



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Wednesday, 30 April 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for March 2025

Pretoria, 30 April 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R24.8 billion in March 2025. This surplus was attributable to exports of R172.5 billion and imports of R147.7 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2025) preliminary trade balance surplus of R27.8 billion was an improvement from the R26.2 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for March 2025 (R172.5 billion) were 4.5% higher compared to R165.1 billion recorded in March 2024. Import flows were lower by 3.5%, having decreased from R153.1 billion in March 2024 to R147.7 billion in the current period.

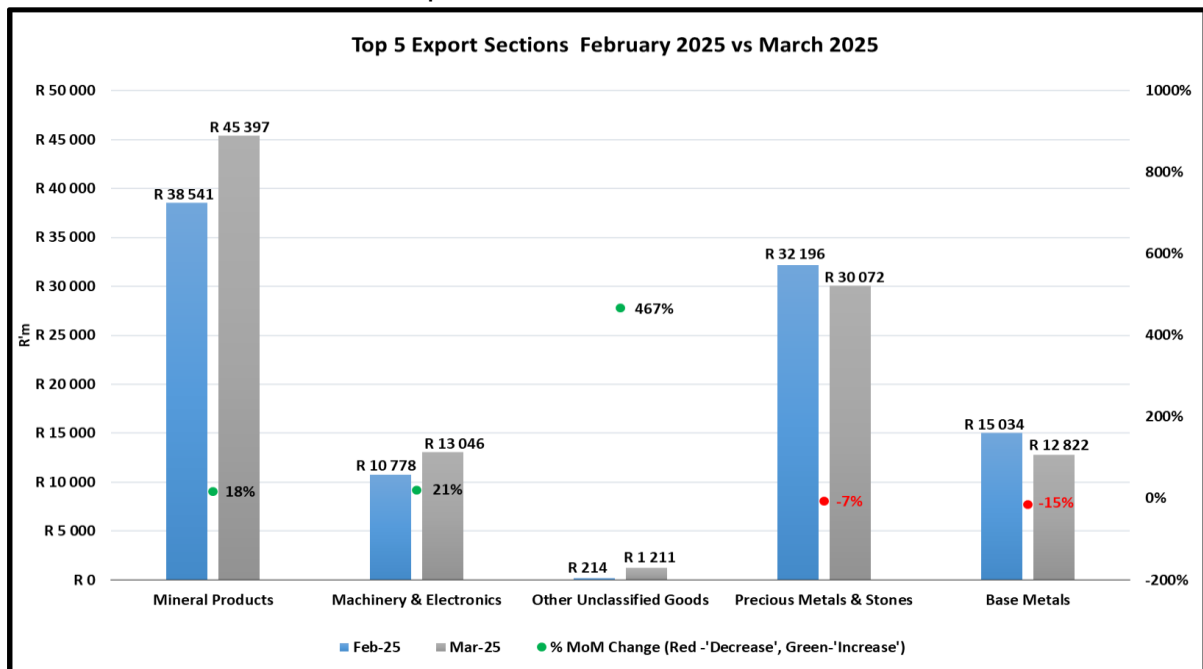
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R9.4 billion (5.7%) from R163.1 billion to R172.5 billion between February and March 2025, whilst imports increased by R4.5 billion (3.2%) from R143.2 billion to R147.7 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in March 2025, driven by Coal, Iron Ores and Concentrates, and Manganese Ores and Concentrates. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Crude Oil, Vehicles (Passengers), and Original Equipment Components.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R20.9 billion announced for February 2025 was revised downwards by R1.0 billion, with the final number at R19.9 billion.

