



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Thursday, 31 October 2024

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for September 2024

Pretoria, 31 October 2024 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R12.8 billion in September 2024. This surplus was attributable to exports of R170.7 billion and imports of R157.9 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2024) preliminary trade balance surplus of R100.4 billion was an improvement from the R60.4 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2023. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for September 2024 (R170.7 billion) were 1.6% lower compared to R173.6 billion recorded in September 2023. Import flows were higher by 0.1%, having increased from R157.8 billion in September 2023 to R157.9 billion in the current period.

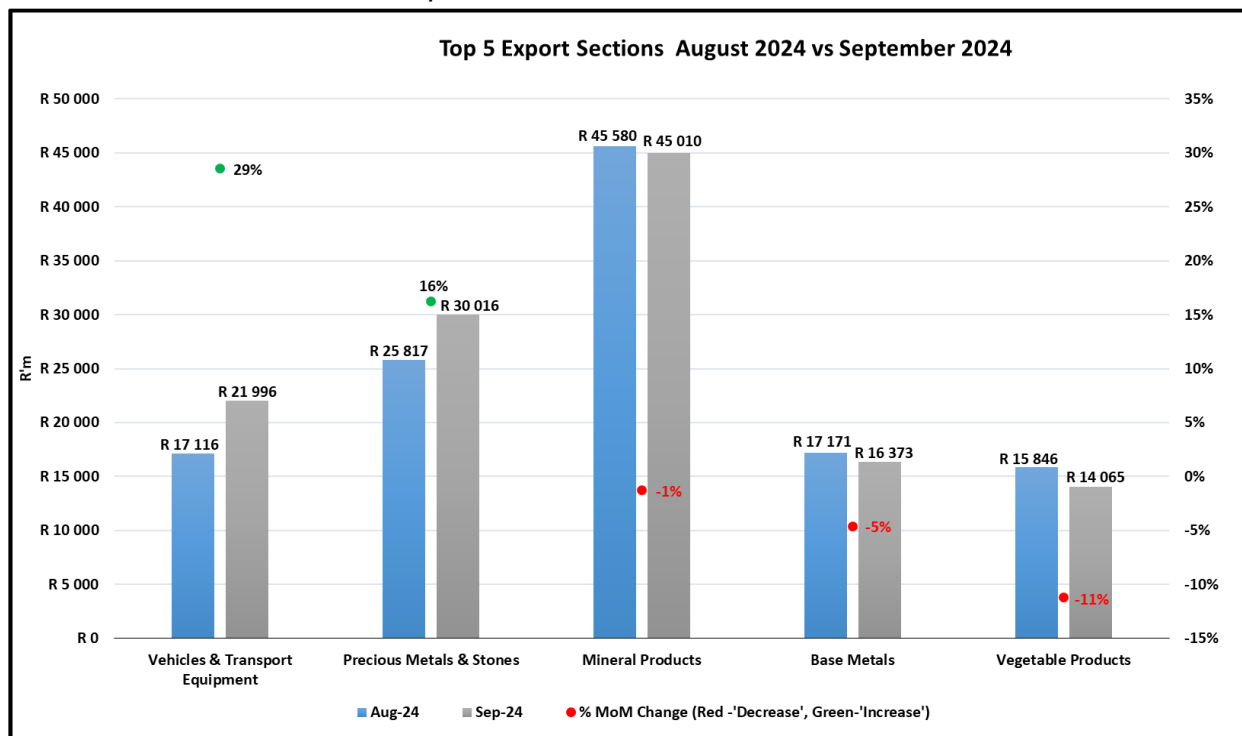
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R5.7 billion (3.5%) from R165.0 billion to R170.7 billion between August and September 2024, whilst imports decreased by R2.0 billion (-1.3%) from R159.9 billion to R157.9 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in September, driven by Vehicles (Passengers), Gold, and PGMs. Import flows decreased on the back of lower importation of Electric Generating Sets, Gold, Other Aircrafts, and Medicaments.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R5.6 billion announced for August 2024 was revised downwards by R0.5 billion, with the final number at R5.1 billion.

