



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 30 October 2026

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for September 2026

Pretoria, 30 October 2026 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R19.8 billion in September 2026. This surplus was attributable to exports of R190.6 billion and imports of R170.8 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 September 2026) preliminary trade balance surplus of R169.0 billion was higher than the R117.5 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2025. The year-to-date R169.0 billion trade balance surplus was driven by exports of R1.6 trillion and imports of R1.5 trillion. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for September 2026 of R190.6 billion were 2.2% higher compared to R186.4 billion recorded in September 2025. Import flows were higher by 3.6%, having increased from R164.9 billion in September 2025 to R170.8 billion in the current period.

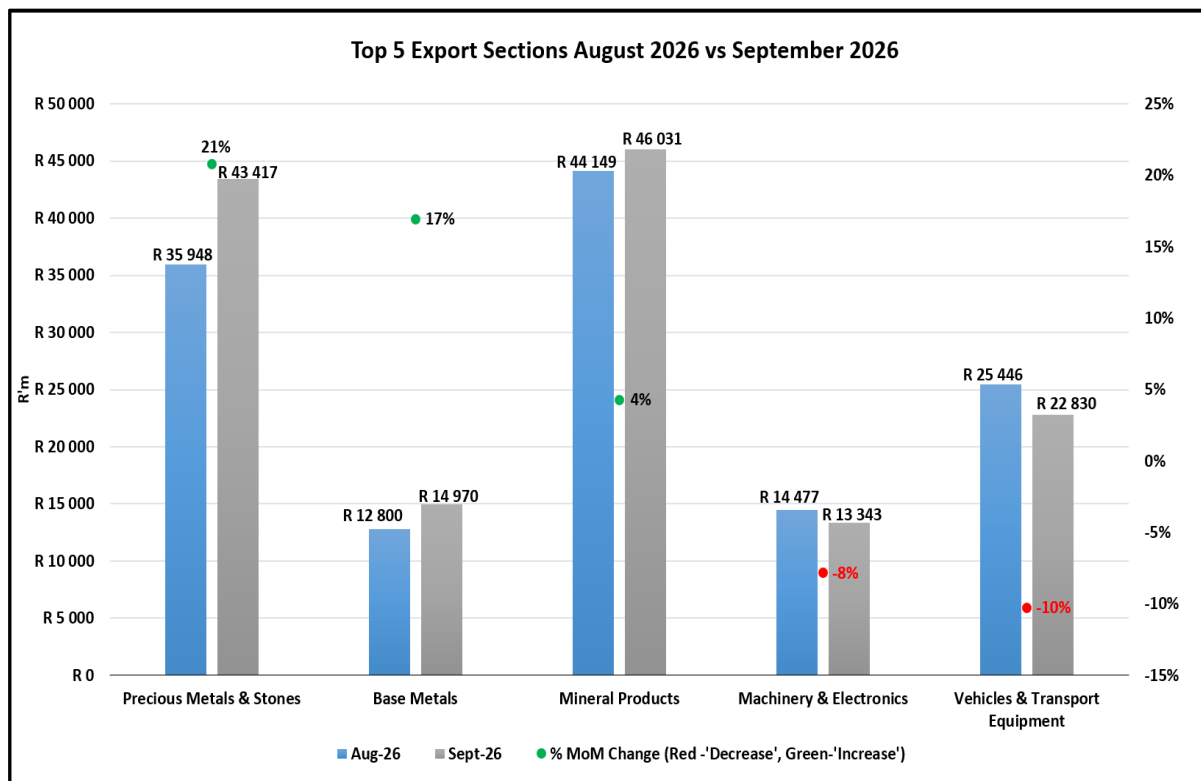
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R9.3 billion (5.1%) from R181.3 billion in August to R190.6 billion in September 2026, whilst imports increased by R8.4 billion (5.2%) from R162.3 billion to R170.8 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in September 2026 driven by higher exports of platinum group metals (PGMs); gold; and zinc ores and concentrates. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of petroleum oils (excluding crude); aeroplanes; and automatic data processing machines.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R20.5 billion announced for August 2026 was revised downwards by R1.5 billion, with the final surplus at R19.0 billion.

