



## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 May 2026*

## **SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for April 2026**

**Pretoria, 29 May 2026** – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R15.2 billion in April 2026. This surplus was attributable to exports of R190.6 billion and imports of R175.4 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 April 2026) preliminary trade balance surplus of R89.3 billion was higher than the R39.8 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2025. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for April 2026 (R190.6 billion) were 14.8% higher compared to R165.9 billion recorded in April 2025. Import flows were higher by 15.3%, having increased from R152.1 billion in April 2025 to R175.4 billion in the current period.

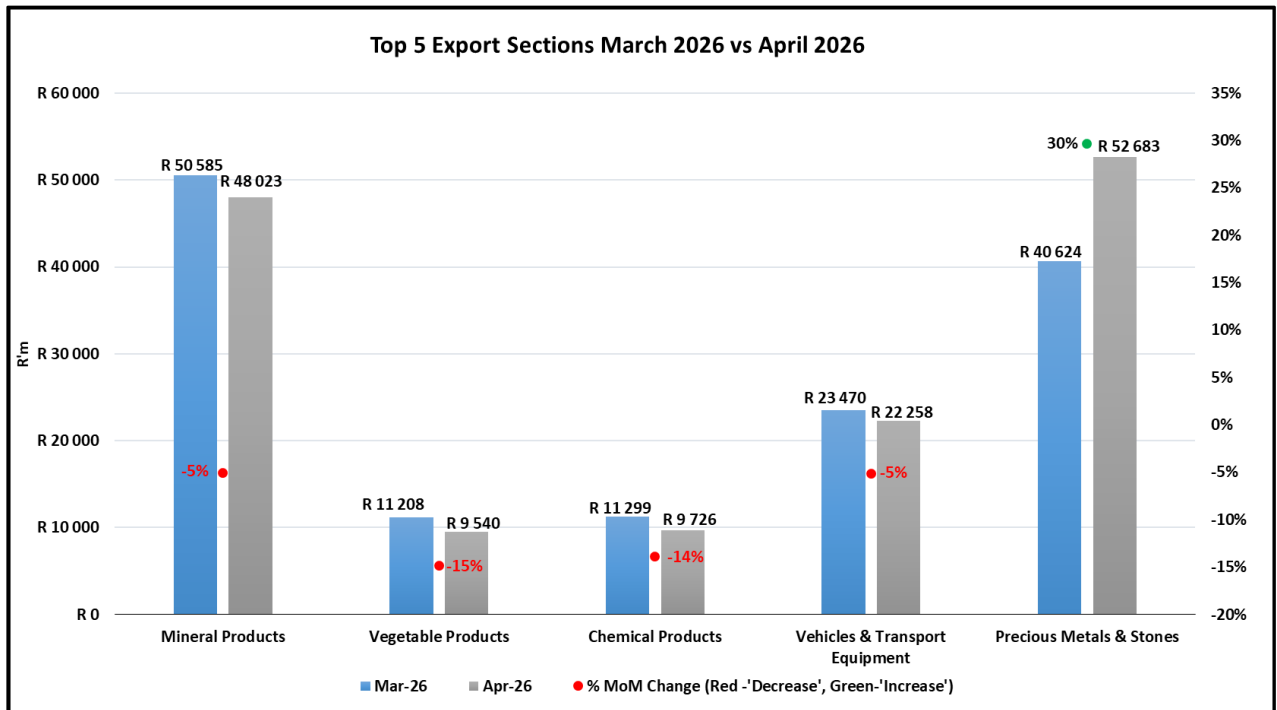
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R3.4 billion (1.8%) from R187.1 billion to R190.6 billion between March 2026 and April 2026, whilst imports increased by R18.5 billion (11.8%) from R156.9 billion to R175.4 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in April 2026, driven by gold, platinum group metals (PGMs), and petroleum oils (excluding crude). Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of petroleum oils (excluding crude), electric generating sets, and automatic data processing machines.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R31.9 billion announced for March 2026 was revised downwards by R1.7 billion, with the final number at R30.2 billion.

