

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Wednesday, 31 December 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for November 2025

Pretoria, 31 December 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R37.7 billion in November 2025. This surplus was attributable to exports of R188.0 billion and imports of R150.3 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 30 November 2025) preliminary trade balance surplus of R178.8 billion was lower than the R182.5 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for November 2025 (R188.0 billion) were 4.5% higher compared to R180.0 billion recorded in November 2024. Import flows were higher by 2.9%, having increased from R146.1 billion in November 2024 to R150.3 billion in the current period.

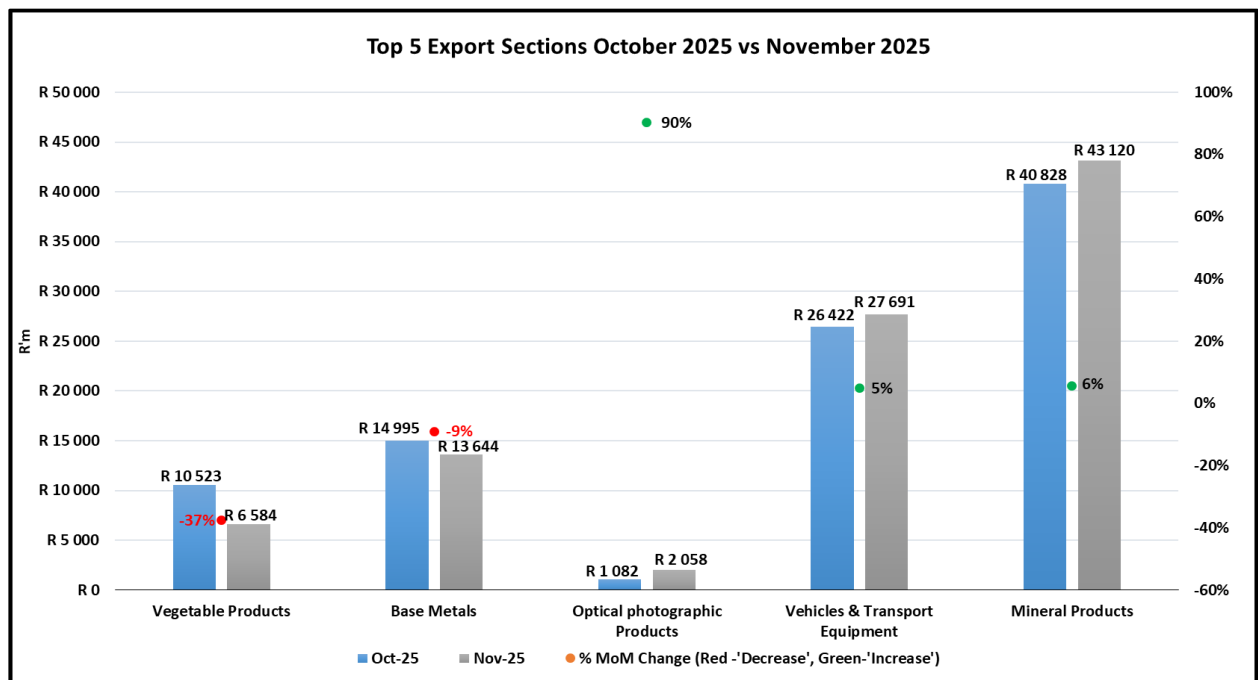
On a month-on-month basis, exports decreased by R3.6 billion (-1.9%) from R191.6 billion to R188.0 billion between October and November 2025, whilst imports decreased by R26.4 billion (-14.9%) from R176.7 billion to R150.3 billion over the same period. Export flows decreased in November 2025, driven by Citrus Fruit, Unwrought Aluminium, and Gold. Import flows decreased on the back of lower importation of Petroleum Oils (Excl. Crude), Original Equipment Components, and Motor Vehicles (Passengers).

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R15.6 billion announced for October 2025 was revised downwards by R0.6 billion, with the final number at R15.0 billion.

