 402	1 231 414 147
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	2 754 156 331	1.20	1 798 659 044	1.35	3.60	13 881 804 969	16 695 604 815	6 915 087 512	2.76	10 025 593 485	13 941 448 484	5 116 428 468
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	24 894 257 266	1.23	1 955 077 049	1.04	25.17	127 459 906 884	132 857 443 957	48 366 990 015	25.05	79 072 473 859	107 963 186 691	46 411 912 966
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(19 160 771 791)	0.60	(5 672 716 561)	0.66	5.79	28 170 009 273	29 092 860 325	11 121 952 846	9.06	43 723 454 695	48 253 632 116	16 794 669 407
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(8 288 289 953)	0.51	(2 974 397 981)	0.53	1.74	7 667 362 588	8 780 775 162	3 353 151 716	3.41	16 479 499 350	17 069 065 115	6 327 549 697
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(125 170 792)	0.89	103 965 226	1.33	0.22	1 014 329 151	980 061 339	423 202 712	0.17	959 244 139	1 105 232 131	319 237 486
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	573 127 785	1.32	362 761 462	1.59	0.51	2 223 261 406	2 383 436 922	982 294 486	0.33	1 892 904 451	1 810 309 137	619 533 024
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(4 535 952 733)	0.67	(2 467 438 635)	0.55	1.57	5 520 801 000	9 210 204 789	3 024 136 135	2.96	14 961 594 821	13 746 157 522	5 491 574 770
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(9 441 632 932)	0.39	(2 320 454 105)	0.52	1.31	4 946 828 310	6 067 623 442	2 523 636 521	2.61	14 766 433 147	15 509 256 374	4 844 090 626
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 457 587 492)	0.21	(717 858 830)	0.35	0.20	758 044 254	910 967 164	386 893 452	0.60	4 053 045 080	4 368 554 656	1 104 752 282
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 331 047 551)	0.44	(895 747 328)	0.43	0.36	1 586 971 658	1 839 848 737	685 751 864	0.85	3 822 905 383	4 170 896 288	1 581 499 192
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	88 438 798 863	12.86	40 107 952 836	17.73	22.12	105 883 617 176	95 897 409 793	42 505 934 233	1.29	6 257 561 086	7 458 610 930	2 397 981 397
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	33 104 947 509	2.39	12 991 731 577	2.41	11.55	48 520 722 085	56 848 931 114	22 201 775 931	4.97	23 624 201 393	23 743 983 605	9 210 044 354
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(75 001 443 426)	0.32	(26 873 363 665)	0.35	7.38	31 469 427 030	34 740 622 060	14 174 351 930	22.15	85 243 116 551	109 742 065 486	41 047 715 595
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(3 005 017 728)	0.94	362 396 565	1.02	9.98	44 261 934 059	45 214 104 063	19 174 635 273	10.15	30 557 341 789	48 219 121 791	18 812 238 708
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(7 629 512 484)	0.25	(2 681 312 872)	0.30	0.60	2 249 374 769	2 553 166 701	1 154 066 453	2.07	9 188 315 981	10 182 679 185	3 835 379 325
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(2 722 481 749)	0.44	(822 952 249)	0.54	0.51	2 000 816 276	2 154 528 188	982 592 059	0.97	4 988 620 052	4 877 009 937	1 805 544 308
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(78 145 326)	0.81	57 838 474	1.82	0.07	210 817 616	329 473 436	128 001 373	0.04	144 246 959	407 618 762	70 162 899
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	441 189 492	2.24	45 702 500	1.28	0.11	1 590 556 657	796 051 317	207 696 106	0.09	501 821 831	354 861 825	161 993 606
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(38 438 313 116)	0.00	(13 515 246 146)	0.00	0.00	2 349 331	1 402 174	387 176	7.29	29 831 449 730	38 439 715 290	13 515 633 322
Total	Total SA Rand	(6 170 484 454)	0.99	6 892 690 788	1.04	100.00	460 700 047 014	482 049 106 951	192 191 330 788	100.00	398 847 431 826	488 219 591 405	185 298 640 000

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	75 090 545 893	2.57	25 345 610 910	2.18	24.33	108 806 681 929	122 842 413 437	46 751 688 942	11.55	44 068 757 499	47 751 867 544	21 406 078 032
AMERICA	(4 671 234 823)	0.91	(1 484 890 253)	0.92	9.27	45 494 216 136	46 929 048 279	17 823 058 428	10.42	45 382 832 168	51 600 283 102	19 307 948 681
ASIA	(93 305 924 140)	0.62	(31 112 934 336)	0.66	31.41	151 722 437 860	155 241 641 662	60 373 977 505	49.37	201 750 733 144	248 547 565 802	91 486 911 841
EUROPE	(12 007 007 163)	0.91	(1 225 077 467)	0.98	25.54	129 190 071 886	119 470 674 237	49 088 648 970	27.15	99 959 516 051	131 477 681 400	50 313 726 437
OCEANIA	(1 310 855 084)	0.77	43 484 422	1.02	1.15	3 697 424 534	4 292 812 216	2 200 622 694	1.16	5 460 907 908	5 603 667 300	2 157 138 272
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	27 312 125 174	9.43	14 229 149 051	23.70	7.73	19 567 328 828	30 550 651 431	14 855 985 788	0.34	2 224 685 056	3 238 526 257	626 836 737
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 721 865 689	-	1 097 348 461	-	0.57	2 221 885 841	2 721 865 689	1 097 348 461				
Total	(6 170 484 454)	0.99	6 892 690 788	1.04	100.00	460 700 047 014	482 049 106 951	192 191 330 788	100.00	398 847 431 826	488 219 591 405	185 298 640 000