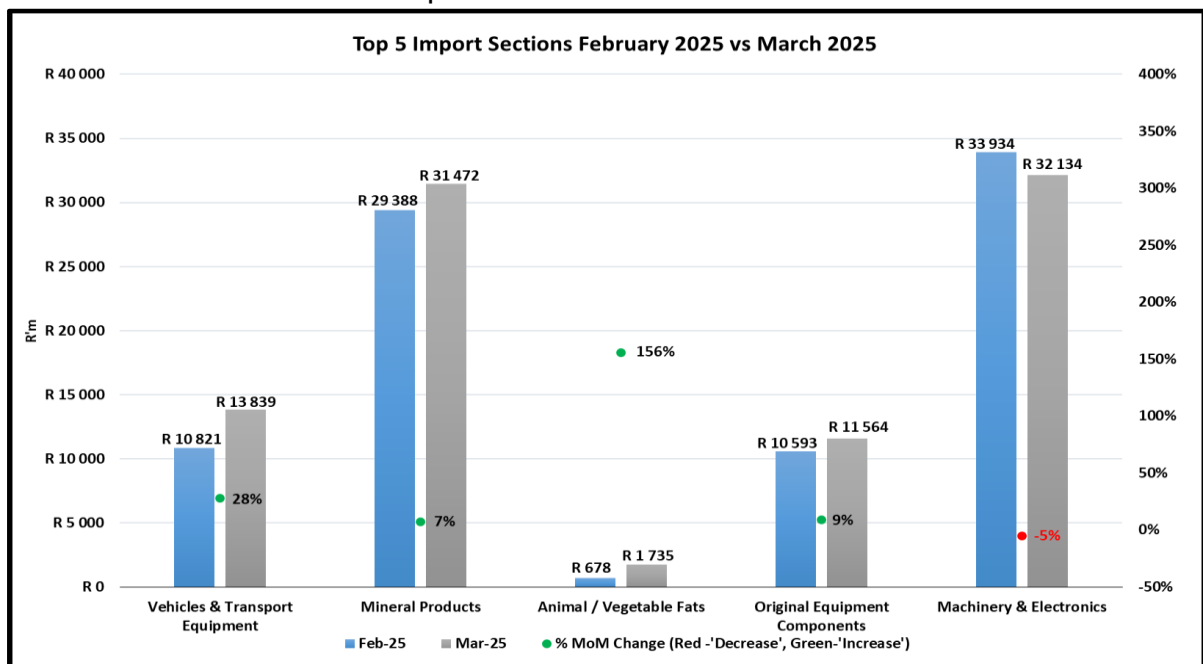
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Trade highlights by category

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 2025 (revised) to March 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2025	March 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	45 063	47 607	2 544	↑ 5.6%
	Imports	16 062	14 641	-1 422	↓ -8.9%
	Trade Balance	29 000	32 966	-	-
America	Exports	16 274	11 875	-4 399	↓ -27.0%
	Imports	11 882	14 946	3 064	↑ 25.8%
	Trade Balance	4 392	-3 071	-	-
Asia	Exports	44 134	51 972	7 838	↑ 17.8%
	Imports	75 544	77 661	2 117	↑ 2.8%
	Trade Balance	-31 410	-25 689	-	-
Europe	Exports	38 308	44 184	5 876	↑ 15.3%
	Imports	37 146	37 537	391	↑ 1.1%
	Trade Balance	1 162	6 647	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 978	1 480	-497	↓ -25.1%
	Imports	2 260	2 769	509	↑ 22.5%
	Trade Balance	-282	-1 289	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	16 206	14 552	-1 653	↓ -10.2%
	Imports	288	155	-133	↓ -46.2%
	Trade Balance	15 918	14 397	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	1 167	812	-355	↓ -30.4%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	1 167	812	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for March 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R13.4 billion.

