



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 31 August 2026

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for July 2026

Pretoria, 31 August 2026 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R20.1 billion in July 2026. This surplus was attributable to exports of R194.0 billion and imports of R173.8 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 July 2026) preliminary trade balance surplus of R130.9 billion was higher than the R100.6 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2025. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for July 2026 of R194.0 billion were 5.8% higher compared to R183.3 billion recorded in July 2025. Import flows were higher by 5.8%, having increased from R164.3 billion in July 2025 to R173.8 billion in the current period.

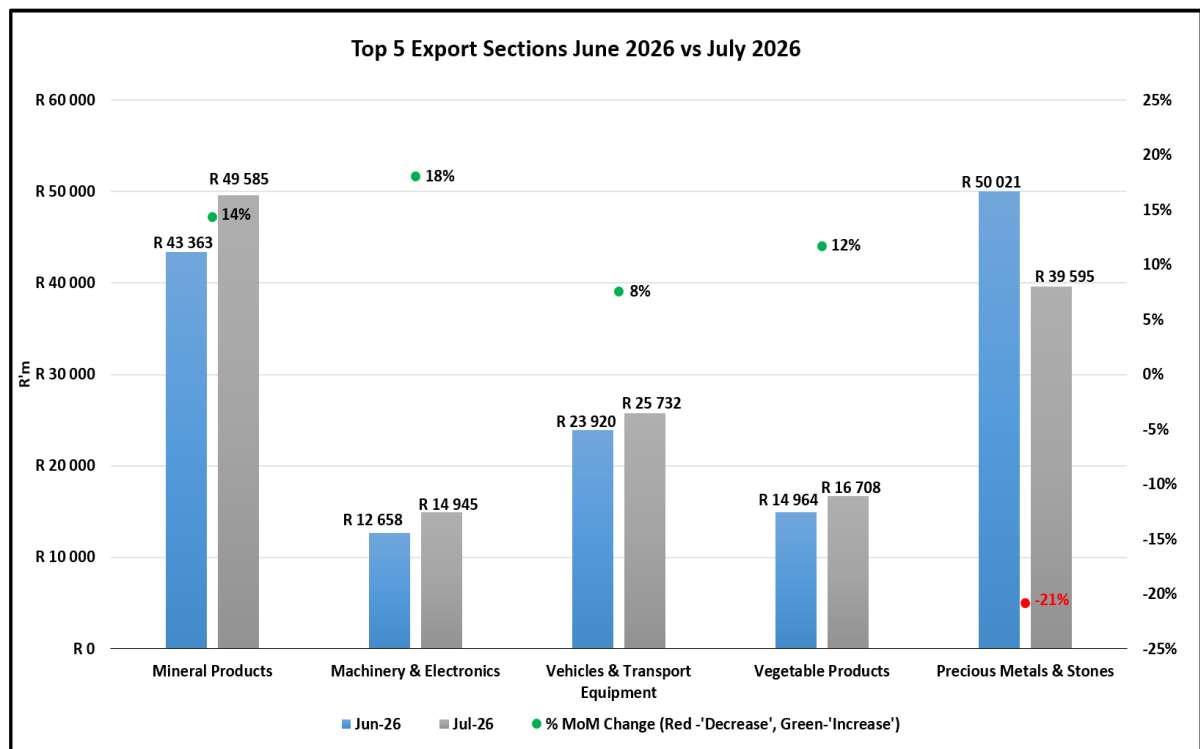
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R1.5 billion (0.8%) from R192.5 billion in June to R194.0 billion in July 2026, whilst imports decreased by R1.4 billion (-0.8%) from R175.2 billion to R173.8 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in July 2026 driven by exports of motor vehicles (passengers); manganese ores and concentrates; and coal. Import flows decreased on the back of lower importation of petroleum oils (excluding crude); crude oil; and telephone sets, including smartphones.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R17.8 billion announced for June 2026 was revised downwards by R0.5 billion, with the final surplus at R17.2 billion.

