



## STATEMENT

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 31 March 2026*

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

**Pretoria, 31 March 2026** – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R36.9 billion in February 2026. This surplus was attributable to exports of R168.1 billion and imports of R131.2 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 28 February 2026) preliminary trade balance surplus of R45.4 billion was higher than the R3.3 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2025. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for February 2026 (R168.1 billion) were 3.0% higher compared to R163.3 billion recorded in February 2025. Import flows were lower by 8.4%, having decreased from R143.1 billion in February 2025 to R131.2 billion in the current period.

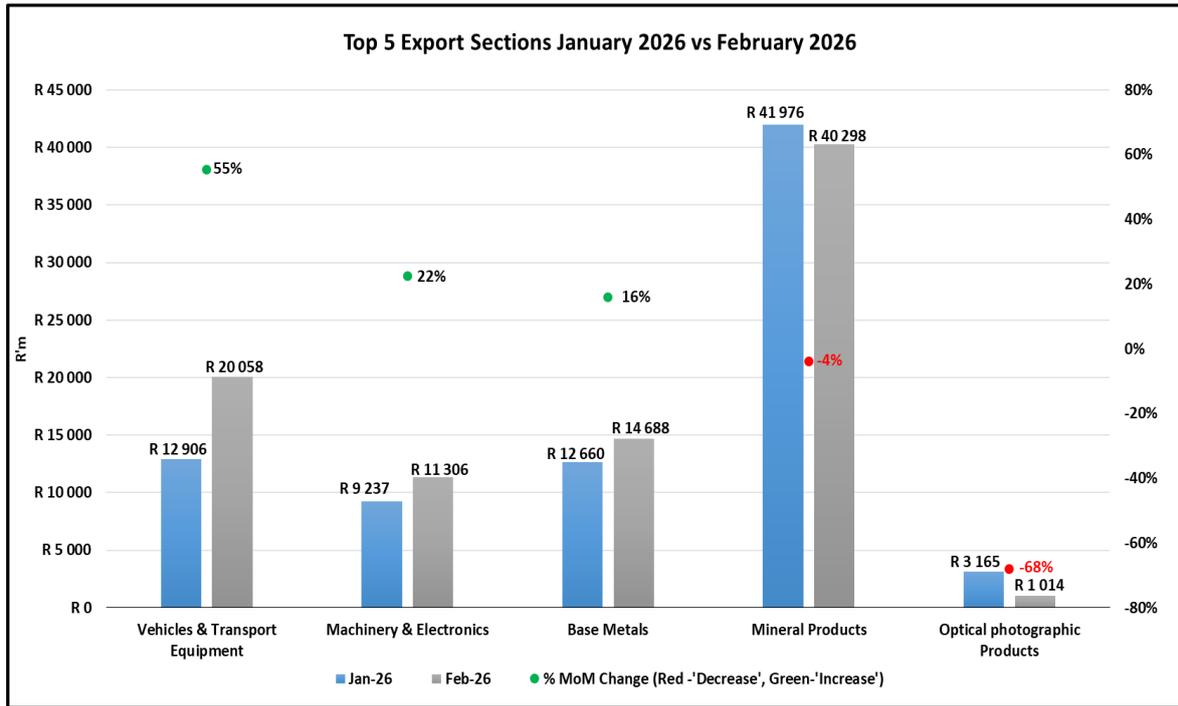
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R12.8 billion (8.2%) from R155.3 billion to R168.1 billion between January and February 2026, whilst imports decreased by R15.7 billion (-10.7%) from R146.8 billion to R131.2 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in February 2026, driven by vehicles (passenger), vehicles (goods), and electrical energy. Import flows decreased on the back of lower importation of vehicles (passenger and goods), and petroleum oils (excluding crude).

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R9.3 billion announced for January 2026 was revised downwards by R0.8 billion, with the final number at R8.5 billion.

