



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 30 June 2023

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for May 2023

Pretoria, 30 June 2023 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.2 billion in May 2023. This surplus is attributable to exports of R184.2 billion and imports of R174.0 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 May 2023) preliminary trade balance surplus of R9.4 billion is a deterioration from the R107.3 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2022. On a year-on-year export flows for May 2023, was R184.2 billion, which was 2.1% higher compared to R180.4 billion for May 2022, whilst import flows were 15.2% higher having increased from R151.1 billion in May 2022 to R174.0 billion in the current period.

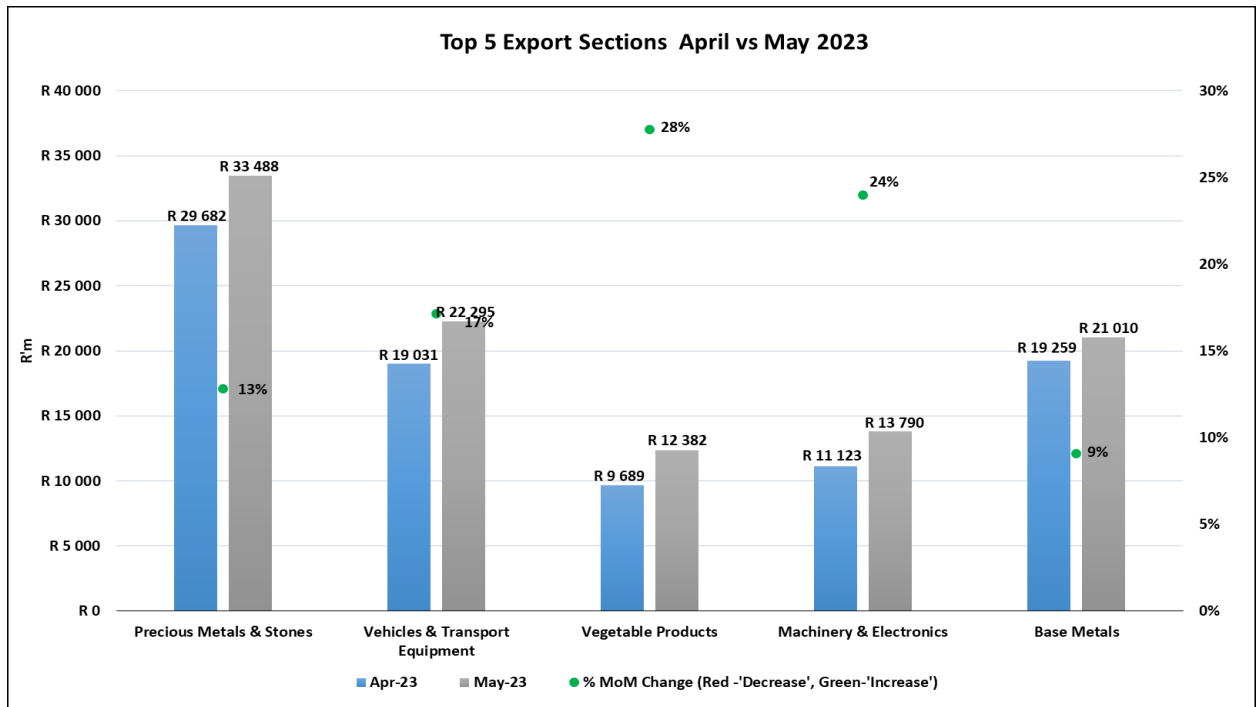
On a month-to-month basis, exports increased by R20.2 billion (12.3%) from R164.0 billion to R184.2 billion between April and May 2023, whereas imports increased by R13.9 billion (8.7%) from R160.0 billion to R174.0 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in May, driven by platinum, gold, and diamonds. Value of imports increased on the back of an increase in importation of crude oil and petroleum oil products.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R3.5 billion announced for April 2023 was revised upwards by R0.4 billion, with the final number at R3.9 billion.