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 692 068 261	8 587 358 074	11 657 698 104

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	(886 037 292)	0.81	(26 064 460)	0.98	0.87	3 386 037 973	3 854 224 461	1514 391 821	0.86	4 251 226 714	4 740 261 753	1 540 456 281
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	17 086 724 285	3.10	7 684 160 112	4.03	5.85	22 178 330 461	25 236 908 390	10 220 860 409	1.41	7 466 570 660	8 150 184 105	2 536 700 297
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(1 389 889 183)	0.44	(707 465 537)	0.43	0.30	1 403 324 586	1 104 546 751	522 955 838	0.68	5 680 695 216	2 494 435 934	1 230 421 375
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(438 593 584)	0.96	726 055 611	1.16	2.97	9 272 801 719	11 569 213 064	5 192 908 835	2.48	8 223 887 224	12 007 806 648	4 466 853 224
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	17 385 738 688	1.16	(1 307 186 434)	0.97	25.67	121 042 594 506	124 646 391 135	44 835 622 551	25.64	78 750 781 287	107 260 652 447	46 142 808 985
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(20 571 519 514)	0.55	(6 371 736 488)	0.60	5.52	24 312 405 882	24 975 340 667	9 635 519 190	8.89	41 447 674 086	45 546 860 181	16 007 255 678
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(10 020 354 976)	0.41	(3 644 156 288)	0.42	1.49	5 800 124 758	6 846 249 518	2 605 263 555	3.47	16 334 691 081	16 866 604 494	6 249 419 843
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(245 562 626)	0.77	60 782 688	1.20	0.21	885 559 202	837 968 910	371 130 727	0.17	933 720 965	1 083 531 536	310 348 039
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	652 285 890	1.54	396 010 777	2.01	0.45	1 658 713 953	1 853 453 322	788 464 464	0.22	1 315 546 817	1 201 167 432	392 453 687
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(5 578 144 686)	0.59	(2 888 916 047)	0.47	1.48	4 662 776 047	8 061 912 361	25 782 267 645	3.04	14 886 356 877	13 640 057 047	5 467 183 692
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(9 553 425 503)	0.29	(2 412 962 571)	0.41	0.97	2 864 165 797	3 920 504 257	1 700 624 828	2.29	12 863 032 160	13 473 929 760	4 113 587 399
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 965 339 987)	0.08	(920 869 785)	0.15	0.09	255 355 154	348 332 396	161 533 251	0.60	4 016 230 569	4 313 672 383	1 082 403 036
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 806 941 689)	0.32	(1 078 321 155)	0.31	0.28	1 114 968 547	1 330 967 748	494 013 316	0.87	3 790 994 832	4 137 909 437	1 572 334 471
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	91 138 654 390	25.96	40 592 128 569	35.88	23.90	103 621 616 593	94 789 802 397	41 755 939 109	0.65	3 015 425 557	3 651 148 007	1 163 810 540
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	30 653 502 309	2.30	11 985 419 837	2.31	12.09	45 607 591 798	54 162 643 521	21 116 725 625	5.07	23 344 667 771	23 509 141 212	9 131 305 788
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(79 704 849 821)	0.26	(28 683 541 354)	0.29	6.75	25 554 870 186	28 500 798 050	11 799 204 752	22.49	83 938 430 980	108 205 647 871	40 482 746 106
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(7 053 616 975)	0.85	(1 248 389 926)	0.93	10.02	40 694 794 425	40 983 601 028	17 497 986 493	10.41	30 082 251 904	48 037 218 003	18 746 376 419
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(8 175 983 105)	0.19	(2 876 678 032)	0.25	0.54	1 725 560 968	1 971 973 774	945 122 158	2.12	9 150 044 160	10 147 956 879	3 821 800 190
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 568 648 357)	0.26	(1 174 128 027)	0.35	0.35	1 049 776 911	1 280 748 980	619 722 810	1.00	4 943 364 273	4 849 397 337	1 793 850 837
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(80 424 624)	0.80	56 242 197	1.80	0.07	209 341 012	327 101 271	126 368 497	0.04	143 956 535	407 525 895	70 126 300
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	432 947 256	2.25	42 645 201	1.27	0.12	1 573 204 508	780 670 695	202 271 300	0.09	494 173 435	347 723 439	159 626 099
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(38 438 314 866)	0.00	(13 515 247 896)	0.00	0.00	71 304	1 400 424	385 426	7.51	29 831 449 730	38 439 715 290	13 515 633 322
Total	Total SA Rand	(35 127 793 970)	0.93	(5 312 219 008)	0.97	100.00	418 873 986 290	437 384 753 120	174 685 282 600	100.00	384 905 172 833	472 512 547 090	179 997 501 608