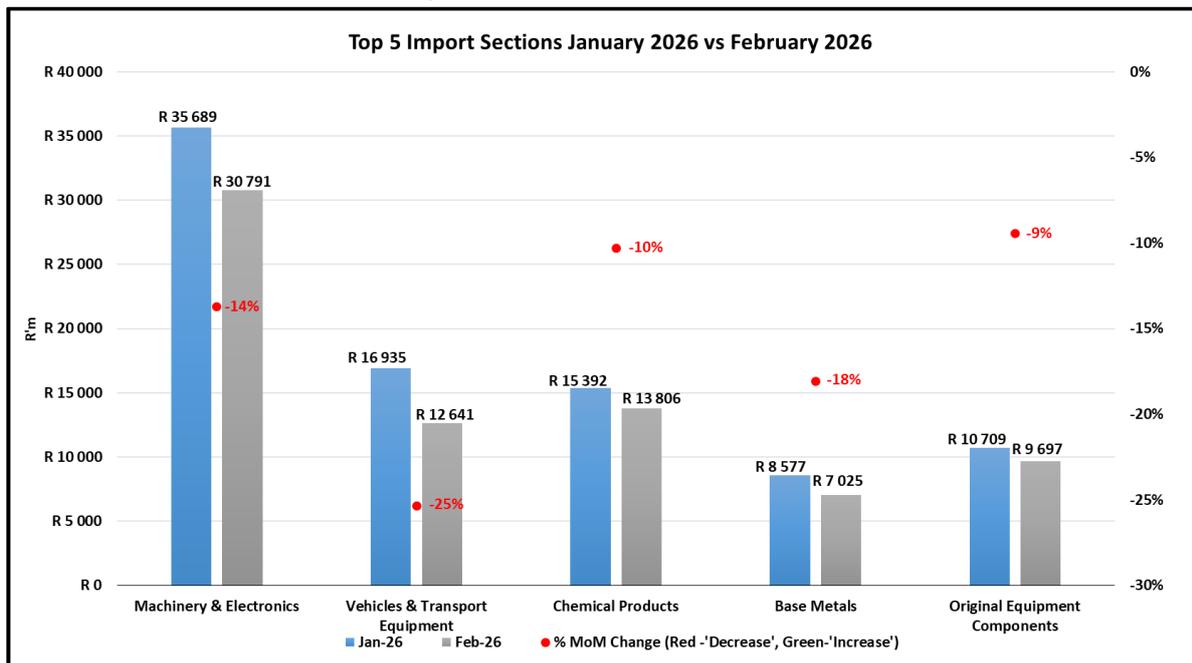
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics February 2026](#)

## 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 January 2026 (revised) to February 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)					
	Trade Type	January 2026	February 2026	Variance	% M-o-M	
Africa	Exports	34 664	40 731	6 067	↑	17.5%
	Imports	16 435	15 668	-767	↓	-4.7%
	Trade Balance	18 229	25 062	-		-
America	Exports	12 154	16 175	4 021	↑	33.1%
	Imports	14 800	11 472	-3 329	↓	-22.5%
	Trade Balance	-2 646	4 704	-		-
Asia	Exports	52 087	51 863	-224	↓	-0.4%
	Imports	75 434	70 980	-4 454	↓	-5.9%
	Trade Balance	-23 347	-19 117	-		-
Europe	Exports	40 959	42 895	1 936	↑	4.7%
	Imports	38 496	31 365	-7 131	↓	-18.5%
	Trade Balance	2 463	11 530	-		-
Oceania	Exports	923	1 416	493	↑	53.4%
	Imports	1 529	1 265	-264	↓	-17.3%
	Trade Balance	-607	151	-		-
Other Unclassified	Exports	13 692	14 171	479	↑	3.5%
	Imports	125	415	290	↑	231.2%
	Trade Balance	13 567	13 756	-		-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	846	835	-11	↓	-1.3%
	Imports	-	-	-		-
	Trade Balance	846	835	-		-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for February 2026 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R27.3 billion.

