



STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 28 November 2025

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for October 2025

Pretoria, 28 November 2025 – South Africa recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R15.6 billion in October 2025. This surplus was attributable to exports of R192.2 billion and imports of R176.6 billion, inclusive of trade with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN).

The year-to-date (01 January to 31 October 2025) preliminary trade balance surplus of R142.7 billion was lower than the R148.1 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2024. On a year-on-year basis, export flows for October 2025 (R192.2 billion) were 7.4% higher compared to R178.9 billion recorded in October 2024. Import flows were higher by 7.3%, having increased from R164.5 billion in October 2024 to R176.6 billion in the current period.

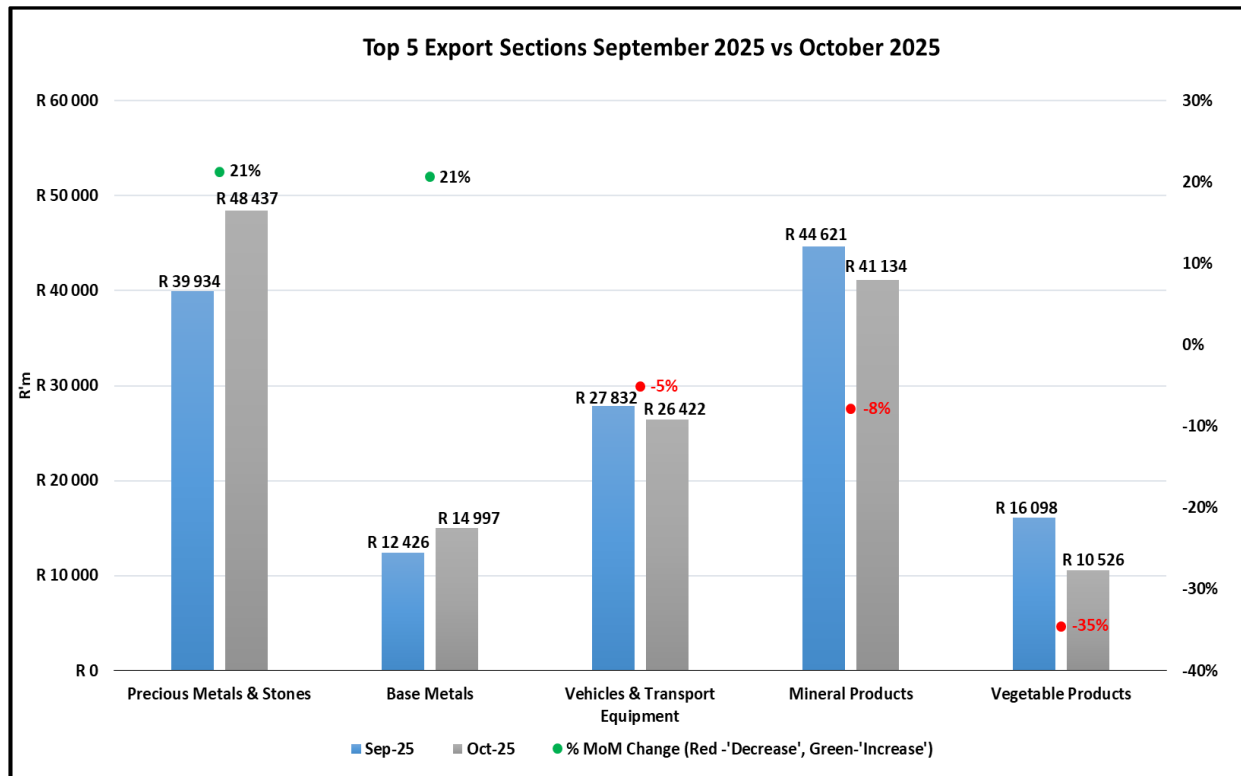
On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R5.2 billion (2.8%) from R187.0 billion to R192.2 billion between September and October 2025, whilst imports increased by R11.8 billion (7.2%) from R164.8 billion to R176.6 billion over the same period. Export flows increased in October 2025, driven by Gold, Diamonds, and Unwrought Aluminium. Import flows increased on the back of higher importation of Crude Oil, Petroleum Oils (Excl. Crude), and Original Equipment Components.

Due to ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOCs), the preliminary trade balance surplus of R21.8 billion announced for September 2025 was revised upwards by R0.5 billion, with the final number at R22.3 billion.

