



## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 28 June 2024*

## **SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for May 2024**

**Pretoria, 28 June 2024** – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R20.1 billion in May 2024. This surplus was attributable to exports of R178.4 billion and imports of R158.3 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 May 2024) preliminary trade balance surplus of R45.2 billion was an improvement from the R18.2 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2023. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for May 2024 (R178.4 billion) were 2.4% lower compared to R182.7 billion recorded in May 2023. Similarly, import flows were lower by 7.3%, having decreased from R170.7 billion in May 2023 to R158.3 billion in the current period.

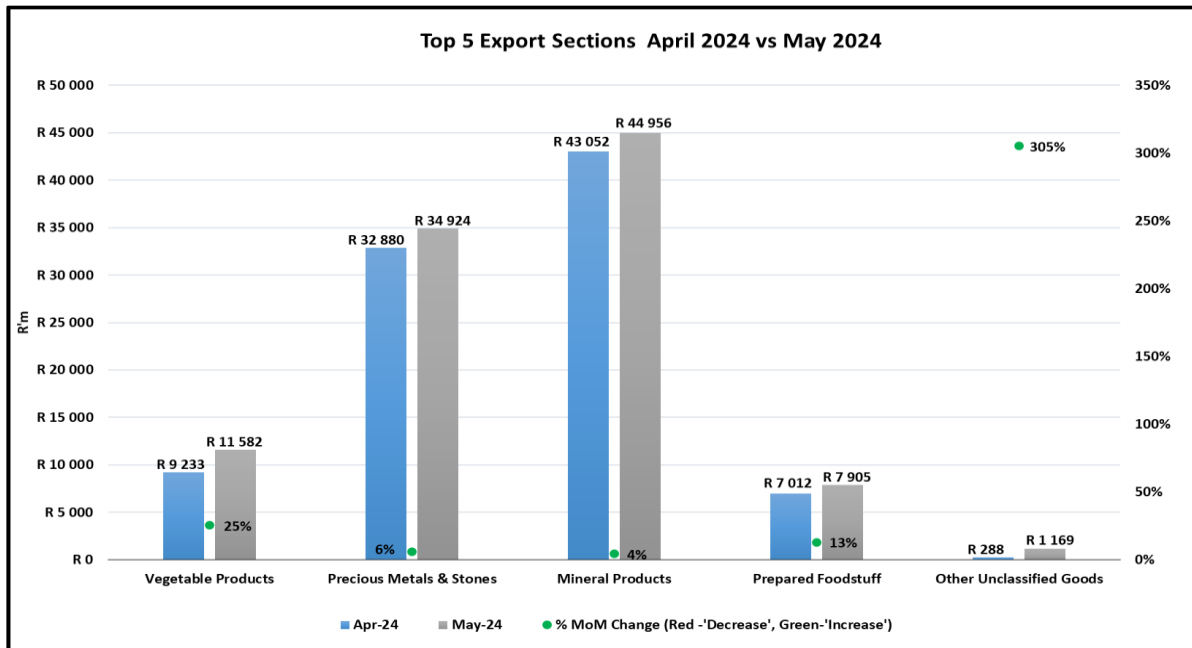
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R9.6 billion (5.7%) from R168.8 billion to R178.4 billion between April and May 2024, whilst imports decreased by R0.8 billion (-0.5%) from R159.1 billion to R158.3 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in May, driven by Iron Ores, Manganese Ores, PGMs, Citrus Fruit, and Vehicles (Goods). Import flows declined marginally on the back of decreases in the importation of Petroleum Oils (Excluding Crude) and Wheat and Meslin.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.5 billion announced for April 2024 was revised downwards by R0.8 billion, with the final number at R9.7 billion.