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	46 133 236 377	2.44	13 140 701 114	1.82	16.74	66 980 621 205	78 178 059 606	29 245 640 754	8.95	30 126 498 506	32 044 823 229	16 104 939 640
AMERICA	(4 671 234 823)	0.91	(1 484 890 253)	0.92	10.20	45 494 216 136	46 929 048 279	17 823 058 428	10.73	45 382 832 168	51 600 283 102	19 307 948 681
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 721 865 689	-	1 097 348 461	-	0.63	2 221 885 841	2 721 865 689	1 097 348 461				
Total	(35 127 793 970)	0.93	(5 312 219 008)	0.97	100.00	418 873 986 290	437 384 753 120	174 685 282 600	100.00	384 905 172 833	472 512 547 090	179 997 501 608

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 692 068 261	8 587 358 074	11 657 698 104

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 March 2023 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R12.2 billion.

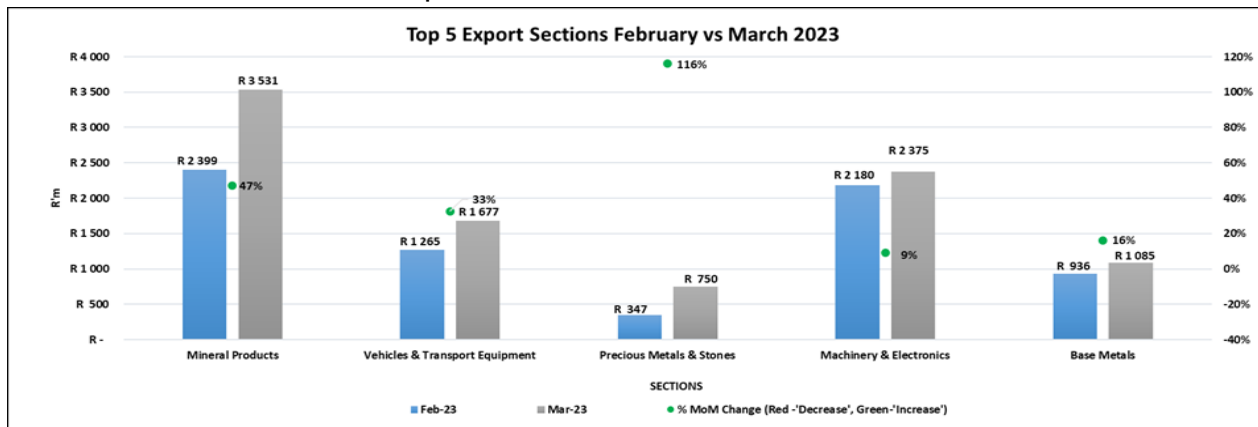
Summary

The R12.2 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2023 was as a result of exports of R17.5 billion and imports of R5.3 billion. Exports increased by R2.9 billion (19.8%) between February and March 2023 and imports increased by R0.2 billion (4.6%) over the same period.

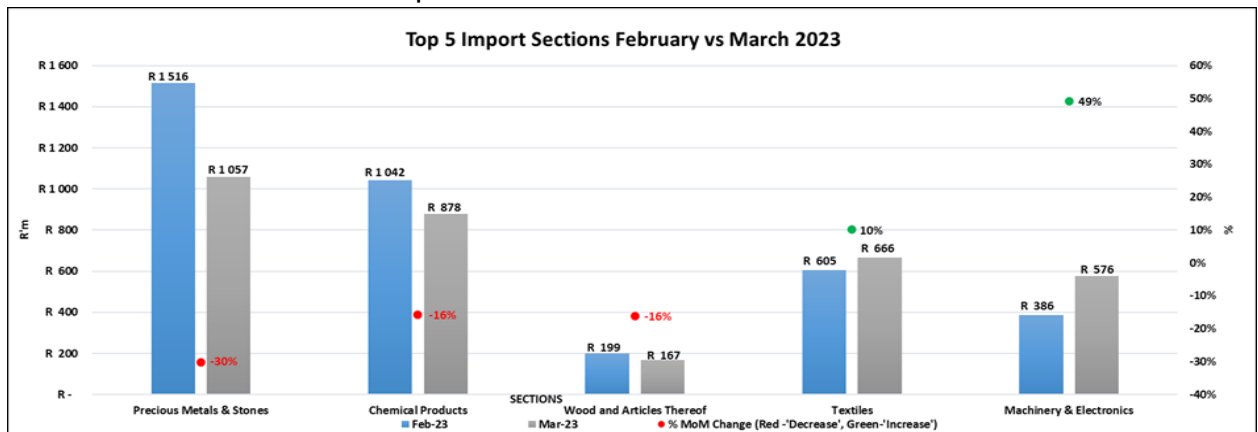
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2023 was R29.0 billion compared to R27.9 billion in 2022.

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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