

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 November 2024

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for October 2024

Pretoria, 29 November 2024 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R14.6 billion in October 2024. This surplus was attributable to exports of R179.6 billion and imports of R165.0 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 October 2024) preliminary trade balance surplus of R145.5 billion was an improvement from the R83.4 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2023. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for October 2024 (R179.6 billion) were 3.3% higher compared to R173.9 billion recorded in October 2023. Import flows were lower by 8.3%, having decreased from R180.0 billion in October 2023 to R165.0 billion in the current period.

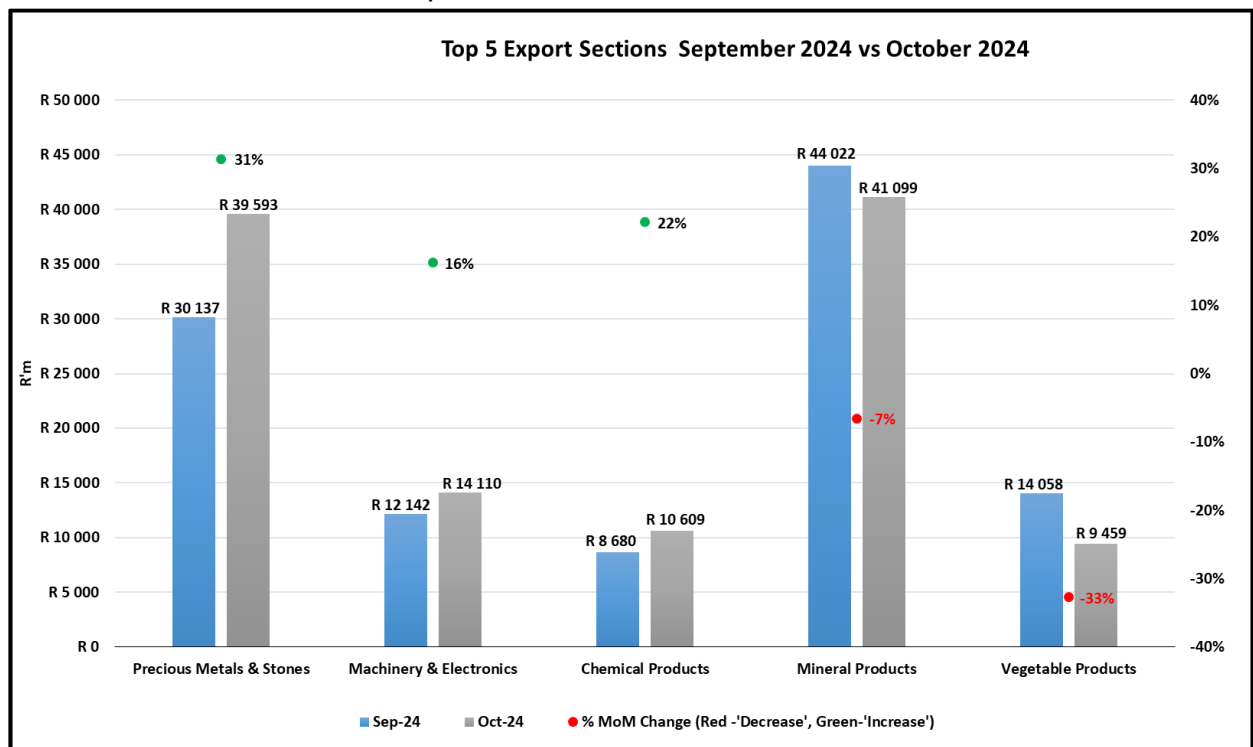
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R9.0 billion (5.3%) from R170.6 billion to R179.6 billion between September and October 2024, whilst imports also increased by R7.0 billion (4.4%) from R158.0 billion to R165.0 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in October, driven by Gold, Diamonds, and Dissolving Grades Chemical Wood Pulp. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Aeroplanes, Petroleum Oils (Excl. Crude), Automatic Data Processing Machines, and Telephone Sets, Including Smartphones.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R12.8 billion announced for September 2024 was revised downwards by R0.2 billion, with the final number at R12.6 billion.