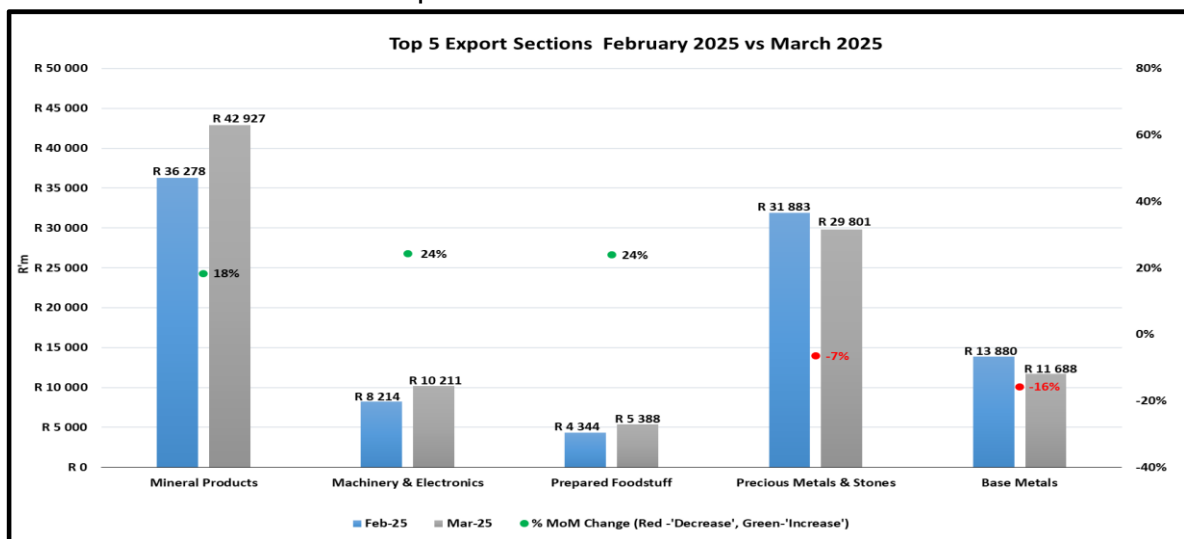
Summary

The R13.4 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2025 was as a result of exports of R155.3 billion and imports of R141.9 billion. Exports increased by R8.9 billion (6.1%) between February and March 2025 whilst imports increased by R4.7 billion (3.4%) over the same period.

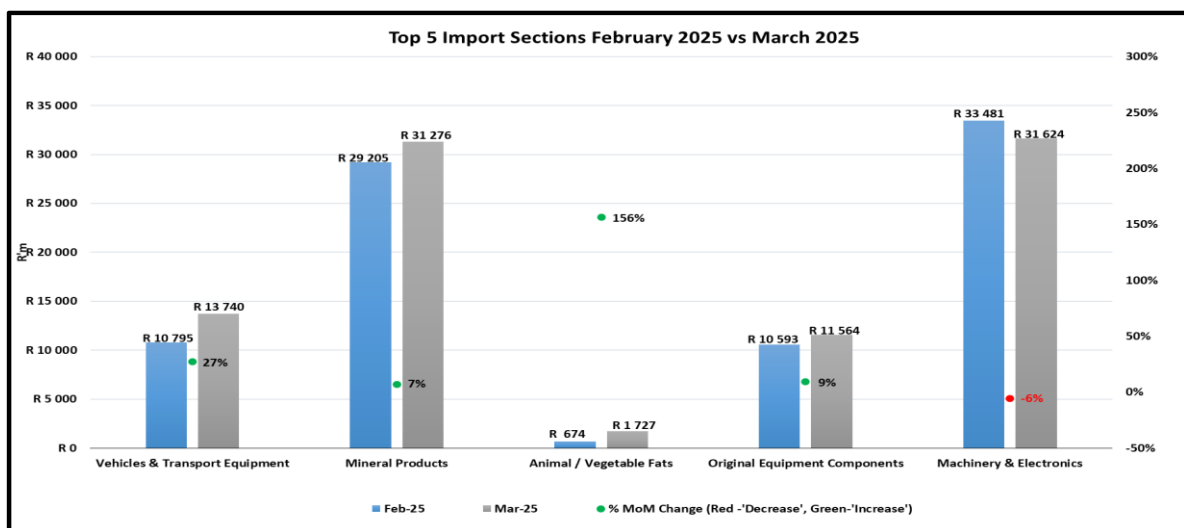
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a deficit of R4.7 billion, unchanged from the R4.7 billion trade balance deficit for the corresponding period in 2024.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2025	March 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 317	30 396	2 080	7.3%
	Imports	10 113	8 824	-1 289	-12.8%
	Trade Balance	18 203	21 573	-	-

