

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 31 March 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for February 2025

Pretoria, 31 March 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R20.9 billion in February 2025. This surplus was attributable to exports of R164.0 billion and imports of R143.1 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 28 February 2025) preliminary trade balance surplus of R4.1 billion was a deterioration from the R14.2 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for February 2025 (R164.0 billion) were 0.5% higher compared to R163.2 billion recorded in February 2024. Import flows were lower by 1.5%, having decreased from R145.3 billion in February 2024 to R143.1 billion in the current period.

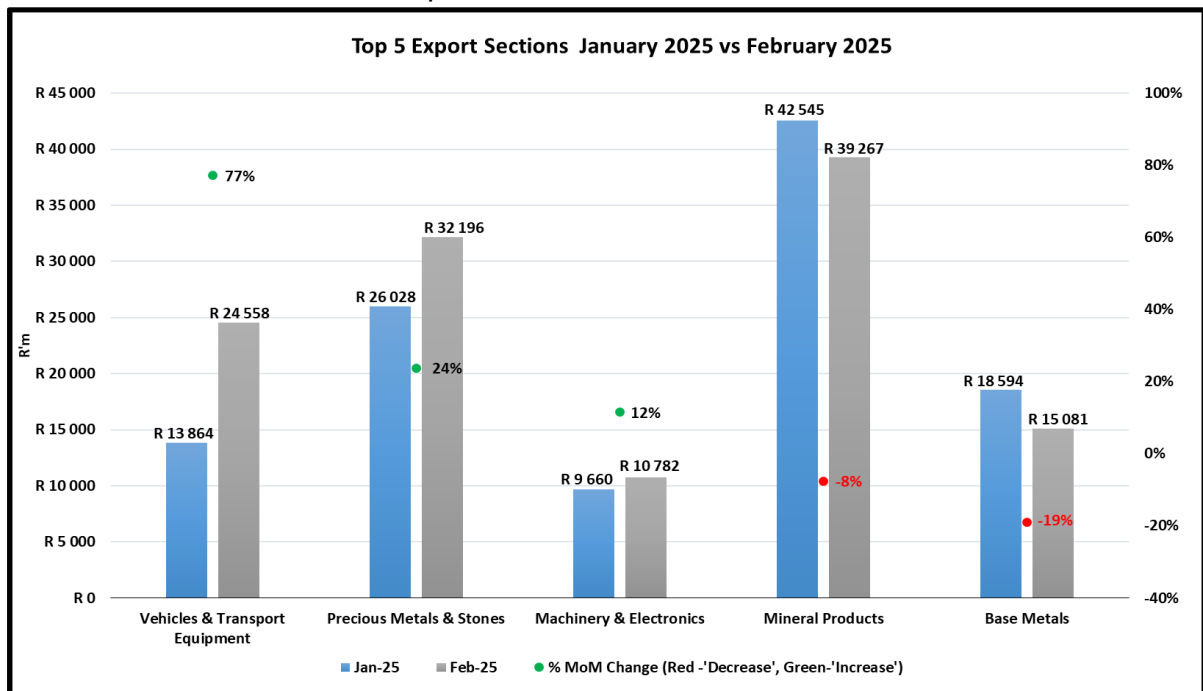
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R15.4 billion (10.4%) from R148.6 billion to R164.0 billion between January and February 2025, whilst imports decreased by R22.3 billion (-13.5%) from R165.4 billion to R143.1 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in February 2025, driven by Gold and Vehicles (Passengers & Goods). Import flows decreased on the back of lower importation of Original Equipment Components, Vehicles (Passengers), and Crude Oil.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance deficit of R16.4 billion announced for January 2024 was revised upwards by R0.4 billion, with the final deficit at R16.8 billion.

