



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Thursday, 30 April 2026

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for March 2026

Pretoria, 30 April 2026 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R31.9 billion in March 2026. This surplus was attributable to exports of R187.9 billion and imports of R156.0 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2026) preliminary trade balance surplus of R75.6 billion was higher than the R26.0 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2025. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for March 2026 (R187.9 billion) were 9.9% higher compared to R171.0 billion recorded in March 2025. Import flows were higher by 5.2%, having increased from R148.3 billion in March 2025 to R156.0 billion in the current period.

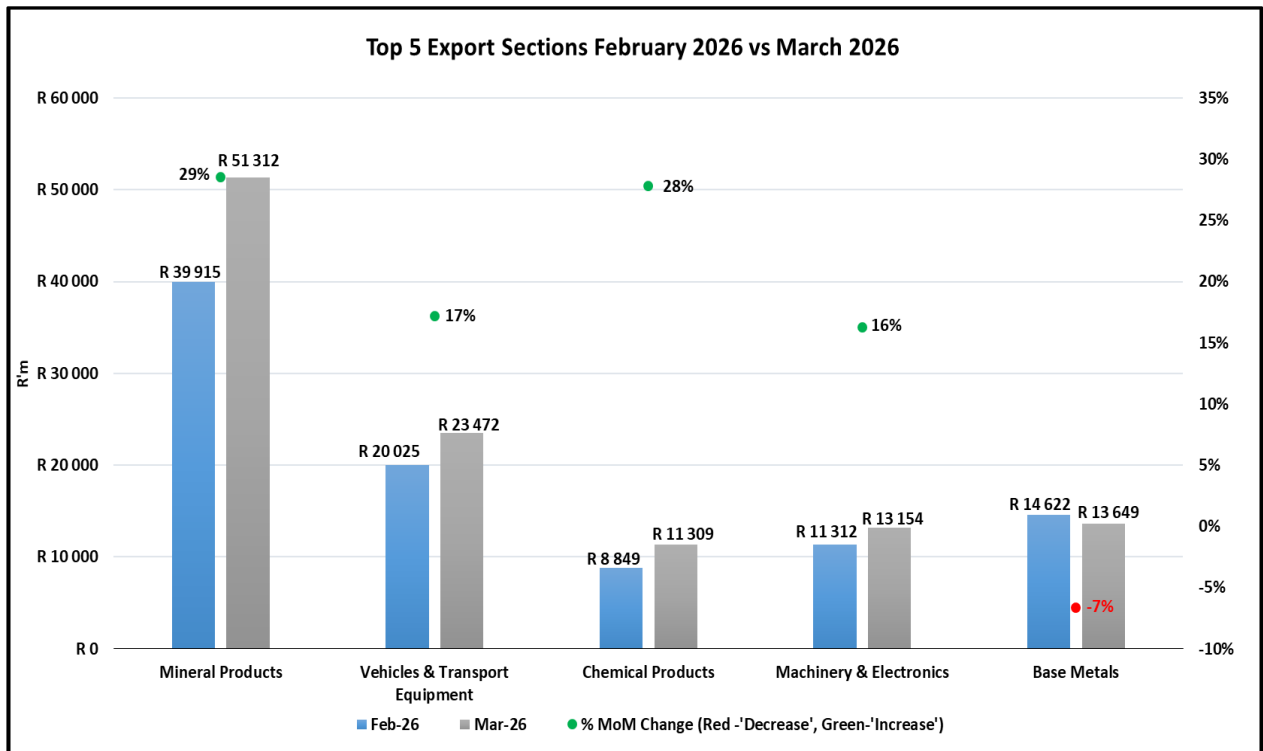
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R20.2 billion (12.1%) from R167.7 billion to R187.9 billion between February 2026 and March 2026, whilst imports increased by R24.2 billion (18.4%) from R131.8 billion to R156.0 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in March 2026, driven by vehicles (passengers), platinum group metals (PGMs), and electrical energy. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of petroleum oils (excluding crude), original equipment components, and vehicles (passengers).

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R36.9 billion announced for February 2026 was revised downwards by R1.1 billion, with the final number at R35.9 billion.