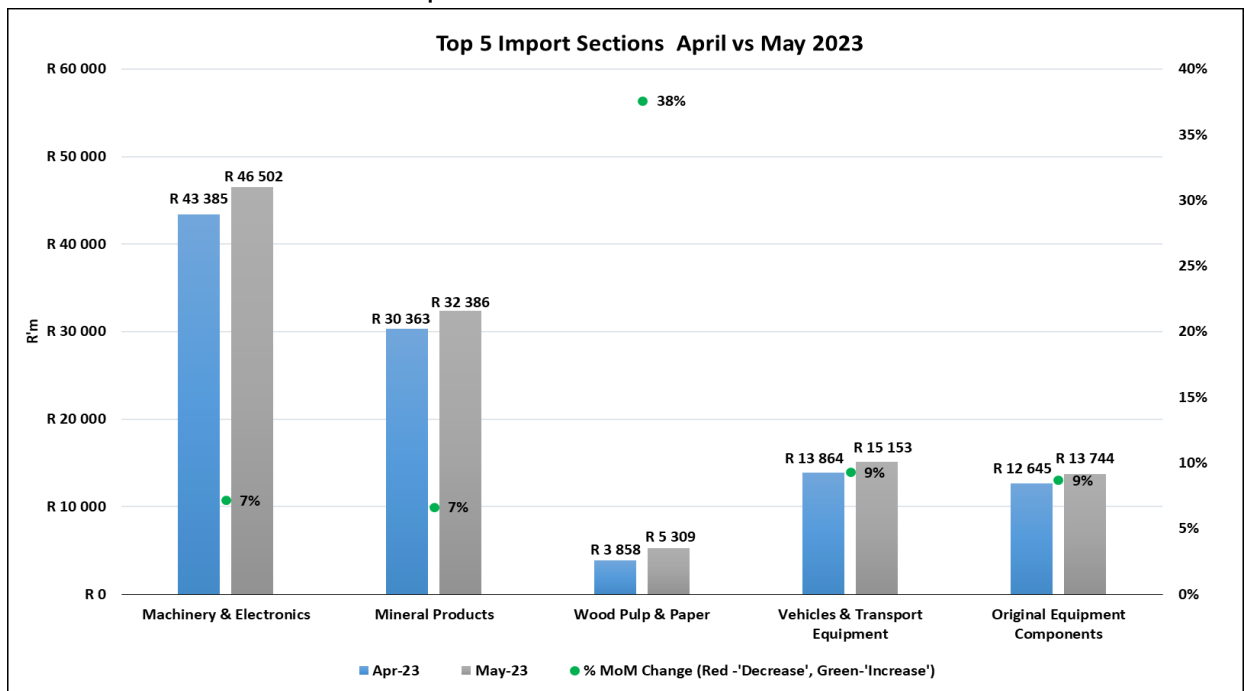
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from April (revised) to May (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2023	May 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	40 369	47 190	6 820	↑ 16.9%
	Imports	14 194	14 925	731	↑ 5.2%
	Trade Balance	26 176	32 265	-	-
America	Exports	16 558	17 760	1 202	↑ 7.3%
	Imports	19 709	20 280	570	↑ 2.9%
	Trade Balance	-3 151	-2 520	-	-
Asia	Exports	53 504	59 661	6 158	↑ 11.5%
	Imports	82 303	89 553	7 249	↑ 8.8%
	Trade Balance	-28 800	-29 891	-	-
Europe	Exports	40 786	50 405	9 619	↑ 23.6%
	Imports	41 464	46 789	5 325	↑ 12.8%
	Trade Balance	-678	3 616	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 073	1 404	-669	↓ -32.3%
	Imports	1 913	1 724	-189	↓ -9.9%
	Trade Balance	160	-319	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	10 227	6 378	-3 849	↓ -37.6%
	Imports	442	698	256	↑ 57.9%
	Trade Balance	9 785	5 680	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	477	1 364	887	↑ 186.0%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	477	1 364	-	-