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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	1 891 801 115	1.44	963 573 032	1.71	1.34	5 173 410 819	6 213 412 698	2 313 721 177	0.91	5 448 424 879	4 321 611 583	1 350 148 145
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	20 999 133 606	2.57	7 897 672 823	2.84	7.06	32 187 770 023	34 346 504 290	12 184 248 266	2.90	8 859 809 943	13 347 370 684	4 286 575 443
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(1 594 693 287)	0.55	(925 405 775)	0.47	0.47	1 731 453 589	1 981 570 037	809 299 789	1.17	3 465 768 045	3 576 263 324	1 734 705 564
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	4 559 707 985	1.30	2 721 889 657	1.58	4.30	18 754 047 572	19 576 440 887	7 408 568 463	3.17	13 215 277 891	15 016 732 902	4 686 678 806
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	36 594 809 498	1.41	13 924 987 596	1.44	26.32	129 220 330 719	126 347 849 373	45 397 351 792	21.31	96 784 652 787	89 753 039 875	31 472 364 196
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(20 755 752 279)	0.57	(6 336 452 530)	0.60	5.56	26 853 458 857	27 946 722 858	9 591 507 452	10.78	48 111 238 702	48 702 475 137	15 927 959 982
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(10 080 561 076)	0.45	(2 642 823 540)	0.52	1.66	7 923 800 803	8 173 390 421	2 861 283 192	3.73	19 363 880 936	18 253 951 497	5 504 106 732
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(226 182 934)	0.82	55 869 600	1.17	0.22	1 058 737 277	1 012 777 572	375 226 010	0.22	1 203 865 178	1 238 960 506	319 356 410
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 230 571 709	1.67	454 727 836	1.76	0.61	2 435 175 871	3 064 399 321	1 052 205 628	0.40	1 860 939 005	1 833 827 612	597 477 792
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	1 740 370 631	1.31	655 530 395	1.38	1.39	8 095 261 434	7 427 780 201	2 403 078 319	1.18	5 881 874 240	5 687 409 570	1 747 547 924
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(10 824 757 344)	0.35	(2 226 108 236)	0.54	1.52	5 510 815 502	5 921 274 990	2 618 963 263	3.28	15 641 603 979	16 746 032 334	4 845 071 499
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 264 541 520)	0.28	(531 483 317)	0.51	0.32	942 771 900	1 251 285 084	548 750 862	0.73	4 816 504 557	4 515 826 604	1 080 234 179
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 830 645 089)	0.54	(236 631 587)	0.78	0.48	1 894 647 532	2 115 631 832	821 714 150	0.72	3 865 164 660	3 946 276 921	1 058 345 737
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	81 095 144 744	12.26	27 823 363 510	13.38	17.43	76 683 370 569	88 296 021 720	30 071 548 126	1.52	7 019 276 735	7 200 876 976	2 248 184 616
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	23 176 694 172	2.00	5 393 004 388	1.73	7.43	52 564 234 217	46 449 858 010	12 822 047 076	5.03	24 172 868 175	23 273 163 838	7 429 042 688
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(71 204 489 138)	0.32	(19 088 115 010)	0.41	7.56	32 639 059 973	33 484 664 011	13 045 964 720	21.76	102 057 391 168	104 689 153 149	32 134 079 730
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	22 842 580 738	1.57	10 899 779 514	1.79	14.34	65 311 332 222	63 154 733 295	24 738 426 380	9.37	31 453 850 527	40 312 152 557	13 838 646 866
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(8 406 155 673)	0.25	(2 989 071 947)	0.28	0.68	2 411 957 947	2 863 424 660	1 172 580 769	2.82	11 432 789 206	11 269 580 333	4 161 652 716
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 086 313 071)	0.45	(619 774 757)	0.59	0.53	2 395 836 618	2 476 870 401	906 170 980	1.03	5 440 903 308	5 563 183 472	1 525 945 737
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	44 873 481	1.17	47 574 774	1.64	0.07	415 518 951	316 377 186	122 067 342	0.05	125 039 376	271 503 705	74 492 568
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 294 606 073	4.54	1 089 887 859	9.97	0.70	1 302 454 427	1 660 176 684	1 211 453 180	0.08	675 241 451	365 570 611	121 565 321
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(36 395 097 949)	0.00	(11 557 745 229)	0.00	0.00	858 955	6 809 982	6 712 664	7.83	38 371 356 913	36 401 907 931	11 564 457 893
Total	Total SA Rand	27 801 104 392	1.06	24 774 249 056	1.17	100.00	475 506 305 777	484 087 975 513	172 482 889 600	100.00	449 267 721 661	456 286 871 121	147 708 640 544