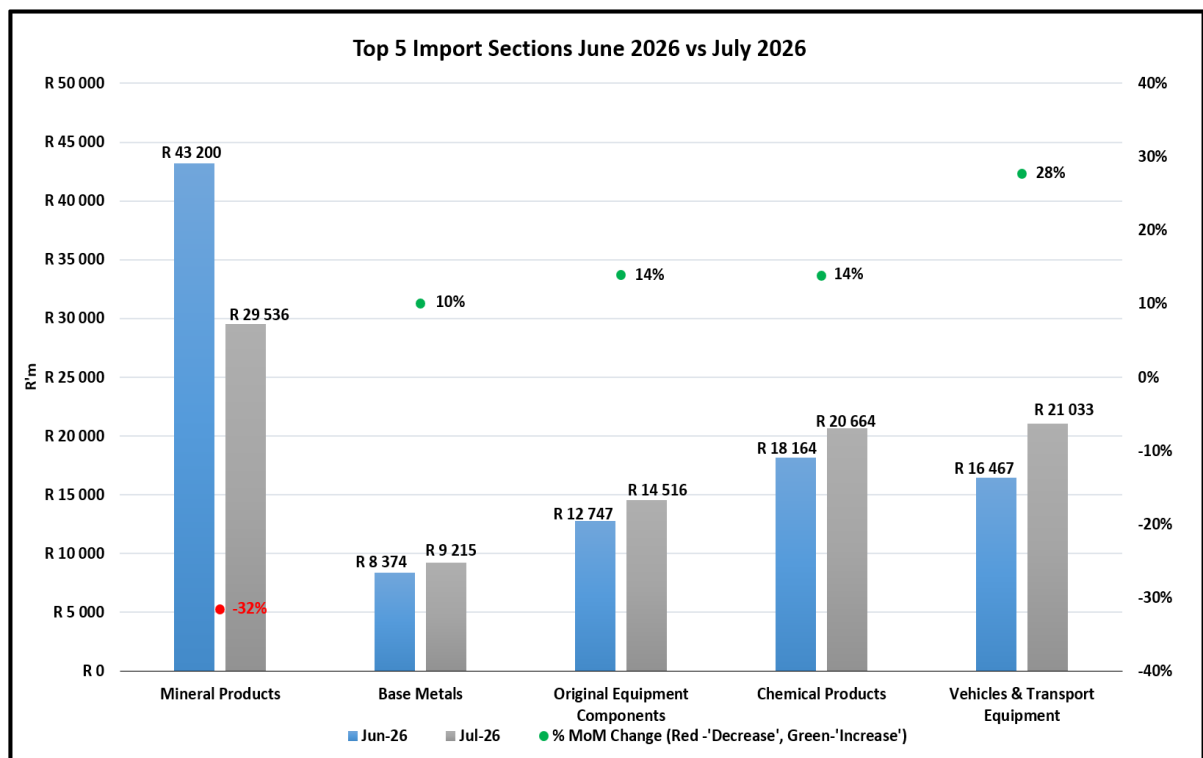
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from June 2026 (revised) to July 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	June 2026	July 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	45 355	49 238	3 882	↑ 8.6%
	Imports	24 941	17 271	-7 669	↓ -30.8%
	Trade Balance	20 415	31 966	-	-
America	Exports	17 499	15 917	-1 582	↓ -9.0%
	Imports	16 587	20 802	4 215	↑ 25.4%
	Trade Balance	912	-4 885	-	-
Asia	Exports	61 635	60 227	-1 408	↓ -2.3%
	Imports	91 382	90 227	-1 155	↓ -1.3%
	Trade Balance	-29 747	-30 000	-	-
Europe	Exports	44 187	48 034	3 846	↑ 8.7%
	Imports	40 213	43 797	3 583	↑ 8.9%
	Trade Balance	3 974	4 237	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 943	2 071	128	↑ 6.6%
	Imports	1 674	1 508	-166	↓ -9.9%
	Trade Balance	269	563	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	20 760	17 224	-3 536	↓ -17.0%
	Imports	443	226	-217	↓ -48.9%
	Trade Balance	20 317	16 998	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 094	1 257	163	↑ 14.9%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 094	1 257	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for July 2026 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R9.1 billion.

