



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 31 December 2024

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for November 2024

Pretoria, 31 December 2024 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R34.7 billion in November 2024. This surplus was attributable to exports of R180.9 billion and imports of R146.2 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 November 2024) preliminary trade balance surplus of R181.3 billion was an improvement from the R111.0 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2023. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for November 2024 (R180.9 billion) were 4.0% lower compared to R188.4 billion recorded in November 2023. Import flows were lower by 9.0%, having decreased from R160.8 billion in November 2023 to R146.2 billion in the current period.

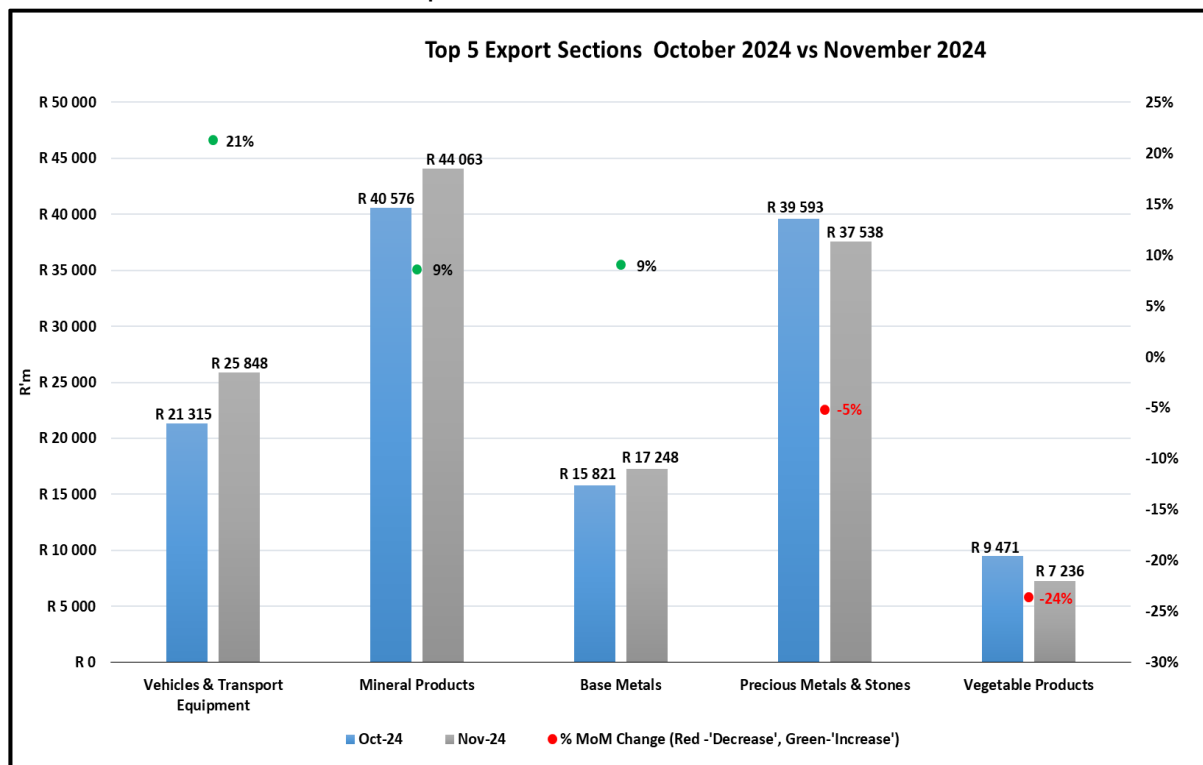
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R2.1 billion (1.2%) from R178.8 billion to R180.9 billion between October and November 2024, whilst imports decreased by R18.4 billion (-11.2%) from R164.7 billion to R146.2 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in November, driven by Vehicles (Goods), PGMs, and Iron Ores and Concentrates. Import flows decreased on the back of lower importation of Petroleum Oils (Excl. Crude), Original Equipment Components, and Aeroplanes.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R14.6 billion announced for October 2024 was revised downwards by R0.5 billion, with the final number at R14.1 billion.