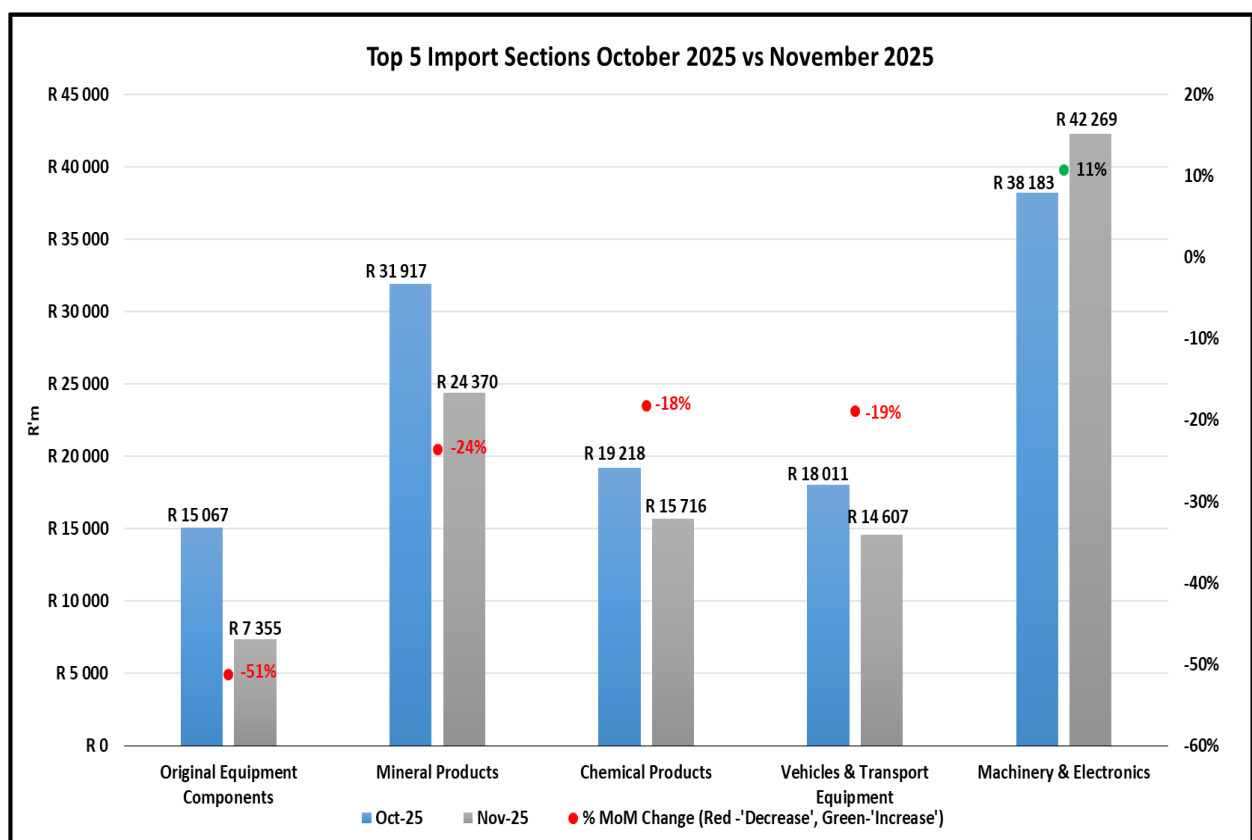
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from October 2025 (revised) to November 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2025	November 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	49 930	47 856	-2 074	↓ -4.2%
	Imports	18 948	15 157	-3 791	↓ -20.0%
	Trade Balance	30 982	32 699	-	-
America	Exports	17 020	16 428	-593	↓ -3.5%
	Imports	16 246	17 374	1 128	↑ 6.9%
	Trade Balance	774	-946	-	-
Asia	Exports	56 981	54 769	-2 212	↓ -3.9%
	Imports	97 494	81 930	-15 564	↓ -16.0%
	Trade Balance	-40 513	-27 161	-	-
Europe	Exports	44 274	46 838	2 564	↑ 5.8%
	Imports	42 020	34 075	-7 945	↓ -18.9%
	Trade Balance	2 254	12 763	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 969	1 861	-109	↓ -5.5%
	Imports	1 720	1 385	-335	↓ -19.5%
	Trade Balance	250	476	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	20 569	19 271	-1 298	↓ -6.3%
	Imports	228	373	146	↑ 64.1%
	Trade Balance	20 341	18 897	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	879	1 007	128	↑ 14.6%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	879	1 007	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for November 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R25.7 billion.

