



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Thursday, 30 November 2023

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for October 2023

Pretoria, 30 November 2023 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance deficit of R12.7 billion in October 2023. This deficit was attributable to exports of R170.3 billion and imports of R183.0 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 October 2023) preliminary trade balance surplus of R28.5 billion was a deterioration from the R180.8 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2022. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for October 2023 were 2.9% higher compared to R165.6 billion recorded in October 2022, whilst import flows were 11.0% higher having increased from R164.9 billion in October 2022 to R183.0 billion in the current period.

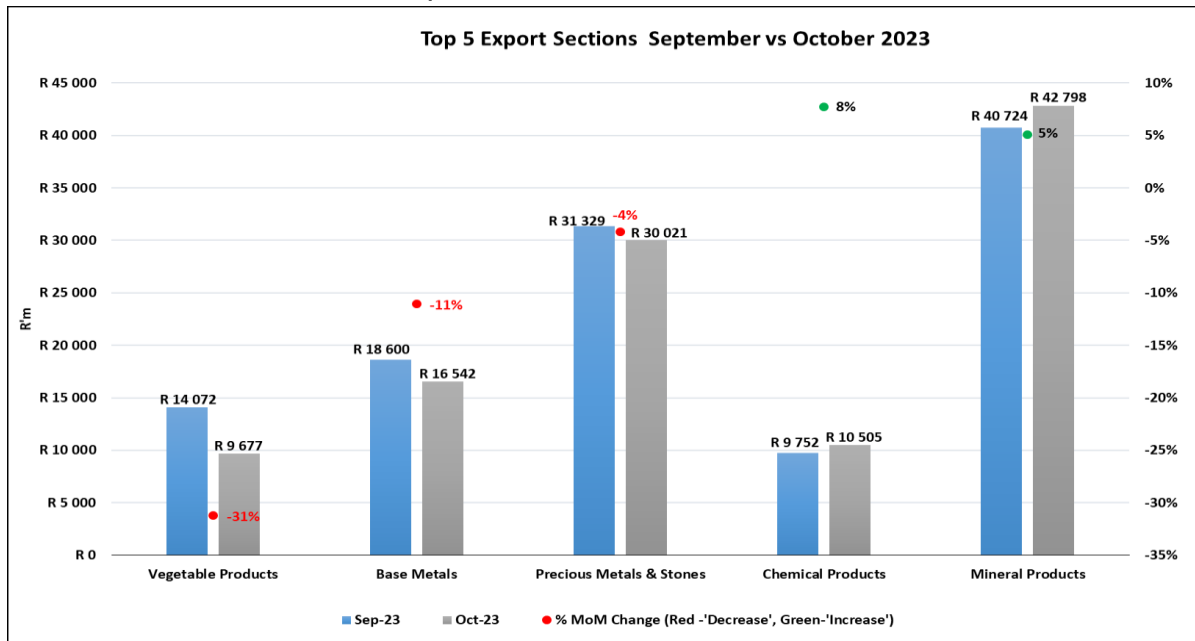
On a month-to-month basis, exports decreased by R3.1 billion (-1.8%) from R173.5 billion to R170.3 billion between September and October 2023, whilst imports increased by R21.5 billion (13.3%) from R161.5 billion to R183.0 billion over the same period. Export flows decreased in October, driven by Citrus Fruit, Fresh or Dried, Platinum and Unwrought Aluminium. Value of imports increased on the back of sizable increases in importation of Petroleum Products, and Automatic Data Processing Machines.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R13.1 billion announced for September 2023 was revised downwards by R1.2 billion, with the final number at R12.0 billion.