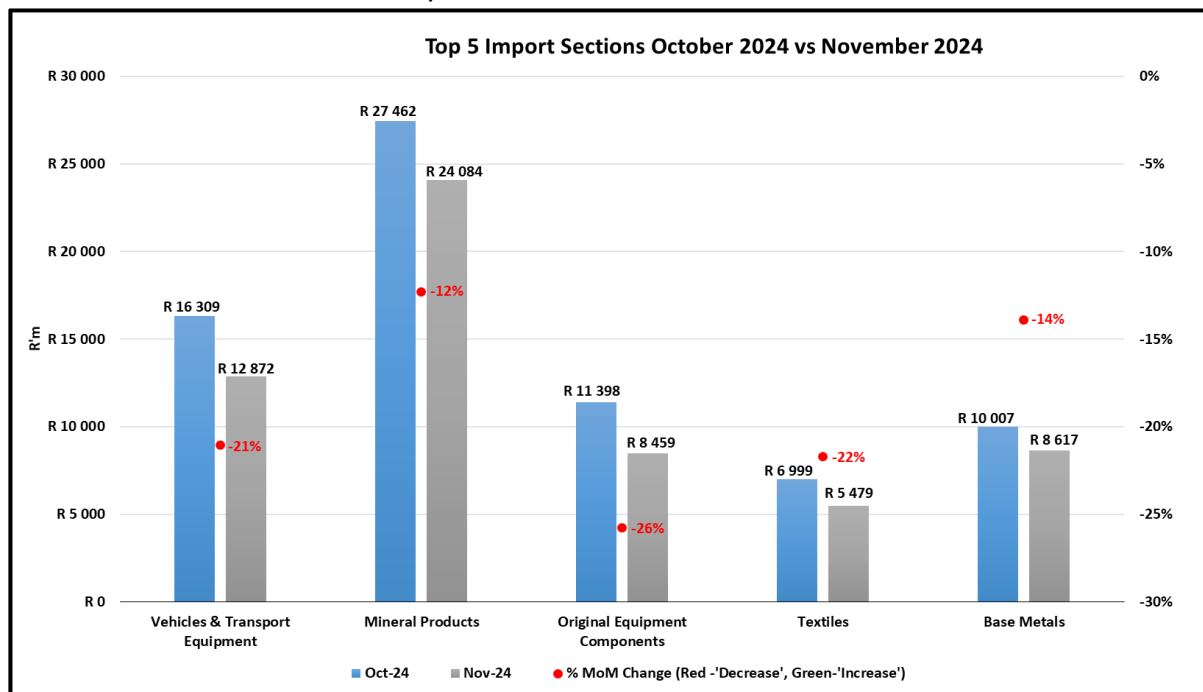
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from October (revised) to November (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2024	November 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	54 726	51 587	-3 139	↓ -5.7%
	Imports	16 585	14 659	-1 926	↓ -11.6%
	Trade Balance	38 141	36 927	-	-
America	Exports	15 450	15 581	132	↑ 0.9%
	Imports	16 731	16 623	-108	↓ -0.6%
	Trade Balance	-1 281	-1 042	-	-
Asia	Exports	50 364	51 964	1 600	↑ 3.2%
	Imports	88 324	77 739	-10 585	↓ -12.0%
	Trade Balance	-37 960	-25 775	-	-
Europe	Exports	35 702	44 176	8 473	↑ 23.7%
	Imports	41 444	34 853	-6 591	↓ -15.9%
	Trade Balance	-5 742	9 323	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 760	1 879	119	↑ 6.8%
	Imports	1 220	2 007	787	↑ 64.5%
	Trade Balance	540	-128	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	19 568	14 742	-4 826	↓ -24.7%
	Imports	354	337	-17	↓ -4.8%
	Trade Balance	19 214	14 405	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 220	986	-235	↓ -19.2%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 220	986	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for November 2024 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R20.2 billion.