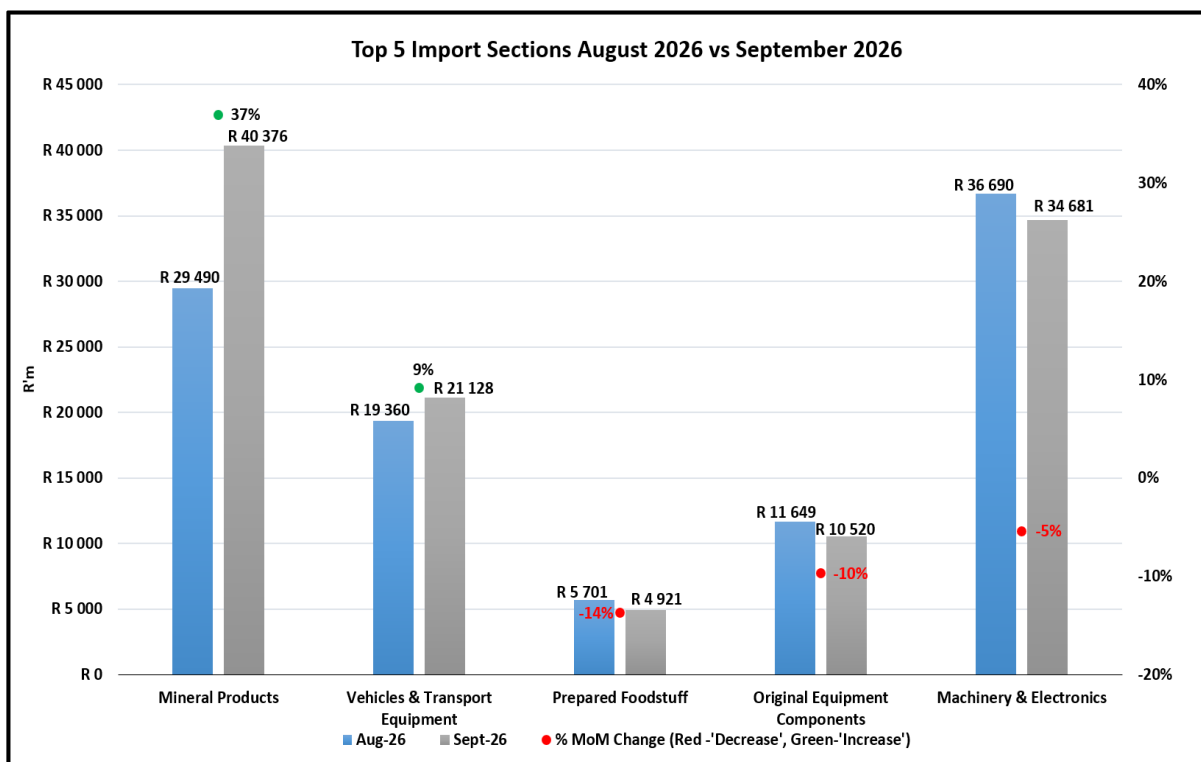
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Trade highlights by category

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 2026 (revised) to September 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2026	September 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	47 815	49 535	1 719	↑ 3.6%
	Imports	19 106	19 969	863	↑ 4.5%
	Trade Balance	28 709	29 566	-	-
America	Exports	17 823	15 763	-2 060	↓ -11.6%
	Imports	15 639	16 000	362	↑ 2.3%
	Trade Balance	2 184	-237	-	-
Asia	Exports	54 906	57 669	2 764	↑ 5.0%
	Imports	81 149	95 584	14 435	↑ 17.8%
	Trade Balance	-26 243	-37 915	-	-
Europe	Exports	41 800	45 953	4 154	↑ 9.9%
	Imports	45 023	36 912	-8 111	↓ -18.0%
	Trade Balance	-3 223	9 042	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 364	1 685	-679	↓ -28.7%
	Imports	853	1 969	1 116	↑ 130.7%
	Trade Balance	1 511	-284	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	15 411	18 798	3 388	↑ 22.0%
	Imports	580	361	-219	↓ -37.8%
	Trade Balance	14 830	18 437	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 200	1 187	-13	↓ -1.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 200	1 187	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for September 2026 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R8.7 billion.

