



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 31 October 2023

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for September 2023

Pretoria, 31 October 2023 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R13.1 billion in September 2023. This surplus is attributable to exports of R174.65 billion and imports of R161.51 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2023) preliminary trade balance surplus of R43.0 billion is a deterioration from the R179.9 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2022. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for September 2023 were 6.0% lower compared to R185.7 billion recorded in September 2022, whilst import flows were 2.8% lower having decreased from R166.2 billion in September 2022 to R161.5 billion in the current period.

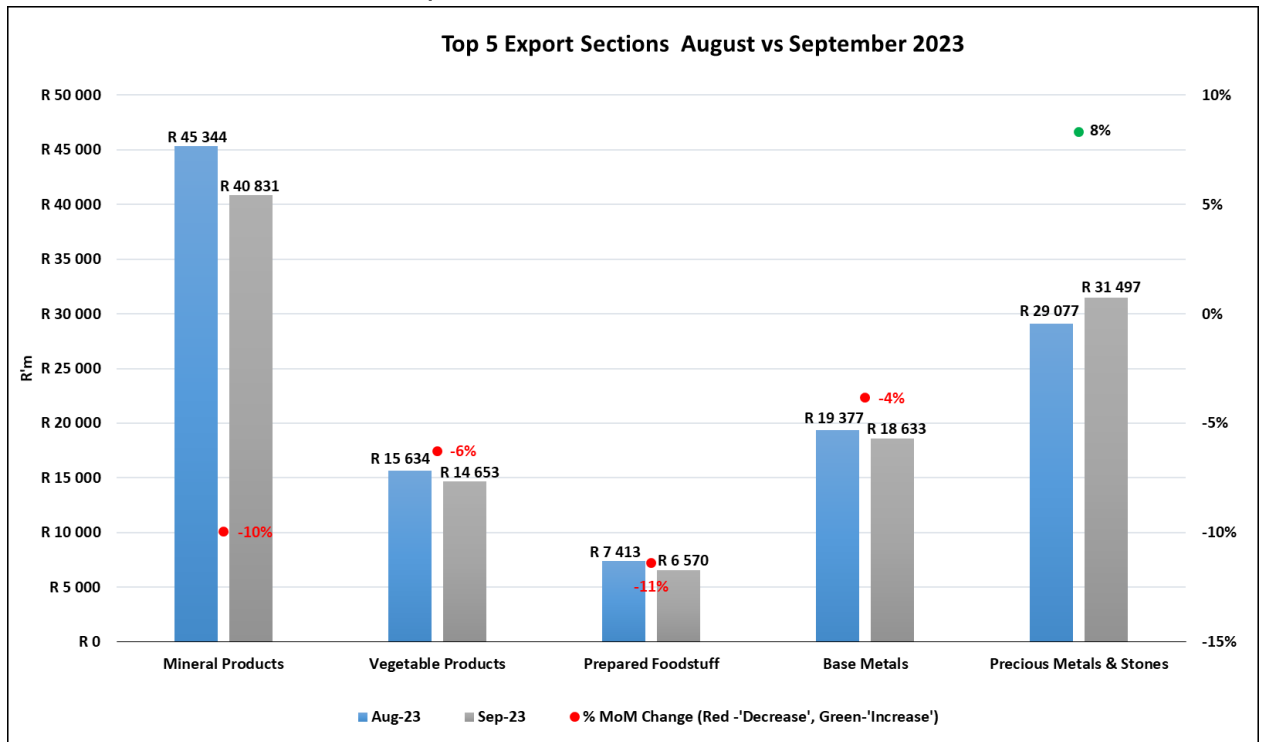
On a month-to-month basis, exports decreased by R5.9 billion (-3.3%) from R180.5 billion to R174.6 billion between August and September 2023, whilst imports decreased by R6.4 billion (-3.8%) from R167.9 billion to R161.5 billion over the same period. Export flows decreased in September driven by Iron Ores and Concentrates; Diamonds; Vehicles (Passengers); and Citrus Fruit, Fresh or Dried. Value of imports decreased on the back of sizable decreases in the importation of Original Equipment Components; Vehicles (Passengers); and Electric Accumulators, including Separators Therefor.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R13.3 billion announced for August 2023 was revised downwards by R0.7 billion, with the final number at R12.6 billion.