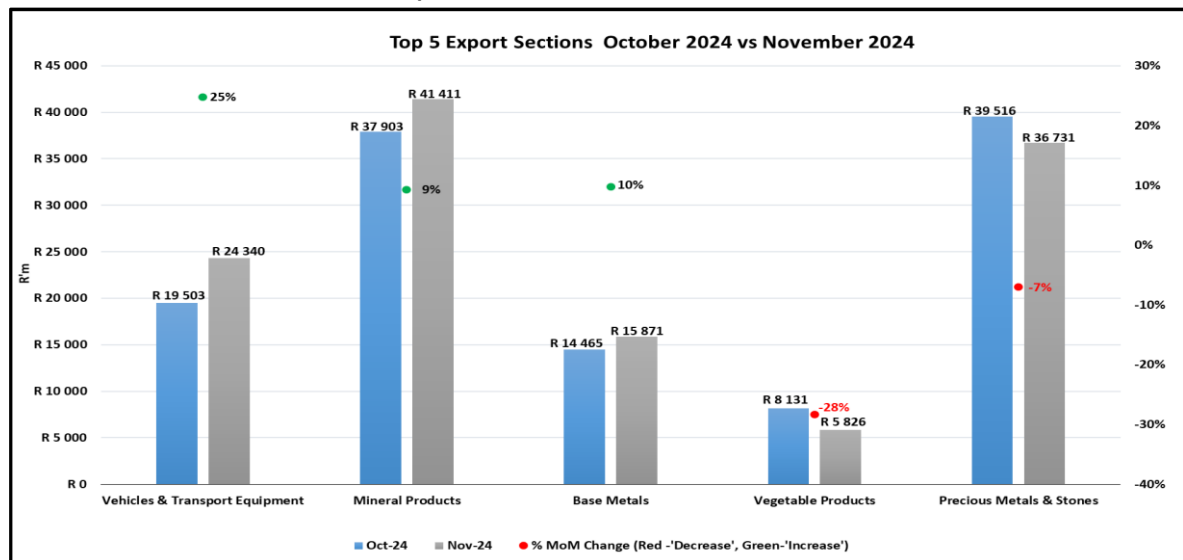
Summary

The R20.2 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2024 was as a result of exports of R160.3 billion and imports of R140.0 billion. Exports increased by R1.2 billion (0.8%) between October and November 2024 whilst imports decreased by R18.1 billion (-11.5%) over the same period.

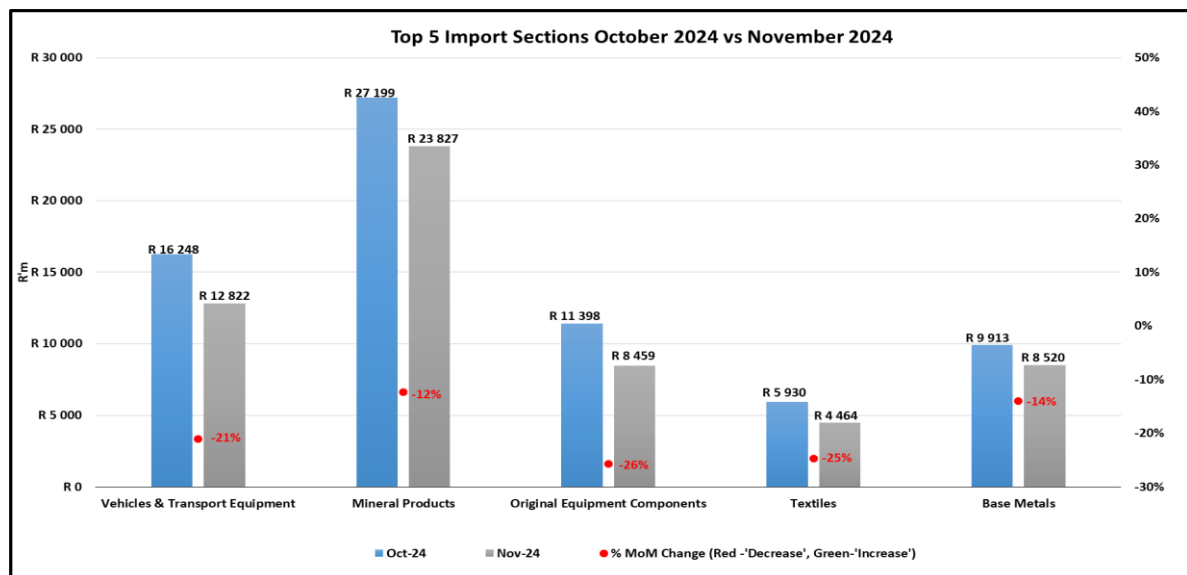
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R53.1 billion, compared to R8.0 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2023.

