

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 28 February 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for January 2025

Pretoria, 28 February 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance deficit of R16.4 billion in January 2025. This deficit was attributable to exports of R149.0 billion and imports of R165.4 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 January 2025) preliminary trade balance deficit of R16.4 billion was a deterioration from the R3.7 billion trade balance deficit for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for January 2025 (R149.0 billion) were 1.2% higher compared to R147.2 billion recorded in January 2024. Import flows were higher by 9.6%, having increased from R150.9 billion in January 2024 to R165.4 billion in the current period.

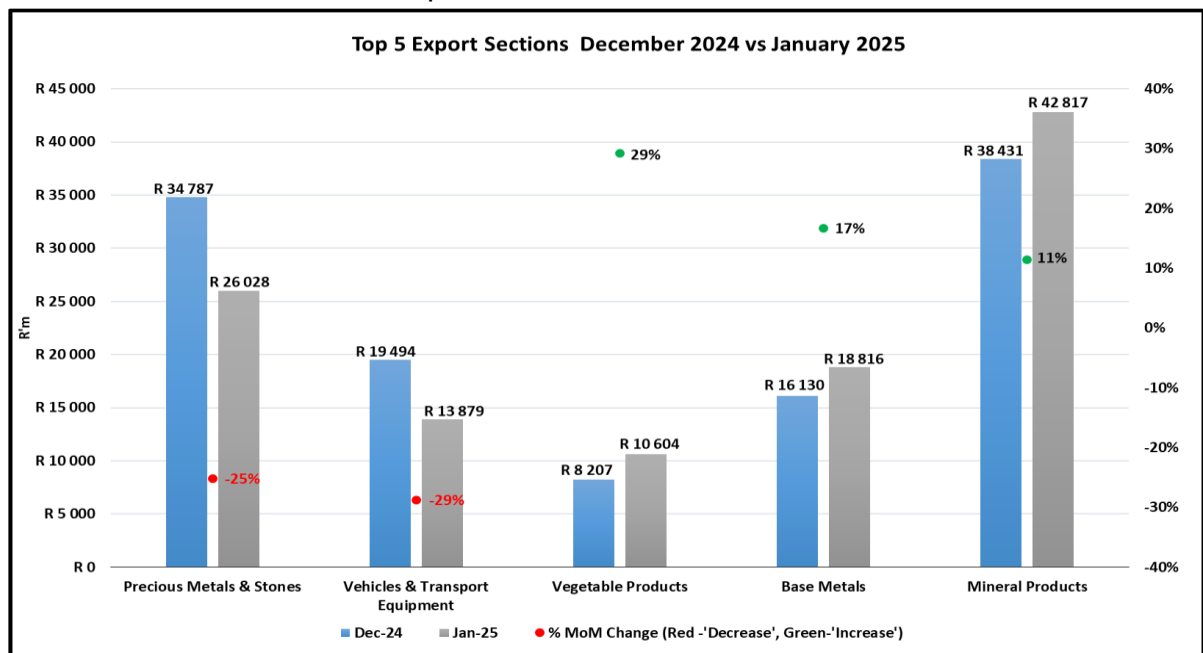
On a month-on-month basis, exports decreased by R10.2 billion (-6.4%) from R159.2 billion to R149.0 billion between December 2024 and January 2025, whilst imports increased by R20.9 billion (14.4%) from R144.5 billion to R165.4 billion over the same period. Export flows decreased in January 2025, driven by Gold, Vehicles (Goods), and PGMs. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Original Equipment Components, Aeroplanes, and Parts & Accessories of Motor Vehicles.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R15.5 billion announced for December 2024 was revised downwards by R0.8 billion, with the final number at R14.7 billion.