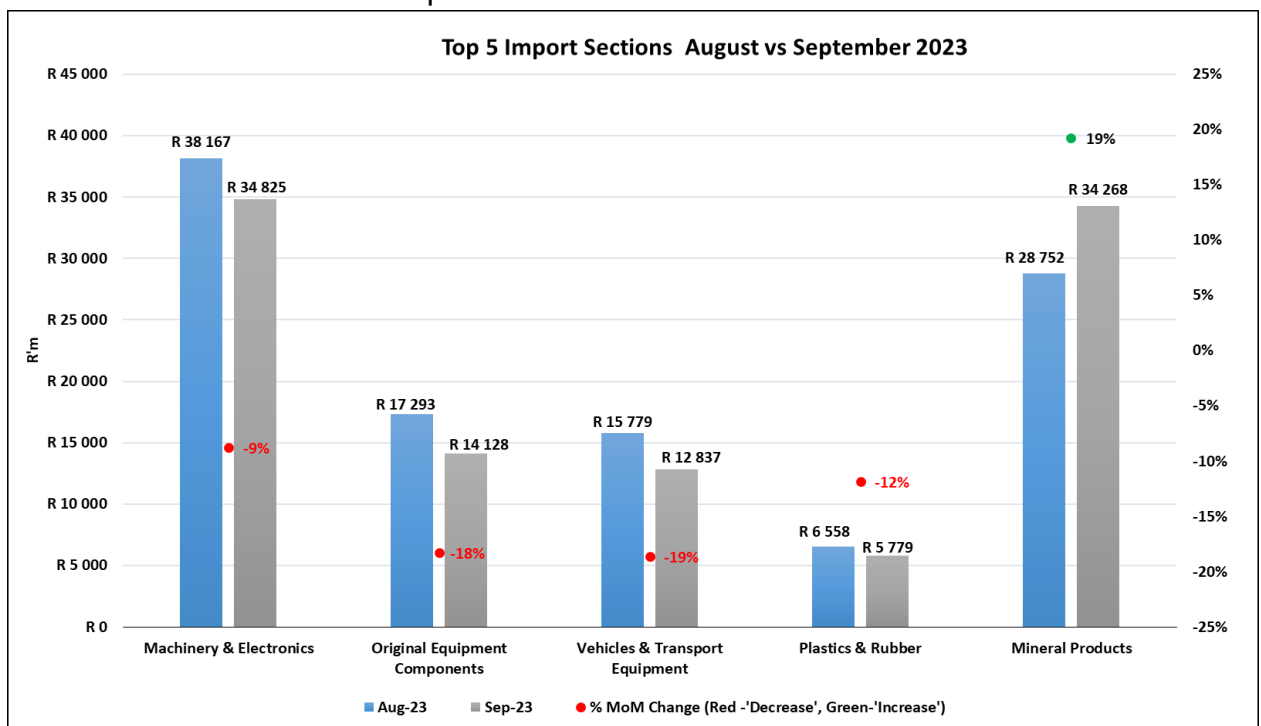
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

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

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2023	September 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	49 270	48 351	-919	↓ -1.9%
	Imports	12 163	11 399	-764	↓ -6.3%
	Trade Balance	37 107	36 951	-	-
America	Exports	14 505	16 721	2 216	↑ 15.3%
	Imports	19 413	20 193	780	↑ 4.0%
	Trade Balance	-4 909	-3 472	-	-
Asia	Exports	58 289	54 868	-3 421	↓ -5.9%
	Imports	84 959	85 464	505	↑ 0.6%
	Trade Balance	-26 670	-30 596	-	-
Europe	Exports	46 008	41 524	-4 485	↓ -9.7%
	Imports	48 845	41 821	-7 024	↓ -14.4%
	Trade Balance	-2 836	-297	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 669	2 354	686	↑ 41.1%
	Imports	1 417	2 081	663	↑ 46.8%
	Trade Balance	251	274	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	9 675	10 148	473	↑ 4.9%
	Imports	1 150	556	-593	↓ -51.6%
	Trade Balance	8 525	9 592	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 110	691	-419	↓ -37.8%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 110	691	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for September 2023 indicate a preliminary trade balance surplus of R1.4 billion.