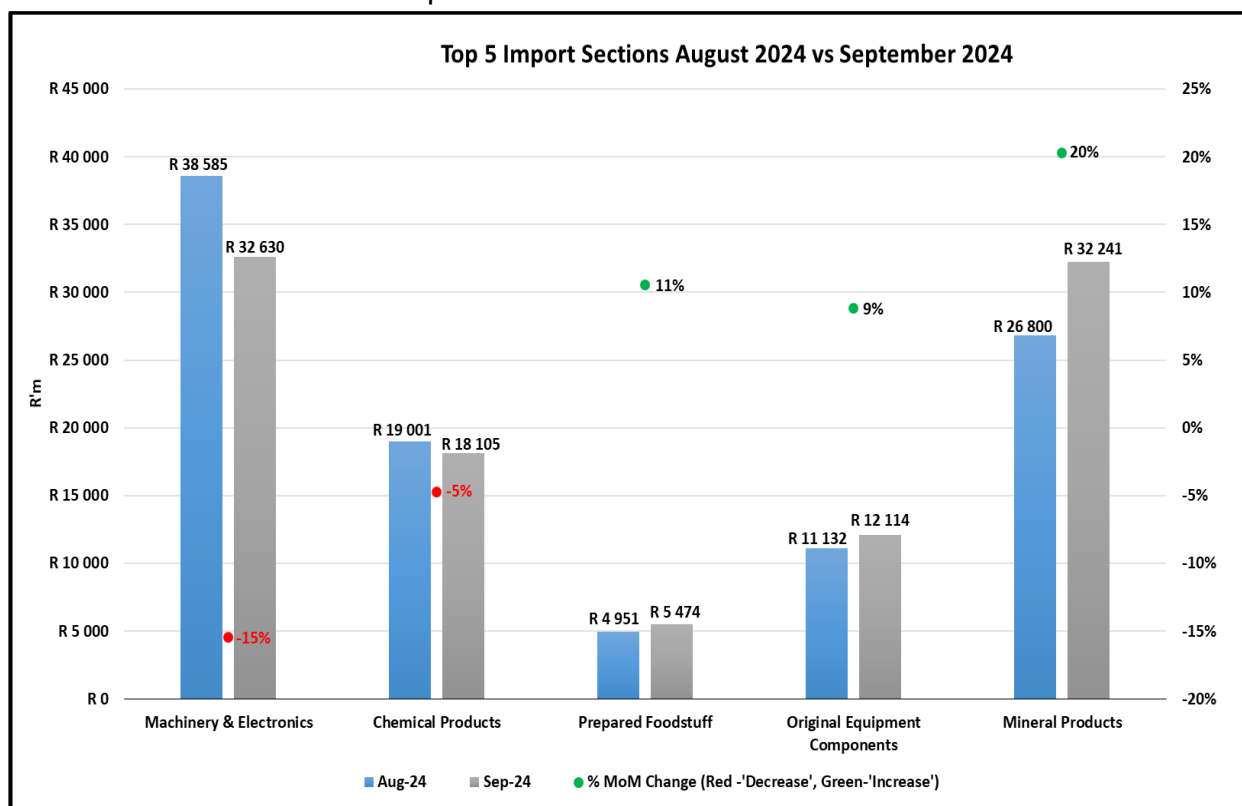
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

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

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2024	September 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	53 343	48 972	-4 371	↓ -8.2%
	Imports	18 424	18 944	519	↑ 2.8%
	Trade Balance	34 918	30 028	-	-
America	Exports	12 748	16 865	4 117	↑ 32.3%
	Imports	14 785	18 179	3 394	↑ 23.0%
	Trade Balance	-2 037	-1 314	-	-
Asia	Exports	51 754	53 065	1 311	↑ 2.5%
	Imports	83 939	77 628	-6 311	↓ -7.5%
	Trade Balance	-32 185	-24 563	-	-
Europe	Exports	35 076	36 634	1 558	↑ 4.4%
	Imports	39 521	40 551	1 030	↑ 2.6%
	Trade Balance	-4 445	-3 917	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 008	1 687	-320	↓ -16.0%
	Imports	2 974	1 925	-1 049	↓ -35.3%
	Trade Balance	-966	-238	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	8 820	12 050	3 229	↑ 36.6%
	Imports	281	685	404	↑ 143.7%
	Trade Balance	8 539	11 365	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 289	1 476	187	↑ 14.5%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 289	1 476	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for September 2024 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R1.8 billion.