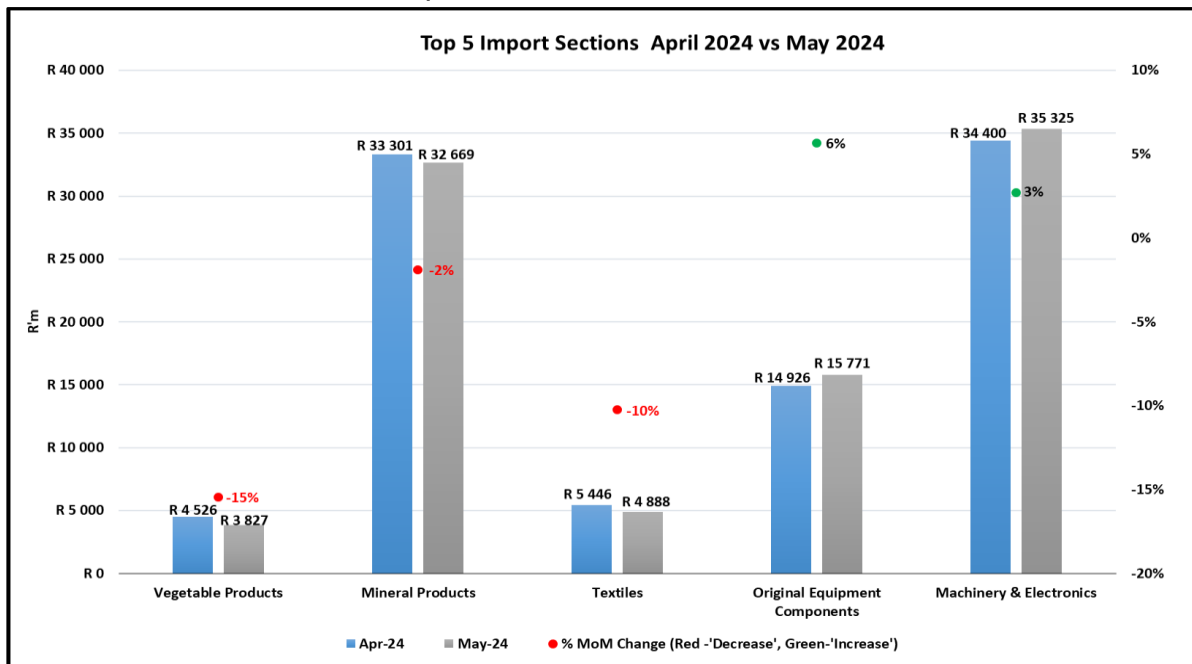
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics May 2024](#)

## 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) 2024 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2024	May 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	47 330	48 189	858	1.8%
	Imports	14 922	14 823	-100	-0.7%
	Trade Balance	32 408	33 366	-	-
America	Exports	13 348	16 534	3 186	23.9%
	Imports	14 429	17 707	3 278	22.7%
	Trade Balance	-1 081	-1 173	-	-
Asia	Exports	51 211	55 726	4 516	8.8%
	Imports	82 252	76 822	-5 430	-6.6%
	Trade Balance	-31 042	-21 096	-	-
Europe	Exports	41 081	43 297	2 216	5.4%
	Imports	45 076	46 507	1 431	3.2%
	Trade Balance	-3 995	-3 211	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 839	2 356	517	28.1%
	Imports	2 102	2 161	60	2.8%
	Trade Balance	-262	195	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	12 683	11 078	-1 605	-12.7%
	Imports	290	278	-12	-4.1%
	Trade Balance	12 392	10 800	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 265	1 212	-52	-4.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 265	1 212	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for May 2024 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R8.2 billion.