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	89 890 636 271	2.92	32 966 066 333	3.25	27.60	132 019 230 204	136 761 489 693	47 606 726 780	9.91	48 632 901 686	46 870 853 422	14 640 660 447
AMERICA	(3 511 438 410)	0.92	(3 070 679 299)	0.79	6.88	46 053 148 979	40 590 245 696	11 875 201 415	10.12	43 600 169 967	44 101 684 106	14 945 880 714
ASIA	(95 285 709 580)	0.60	(25 688 906 794)	0.67	30.13	140 568 369 698	142 776 440 741	51 972 235 865	52.58	222 165 692 600	238 062 150 321	77 661 142 659
EUROPE	(4 038 124 649)	0.97	6 646 808 218	1.18	25.62	119 260 610 898	115 211 935 346	44 183 895 261	25.41	127 675 701 665	119 250 059 995	37 537 087 043
OCEANIA	(3 031 618 677)	0.59	(1 288 612 135)	0.53	0.86	5 402 824 027	4 323 358 136	1 480 357 153	1.87	5 026 163 273	7 354 976 813	2 768 969 288
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	40 793 080 446	64.04	14 397 427 422	93.95	8.44	28 904 041 715	41 440 226 910	14 552 327 815	0.10	2 167 092 470	647 146 464	154 900 393
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 984 278 991	-	812 145 311	-	0.47	3 298 080 256	2 984 278 991	812 145 311				
Total	27 801 104 392	1.06	24 774 249 056	1.17	100.00	475 506 305 777	484 087 975 513	172 482 889 600	100.00	449 267 721 661	456 286 871 121	147 708 640 544