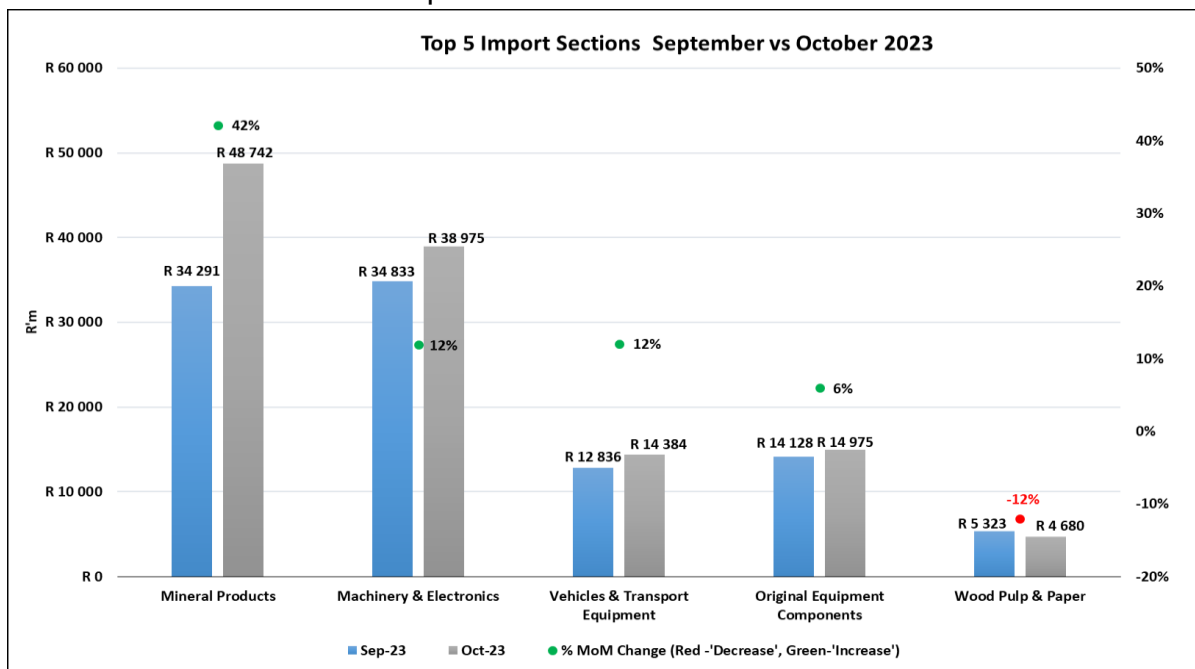
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from September (revised) to October (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	September 2023	October 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	47 998	51 307	3 309	↑ 6.9%
	Imports	11 402	17 536	6 134	↑ 53.8%
	Trade Balance	36 597	33 771	-	-
America	Exports	16 715	15 085	-1 631	↓ -9.8%
	Imports	20 194	22 134	1 939	↑ 9.6%
	Trade Balance	-3 479	-7 049	-	-
Asia	Exports	54 148	49 100	-5 048	↓ -9.3%
	Imports	85 442	95 553	10 111	↑ 11.8%
	Trade Balance	-31 294	-46 453	-	-
Europe	Exports	41 629	42 023	394	↑ 0.9%
	Imports	41 847	45 811	3 964	↑ 9.5%
	Trade Balance	-218	-3 788	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 334	2 003	-330	↓ -14.2%
	Imports	2 081	1 365	-715	↓ -34.4%
	Trade Balance	253	638	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	9 980	10 019	39	↑ 0.4%
	Imports	556	632	76	↑ 13.6%
	Trade Balance	9 424	9 387	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	691	832	141	↑ 20.4%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	691	832	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for October 2023 indicate a preliminary trade balance deficit of R25.4 billion.