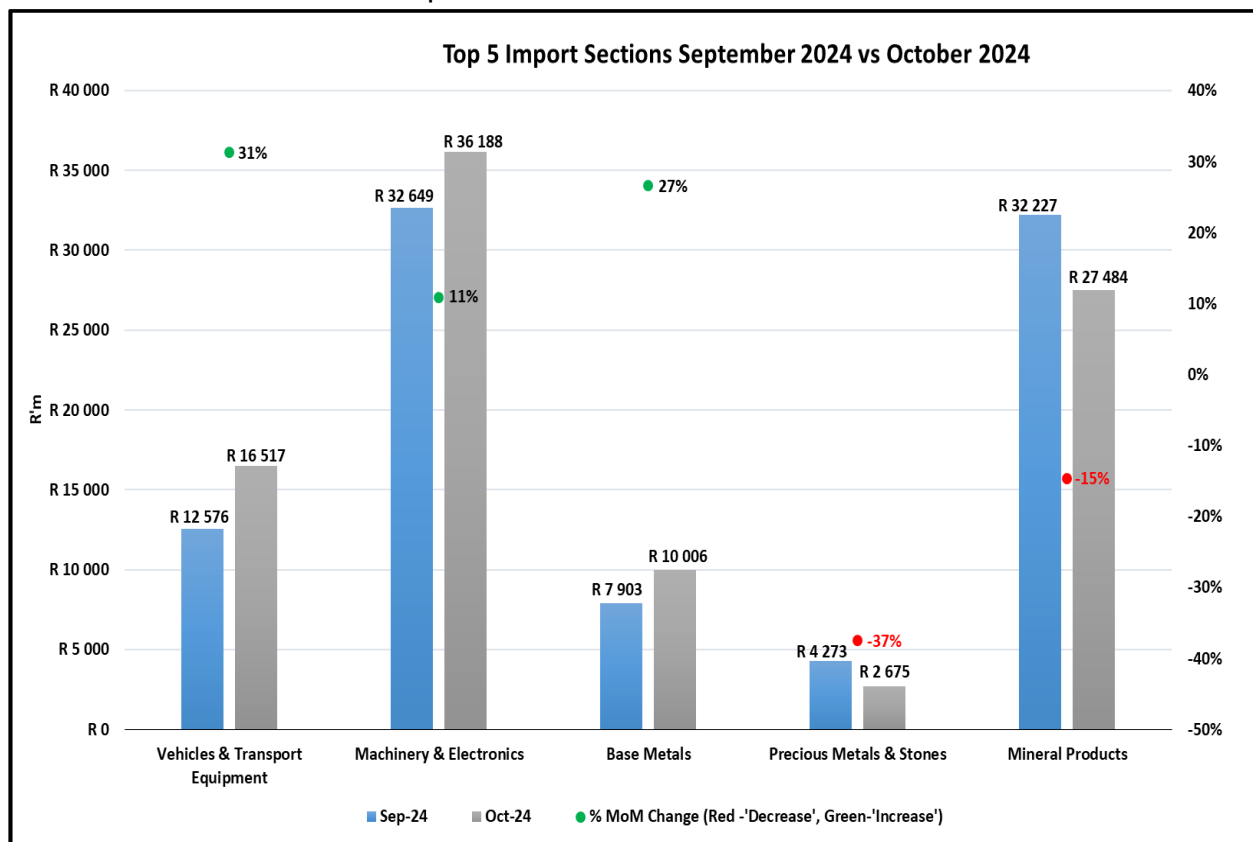
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

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

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	September 2024	October 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	48 813	54 824	6 012	↑ 12.3%
	Imports	18 957	16 588	-2 369	↓ -12.5%
	Trade Balance	29 856	38 237	-	-
America	Exports	16 956	15 702	-1 254	↓ -7.4%
	Imports	18 180	16 772	-1 408	↓ -7.7%
	Trade Balance	-1 224	-1 070	-	-
Asia	Exports	52 116	50 760	-1 356	↓ -2.6%
	Imports	77 628	88 404	10 776	↑ 13.9%
	Trade Balance	-25 513	-37 644	-	-
Europe	Exports	37 356	35 762	-1 594	↓ -4.3%
	Imports	40 592	41 632	1 040	↑ 2.6%
	Trade Balance	-3 236	-5 870	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 684	1 767	83	↑ 4.9%
	Imports	1 925	1 220	-705	↓ -36.6%
	Trade Balance	-241	546	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	12 172	19 568	7 396	↑ 60.8%
	Imports	685	354	-331	↓ -48.3%
	Trade Balance	11 487	19 214	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 477	1 220	-257	↓ -17.4%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 477	1 220	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for October 2024 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R1.4 billion.