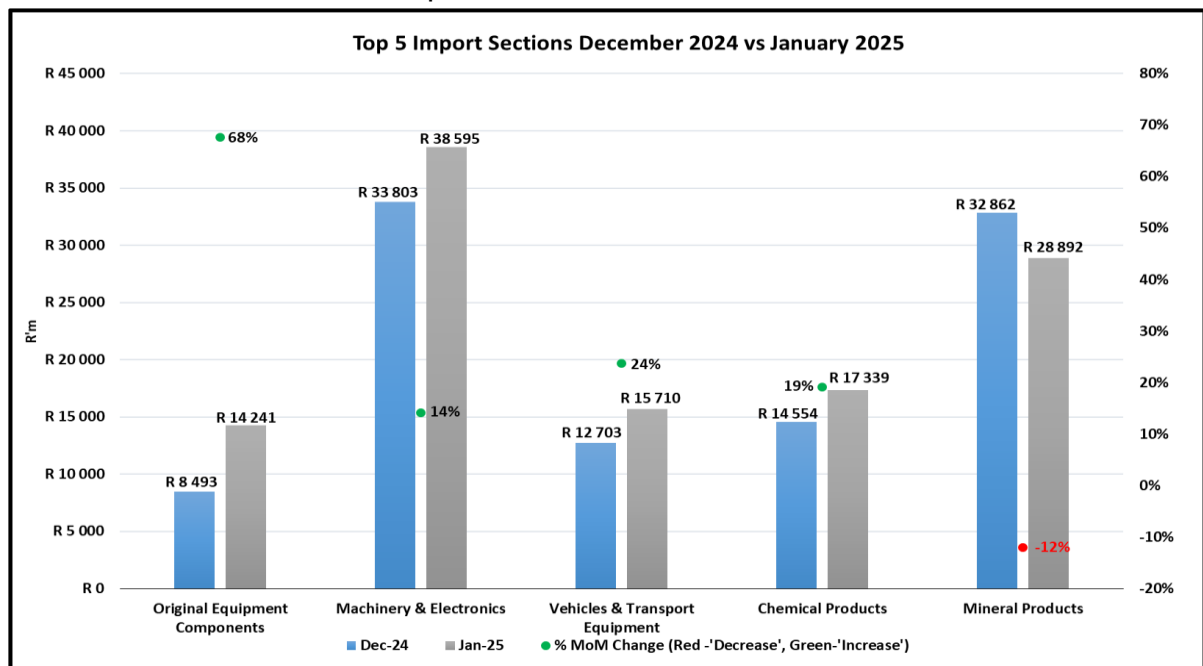
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from December 2024 (revised) to January 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	December 2024	January 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	41 366	43 987	2 621	↑ 6.3%
	Imports	18 053	16 167	-1 886	↓ -10.4%
	Trade Balance	23 313	27 820	-	-
America	Exports	12 834	12 407	-427	↓ -3.3%
	Imports	12 599	17 255	4 656	↑ 37.0%
	Trade Balance	235	-4 848	-	-
Asia	Exports	48 799	47 078	-1 722	↓ -3.5%
	Imports	78 319	84 841	6 522	↑ 8.3%
	Trade Balance	-29 520	-37 763	-	-
Europe	Exports	38 511	32 942	-5 569	↓ -14.5%
	Imports	32 309	44 603	12 294	↑ 38.1%
	Trade Balance	6 202	-11 661	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 406	865	-540	↓ -38.4%
	Imports	2 622	2 321	-301	↓ -11.5%
	Trade Balance	-1 217	-1 455	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	15 484	10 682	-4 802	↓ -31.0%
	Imports	622	199	-422	↓ -67.9%
	Trade Balance	14 863	10 483	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	812	1 005	193	↑ 23.7%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	812	1 005	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for January 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance deficit of R26.8 billion.