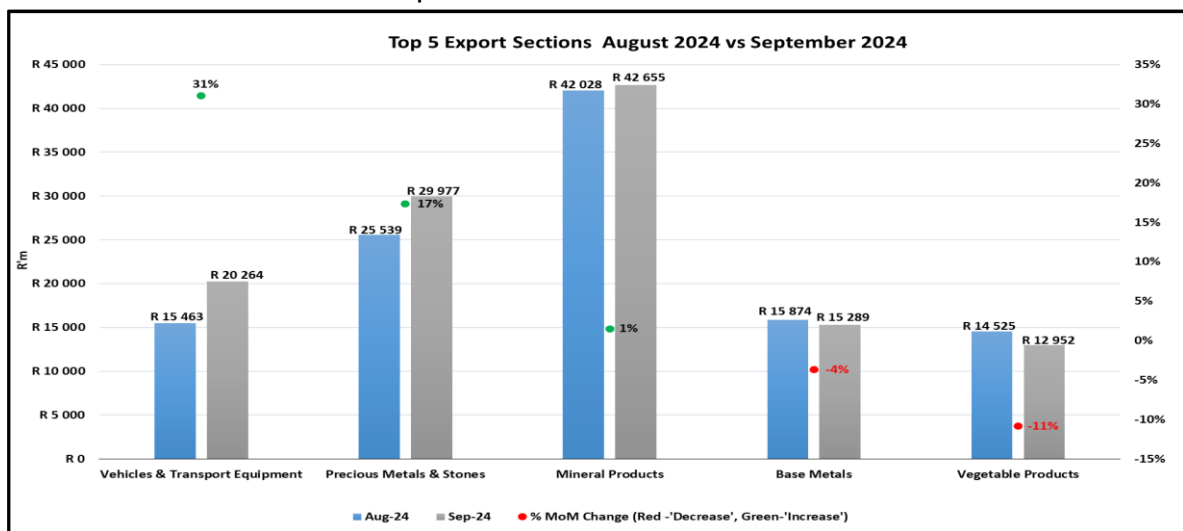
Summary

The R1.8 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2024 was as a result of exports of R153.7 billion and imports of R151.9 billion. Exports increased by R7.9 billion (5.4%) between August and September 2024 whilst imports decreased by R2.2 billion (-1.4%) over the same period.

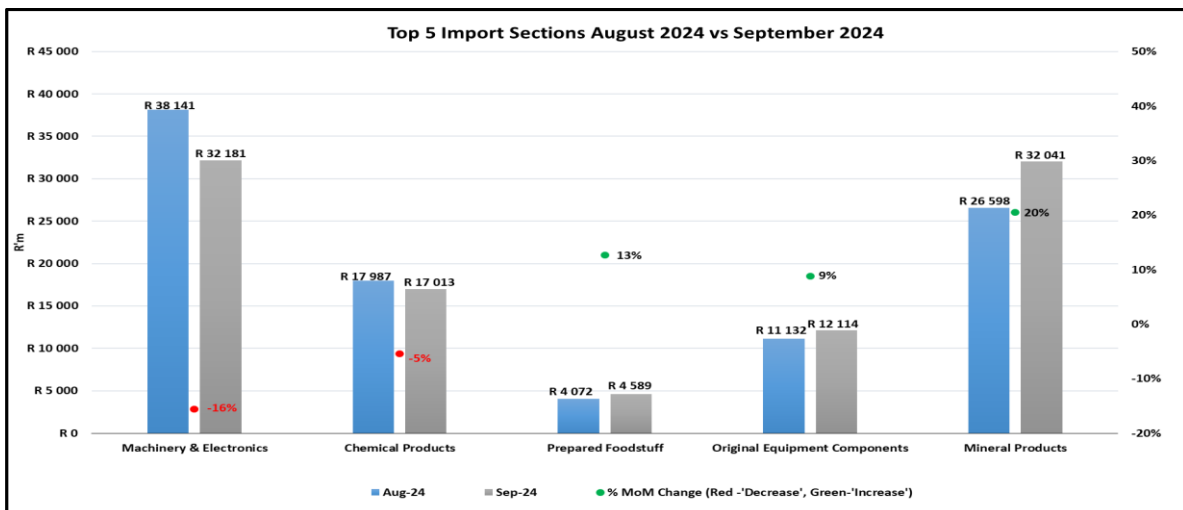
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a deficit of R0.2 billion, compared to R32.8 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2023.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2024	September 2024	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	34 154	31 925	-2 229	↓ -6.5%
	Imports	12 533	12 909	377	↑ 3.0%
	Trade Balance	21 621	19 016	-	-