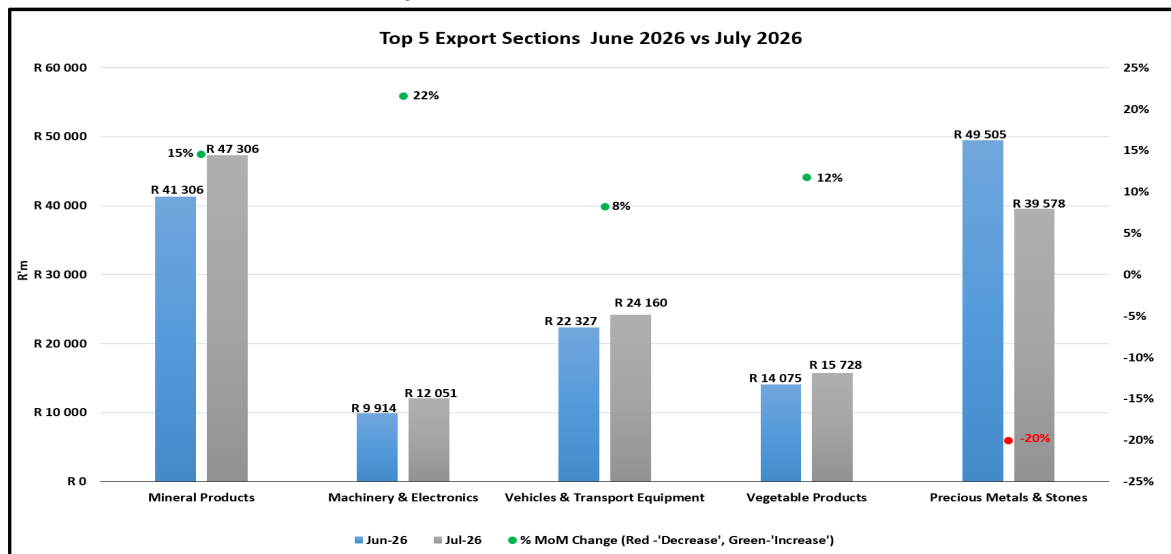
Summary

The R9.1 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for July 2026 was as a result of exports of R176.7 billion and imports of R167.6 billion. Exports increased by R0.7 billion (0.4%) between June 2026 and July 2026 whilst imports decreased by R1.9 billion (-1.1%) over the same period.

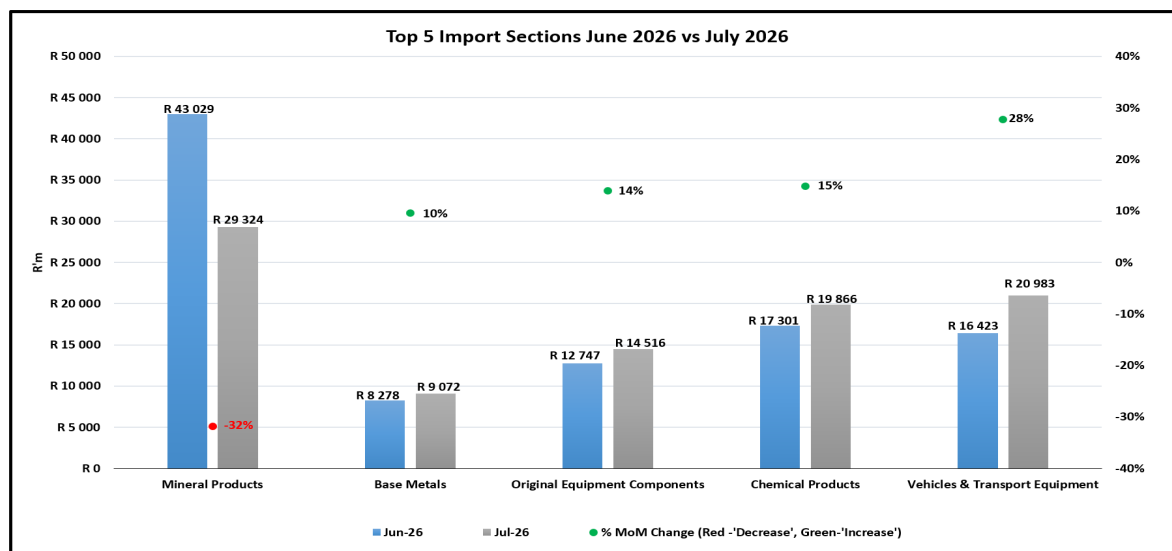
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R61.1 billion, compared to R24.3 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2025.