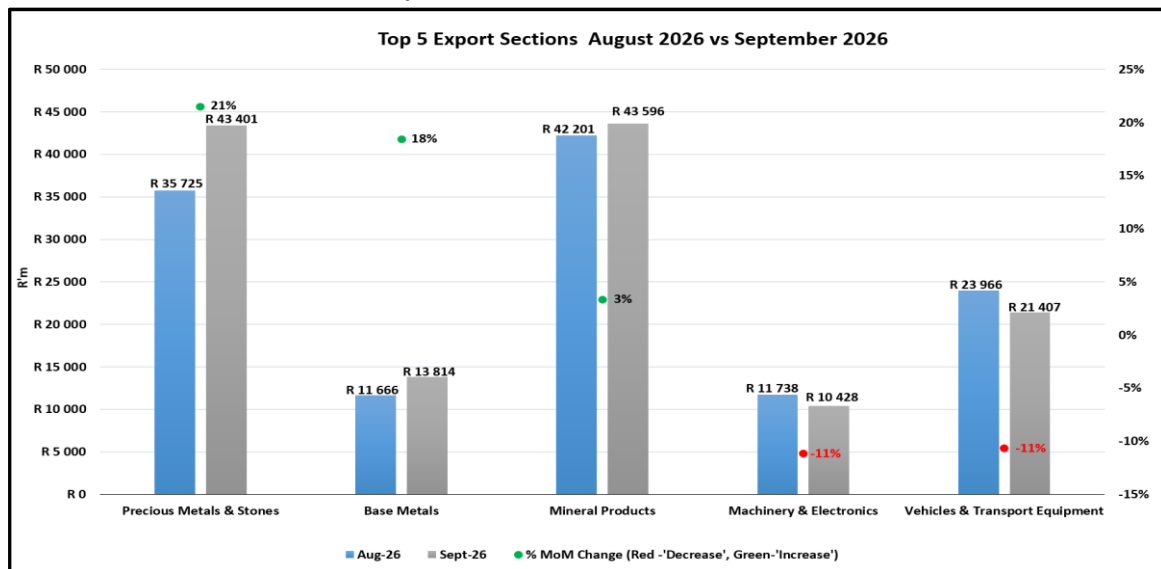
Summary

The R8.7 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for September 2026 was as a result of exports of R173.0 billion and imports of R164.2 billion. Exports increased by R8.3 billion (5.0%) between August 2026 and September 2026 whilst imports increased by R8.2 billion (5.3%) over the same period.

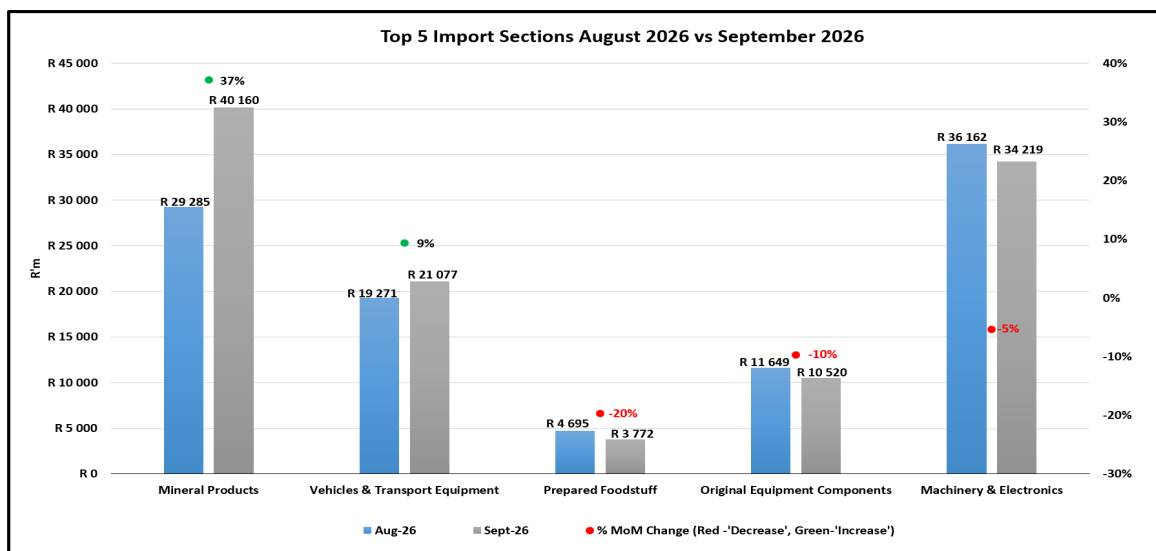
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R78.0 billion, compared to R25.6 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2025.