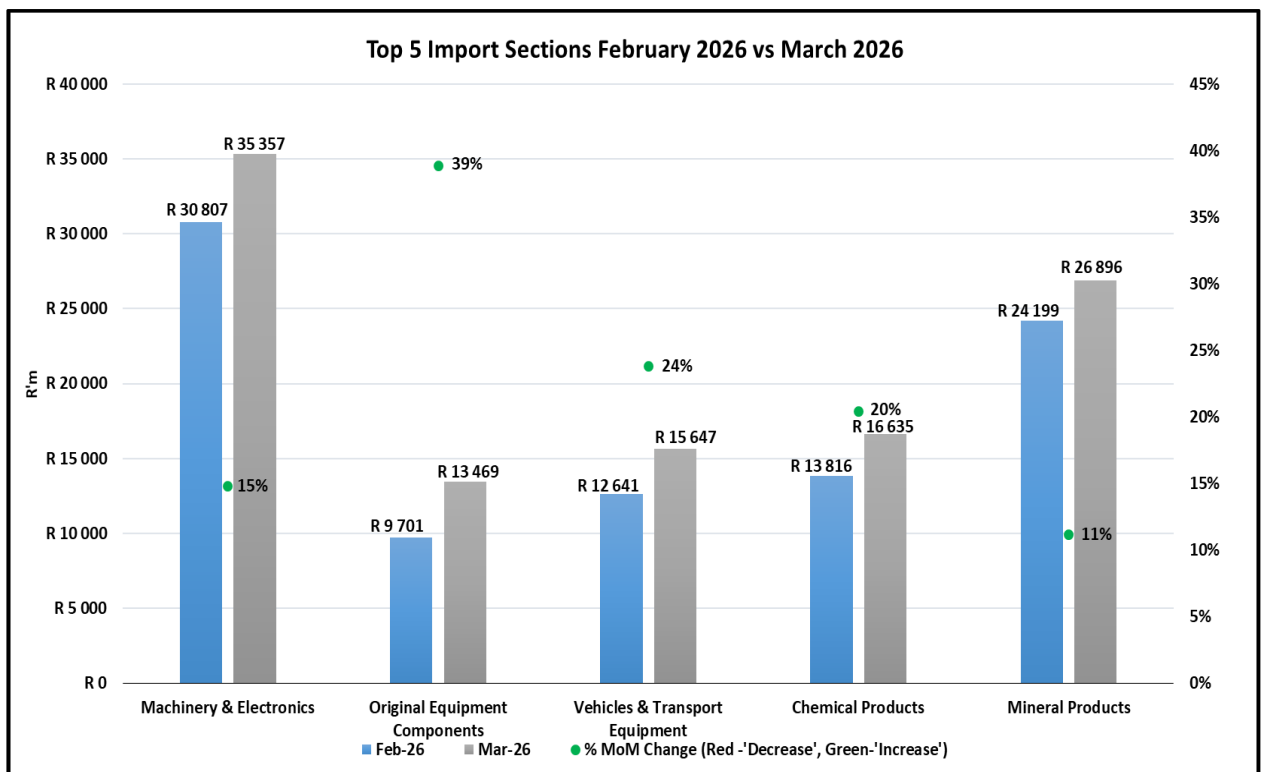
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from February 2026 (revised) to March 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2026	March 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	40 694	49 997	9 303	22.9%
	Imports	16 019	15 491	-528	-3.3%
	Trade Balance	24 675	34 506	-	-
America	Exports	16 169	15 634	-534	-3.3%
	Imports	11 492	13 744	2 252	19.6%
	Trade Balance	4 677	1 890	-	-
Asia	Exports	51 482	58 620	7 138	13.9%
	Imports	71 010	81 014	10 004	14.1%
	Trade Balance	-19 528	-22 394	-	-
Europe	Exports	42 889	49 764	6 876	16.0%
	Imports	31 594	44 073	12 479	39.5%
	Trade Balance	11 295	5 691	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 418	1 531	113	8.0%
	Imports	1 268	1 644	377	29.7%
	Trade Balance	150	-114	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	14 171	11 568	-2 603	-18.4%
	Imports	415	60	-355	-85.6%
	Trade Balance	13 756	11 508	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	835	779	-56	-6.7%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	835	779	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for March 2026 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R22.0 billion.