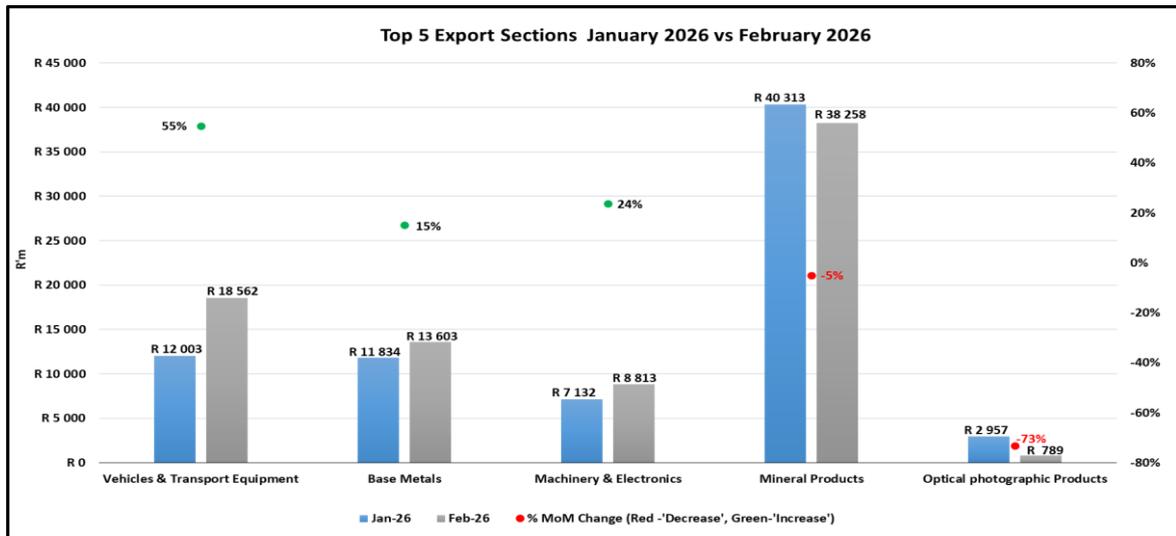
### Summary

The R27.3 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for February 2026 was as a result of exports of R152.6 billion and imports of R125.3 billion. Exports increased by R10.6 billion (7.5%) between January 2026 and February 2026 whilst imports decreased by R16.0 billion (-11.3%) over the same period.

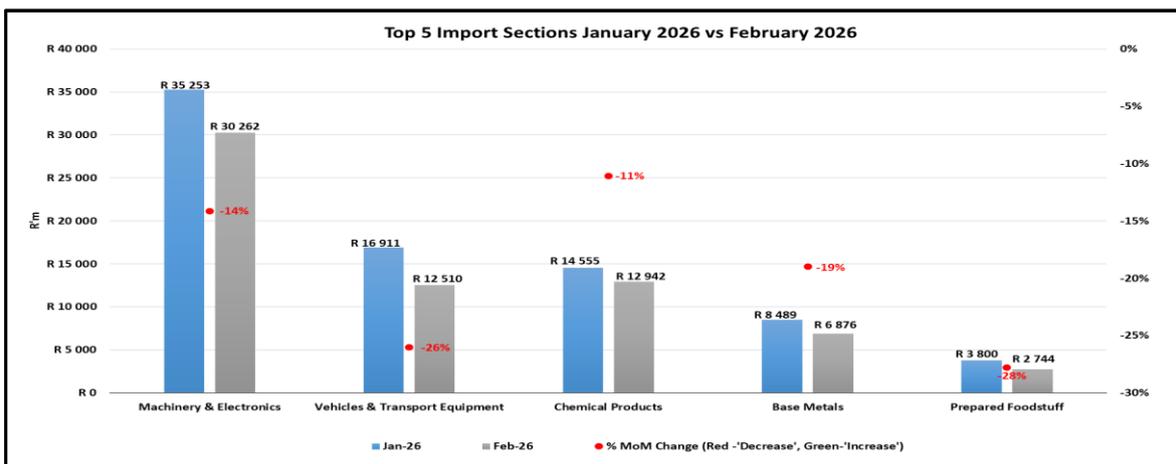
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R28.0 billion, compared to R17.7 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2025.