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 August 2026 (revised) and September 2026 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	August 2026	September 2026	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	31 191	31 934	744	↑ 2.4%
	Imports	12 758	13 421	663	↑ 5.2%
	Trade Balance	18 433	18 514	-	-

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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	4 003 809 783	1.27	803 483 559	1.58	1.15	18 557 428 378	18 665 617 370	2 197 258 349	0.82	13 027 833 709	14 661 807 587	1 393 774 790
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	88 268 221 411	3.97	12 500 739 242	5.49	8.02	122 471 630 113	117 941 986 174	15 286 050 402	1.63	34 647 437 088	29 673 764 763	2 785 311 160
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(5 419 349 242)	0.53	(628 764 429)	0.54	0.39	5 861 800 091	6 157 482 101	737 112 476	0.80	11 493 595 928	11 576 831 343	1 365 876 905
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	21 142 504 040	1.48	2 949 592 012	1.60	4.13	66 352 035 851	65 120 658 559	7 870 592 589	2.88	46 076 892 923	43 978 154 519	4 921 000 577
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	87 301 773 435	1.27	5 655 313 719	1.14	24.15	371 147 681 209	406 015 058 880	46 031 224 753	23.64	257 357 431 631	318 713 285 445	40 375 911 034
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(65 523 441 459)	0.57	(7 512 649 298)	0.57	5.22	86 401 456 017	87 857 552 944	9 953 561 914	10.23	154 163 223 083	153 380 994 403	17 466 211 212
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(30 293 657 536)	0.46	(3 149 490 337)	0.51	1.72	26 800 979 473	26 114 614 811	3 285 298 373	3.77	56 974 342 237	56 408 272 347	6 434 788 710
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(728 101 904)	0.80	(161 035 480)	0.64	0.15	3 077 296 285	2 902 903 138	290 248 713	0.26	3 941 616 939	3 631 005 042	451 284 193
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	4 595 185 781	1.79	826 273 283	2.37	0.75	9 694 519 194	10 387 879 428	1 428 890 691	0.35	5 671 120 109	5 792 693 647	602 617 408
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	5 044 349 452	1.29	833 690 791	1.44	1.43	23 062 687 450	22 610 950 281	2 721 445 622	1.11	17 862 508 578	17 566 600 829	1 887 754 831
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(27 846 583 966)	0.39	(3 090 691 421)	0.43	1.21	17 837 834 849	18 129 439 872	2 312 089 274	3.16	48 955 480 386	45 976 023 838	5 402 780 695
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(10 754 173 824)	0.21	(1 418 087 407)	0.21	0.19	3 518 204 513	2 915 770 942	370 316 650	1.05	15 393 137 158	13 669 944 766	1 788 404 057
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(5 701 313 573)	0.50	(645 427 366)	0.49	0.33	6 212 085 297	5 698 509 436	631 620 553	0.75	12 285 390 282	11 399 823 009	1 277 047 919
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	364 875 980 922	14.36	40 805 554 692	16.63	22.78	297 103 664 290	392 176 860 522	43 416 850 595	1.53	32 991 553 233	27 300 879 600	2 611 295 903
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	49 171 690 741	1.66	6 184 051 370	1.70	7.85	127 362 458 144	123 545 445 742	14 969 884 991	5.14	72 026 496 144	74 373 755 001	8 785 833 621
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(209 086 357 030)	0.35	(21 338 339 271)	0.38	7.00	107 482 786 881	114 152 127 412	13 343 045 282	20.31	320 978 611 970	323 238 484 442	34 681 384 553
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	40 153 944 144	1.26	1 702 091 833	1.08	11.98	216 248 333 228	197 170 504 497	22 830 478 909	12.37	134 824 511 079	157 016 560 353	21 128 387 076
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(24 051 262 427)	0.33	(3 127 639 098)	0.27	0.60	8 239 774 688	11 852 386 014	1 152 465 234	2.51	35 838 462 326	35 903 648 441	4 280 104 332
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(10 344 755 803)	0.44	(1 298 245 919)	0.44	0.55	8 722 534 675	8 263 719 462	1 040 898 107	1.37	19 212 520 280	18 608 475 265	2 339 144 026
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	224 220 089	1.20	127 748 511	3.39	0.10	1 149 567 714	1 370 717 647	181 123 037	0.03	1 155 282 743	1 146 497 558	53 374 526
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	2 994 396 503	3.00	298 091 332	2.23	0.28	6 327 912 096	4 488 381 012	540 328 164	0.14	1 561 409 677	1 493 984 509	242 236 832
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(109 019 528 185)	0.00	(10 519 724 580)	0.00	0.00	11 462 274	7 564 026	273 051	6.16	119 694 676 664	109 027 092 211	10 519 997 631
Total	Total SA Rand	169 007 551 352	1.11	19 796 535 738	1.12	100.00	1 533 644 132 710	1 643 546 130 270	190 591 057 729	100.00	1 416 133 534 167	1 474 538 578 918	170 794 521 991