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

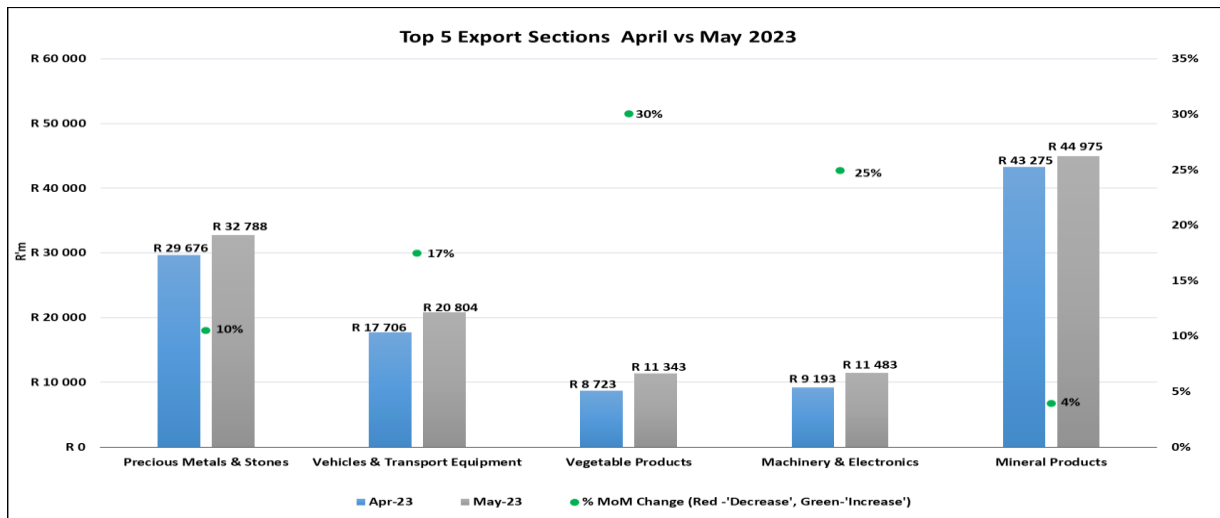
The trade data excluding BELN for May 2023 recorded a preliminary trade balance deficit of R0.8 billion, with export flows at R168.0 billion and import flows at R168.8 billion.

Summary

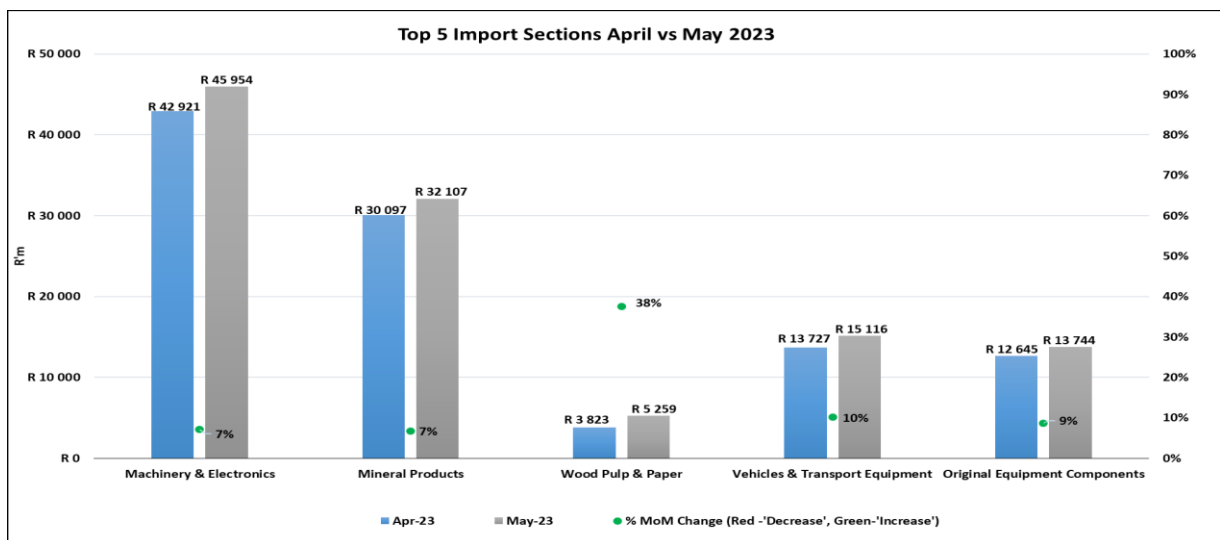
The preliminary cumulative trade balance deficit for 2023 was R39.6 billion compared to R60.2 billion trade balance surplus during 2022. Between April and May 2023, exports increased by R17.9 billion (11.9%) whilst imports increased by R13.5 billion (8.7%) over the same period.