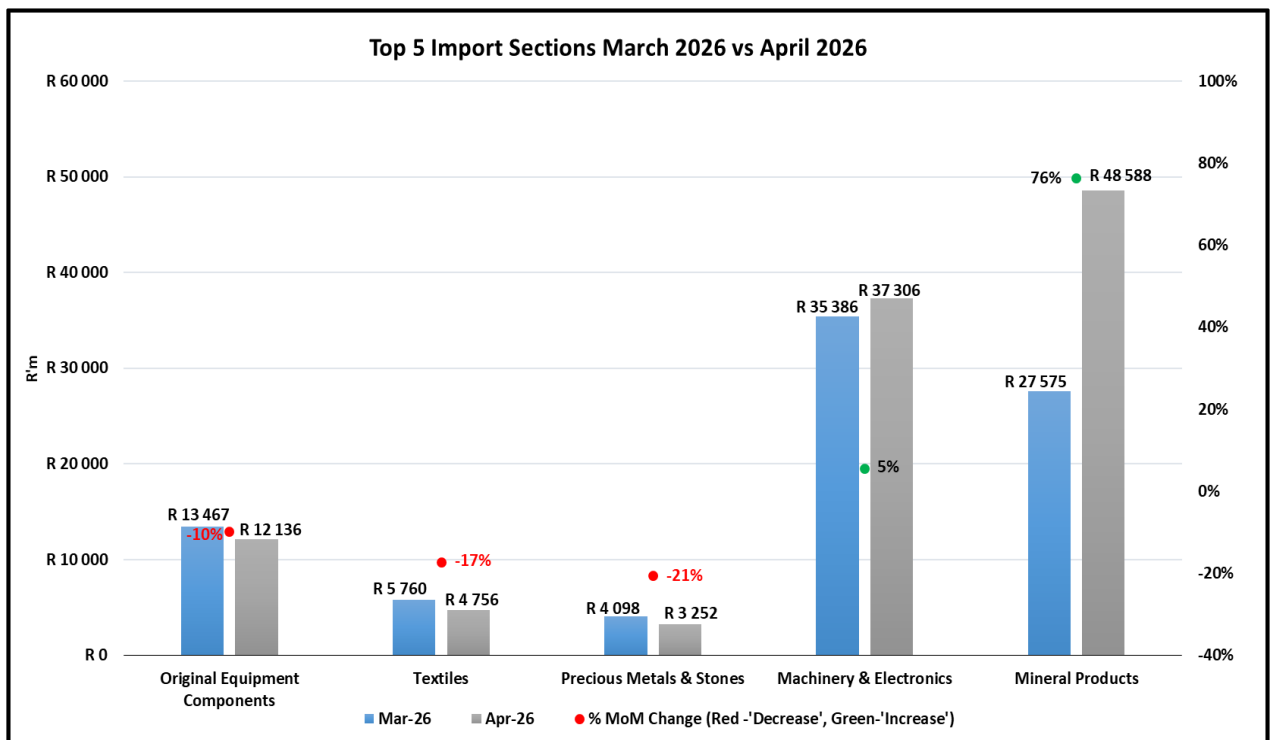
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics April 2026](#)

## 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 2026 (revised) to April 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2026	April 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	49 428	44 292	-5 136	↓ -10.4%
	Imports	15 489	23 954	8 466	↑ 54.7%
	Trade Balance	33 940	20 338	-	-
America	Exports	15 637	16 371	734	↑ 4.7%
	Imports	13 764	23 708	9 945	↑ 72.3%
	Trade Balance	1 873	-7 337	-	-
Asia	Exports	58 457	60 011	1 554	↑ 2.7%
	Imports	81 711	73 189	-8 522	↓ -10.4%
	Trade Balance	-23 253	-13 178	-	-
Europe	Exports	49 739	47 334	-2 405	↓ -4.8%
	Imports	44 270	51 558	7 288	↑ 16.5%
	Trade Balance	5 469	-4 224	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 530	2 122	593	↑ 38.7%
	Imports	1 633	1 502	-131	↓ -8.0%
	Trade Balance	-103	620	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	11 568	19 001	7 433	↑ 64.3%
	Imports	60	1 476	1 416	↑ 2355.2%
	Trade Balance	11 508	17 525	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	776	1 419	643	↑ 82.8%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	776	1 419	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for April 2026 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R4.9 billion.