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 October 2024 (revised) and November (preliminary) 2024 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2024	November 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	34 983	30 930	-4 053	↓ -11.6%
	Imports	10 053	8 457	-1 596	↓ -15.9%
	Trade Balance	24 930	22 473	-	-

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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 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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	1 280 326 678	1.06	643 226 843	1.43	1.19	18 715 803 165	21 103 868 824	2 154 509 245	1.03	19 081 701 456	19 823 542 146	1 511 282 402
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	86 927 901 972	3.11	3 029 634 469	1.72	4.00	126 876 976 904	128 032 631 502	7 236 356 472	2.88	38 618 690 813	41 104 729 530	4 206 722 003
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 508 296 400)	0.53	(692 976 592)	0.48	0.35	6 817 843 603	7 279 564 762	634 994 113	0.91	13 052 544 532	13 787 861 162	1 327 970 705
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	26 646 059 632	1.50	3 213 813 606	1.64	4.55	73 439 065 529	79 977 197 421	8 228 471 309	3.43	50 134 845 716	53 331 137 789	5 014 657 703
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	141 335 253 141	1.43	19 979 150 344	1.83	24.36	479 939 766 164	473 261 695 861	44 062 942 606	16.47	385 540 249 575	331 926 442 720	24 083 792 262
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(78 648 480 869)	0.58	(5 849 210 722)	0.65	6.02	110 324 596 198	107 171 062 945	10 892 283 534	11.45	178 030 483 696	185 819 543 814	16 741 494 256
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(39 963 241 617)	0.45	(3 155 185 223)	0.50	1.75	32 862 131 243	32 262 421 852	3 168 518 377	4.32	67 259 339 177	72 225 663 469	6 323 703 600
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(942 860 578)	0.81	(84 568 415)	0.82	0.22	3 973 365 919	4 101 907 030	393 623 242	0.33	4 529 172 449	5 044 767 608	478 191 657
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 673 813 825	1.39	198 320 588	1.30	0.47	9 388 926 433	9 568 247 566	858 766 192	0.45	6 483 801 516	6 894 433 741	660 445 604
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	8 783 209 127	1.38	776 470 429	1.37	1.59	30 933 831 669	31 603 296 939	2 880 480 667	1.44	22 204 660 376	22 820 087 812	2 104 010 238
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(39 102 400 478)	0.36	(2 922 307 026)	0.47	1.41	21 159 592 433	21 701 243 967	2 556 227 649	3.75	55 127 719 906	60 803 644 445	5 478 534 675
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(15 232 982 754)	0.21	(1 129 678 439)	0.29	0.25	3 815 802 382	4 019 738 531	451 400 056	1.08	16 651 421 262	19 252 721 285	1 581 078 495
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 786 579 723)	0.48	(665 746 528)	0.52	0.40	7 320 831 320	7 257 177 633	716 566 245	0.95	16 363 718 887	15 043 757 356	1 382 312 773
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	311 313 602 668	10.96	35 200 712 986	16.06	20.75	344 274 018 484	342 555 170 167	37 537 763 937	1.60	24 995 870 071	31 241 567 499	2 337 050 951
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	97 712 013 900	2.05	8 631 102 151	2.00	9.53	207 198 685 822	190 788 701 039	17 248 380 610	5.89	89 994 196 658	93 076 687 139	8 617 278 459
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(248 111 400 807)	0.35	(23 501 172 293)	0.36	7.30	140 691 714 428	135 026 105 077	13 205 334 060	25.10	432 282 773 805	383 137 505 884	36 706 506 353
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	120 276 789 952	1.88	12 975 518 563	2.01	14.29	263 823 907 240	256 992 788 567	25 847 525 164	8.80	159 677 012 684	136 715 998 615	12 872 006 601
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(32 525 881 310)	0.24	(3 084 049 032)	0.23	0.52	10 581 565 348	10 072 078 684	942 349 611	2.75	41 391 560 572	42 597 959 994	4 026 398 643
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(12 900 413 728)	0.45	(997 454 438)	0.52	0.60	9 729 606 080	10 381 962 129	1 082 106 441	1.42	21 474 354 526	23 282 375 857	2 079 560 879
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	695 264 154	1.75	55 297 027	1.81	0.07	1 880 757 500	1 617 841 674	123 320 802	0.05	951 155 867	922 577 520	68 023 775
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	4 175 448 532	3.07	534 022 949	4.38	0.38	4 133 624 271	6 194 745 724	692 114 331	0.11	1 581 163 824	2 019 297 192	158 091 382
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(138 773 223 056)	0.00	(8 458 832 920)	0.00	0.00	4 891 479	5 962 310	149 835	5.79	151 476 865 905	138 779 185 366	8 458 982 755
Total	Total SA Rand	181 323 922 261	1.11	34 696 088 327	1.24	100.00	1 907 887 303 614	1 880 975 410 204	180 914 184 498	100.00	1 796 903 303 273	1 699 651 487 943	146 218 096 171