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 June 2026 (revised) and July 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	June 2026	July 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 891	31 941	3 050	10.6%
	Imports	19 234	11 030	-8 204	-42.7%
	Trade Balance	9 657	20 911	-	-

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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 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	2 699 206 411	1.23	477 754 322	1.27	1.16	14 483 706 960	14 470 415 486	2 244 828 029	1.02	9 757 398 085	11 771 209 075	1 767 073 707
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	63 819 377 409	3.69	12 912 444 700	4.40	8.61	89 168 385 006	87 555 516 395	16 708 033 710	2.18	27 199 604 981	23 736 138 986	3 795 589 010
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 084 491 042)	0.54	(853 796 425)	0.48	0.41	4 721 085 969	4 736 966 156	791 071 580	0.95	8 583 432 672	8 821 457 198	1 644 868 005
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	16 540 083 257	1.50	3 494 178 809	1.78	4.10	50 892 160 374	49 508 716 143	7 952 124 569	2.56	35 541 638 257	32 968 632 886	4 457 945 760
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	68 199 433 699	1.27	20 049 326 920	1.68	25.56	286 346 307 727	316 986 634 587	49 584 871 865	16.99	201 414 410 944	248 787 200 888	29 535 544 945
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(50 521 819 055)	0.57	(10 552 197 126)	0.49	5.21	65 950 495 603	68 021 899 770	10 112 037 757	11.89	115 764 177 419	118 543 718 825	20 664 234 883
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(23 544 981 008)	0.46	(4 060 746 428)	0.44	1.62	20 801 419 336	19 748 433 387	3 134 771 170	4.14	44 148 243 862	43 293 414 395	7 195 517 598
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(426 228 546)	0.84	(25 060 995)	0.94	0.21	2 464 862 068	2 304 397 482	401 737 498	0.25	2 892 013 850	2 730 626 028	426 798 493
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	3 344 232 526	1.73	666 167 070	2.00	0.69	7 497 070 775	7 896 518 012	1 334 986 992	0.38	4 306 046 216	4 552 285 486	668 819 922
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	2 274 083 555	1.17	522 198 206	1.26	1.32	18 140 348 800	15 854 557 365	2 559 069 612	1.17	13 638 058 567	13 580 473 810	2 036 871 406
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(21 497 197 789)	0.40	(3 605 852 662)	0.35	1.01	14 074 456 338	14 121 250 841	1 951 135 324	3.20	37 322 978 692	35 618 448 630	5 556 987 986
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(7 832 958 477)	0.22	(1 476 057 816)	0.19	0.18	2 723 190 572	2 200 410 493	348 383 970	1.05	11 354 232 946	10 033 368 970	1 824 441 786
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(4 318 670 235)	0.51	(709 882 753)	0.50	0.36	4 857 244 240	4 448 450 546	703 777 557	0.81	9 308 185 123	8 767 120 781	1 413 660 315
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	290 908 831 547	14.28	36 630 353 593	13.35	20.41	226 986 341 324	312 813 744 431	39 595 252 274	1.71	19 315 719 485	21 904 912 884	2 964 898 681
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	38 757 147 492	1.68	3 815 213 297	1.41	6.72	103 294 704 687	95 561 685 990	13 030 025 818	5.30	56 510 816 265	56 804 538 498	9 214 812 521
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(165 110 365 327)	0.34	(23 208 010 638)	0.39	7.71	83 168 426 851	86 370 527 489	14 945 297 248	21.95	244 195 214 750	251 480 892 816	38 153 307 886
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	32 139 112 517	1.28	4 699 689 532	1.22	13.27	162 382 959 975	148 921 154 613	25 732 454 351	12.10	100 704 123 653	116 782 042 096	21 032 764 819
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(17 966 390 654)	0.35	(3 016 073 664)	0.31	0.71	6 486 320 876	9 682 618 323	1 371 848 590	2.52	27 156 461 284	27 649 008 977	4 387 922 254
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(7 582 884 277)	0.45	(1 390 365 004)	0.42	0.51	6 622 565 670	6 281 370 191	991 540 770	1.37	13 902 006 987	13 864 254 468	2 381 905 774
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	136 792 492	1.15	56 230 945	1.94	0.06	933 149 774	1 070 830 781	116 286 885	0.03	474 658 361	934 038 289	60 055 940
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 795 533 066	2.64	226 579 785	2.73	0.18	4 616 298 888	2 888 396 865	357 703 540	0.08	1 216 748 511	1 092 863 799	131 123 755
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(86 829 574 528)	0.00	(14 515 907 360)	0.00	0.00	11 400 156	178 388	62 036	8.35	91 313 853 506	86 829 752 916	14 515 969 396
Total	Total SA Rand	130 898 273 033	1.11	20 136 186 303	1.12	100.00	1 176 622 901 969	1 271 444 673 734	193 967 301 145	100.00	1 076 020 024 416	1 140 546 400 701	173 831 114 842