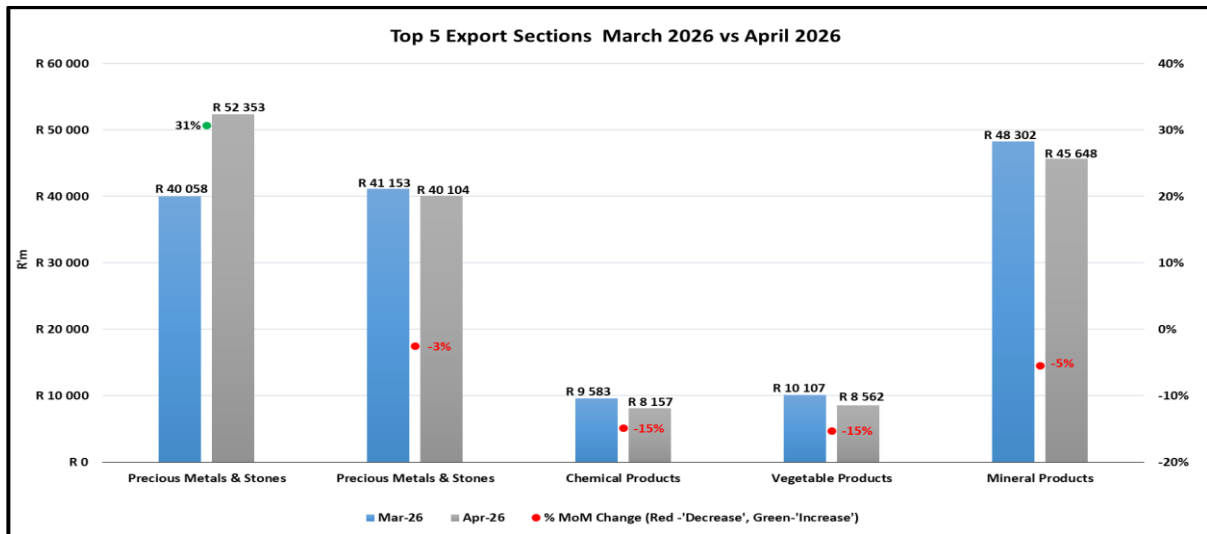
### Summary

The R4.9 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2026 was as a result of exports of R174.6 billion and imports of R169.6 billion. Exports increased by R5.1 billion (3.0%) between March 2026 and April 2026 whilst imports increased by R20.4 billion (13.7%) over the same period.