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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	406 620 385	1.02	440 878 193	1.29	1.16	15 283 137 251	16 808 366 738	1 976 594 418	0.97	15 676 855 843	16 401 746 353	1 535 716 225
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	76 806 587 368	3.32	9 718 109 394	3.24	8.24	107 902 095 117	109 963 244 234	14 065 267 658	2.75	30 636 461 369	33 156 656 866	4 347 158 264
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 473 018 048)	0.58	(608 296 198)	0.48	0.33	5 687 687 572	6 106 232 856	568 144 599	0.75	10 202 665 478	10 579 250 904	1 176 440 797
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	20 810 711 541	1.49	1 874 560 275	1.34	4.30	58 077 783 843	62 998 974 167	7 348 692 082	3.47	41 147 794 848	42 188 262 626	5 474 131 807
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	110 261 216 851	1.39	12 769 361 502	1.40	26.36	390 122 237 879	391 079 539 830	45 010 401 272	20.42	298 254 148 909	280 818 322 979	32 241 039 770
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(65 462 449 586)	0.57	(9 424 622 081)	0.48	5.08	88 411 012 485	85 723 839 065	8 680 015 796	11.47	143 535 979 556	151 186 288 651	18 104 637 877
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(32 625 999 225)	0.44	(3 600 512 317)	0.43	1.59	26 871 718 360	25 799 259 560	2 714 293 964	4.00	54 707 454 272	58 425 258 785	6 314 806 281
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(566 482 296)	0.85	(169 591 530)	0.67	0.20	3 172 980 371	3 283 857 444	342 283 561	0.32	3 531 507 116	3 850 339 740	511 875 091
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 196 490 228	1.40	315 062 153	1.53	0.53	7 611 024 616	7 721 071 968	912 084 177	0.38	5 290 271 685	5 524 581 740	597 022 024
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	6 607 316 558	1.36	231 401 923	1.10	1.48	25 345 259 870	24 903 674 248	2 524 729 623	1.45	18 158 203 407	18 296 357 690	2 293 327 700
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(31 497 552 737)	0.35	(3 762 145 176)	0.33	1.09	16 955 327 538	16 825 917 240	1 863 749 893	3.56	44 585 445 122	48 323 469 977	5 625 895 069
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(12 207 992 938)	0.20	(1 570 051 970)	0.20	0.23	2 907 428 264	3 078 008 109	386 672 926	1.24	13 772 284 447	15 286 001 047	1 956 724 896
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 434 340 702)	0.47	(621 567 884)	0.53	0.41	5 916 945 681	5 777 966 131	694 719 257	0.83	13 477 410 454	12 212 306 833	1 316 287 141
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	239 071 130 342	10.11	25 742 397 319	7.02	17.58	281 324 198 638	265 301 217 074	30 016 000 774	2.71	20 707 167 803	26 230 086 732	4 273 603 455
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	83 352 199 484	2.12	8 515 974 333	2.08	9.59	170 631 762 104	157 769 438 924	16 373 492 675	4.98	74 954 520 456	74 417 239 440	7 857 518 342
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(202 684 750 517)	0.35	(20 484 154 029)	0.37	7.11	113 295 832 365	107 660 080 209	12 145 409 176	20.66	357 516 526 531	310 344 830 726	32 629 563 205
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	69 573 349 649	1.65	9 422 324 342	1.75	12.88	177 047 279 650	177 118 170 628	21 996 462 150	7.96	132 973 376 665	107 544 820 979	12 574 137 808
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(26 427 644 854)	0.23	(2 687 551 571)	0.32	0.75	8 306 818 121	8 003 742 965	1 277 567 877	2.51	33 243 103 848	34 431 387 819	3 965 119 448
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(10 423 809 044)	0.44	(1 572 784 998)	0.38	0.56	7 688 617 119	8 169 997 156	952 391 668	1.60	17 077 174 771	18 593 806 200	2 525 176 666
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	593 332 950	1.77	(125 855 873)	0.63	0.12	1 128 282 672	1 365 126 342	212 382 754	0.21	840 706 942	771 793 392	338 238 627
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	2 511 594 393	2.44	547 486 988	4.94	0.40	2 817 950 079	4 259 937 527	686 401 157	0.09	1 198 058 662	1 748 343 134	138 914 169
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(118 966 827 928)	0.00	(12 112 349 502)	0.00	0.00	4 113 602	4 023 614	1 759 863	7.67	124 627 106 006	118 970 851 542	12 114 109 365
Total	Total SA Rand	100 419 681 874	1.07	12 838 073 293	1.08	100.00	1 516 509 493 197	1 489 721 686 029	170 749 517 320	100.00	1 456 114 224 190	1 389 302 004 155	157 911 444 027

