



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 31 May 2024

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for April 2024

Pretoria, 31 May 2024 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.5 billion in April 2024. This surplus was attributable to exports of R169.5 billion and imports of R159.1 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2024) preliminary trade balance surplus of R26.6 billion was an improvement from the R6.7 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2023. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for April 2024 (R169.5 billion) were 4.2% higher compared to R162.7 billion recorded in April 2023, whilst import flows were 0.8% higher having increased from R157.8 billion in April 2023 to R159.1 billion in the current period.

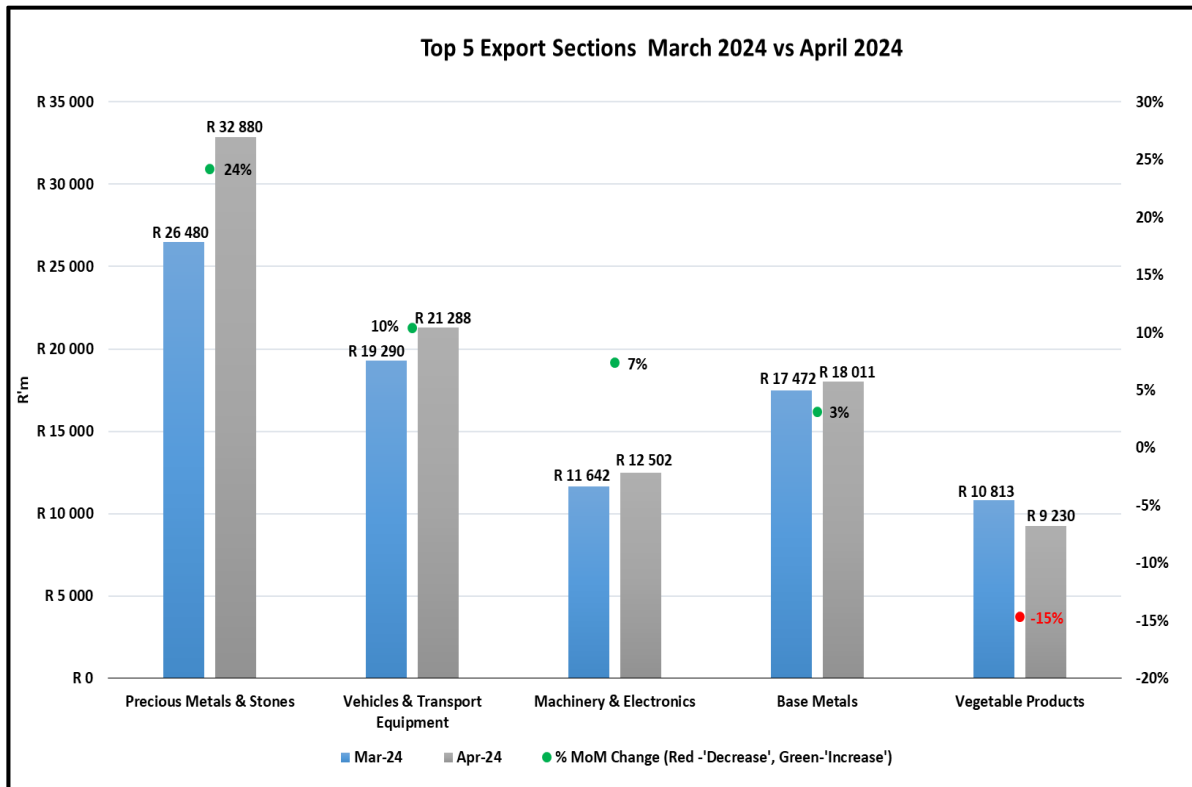
On a month-to-month basis, exports increased by R7.2 billion (4.4%) from R162.3 billion to R169.5 billion between March and April 2024, whilst imports also increased by R5.9 billion (3.8%) from R153.2 billion to R159.1 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in April, driven by PGMs, Gold, and Vehicles (Passengers). Imports flows increased on the back of sizable increases in the importation of Petroleum Oils (Excluding Crude), Original Equipment Components, and Vehicles (Passengers).

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R7.3 billion announced for March 2024 was revised upwards by R1.9 billion, with the final number at R9.2 billion.