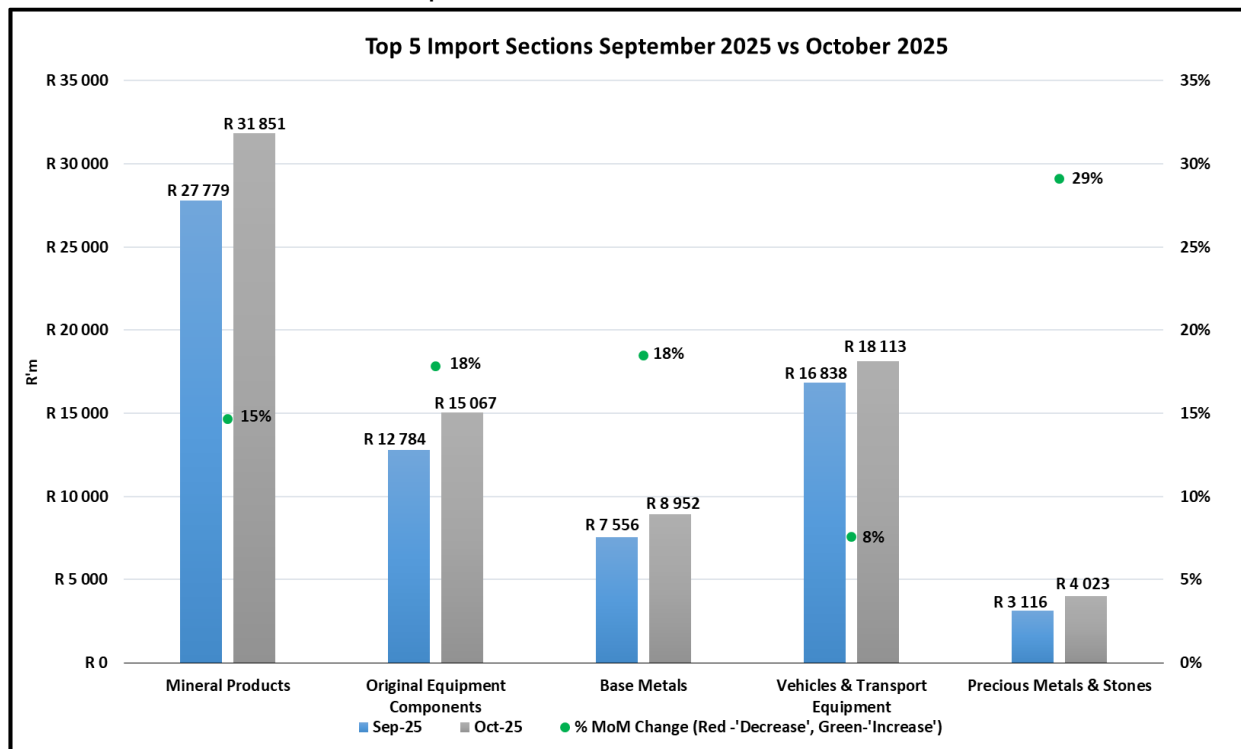
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 2025](#)

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 from September 2025 (revised) to October 2025 (preliminary) are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	September 2025	October 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	46 099	49 941	3 843	↑ 8.3%
	Imports	15 799	18 958	3 159	↑ 20.0%
	Trade Balance	30 300	30 983	-	-
America	Exports	18 496	17 035	-1 461	↓ -7.9%
	Imports	16 436	16 241	-195	↓ -1.2%
	Trade Balance	2 060	794	-	-
Asia	Exports	59 044	57 526	-1 518	↓ -2.6%
	Imports	86 690	97 398	10 709	↑ 12.4%
	Trade Balance	-27 645	-39 872	-	-
Europe	Exports	46 162	44 265	-1 897	↓ -4.1%
	Imports	43 564	42 058	-1 506	↓ -3.5%
	Trade Balance	2 598	2 207	-	-
Oceania	Exports	2 193	1 968	-225	↓ -10.2%
	Imports	1 719	1 720	1	↑ 0.0%
	Trade Balance	474	249	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	14 092	20 569	6 477	↑ 46.0%
	Imports	554	227	-326	↓ -58.9%
	Trade Balance	13 538	20 341	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	929	879	-51	↓ -5.5%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	929	879	-	-

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

South Africa's trade with the rest of the world (excl. BELN) for October 2025 indicates a preliminary trade balance surplus of R3.5 billion.