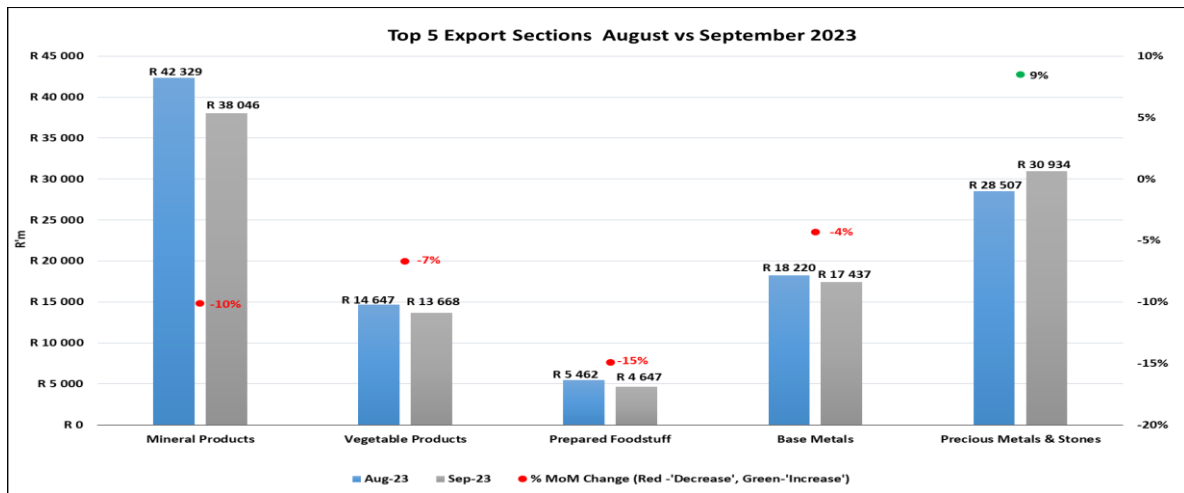
Summary

The R1.4 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2023 was as a result of exports of R157.6 billion and imports of R156.2 billion. Exports decreased by R5.1 billion (-3.2%) between August and September 2023 whilst imports decreased by R6.0 billion (-3.7%) over the same period.

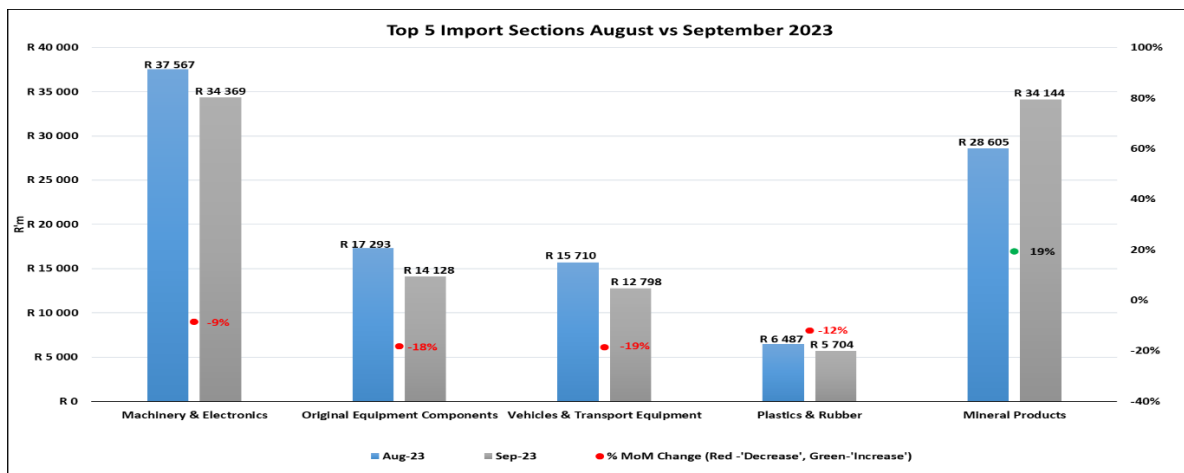
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2023 was a deficit of R51.1 billion, compared to R90.2 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2022.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2023	September 2023	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	31 542	31 347	-195	↓ -0.6%
	Imports	6 455	6 115	-340	↓ -5.3%
	Trade Balance	25 087	25 232	-	-