## 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 January 2026 (revised) and February 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2026	February 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	21 329	25 254	3 925	↑ 18.4%
	Imports	10 936	9 829	-1 108	↓ -10.1%
	Trade Balance	10 392	15 425	-	-

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

## 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 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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	286 970 792	1.09	413 424 312	1.26	1.19	3 902 584 100	3 589 584 494	2 001 210 652	1.21	2 972 466 388	3 302 613 702	1 587 786 340
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	16 897 127 712	3.78	8 378 671 334	3.73	6.81	22 115 865 158	22 977 091 512	11 444 024 514	2.34	9 062 675 043	6 079 963 800	3 065 353 180
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(903 302 342)	0.54	(143 252 806)	0.81	0.36	1 171 931 283	1 069 506 487	612 911 712	0.58	1 841 902 336	1 972 808 829	756 164 518
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	4 077 815 796	1.50	2 989 107 625	1.83	3.92	12 173 452 185	12 227 152 896	6 583 516 596	2.74	10 289 990 569	8 149 337 100	3 594 408 971
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	33 724 597 065	1.69	16 458 620 100	1.69	23.97	80 182 311 934	82 274 094 969	40 298 256 931	18.18	58 111 630 397	48 549 497 904	23 839 636 831
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(12 765 705 332)	0.56	(4 959 131 384)	0.64	5.26	18 314 112 313	16 431 830 306	8 846 830 828	10.53	32 847 644 533	29 197 535 638	13 805 962 212
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(5 895 074 756)	0.46	(2 635 282 330)	0.50	1.59	5 304 023 139	4 958 109 946	2 667 977 834	4.04	12 755 446 835	10 853 184 702	5 303 260 164
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(231 089 144)	0.70	(75 255 554)	0.81	0.19	637 563 187	543 201 791	313 612 006	0.30	919 635 337	774 290 935	388 867 560
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	701 624 960	1.54	343 989 042	1.63	0.53	2 012 124 447	2 012 370 072	886 437 605	0.41	1 236 340 858	1 310 745 112	542 448 563
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	515 539 887	1.15	225 358 197	1.14	1.08	5 147 308 700	3 962 975 307	1 817 371 626	1.21	3 940 595 173	3 447 435 420	1 592 013 429
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(6 405 391 479)	0.35	(2 920 644 144)	0.42	1.26	3 300 075 385	3 429 864 956	2 116 687 908	3.84	11 884 872 860	9 835 256 435	5 037 332 052
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(2 262 276 946)	0.19	(1 063 989 053)	0.22	0.18	702 495 498	534 491 715	298 456 061	1.04	3 435 754 134	2 796 768 661	1 362 445 114
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 076 053 183)	0.52	(357 933 688)	0.65	0.40	1 293 411 801	1 149 630 096	676 576 789	0.79	2 889 333 000	2 225 683 279	1 034 510 477
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	75 044 021 724	13.68	38 084 585 612	13.13	24.53	58 205 719 705	80 963 977 856	41 224 675 807	2.39	4 953 030 616	5 919 956 132	3 140 090 195
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	11 747 273 202	1.75	7 663 647 135	2.09	8.74	34 472 195 914	27 348 501 956	14 688 317 631	5.36	15 857 851 639	15 601 228 754	7 024 670 496