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	234 771 127 762	2.36	29 565 948 278	2.48	25.99	418 766 827 887	407 717 618 218	49 534 748 468	11.69	140 812 507 554	172 946 490 456	19 968 800 190
AMERICA	(16 940 316 684)	0.89	(237 206 121)	0.99	8.27	131 346 456 206	140 158 441 929	15 763 254 472	9.37	144 982 795 741	157 098 758 613	16 000 460 593
ASIA	(230 004 396 854)	0.69	(37 914 722 860)	0.60	30.26	443 979 710 512	513 375 703 668	57 669 078 323	55.96	730 290 440 730	743 380 100 522	95 583 801 183
EUROPE	21 085 403 479	1.05	9 041 862 303	1.24	24.11	386 839 063 779	406 342 119 042	45 953 424 205	21.61	376 416 352 041	385 256 715 563	36 911 561 902
OCEANIA	2 353 473 071	1.18	(283 806 479)	0.86	0.88	16 970 689 917	15 580 470 761	1 685 107 264	1.15	19 729 260 582	13 226 997 690	1 968 913 743
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	148 232 803 815	57.37	18 437 262 991	52.07	9.86	125 486 019 993	150 862 319 889	18 798 247 371	0.21	3 902 177 519	2 629 516 074	360 984 380
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 509 456 763	-	1 187 197 626	-	0.62	10 255 364 416	9 509 456 763	1 187 197 626				
Total	169 007 551 352	1.11	19 796 535 738	1.12	100.00	1 533 644 132 710	1 643 546 130 270	190 591 057 729	100.00	1 416 133 534 167	1 474 538 578 918	170 794 521 991

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	26 815 288 642	22 477 363 994	31 554 655 648	22 833 074 333	28 701 418 116	23 137 899 984	24 080 192 022	78 998 871 713	25 053 014 033