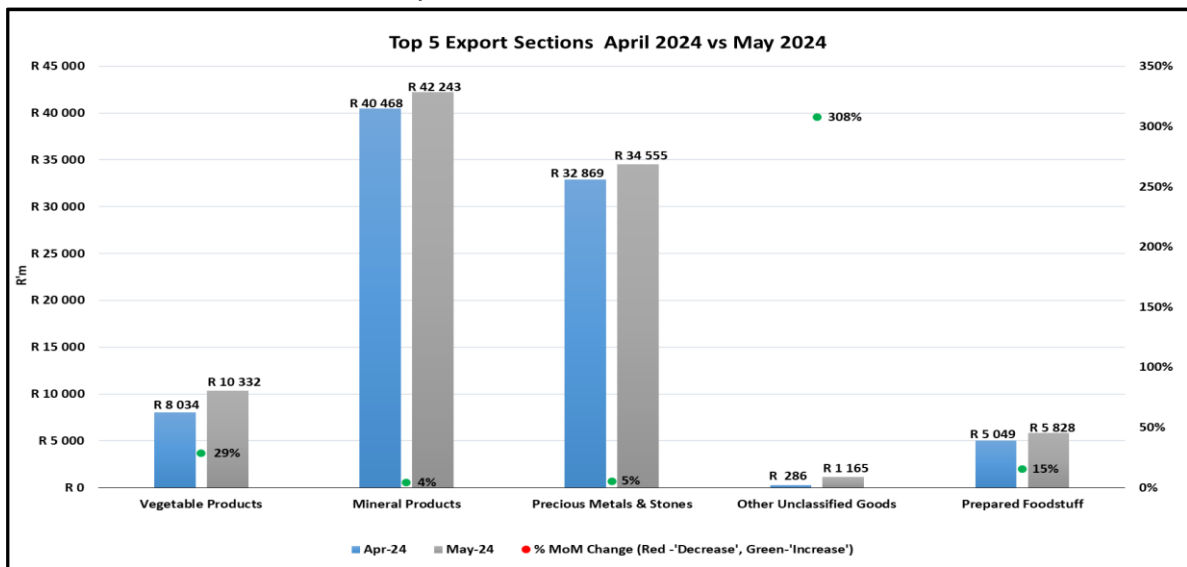
### Summary

The R8.2 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for May 2024 was as a result of exports of R161.3 billion and imports of R153.1 billion. Exports increased by R9.0 billion (5.9%) between April and May 2024 whilst imports decreased by R0.6 billion (-0.4%) over the same period.

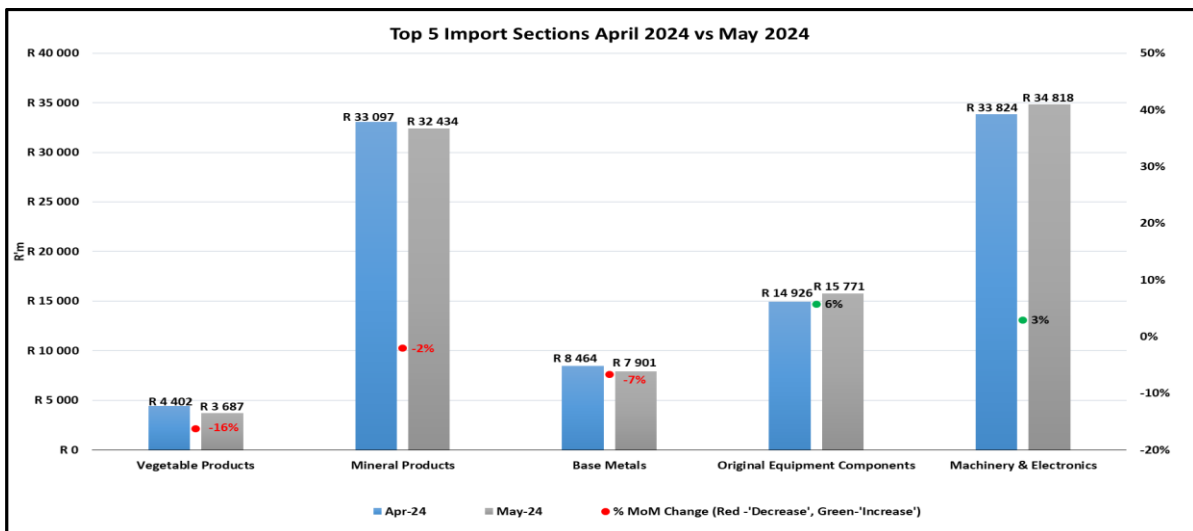
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a deficit of R9.0 billion, compared to R30.5 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2023.