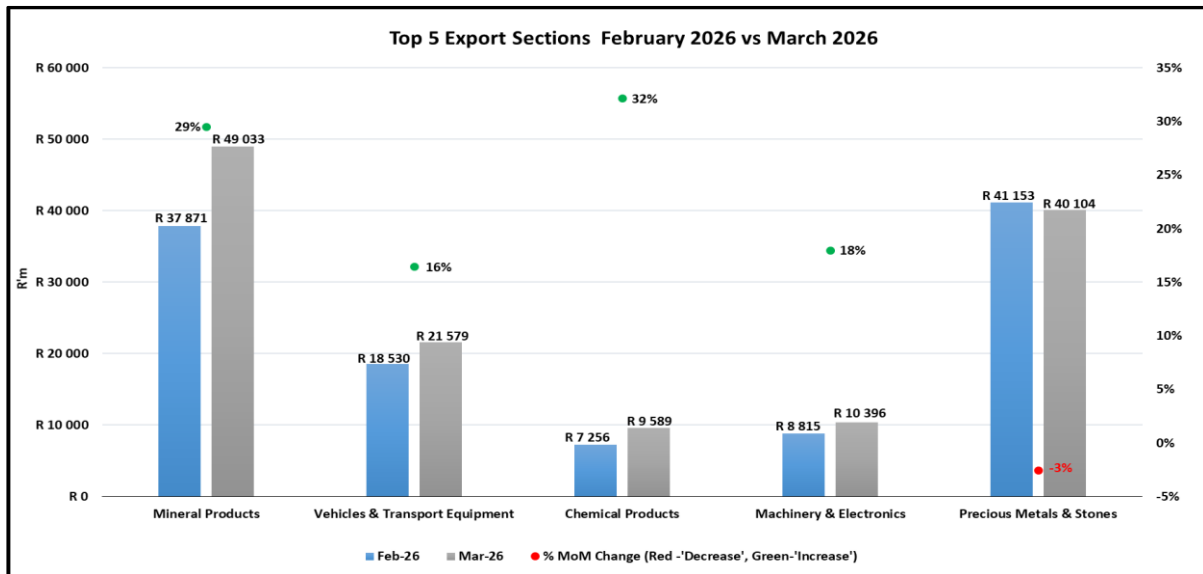
Summary

The R22.0 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2026 was as a result of exports of R170.3 billion and imports of R148.3 billion. Exports increased by R18.1 billion (11.9%) between February 2026 and March 2026 whilst imports increased by R22.4 billion (17.7%) over the same period.

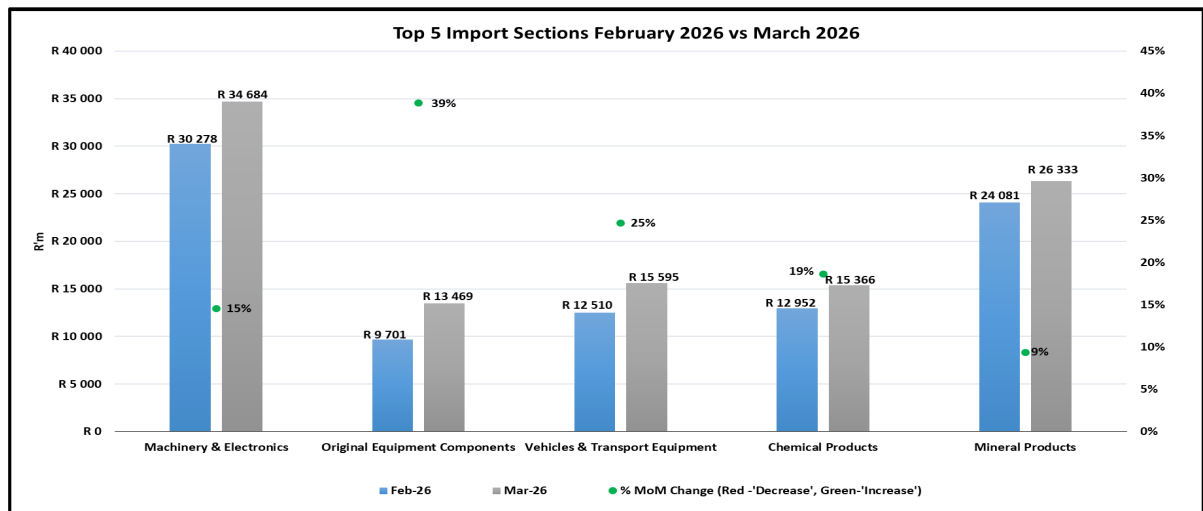
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R48.2 billion, compared to R6.4 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2025.