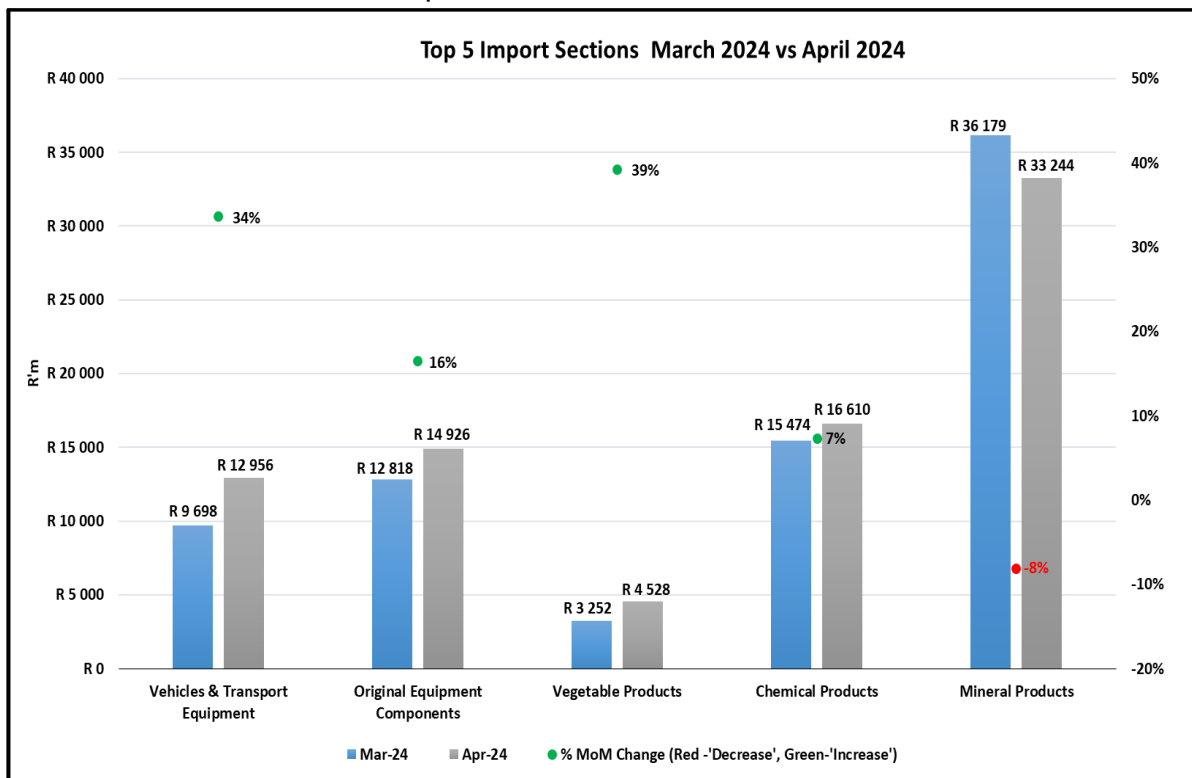
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from March (revised) to April (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2024	April 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	45 357	47 504	2 147	4.7%
	Imports	18 186	14 919	-3 267	-18.0%
	Trade Balance	27 171	32 585	-	-
America	Exports	16 280	13 366	-2 913	-17.9%
	Imports	15 213	14 433	-780	-5.1%
	Trade Balance	1 066	-1 066	-	-
Asia	Exports	50 170	51 598	1 428	2.8%
	Imports	76 174	82 240	6 066	8.0%
	Trade Balance	-26 004	-30 642	-	-
Europe	Exports	36 051	41 255	5 204	14.4%
	Imports	42 148	45 071	2 924	6.9%
	Trade Balance	-6 097	-3 817	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 066	1 854	-211	-10.2%
	Imports	1 206	2 103	897	74.4%
	Trade Balance	860	-248	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	11 386	12 683	1 296	11.4%
	Imports	242	290	48	19.7%
	Trade Balance	11 144	12 392	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 024	1 264	240	23.5%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 024	1 264	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for April 2024 indicates a preliminary trade balance deficit of R0.7 billion.