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 April (revised) and May (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2023	May 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	26 451	31 014	4 562	↑ 17.2%
	Imports	9 404	9 710	307	↑ 3.3%
	Trade Balance	17 048	21 303	-	-

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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	(1 006 215 339)	0.89	231 815 852	1.13	1.10	7 298 947 902	8 574 371 673	2 026 962 513	1.03	9 185 855 312	9 580 587 012	1 795 146 661
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	34 753 163 757	3.22	8 586 308 337	3.26	6.72	42 387 333 805	50 385 644 688	12 381 618 903	2.18	13 092 408 480	15 632 480 931	3 795 310 566
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 079 109 121)	0.60	(447 186 338)	0.67	0.49	3 967 332 462	3 103 731 044	905 518 248	0.78	8 366 947 034	5 182 840 165	1 352 704 586
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	6 447 437 776	1.27	1 862 659 042	1.35	3.86	24 281 530 021	29 921 599 092	7 113 854 960	3.02	17 221 556 476	23 474 161 316	5 251 195 918
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	57 206 568 606	1.34	15 166 570 873	1.47	25.82	220 602 344 063	227 924 120 404	47 552 072 333	18.62	145 872 067 095	170 717 551 798	32 385 501 460
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(29 603 924 122)	0.62	(5 004 496 497)	0.68	5.87	49 567 623 979	49 334 549 235	10 813 961 456	9.09	77 784 112 937	78 938 473 357	15 818 457 953
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(15 478 757 653)	0.48	(3 590 079 138)	0.46	1.68	13 211 586 364	14 477 703 399	3 084 992 298	3.84	28 909 185 790	29 956 461 052	6 675 071 436
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(59 757 351)	0.97	13 274 098	1.03	0.22	1 609 417 807	1 776 293 142	405 561 195	0.23	1 522 592 867	1 836 050 493	392 287 097
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 141 725 790	1.39	283 095 059	1.50	0.46	4 077 214 150	4 069 972 723	851 659 444	0.33	3 025 297 238	2 928 246 933	568 564 385
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(8 276 733 928)	0.64	(2 380 227 300)	0.55	1.59	9 678 482 235	14 631 523 201	2 928 690 602	3.05	23 581 957 856	22 908 257 129	5 308 917 902
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(14 079 266 996)	0.42	(2 276 110 907)	0.50	1.22	8 204 815 281	10 246 838 504	2 240 924 854	2.60	23 280 296 735	24 326 105 500	4 517 035 761
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(5 325 826 601)	0.23	(1 029 940 927)	0.24	0.18	1 342 745 534	1 593 795 203	325 947 379	0.78	6 355 570 158	6 919 621 804	1 355 888 306
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 041 166 662)	0.44	(954 625 332)	0.42	0.37	2 768 556 083	3 171 854 774	682 218 540	0.94	6 558 869 976	7 213 021 436	1 636 843 872
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	146 872 728 855	13.04	30 815 637 183	12.53	18.18	184 921 676 965	159 067 772 339	33 488 190 014	1.54	10 017 499 863	12 195 043 484	2 672 552 831
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	55 767 787 689	2.35	12 069 795 553	2.35	11.41	82 434 041 092	97 140 441 513	21 010 498 235	5.14	40 056 020 765	41 372 653 824	8 940 702 682
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(140 061 091 463)	0.30	(32 712 743 900)	0.30	7.49	52 790 950 439	59 653 658 441	13 789 567 730	26.73	142 148 599 377	199 714 749 904	46 502 311 630
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	9 180 541 477	1.12	7 142 127 258	1.47	12.11	74 343 146 331	86 400 780 577	22 294 672 395	8.71	52 884 701 305	77 220 239 100	15 152 545 137
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(13 369 323 053)	0.25	(2 995 968 196)	0.24	0.52	3 983 774 823	4 397 905 186	965 347 165	2.28	15 152 630 625	17 767 228 239	3 961 315 361
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 571 834 609)	0.46	(1 021 893 015)	0.47	0.49	3 382 749 166	3 839 949 683	899 332 827	1.10	8 337 403 952	8 411 784 292	1 921 225 842
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	108 133 868	1.19	112 452 170	1.98	0.12	443 705 480	668 969 477	226 883 374	0.07	169 753 471	560 835 609	114 431 204
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	698 707 907	2.17	68 831 391	1.65	0.09	1 972 822 381	1 295 874 633	174 192 494	0.06	733 219 344	597 166 726	105 361 103
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(64 816 923 846)	0.00	(13 743 660 029)	0.00	0.00	4 884 409	1 853 830	275 940	7.90	51 720 707 543	64 818 777 676	13 743 935 969
Total	Total SA Rand	9 406 864 981	1.01	10 195 635 237	1.06	100.00	793 275 680 772	831 679 202 761	184 162 942 899	100.00	685 977 254 199	822 272 337 780	173 967 307 662