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	3 207 060 388	1.27	638 700 720	1.56	1.03	15 126 496 531	15 245 864 447	1 779 255 938	0.69	10 930 917 169	12 038 804 059	1 140 555 218
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	81 058 627 528	3.87	11 735 855 105	5.54	8.28	112 899 744 215	109 289 966 436	14 319 609 949	1.57	33 494 023 232	28 231 338 908	2 583 754 844
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(7 672 449 629)	0.34	(905 018 582)	0.34	0.26	3 772 411 913	3 870 457 966	457 472 962	0.83	11 438 169 463	11 542 907 595	1 362 491 544
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	10 899 682 540	1.30	1 768 215 443	1.47	3.20	47 444 949 824	46 831 106 358	5 540 545 617	2.30	38 562 860 534	35 931 423 818	3 772 330 174
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	69 456 978 561	1.22	3 436 089 896	1.09	25.20	347 614 496 629	386 251 716 486	43 596 221 859	24.45	255 785 484 848	316 794 737 925	40 160 131 963
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(72 815 982 470)	0.50	(8 360 948 845)	0.49	4.59	71 142 972 356	72 186 207 041	7 945 879 420	9.93	145 514 736 781	145 002 189 511	16 306 828 265
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(36 113 634 035)	0.35	(3 874 986 136)	0.39	1.42	20 071 460 941	19 433 702 165	2 450 748 585	3.85	56 254 634 010	55 547 336 200	6 325 734 721
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 058 124 038)	0.70	(206 429 508)	0.54	0.14	2 644 953 472	2 476 664 843	237 597 791	0.27	3 847 938 316	3 534 788 881	444 027 299
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	4 618 259 573	2.34	821 901 118	3.51	0.66	7 451 277 011	8 062 675 433	1 148 736 290	0.20	3 340 404 856	3 444 415 860	326 835 172
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	2 505 971 091	1.15	515 687 157	1.28	1.36	20 002 483 582	19 613 620 970	2 344 255 869	1.11	17 416 195 124	17 107 649 879	1 828 568 712
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(28 940 479 128)	0.26	(3 003 564 736)	0.32	0.81	9 925 893 206	10 400 720 074	1 396 295 475	2.68	42 124 612 802	39 341 199 202	4 399 860 211
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(12 337 074 642)	0.08	(1 624 802 193)	0.08	0.08	1 557 211 313	1 100 566 863	135 565 366	1.07	15 232 680 215	13 437 641 505	1 760 367 559
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 461 382 252)	0.34	(852 943 101)	0.32	0.24	4 286 479 762	3 801 250 362	408 486 359	0.77	12 166 597 370	11 262 632 614	1 261 429 460
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	378 191 352 514	32.73	42 219 461 157	36.74	25.09	294 483 141 766	390 111 801 040	43 400 865 812	0.72	9 535 915 626	11 920 448 526	1 181 404 655
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	40 398 315 717	1.55	5 117 507 588	1.59	7.99	117 398 324 296	113 768 537 243	13 814 456 109	5.30	71 058 092 006	73 370 221 526	8 696 948 521
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(227 965 502 785)	0.28	(23 791 629 710)	0.30	6.03	84 159 910 759	90 490 477 027	10 427 539 064	20.83	316 738 301 861	318 455 979 812	34 219 168 774
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	27 931 374 822	1.18	329 937 336	1.02	12.37	202 363 340 452	184 357 183 808	21 407 234 329	12.83	134 358 879 639	156 425 808 986	21 077 296 993
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(26 183 583 059)	0.27	(3 360 921 767)	0.21	0.52	6 043 908 703	9 612 285 287	900 390 848	2.59	35 740 578 094	35 795 868 346	4 261 312 615
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(13 896 389 012)	0.25	(1 761 373 917)	0.24	0.33	4 839 089 572	4 607 366 641	565 338 820	1.42	19 103 491 489	18 503 755 653	2 326 712 737
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	215 319 203	1.19	127 532 060	3.41	0.10	1 138 241 741	1 359 161 100	180 404 843	0.03	1 154 178 067	1 143 841 897	52 872 783
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	2 950 723 107	3.00	295 694 866	2.24	0.31	6 277 063 673	4 428 822 356	533 380 710	0.14	1 546 991 624	1 478 099 249	237 685 844
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(109 019 689 570)	0.00	(10 519 870 090)	0.00	0.00	11 381 734	7 402 641	127 541	6.41	119 694 676 664	109 027 092 211	10 519 997 631
Total	Total SA Rand	77 969 374 424	1.05	8 744 093 861	1.05	100.00	1 380 655 233 451	1 497 307 556 587	172 990 409 556	100.00	1 355 040 359 790	1 419 338 182 163	164 246 315 695