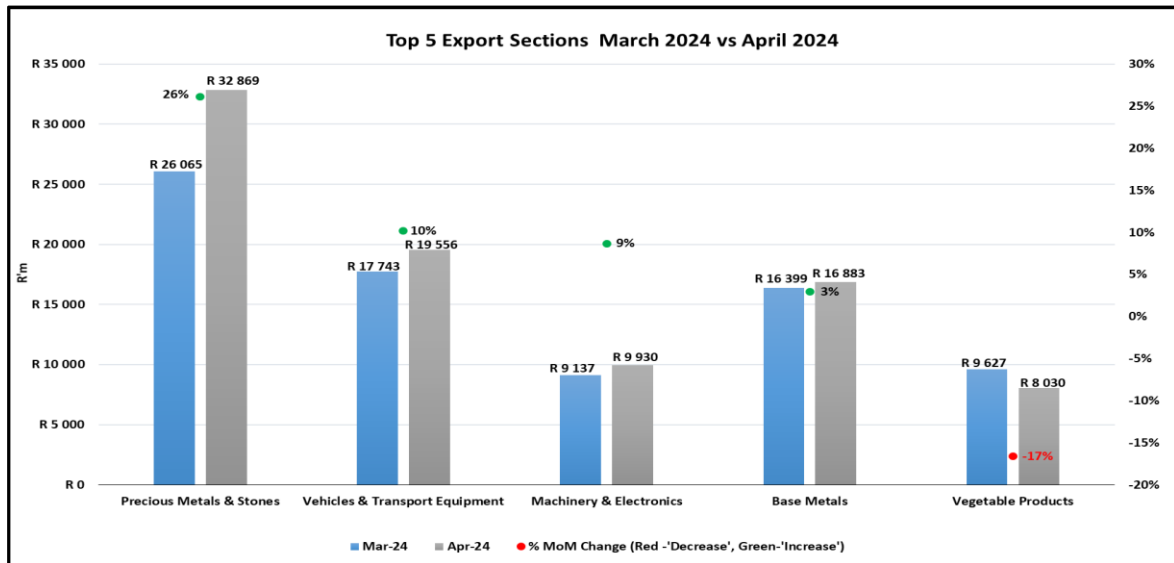
Summary

The R0.7 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for April 2024 was as a result of exports of R153.0 billion and imports of R153.7 billion. Exports increased by R7.4 billion (5.0%) between March and April 2024 whilst imports increased by R6.2 billion (4.2%) over the same period.

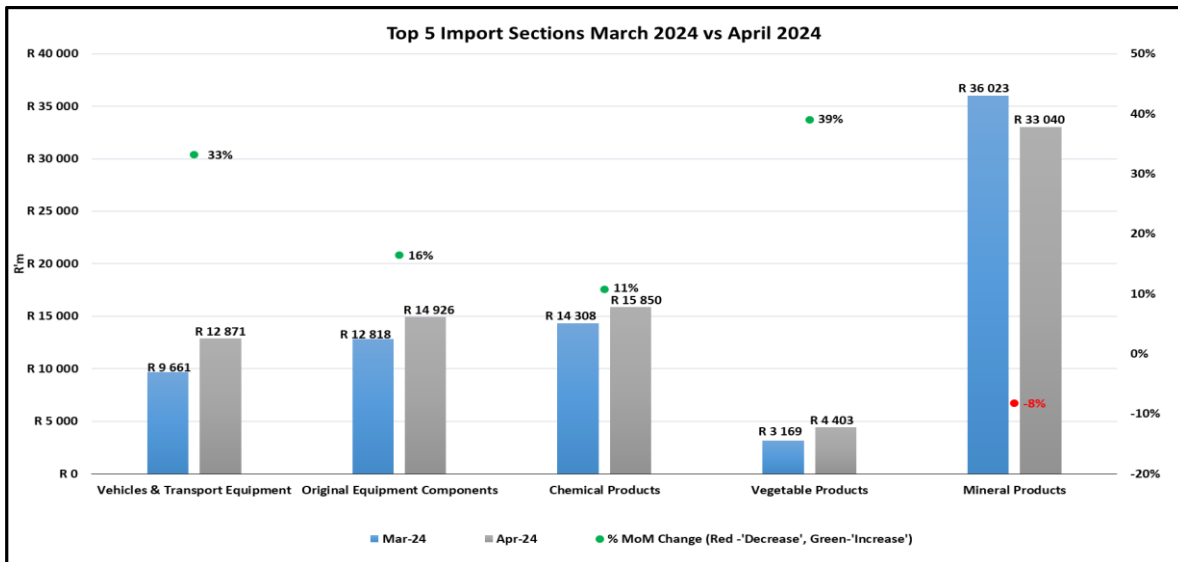
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a deficit of R15.9 billion, compared to R31.2 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2023.