## 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 April 2024 (revised) and May (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	April 2024	May 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	30 862	31 099	237	↑ 0.8%
	Imports	9 587	9 627	40	↑ 0.4%
	Trade Balance	21 275	21 472	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics May 2024](#)

## SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(219 213 249)	0.98	98 886 573	1.05	1.18	8 571 894 590	9 247 849 372	2 111 379 028	1.27	9 539 939 844	9 467 062 621	2 012 492 455
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	35 837 334 510	3.08	7 754 972 005	3.03	6.49	50 660 710 376	53 037 383 571	11 581 678 984	2.42	15 629 472 941	17 200 049 061	3 826 706 979
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 195 534 287)	0.60	(431 786 881)	0.64	0.43	3 102 712 508	3 327 964 660	762 270 166	0.75	5 183 514 175	5 523 498 947	1 194 057 047
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	11 029 495 983	1.49	3 128 802 547	1.66	4.43	29 903 040 350	33 660 412 278	7 904 714 937	3.02	23 519 832 462	22 630 916 295	4 775 912 390
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	54 935 487 817	1.34	12 286 804 997	1.38	25.20	224 205 388 402	218 129 710 071	44 955 581 280	20.64	170 594 217 881	163 194 222 254	32 668 776 283
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(34 016 362 638)	0.58	(6 303 119 484)	0.63	5.89	49 278 030 663	47 494 900 770	10 514 590 607	10.62	78 827 006 980	81 511 263 408	16 817 710 091
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(19 260 142 089)	0.42	(3 523 119 799)	0.47	1.77	14 414 157 276	13 734 733 918	3 155 207 834	4.22	29 964 272 543	32 994 876 007	6 678 327 633
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(101 795 530)	0.95	(5 192 348)	0.99	0.21	1 776 076 144	1 845 145 996	375 028 029	0.24	1 835 366 278	1 946 941 526	380 220 377
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 310 206 969	1.43	211 234 789	1.35	0.45	4 069 769 681	4 345 144 320	809 010 229	0.38	2 929 972 538	3 034 937 351	597 775 440
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	3 840 329 574	1.38	978 323 251	1.46	1.75	14 604 151 100	13 956 942 159	3 123 320 641	1.36	10 408 749 332	10 116 612 585	2 144 997 390
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(16 204 529 699)	0.38	(2 687 463 928)	0.45	1.23	10 222 526 880	9 774 040 974	2 200 348 424	3.09	24 303 244 782	25 978 570 673	4 887 812 352
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(5 705 012 374)	0.23	(958 813 606)	0.26	0.19	1 593 498 509	1 659 398 866	334 813 958	0.82	6 920 415 233	7 364 411 240	1 293 627 564
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 684 998 028)	0.45	(712 280 812)	0.47	0.36	3 169 404 536	3 064 485 512	633 766 551	0.85	7 213 783 616	6 749 483 540	1 346 047 363
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	133 491 267 716	13.15	33 092 811 365	19.07	19.58	159 099 341 898	144 477 724 474	34 924 275 642	1.16	12 195 293 793	10 986 456 758	1 831 464 277
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	48 423 212 233	2.19	10 527 028 877	2.32	10.38	96 685 405 562	89 122 464 011	18 519 571 996	5.05	41 349 300 683	40 699 251 778	7 992 543 119
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(113 779 249 211)	0.34	(22 437 002 857)	0.36	7.22	59 643 547 919	58 025 785 052	12 888 408 398	22.32	199 705 422 408	171 805 034 263	35 325 411 255
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	38 290 603 429	1.67	7 701 080 708	1.60	11.47	85 852 156 485	95 457 700 382	20 453 831 975	8.06	76 669 953 866	57 167 096 953	12 752 751 267
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(14 881 466 946)	0.22	(2 850 285 320)	0.24	0.50	4 396 871 219	4 169 039 235	888 985 053	2.36	17 831 164 429	19 050 506 181	3 739 270 373
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 849 380 295)	0.47	(966 850 414)	0.49	0.53	3 839 502 866	4 317 673 669	945 372 406	1.21	8 418 425 288	9 167 053 964	1 912 222 820
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	402 572 840	2.23	26 205 272	1.23	0.08	669 181 490	729 247 061	140 826 964	0.07	560 802 596	326 674 221	114 621 692
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 701 534 035	2.61	934 639 829	4.99	0.66	1 295 852 842	2 761 560 420	1 169 027 629	0.15	598 044 373	1 060 026 385	234 387 800
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(69 174 994 422)	0.00	(15 771 428 295)	0.00	0.00	1 853 830	1 263 212	69 660	9.96	64 681 370 153	69 176 257 634	15 771 497 955
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>45 189 366 338</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>20 093 446 469</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>827 055 075 126</b>	<b>812 340 569 983</b>	<b>178 392 080 391</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>808 879 566 194</b>	<b>767 151 203 645</b>	<b>158 298 633 922</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
AFRICA	149 264 456 062	2.90	33 366 327 283	3.25	27.01	210 229 906 719	227 646 580 054	48 188 960 697	9.36	76 460 001 167	78 382 123 992	14 822 633 414
AMERICA	(1 542 213 277)	0.98	(1 173 271 273)	0.93	9.27	81 094 702 375	74 252 435 121	16 533 759 772	11.19	79 523 160 500	75 794 648 398	17 707 031 045
ASIA	(133 909 998 124)	0.65	(21 095 588 901)	0.73	31.24	267 257 026 269	247 805 717 574	55 726 483 063	48.53	419 916 711 098	381 715 715 698	76 822 071 964
EUROPE	(24 065 760 913)	0.89	(3 210 568 414)	0.93	24.27	209 137 074 195	195 182 139 804	43 296 701 377	29.38	219 358 538 669	219 247 900 717	46 507 269 791
OCEANIA	(253 526 610)	0.97	194 709 789	1.09	1.32	7 586 506 304	9 021 890 070	2 356 158 446	1.37	9 244 134 761	9 275 416 680	2 161 448 657
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	49 920 011 919	19.25	10 799 696 827	39.82	6.21	47 186 470 901	52 655 410 079	11 077 875 878	0.18	4 377 019 999	2 735 398 160	278 179 051
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	5 776 397 281	-	1 212 141 158	-	0.68	4 563 388 363	5 776 397 281	1 212 141 158				
<b>Total</b>	<b>45 189 366 338</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>20 093 446 469</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>827 055 075 126</b>	<b>812 340 569 983</b>	<b>178 392 080 391</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>808 879 566 194</b>	<b>767 151 203 645</b>	<b>158 298 633 922</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	14 587 876 314	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394	17 201 568 936	16 523 213 266