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	133 383 947 502	2.74	32 264 903 470	3.16	25.62	188 381 162 985	210 246 821 323	47 189 674 847	8.58	68 614 686 927	76 862 873 821	14 924 771 377
AMERICA	(10 530 483 752)	0.89	(2 519 506 811)	0.88	9.64	79 019 508 293	81 086 600 552	17 760 139 022	11.66	74 892 442 595	91 617 084 304	20 279 645 833
ASIA	(149 619 298 703)	0.64	(29 891 081 556)	0.67	32.40	254 628 438 470	270 779 774 296	59 661 474 868	51.48	351 164 512 817	420 399 072 999	89 552 556 424
EUROPE	(9 562 233 488)	0.96	3 616 030 536	1.08	27.37	226 218 626 264	210 212 207 173	50 404 857 655	26.90	175 559 609 531	219 774 440 661	46 788 827 119
OCEANIA	(1 605 421 869)	0.83	(319 498 363)	0.81	0.76	6 444 864 893	7 635 264 516	1 404 168 767	0.99	11 592 682 848	9 240 686 385	1 723 667 130
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	42 776 966 928	10.77	5 680 368 209	9.14	3.46	33 676 224 554	47 155 146 538	6 378 207 988	0.40	4 153 319 481	4 378 179 610	697 839 779
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 563 388 363	-	1 364 419 752	-	0.74	4 906 855 313	4 563 388 363	1 364 419 752				
Total	9 406 864 981	1.01	10 195 635 237	1.06	100.00	793 275 680 772	831 679 202 761	184 162 942 899	100.00	685 977 254 199	822 272 337 780	173 967 307 662

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 692 068 261	8 587 358 074	11 657 698 104	10 019 498 103	10 892 989 774