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 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)
AFRICA	171 094 178 917	2.24	31 966 392 690	2.85	25.38	325 153 583 518	309 242 286 291	49 237 794 823	9.94	104 008 256 125	138 148 107 374	17 271 402 133
AMERICA	(18 302 622 396)	0.85	(4 885 279 830)	0.77	8.21	98 551 503 416	106 545 765 993	15 916 650 328	11.97	111 284 022 889	124 848 388 389	20 801 930 158
ASIA	(160 248 147 513)	0.71	(29 999 786 908)	0.67	31.05	336 109 146 910	401 564 144 905	60 227 066 549	51.90	557 440 096 185	561 812 292 418	90 226 853 457
EUROPE	16 371 485 306	1.05	4 237 208 615	1.10	24.76	294 296 186 081	318 770 562 190	48 033 883 211	25.19	284 137 204 643	302 399 076 884	43 796 674 596
OCEANIA	1 170 415 475	1.11	562 855 481	1.37	1.07	12 717 089 681	11 574 263 074	2 070 715 283	0.87	16 102 723 635	10 403 847 599	1 507 859 802
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	113 710 617 275	39.75	16 997 564 407	76.08	8.88	102 463 519 979	116 645 305 312	17 223 959 103	0.13	3 047 720 939	2 934 688 037	226 394 696
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	7 102 345 969	-	1 257 231 848	-	0.65	7 331 872 384	7 102 345 969	1 257 231 848				
Total	130 898 273 033	1.11	20 136 186 303	1.12	100.00	1 176 622 901 969	1 271 444 673 734	193 967 301 145	100.00	1 076 020 024 416	1 140 546 400 701	173 831 114 842

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	26 815 288 642	22 477 363 994	31 554 655 648	22 833 074 333	28 701 418 116	23 149 989 052	24 103 995 947