### 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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(51 368 778)	0.99	148 029 856	1.09	1.07	6 950 293 580	7 467 049 517	1 728 917 392	1.03	7 517 340 291	7 518 418 295	1 580 887 536
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	30 417 927 050	2.82	6 644 562 050	2.80	6.41	45 559 297 233	47 138 660 542	10 331 676 446	2.41	15 182 679 838	16 720 733 492	3 687 114 396
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 143 622 362)	0.43	(639 069 515)	0.46	0.34	2 233 430 708	2 372 325 413	553 070 630	0.78	5 178 694 719	5 515 947 775	1 192 140 145
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	4 511 797 865	1.24	1 792 767 270	1.44	3.61	21 289 163 498	23 680 347 626	5 827 746 764	2.64	20 259 960 055	19 168 549 761	4 034 979 494
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	42 515 899 215	1.26	9 809 228 130	1.30	26.19	211 270 275 802	204 640 588 127	42 243 146 965	21.18	169 349 223 524	162 124 688 912	32 433 918 835
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(36 697 364 852)	0.52	(7 189 026 629)	0.55	5.56	42 304 117 899	39 935 635 156	8 960 767 417	10.55	74 829 414 982	76 633 000 008	16 149 794 046
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(22 500 199 203)	0.31	(4 227 051 635)	0.36	1.47	11 132 045 993	10 094 777 873	2 367 908 940	4.31	29 635 040 273	32 594 977 076	6 594 960 575
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(283 623 163)	0.85	(39 070 766)	0.89	0.20	1 544 729 868	1 611 205 395	329 145 817	0.24	1 797 366 574	1 894 828 558	368 216 583
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 392 223 423	1.73	230 994 875	1.65	0.36	3 173 773 066	3 312 331 198	586 357 563	0.23	1 885 519 383	1 920 107 775	355 362 688
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	2 374 021 075	1.24	720 757 862	1.35	1.74	12 869 539 432	12 253 785 439	2 804 202 428	1.36	10 217 496 245	9 879 764 364	2 083 444 566
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(16 849 502 662)	0.26	(2 911 715 226)	0.31	0.83	6 578 330 397	5 924 231 299	1 338 457 074	2.78	21 091 532 679	22 773 733 961	4 250 172 300
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(6 565 218 604)	0.10	(1 146 097 621)	0.10	0.08	679 496 017	716 367 604	128 279 898	0.83	6 833 630 732	7 281 586 208	1 274 377 519
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 523 061 295)	0.32	(893 970 101)	0.33	0.27	2 296 075 980	2 168 450 569	437 750 129	0.87	7 159 437 984	6 691 511 864	1 331 720 230
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	139 178 111 976	37.48	33 976 581 889	59.74	21.42	157 285 254 137	142 993 650 441	34 554 960 220	0.38	5 828 605 902	3 815 538 465	578 378 331
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	43 521 651 229	2.08	9 438 914 132	2.19	10.75	92 005 722 332	83 792 846 631	17 340 032 772	5.16	40 935 978 351	40 271 195 402	7 901 118 640
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(123 530 830 956)	0.27	(24 716 344 536)	0.29	6.26	49 172 150 773	45 698 431 578	10 101 379 097	22.74	197 158 221 381	169 229 262 534	34 817 723 633
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	30 980 829 857	1.54	6 463 678 481	1.51	11.89	78 817 839 992	87 920 082 841	19 185 849 335	8.31	76 473 751 430	56 939 252 984	12 722 170 854
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(15 927 010 867)	0.16	(3 078 732 019)	0.17	0.40	3 447 847 474	3 071 528 830	650 055 349	2.44	17 781 972 995	18 998 539 697	3 728 787 368
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(6 680 194 675)	0.27	(1 369 913 111)	0.28	0.33	2 285 669 451	2 433 317 912	528 687 062	1.24	8 373 263 106	9 113 512 587	1 898 600 173
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	393 828 339	2.21	23 948 378	1.21	0.09	665 810 304	720 053 365	138 419 217	0.07	560 541 041	326 225 026	114 470 839
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 688 067 859	2.60	932 146 967	5.00	0.72	1 270 595 011	2 740 440 199	1 165 153 280	0.15	588 072 146	1 052 372 340	233 006 313
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(69 175 368 611)	0.00	(15 771 428 295)	0.00	0.00	1 852 061	869 023	69 660	10.30	64 681 370 153	69 176 237 634	15 771 497 955
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(8 953 008 140)</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>8 199 190 436</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>752 833 311 008</b>	<b>730 686 976 578</b>	<b>161 302 033 455</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>783 319 113 784</b>	<b>739 639 984 718</b>	<b>153 102 843 019</b>