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	20 301 319 550

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

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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 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	1 416 463 444	1.39	812 897 945	1.74	1.23	4 164 559 710	5 079 314 453	1 904 072 518	0.77	4 328 366 795	3 662 851 009	1 091 174 573
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	17 761 263 304	2.36	6 818 904 277	2.63	7.09	28 747 031 113	30 823 427 643	11 006 414 327	2.95	8 644 205 768	13 062 164 339	4 187 510 050
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(2 193 981 502)	0.38	(1 125 830 815)	0.35	0.39	1 195 210 653	1 369 805 265	601 449 943	1.22	3 462 467 591	3 563 786 767	1 727 280 758
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	727 495 775	1.06	1 612 941 832	1.43	3.47	12 815 749 008	13 328 118 184	5 387 527 830	2.66	11 096 078 503	12 600 622 409	3 774 585 998
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	29 052 442 469	1.33	11 651 617 632	1.37	27.65	121 123 299 125	118 262 830 460	42 927 137 681	22.04	96 153 571 426	89 210 387 991	31 275 520 049
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(22 545 963 896)	0.51	(7 010 337 110)	0.53	5.13	22 280 358 501	23 056 394 422	7 965 941 883	10.55	44 663 025 291	45 602 358 318	14 976 278 993
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(12 034 689 632)	0.33	(3 308 123 693)	0.39	1.36	5 810 103 678	5 984 017 769	2 110 828 504	3.82	19 140 202 748	18 018 707 401	5 418 952 197
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(340 184 500)	0.72	19 809 843	1.06	0.21	916 038 618	874 514 495	332 809 959	0.22	1 174 919 023	1 214 698 995	313 000 116
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 210 964 864	2.05	443 836 036	2.23	0.52	1 833 412 132	2 364 504 765	804 842 834	0.25	1 213 503 986	1 153 539 901	361 006 798
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	886 127 602	1.16	390 246 773	1.23	1.35	7 040 452 737	6 428 039 884	2 098 099 309	1.20	5 748 256 290	5 541 912 282	1 707 852 536
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(11 160 718 401)	0.24	(2 372 120 986)	0.42	1.13	3 397 886 781	3 485 085 232	1 751 720 455	2.91	13 738 713 723	14 645 803 633	4 123 841 441
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 819 762 570)	0.14	(725 231 967)	0.32	0.22	412 927 527	642 701 597	336 890 366	0.75	4 770 590 365	4 462 464 167	1 062 122 333
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 464 245 939)	0.37	(473 668 561)	0.55	0.37	1 367 776 370	1 447 410 631	572 883 766	0.74	3 832 925 654	3 911 656 570	1 046 552 327
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	85 593 878 557	43.87	29 081 794 283	41.44	19.19	75 579 307 655	87 590 358 893	29 800 912 118	0.51	2 519 801 149	1 996 480 336	719 117 835
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	20 420 908 552	1.89	4 372 175 944	1.60	7.53	49 547 715 582	43 289 850 797	11 688 429 221	5.16	23 915 231 249	22 868 942 245	7 316 253 277
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(77 537 746 520)	0.25	(21 412 327 770)	0.32	6.58	25 672 484 201	25 780 501 910	10 211 415 752	22.29	100 564 640 017	103 318 248 430	31 623 743 522
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	18 648 051 079	1.46	9 288 890 502	1.68	14.83	60 784 672 769	58 814 404 045	23 029 188 711	9.68	31 342 011 524	40 166 352 966	13 740 298 209
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(9 062 292 196)	0.19	(3 222 809 325)	0.22	0.60	1 798 501 472	2 177 834 614	928 601 622	2.93	11 404 112 551	11 240 126 810	4 151 410 947
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(4 211 890 214)	0.24	(1 037 895 164)	0.32	0.31	1 356 405 613	1 320 840 904	478 449 547	1.07	5 410 786 867	5 532 731 118	1 516 344 711
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	42 753 559	1.16	46 152 980	1.62	0.08	413 485 341	313 802 350	120 507 328	0.05	124 794 800	271 048 791	74 354 348
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 288 525 354	4.58	1 087 801 856	10.07	0.78	1 287 833 228	1 648 859 272	1 207 747 315	0.08	669 916 393	360 333 918	119 945 459
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(36 395 152 336)	0.00	(11 557 797 912)	0.00	0.00	686 013	6 755 595	6 659 981	8.15	38 371 356 913	36 401 907 931	11 564 457 893
Total	Total SA Rand	(4 717 753 147)	0.99	13 380 926 600	1.09	100.00	427 545 897 827	434 089 373 180	155 272 530 970	100.00	432 289 478 626	438 807 126 327	141 891 604 370

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	57 371 778 732	2.95	21 572 743 877	3.44	19.58	84 058 822 254	86 762 887 360	30 396 368 150	6.22	31 654 658 651	29 391 108 628	8 823 624 273
AMERICA	(3 511 438 410)	0.92	(3 070 679 299)	0.79	7.65	46 053 148 979	40 590 245 696	11 875 201 415	10.53	43 600 169 967	44 101 684 106	14 945 880 714
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 984 278 991	-	812 145 311	-	0.52	3 298 080 256	2 984 278 991	812 145 311				
Total	(4 717 753 147)	0.99	13 380 926 600	1.09	100.00	427 545 897 827	434 089 373 180	155 272 530 970	100.00	432 289 478 626	438 807 126 327	141 891 604 370

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	20 301 319 550

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 March 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.4 billion.