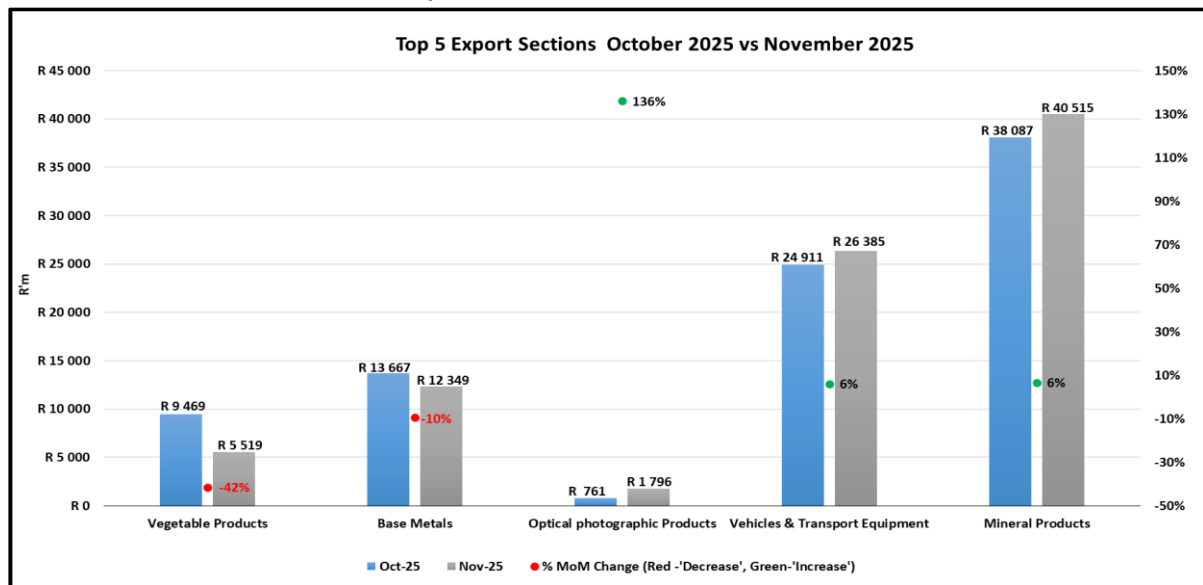
Summary

The R25.7 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2025 was as a result of exports of R169.0 billion and imports of R143.3 billion. Exports decreased by R3.0 billion (-1.7%) between October and November 2025 whilst imports decreased by R25.8 billion (-15.2%) over the same period.

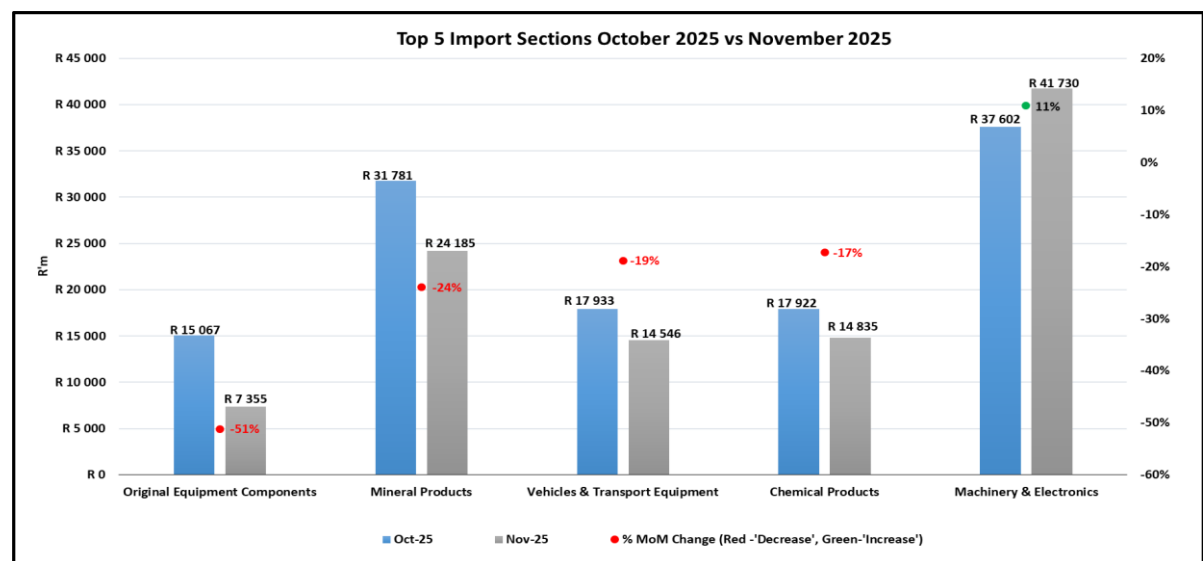
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R56.0 billion, compared to R54.9 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2024.