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 February 2026 (revised) and March 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2026	March 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	25 212	32 380	7 168	28.4%
	Imports	10 178	7 772	-2 407	-23.6%
	Trade Balance	15 034	24 608	-	-

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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	531 487 009	1.11	245 874 955	1.14	1.03	6 214 079 565	5 530 483 685	1 943 855 702	1.09	4 327 083 594	4 998 996 676	1 697 980 747
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	24 687 165 880	3.60	7 883 172 853	3.37	5.96	34 284 393 811	34 167 540 008	11 203 809 192	2.13	13 372 926 785	9 480 374 128	3 320 636 339
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(1 759 421 325)	0.51	(853 213 180)	0.47	0.40	1 980 533 014	1 819 818 803	753 218 119	1.03	3 576 450 176	3 579 240 128	1 606 431 299
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	6 187 951 074	1.46	2 450 183 483	1.49	3.97	19 588 415 077	19 670 826 030	7 454 340 271	3.21	14 983 659 783	13 482 874 956	5 004 156 788
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	57 031 737 188	1.75	24 415 385 309	1.91	27.31	122 690 468 204	132 849 775 522	51 311 680 614	17.24	89 517 970 117	75 818 038 334	26 896 295 305
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(18 100 381 580)	0.61	(5 326 681 389)	0.68	6.02	28 008 295 900	27 743 415 475	11 308 518 560	10.66	48 793 573 472	45 843 797 055	16 635 199 949
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(9 010 260 140)	0.47	(3 118 691 048)	0.48	1.54	8 123 288 164	7 844 031 506	2 894 104 264	3.85	18 259 632 109	16 854 291 646	6 012 795 312
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(307 205 042)	0.75	(75 957 934)	0.82	0.19	1 011 923 914	898 282 916	355 079 902	0.28	1 238 710 981	1 205 487 958	431 037 836
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 257 381 963	1.63	539 981 403	1.79	0.65	3 067 907 577	3 250 639 233	1 220 244 429	0.44	1 834 555 893	1 993 257 270	680 263 026
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	643 314 767	1.11	103 205 766	1.05	1.26	7 473 649 470	6 353 448 030	2 361 199 451	1.45	5 681 060 536	5 710 133 263	2 257 993 685
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(9 981 249 368)	0.36	(3 557 429 558)	0.38	1.17	5 624 024 452	5 617 061 841	2 197 923 685	3.69	16 738 791 967	15 598 311 209	5 755 353 243
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 404 291 213)	0.21	(1 139 178 783)	0.23	0.19	1 251 688 147	883 313 219	348 854 404	0.95	4 517 508 020	4 287 604 432	1 488 033 187
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 613 256 645)	0.53	(536 128 553)	0.56	0.36	2 101 939 292	1 830 692 651	681 013 865	0.78	3 947 211 118	3 443 949 296	1 217 142 418
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	111 612 822 287	12.14	36 568 527 083	9.92	21.65	89 579 455 902	121 633 962 557	40 669 984 701	2.63	7 196 178 251	10 021 140 270	4 101 457 618
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	17 416 617 144	1.74	5 765 411 290	1.73	7.26	47 698 555 666	40 929 988 298	13 649 060 221	5.05	23 422 399 047	23 513 371 154	7 883 648 931
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(68 152 077 191)	0.33	(22 202 767 153)	0.37	7.00	33 486 382 284	33 732 347 045	13 153 937 948	22.66	104 752 825 974	101 884 424 236	35 356 705 101
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	11 176 069 410	1.25	7 824 300 436	1.50	12.49	63 133 530 742	56 397 864 718	23 471 582 272	10.03	40 599 613 297	45 221 795 308	15 647 281 836
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(6 285 100 099)	0.45	(3 265 067 807)	0.23	0.52	2 863 786 858	5 152 529 014	975 781 551	2.72	11 306 728 866	11 437 629 113	4 240 849 358
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 146 305 459)	0.44	(1 035 156 997)	0.47	0.49	2 478 307 120	2 485 674 371	928 711 119	1.26	5 545 172 929	5 631 979 830	1 963 868 116
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(26 330 355)	0.95	148 955 676	2.94	0.12	315 404 238	495 450 414	225 763 020	0.05	271 513 992	521 780 769	76 807 344
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	717 923 195	2.46	501 153 692	2.77	0.42	1 716 978 409	1 209 788 494	784 612 988	0.18	364 833 518	491 865 299	283 459 296
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(33 878 938 530)	0.00	(13 469 163 444)	-	-	6 809 982	23 420	-	8.63	36 442 269 138	33 878 961 950	13 469 163 444
Total	Total SA Rand	75 597 652 970	1.17	31 866 716 100	1.20	100.00	482 699 817 788	510 496 957 250	187 893 276 278	100.00	456 690 669 563	434 899 304 280	156 026 560 178