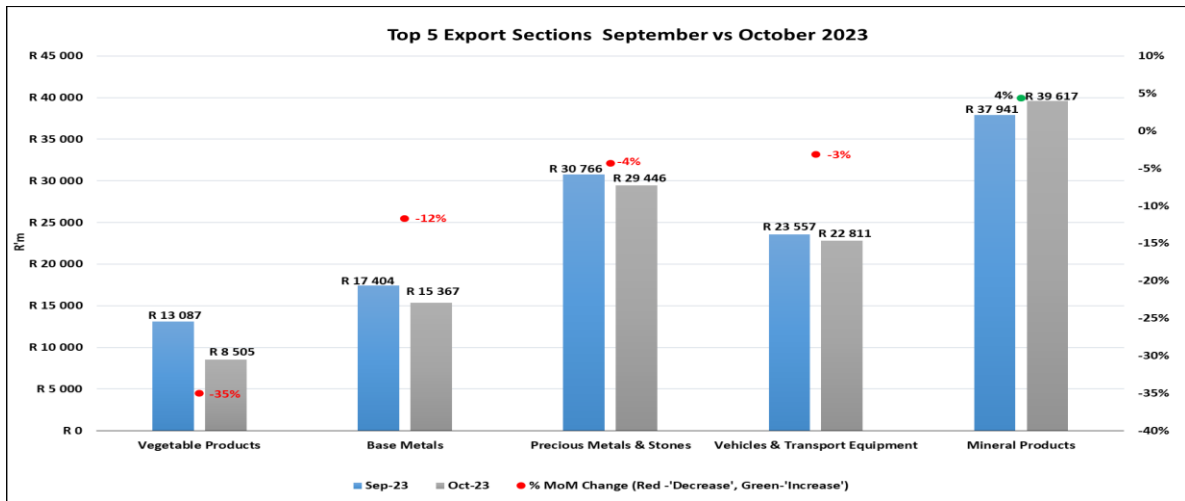
Summary

The R25.4 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for October 2023 was as a result of exports of R151.5 billion and imports of R176.9 billion. Exports decreased by R5.0 billion (-3.2%) between September and October 2023 whilst imports increased by R20.7 billion (13.3%) over the same period.

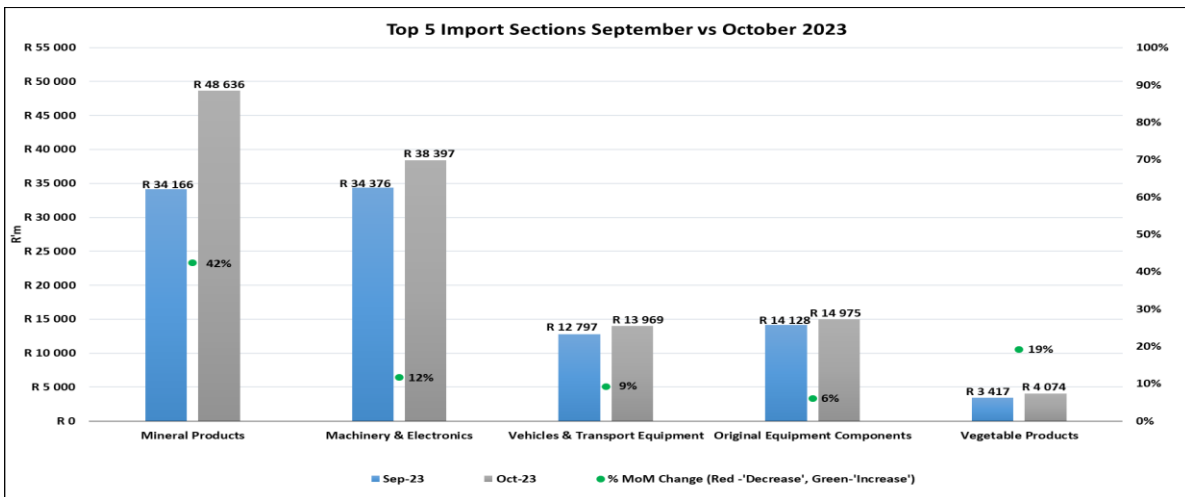
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2023 was a deficit of R78.4 billion, compared to R82.6 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2022.