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(45 936 944 332)	0.31	(19 485 035 699)	0.37	6.73	20 427 673 233	20 543 440 039	11 306 141 485	23.48	72 542 808 247	66 480 384 371	30 791 177 184
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	3 387 496 045	1.11	7 416 484 725	1.59	11.93	38 413 661 604	32 963 086 448	20 057 528 670	9.64	26 356 372 444	29 575 590 403	12 641 043 945
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(3 011 014 202)	0.58	(2 771 259 368)	0.27	0.60	1 690 514 300	4 179 563 807	1 014 431 914	2.89	7 123 697 448	7 190 578 009	3 785 691 282
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(2 108 840 028)	0.42	(875 158 125)	0.50	0.51	1 568 081 020	1 558 123 535	858 323 864	1.32	4 030 131 187	3 666 963 563	1 733 481 989
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(172 127 525)	0.61	(164 782 609)	0.49	0.09	193 344 374	269 718 856	158 620 537	0.25	196 214 024	441 846 381	323 403 146
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	216 651 988	2.04	95 836 650	1.81	0.13	505 525 229	425 176 991	214 450 054	0.09	243 965 028	208 525 003	118 613 404
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(20 406 421 670)	0.00	(9 697 439 223)	0.00	0.00	97 318	23 420	22 181	7.39	24 901 933 998	20 406 445 090	9 697 461 404
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>45 424 878 232</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>36 920 560 749</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>311 734 071 827</b>	<b>323 411 517 455</b>	<b>168 086 383 205</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>308 394 292 094</b>	<b>277 986 639 223</b>	<b>131 165 822 456</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	43 290 555 433	2.35	25 062 042 247	2.60	24.23	89 089 734 859	75 394 289 811	40 730 532 486	11.95	32 225 904 708	32 103 734 378	15 668 490 239
AMERICA	2 057 443 837	1.08	4 703 692 812	1.41	9.62	29 095 918 604	28 329 608 366	16 175 444 336	8.75	29 212 694 202	26 272 164 529	11 471 751 524
ASIA	(42 464 230 252)	0.71	(19 117 144 721)	0.73	30.86	90 228 248 859	103 950 365 003	51 863 117 293	54.11	160 207 584 849	146 414 595 255	70 980 262 014
EUROPE	13 993 214 726	1.20	11 530 344 605	1.37	25.52	71 441 159 354	83 854 044 940	42 895 208 647	23.91	81 668 644 805	69 860 830 214	31 364 864 042
OCEANIA	(455 946 802)	0.84	150 629 817	1.12	0.84	2 847 862 371	2 338 710 929	1 415 817 112	0.96	4 586 105 525	2 794 657 731	1 265 187 295
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	27 323 162 798	51.54	13 756 142 462	34.13	8.43	26 859 088 480	27 863 819 914	14 171 409 804	0.32	493 358 005	540 657 116	415 267 342
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 680 678 492	-	834 853 527	-	0.50	2 172 059 300	1 680 678 492	834 853 527				
<b>Total</b>	<b>45 424 878 232</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>36 920 560 749</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>311 734 071 827</b>	<b>323 411 517 455</b>	<b>168 086 383 205</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>308 394 292 094</b>	<b>277 986 639 223</b>	<b>131 165 822 456</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	26 815 288 642	22 480 169 374