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	77 425 840 881	2.61	34 506 079 222	3.23	26.61	136 654 781 252	125 371 647 276	49 996 803 681	9.93	46 928 252 307	47 945 806 395	15 490 724 459
AMERICA	3 818 489 670	1.10	1 890 466 253	1.14	8.32	41 061 685 589	43 945 123 751	15 634 394 276	8.81	44 170 905 203	40 126 634 081	13 743 928 023
ASIA	(65 721 262 118)	0.71	(22 393 673 453)	0.72	31.20	139 630 277 039	161 784 140 634	58 620 325 553	51.92	238 272 089 366	227 505 402 752	81 013 999 006
EUROPE	19 354 237 250	1.17	5 690 596 550	1.13	26.49	115 363 326 837	133 633 403 074	49 764 088 742	28.25	119 316 159 243	114 279 165 824	44 073 492 192
OCEANIA	(570 466 770)	0.87	(113 778 154)	0.93	0.81	4 329 413 919	3 871 130 025	1 530 649 942	1.05	7 354 549 870	4 441 596 795	1 644 428 096
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	38 831 251 480	65.64	11 508 141 597	192.84	6.16	42 676 168 944	39 431 949 913	11 568 129 999	0.04	648 713 574	600 698 433	59 988 402
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 459 562 577	-	778 884 085	-	0.41	2 984 164 208	2 459 562 577	778 884 085	-	-	-	-
Total	75 597 652 970	1.17	31 866 716 100	1.20	100.00	482 699 817 788	510 496 957 250	187 893 276 278	100.00	456 690 669 563	434 899 304 280	156 026 560 178

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	26 815 288 642	22 480 169 374	31 575 695 818

Notes:

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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
- 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)