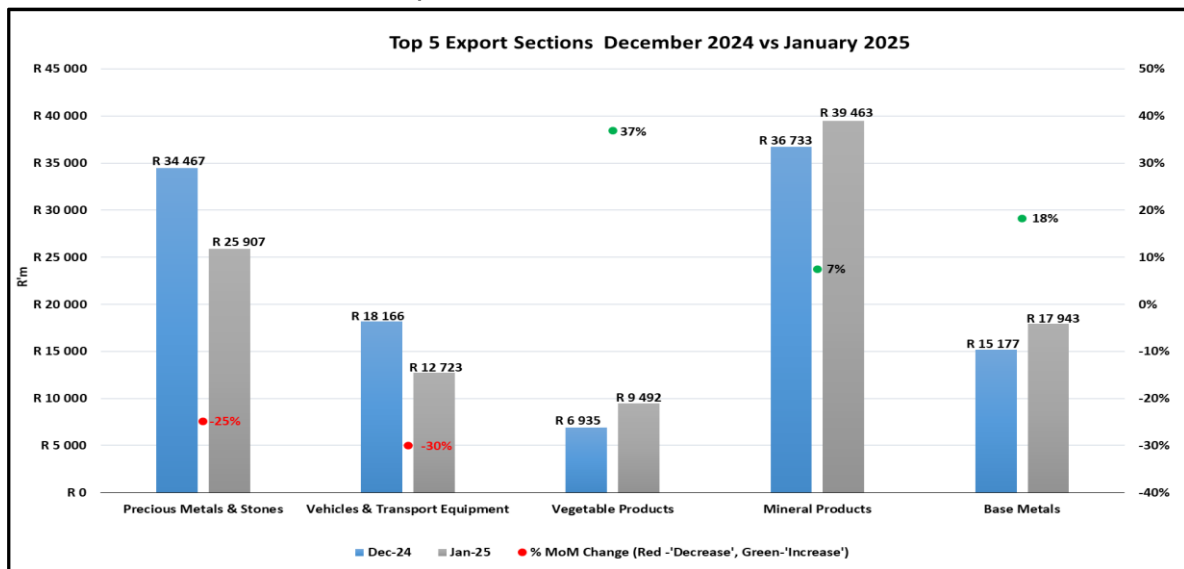
Summary

The R26.8 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for January 2025 was as a result of exports of R132.9 billion and imports of R159.7 billion. Exports decreased by R10.7 billion (-7.5%) between December 2024 and January 2025 whilst imports increased by R20.4 billion (14.7%) over the same period.

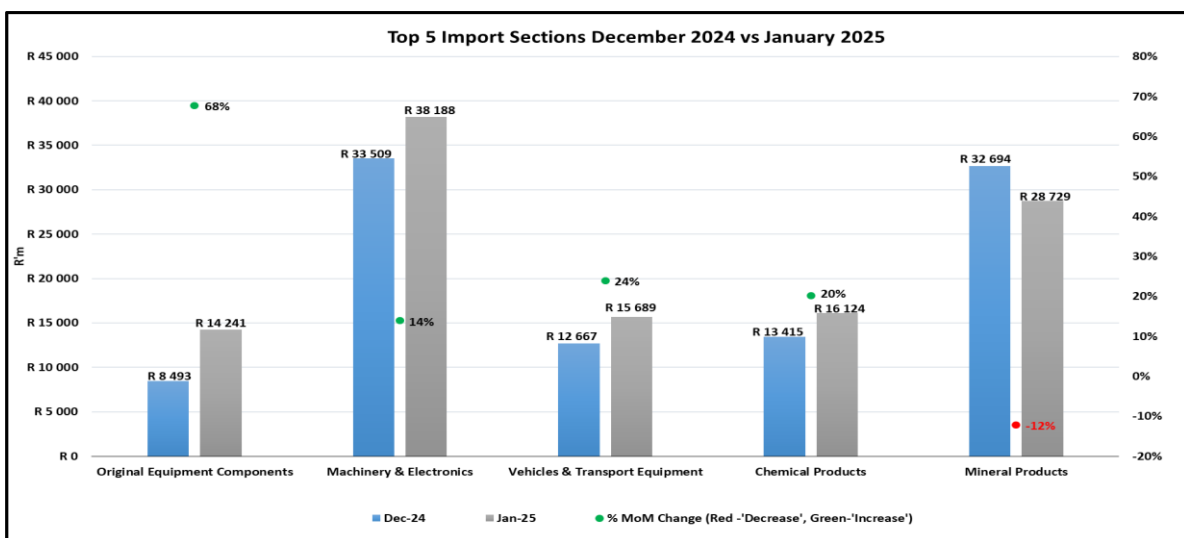
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a deficit of R26.8 billion, compared to R12.8 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2024.