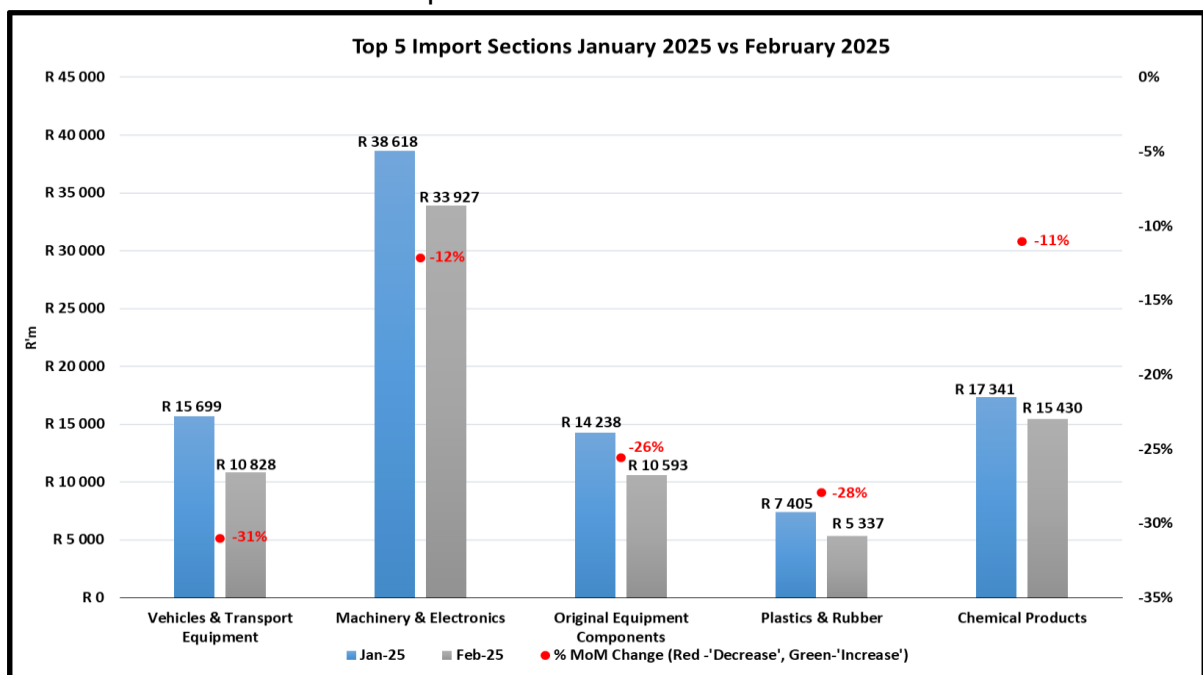
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from January 2025 (revised) to February 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2025	February 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	44 148	45 110	962	↑ 2.2%
	Imports	16 168	16 061	-107	↓ -0.7%
	Trade Balance	27 980	29 049	-	-
America	Exports	12 442	16 327	3 885	↑ 31.2%
	Imports	17 273	11 879	-5 395	↓ -31.2%
	Trade Balance	-4 831	4 448	-	-
Asia	Exports	46 658	44 859	-1 798	↓ -3.9%
	Imports	84 858	75 494	-9 364	↓ -11.0%
	Trade Balance	-38 201	-30 635	-	-
Europe	Exports	32 825	38 388	5 562	↑ 16.9%
	Imports	44 602	37 148	-7 454	↓ -16.7%
	Trade Balance	-11 777	1 240	-	-
Oceania	Exports	865	1 978	1 112	↑ 128.5%
	Imports	2 326	2 260	-66	↓ -2.8%
	Trade Balance	-1 461	-282	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	10 682	16 206	5 523	↑ 51.7%
	Imports	204	288	84	↑ 40.9%
	Trade Balance	10 478	15 918	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 005	1 167	162	↑ 16.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 005	1 167	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for February 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.1 billion.