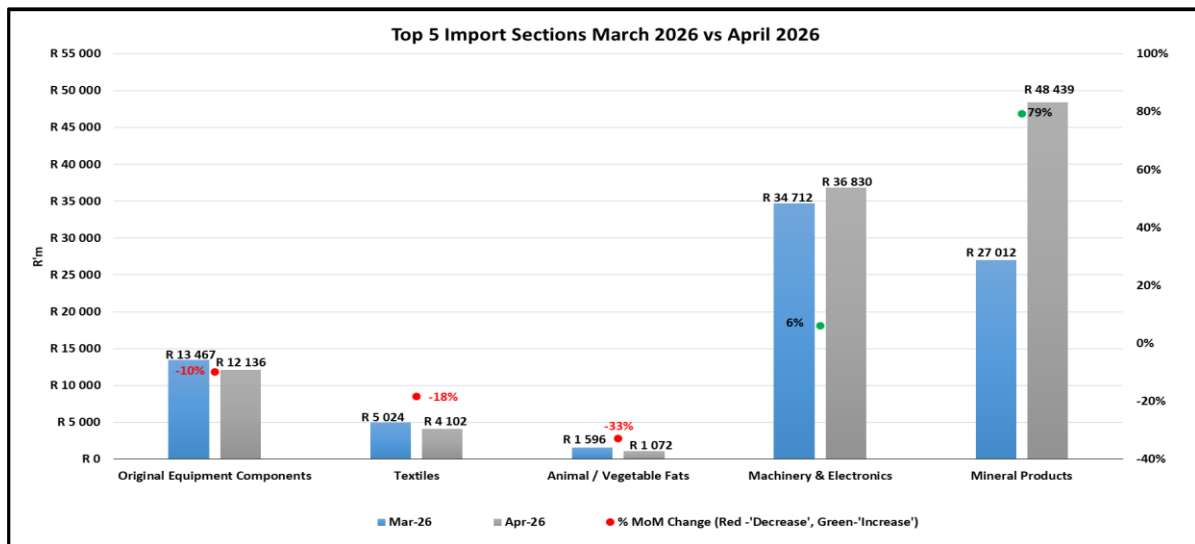
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R51.7 billion, compared to R3.3 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2025.

## 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 2026 (revised) and April 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	March 2026	April 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	31 813	28 314	-3 498	↓ -11.0%
	Imports	7 769	18 190	10 421	↑ 134.1%
	Trade Balance	24 044	10 124	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics April 2026](#)