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 March 2024 (revised) and April (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2024	April 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 716	31 026	2 310	8.0% ↑
	Imports	12 550	9 585	-2 965	-23.6% ↓
	Trade Balance	16 166	21 441	-	-

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SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance	Ratio ⁵⁾	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Month Total 2024	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾	Month Total 2024
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(325 966 051)	0.96	(47 577 561)	0.98	1.16	1 959 611 625	6 545 211 803	7 134 090 125	1.26	7 758 768 869	7 460 056 176	2 007 189 186
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	28 078 295 915	3.10	4 702 014 416	2.04	5.44	9 229 679 126	37 998 742 071	41 453 042 469	2.85	11 831 963 680	13 374 746 554	4 527 664 710
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(1 794 325 116)	0.59	(59 777 243)	0.93	0.47	802 840 903	2 198 205 072	2 535 116 404	0.54	3 829 469 205	4 329 441 520	862 618 146
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	7 902 139 479	1.44	2 399 386 769	1.52	4.14	7 013 111 175	22 799 182 110	25 757 967 487	2.90	18 257 946 666	17 855 828 008	4 613 724 406
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	43 800 887 720	1.34	10 240 604 296	1.31	25.65	43 484 823 287	178 557 720 976	174 275 828 894	20.90	138 073 806 162	130 474 941 174	33 244 218 991
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(27 702 934 150)	0.57	(6 520 253 743)	0.61	5.95	10 090 139 107	38 474 537 091	36 985 722 508	10.44	63 006 038 664	64 688 656 658	16 610 392 850
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(15 769 473 540)	0.40	(4 282 155 466)	0.38	1.58	2 671 871 282	11 383 129 677	10 549 396 665	4.37	23 285 410 755	26 318 870 205	6 954 026 748
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(96 602 274)	0.94	48 018 606	1.13	0.24	411 436 177	1 370 509 608	1 470 189 481	0.23	1 443 548 795	1 566 791 755	363 417 571
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 097 422 788	1.45	520 678 950	1.90	0.65	1 097 746 584	3 220 049 097	3 534 637 454	0.36	2 361 465 772	2 437 214 666	577 067 634
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	2 986 546 809	1.37	712 250 097	1.34	1.65	2 801 697 147	11 700 914 212	10 959 594 546	1.31	8 334 489 366	7 973 047 737	2 089 447 050
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(13 496 162 867)	0.36	(3 352 704 854)	0.38	1.23	2 090 851 004	7 999 134 541	7 602 113 468	3.42	19 801 213 849	21 098 276 335	5 443 555 858
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 746 171 734)	0.22	(892 681 614)	0.29	0.21	358 751 201	1 267 842 315	1 324 591 655	0.79	5 564 288 800	6 070 763 389	1 251 432 815
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 972 993 116)	0.45	(1 008 800 838)	0.35	0.31	532 821 668	2 487 748 131	2 431 078 445	0.97	5 574 973 493	5 404 071 561	1 541 622 506
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	100 519 037 296	12.13	30 744 254 834	15.40	19.40	32 879 969 509	125 609 744 388	109 551 340 192	1.34	9 522 751 268	9 032 302 896	2 135 714 675
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	37 932 163 399	2.16	9 426 399 107	2.10	10.62	18 011 315 639	75 775 424 216	70 704 720 891	5.40	32 424 051 287	32 772 557 492	8 584 916 532
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(91 329 173 494)	0.33	(21 895 964 653)	0.36	7.37	12 501 871 849	45 868 477 306	45 148 454 014	21.63	153 266 002 402	136 477 627 508	34 397 836 502
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	30 713 003 759	1.69	8 332 249 846	1.64	12.56	21 288 242 531	63 698 637 380	75 150 066 825	8.15	61 642 983 995	44 437 063 066	12 955 992 685
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(12 025 293 228)	0.21	(3 053 750 594)	0.22	0.51	862 895 599	3 431 690 890	3 279 974 446	2.46	13 826 781 686	15 305 267 674	3 916 646 193
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 884 282 500)	0.46	(841 528 612)	0.54	0.57	973 803 282	2 940 982 577	3 372 101 313	1.14	6 490 162 977	7 256 383 813	1 815 331 894
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	376 446 550	2.78	85 887 993	1.99	0.10	172 901 146	442 224 216	588 420 097	0.05	446 422 342	211 973 547	87 013 153
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	766 915 721	1.93	137 958 463	1.92	0.17	288 354 426	1 121 671 480	1 592 553 135	0.09	492 374 907	825 637 414	150 395 963
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(53 405 415 654)	0.00	(14 926 126 268)	0.00	0.00	334 597	1 577 890	1 193 552	9.38	50 971 287 311	53 406 609 206	14 926 460 865
Total	Total SA Rand	26 624 065 712	1.04	10 468 381 931	1.07	100.00	169 525 068 864	644 893 357 047	635 402 194 066	100.00	638 206 202 251	608 778 128 354	159 056 686 933