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 December 2024 (revised) and January 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	December 2024	January 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	25 810	27 934	2 124	8.2%
	Imports	12 783	10 455	-2 327	-18.2%
	Trade Balance	13 027	17 478	-	-

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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 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	257 470 560	1.16	257 470 560	1.16	1.28	1 329 444 798	1 913 164 238	1 913 164 238	1.00	1 980 122 803	1 655 693 678	1 655 693 678
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	5 967 362 479	2.29	5 967 362 479	2.29	7.12	9 139 978 827	10 603 902 470	10 603 902 470	2.80	3 048 836 715	4 636 539 991	4 636 539 991
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(609 584 396)	0.48	(609 584 396)	0.48	0.37	438 600 331	554 219 348	554 219 348	0.70	841 075 424	1 163 803 744	1 163 803 744
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	180 669 045	1.03	180 669 045	1.03	3.79	5 006 083 833	5 640 965 829	5 640 965 829	3.30	4 362 228 807	5 460 296 784	5 460 296 784
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	13 924 468 370	1.48	13 924 468 370	1.48	28.74	44 958 370 261	42 816 963 543	42 816 963 543	17.47	29 344 369 968	28 892 495 173	28 892 495 173
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(8 702 742 291)	0.50	(8 702 742 291)	0.50	5.80	8 096 522 103	8 636 375 199	8 636 375 199	10.48	17 060 869 527	17 339 117 490	17 339 117 490
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(4 919 754 731)	0.34	(4 919 754 731)	0.34	1.67	2 300 283 598	2 486 956 812	2 486 956 812	4.48	6 617 202 037	7 406 711 543	7 406 711 543
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(232 079 273)	0.55	(232 079 273)	0.55	0.19	289 618 011	289 246 850	289 246 850	0.32	429 057 058	521 326 123	521 326 123
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	157 409 286	1.23	157 409 286	1.23	0.57	625 532 524	853 405 420	853 405 420	0.42	620 085 630	695 996 134	695 996 134
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	702 747 753	1.32	702 747 753	1.32	1.93	2 987 343 141	2 878 770 861	2 878 770 861	1.32	2 015 912 708	2 176 023 108	2 176 023 108
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(4 912 035 359)	0.21	(4 912 035 359)	0.21	0.90	1 155 863 477	1 335 047 716	1 335 047 716	3.78	4 692 030 936	6 247 083 075	6 247 083 075
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 541 210 528)	0.17	(1 541 210 528)	0.17	0.21	230 781 213	308 447 874	308 447 874	1.12	1 602 782 045	1 849 658 402	1 849 658 402
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 163 849 540)	0.32	(1 163 849 540)	0.32	0.37	603 226 219	543 800 077	543 800 077	1.03	1 302 058 998	1 707 649 617	1 707 649 617
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	23 760 546 526	11.48	23 760 546 526	11.48	17.47	26 277 147 936	26 028 462 344	26 028 462 344	1.37	2 451 898 418	2 267 915 818	2 267 915 818
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	10 074 833 683	2.15	10 074 833 683	2.15	12.63	17 142 332 517	18 816 221 377	18 816 221 377	5.29	8 334 047 689	8 741 387 694	8 741 387 694
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(28 958 596 912)	0.25	(28 958 596 912)	0.25	6.47	8 965 986 014	9 636 714 671	9 636 714 671	23.34	35 885 857 285	38 595 311 583	38 595 311 583
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1 830 864 654)	0.88	(1 830 864 654)	0.88	9.32	16 046 427 354	13 879 146 983	13 879 146 983	9.50	11 229 613 779	15 710 011 637	15 710 011 637
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 800 198 489)	0.21	(2 800 198 489)	0.21	0.51	714 494 917	754 757 897	754 757 897	2.15	3 581 215 129	3 554 956 386	3 554 956 386
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 613 763 857)	0.29	(1 613 763 857)	0.29	0.44	571 692 592	657 067 575	657 067 575	1.37	1 786 594 752	2 270 831 432	2 270 831 432
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(25 914 289)	0.79	(25 914 289)	0.79	0.07	110 945 619	97 809 047	97 809 047	0.07	92 296 323	123 723 336	123 723 336
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	105 896 652	1.82	105 896 652	1.82	0.16	244 099 738	235 270 327	235 270 327	0.08	188 815 715	129 373 675	129 373 675
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(14 240 742 615)	0.00	(14 240 742 615)	0.00	0.00	104 649	22 400	22 400	8.61	13 452 650 671	14 240 765 015	14 240 765 015
Total	Total SA Rand	(16 419 932 580)	0.90	(16 419 932 580)	0.90	100.00	147 234 879 672	148 966 738 858	148 966 738 858	100.00	150 919 622 417	165 386 671 438	165 386 671 438