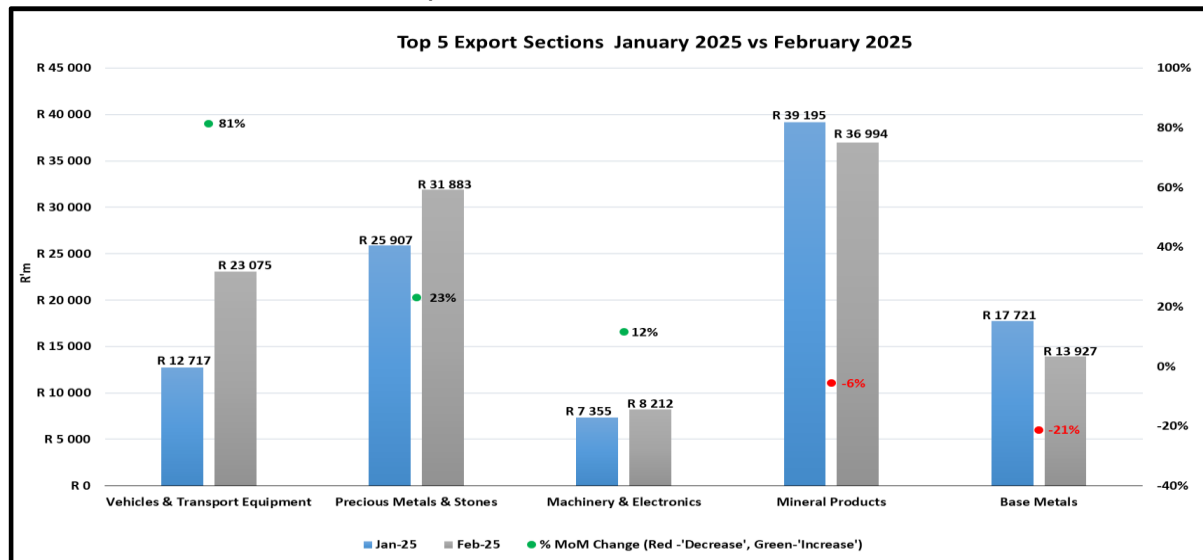
Summary

The R10.1 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for February 2025 was as a result of exports of R147.3 billion and imports of R137.2 billion. Exports increased by R14.7 billion (11.1%) between January and February 2025 whilst imports decreased by R22.5 billion (-14.1%) over the same period.

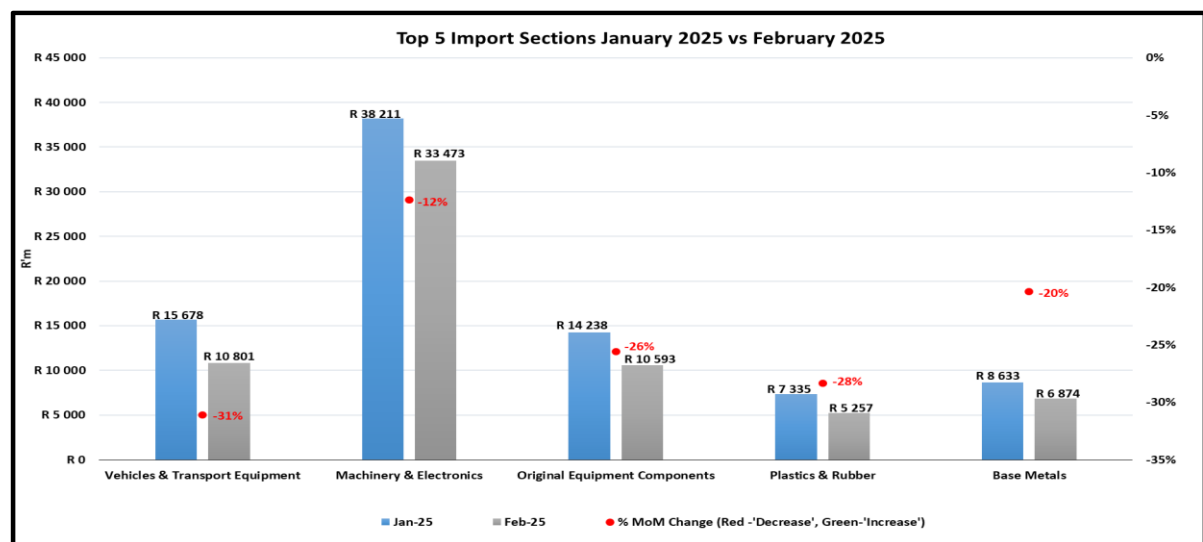
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a deficit of R17.0 billion, compared to R5.8 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2024.

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 2025 (revised) and February 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2025	February 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 107	28 346	238	0.8%
	Imports	10 455	10 112	-343	-3.3%
	Trade Balance	17 653	18 233	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics February 2025](#)