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 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	2 113 218 703	1.22	401 337 222	1.29	1.02	11 802 432 222	11 858 481 418	1 808 240 683	0.84	8 132 682 806	9 745 262 715	1 406 903 461
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	58 057 860 580	3.55	12 151 933 656	4.40	8.90	81 539 192 354	80 789 542 639	15 727 677 820	2.13	26 367 731 277	22 731 682 059	3 575 744 164
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(5 792 837 254)	0.34	(1 128 231 645)	0.31	0.29	3 128 225 908	3 003 442 821	512 582 052	0.98	8 533 574 426	8 796 280 075	1 640 813 697
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	8 560 638 741	1.32	2 278 173 803	1.64	3.30	36 451 982 103	35 637 130 777	5 832 555 806	2.12	29 742 652 913	27 076 492 036	3 554 382 003
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	54 216 162 245	1.22	17 982 012 850	1.61	26.78	268 209 124 886	301 505 220 377	47 305 887 324	17.50	200 102 975 326	247 289 058 132	29 323 874 474
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(56 055 914 088)	0.50	(11 616 398 049)	0.42	4.67	54 180 135 248	56 275 806 353	8 249 776 805	11.85	109 392 684 871	112 331 720 441	19 866 174 854
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(27 940 746 542)	0.34	(4 748 293 500)	0.33	1.33	15 647 394 135	14 688 205 658	2 355 196 316	4.24	43 590 143 894	42 628 952 200	7 103 489 816
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(668 779 449)	0.75	(66 525 304)	0.84	0.20	2 134 649 763	1 982 587 148	348 357 883	0.25	2 821 964 978	2 651 366 597	414 883 187
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	3 382 711 518	2.23	671 829 133	2.85	0.59	5 797 469 132	6 136 299 687	1 034 655 971	0.22	2 580 913 041	2 753 588 169	362 826 838
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	364 848 460	1.03	235 123 555	1.12	1.25	15 834 750 470	13 588 926 042	2 212 919 978	1.18	13 293 619 340	13 224 077 582	1 977 796 423
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(22 636 418 357)	0.27	(3 733 395 501)	0.21	0.57	8 044 520 310	8 180 450 020	998 510 469	2.82	32 223 386 328	30 816 868 377	4 731 905 970
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(9 009 462 955)	0.09	(1 673 139 760)	0.07	0.07	1 294 275 946	852 535 500	116 543 136	1.07	11 222 339 070	9 861 998 455	1 789 682 896
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(5 678 456 488)	0.34	(937 554 707)	0.33	0.26	3 392 727 970	2 982 112 941	458 463 294	0.83	9 218 367 338	8 660 569 429	1 396 018 001
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	301 514 848 700	32.83	38 265 275 552	30.15	22.40	224 887 853 685	310 987 186 926	39 577 828 148	0.78	6 467 373 529	9 472 338 226	1 312 552 596
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	32 087 629 131	1.57	2 743 057 832	1.30	6.69	95 666 438 861	88 072 580 617	11 814 703 906	5.41	55 723 400 800	55 984 951 486	9 071 646 074
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(179 314 737 834)	0.28	(25 575 664 323)	0.32	6.82	65 192 141 384	68 355 453 779	12 051 167 630	22.45	241 012 544 027	247 670 191 613	37 626 831 953
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	22 674 779 924	1.19	3 177 428 709	1.15	13.68	151 808 242 259	139 003 908 699	24 160 138 236	12.52	100 351 869 652	116 329 128 775	20 982 709 527
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(19 643 591 834)	0.29	(3 275 518 471)	0.25	0.62	4 793 013 635	7 926 570 689	1 101 695 959	2.61	27 087 568 544	27 570 162 523	4 377 214 430
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(10 215 921 430)	0.26	(1 830 269 213)	0.23	0.30	3 653 661 808	3 568 612 876	538 421 386	1.41	13 817 925 319	13 784 534 306	2 368 690 599
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	132 260 341	1.14	55 885 341	1.93	0.07	927 183 183	1 064 435 275	115 675 806	0.04	473 876 812	932 174 934	59 790 465
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 757 693 748	2.62	220 036 135	2.70	0.20	4 582 030 708	2 841 482 122	349 631 169	0.08	1 204 695 954	1 083 788 374	129 595 034
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(86 829 590 403)	0.00	(14 515 907 360)	0.00	0.00	11 319 616	162 513	62 036	8.66	91 313 853 506	86 829 752 916	14 515 969 396
Total	Total SA Rand	61 076 195 457	1.06	9 081 195 955	1.05	100.00	1 058 978 765 586	1 159 301 134 877	176 670 691 813	100.00	1 034 676 143 751	1 098 224 939 420	167 589 495 858

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 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2026 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2026 (R'm)
AFRICA	101 272 101 341	2.06	20 911 402 342	2.90	18.08	207 509 447 135	197 098 747 434	31 941 185 491	6.58	62 664 375 460	95 826 646 093	11 029 783 149
AMERICA	(18 302 622 396)	0.85	(4 885 279 830)	0.77	9.01	98 551 503 416	106 545 765 993	15 916 650 328	12.41	111 284 022 889	124 848 388 389	20 801 930 158
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	7 102 345 969	-	1 257 231 848	-	0.71	7 331 872 384	7 102 345 969	1 257 231 848				
Total	61 076 195 457	1.06	9 081 195 955	1.05	100.00	1 058 978 765 586	1 159 301 134 877	176 670 691 813	100.00	1 034 676 143 751	1 098 224 939 420	167 589 495 858

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	26 815 288 642	22 477 363 994	31 554 655 648	22 833 074 333	28 701 418 116	23 149 989 052	24 103 995 947

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 July 2026 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.1 billion.