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	27 819 610 198	2.72	27 819 610 198	2.72	29.53	41 422 531 710	43 986 814 781	43 986 814 781	9.78	14 177 169 946	16 167 204 583	16 167 204 583
AMERICA	(4 847 715 151)	0.72	(4 847 715 151)	0.72	8.33	14 493 830 842	12 407 401 561	12 407 401 561	10.43	13 753 209 143	17 255 116 712	17 255 116 712
ASIA	(37 763 312 162)	0.55	(37 763 312 162)	0.55	31.60	43 530 360 012	47 077 518 503	47 077 518 503	51.30	77 264 169 375	84 840 830 665	84 840 830 665
EUROPE	(11 661 450 152)	0.74	(11 661 450 152)	0.74	22.11	34 626 751 087	32 941 922 091	32 941 922 091	26.97	43 470 247 931	44 603 372 243	44 603 372 243
OCEANIA	(1 455 406 637)	0.37	(1 455 406 637)	0.37	0.58	1 262 281 930	865 427 470	865 427 470	1.40	1 759 994 988	2 320 834 107	2 320 834 107
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	10 483 070 673	53.60	10 483 070 673	53.60	7.17	10 678 746 712	10 682 383 801	10 682 383 801	0.12	494 831 034	199 313 128	199 313 128
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 005 270 651	-	1 005 270 651	-	0.67	1 220 377 379	1 005 270 651	1 005 270 651				
Total	(16 419 932 580)	0.90	(16 419 932 580)	0.90	100.00	147 234 879 672	148 966 738 858	148 966 738 858	100.00	150 919 622 417	165 386 671 438	165 386 671 438

Temporary Imports	January 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	16 931 132 527