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	350 130 260 027	2.93	36 927 274 720	3.52	28.51	503 867 596 227	531 559 674 060	51 586 502 800	10.03	161 606 245 935	181 429 414 033	14 659 228 080
AMERICA	4 613 144 256	1.03	(1 041 631 989)	0.94	8.61	177 188 489 617	174 436 464 304	15 581 279 759	11.37	183 520 105 059	169 823 320 048	16 622 911 748
ASIA	(309 746 370 746)	0.64	(25 775 070 809)	0.67	28.72	588 751 824 703	555 167 115 625	51 964 191 408	53.17	940 228 152 444	864 913 486 371	77 739 262 217
EUROPE	(7 315 949 047)	0.98	9 322 923 140	1.27	24.42	496 820 629 811	448 464 489 663	44 175 734 168	23.84	483 954 578 463	455 780 438 710	34 852 811 028
OCEANIA	(328 746 573)	0.98	(127 981 145)	0.94	1.04	21 849 007 090	21 024 279 754	1 879 009 826	1.37	19 638 692 755	21 353 026 327	2 006 990 971
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	130 552 602 656	21.55	14 404 920 690	43.76	8.15	109 415 163 920	136 904 405 110	14 741 812 817	0.23	7 955 528 617	6 351 802 454	336 892 127
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	13 418 981 688	-	985 653 720	-	0.54	9 994 592 246	13 418 981 688	985 653 720				
Total	181 323 922 261	1.11	34 696 088 327	1.24	100.00	1 907 887 303 614	1 880 975 410 204	180 914 184 498	100.00	1 796 903 303 273	1 699 651 487 943	146 218 096 171

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	14 587 876 314	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394	17 201 568 936	16 523 213 266	16 850 871 001	18 373 411 972	16 774 916 101	19 882 565 613	14 345 446 781	14 975 769 159