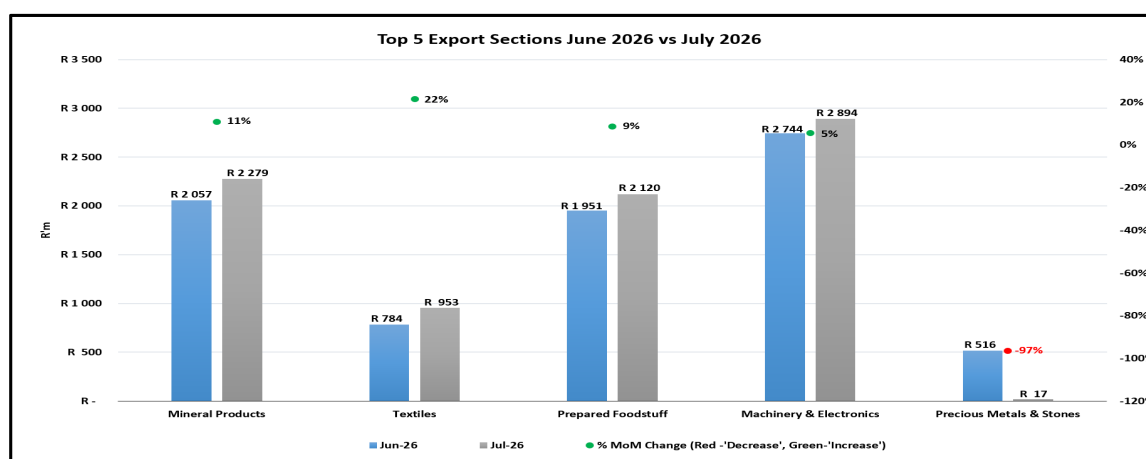
Summary

The R11.1 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for July 2026 was as a result of exports of R17.3 billion and imports of R6.2 billion. Exports increased by R0.8 billion (5.1%) between June 2026 and July 2026, and imports also increased by R0.5 billion (9.4%) over the same period.

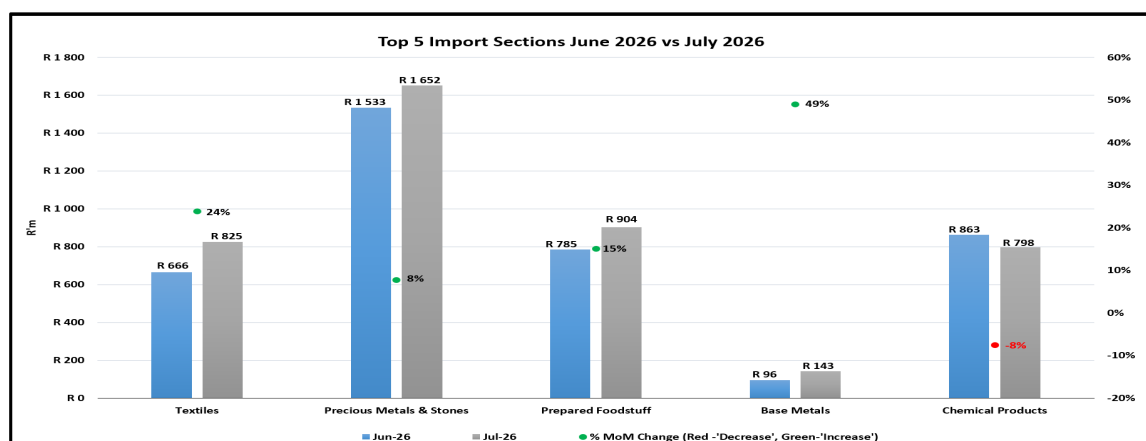
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R69.8 billion, compared to R76.3 billion surplus in 2025.

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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