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 September (revised) and October (preliminary) 2023 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	September 2023	October 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	30 998	32 469	1 471	↑ 4.7%
	Imports	6 115	11 482	5 367	↑ 87.8%
	Trade Balance	24 883	20 987	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 2023](#)

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	(431 828 806)	0.98	(39 459 005)	0.98	0.92	14 849 601 674	16 863 978 849	1 574 940 040	0.88	17 561 785 100	17 295 807 655	1 614 399 045
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	82 621 144 995	3.37	5 499 861 800	2.32	5.68	101 206 082 421	117 433 856 909	9 677 067 763	2.28	29 117 761 836	34 812 711 914	4 177 205 963
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(5 461 796 757)	0.53	(944 839 407)	0.37	0.33	7 245 557 235	6 247 867 296	560 178 575	0.82	16 999 056 519	11 709 664 053	1 505 017 982
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	19 366 197 887	1.42	2 436 362 792	1.54	4.08	55 594 377 773	65 037 820 407	6 945 601 179	2.46	38 235 299 070	45 671 622 520	4 509 238 387
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	90 695 711 318	1.26	(5 943 746 329)	0.88	25.12	477 967 938 902	437 216 308 655	42 797 841 403	26.63	346 313 470 346	346 520 597 337	48 741 587 732
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(62 348 066 925)	0.61	(7 247 601 786)	0.59	6.17	105 919 545 964	98 926 456 442	10 505 173 897	9.70	172 766 875 651	161 274 523 367	17 752 775 683
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(31 108 852 412)	0.49	(3 360 291 454)	0.47	1.77	29 202 424 045	29 966 875 726	3 013 732 906	3.48	62 894 452 451	61 075 728 138	6 374 024 360
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(468 555 809)	0.88	(106 157 254)	0.78	0.22	3 380 675 517	3 547 432 583	374 284 933	0.26	3 732 213 413	4 015 988 392	480 442 187
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 671 978 467	1.46	362 059 702	1.62	0.56	8 441 728 951	8 541 374 267	948 767 638	0.32	6 005 931 687	5 869 395 800	586 707 936
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(18 592 514 214)	0.61	(1 437 750 065)	0.69	1.90	22 743 575 469	28 588 965 322	3 241 759 181	2.56	46 924 223 523	47 181 479 536	4 679 509 246
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(30 777 490 194)	0.38	(3 097 338 766)	0.39	1.18	16 866 284 433	18 966 614 861	2 006 537 622	2.79	49 535 520 116	49 744 105 055	5 103 876 388
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(11 899 153 790)	0.22	(1 030 625 269)	0.28	0.24	3 073 144 829	3 313 731 369	406 173 424	0.79	15 889 688 325	15 212 885 159	1 436 798 693
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(8 322 177 411)	0.44	(778 439 782)	0.47	0.40	5 990 649 092	6 603 124 271	682 020 682	0.80	14 225 757 814	14 925 301 682	1 460 460 464
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	288 707 194 913	13.72	28 025 429 878	15.05	17.62	365 865 791 851	311 409 225 294	30 020 746 583	1.09	20 734 864 409	22 702 030 381	1 995 316 705
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	104 708 473 787	2.27	8 833 982 744	2.15	9.71	170 203 785 378	187 337 755 958	16 541 837 886	4.21	81 970 647 275	82 629 282 171	7 707 855 142
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(269 831 765 874)	0.32	(25 682 176 076)	0.34	7.80	112 550 837 026	126 683 874 784	13 293 223 923	21.29	303 252 327 621	396 515 640 658	38 975 399 999
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	54 140 707 154	1.37	10 053 166 140	1.70	14.34	155 964 104 602	201 923 195 240	24 436 771 255	7.86	118 628 906 208	147 782 488 086	14 383 605 115
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(27 649 720 119)	0.26	(2 830 863 971)	0.29	0.68	8 585 662 432	9 468 974 792	1 159 505 554	2.18	32 150 985 771	37 118 694 911	3 990 369 525
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(10 678 876 710)	0.45	(1 306 068 824)	0.43	0.59	7 749 937 064	8 689 306 626	997 922 073	1.26	18 880 053 870	19 368 183 336	2 303 990 897
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	845 690 535	1.95	556 166 530	12.91	0.35	948 593 453	1 732 909 854	602 860 312	0.03	321 929 095	887 219 319	46 693 782
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 971 568 924	2.38	351 426 256	2.52	0.34	4 353 743 264	3 400 647 545	582 686 087	0.13	1 286 696 469	1 429 078 621	231 259 831
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(139 675 775 427)	0.00	(14 974 557 390)	0.00	0.00	12 616 800	4 241 136	115 990	8.18	100 536 246 859	139 680 016 563	14 974 673 380
Total	Total SA Rand	28 482 093 532	1.02	(12 661 459 536)	0.93	100.00	1 678 716 658 175	1 691 904 538 186	170 369 748 906	100.00	1 497 964 693 428	1 663 422 444 654	183 031 208 442