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 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
AFRICA	116 549 406 319	2.84	32 585 033 314	3.18	28.02	163 330 654 512	179 981 356 700	47 504 403 541	9.38	61 522 289 253	63 431 950 381	14 919 370 227
AMERICA	(344 272 338)	0.99	(1 066 483 514)	0.93	7.88	63 335 332 544	57 750 184 319	13 366 488 083	9.07	62 418 737 998	58 094 456 657	14 432 971 597
ASIA	(112 084 196 127)	0.63	(30 642 156 685)	0.63	30.44	209 173 536 462	192 853 763 494	51 597 875 647	51.70	330 397 186 854	304 937 959 621	82 240 032 332
EUROPE	(20 746 513 872)	0.88	(3 816 509 483)	0.92	24.34	158 864 050 245	151 994 509 871	41 254 819 995	28.34	172 664 998 698	172 741 023 743	45 071 329 478
OCEANIA	(434 801 006)	0.94	(248 311 807)	0.88	1.09	6 183 714 060	6 680 717 837	1 854 497 364	1.32	7 523 805 007	7 115 518 843	2 102 809 171
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	39 120 315 092	16.92	12 392 432 116	43.71	7.48	40 807 100 613	41 577 534 201	12 682 606 244	0.18	3 679 184 441	2 457 219 109	290 174 128
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 564 127 644	-	1 264 377 990	-	0.75	3 198 968 611	4 564 127 644	1 264 377 990				
Total	26 624 065 712	1.04	10 468 381 931	1.07	100.00	644 893 357 047	635 402 194 066	169 525 068 864	100.00	638 206 202 251	608 778 128 354	159 056 686 933

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	13 429 503 640	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394	17 201 568 936