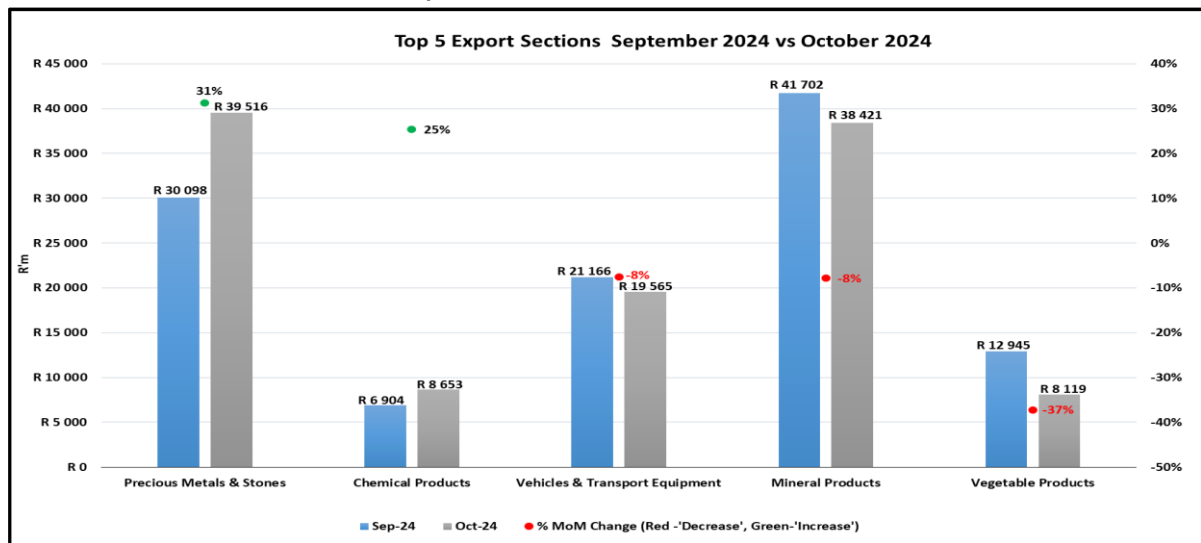
Summary

The R1.4 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for October 2024 was as a result of exports of R159.8 billion and imports of R158.4 billion. Exports increased by R6.3 billion (4.1%) between September and October 2024 whilst imports increased by R6.5 billion (4.3%) over the same period.

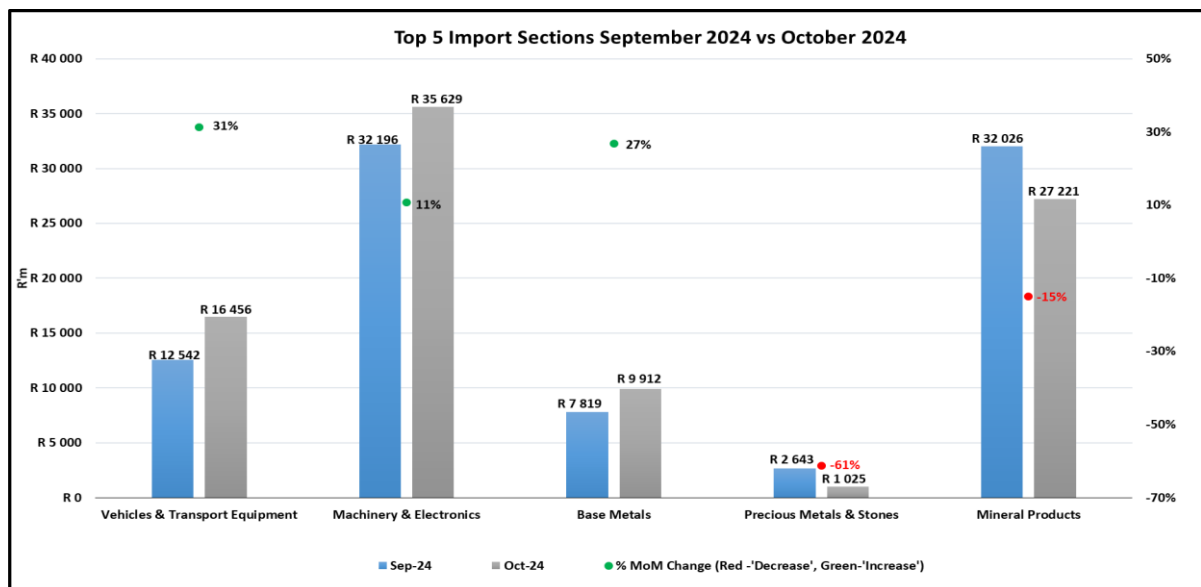
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R31.6 billion, compared to R22.7 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2023.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	September 2024	October 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	31 803	35 070	3 267	10.3%
	Imports	12 913	10 055	-2 858	-22.1%
	Trade Balance	18 890	25 015	-	-