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1. 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	(395 219 164)	0.97	396 822 466	1.29	1.01	13 326 712 004	15 289 098 999	1 767 766 651	0.85	15 909 530 383	15 684 318 163	1 370 944 185
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	77 671 972 040	3.54	11 097 390 876	4.12	8.39	92 940 149 134	108 307 394 186	14 652 837 393	2.20	26 087 125 468	30 635 422 146	3 555 446 517
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 516 854 228)	0.56	(1 153 669 236)	0.33	0.32	6 656 233 510	5 687 763 904	561 877 814	1.06	16 121 033 571	10 204 618 132	1 715 547 050
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	16 965 430 245	1.41	2 236 690 517	1.52	3.76	49 909 388 618	58 088 237 712	6 569 538 321	2.68	33 646 136 416	41 122 807 467	4 332 847 804
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	97 007 551 977	1.33	6 562 813 988	1.19	23.38	427 778 229 772	394 849 275 521	40 831 068 166	21.22	302 679 913 927	297 841 723 544	34 268 254 178
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(55 215 339 917)	0.62	(7 506 295 807)	0.57	5.59	95 476 691 360	88 430 489 690	9 755 741 512	10.69	154 705 202 209	143 645 829 607	17 262 037 319
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(27 739 655 053)	0.49	(2 894 465 579)	0.50	1.65	26 147 149 780	26 972 002 947	2 884 560 997	3.58	57 095 111 818	54 711 658 000	5 779 026 576
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(362 594 365)	0.90	(177 452 143)	0.64	0.18	3 004 446 497	3 173 149 857	311 863 781	0.30	3 263 672 541	3 535 744 222	489 315 924
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 311 332 194	1.44	217 375 259	1.35	0.48	7 625 177 287	7 593 928 226	840 728 241	0.39	5 419 548 022	5 282 596 032	623 352 982
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(17 124 518 801)	0.60	(2 560 922 139)	0.52	1.59	19 852 511 581	25 384 663 559	2 768 936 544	3.30	42 516 798 913	42 509 182 360	5 329 858 683
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(27 699 167 144)	0.38	(3 629 563 931)	0.32	0.96	15 080 239 833	16 962 668 427	1 670 782 229	3.28	44 720 460 459	44 661 835 571	5 300 346 160
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(10 870 466 163)	0.21	(1 384 720 209)	0.21	0.21	2 668 479 016	2 908 090 875	375 104 966	1.09	14 258 455 327	13 778 557 038	1 759 825 175
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 543 609 561)	0.44	(823 337 242)	0.43	0.35	5 431 903 898	5 921 444 958	619 312 039	0.89	12 802 834 623	13 465 054 519	1 442 649 281
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	260 849 798 578	13.60	29 475 745 514	15.58	18.03	329 905 514 252	281 556 785 539	31 496 885 023	1.25	18 126 179 063	20 706 986 961	2 021 139 409
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	96 059 347 070	2.28	10 670 298 091	2.34	10.67	156 189 713 418	170 981 984 120	18 633 258 683	4.93	73 727 487 326	74 922 637 050	7 962 960 592
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(244 131 591 531)	0.32	(21 705 644 134)	0.38	7.51	101 314 223 396	113 389 040 883	13 119 406 320	21.56	270 487 616 718	357 520 632 414	34 825 050 454
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	44 747 935 356	1.34	12 501 974 067	1.97	14.51	140 206 236 507	178 147 865 242	25 338 919 505	7.95	103 969 542 623	133 399 929 886	12 836 945 438
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(24 813 875 210)	0.25	(3 020 124 568)	0.24	0.54	7 589 595 759	8 310 480 312	935 964 913	2.45	28 728 359 454	33 124 355 522	3 956 089 481
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(9 368 341 120)	0.45	(1 304 929 362)	0.43	0.57	6 852 851 199	7 690 778 848	996 396 775	1.42	16 791 225 593	17 059 119 968	2 301 326 137
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	289 522 874	1.34	32 183 136	1.29	0.08	860 046 219	1 130 047 586	142 552 634	0.07	290 765 726	840 524 712	110 369 498
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 619 873 204	2.35	239 367 997	2.67	0.22	4 139 557 593	2 818 104 328	382 443 820	0.09	1 140 196 073	1 198 231 124	143 075 823
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(124 699 847 953)	0.00	(14 127 588 822)	0.00	0.00	11 924 912	4 125 146	30 348	8.75	90 559 280 958	124 703 973 099	14 127 619 170
Total	Total SA Rand	43 041 683 328	1.03	13 141 948 839	1.08	100.00	1 512 966 975 545	1 523 597 420 865	174 655 976 675	100.00	1 333 046 477 211	1 480 555 737 537	161 514 027 836