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
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AFRICA	143 732 950 834	2.22	18 513 506 401	2.38	18.46	265 777 928 628	261 479 044 535	31 934 100 295	8.17	79 719 333 177	117 746 093 701	13 420 593 894
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	9 509 456 763	-	1 187 197 626	-	0.69	10 255 364 416	9 509 456 763	1 187 197 626				
Total	77 969 374 424	1.05	8 744 093 861	1.05	100.00	1 380 655 233 451	1 497 307 556 587	172 990 409 556	100.00	1 355 040 359 790	1 419 338 182 163	164 246 315 695

Temporary Imports	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	26 815 288 642	22 477 363 994	31 554 655 648	22 833 074 333	28 701 418 116	23 137 899 984	24 080 192 022	78 998 871 713	25 053 014 033

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

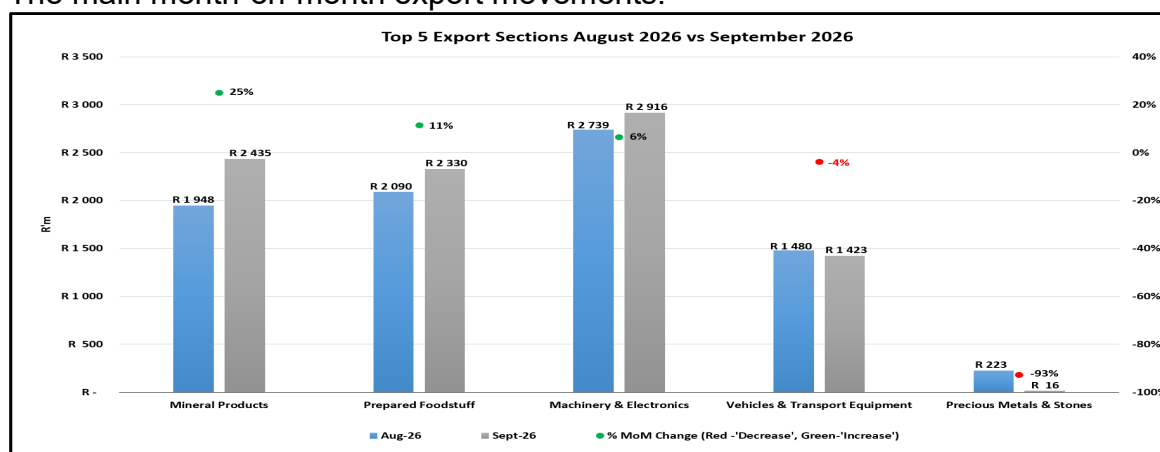
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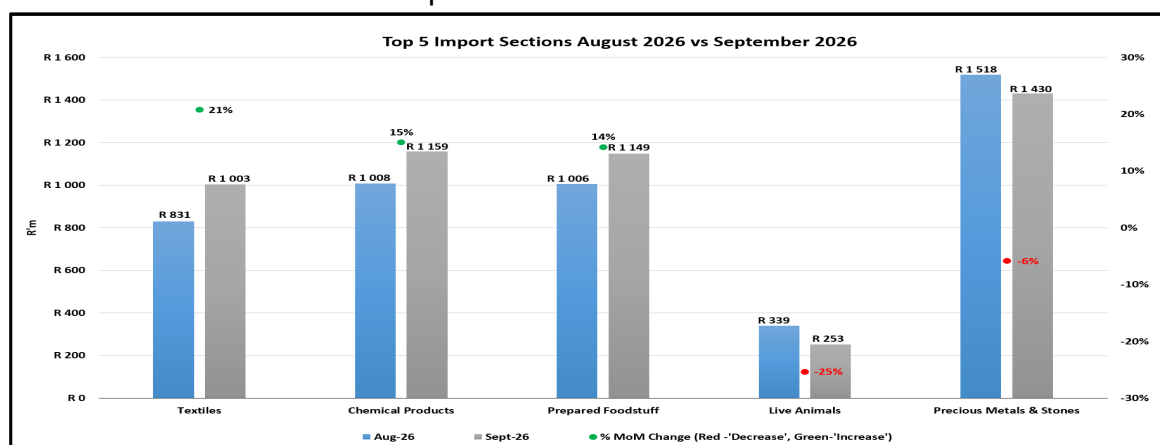
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2026 was a surplus of R91.0 billion, compared to R91.9 billion surplus in 2025.

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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