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 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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	886 207 262	1.06	406 402 832	1.32	1.05	14 938 925 068	16 771 970 710	1 681 908 470	0.91	15 035 741 810	15 885 763 448	1 275 505 638
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	74 813 412 727	2.87	1 720 454 155	1.42	3.64	115 449 081 157	114 715 751 486	5 825 742 412	2.93	37 309 716 204	39 902 338 759	4 105 288 257
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(8 814 388 184)	0.36	(913 758 205)	0.31	0.26	4 527 810 547	4 945 073 005	410 205 544	0.95	13 037 711 369	13 759 461 189	1 323 963 749
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	11 516 075 160	1.26	1 266 663 421	1.30	3.38	52 310 137 562	56 200 959 779	5 421 949 898	2.97	42 270 328 364	44 684 884 619	4 155 286 477
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	114 907 252 025	1.35	17 584 348 972	1.74	25.84	450 930 184 393	444 394 868 199	41 410 966 822	17.02	383 222 588 499	329 487 616 174	23 826 617 850
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(86 122 028 560)	0.51	(6 912 798 587)	0.56	5.53	93 316 732 169	88 887 602 374	8 862 184 834	11.27	168 587 478 271	175 009 630 934	15 774 983 421
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(47 699 753 197)	0.33	(4 013 462 104)	0.36	1.38	24 843 435 330	23 606 396 996	2 216 948 868	4.45	66 457 371 550	71 306 150 193	6 230 410 972
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 393 367 709)	0.72	(152 363 526)	0.67	0.19	3 413 964 624	3 528 549 622	312 100 449	0.33	4 420 967 929	4 921 917 331	464 463 975
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 773 641 882	1.65	177 010 976	1.44	0.36	7 159 698 805	7 045 586 709	575 467 202	0.28	3 971 699 330	4 271 944 827	398 456 226
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	5 299 126 268	1.24	375 408 603	1.18	1.51	26 912 403 163	27 584 913 007	2 412 368 326	1.45	21 708 251 155	22 285 786 739	2 036 959 723
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(40 310 042 105)	0.23	(3 033 463 731)	0.32	0.89	12 737 272 672	12 142 801 104	1 430 700 897	3.19	46 853 768 416	52 452 843 209	4 464 164 628
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(17 541 050 207)	0.08	(1 413 600 762)	0.09	0.08	1 515 577 895	1 485 013 592	131 462 508	1.10	16 415 893 463	19 026 063 799	1 545 063 270
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(9 912 762 836)	0.34	(906 299 432)	0.34	0.29	5 302 514 956	5 013 090 057	465 370 380	0.98	16 238 490 360	14 925 852 893	1 371 669 812
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	323 876 880 162	22.48	35 996 406 917	50.02	22.92	339 855 435 206	338 957 029 197	36 730 702 182	0.52	11 444 540 443	15 080 149 035	734 295 265
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	85 951 862 968	1.93	7 351 227 047	1.86	9.90	195 644 197 407	178 065 678 944	15 871 361 553	6.09	88 969 398 196	92 113 815 976	8 520 134 506
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(271 936 202 933)	0.28	(26 037 728 259)	0.28	6.34	115 059 487 638	105 785 107 616	10 160 804 353	25.85	426 571 772 611	377 721 310 549	36 198 532 612
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	103 271 985 885	1.76	11 517 571 588	1.90	15.19	246 544 654 645	239 484 035 901	24 339 536 504	9.16	159 178 530 464	136 212 050 016	12 821 964 916
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(34 969 461 020)	0.18	(3 345 273 195)	0.17	0.42	8 340 757 587	7 524 288 335	674 247 040	2.87	41 263 501 465	42 493 749 355	4 019 520 235
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(17 490 245 626)	0.24	(1 551 217 808)	0.25	0.32	5 573 569 299	5 662 929 185	516 632 020	1.48	21 350 042 184	23 153 174 811	2 067 849 828
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	651 916 442	1.71	53 823 609	1.79	0.08	1 873 201 921	1 573 489 689	121 796 460	0.05	950 260 534	921 573 247	67 972 851
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	4 144 532 830	3.07	530 942 508	4.45	0.43	4 078 918 711	6 143 970 476	684 733 889	0.11	1 559 062 713	1 999 437 646	153 791 381
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(138 775 313 098)	0.00	(8 458 832 920)	0.00	0.00	2 850 276	3 852 268	149 835	6.04	151 476 506 140	138 779 165 366	8 458 982 755
Total	Total SA Rand	53 128 278 136	1.03	20 241 462 099	1.14	100.00	1 730 330 811 031	1 689 522 958 251	160 257 340 446	100.00	1 738 293 621 470	1 636 394 680 115	140 015 878 347