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	273 828 308 781	3.11	36 951 429 804	4.24	27.68	362 685 608 221	403 841 365 625	48 350 548 032	7.06	120 197 514 760	130 013 056 844	11 399 118 228	
AMERICA	(26 548 572 154)	0.84	(3 472 161 835)	0.83	9.57	151 399 437 059	143 346 252 143	16 720 893 948	12.50	142 019 213 793	169 894 824 297	20 193 055 783	
ASIA	(275 073 666 127)	0.64	(30 596 345 728)	0.64	31.41	490 556 645 500	484 766 678 102	54 868 042 534	52.91	709 187 255 727	759 840 344 229	85 464 388 262	
EUROPE	(16 128 369 793)	0.96	(296 891 795)	0.99	23.77	422 653 979 346	380 932 180 895	41 523 658 635	25.89	335 809 956 164	397 060 550 688	41 820 550 430	
OCEANIA	(1 177 982 613)	0.93	273 553 097	1.13	1.35	11 840 431 185	15 640 541 038	2 354 123 331	1.29	19 072 263 131	16 818 523 651	2 080 570 234	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	79 980 966 757	12.54	9 591 545 888	18.24	5.81	64 930 845 538	86 909 404 585	10 147 890 787	0.34	6 760 273 636	6 928 437 828	556 344 899	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	8 160 998 477	-	690 819 408	-	0.40	8 900 028 696	8 160 998 477	690 819 408	-	-	-	-	-
Total	43 041 683 328	1.03	13 141 948 839	1.08	100.00	1 512 966 975 545	1 523 597 420 865	174 655 976 675	100.00	1 333 046 477 211	1 480 555 737 537	161 514 027 836	

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 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