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 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	934 635 927	1.31	679 658 853	1.52	1.22	3 270 839 043	3 906 099 365	1 995 266 975	0.92	3 722 995 059	2 971 463 438	1 315 608 122
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	13 102 306 321	2.45	7 129 436 392	2.61	7.05	21 393 819 059	22 168 622 171	11 562 727 778	3.10	5 593 512 212	9 066 315 850	4 433 291 386
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(668 024 170)	0.64	(58 431 270)	0.91	0.38	1 004 344 364	1 173 441 469	619 230 625	0.47	2 218 748 718	1 841 465 639	677 661 895
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 848 582 014	1.18	1 673 718 498	1.34	3.99	11 286 275 507	12 177 762 713	6 541 151 375	3.40	8 663 736 709	10 329 180 699	4 867 432 877
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	23 535 462 540	1.40	9 883 743 881	1.34	23.94	86 448 653 563	81 811 495 802	39 266 724 841	20.53	60 609 596 125	58 276 033 262	29 382 980 960
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(14 423 636 747)	0.56	(5 969 901 113)	0.61	5.77	16 520 141 628	18 347 349 150	9 459 716 452	10.78	32 628 355 223	32 770 985 897	15 429 617 565
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(7 392 539 305)	0.42	(2 459 640 477)	0.54	1.75	5 204 228 650	5 349 378 158	2 877 262 821	3.73	12 793 455 290	12 741 917 463	5 336 903 298
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(281 395 612)	0.69	(49 168 605)	0.88	0.21	658 455 444	637 973 414	348 791 953	0.28	776 382 778	919 369 026	397 960 558
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	771 202 025	1.62	614 010 048	2.14	0.70	1 607 226 721	2 006 260 063	1 152 884 221	0.38	1 231 685 331	1 235 058 038	538 874 173
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	1 168 598 022	1.30	537 657 362	1.30	1.41	5 253 320 809	5 115 400 025	2 309 104 835	1.24	3 901 444 107	3 946 802 003	1 771 447 473
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(8 598 369 049)	0.28	(3 684 921 217)	0.35	1.20	3 211 277 792	3 299 080 148	1 964 212 539	3.95	9 821 343 993	11 897 449 197	5 649 133 756
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(2 732 776 272)	0.20	(1 188 003 018)	0.25	0.24	571 887 377	702 462 947	394 050 478	1.11	3 168 817 501	3 435 239 219	1 582 053 496
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 593 417 159)	0.45	(428 459 172)	0.64	0.46	1 248 681 582	1 294 487 611	752 137 036	0.82	2 551 142 779	2 887 904 770	1 180 596 208
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	53 270 663 461	11.75	29 508 773 135	11.98	19.63	50 200 912 886	58 224 471 859	32 196 162 489	1.88	4 973 529 524	4 953 808 398	2 687 389 354
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	17 877 021 660	2.13	8 055 432 674	2.15	9.19	35 186 544 485	33 675 239 988	15 081 249 467	4.91	15 962 199 404	15 798 218 328	7 025 816 793
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(52 103 020 374)	0.28	(23 144 895 135)	0.32	6.57	20 996 218 838	20 441 937 284	10 782 068 704	23.70	68 704 810 874	72 544 957 658	33 926 963 839
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	11 895 570 590	1.45	13 730 614 337	2.27	14.97	42 582 807 048	38 422 261 306	24 558 121 919	7.56	21 770 726 870	26 526 690 716	10 827 507 582
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(5 414 221 513)	0.24	(2 610 353 613)	0.26	0.57	1 591 404 740	1 692 518 082	937 585 045	2.48	7 380 243 778	7 106 739 595	3 547 938 658
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(2 469 814 540)	0.39	(845 079 057)	0.52	0.56	1 430 228 191	1 570 536 497	925 542 058	1.24	3 534 503 780	4 040 351 037	1 770 621 115
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(2 562 662)	0.99	23 351 627	1.32	0.06	237 915 357	193 606 362	95 797 315	0.05	116 462 587	196 169 024	72 445 688
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	204 760 294	1.84	99 320 948	1.87	0.13	538 754 557	448 765 584	213 495 257	0.08	419 799 808	244 005 290	114 174 309
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(24 830 941 998)	0.00	(10 592 687 919)	0.00	0.00	382 495	97 318	74 918	7.40	25 654 276 868	24 831 039 316	10 592 762 837
Total	Total SA Rand	4 098 083 453	1.01	20 904 177 159	1.15	100.00	310 444 320 136	312 659 247 316	164 033 359 101	100.00	296 197 769 318	308 561 163 863	143 129 181 942