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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	637 358 591	1.03	233 304 000	1.12	1.19	16 857 719 603	18 950 155 871	2 142 364 312	1.16	17 287 512 792	18 312 797 280	1 909 060 312
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	82 470 464 485	3.24	5 732 695 850	2.54	5.27	117 435 768 270	119 353 901 672	9 458 717 375	2.26	34 813 178 505	36 883 437 187	3 726 021 525
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(5 815 111 680)	0.53	(1 342 097 902)	0.29	0.30	6 247 680 675	6 644 515 876	537 601 781	1.14	11 706 528 836	12 459 627 556	1 879 699 683
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	23 432 705 560	1.49	2 520 679 519	1.41	4.84	65 025 861 518	71 741 738 657	8 687 281 287	3.74	45 647 039 624	48 309 033 097	6 166 601 768
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	121 600 049 381	1.39	13 614 988 112	1.50	22.88	432 952 883 814	429 481 474 715	41 099 166 753	16.66	347 035 220 481	307 881 425 334	27 484 178 641
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(72 774 448 485)	0.57	(7 318 362 359)	0.59	5.91	98 752 519 621	96 331 152 941	10 608 862 107	10.87	161 294 340 797	169 105 601 426	17 927 224 466
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(36 803 714 085)	0.44	(4 161 811 159)	0.44	1.85	29 881 996 976	29 113 008 369	3 329 492 431	4.54	61 079 787 618	65 916 722 454	7 491 303 590
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(858 130 679)	0.81	(291 298 580)	0.59	0.24	3 547 184 085	3 708 198 959	424 345 238	0.43	4 011 427 385	4 566 329 638	715 643 818
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 474 667 649	1.40	279 276 707	1.39	0.55	8 558 775 983	8 709 607 202	989 327 829	0.43	5 876 620 937	6 234 939 553	710 051 122
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	7 953 027 086	1.38	1 499 005 500	1.62	2.18	28 549 625 109	28 670 191 356	3 920 081 502	1.47	20 105 685 112	20 717 164 270	2 421 076 002
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(36 175 685 793)	0.35	(4 674 927 939)	0.33	1.29	18 959 801 793	19 147 143 643	2 322 314 362	4.24	49 686 412 000	55 322 829 436	6 997 242 301
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(14 102 274 112)	0.20	(1 894 684 663)	0.21	0.27	3 313 139 293	3 568 557 609	490 687 782	1.45	15 202 087 261	17 670 831 721	2 385 372 445
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 117 770 349)	0.48	(679 550 266)	0.53	0.43	6 598 390 359	6 542 524 699	765 059 864	0.88	14 937 273 982	13 660 295 048	1 444 610 130
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	276 112 896 469	10.55	36 918 319 989	14.80	22.04	311 341 092 914	305 017 412 875	39 592 953 430	1.62	22 701 957 001	28 904 516 406	2 674 633 441
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	89 382 074 294	2.06	6 109 957 590	1.61	8.97	187 048 975 280	173 837 917 453	16 116 128 679	6.07	82 665 964 937	84 455 843 159	10 006 171 089
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(224 718 021 502)	0.35	(22 077 132 280)	0.39	7.86	126 583 919 308	121 794 799 604	14 110 440 713	21.94	396 558 950 907	346 512 821 106	36 187 572 993
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	107 162 848 948	1.86	4 861 860 603	1.29	11.90	234 648 445 546	231 218 221 545	21 378 656 363	10.01	146 904 821 843	124 055 372 597	16 516 795 760
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(29 433 290 985)	0.24	(2 999 477 230)	0.27	0.63	9 464 217 406	9 134 428 445	1 132 517 016	2.50	37 251 978 521	38 567 719 430	4 131 994 246
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(11 900 903 798)	0.44	(1 478 947 428)	0.43	0.63	8 689 708 683	9 300 406 638	1 123 439 057	1.58	19 378 289 503	21 201 310 436	2 602 386 485
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	640 033 337	1.75	46 733 231	1.57	0.07	1 731 164 189	1 494 520 872	129 394 530	0.05	887 400 724	854 487 535	82 661 299
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	3 641 432 475	2.96	1 131 525 899	11.18	0.69	3 400 636 066	5 502 638 285	1 242 703 758	0.07	1 429 220 493	1 861 205 810	111 177 859
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(130 357 187 766)	0.00	(11 396 648 311)	0.00	0.00	4 229 592	5 812 475	1 788 861	6.91	139 687 361 788	130 363 000 241	11 398 437 172
Total	Total SA Rand	145 451 019 041	1.09	14 633 408 883	1.09	100.00	1 719 593 736 083	1 699 268 329 761	179 603 325 030	100.00	1 636 149 061 047	1 553 817 310 720	164 969 916 147