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

2. 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	21 229 707	1.00	351 760 647	1.33	0.89	10 413 662 896	12 219 967 767	1 406 087 793	0.67	12 118 758 030	12 198 738 060	1 054 327 146
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	69 720 558 781	3.36	10 250 547 727	4.00	8.67	85 178 295 358	99 264 353 082	13 668 076 766	2.19	25 159 312 039	29 543 794 301	3 417 529 039
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 290 252 483)	0.38	(1 386 034 889)	0.19	0.21	4 655 528 248	3 903 463 771	328 242 488	1.10	16 103 316 291	10 193 716 254	1 714 277 377
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	6 919 479 979	1.20	1 045 895 217	1.29	2.95	35 457 034 705	41 799 902 527	4 646 865 960	2.30	27 878 968 755	34 880 422 548	3 600 970 743
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	74 690 243 858	1.25	3 902 225 487	1.11	24.13	405 102 872 129	370 510 044 885	38 046 196 225	21.85	301 393 143 040	295 819 801 027	34 143 970 738
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(61 198 166 120)	0.55	(8 260 055 101)	0.49	5.10	83 085 422 779	75 163 016 509	8 045 925 596	10.44	148 246 466 034	136 361 182 629	16 305 980 697
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(33 380 967 243)	0.38	(3 587 107 415)	0.37	1.34	20 326 037 875	20 709 798 691	2 117 148 156	3.65	56 578 599 363	54 090 765 934	5 704 255 571
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(688 356 398)	0.80	(207 991 703)	0.56	0.17	2 591 968 801	2 765 051 215	268 105 475	0.30	3 170 977 593	3 453 407 613	476 097 178
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 591 470 207	1.80	245 066 254	1.65	0.39	5 831 668 188	5 837 839 800	619 966 105	0.24	3 582 425 381	3 246 369 593	374 899 851
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(19 861 640 209)	0.53	(2 857 110 049)	0.46	1.53	17 215 648 869	22 260 258 816	2 406 929 157	3.37	42 195 864 672	42 121 899 025	5 264 039 206
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(27 981 144 397)	0.27	(3 646 144 709)	0.19	0.56	8 523 772 419	10 387 863 350	877 969 497	2.90	38 687 234 881	38 369 007 747	4 524 114 206
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(12 431 359 503)	0.09	(1 604 762 350)	0.07	0.08	1 025 991 329	1 174 728 228	129 515 801	1.11	14 145 558 539	13 606 087 731	1 734 278 151
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(9 051 300 046)	0.32	(999 699 482)	0.30	0.28	3 826 484 487	4 314 696 044	434 097 313	0.92	12 705 503 754	13 365 996 090	1 433 796 795
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	268 086 805 732	28.52	30 097 836 837	37.00	19.62	322 335 367 595	277 829 819 789	30 933 778 365	0.54	9 140 315 981	9 743 014 057	835 941 528
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	87 674 299 617	2.18	9 571 810 928	2.22	11.06	147 270 949 621	161 798 805 736	17 436 808 312	5.03	72 916 316 263	74 124 506 119	7 864 997 384
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(259 677 262 671)	0.26	(23 692 878 456)	0.31	6.77	83 005 081 948	93 264 173 894	10 675 773 571	22.00	266 361 616 395	352 941 436 565	34 368 652 027
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	31 539 574 326	1.24	10 969 047 918	1.86	15.08	129 653 135 160	164 245 970 732	23 766 737 343	8.19	102 272 862 727	132 706 396 406	12 797 689 425
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(26 515 717 335)	0.20	(3 204 165 039)	0.19	0.47	5 926 808 064	6 520 073 618	742 519 076	2.53	28 628 100 229	33 035 790 953	3 946 684 115
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(12 460 849 158)	0.27	(1 708 455 494)	0.25	0.37	3 733 361 819	4 500 001 247	582 102 152	1.47	16 688 444 074	16 960 850 405	2 290 557 646
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	284 028 830	1.34	31 812 871	1.29	0.09	854 206 604	1 123 791 416	141 962 966	0.07	290 101 505	839 762 586	110 150 095
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 591 593 658	2.35	238 610 875	2.72	0.24	4 095 006 762	2 771 534 649	377 636 913	0.09	1 123 725 362	1 179 940 991	139 026 038
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(124 701 540 204)	0.00	(14 127 588 822)	0.00	0.00	8 194 792	2 073 130	30 348	9.04	90 559 280 958	124 703 613 334	14 127 619 170
Total	Total SA Rand	(51 119 271 072)	0.96	1 422 621 252	1.01	100.00	1 380 116 500 448	1 382 367 228 896	157 652 475 378	100.00	1 289 946 891 866	1 433 486 499 968	156 229 854 126

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	179 667 354 381	3.17	25 232 102 217	5.13	19.88	229 835 133 124	262 611 173 656	31 347 046 735	3.91	77 097 929 415	82 943 819 275	6 114 944 518
AMERICA	(26 548 572 154)	0.84	(3 472 161 835)	0.83	10.61	151 399 437 059	143 346 252 143	16 720 893 948	12.93	142 019 213 793	169 894 824 297	20 193 055 783
ASIA	(275 073 666 127)	0.64	(30 596 345 728)	0.64	34.80	490 556 645 500	484 766 678 102	54 868 042 534	54.70	709 187 255 727	759 840 344 229	85 464 388 262
EUROPE	(16 128 369 793)	0.96	(296 891 795)	0.99	26.34	422 653 979 346	380 932 180 895	41 523 658 635	26.77	335 809 956 164	397 060 550 688	41 820 550 430
OCEANIA	(1 177 982 613)	0.93	273 553 097	1.13	1.49	11 840 431 185	15 640 541 038	2 354 123 331	1.33	19 072 263 131	16 818 523 651	2 080 570 234
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	79 980 966 757	12.54	9 591 545 888	18.24	6.44	64 930 845 538	86 909 404 585	10 147 890 787	0.36	6 760 273 636	6 928 437 828	556 344 899
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	8 160 998 477	-	690 819 408	-	0.44	8 900 028 696	8 160 998 477	690 819 408				
Total	(51 119 271 072)	0.96	1 422 621 252	1.01	100.00	1 380 116 500 448	1 382 367 228 896	157 652 475 378	100.00	1 289 946 891 866	1 433 486 499 968	156 229 854 126

Temporary Imports	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 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

Notes:

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- 2) Special Provisions: Automotive Production and Development Programme (APDP)
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- 5) The ratio is the value of total exports divided by the value of total imports

3. Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (Only)

South Africa's trade with the BELN countries for September 2023 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.7 billion.