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	307 102 823 065	3.08	33 771 467 714	2.93	30.12	405 968 012 503	454 653 518 347	51 307 335 919	9.58	142 413 205 688	147 550 695 282	17 535 868 205
AMERICA	(33 492 966 201)	0.83	(7 049 316 120)	0.68	8.85	169 380 753 166	158 435 645 210	15 084 535 480	12.09	157 238 718 782	191 928 611 411	22 133 851 600
ASIA	(322 313 829 367)	0.62	(46 453 111 315)	0.51	28.82	541 778 686 782	532 990 105 849	49 100 207 488	52.21	794 921 544 983	855 303 935 216	95 553 318 803
EUROPE	(20 451 225 258)	0.95	(3 787 888 383)	0.92	24.67	465 355 865 029	422 448 439 958	42 023 058 547	25.03	375 358 250 636	442 899 665 216	45 810 946 930
OCEANIA	(555 712 582)	0.97	637 982 335	1.47	1.18	13 259 981 064	17 623 387 441	2 003 268 028	0.75	20 666 179 081	18 179 100 023	1 365 285 693
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	89 200 079 765	12.80	9 387 480 600	15.86	5.88	73 351 111 075	96 760 517 271	10 019 417 811	0.35	7 366 794 258	7 560 437 506	631 937 211
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	8 992 924 110	-	831 925 633	-	0.49	9 622 248 556	8 992 924 110	831 925 633				
Total	28 482 093 532	1.02	(12 661 459 536)	0.93	100.00	1 678 716 658 175	1 691 904 538 186	170 369 748 906	100.00	1 497 964 693 428	1 663 422 444 654	183 031 208 442

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 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	12 326 767 333	12 623 793 235	10 841 239 699