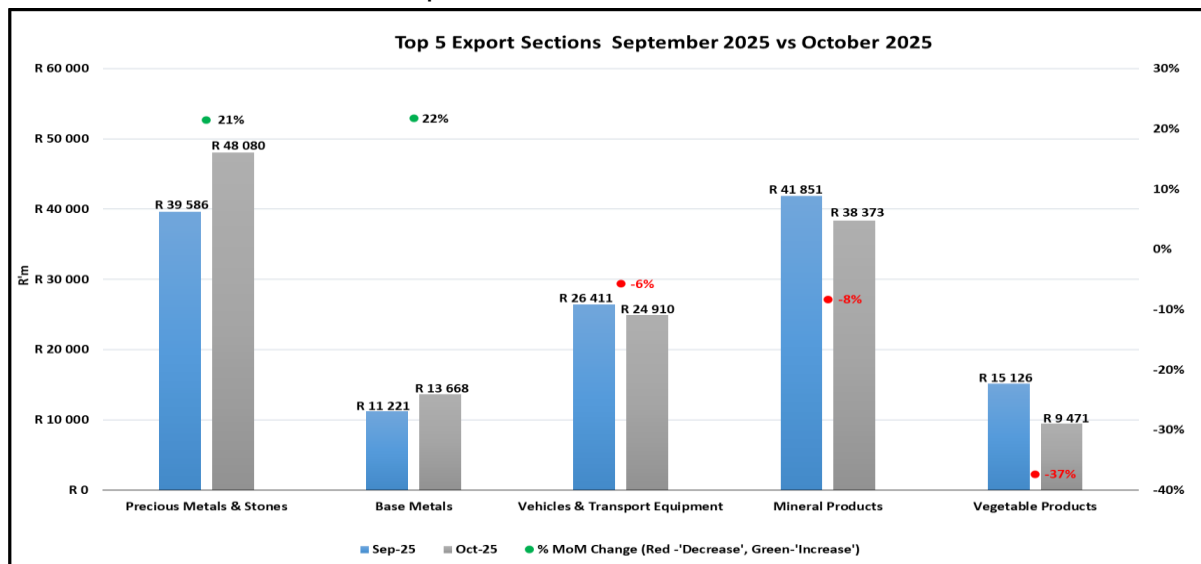
Summary

The R3.5 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for October 2025 was as a result of exports of R172.5 billion and imports of R169.0 billion. Exports increased by R3.2 billion (1.9%) between September and October 2025 whilst imports increased by R11.1 billion (7.0%) over the same period.

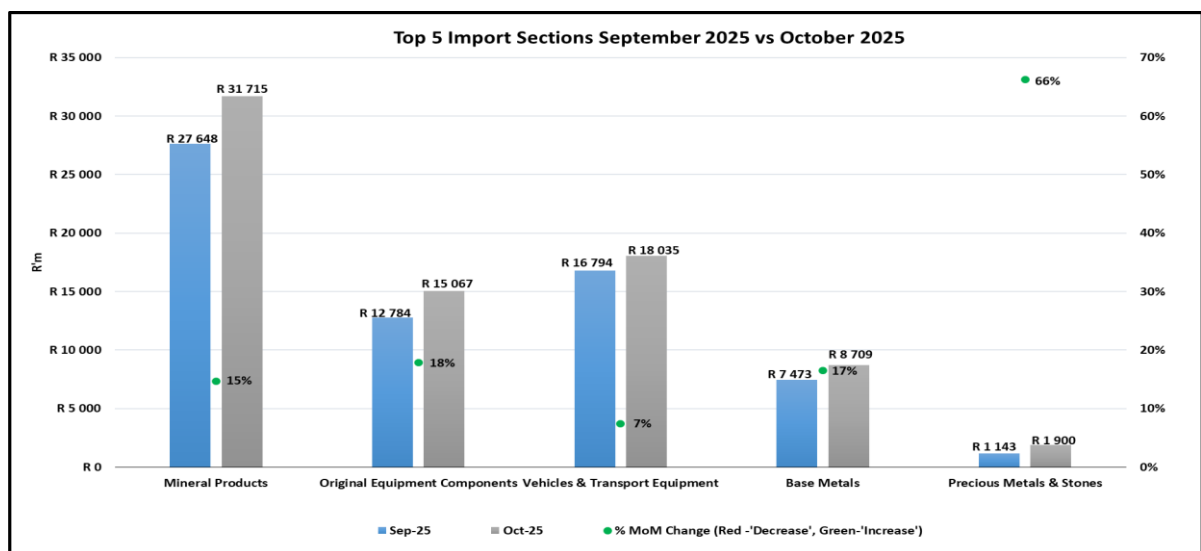
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R31.9 billion, compared to R34.8 billion trade balance surplus for the corresponding period in 2024.