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	313 351 743 500	2.88	38 236 809 323	3.31	30.53	452 859 929 945	480 127 075 636	54 824 323 002	10.05	145 651 769 344	166 775 332 136	16 587 513 679
AMERICA	5 867 021 045	1.04	(1 070 114 924)	0.94	8.74	159 669 730 459	159 128 928 614	15 702 230 796	10.17	166 484 695 168	153 261 907 569	16 772 345 720
ASIA	(284 036 503 264)	0.64	(37 644 154 141)	0.57	28.26	533 098 945 497	503 273 350 872	50 759 994 017	53.59	855 799 729 718	787 309 854 136	88 404 148 158
EUROPE	(18 187 719 957)	0.96	(5 870 047 868)	0.86	19.91	448 901 508 450	402 936 176 856	35 761 750 267	25.24	442 476 536 430	421 123 896 813	41 631 798 135
OCEANIA	(178 352 387)	0.99	546 443 851	1.45	0.98	19 338 621 382	19 153 116 253	1 766 592 967	0.74	18 176 885 574	19 331 468 640	1 220 149 116
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	116 201 502 136	20.32	19 214 290 797	55.28	10.90	96 731 038 111	122 216 353 562	19 568 252 136	0.21	7 559 444 813	6 014 851 426	353 961 339
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	12 433 327 968	-	1 220 181 845	-	0.68	8 993 962 239	12 433 327 968	1 220 181 845				
Total	145 451 019 041	1.09	14 633 408 883	1.09	100.00	1 719 593 736 083	1 699 268 329 761	179 603 325 030	100.00	1 636 149 061 047	1 553 817 310 720	164 969 916 147
Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 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		