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	(68 905 716)	0.99	(92 776 190)	0.93	0.81	11 584 250 458	13 453 558 988	1 233 519 913	0.75	13 307 352 450	13 522 464 704	1 326 296 103
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	73 602 036 828	3.19	4 430 464 758	2.09	5.61	92 460 749 591	107 218 501 048	8 504 912 084	2.30	28 076 766 692	33 616 464 220	4 074 447 326
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(7 476 451 883)	0.36	(1 186 096 278)	0.21	0.21	4 965 927 942	4 219 832 995	316 444 407	0.85	16 980 612 673	11 696 284 878	1 502 540 685
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	7 824 168 963	1.20	939 757 482	1.25	3.07	39 168 823 939	46 459 997 859	4 655 707 927	2.10	31 630 400 416	38 635 828 896	3 715 950 445
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	65 333 721 589	1.19	(9 018 461 942)	0.81	26.14	452 777 078 575	409 726 828 340	39 617 163 850	27.48	344 820 513 134	344 393 106 751	48 635 625 792
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(69 019 268 644)	0.55	(7 936 519 412)	0.52	5.75	91 945 236 690	83 863 060 005	8 708 736 098	9.41	165 252 985 543	152 882 328 649	16 645 255 510
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(37 515 431 618)	0.38	(4 126 485 643)	0.34	1.42	22 642 060 529	22 847 056 657	2 155 216 568	3.55	62 305 443 398	60 362 488 275	6 281 702 211
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(856 292 123)	0.78	(168 130 956)	0.64	0.20	2 905 382 600	3 063 814 153	298 765 724	0.26	3 628 729 475	3 920 106 276	466 896 680
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 976 086 495	1.83	385 207 666	2.14	0.48	6 440 058 252	6 559 489 093	722 040 539	0.19	3 935 492 620	3 583 402 598	336 832 873
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(21 694 937 985)	0.54	(1 803 293 207)	0.61	1.86	19 745 093 414	25 043 659 004	2 820 464 283	2.61	46 547 178 475	46 738 596 989	4 623 757 490
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(30 975 476 969)	0.27	(3 013 329 140)	0.27	0.73	9 529 934 253	11 487 040 353	1 101 780 689	2.33	42 625 402 154	42 462 517 322	4 115 109 829
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(13 699 056 508)	0.09	(1 269 655 264)	0.10	0.09	1 177 105 995	1 309 306 472	135 090 557	0.79	15 762 068 928	15 008 362 980	1 404 745 821
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(10 014 717 626)	0.32	(963 377 500)	0.33	0.32	4 184 849 313	4 795 968 555	481 602 951	0.82	14 118 507 160	14 810 686 181	1 444 980 451
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	296 420 780 767	28.74	28 502 006 319	31.18	19.43	358 274 757 609	307 107 952 917	29 446 437 697	0.53	10 682 155 019	10 687 172 150	944 431 378
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	95 264 953 602	2.17	7 773 680 646	2.02	10.14	160 296 867 964	176 979 408 870	15 366 672 545	4.29	81 073 472 867	81 714 455 268	7 592 991 899
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(287 565 268 650)	0.27	(27 870 145 524)	0.27	6.95	92 004 021 929	103 792 329 366	10 526 358 841	21.70	298 667 839 667	391 357 598 016	38 396 504 365
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	39 725 641 350	1.27	8 842 504 614	1.63	15.05	144 000 314 435	186 400 137 253	22 811 451 026	7.89	115 381 232 923	146 674 495 903	13 968 946 412
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(29 562 279 795)	0.20	(3 041 692 139)	0.23	0.61	6 730 372 389	7 437 236 609	918 053 538	2.24	32 041 053 355	36 999 516 404	3 959 745 677
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(14 225 696 377)	0.26	(1 760 467 924)	0.23	0.35	4 213 559 976	5 030 254 180	529 559 757	1.29	18 766 325 187	19 255 950 557	2 290 027 681
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	839 618 286	1.95	555 588 325	12.91	0.40	942 066 978	1 726 017 267	602 223 895	0.03	321 162 278	886 398 981	46 635 570
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 941 610 763	2.38	349 624 771	2.52	0.38	4 304 007 670	3 350 796 434	579 261 785	0.13	1 268 964 781	1 409 185 671	229 637 014
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(139 677 468 409)	0.00	(14 974 558 121)	0.00	0.00	8 886 680	2 188 389	115 259	8.46	100 536 246 859	139 679 656 798	14 974 673 380
Total	Total SA Rand	(78 422 633 660)	0.95	(25 446 154 659)	0.86	100.00	1 530 301 407 181	1 531 874 434 807	151 531 579 933	100.00	1 447 729 906 054	1 610 297 068 467	176 977 734 592

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	200 198 095 873	3.12	20 986 772 591	2.83	21.43	257 552 761 509	294 623 414 968	32 469 166 946	6.49	92 178 418 314	94 425 319 095	11 482 394 355
AMERICA	(33 492 966 201)	0.83	(7 049 316 120)	0.68	9.95	169 380 753 166	158 435 645 210	15 084 535 480	12.51	157 238 718 782	191 928 611 411	22 133 851 600
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OCEANIA	(555 712 582)	0.97	637 982 335	1.47	1.32	13 259 981 064	17 623 387 441	2 003 268 028	0.77	20 666 179 081	18 179 100 023	1 365 285 693
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	89 200 079 765	12.80	9 387 480 600	15.86	6.61	73 351 111 075	96 760 517 271	10 019 417 811	0.36	7 366 794 258	7 560 437 506	631 937 211
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	8 992 924 110	-	831 925 633	-	0.55	9 622 248 556	8 992 924 110	831 925 633				
Total	(78 422 633 660)	0.95	(25 446 154 659)	0.86	100.00	1 530 301 407 181	1 531 874 434 807	151 531 579 933	100.00	1 447 729 906 054	1 610 297 068 467	176 977 734 592

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 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	12 326 767 333	12 623 793 235	10 841 239 699

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 October 2023 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R12.8 billion.