## SA Trade Release Table (Including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance	Ratio <sup>5)</sup>	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup>	Cumulative 2026 <sup>3)</sup>	Month Total 2026	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup>	Cumulative 2026 <sup>3)</sup>	Month Total 2026
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	993 904 333	1.15	461 709 490	1.27	1.14	8 345 674 636	7 708 312 847	2 177 991 120	0.98	5 911 439 449	6 714 408 514	1 716 281 630
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	30 745 725 039	3.37	6 063 332 940	2.74	5.01	44 222 448 983	43 705 276 399	9 540 135 300	1.98	17 405 922 914	12 959 551 360	3 476 802 360
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 146 480 781)	0.54	(385 547 918)	0.64	0.36	2 666 494 085	2 506 607 635	688 295 121	0.61	4 925 629 472	4 653 088 416	1 073 843 039
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	8 316 412 111	1.44	2 426 610 677	1.48	3.92	27 045 022 399	27 121 036 940	7 462 499 487	2.87	20 032 404 799	18 804 624 829	5 035 888 810
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	55 211 194 670	1.44	(564 423 737)	0.99	25.20	164 719 765 570	180 177 069 428	48 023 488 981	27.70	116 653 688 600	124 965 874 758	48 587 912 718
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(24 851 857 908)	0.60	(6 758 744 754)	0.59	5.10	37 835 325 804	37 456 438 382	9 725 923 152	9.40	64 865 760 602	62 308 296 290	16 484 667 906
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(12 536 465 367)	0.46	(3 609 083 850)	0.44	1.49	11 028 285 163	10 762 381 816	2 832 371 760	3.67	24 603 035 884	23 298 847 183	6 441 455 610
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(313 297 611)	0.80	(5 850 431)	0.98	0.18	1 361 565 312	1 239 225 013	341 036 260	0.20	1 589 552 679	1 552 522 624	346 886 691
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 759 692 739	1.67	513 134 326	1.82	0.60	4 084 942 031	4 377 431 313	1 137 602 808	0.36	2 394 196 171	2 617 738 574	624 468 482
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	1 158 932 168	1.15	461 139 003	1.24	1.27	9 995 996 753	8 824 080 676	2 415 573 955	1.11	7 632 270 614	7 665 148 508	1 954 434 952
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(12 348 144 703)	0.39	(2 361 079 770)	0.50	1.26	7 958 581 253	8 011 894 730	2 395 052 191	2.71	21 561 196 730	20 360 039 433	4 756 131 961
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 244 992 517)	0.22	(840 590 029)	0.29	0.18	1 608 645 446	1 226 863 862	343 252 175	0.67	5 717 750 408	5 471 856 379	1 183 842 204
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 360 471 158)	0.51	(748 690 666)	0.46	0.33	2 751 831 041	2 458 295 918	627 846 158	0.78	5 247 383 535	4 818 767 076	1 376 536 824
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	160 966 332 976	13.13	49 430 596 408	16.20	27.65	118 845 259 872	174 233 468 755	52 682 692 890	1.85	10 486 278 851	13 267 135 779	3 252 096 482
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	22 222 507 509	1.71	4 864 588 685	1.62	6.66	61 444 895 351	53 582 753 669	12 697 897 838	4.47	31 214 640 563	31 360 246 160	7 833 309 153