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	275 372 162 766	2.83	30 028 353 641	2.59	28.68	401 823 572 350	425 543 809 169	48 972 072 337	12.00	128 613 619 767	150 171 646 403	18 943 718 696
AMERICA	539 425 662	1.00	(1 314 360 523)	0.93	9.88	143 289 765 844	137 024 544 194	16 864 781 876	11.51	146 962 548 469	136 485 118 532	18 179 142 399
ASIA	(246 344 498 489)	0.65	(24 562 534 097)	0.68	31.08	481 243 584 190	453 093 055 568	53 065 198 173	49.16	760 132 873 346	699 437 554 057	77 627 732 270
EUROPE	(35 626 122 772)	0.91	(3 916 522 681)	0.90	21.46	379 687 535 868	343 809 861 006	36 634 309 775	25.68	396 662 154 683	379 435 983 778	40 550 832 456
OCEANIA	(1 587 520 919)	0.91	(237 708 949)	0.88	0.99	15 592 270 211	16 515 032 985	1 687 460 606	1.22	16 815 562 162	18 102 553 904	1 925 169 555
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	96 853 979 602	18.08	11 364 714 398	17.59	7.06	86 711 620 400	102 523 127 083	12 049 563 049	0.43	6 927 465 763	5 669 147 481	684 848 651
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	11 212 256 024	-	1 476 131 504	-	0.86	8 161 144 334	11 212 256 024	1 476 131 504				
Total	100 419 681 874	1.07	12 838 073 293	1.08	100.00	1 516 509 493 197	1 489 721 686 029	170 749 517 320	100.00	1 456 114 224 190	1 389 302 004 155	157 911 444 027
Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 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	19 882 674 556			