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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	275 959 047	1.07	168 826 076	1.12	0.91	5 079 354 851	4 454 534 809	1 545 606 103	0.93	3 664 212 599	4 178 575 762	1 376 780 027
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	21 976 596 701	3.39	6 910 626 278	3.16	5.93	30 763 341 154	31 160 834 679	10 103 090 721	2.15	13 090 333 773	9 184 237 978	3 192 464 443
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 488 174 946)	0.30	(1 165 040 739)	0.27	0.25	1 369 431 567	1 076 347 455	430 670 144	1.08	3 563 973 619	3 564 522 401	1 595 710 883
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	2 660 518 169	1.24	1 317 192 418	1.32	3.17	13 340 792 432	13 614 569 995	5 397 935 834	2.75	12 568 255 809	10 954 051 826	4 080 743 416
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	51 826 787 329	1.69	22 699 255 152	1.86	28.80	114 719 425 282	126 868 765 467	49 032 656 765	17.76	88 976 193 183	75 041 978 138	26 333 401 613
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(19 924 202 245)	0.54	(5 777 433 452)	0.62	5.63	23 118 616 903	22 949 845 844	9 588 501 167	10.36	45 693 704 558	42 874 048 089	15 365 934 619
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(10 798 435 318)	0.35	(3 776 734 149)	0.36	1.25	5 937 575 977	5 784 125 726	2 133 475 454	3.99	18 025 027 674	16 582 561 044	5 910 209 603
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(417 275 079)	0.65	(108 736 826)	0.74	0.18	873 621 048	759 943 941	308 726 324	0.28	1 214 449 470	1 177 219 020	417 463 150
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 296 852 627	2.03	538 959 150	2.30	0.56	2 369 185 946	2 557 600 215	954 930 885	0.28	1 154 271 262	1 260 747 588	415 971 735
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(195 747 618)	0.96	(189 988 207)	0.91	1.18	6 474 629 488	5 346 483 985	2 014 041 959	1.49	5 535 530 683	5 542 231 603	2 204 030 166
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(10 384 874 166)	0.23	(3 730 469 852)	0.26	0.76	3 188 895 503	3 175 703 875	1 287 906 890	3.38	14 637 910 697	13 560 578 041	5 018 376 742
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 903 439 909)	0.07	(1 331 423 821)	0.09	0.08	643 080 333	302 078 443	128 512 495	0.98	4 464 145 583	4 205 518 352	1 459 936 316
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 163 870 442)	0.36	(730 971 629)	0.39	0.28	1 434 470 774	1 234 144 479	471 185 086	0.81	3 912 584 383	3 398 014 921	1 202 156 715
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	116 846 541 711	30.38	38 445 724 941	24.19	23.55	88 873 766 765	120 823 508 138	40 103 744 732	1.12	1 991 781 611	3 976 966 427	1 658 019 791
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	14 739 484 905	1.64	4 760 941 295	1.61	7.37	44 538 602 993	37 918 740 969	12 548 080 889	5.25	23 017 208 388	23 179 256 064	7 787 139 594
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(73 873 815 133)	0.26	(24 287 326 636)	0.30	6.11	25 786 724 084	26 371 922 371	10 396 189 371	23.39	103 383 390 315	100 245 737 504	34 683 516 007
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	7 095 577 700	1.16	5 983 905 073	1.38	12.67	58 798 030 268	52 109 901 727	21 578 541 351	10.52	40 453 541 585	45 014 324 027	15 594 636 278
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(6 950 456 301)	0.39	(3 512 350 966)	0.17	0.42	2 178 173 191	4 460 230 477	717 393 125	2.85	11 277 214 247	11 410 686 778	4 229 744 091
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 185 305 457)	0.25	(1 421 510 097)	0.27	0.31	1 321 690 168	1 415 339 045	531 209 727	1.32	5 514 722 521	5 600 644 502	1 952 719 824
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(29 213 272)	0.94	148 090 262	2.93	0.13	312 831 687	491 950 498	224 871 970	0.05	271 059 078	521 163 770	76 781 708
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	709 846 980	2.46	496 764 182	2.76	0.46	1 705 715 847	1 196 822 790	779 328 960	0.19	359 596 825	486 975 810	282 564 778
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(33 878 939 769)	0.00	(13 469 163 444)	-	-	6 755 595	22 181	-	9.08	36 442 269 138	33 878 961 950	13 469 163 444
Total	Total SA Rand	48 234 415 514	1.12	21 969 135 009	1.15	100.00	432 834 711 856	464 073 417 109	170 276 599 952	100.00	439 211 377 001	415 839 001 595	148 307 464 943

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	50 062 603 425	2.73	24 608 498 131	4.17	19.02	86 789 675 320	78 948 107 135	32 380 127 355	5.24	29 448 959 745	28 885 503 710	7 771 629 224
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OCEANIA	(570 466 770)	0.87	(113 778 154)	0.93	0.90	4 329 413 919	3 871 130 025	1 530 649 942	1.11	7 354 549 870	4 441 596 795	1 644 428 096
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	38 831 251 480	65.64	11 508 141 597	192.84	6.79	42 676 168 944	39 431 949 913	11 568 129 999	0.04	648 713 574	600 698 433	59 988 402
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 459 562 577	-	778 884 085	-	0.46	2 984 164 208	2 459 562 577	778 884 085	-	-	-	-
Total	48 234 415 514	1.12	21 969 135 009	1.15	100.00	432 834 711 856	464 073 417 109	170 276 599 952	100.00	439 211 377 001	415 839 001 595	148 307 464 943

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	26 815 288 642	22 480 169 374	31 575 695 818

Notes:

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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
- 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 March 2026 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R9.9 billion.