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(92 896 643 769)	0.33	(24 710 263 829)	0.34	6.61	45 372 941 275	46 338 883 818	12 596 094 521	21.27	140 547 118 559	139 235 527 587	37 306 358 350
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	17 655 184 845	1.29	6 294 215 574	1.39	11.68	89 132 814 333	78 652 553 784	22 258 085 636	9.10	55 070 960 391	60 997 368 939	15 963 870 062
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(9 103 583 256)	0.41	(2 810 506 078)	0.28	0.56	3 704 593 970	6 228 600 621	1 076 087 500	2.22	15 270 113 251	15 332 183 877	3 886 593 578
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 034 417 979)	0.46	(890 951 445)	0.50	0.48	3 386 120 148	3 392 030 021	905 518 219	1.02	7 266 575 049	7 426 448 000	1 796 469 664
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	104 359 832	1.19	130 735 358	6.77	0.08	450 780 645	648 920 803	153 407 463	0.01	290 964 103	544 560 971	22 672 105
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 052 289 454	2.68	337 585 894	3.56	0.25	2 667 834 447	1 679 015 702	469 227 238	0.08	745 933 453	626 726 248	131 641 344
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(46 012 719 183)	0.00	(12 136 299 817)	0.00	0.00	8 487 432	25 041	1 621	6.92	49 364 225 649	46 012 744 224	12 136 301 438
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>89 337 461 444</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>15 161 616 031</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>648 638 305 949</b>	<b>700 331 167 173</b>	<b>190 550 081 394</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>608 797 041 726</b>	<b>610 993 705 729</b>	<b>175 388 465 363</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 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)
AFRICA	97 231 078 605	2.35	20 337 698 210	1.85	23.24	182 495 321 190	169 127 361 970	44 292 029 378	13.66	59 301 295 764	71 896 283 365	23 954 331 168
AMERICA	(5 099 123 174)	0.92	(7 337 419 880)	0.69	8.59	55 352 888 849	58 638 972 552	16 370 909 011	13.52	61 061 451 749	63 738 095 726	23 708 328 891
ASIA	(77 997 339 384)	0.74	(13 178 080 779)	0.82	31.49	186 895 783 097	223 276 795 022	60 011 154 600	41.73	317 823 130 498	301 274 134 406	73 189 235 379
EUROPE	14 917 468 798	1.09	(4 224 415 288)	0.92	24.84	156 214 921 272	180 988 911 257	47 333 726 206	29.40	159 669 702 382	166 071 442 459	51 558 141 494
OCEANIA	53 472 967	1.01	619 755 158	1.41	1.11	6 634 865 029	5 990 315 067	2 122 124 347	0.86	9 677 717 452	5 936 842 100	1 502 369 189
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	56 356 511 902	28.13	17 525 410 421	12.87	9.97	56 764 424 468	58 433 419 575	19 001 469 663	0.84	1 263 743 881	2 076 907 673	1 476 059 242
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 875 391 730	-	1 418 668 189	-	0.74	4 280 102 044	3 875 391 730	1 418 668 189				
<b>Total</b>	<b>89 337 461 444</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>15 161 616 031</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>648 638 305 949</b>	<b>700 331 167 173</b>	<b>190 550 081 394</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>608 797 041 726</b>	<b>610 993 705 729</b>	<b>175 388 465 363</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	26 815 288 642	22 477 363 994	31 569 153 623	22 857 234 061