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	479 242 459	1.03	15 144 646	1.01	1.04	13 449 275 396	15 090 078 411	1 665 933 523	1.04	13 516 911 175	14 610 835 952	1 650 788 877
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	71 663 544 035	3.00	4 507 347 952	2.25	5.08	107 223 396 394	107 446 716 267	8 119 025 099	2.28	33 616 284 742	35 783 172 232	3 611 677 147
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(7 900 367 078)	0.36	(1 565 927 355)	0.17	0.19	4 219 647 099	4 534 867 461	311 596 623	1.19	11 693 141 494	12 435 234 539	1 877 523 978
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	10 247 128 777	1.25	900 185 453	1.17	3.88	46 461 998 791	50 769 701 180	6 207 835 666	3.35	38 611 776 556	40 522 572 403	5 307 650 213
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	97 522 992 366	1.32	11 199 450 688	1.41	24.04	406 846 791 070	403 221 705 966	38 420 688 493	17.18	344 909 918 159	305 698 713 600	27 221 237 805
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(79 184 602 571)	0.50	(8 151 170 058)	0.51	5.41	83 696 212 542	80 077 161 510	8 652 773 856	10.61	152 904 219 942	159 261 764 081	16 803 943 914
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(43 681 297 143)	0.33	(4 973 039 007)	0.33	1.51	22 765 917 649	21 408 379 002	2 417 109 534	4.66	60 365 730 108	65 089 676 145	7 390 148 541
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 240 832 299)	0.72	(346 253 688)	0.51	0.22	3 063 581 224	3 216 374 744	357 216 484	0.44	3 915 545 519	4 457 207 043	703 470 172
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 595 783 899	1.67	266 739 697	1.59	0.45	6 578 645 024	6 470 232 166	715 483 552	0.28	3 591 340 597	3 874 448 267	448 743 855
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	4 869 047 377	1.24	1 105 484 975	1.46	2.18	25 004 658 407	25 118 961 089	3 483 026 341	1.50	19 663 426 262	20 249 913 712	2 377 541 366
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(37 272 154 026)	0.22	(4 736 559 339)	0.20	0.75	11 481 444 567	10 714 244 221	1 191 542 038	3.74	42 404 647 383	47 986 398 247	5 928 101 377
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(16 126 387 589)	0.08	(2 195 698 545)	0.07	0.10	1 308 788 316	1 353 801 871	162 425 313	1.49	14 997 561 842	17 480 189 460	2 358 123 858
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(9 003 704 346)	0.34	(904 496 073)	0.37	0.33	4 792 109 351	4 549 329 200	531 683 051	0.91	14 822 685 237	13 553 033 546	1 436 179 124
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	287 880 480 077	21.07	38 490 786 862	38.55	24.72	307 039 827 740	302 226 333 705	39 515 743 966	0.65	10 688 129 163	14 345 853 628	1 024 957 104
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	78 899 755 860	1.94	4 847 101 679	1.49	9.23	176 701 265 900	162 490 360 705	14 759 113 784	6.26	81 749 845 190	83 590 604 845	9 912 012 105
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(246 011 924 509)	0.28	(24 667 590 856)	0.31	6.86	103 723 262 336	95 593 117 147	10 960 995 508	22.49	391 400 728 693	341 605 041 656	35 628 586 364
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	91 614 455 530	1.74	3 109 215 809	1.19	12.24	219 134 337 654	215 215 934 256	19 565 374 937	10.39	146 487 574 410	123 601 478 726	16 456 159 128
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(31 618 958 920)	0.18	(3 269 162 273)	0.21	0.54	7 432 393 462	6 851 433 279	855 800 127	2.60	37 133 083 005	38 470 392 199	4 124 962 400
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(15 937 272 946)	0.24	(1 995 756 792)	0.23	0.37	5 033 221 903	5 146 540 995	590 050 541	1.63	19 265 981 652	21 083 813 941	2 585 807 333
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	598 159 043	1.70	43 617 027	1.53	0.08	1 724 271 602	1 451 693 229	126 093 556	0.05	886 580 286	853 534 186	82 476 529
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	3 613 597 214	2.96	1 128 789 163	11.32	0.77	3 350 785 675	5 459 243 479	1 238 135 755	0.07	1 409 365 993	1 845 646 265	109 346 592
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(130 359 277 808)	0.00	(11 396 695 675)	0.00	0.00	2 188 389	3 702 433	1 741 497	7.19	139 687 002 023	130 362 980 241	11 398 437 172
Total	Total SA Rand	31 647 407 402	1.02	1 411 514 290	1.01	100.00	1 561 034 020 491	1 528 409 912 316	159 849 389 244	100.00	1 583 721 479 431	1 496 762 504 914	158 437 874 954

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	199 548 131 861	2.82	25 014 914 730	3.49	21.94	294 300 214 353	309 268 658 191	35 070 387 216	6.35	93 224 187 728	109 720 526 330	10 055 472 486
AMERICA	5 867 021 045	1.04	(1 070 114 924)	0.94	9.82	159 669 730 459	159 128 928 614	15 702 230 796	10.59	166 484 695 168	153 261 907 569	16 772 345 720
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OCEANIA	(178 352 387)	0.99	546 443 851	1.45	1.11	19 338 621 382	19 153 116 253	1 766 592 967	0.77	18 176 885 574	19 331 468 640	1 220 149 116
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	12 433 327 968	-	1 220 181 845	-	0.76	8 993 962 239	12 433 327 968	1 220 181 845				
Total	31 647 407 402	1.02	1 411 514 290	1.01	100.00	1 561 034 020 491	1 528 409 912 316	159 849 389 244	100.00	1 583 721 479 431	1 496 762 504 914	158 437 874 954

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 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

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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
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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 2024 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R13.2 billion.