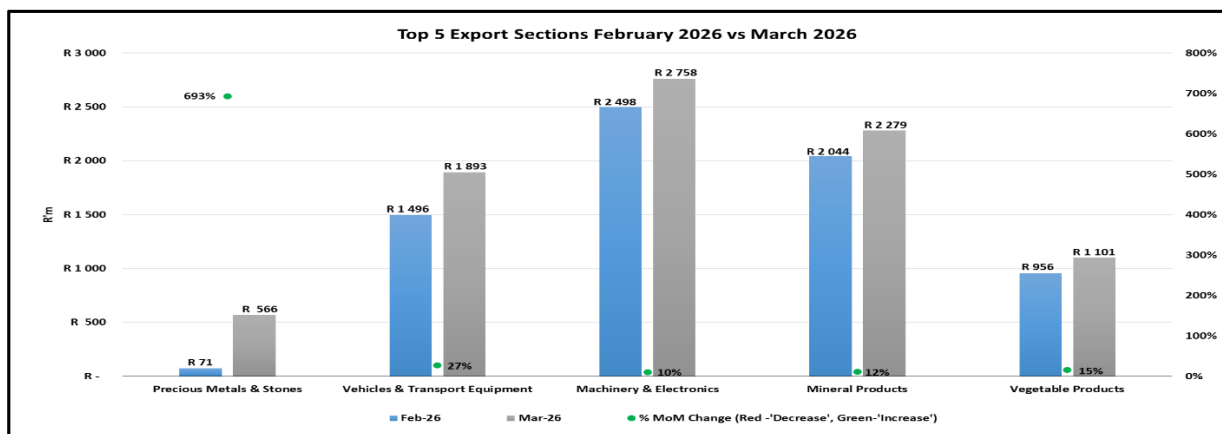
Summary

The R9.9 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2026 was as a result of exports of R17.6 billion and imports of R7.7 billion. Exports increased by R2.1 billion (13.8%) between February 2026 and March 2026, and imports also increased by R1.9 billion (32.2%) over the same period.

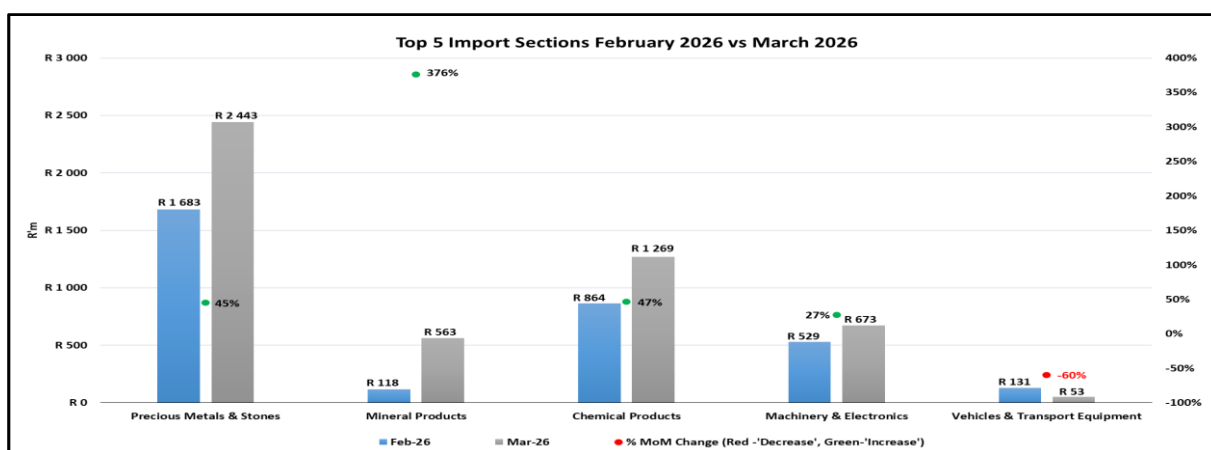
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R27.4 billion, compared to R32.4 billion surplus in 2025.

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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