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		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance	Ratio	Trade Balance	Ratio ⁵⁾	Month % of total	Month Total 2024	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾	Month Total 2024
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(40 619 965)	0.97	(207 088 254)	0.97	1.03	1 570 688 307	5 290 209 941	5 735 724 226	1.05	6 108 730 796	5 942 812 480	1 611 308 272
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	3 626 870 584	1.82	23 769 383 576	2.82	5.25	8 030 251 958	33 934 927 547	36 804 227 459	2.86	11 519 043 883	13 034 843 883	4 403 381 374
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(266 819 037)	0.69	(2 535 131 304)	0.41	0.39	593 465 293	1 553 536 935	1 788 675 946	0.56	3 826 225 966	4 323 807 250	860 284 330
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 039 529 122	1.26	2 719 886 374	1.18	3.30	5 050 266 126	16 040 892 920	17 854 217 396	2.61	15 744 514 193	15 134 331 022	4 010 737 000
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	7 851 858 862	1.24	33 716 613 341	1.26	26.72	40 892 236 026	168 076 752 043	163 356 369 007	21.49	137 106 630 867	129 639 755 666	33 040 377 164
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(7 191 983 102)	0.55	(29 501 705 389)	0.51	5.66	8 658 142 808	33 066 727 362	30 979 676 620	10.31	59 705 459 986	60 481 382 009	15 850 125 910
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(4 928 647 875)	0.28	(18 304 523 201)	0.30	1.26	1 933 370 266	8 821 390 932	7 698 050 100	4.46	23 023 407 606	26 002 573 301	6 862 018 141
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	13 826 480	1.04	(244 562 931)	0.84	0.24	366 081 032	1 185 305 103	1 282 119 650	0.23	1 414 745 969	1 526 682 581	352 254 552
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	537 978 170	2.53	1 159 658 071	1.74	0.58	890 006 643	2 526 321 341	2 724 435 913	0.23	1 546 709 781	1 564 777 842	352 028 473
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	425 007 729	1.21	1 777 432 903	1.23	1.62	2 472 676 684	10 273 346 199	9 575 184 292	1.33	8 192 815 945	7 797 751 389	2 047 668 955
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(3 563 132 792)	0.25	(13 916 949 148)	0.25	0.79	1 216 479 666	5 120 330 022	4 614 130 527	3.11	17 231 436 163	18 531 079 675	4 779 612 458
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 081 496 927)	0.12	(5 419 096 010)	0.10	0.10	152 275 093	526 545 168	588 092 392	0.80	5 493 624 596	6 007 188 402	1 233 772 020
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 170 403 202)	0.24	(3 629 388 891)	0.32	0.24	359 754 016	1 804 833 410	1 731 038 127	1.00	5 531 786 544	5 360 427 018	1 530 157 218
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	32 151 915 898	45.82	105 200 106 975	33.50	21.48	32 869 273 812	124 496 175 865	108 436 581 581	0.47	4 406 104 087	3 236 474 606	717 357 914
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	8 377 256 172	1.98	34 116 606 826	2.05	11.03	16 883 286 974	72 150 655 606	66 553 333 876	5.53	32 120 749 353	32 436 727 050	8 506 030 802
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(23 892 837 395)	0.29	(98 807 105 097)	0.26	6.49	9 929 663 684	37 702 286 868	35 602 468 566	22.00	151 264 530 514	134 409 573 663	33 822 501 079
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	6 685 312 676	1.52	24 639 566 670	1.56	12.78	19 556 036 615	58 152 318 289	68 879 379 130	8.37	61 476 953 734	44 239 812 460	12 870 723 939
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(3 281 531 337)	0.16	(12 843 019 055)	0.16	0.41	622 453 139	2 684 683 006	2 420 620 762	2.54	13 785 860 139	15 263 639 817	3 903 984 476
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 259 059 635)	0.30	(5 312 590 353)	0.26	0.36	546 504 078	1 745 153 397	1 903 874 730	1.17	6 454 061 012	7 216 465 083	1 805 563 713
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	81 189 420	1.93	369 958 943	2.75	0.11	168 148 807	439 440 357	581 634 148	0.06	446 249 970	211 675 205	86 959 387
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	136 301 190	1.91	755 922 063	1.92	0.19	285 749 653	1 100 692 415	1 575 286 919	0.10	484 035 993	819 364 856	149 448 463
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(14 926 327 515)	0.00	(53 405 789 843)	0.00	0.00	113 350	1 576 121	799 363	9.71	50 971 287 311	53 406 589 206	14 926 440 865
Total	Total SA Rand	(675 812 479)	1.00	(15 901 813 734)	0.97	100.00	153 046 924 030	586 694 100 847	570 685 920 730	100.00	617 854 964 408	586 587 734 464	153 722 736 509

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 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
AFRICA	74 023 526 873	2.79	21 440 838 904	3.24	20.27	105 131 398 312	115 265 083 364	31 026 258 707	6.24	41 171 051 410	41 241 556 491	9 585 419 803
AMERICA	(344 272 338)	0.99	(1 066 483 514)	0.93	8.73	63 335 332 544	57 750 184 319	13 366 488 083	9.39	62 418 737 998	58 094 456 657	14 432 971 597
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EUROPE	(20 746 513 872)	0.88	(3 816 509 483)	0.92	26.96	158 864 050 245	151 994 509 871	41 254 819 995	29.32	172 664 998 698	172 741 023 743	45 071 329 478
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OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	39 120 315 092	16.92	12 392 432 116	43.71	8.29	40 807 100 613	41 577 534 201	12 682 606 244	0.19	3 679 184 441	2 457 219 109	290 174 128
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 564 127 644	-	1 264 377 990	-	0.83	3 198 968 611	4 564 127 644	1 264 377 990				
Total	(15 901 813 734)	0.97	(675 812 479)	1.00	100.00	586 694 100 847	570 685 920 730	153 046 924 030	100.00	617 854 964 408	586 587 734 464	153 722 736 509

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	13 429 503 640	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394	17 201 568 936

Notes:

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- 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 April 2024 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.1 billion.