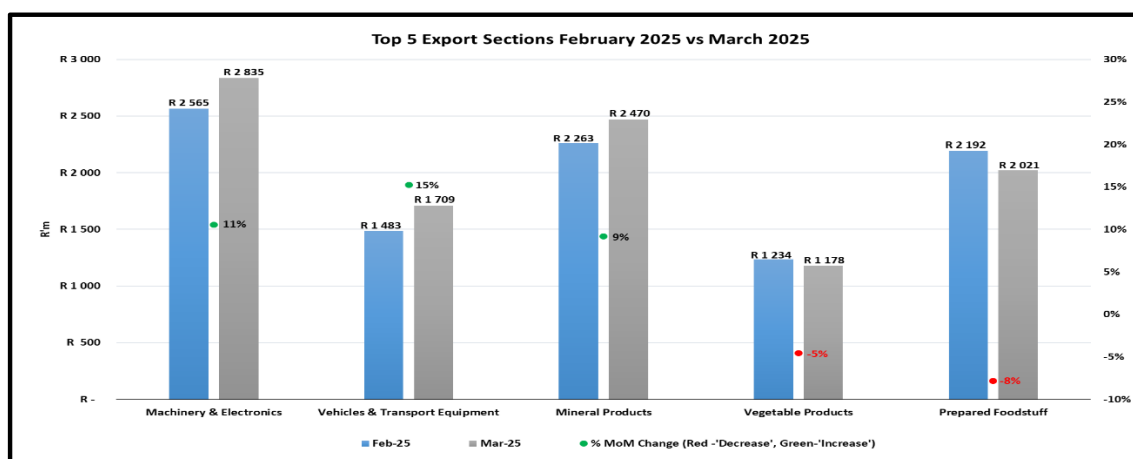
Summary

The R11.4 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2025 was as a result of exports of R17.2 billion and imports of R5.8 billion. Exports increased by R0.5 billion (2.8%) between February and March 2025 and imports decreased by R0.1 billion (-2.2%) over the same period.

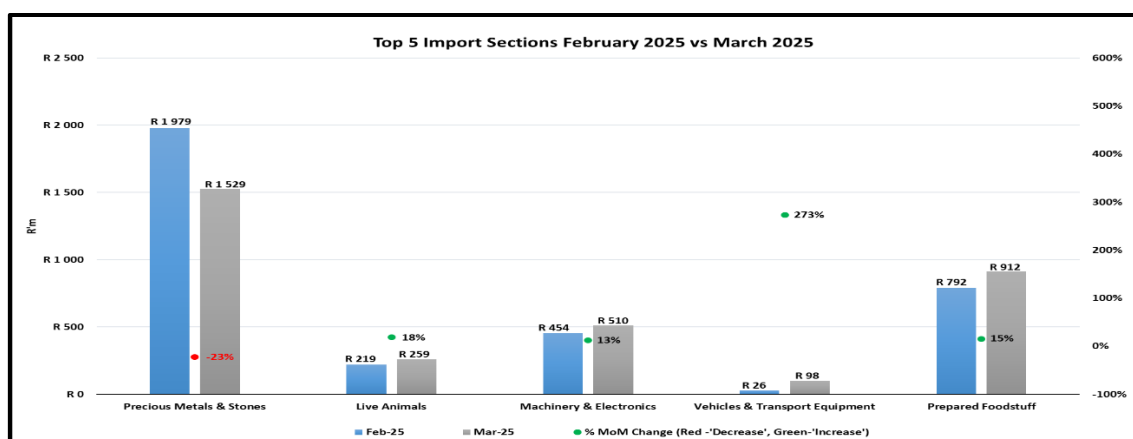
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R32.5 billion, compared to R31.0 billion in 2024.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

For any enquiries, please send your queries to SARSMedia@sars.gov.za or TradeStatistics@sars.gov.za