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 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	68 272 362	1.05	68 272 362	1.05	1.16	1 032 245 573	1 542 942 318	1 542 942 318	0.92	1 669 795 237	1 474 669 956	1 474 669 956
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	4 942 862 133	2.09	4 942 862 133	2.09	7.14	8 007 679 671	9 491 582 833	9 491 582 833	2.85	2 981 655 443	4 548 720 700	4 548 720 700
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(831 373 152)	0.28	(831 373 152)	0.28	0.25	291 264 394	331 375 957	331 375 957	0.73	840 512 405	1 162 749 109	1 162 749 109
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(1 142 892 608)	0.76	(1 142 892 608)	0.76	2.71	3 103 997 526	3 605 938 130	3 605 938 130	2.97	3 675 756 971	4 748 830 738	4 748 830 738
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	10 733 783 173	1.37	10 733 783 173	1.37	29.69	42 186 940 832	39 462 917 663	39 462 917 663	17.99	29 109 974 797	28 729 134 490	28 729 134 490
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(9 081 739 864)	0.44	(9 081 739 864)	0.44	5.30	6 656 132 294	7 042 273 754	7 042 273 754	10.10	15 882 206 677	16 124 013 618	16 124 013 618
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(5 487 772 709)	0.25	(5 487 772 709)	0.25	1.39	1 677 445 342	1 848 738 844	1 848 738 844	4.59	6 547 732 072	7 336 511 553	7 336 511 553
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(279 734 784)	0.46	(279 734 784)	0.46	0.18	243 370 128	236 864 534	236 864 534	0.32	419 504 852	516 599 318	516 599 318
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	182 902 346	1.39	182 902 346	1.39	0.49	463 791 651	657 007 352	657 007 352	0.30	413 037 833	474 105 006	474 105 006
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	407 297 669	1.19	407 297 669	1.19	1.90	2 603 940 237	2 526 355 427	2 526 355 427	1.33	1 954 052 704	2 119 057 758	2 119 057 758
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(4 970 845 047)	0.11	(4 970 845 047)	0.11	0.45	595 800 298	594 504 752	594 504 752	3.49	4 117 737 653	5 565 349 799	5 565 349 799
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 715 744 691)	0.06	(1 715 744 691)	0.06	0.09	88 085 832	114 726 502	114 726 502	1.15	1 591 142 692	1 830 471 193	1 830 471 193
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 345 038 788)	0.21	(1 345 038 788)	0.21	0.26	446 551 476	351 965 778	351 965 778	1.06	1 292 902 660	1 697 004 566	1 697 004 566
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	25 335 708 598	45.35	25 335 708 598	45.35	19.49	25 873 647 527	25 906 922 305	25 906 922 305	0.36	742 117 416	571 213 707	571 213 707
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	9 340 756 896	2.09	9 340 756 896	2.09	13.50	16 351 086 028	17 942 641 440	17 942 641 440	5.39	8 257 096 466	8 601 884 544	8 601 884 544
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(30 855 041 861)	0.19	(30 855 041 861)	0.19	5.52	7 073 475 781	7 333 237 633	7 333 237 633	23.92	35 464 139 081	38 188 279 494	38 188 279 494
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(2 965 569 999)	0.81	(2 965 569 999)	0.81	9.57	14 576 128 603	12 723 452 525	12 723 452 525	9.83	11 209 027 192	15 689 022 524	15 689 022 524
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(3 012 781 303)	0.15	(3 012 781 303)	0.15	0.40	548 143 377	530 071 449	530 071 449	2.22	3 573 053 144	3 542 852 752	3 542 852 752
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 920 627 447)	0.15	(1 920 627 447)	0.15	0.26	303 810 831	342 076 271	342 076 271	1.42	1 780 130 876	2 262 703 718	2 262 703 718
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(26 222 442)	0.79	(26 222 442)	0.79	0.07	110 597 916	97 408 664	97 408 664	0.08	92 261 525	123 631 106	123 631 106
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	103 307 275	1.81	103 307 275	1.81	0.17	239 027 434	230 663 350	230 663 350	0.08	186 381 335	127 356 075	127 356 075
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(14 240 742 615)	0.00	(14 240 742 615)	0.00	0.00	104 649	22 400	22 400	8.92	13 452 650 671	14 240 765 015	14 240 765 015
Total	Total SA Rand	(26 761 236 858)	0.83	(26 761 236 858)	0.83	100.00	132 473 267 400	132 913 689 881	132 913 689 881	100.00	145 252 869 702	159 674 926 739	159 674 926 739

		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
World Zones		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		17 478 305 920	2.67	17 478 305 920	2.67	21.02	26 660 919 438	27 933 765 804	27 933 765 804	6.55	8 510 417 231	10 455 459 884	10 455 459 884
AMERICA		(4 847 715 151)	0.72	(4 847 715 151)	0.72	9.33	14 493 830 842	12 407 401 561	12 407 401 561	10.81	13 753 209 143	17 255 116 712	17 255 116 712
ASIA		(37 763 312 162)	0.55	(37 763 312 162)	0.55	35.42	43 530 360 012	47 077 518 503	47 077 518 503	53.13	77 264 169 375	84 840 830 665	84 840 830 665
EUROPE		(11 661 450 152)	0.74	(11 661 450 152)	0.74	24.78	34 626 751 087	32 941 922 091	32 941 922 091	27.93	43 470 247 931	44 603 372 243	44 603 372 243
OCEANIA		(1 455 406 637)	0.37	(1 455 406 637)	0.37	0.65	1 262 281 930	865 427 470	865 427 470	1.45	1 759 994 988	2 320 834 107	2 320 834 107
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED		10 483 070 673	53.60	10 483 070 673	53.60	8.04	10 678 746 712	10 682 383 801	10 682 383 801	0.12	494 831 034	199 313 128	199 313 128
SHIP/AIRCRAFT		1 005 270 651	-	1 005 270 651	-	0.76	1 220 377 379	1 005 270 651	1 005 270 651				
Total		(26 761 236 858)	0.83	(26 761 236 858)	0.83	100.00	132 473 267 400	132 913 689 881	132 913 689 881	100.00	145 252 869 702	159 674 926 739	159 674 926 739

Temporary Imports	January 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	16 931 132 527

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 January 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.3 billion.