- 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 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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	109 410 694	1.04	338 986 566	1.26	1.09	3 177 508 514	2 911 892 169	1 661 890 648	1.06	2 571 960 592	2 802 481 475	1 322 904 082
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	15 157 893 252	3.56	7 504 310 277	3.52	6.87	19 770 805 894	21 069 892 798	10 486 663 707	2.38	8 876 421 595	5 911 999 546	2 982 353 430
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(1 320 207 204)	0.33	(367 797 308)	0.51	0.25	768 016 357	648 604 314	385 768 741	0.60	1 836 850 585	1 968 811 518	753 566 049
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 683 331 217	1.26	1 810 254 344	1.66	2.98	7 946 473 170	8 227 258 560	4 554 507 727	2.19	8 785 971 962	6 543 927 343	2 744 253 383
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	30 234 931 923	1.63	14 536 274 460	1.61	25.07	74 601 918 388	78 571 019 410	38 257 526 557	18.93	57 766 196 328	48 336 087 487	23 721 252 097
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(14 140 452 292)	0.49	(5 690 030 578)	0.56	4.75	15 049 919 044	13 356 512 435	7 251 628 210	10.33	30 699 456 608	27 496 964 727	12 941 658 788
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(7 024 894 652)	0.34	(3 244 374 511)	0.38	1.30	3 864 841 526	3 658 993 095	1 978 740 907	4.17	12 605 377 302	10 683 887 747	5 223 115 418
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(308 380 289)	0.59	(113 735 339)	0.70	0.18	541 721 360	451 216 394	267 193 701	0.30	901 730 120	759 596 683	380 929 040
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	742 117 162	1.88	347 462 695	2.19	0.42	1 559 655 504	1 584 634 083	639 672 053	0.23	792 527 221	842 516 921	292 209 358
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(30 361 369)	0.99	(27 859 172)	0.98	0.99	4 453 277 908	3 303 093 704	1 511 071 884	1.23	3 834 793 373	3 333 455 073	1 538 931 056
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(6 637 879 283)	0.22	(3 068 656 245)	0.29	0.83	1 732 212 950	1 898 457 404	1 271 951 958	3.46	10 505 258 618	8 536 336 687	4 340 608 203
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(2 569 230 344)	0.06	(1 223 913 651)	0.08	0.07	305 763 631	173 549 108	102 225 998	1.06	3 400 503 543	2 742 779 452	1 326 139 649
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 432 072 488)	0.35	(563 147 428)	0.45	0.30	874 463 219	762 662 119	453 749 093	0.81	2 866 510 863	2 194 734 607	1 016 896 521
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	78 400 543 290	34.80	39 696 607 798	28.25	26.97	57 770 692 813	80 719 763 406	41 153 264 577	1.16	1 277 700 757	2 319 220 116	1 456 656 779
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	10 071 421 793	1.66	6 726 706 247	1.98	8.91	32 445 865 989	25 437 119 051	13 603 059 712	5.49	15 565 549 386	15 365 697 258	6 876 353 465
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(49 569 818 428)	0.24	(21 449 311 881)	0.29	5.77	15 561 848 094	15 945 028 071	8 812 971 268	24.15	71 682 442 486	65 514 846 499	30 262 283 149
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	1 143 977 946	1.04	6 051 618 858	1.48	12.16	35 785 872 471	30 564 664 276	18 561 782 646	9.98	26 308 695 389	29 420 686 330	12 510 163 788
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(3 429 110 445)	0.52	(2 986 051 502)	0.21	0.52	1 248 900 547	3 745 648 943	788 729 299	3.01	7 104 487 394	7 174 759 388	3 774 780 801
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(2 761 532 117)	0.24	(1 224 307 951)	0.29	0.33	839 410 099	885 244 410	499 080 840	1.38	4 009 281 805	3 646 776 527	1 723 388 791
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(174 145 028)	0.61	(165 986 162)	0.49	0.10	192 329 552	267 109 990	157 401 704	0.26	195 897 330	441 255 018	323 387 866
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	212 965 283	2.04	94 191 967	1.81	0.14	497 968 532	417 495 315	210 860 313	0.09	240 348 197	204 530 032	116 668 346
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(20 406 422 909)	0.00	(9 697 439 223)	0.00	0.00	95 614	22 181	22 181	7.74	24 901 933 998	20 406 445 090	9 697 461 404
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>27 952 085 712</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>27 283 802 261</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>278 989 561 176</b>	<b>294 599 881 236</b>	<b>152 609 763 724</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>296 729 895 452</b>	<b>266 647 795 524</b>	<b>125 325 961 463</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	25 817 762 913	2.24	15 425 283 759	2.57	16.55	56 345 224 208	46 582 653 592	25 253 913 005	7.84	20 561 508 066	20 764 890 679	9 828 629 246
AMERICA	2 057 443 837	1.08	4 703 692 812	1.41	10.60	29 095 918 604	28 329 608 366	16 175 444 336	9.15	29 212 694 202	26 272 164 529	11 471 751 524
ASIA	(42 464 230 252)	0.71	(19 117 144 721)	0.73	33.98	90 228 248 859	103 950 365 003	51 863 117 293	56.64	160 207 584 849	146 414 595 255	70 980 262 014
EUROPE	13 993 214 726	1.20	11 530 344 605	1.37	28.11	71 441 159 354	83 854 044 940	42 895 208 647	25.03	81 668 644 805	69 860 830 214	31 364 864 042
OCEANIA	(455 946 802)	0.84	150 629 817	1.12	0.93	2 847 862 371	2 338 710 929	1 415 817 112	1.01	4 586 105 525	2 794 657 731	1 265 187 295
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	27 323 162 798	51.54	13 756 142 462	34.13	9.29	26 859 088 480	27 863 819 914	14 171 409 804	0.33	493 358 005	540 657 116	415 267 342
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 680 678 492	-	834 853 527	-	0.55	2 172 059 300	1 680 678 492	834 853 527				
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 952 085 712</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>27 283 802 261</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>278 989 561 176</b>	<b>294 599 881 236</b>	<b>152 609 763 724</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>296 729 895 452</b>	<b>266 647 795 524</b>	<b>125 325 961 463</b>