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	221 934 615 902	2.88	22 472 648 492	3.66	19.30	326 311 103 644	340 107 222 107	30 929 658 748	6.04	102 996 564 132	118 172 606 205	8 457 010 256
AMERICA	4 613 144 256	1.03	(1 041 631 989)	0.94	9.72	177 188 489 617	174 436 464 304	15 581 279 759	11.87	183 520 105 059	169 823 320 048	16 622 911 748
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	13 418 981 688	-	985 653 720	-	0.62	9 994 592 246	13 418 981 688	985 653 720				
Total	53 128 278 136	1.03	20 241 462 099	1.14	100.00	1 730 330 811 031	1 689 522 958 251	160 257 340 446	100.00	1 738 293 621 470	1 636 394 680 115	140 015 878 347
Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	14 587 876 314	13 046 045 554	13 841 360 394	17 201 568 936	16 523 213 266	16 850 871 001	18 373 411 972	16 774 916 101	19 882 565 613	14 345 446 781	14 975 769 159	

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Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (Only)

South Africa's trade with the BELN countries for November 2024 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R14.5 billion.

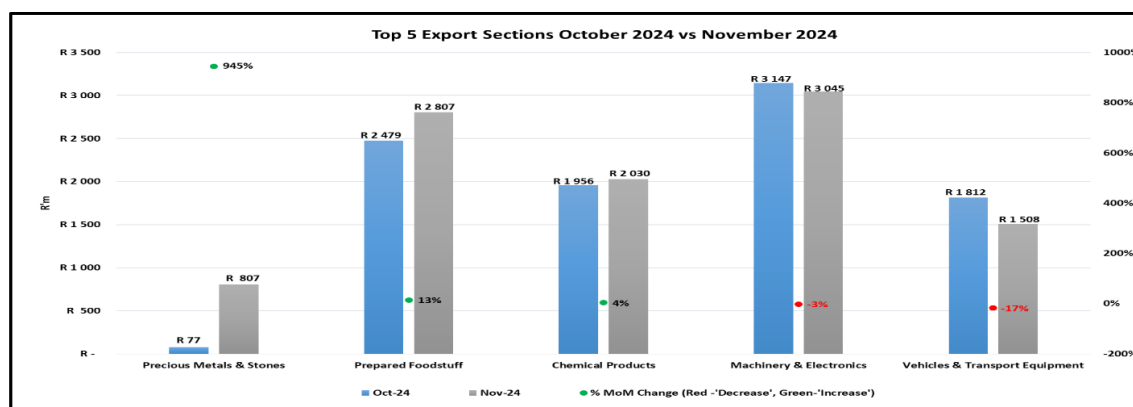
Summary

The R14.5 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2024 was as a result of exports of R20.7 billion and imports of R6.2 billion. Exports increased by R0.9 billion (4.6%) between October and November 2024 and imports decreased by R0.3 billion (-5.0%) over the same period.

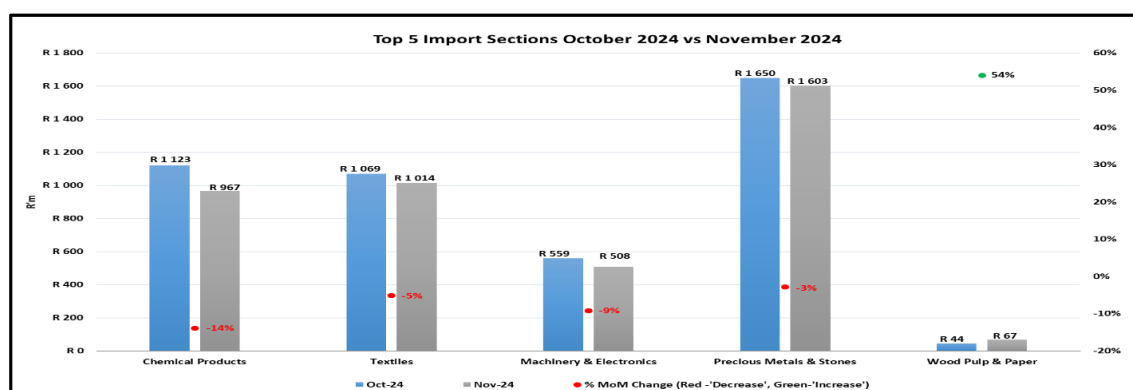
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R128.2 billion, compared to R118.9 billion in 2023.

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