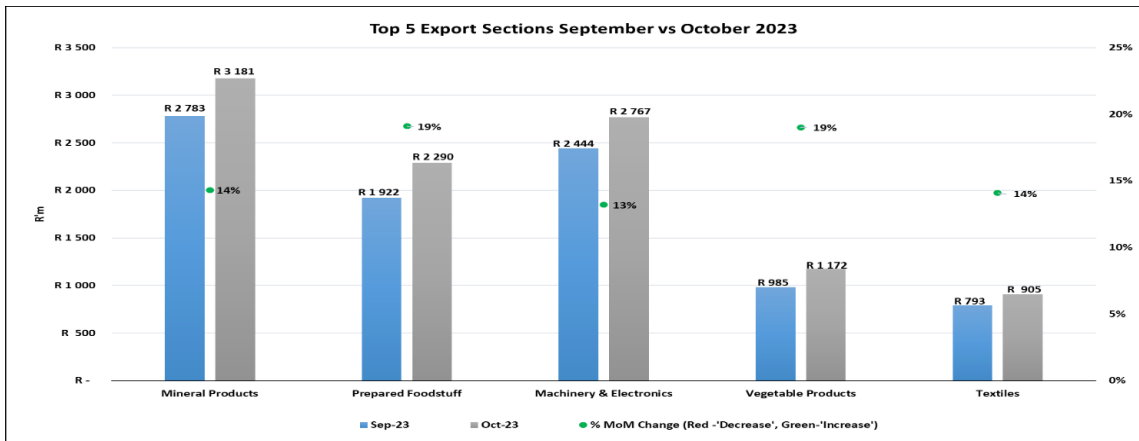
Summary

The R12.8 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for October 2023 was as a result of exports of R18.8 billion and imports of R6.0 billion. Exports increased by R1.8 billion (10.8%) between September and October 2023 and imports increased by R0.8 billion (14.5%) over the same period.

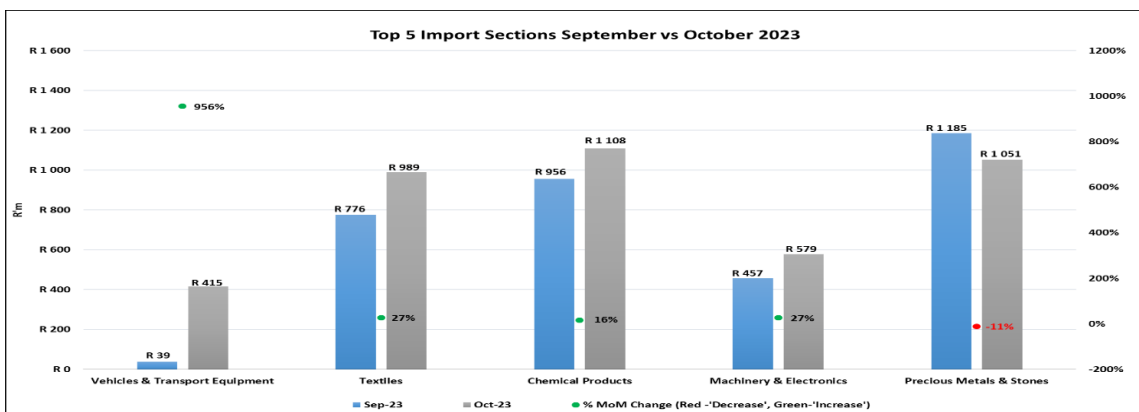
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2023 was a surplus of R106.9 billion, compared to R98.2 billion in 2022.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

For any enquiries, please send your queries to SARSMedia@sars.gov.za or TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za