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	463 195 913	1.04	340 975 837	1.28	1.02	12 216 088 171	13 424 458 650	1 569 263 147	0.81	12 191 465 184	12 961 262 737	1 228 287 310
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	67 222 497 549	3.09	8 721 790 016	3.06	8.43	98 860 874 793	99 393 253 946	12 952 209 204	2.79	29 542 304 631	32 170 756 397	4 230 419 188
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 333 762 244)	0.40	(824 831 821)	0.30	0.23	3 903 388 164	4 223 271 348	348 080 967	0.77	10 191 755 433	10 557 033 592	1 172 912 788
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	9 245 818 654	1.26	519 835 673	1.11	3.32	41 800 358 864	44 505 701 927	5 108 784 493	3.02	34 905 823 947	35 259 883 273	4 588 948 820
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	88 535 816 460	1.32	10 614 772 700	1.33	27.75	366 993 677 838	367 433 470 510	42 655 467 772	21.10	296 234 610 120	278 897 654 050	32 040 695 072
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(71 041 710 594)	0.50	(10 108 198 701)	0.41	4.49	75 149 142 796	71 425 034 689	6 904 681 952	11.20	136 251 311 889	142 466 745 283	17 012 880 653
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(38 693 602 564)	0.33	(4 293 528 441)	0.31	1.26	20 614 030 418	19 006 615 999	1 940 719 347	4.10	54 086 425 717	57 700 218 563	6 234 247 788
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(894 256 928)	0.76	(212 451 822)	0.58	0.19	2 764 884 359	2 859 161 782	289 216 196	0.33	3 449 170 757	3 753 418 710	501 668 018
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 329 757 779	1.68	315 912 390	1.86	0.44	5 857 233 464	5 755 450 571	682 412 862	0.24	3 254 725 536	3 425 692 792	366 500 472
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	3 917 433 205	1.22	(80 070 141)	0.96	1.41	22 221 253 595	21 789 924 968	2 161 205 148	1.48	17 771 698 681	17 872 491 763	2 241 275 289
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(32 533 632 636)	0.23	(3 843 146 464)	0.20	0.63	10 381 010 958	9 523 733 448	966 502 149	3.17	38 292 622 437	42 057 366 084	4 809 648 613
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(13 931 230 815)	0.08	(1 831 603 124)	0.06	0.07	1 174 157 016	1 191 376 558	109 109 162	1.28	13 599 811 900	15 122 607 373	1 940 712 286
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(8 095 379 528)	0.33	(819 356 447)	0.37	0.32	4 311 031 110	4 018 178 203	487 591 129	0.86	13 378 283 937	12 113 557 731	1 306 947 576
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	249 266 247 077	19.71	27 333 262 145	11.34	19.50	277 597 242 350	262 587 347 368	29 976 718 465	1.74	9 743 750 959	13 321 100 291	2 643 456 320
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	74 129 840 150	2.01	7 514 871 385	1.97	9.95	161 455 943 156	147 777 031 987	15 288 545 471	5.12	74 153 487 439	73 647 191 837	7 773 674 086
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(221 395 291 949)	0.28	(22 596 688 864)	0.30	6.24	93 201 431 631	84 604 954 072	9 584 560 826	21.19	352 936 277 613	306 000 246 021	32 181 249 690
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	55 774 945 930	1.52	7 722 483 001	1.62	13.18	163 156 508 268	162 928 673 665	20 263 546 348	8.26	132 606 713 854	107 153 727 735	12 541 063 347
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(28 344 105 105)	0.17	(2 915 764 322)	0.26	0.68	6 516 538 877	5 996 215 288	1 043 949 138	2.61	33 154 812 980	34 340 320 393	3 959 713 460
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(13 943 285 381)	0.25	(2 008 559 671)	0.20	0.33	4 499 762 247	4 549 609 177	504 486 206	1.65	16 978 878 772	18 492 894 558	2 513 045 877
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	554 574 860	1.72	(153 107 685)	0.55	0.12	1 122 026 502	1 325 599 673	185 039 273	0.22	839 944 716	771 024 813	338 146 958
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	2 486 497 868	2.43	542 968 874	4.95	0.44	2 771 523 990	4 221 107 724	680 335 616	0.09	1 179 826 979	1 734 609 856	137 366 742
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(118 968 870 606)	0.00	(12 114 002 716)	0.00	0.00	2 073 130	1 960 936	106 649	7.98	124 626 746 241	118 970 831 542	12 114 109 365
Total	Total SA Rand	(248 502 905)	1.00	1 825 561 802	1.01	100.00	1 376 570 181 697	1 338 542 132 489	153 702 531 520	100.00	1 409 370 449 722	1 338 790 635 394	151 876 969 718

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	174 703 977 987	2.75	19 015 842 150	2.47	20.77	261 884 260 850	274 364 255 629	31 925 086 537	8.50	81 869 845 299	99 660 277 642	12 909 244 387
AMERICA	539 425 662	1.00	(1 314 360 523)	0.93	10.97	143 289 765 844	137 024 544 194	16 864 781 876	11.97	146 962 548 469	136 485 118 532	18 179 142 399
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	11 212 256 024	-	1 476 131 504	-	0.96	8 161 144 334	11 212 256 024	1 476 131 504				
Total	(248 502 905)	1.00	1 825 561 802	1.01	100.00	1 376 570 181 697	1 338 542 132 489	153 702 531 520	100.00	1 409 370 449 722	1 338 790 635 394	151 876 969 718

Temporary Imports	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 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	19 882 674 556

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 September 2024 show a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.0 billion.