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 October 2025 (revised) and November 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2025	November 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	30 271	28 798	-1 473	↓ -4.9%
	Imports	11 338	8 145	-3 193	↓ -28.2%
	Trade Balance	18 933	20 653	-	-

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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	5 992 797 786	1.36	346 694 778	1.20	1.08	21 084 162 994	22 861 194 033	2 039 817 620	1.13	19 815 922 088	16 868 396 247	1 693 122 842
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	98 230 780 922	3.37	3 525 800 460	2.15	3.50	126 467 962 404	139 591 630 675	6 584 129 617	2.03	41 092 892 378	41 360 849 753	3 058 329 157
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(7 986 798 305)	0.47	(1 128 672 649)	0.36	0.34	7 276 110 486	7 155 930 494	636 644 311	1.17	13 787 916 335	15 142 728 799	1 765 316 960
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	26 107 965 154	1.46	2 675 695 989	1.52	4.16	79 793 007 549	82 886 143 683	7 828 632 571	3.43	53 312 680 221	56 778 178 529	5 152 936 582
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	143 029 596 029	1.46	18 749 394 152	1.77	22.93	470 924 159 335	456 426 005 601	43 119 691 349	16.22	331 187 905 990	313 396 409 572	24 370 297 197
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(81 900 350 421)	0.57	(5 589 961 391)	0.64	5.39	107 181 737 001	107 075 605 380	10 125 957 677	10.46	185 856 626 924	188 975 955 801	15 715 919 068
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(36 577 477 025)	0.48	(2 841 444 085)	0.52	1.64	32 232 683 853	33 277 679 474	3 083 840 708	3.94	72 227 740 205	69 855 156 499	5 925 284 793
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 131 050 811)	0.78	(103 703 683)	0.80	0.21	4 101 891 171	3 950 364 258	402 788 026	0.34	5 043 192 196	5 081 415 069	506 491 709
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	5 154 183 131	1.74	466 155 383	1.75	0.58	9 564 480 466	12 144 670 953	1 084 133 622	0.41	6 894 170 598	6 990 487 822	617 978 239
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	6 717 324 927	1.31	911 141 697	1.54	1.38	31 334 453 237	28 634 805 966	2 593 398 740	1.12	22 822 453 587	21 917 481 039	1 682 257 043
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(38 670 595 502)	0.37	(3 329 073 412)	0.41	1.22	21 698 674 758	22 660 243 225	2 292 369 588	3.74	60 780 049 008	61 330 838 727	5 621 443 000
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(14 231 659 262)	0.24	(1 100 668 579)	0.30	0.25	4 019 567 081	4 491 525 870	474 564 795	1.05	19 254 431 587	18 723 185 132	1 575 233 374
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 318 200 213)	0.51	(487 018 758)	0.59	0.37	7 253 916 058	7 635 159 417	697 733 951	0.79	15 043 694 701	14 953 359 630	1 184 752 709
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	360 359 136 600	11.75	45 136 401 867	14.74	25.75	342 513 850 477	393 876 165 948	48 422 603 092	2.19	31 200 002 256	33 517 029 348	3 286 201 225
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	67 708 169 643	1.77	6 253 474 769	1.85	7.26	195 669 759 318	156 089 139 376	13 643 663 204	4.92	93 101 276 116	88 380 969 733	7 390 188 435
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(267 294 368 091)	0.33	(29 188 870 807)	0.31	6.96	134 998 295 675	134 098 021 466	13 080 556 194	28.12	382 955 074 352	401 392 389 557	42 269 427 001
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	102 843 581 526	1.61	13 084 534 499	1.90	14.73	256 853 160 754	270 424 004 644	27 691 413 343	9.72	136 706 421 179	167 580 423 118	14 606 878 844
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(32 827 685 737)	0.26	(1 903 554 626)	0.52	1.09	10 067 897 346	11 377 508 189	2 057 666 666	2.64	42 670 745 917	44 205 193 926	3 961 221 292
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(12 958 007 305)	0.46	(890 938 159)	0.56	0.60	10 367 730 500	10 962 181 573	1 119 698 206	1.34	23 285 852 444	23 920 188 878	2 010 636 365
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(72 774 512)	0.95	(232 359 264)	0.42	0.09	1 621 239 535	1 525 784 907	169 820 267	0.27	923 077 188	1 598 559 419	402 179 531
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	5 743 713 398	4.08	734 173 248	6.13	0.47	6 194 605 506	7 606 106 197	877 351 175	0.10	2 018 545 968	1 862 392 799	143 177 927
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(142 128 736 430)	0.00	(7 352 536 437)	0.00	0.00	5 962 310	13 459 251	1 980 550	4.89	138 761 604 747	142 142 195 681	7 354 516 987
Total	Total SA Rand	178 789 545 502	1.10	37 734 664 992	1.25	100.00	1 881 225 307 814	1 914 763 330 580	188 028 455 272	100.00	1 698 742 275 985	1 735 973 785 078	150 293 790 280