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	(611 518 312)	0.92	236 676 510	1.17	0.99	5 697 491 153	6 951 261 468	1 660 214 059	0.84	6 998 633 808	7 562 779 780	1 423 537 549
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	30 097 930 642	2.98	7 681 638 210	3.10	6.75	37 966 594 252	45 283 615 015	11 343 375 470	2.17	12 821 187 617	15 185 684 373	3 661 737 260
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 943 600 885)	0.43	(670 253 204)	0.50	0.41	2 903 354 096	2 234 419 824	680 875 165	0.80	8 357 366 201	5 178 020 709	1 351 128 369
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 085 407 860	1.05	748 307 469	1.17	3.13	16 668 302 213	21 299 904 723	5 253 465 470	2.67	14 557 843 018	20 214 496 863	4 505 158 001
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	45 089 751 920	1.27	12 868 024 213	1.40	26.77	209 258 427 221	214 561 706 059	44 975 488 463	19.03	145 285 127 773	169 471 954 139	32 107 464 250
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(32 586 027 080)	0.57	(5 875 649 478)	0.61	5.50	43 141 575 968	42 354 983 997	9 245 765 694	8.96	74 297 935 169	74 941 011 077	15 121 415 172
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(18 431 348 139)	0.38	(4 242 067 276)	0.36	1.41	10 113 184 438	11 196 029 024	2 365 804 030	3.92	28 657 377 577	29 627 377 163	6 607 871 306
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(252 811 638)	0.86	(23 663 984)	0.94	0.21	1 401 892 038	1 544 816 471	359 426 235	0.23	1 475 206 935	1 797 628 109	383 090 219
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 288 394 557	1.68	309 487 345	1.91	0.39	3 145 087 704	3 172 227 570	648 399 801	0.20	2 067 993 212	1 883 833 013	338 912 456
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(9 821 121 666)	0.57	(2 637 986 011)	0.50	1.56	8 287 711 301	12 895 942 279	2 621 375 573	3.12	23 440 897 940	22 717 063 945	5 259 361 584
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(14 530 022 780)	0.31	(2 417 262 471)	0.38	0.87	4 778 611 352	6 584 709 856	1 457 885 653	2.30	20 276 110 152	21 114 732 636	3 875 148 124
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(6 153 338 288)	0.10	(1 186 816 772)	0.11	0.09	522 440 436	679 499 015	152 951 237	0.79	6 299 793 815	6 832 837 303	1 339 768 009
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 860 295 761)	0.32	(1 133 974 531)	0.30	0.29	1 948 998 459	2 298 426 415	491 743 980	0.96	6 506 993 838	7 158 722 176	1 625 718 511
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	151 425 277 257	26.98	31 365 105 927	23.05	19.52	181 726 347 688	157 253 631 850	32 787 618 048	0.84	5 250 488 142	5 828 354 593	1 422 512 121
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	51 495 661 995	2.26	11 120 870 416	2.26	11.88	77 566 669 021	92 457 692 263	19 953 122 739	5.23	39 581 380 736	40 962 030 268	8 832 252 323
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(147 988 594 353)	0.25	(34 471 047 740)	0.25	6.84	43 155 482 036	49 178 013 530	11 483 072 195	27.23	139 996 040 637	197 166 607 883	45 954 119 935
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	2 495 527 733	1.03	5 687 305 676	1.38	12.38	68 771 941 304	79 360 825 605	20 803 722 284	8.96	52 245 414 328	76 865 297 872	15 116 416 608
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(14 268 996 885)	0.19	(3 189 682 767)	0.19	0.45	3 097 907 127	3 448 937 265	763 279 468	2.34	15 099 320 355	17 717 934 150	3 952 962 235
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(6 078 537 726)	0.27	(1 369 458 459)	0.28	0.32	1 764 491 238	2 287 494 852	542 707 421	1.13	8 273 661 252	8 366 032 578	1 912 165 880
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	105 024 237	1.19	111 954 026	1.98	0.13	440 320 107	665 598 291	226 296 047	0.07	169 323 813	560 574 054	114 342 021
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	683 417 578	2.16	66 184 713	1.64	0.10	1 947 822 191	1 270 615 577	169 912 503	0.06	722 831 308	587 197 999	103 727 790
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(64 816 925 615)	0.00	(13 743 660 029)	0.00	0.00	1 157 291	1 852 061	275 940	8.14	51 720 707 543	64 818 777 676	13 743 935 969
Total	Total SA Rand	(39 576 745 349)	0.95	(765 968 217)	1.00	100.00	724 305 808 634	756 982 203 010	167 986 777 475	100.00	664 101 635 169	796 558 948 359	168 752 745 692

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	84 400 337 172	2.65	21 303 300 016	3.19	18.46	119 411 290 847	135 549 821 572	31 013 509 423	5.75	46 739 067 897	51 149 484 400	9 710 209 407
AMERICA	(10 530 483 752)	0.89	(2 519 506 811)	0.88	10.57	79 019 508 293	81 086 600 552	17 760 139 022	12.02	74 892 442 595	91 617 084 304	20 279 645 833
ASIA	(149 619 298 703)	0.64	(29 891 081 556)	0.67	35.52	254 628 438 470	270 779 774 296	59 661 474 868	53.07	351 164 512 817	420 399 072 999	89 552 556 424
EUROPE	(9 562 233 488)	0.96	3 616 030 536	1.08	30.01	226 218 626 264	210 212 207 173	50 404 857 655	27.73	175 559 609 531	219 774 440 661	46 788 827 119
OCEANIA	(1 605 421 869)	0.83	(319 498 363)	0.81	0.84	6 444 864 893	7 635 264 516	1 404 168 767	1.02	11 592 682 848	9 240 686 385	1 723 667 130
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	42 776 966 928	10.77	5 680 368 209	9.14	3.80	33 676 224 554	47 155 146 538	6 378 207 988	0.41	4 153 319 481	4 378 179 610	697 839 779
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 563 388 363	-	1 364 419 752	-	0.81	4 906 855 313	4 563 388 363	1 364 419 752				
Total	(39 576 745 349)	0.95	(765 968 217)	1.00	100.00	724 305 808 634	756 982 203 010	167 986 777 475	100.00	664 101 635 169	796 558 948 359	168 752 745 692

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	9 692 068 261	8 587 358 074	11 657 698 104	10 019 498 103	10 892 989 774

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 May 2023 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.0 billion.