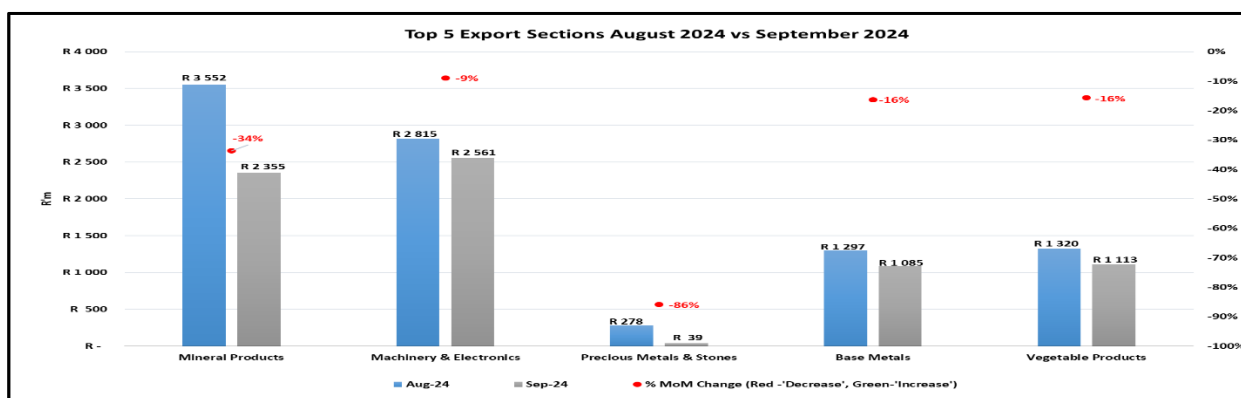
Summary

The R11.0 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2024 was as a result of exports of R17.0 billion and imports of R6.0 billion. Exports decreased by R2.1 billion (-11.2%) between August and September 2024 and imports increased by R0.1 billion (2.4%) over the same period.

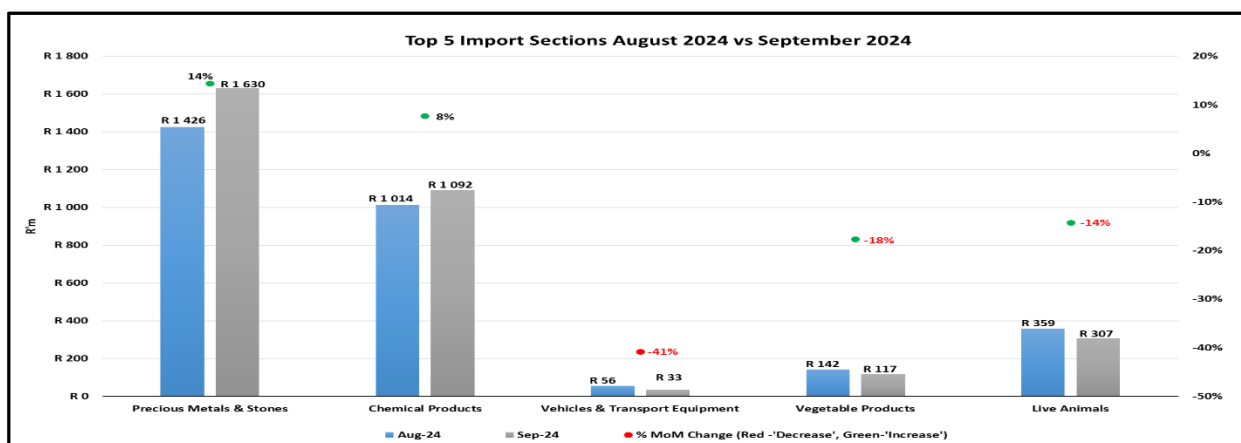
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2024 was a surplus of R100.7 billion, compared to R93.2 billion in 2023.

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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