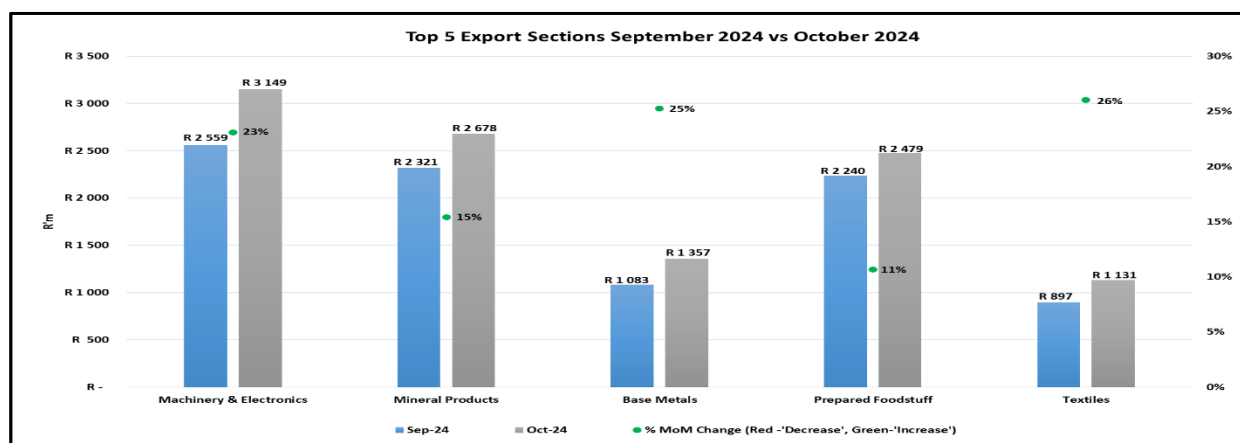
Summary

The R13.2 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for October 2024 was as a result of exports of R19.8 billion and imports of R6.5 billion. Exports increased by R2.7 billion (16.1%) between September and October 2024 and imports increased by R0.5 billion (8.1%) over the same period.

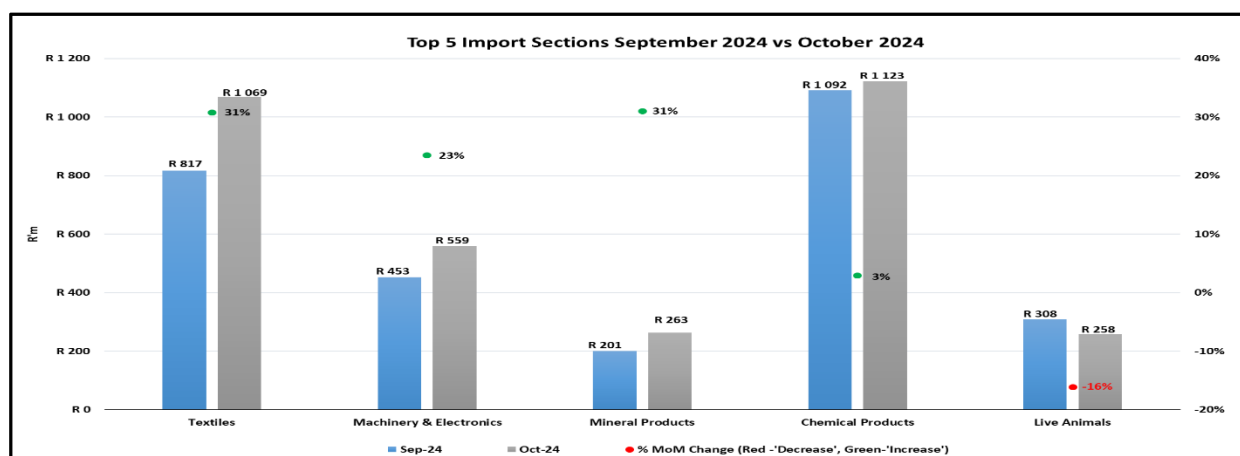
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R113.8 billion, compared to R106.1 billion in 2023.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

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