- 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	Ratio <sup>5)</sup>	Trade Balance	Ratio	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup>	Cumulative 2026 <sup>3)</sup>	Month Total 2026	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup>	Cumulative 2026 <sup>3)</sup>	Month Total 2026
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	637 797 166	1.11	361 342 720	1.25	1.04	6 832 336 894	6 278 512 112	1 824 139 261	0.86	4 993 497 652	5 640 714 946	1 462 796 541
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	27 211 021 045	3.18	5 238 818 100	2.58	4.90	39 650 889 846	39 720 856 863	8 562 041 068	1.96	17 019 369 527	12 509 835 818	3 323 222 968
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 080 351 589)	0.34	(590 665 105)	0.45	0.28	1 842 881 859	1 556 326 875	481 485 709	0.63	4 888 708 011	4 636 678 464	1 072 150 814
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	3 824 832 368	1.25	1 461 573 276	1.35	3.23	18 926 006 762	19 243 003 178	5 639 678 567	2.46	16 850 101 945	15 418 170 810	4 178 105 291
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	47 752 321 524	1.38	(2 791 741 241)	0.94	26.15	154 041 074 293	171 793 649 613	45 647 640 923	28.56	115 916 176 080	124 041 328 089	48 439 382 164
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(27 451 540 181)	0.53	(7 538 107 622)	0.52	4.67	31 382 154 500	31 097 204 218	8 156 678 439	9.25	61 006 408 516	58 548 744 399	15 694 786 061
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(14 965 041 371)	0.35	(4 249 162 074)	0.33	1.20	8 155 900 911	7 964 526 249	2 094 375 072	3.74	24 294 746 281	22 929 567 620	6 343 537 146
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(459 299 383)	0.70	(41 791 031)	0.88	0.17	1 176 833 140	1 053 396 379	293 537 736	0.20	1 552 863 373	1 512 695 762	335 328 767
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 798 351 955	2.09	512 397 776	2.31	0.52	3 145 730 633	3 449 726 670	903 015 531	0.23	1 501 251 696	1 651 374 715	390 617 755
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	63 112 506	1.01	203 973 091	1.11	1.22	8 683 802 253	7 532 063 178	2 130 142 413	1.14	7 436 258 350	7 468 950 672	1 926 169 322
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(12 994 677 031)	0.26	(2 603 491 770)	0.37	0.86	4 615 430 014	4 674 235 549	1 498 574 129	2.42	18 825 467 516	17 668 912 580	4 102 065 899
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(4 916 013 946)	0.08	(1 012 471 712)	0.13	0.09	795 485 047	452 115 182	149 729 321	0.69	5 647 836 396	5 368 129 128	1 162 201 033
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(3 100 486 678)	0.35	(938 303 402)	0.31	0.24	1 888 383 168	1 660 098 726	425 986 125	0.80	5 199 845 233	4 760 585 404	1 364 289 527
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	167 695 958 906	32.07	50 926 502 914	36.71	29.99	118 124 290 896	173 093 119 592	52 352 798 146	0.84	3 288 046 224	5 397 160 686	1 426 295 232
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	18 532 594 265	1.60	3 848 056 983	1.50	6.65	57 235 511 216	49 477 582 372	11 601 311 248	4.57	30 735 546 858	30 944 988 107	7 753 254 265
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(100 764 979 515)	0.27	(26 856 873 265)	0.27	5.71	35 158 571 092	36 355 367 971	9 973 247 248	21.71	138 739 637 349	137 120 347 486	36 830 120 513
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	12 315 600 386	1.20	5 033 465 489	1.32	11.98	83 011 320 111	73 012 962 481	20 905 285 097	9.36	54 882 363 373	60 697 362 095	15 871 819 608
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(10 025 598 860)	0.34	(3 067 181 676)	0.21	0.46	2 768 112 904	5 264 462 634	804 246 973	2.28	15 230 700 046	15 290 061 494	3 871 428 649
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(5 454 902 238)	0.26	(1 272 433 709)	0.29	0.29	1 809 693 569	1 930 488 404	514 313 925	1.05	7 221 755 898	7 385 390 642	1 786 747 634
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	100 742 809	1.19	130 001 252	6.85	0.09	447 128 440	644 250 170	152 236 746	0.01	290 438 767	543 507 361	22 235 494
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	1 037 376 809	2.67	330 749 464	3.53	0.26	2 654 331 545	1 658 444 345	461 621 585	0.08	739 775 388	621 067 536	130 872 121
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(46 012 722 043)	0.00	(12 136 301 438)	-	-	8 418 157	22 181		7.15	49 364 225 649	46 012 744 224	12 136 301 438
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>51 744 096 904</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>4 948 357 020</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>582 354 287 250</b>	<b>637 912 414 942</b>	<b>174 572 085 262</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>585 625 020 128</b>	<b>586 168 318 038</b>	<b>169 623 728 242</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 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)
AFRICA	59 637 714 065	2.27	10 124 439 199	1.56	16.22	116 211 302 491	106 708 609 739	28 314 033 246	10.72	36 129 274 166	47 070 895 674	18 189 594 047
AMERICA	(5 099 123 174)	0.92	(7 337 419 880)	0.69	9.38	55 352 888 849	58 638 972 552	16 370 909 011	13.98	61 061 451 749	63 738 095 726	23 708 328 891
ASIA	(77 997 339 384)	0.74	(13 178 080 779)	0.82	34.38	186 895 783 097	223 276 795 022	60 011 154 600	43.15	317 823 130 498	301 274 134 406	73 189 235 379
EUROPE	14 917 468 798	1.09	(4 224 415 288)	0.92	27.11	156 214 921 272	180 988 911 257	47 333 726 206	30.40	159 669 702 382	166 071 442 459	51 558 141 494
OCEANIA	53 472 967	1.01	619 755 158	1.41	1.22	6 634 865 029	5 990 315 067	2 122 124 347	0.89	9 677 717 452	5 936 842 100	1 502 369 189
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	56 356 511 902	28.13	17 525 410 421	12.87	10.88	56 764 424 468	58 433 419 575	19 001 469 663	0.87	1 263 743 881	2 076 907 673	1 476 059 242
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	3 875 391 730	-	1 418 668 189	-	0.81	4 280 102 044	3 875 391 730	1 418 668 189				
<b>Total</b>	<b>51 744 096 904</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>4 948 357 020</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>582 354 287 250</b>	<b>637 912 414 942</b>	<b>174 572 085 262</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>585 625 020 128</b>	<b>586 168 318 038</b>	<b>169 623 728 242</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	26 815 288 642	22 477 363 994	31 569 153 623	22 857 234 061