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 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2024 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2025 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2025 (R'm)
AFRICA	57 028 885 080	2.77	29 048 632 168	2.81	27.50	86 706 120 131	89 257 487 432	45 109 501 545	11.22	30 447 534 977	32 228 602 352	16 060 869 377
AMERICA	(383 144 799)	0.99	4 448 267 981	1.37	9.95	29 533 043 249	28 768 985 399	16 326 913 218	8.30	28 446 584 708	29 152 130 198	11 878 645 237
ASIA	(68 835 095 539)	0.57	(30 634 563 440)	0.59	27.35	90 729 477 958	91 517 129 594	44 859 388 673	52.75	146 030 228 518	160 352 225 133	75 493 952 113
EUROPE	(10 537 284 516)	0.87	1 239 680 827	1.03	23.40	80 651 731 752	71 212 730 178	38 387 583 794	25.95	85 542 650 368	81 750 014 694	37 147 902 967
OCEANIA	(1 743 125 587)	0.62	(282 317 497)	0.88	1.21	3 033 404 290	2 842 881 938	1 977 593 547	1.58	3 806 135 921	4 586 007 525	2 259 911 044
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	26 395 715 134	54.63	15 917 614 091	56.29	9.88	17 514 714 665	26 887 899 095	16 205 515 295	0.20	1 924 634 826	492 183 961	287 901 204
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 172 133 680	-	1 166 863 029	-	0.71	2 275 828 091	2 172 133 680	1 166 863 029				
Total	4 098 083 453	1.01	20 904 177 159	1.15	100.00	310 444 320 136	312 659 247 316	164 033 359 101	100.00	296 197 769 318	308 561 163 863	143 129 181 942

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511

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			
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I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	609 973 519	1.24	544 040 592	1.50	1.11	2 617 537 375	3 181 649 955	1 641 039 485	0.80	3 030 548 085	2 571 676 436	1 096 998 893
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	10 942 919 370	2.23	5 993 739 497	2.38	7.01	19 136 130 481	19 822 895 068	10 328 510 022	3.16	5 461 142 112	8 879 975 698	4 334 770 525
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(1 066 670 105)	0.42	(235 288 449)	0.65	0.30	655 184 869	769 743 783	438 376 330	0.49	2 216 988 323	1 836 413 888	673 664 779
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(875 582 305)	0.90	272 857 050	1.07	2.95	7 334 926 008	7 949 760 693	4 348 059 529	2.97	7 252 316 551	8 825 342 998	4 075 202 479
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	18 258 367 070	1.32	7 793 453 615	1.27	25.12	81 086 153 045	76 188 535 038	36 993 883 492	21.29	60 134 297 332	57 930 167 968	29 200 429 877
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(15 539 519 214)	0.49	(6 706 819 407)	0.54	5.29	13 504 388 943	15 083 030 853	7 789 466 200	10.57	30 346 608 072	30 622 550 067	14 496 285 607
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(8 681 773 467)	0.31	(3 180 889 539)	0.39	1.41	3 800 755 297	3 910 357 875	2 076 425 118	3.83	12 650 163 547	12 592 131 342	5 257 314 657
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(359 337 548)	0.60	(79 455 030)	0.79	0.21	564 831 056	542 126 261	305 327 116	0.28	757 187 704	901 463 809	384 782 146
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	761 606 809	1.96	578 722 018	2.83	0.61	1 224 321 138	1 552 819 716	895 821 107	0.23	806 445 068	791 212 907	317 099 089
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	579 035 440	1.15	243 614 067	1.14	1.34	4 521 231 894	4 420 036 539	1 966 225 986	1.26	3 805 470 714	3 841 001 099	1 722 611 919
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(8 789 582 259)	0.16	(3 817 856 073)	0.23	0.77	1 882 541 142	1 730 108 889	1 135 632 674	3.61	8 559 365 416	10 519 691 148	4 953 488 747
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 094 250 122)	0.09	(1 374 955 035)	0.12	0.13	237 665 749	305 738 506	191 035 079	1.14	3 138 146 626	3 399 988 628	1 565 990 114
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 990 042 359)	0.31	(644 122 420)	0.45	0.36	896 399 422	875 035 470	524 297 901	0.85	2 530 841 669	2 865 077 829	1 168 420 321
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	56 510 966 501	45.20	31 173 914 103	44.98	21.65	49 511 655 740	57 789 445 040	31 882 675 709	0.52	1 876 005 801	1 278 478 539	708 761 606
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	16 141 252 368	2.04	7 053 163 765	2.03	9.46	33 239 563 193	31 648 217 446	13 927 452 257	5.01	15 801 617 578	15 506 965 078	6 874 288 492
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(56 117 328 993)	0.22	(25 261 414 197)	0.25	5.58	16 532 862 390	15 567 120 898	8 212 064 515	24.40	67 730 477 861	71 684 449 891	33 473 478 712
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	9 312 438 838	1.35	12 273 883 002	2.14	15.67	39 593 528 467	35 791 312 620	23 074 687 065	7.87	21 695 577 914	26 478 873 782	10 800 804 063
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(5 836 623 348)	0.18	(2 820 170 964)	0.20	0.49	1 169 694 533	1 250 904 493	720 657 650	2.58	7 359 731 283	7 087 527 841	3 540 828 614
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 177 454 011)	0.21	(1 245 885 543)	0.29	0.35	773 076 976	842 045 698	511 985 958	1.28	3 515 644 161	4 019 499 709	1 757 871 501
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Total	Total SA Rand	(17 045 053 180)	0.94	10 088 708 240	1.07	100.00	279 048 159 120	279 854 715 582	147 269 359 520	100.00	284 855 082 388	296 899 768 762	137 180 651 280