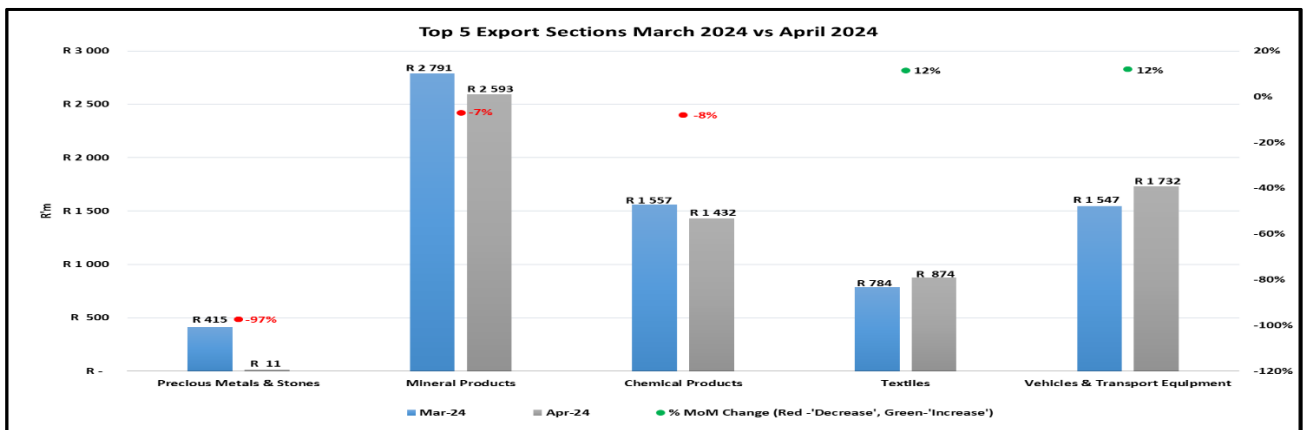
Summary

The R11.1 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2024 was as a result of exports of R16.4 billion and imports of R5.3 billion. Exports decreased by R0.2 billion (-1.0%) between March and April 2024 and imports decreased by R0.3 billion (-5.4%) over the same period.

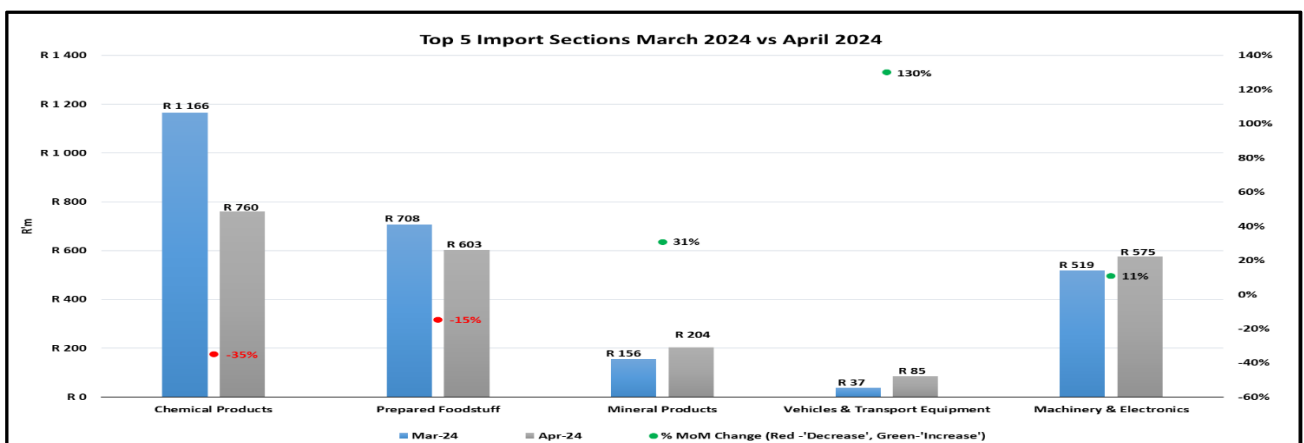
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R42.5 billion, compared to R37.8 billion in 2023.

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