### 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 April 2026 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.2 billion.

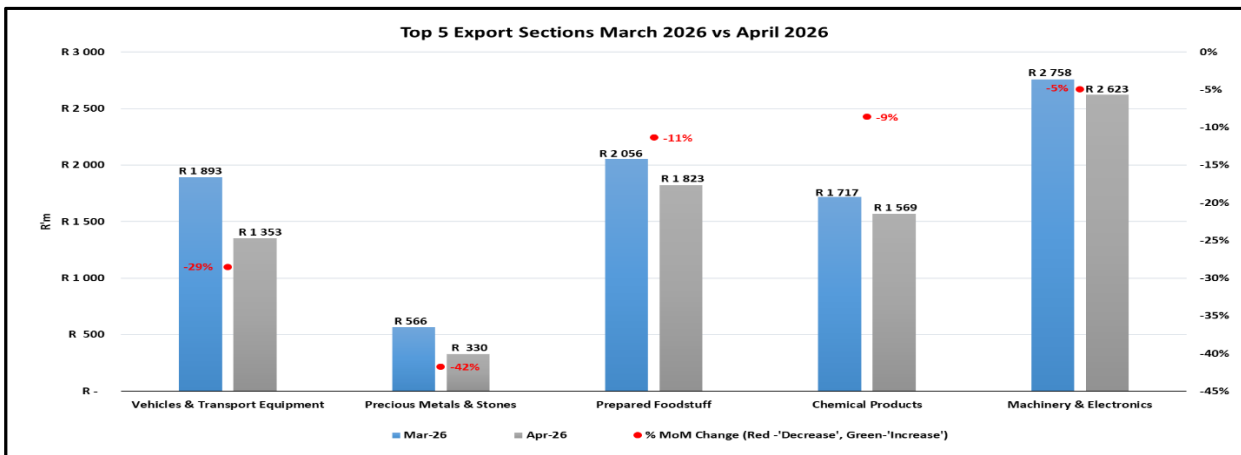
### Summary

The R10.2 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for April 2026 was as a result of exports of R16.0 billion and imports of R5.8 billion. Exports decreased by R1.6 billion (-9.3%) between March 2026 and April 2026, and imports also decreased by R2.0 billion (-25.3%) over the same period.

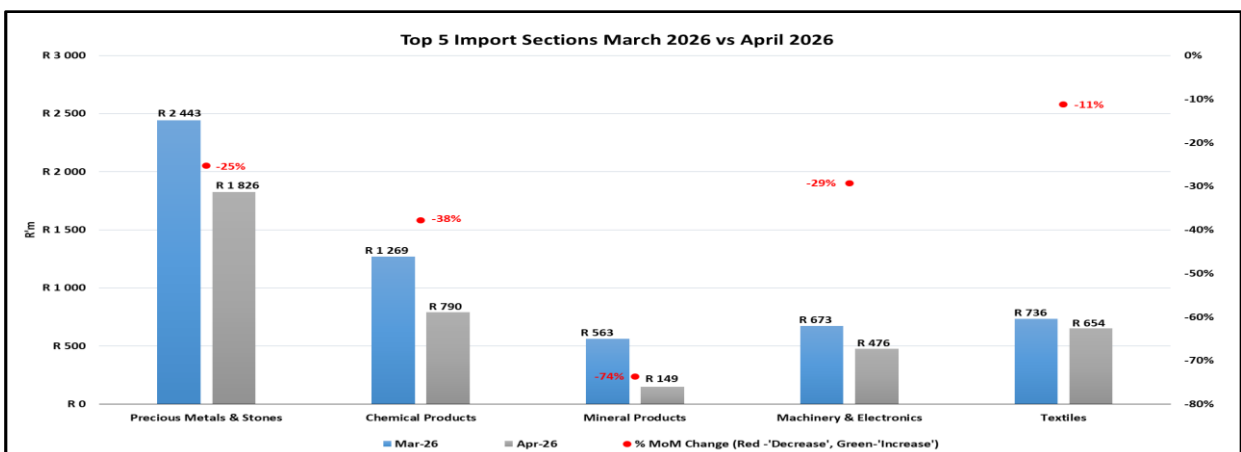
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R37.6 billion, compared to R43.1 billion surplus in 2025.

### Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics April 2026](#)

ENDS.

For any enquiries, please send your queries to [SARSMedia@sars.gov.za](mailto:SARSMedia@sars.gov.za) or [TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za](mailto:TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za)