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	26 815 288 642	22 480 169 374

### 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 February 2026 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R9.6 billion.

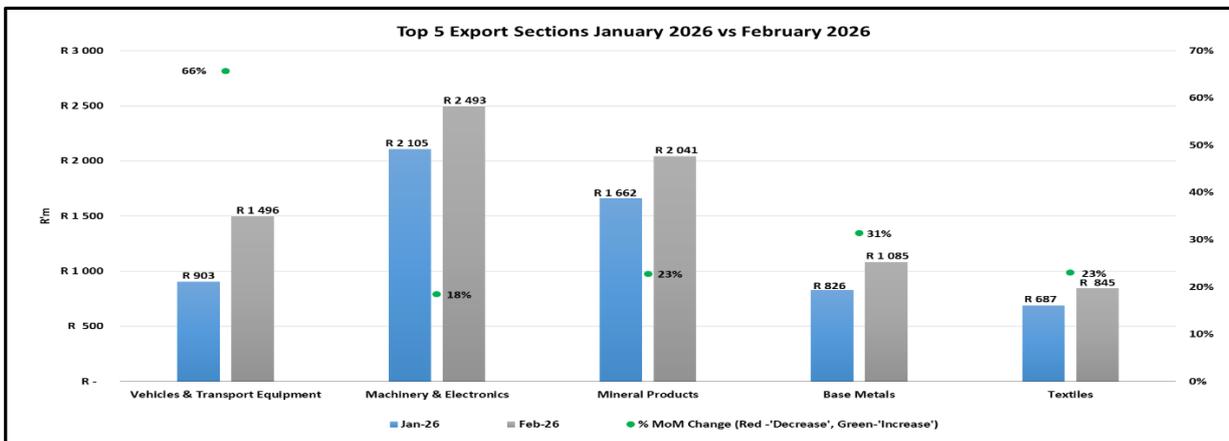
### Summary

The R9.6 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for February 2026 was as a result of exports of R15.5 billion and imports of R5.8 billion. Exports increased by R2.1 billion (16.1%) between January 2026 and February 2026, and imports also increased by R0.3 billion (6.2%) over the same period.

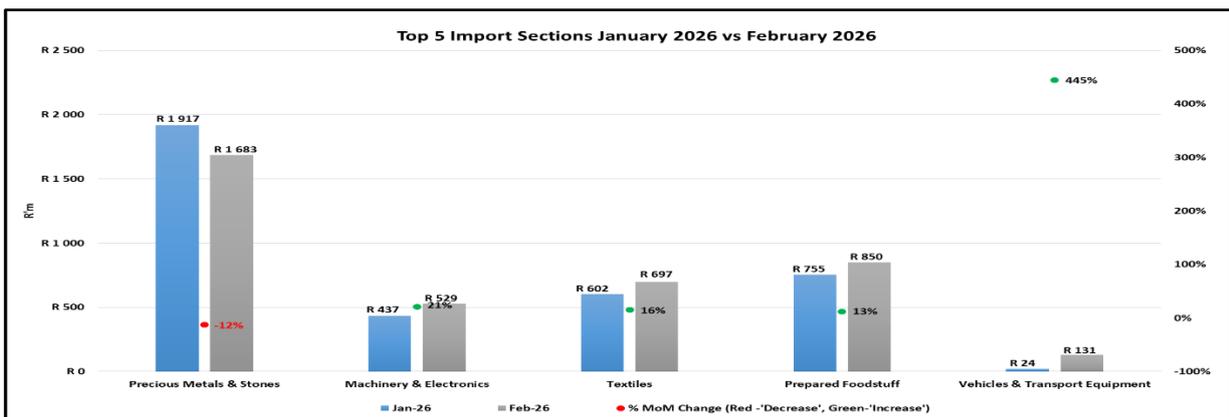
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R17.5 billion, compared to R21.1 billion surplus in 2025.

### 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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