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2023 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2024 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2024 (R'm)
AFRICA	95 122 081 584	2.87	21 472 071 250	3.23	19.28	136 008 142 601	145 992 986 649	31 098 913 761	6.29	50 899 548 757	50 870 905 065	9 626 842 511
AMERICA	(1 542 213 277)	0.98	(1 173 271 273)	0.93	10.25	81 094 702 375	74 252 435 121	16 533 759 772	11.57	79 523 160 500	75 794 648 398	17 707 031 045
ASIA	(133 909 998 124)	0.65	(21 095 588 901)	0.73	34.55	267 257 026 269	247 805 717 574	55 726 483 063	50.18	419 916 711 098	381 715 715 698	76 822 071 964
EUROPE	(24 065 760 913)	0.89	(3 210 568 414)	0.93	26.84	209 137 074 195	195 182 139 804	43 296 701 377	30.38	219 358 538 669	219 247 900 717	46 507 269 791
OCEANIA	(253 526 610)	0.97	194 709 789	1.09	1.46	7 586 506 304	9 021 890 070	2 356 158 446	1.41	9 244 134 761	9 275 416 680	2 161 448 657
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	49 920 011 919	19.25	10 799 696 827	39.82	6.87	47 186 470 901	52 655 410 079	11 077 875 878	0.18	4 377 019 999	2 735 398 160	278 179 051
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	5 776 397 281	-	1 212 141 158	-	0.75	4 563 388 363	5 776 397 281	1 212 141 158				
<b>Total</b>	<b>(8 953 008 140)</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>8 199 190 436</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>752 833 311 008</b>	<b>730 686 976 578</b>	<b>161 302 033 455</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>783 319 113 784</b>	<b>739 639 984 718</b>	<b>153 102 843 019</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	14 587 876 314	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394	17 201 568 936	16 523 213 266

### 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 May 2024 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.9 billion.