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	348 752 317 424	3.07	32 699 136 143	3.16	25.45	530 181 963 875	516 869 119 629	47 856 092 023	10.08	180 725 046 512	168 116 802 205	15 156 955 880
AMERICA	(13 537 634 464)	0.92	(946 422 303)	0.95	8.74	175 983 461 988	165 059 771 527	16 427 589 054	11.56	169 836 614 140	178 597 405 991	17 374 011 357
ASIA	(353 558 077 204)	0.61	(27 160 927 129)	0.67	29.13	554 353 842 417	556 219 288 032	54 768 829 856	54.51	864 611 786 014	909 777 365 236	81 929 756 985
EUROPE	26 196 530 393	1.06	12 763 180 121	1.37	24.91	449 566 002 249	478 334 556 535	46 837 930 656	22.67	455 852 241 389	452 138 026 142	34 074 750 535
OCEANIA	(2 047 439 279)	0.91	475 638 437	1.34	0.99	21 041 695 640	20 793 999 960	1 860 637 431	0.92	21 362 004 361	22 841 439 239	1 384 998 994
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	160 842 979 705	36.72	18 897 208 270	51.62	10.25	136 679 212 098	165 345 725 970	19 270 524 799	0.25	6 354 583 569	4 502 746 265	373 316 529
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	12 140 868 927	-	1 006 851 453	-	0.54	13 419 129 547	12 140 868 927	1 006 851 453				
Total	178 789 545 502	1.10	37 734 664 992	1.25	100.00	1 881 225 307 814	1 914 763 330 580	188 028 455 272	100.00	1 698 742 275 985	1 735 973 785 078	150 293 790 280

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 062 799 984	20 295 960 338	16 291 090 563	18 039 877 152	22 438 545 013	20 674 296 306	18 787 683 097	20 841 521 175	25 514 558 759	20 843 116 687