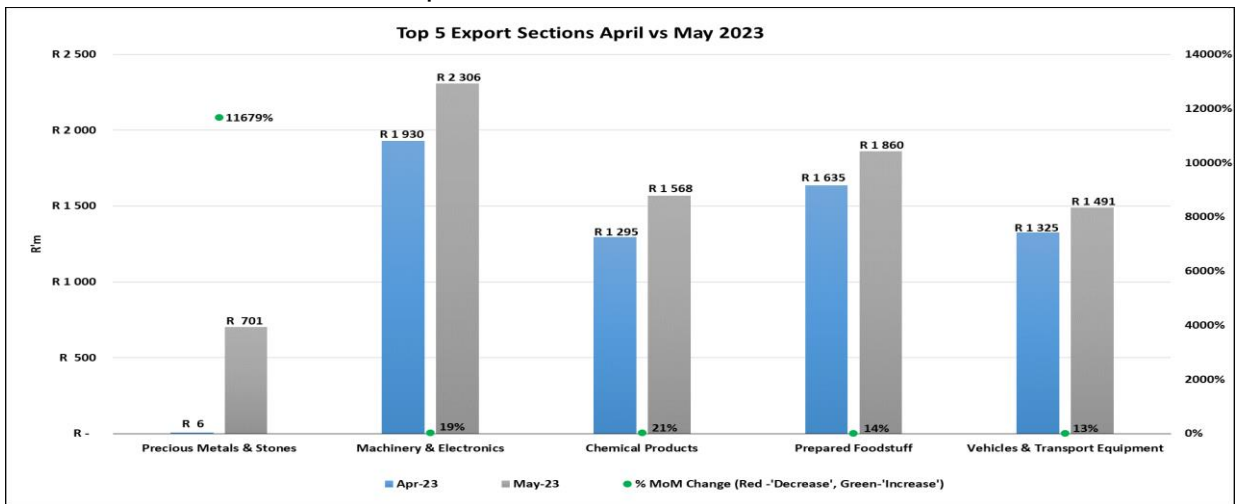
Summary

The R11.0 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for May 2023 was as a result of exports of R16.2 billion and imports of R5.2 billion. Exports increased by R2.3 billion (16.2%) between April and May 2023 and imports increased by R0.4 billion (8.9%) over the same period.

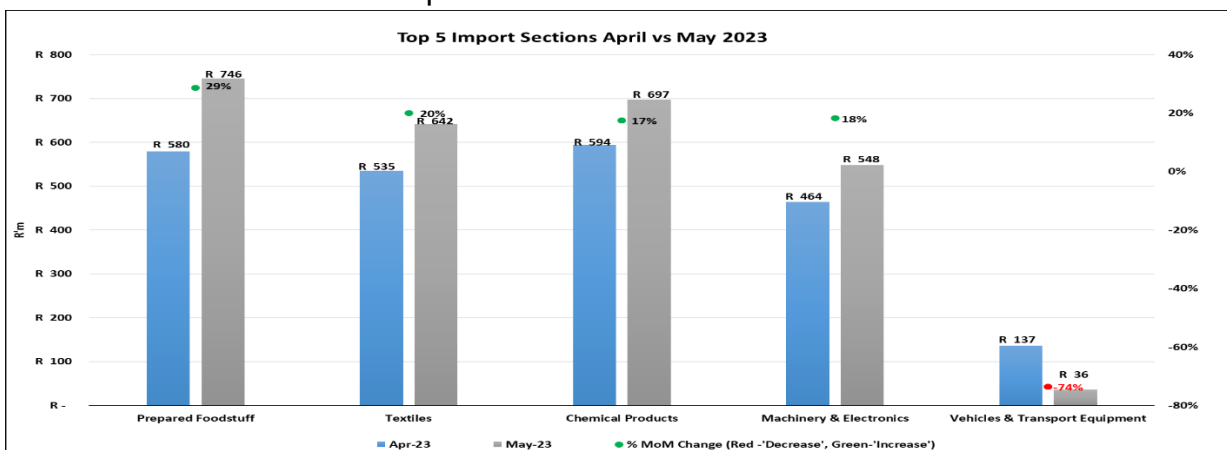
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2023 was R49.0 billion compared to R47.1 billion in 2022.

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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