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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 172 133 680	-	1 166 863 029	-	0.79	2 275 828 091	2 172 133 680	1 166 863 029				
Total	(17 045 053 180)	0.94	10 088 708 240	1.07	100.00	279 048 159 120	279 854 715 582	147 269 359 520	100.00	284 855 082 388	296 899 768 762	137 180 651 280

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511

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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 February 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.8 billion.

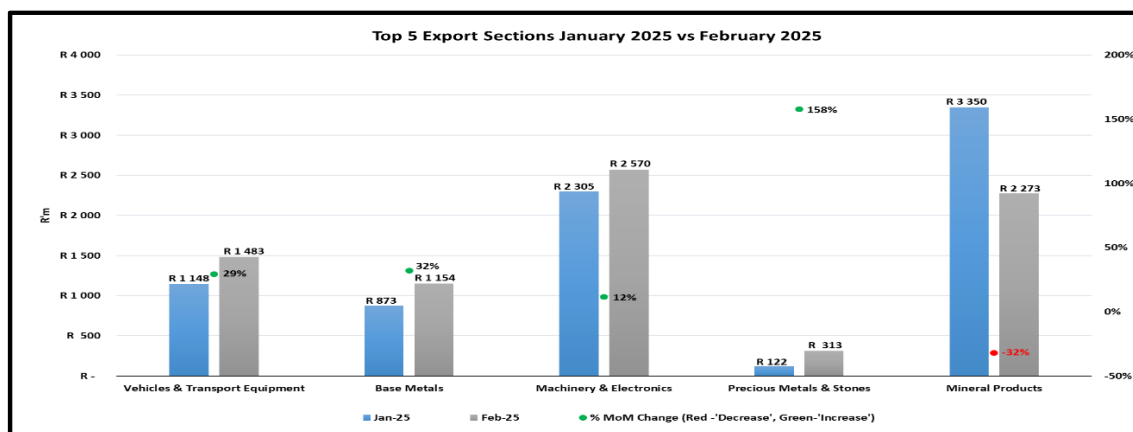
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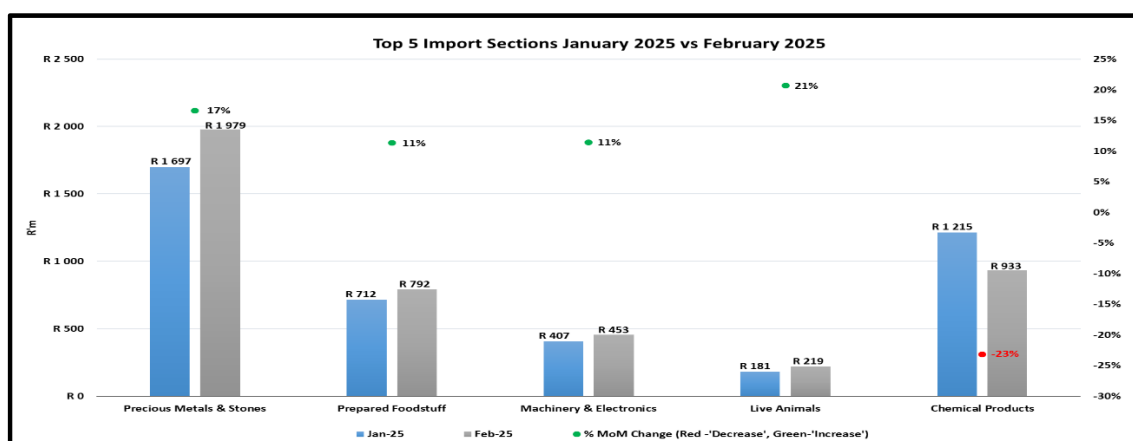
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R21.1 billion, compared to R20.1 billion in 2024.

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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