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	4 149 110 654	1.29	96 371 561	1.06	0.95	16 753 765 413	18 550 807 194	1 607 205 661	1.05	15 877 805 579	14 401 696 540	1 510 834 100
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	87 927 196 786	3.20	2 575 684 138	1.88	3.27	113 187 148 796	127 895 839 303	5 518 675 562	2.05	39 891 242 507	39 968 642 517	2 942 991 424
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(10 584 580 197)	0.30	(1 421 651 253)	0.19	0.20	4 942 978 598	4 498 974 763	341 855 452	1.23	13 759 516 362	15 083 554 960	1 763 506 705
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	11 803 040 373	1.25	1 179 446 310	1.29	3.11	56 026 474 841	58 894 332 009	5 256 809 084	2.85	44 666 177 218	47 091 291 636	4 077 362 774
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	116 018 985 644	1.37	16 330 144 587	1.68	23.98	442 534 095 715	427 521 082 221	40 515 015 895	16.88	328 749 821 837	311 502 096 577	24 184 871 308
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(90 549 206 398)	0.49	(6 739 700 706)	0.55	4.79	88 903 261 974	87 601 780 635	8 095 779 435	10.35	175 046 965 192	178 150 987 033	14 835 480 141
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(44 168 889 678)	0.36	(3 613 389 034)	0.38	1.30	23 578 628 836	24 755 072 838	2 202 460 079	4.06	71 310 031 095	68 923 962 516	5 815 849 113
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 581 063 592)	0.68	(163 970 309)	0.67	0.20	3 528 543 249	3 382 096 852	330 458 684	0.35	4 920 341 919	4 963 160 444	494 428 993
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	5 235 524 120	2.29	468 997 765	2.42	0.47	7 044 156 102	9 308 050 937	798 473 016	0.23	4 272 138 656	4 072 526 817	329 475 251
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	3 328 189 796	1.16	496 348 220	1.31	1.25	27 318 122 737	24 676 638 077	2 119 097 177	1.13	22 288 191 168	21 348 448 281	1 622 748 957
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(39 576 427 962)	0.24	(3 212 538 756)	0.29	0.77	12 142 450 736	12 636 227 992	1 293 008 185	3.14	52 429 105 902	52 212 655 954	4 505 546 941
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(16 578 580 220)	0.10	(1 355 445 135)	0.12	0.11	1 484 901 400	1 911 531 651	183 192 416	1.07	19 027 768 887	18 490 111 871	1 538 637 551
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(9 581 218 031)	0.35	(718 906 669)	0.39	0.27	5 010 307 220	5 217 733 237	452 117 399	0.82	14 925 789 460	14 798 951 268	1 171 024 068
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	377 898 695 686	31.26	46 850 775 624	45.11	28.36	338 915 741 507	390 388 691 869	47 912 919 224	0.74	15 080 437 766	12 489 996 183	1 062 143 600
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	56 408 781 294	1.65	5 040 670 227	1.69	7.31	182 955 583 649	143 498 864 048	12 348 818 223	5.10	92 135 959 343	87 090 082 754	7 308 147 996
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(291 146 081 774)	0.26	(31 532 851 740)	0.24	6.04	105 779 182 048	104 884 959 403	10 197 384 457	29.12	377 541 445 763	396 031 041 177	41 730 236 197
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	86 738 751 172	1.52	11 838 603 795	1.81	15.61	239 429 262 028	253 714 804 840	26 384 522 788	10.15	136 202 664 061	166 976 053 668	14 545 918 993
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(35 486 142 561)	0.20	(2 152 057 423)	0.45	1.06	7 524 753 378	8 599 287 681	1 795 886 643	2.76	42 566 599 887	44 085 430 242	3 947 944 066
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(17 779 612 316)	0.25	(1 424 179 914)	0.29	0.34	5 655 893 529	6 006 826 123	573 998 513	1.39	23 156 686 519	23 786 438 439	1 998 178 427
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(88 505 987)	0.94	(233 569 707)	0.42	0.10	1 577 604 640	1 508 576 504	168 446 508	0.28	922 072 915	1 597 082 491	402 016 215
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	5 698 756 452	4.09	732 758 512	6.24	0.52	6 143 927 162	7 542 167 310	872 515 984	0.10	1 999 427 611	1 843 410 858	139 757 472
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(142 128 824 025)	0.00	(7 352 539 973)	0.00	0.00	3 852 268	13 371 656	1 977 014	5.13	138 761 584 747	142 142 195 681	7 354 516 987
Total	Total SA Rand	55 957 899 236	1.03	25 689 000 120	1.18	100.00	1 690 440 635 826	1 723 007 717 143	168 970 617 399	100.00	1 635 531 774 394	1 667 049 817 907	143 281 617 279

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	225 920 671 158	3.28	20 653 471 271	3.54	17.04	339 397 291 887	325 113 506 192	28 798 254 150	5.68	117 514 544 921	99 192 835 034	8 144 782 879
AMERICA	(13 537 634 464)	0.92	(946 422 303)	0.95	9.72	175 983 461 988	165 059 771 527	16 427 589 054	12.13	169 836 614 140	178 597 405 991	17 374 011 357
ASIA	(353 558 077 204)	0.61	(27 160 927 129)	0.67	32.41	554 353 842 417	556 219 288 032	54 768 829 856	57.18	864 611 786 014	909 777 365 236	81 929 756 985
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OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	160 842 979 705	36.72	18 897 208 270	51.62	11.40	136 679 212 098	165 345 725 970	19 270 524 799	0.26	6 354 583 569	4 502 746 265	373 316 529
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	12 140 868 927	-	1 006 851 453	-	0.60	13 419 129 547	12 140 868 927	1 006 851 453				
Total	55 957 899 236	1.03	25 689 000 120	1.18	100.00	1 690 440 635 826	1 723 007 717 143	168 970 617 399	100.00	1 635 531 774 394	1 667 049 817 907	143 281 617 279

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 062 799 984	20 295 960 338	16 291 090 563	18 039 877 152	22 438 545 013	20 674 296 306	18 787 683 097	20 841 521 175	25 514 558 759	20 843 116 687

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 November 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R12.0 billion.