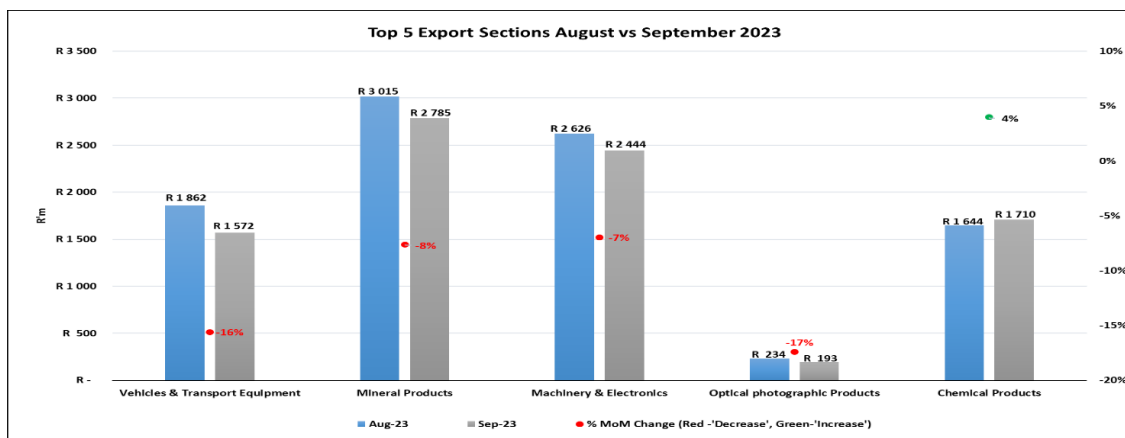
Summary

The R11.7 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2023 was due to exports of R17.0 billion and imports of R5.3 billion. Exports decreased by R0.7 billion (-4.1%) between August and September 2023 and imports decreased by R0.4 billion (-7.4%) over the same period.

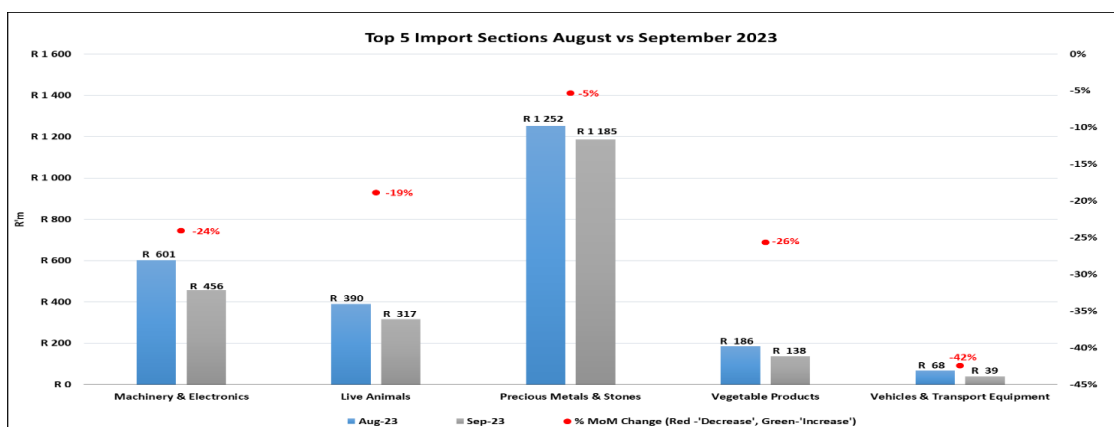
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2023 was a surplus of R94.2 billion, compared to R89.8 billion in 2022.

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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