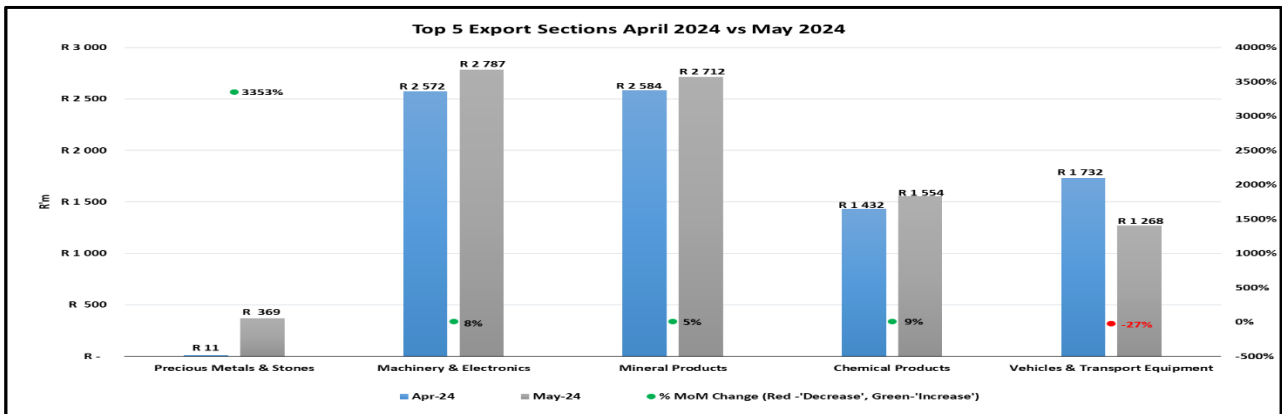
### Summary

The R11.9 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for May 2024 was as a result of exports of R17.1 billion and imports of R5.2 billion. Exports increased by R0.6 billion (3.8%) between April and May 2024 and imports decreased by R0.1 billion (-2.6%) over the same period.

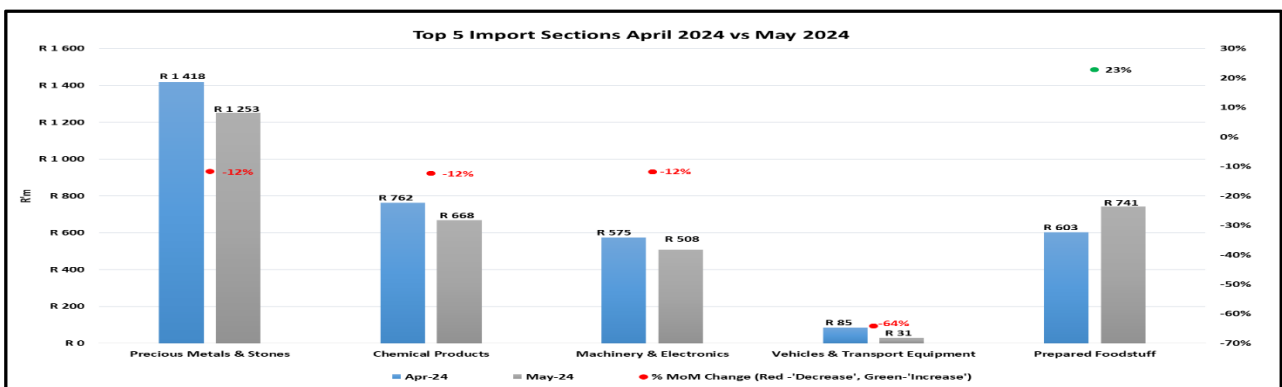
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R54.1 billion, compared to R48.7 billion in 2023.

### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics May 2024](#)

ENDS.

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