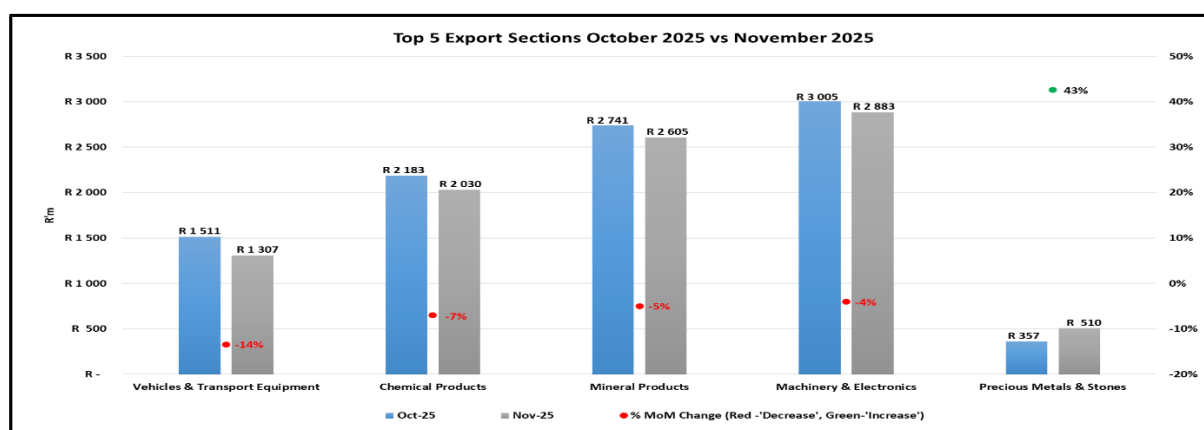
Summary

The R12.0 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2025 was as a result of exports of R19.1 billion and imports of R7.0 billion. Exports decreased by R0.6 billion (-3.1%) between October and November 2025, and imports also decreased by R0.6 billion (-7.9%) over the same period.

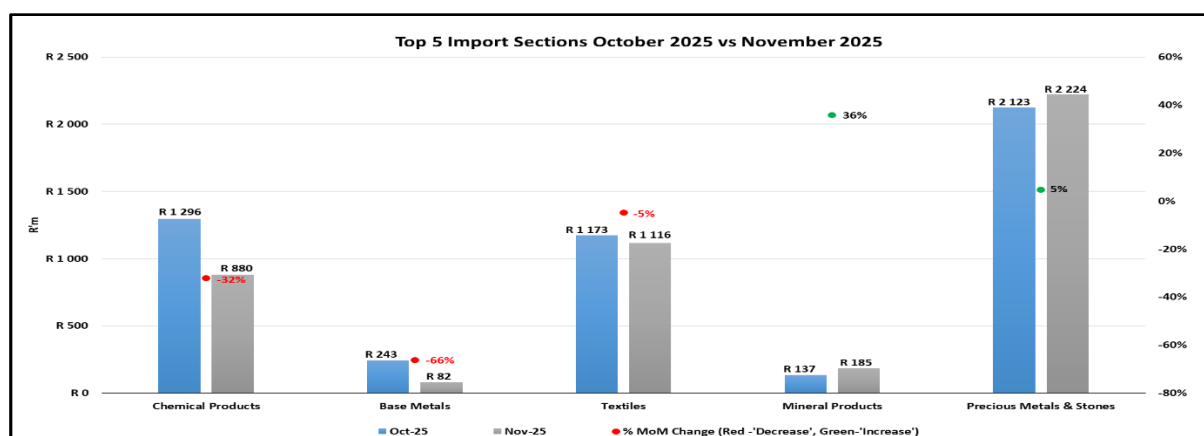
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R122.8 billion, compared to R127.6 billion surplus in 2024.

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