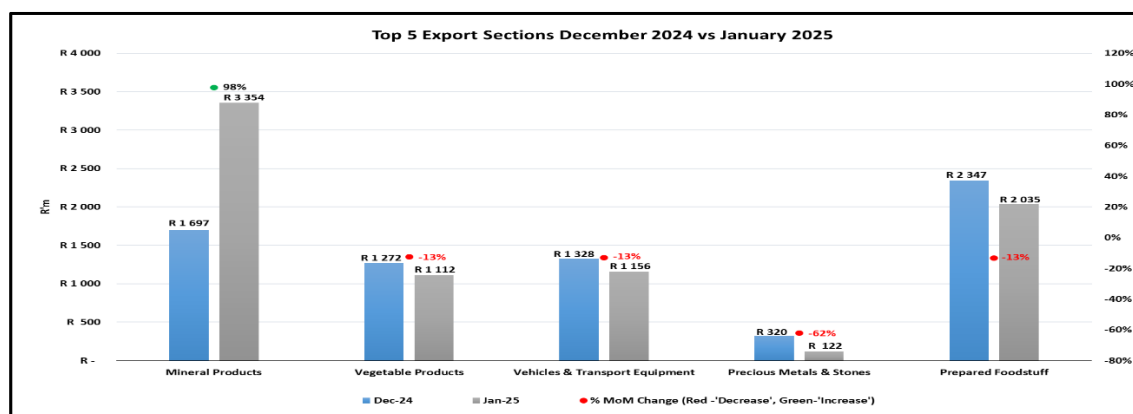
Summary

The R10.3 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for January 2025 was as a result of exports of R16.1 billion and imports of R5.7 billion. Exports increased by R0.5 billion (3.2%) between December 2024 and January 2025 and imports increased by R0.4 billion (8.4%) over the same period.

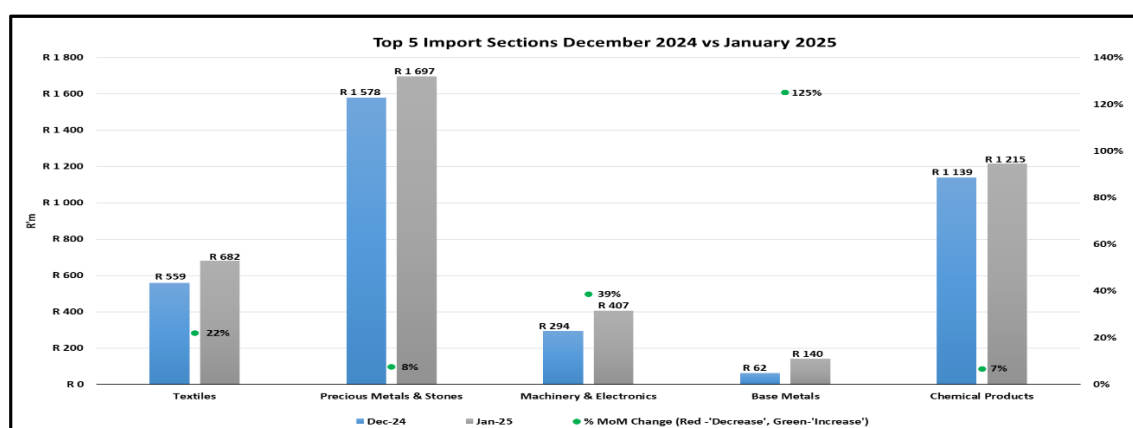
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R10.3 billion, compared to R9.1 billion in 2024.

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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