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

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	September 2025	October 2025	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 350	30 248	1 897	6.7%
	Imports	8 940	11 346	2 406	26.9%
	Trade Balance	19 410	18 901	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics October 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	5 648 360 453	1.37	103 893 204	1.05	1.18	18 935 145 255	20 820 951 878	2 263 564 399	1.22	18 304 350 939	15 172 591 425	2 159 671 195
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	94 708 252 274	3.47	6 890 411 658	2.90	5.48	119 268 477 652	133 011 166 637	10 525 870 980	2.06	36 899 494 043	38 302 914 363	3 635 459 322
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 857 529 988)	0.49	(1 227 093 547)	0.35	0.34	6 643 171 189	6 519 875 830	656 288 443	1.07	12 460 772 681	13 377 405 818	1 883 381 990
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	23 615 608 075	1.46	3 173 438 188	1.58	4.51	71 595 462 933	75 050 766 611	8 659 265 945	3.11	48 290 694 625	51 435 158 536	5 485 827 757
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	125 012 959 775	1.43	9 282 996 486	1.29	21.40	428 117 855 045	413 796 935 597	41 134 345 947	18.04	307 769 830 622	288 783 975 822	31 851 349 461
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(76 328 143 385)	0.56	(8 736 425 320)	0.55	5.45	96 267 812 329	96 929 405 657	10 482 379 777	10.88	169 112 237 832	173 257 549 042	19 218 805 097
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(33 737 878 930)	0.47	(3 604 569 856)	0.48	1.75	29 071 258 076	30 188 390 578	3 356 073 296	3.94	65 898 008 412	63 926 269 508	6 960 643 152
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 028 515 932)	0.78	(164 152 285)	0.74	0.24	3 708 243 767	3 547 596 716	469 422 085	0.36	4 565 005 042	4 576 112 648	633 574 370
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	4 695 663 621	1.74	647 183 524	1.91	0.71	8 706 767 275	11 068 130 723	1 361 858 455	0.40	6 233 313 088	6 372 467 102	714 674 931
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	6 047 017 747	1.30	834 640 650	1.35	1.67	28 624 959 807	26 282 021 784	3 208 113 153	1.34	20 717 335 598	20 235 004 037	2 373 472 503
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(35 332 845 350)	0.37	(4 216 078 138)	0.38	1.32	19 143 404 045	20 370 989 699	2 532 077 528	3.82	55 305 927 233	55 703 835 049	6 748 155 666
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(13 128 750 118)	0.23	(1 257 408 336)	0.28	0.26	3 568 285 383	4 017 089 685	497 490 843	0.99	17 674 452 872	17 145 839 803	1 754 899 179
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 824 570 778)	0.50	(757 537 479)	0.49	0.38	6 537 906 624	6 943 473 924	723 540 627	0.84	13 661 801 971	13 768 044 702	1 481 078 106
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	315 453 975 615	11.43	44 414 338 173	12.04	25.20	305 020 971 537	345 695 229 675	48 437 246 905	2.28	28 884 090 093	30 241 254 060	4 022 908 732
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	61 492 302 348	1.76	6 044 325 892	1.68	7.80	177 836 966 924	142 449 786 382	14 996 541 763	5.07	84 346 314 982	80 957 484 034	8 952 215 871
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(238 223 221 426)	0.34	(24 646 479 030)	0.35	7.05	121 863 813 877	120 993 497 330	13 551 198 852	21.63	346 424 948 303	359 216 718 756	38 197 677 882
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	90 084 597 999	1.59	8 308 505 557	1.46	13.75	231 025 916 555	242 756 110 954	26 421 622 510	10.26	123 859 944 193	152 671 512 955	18 113 116 953
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(30 893 455 229)	0.23	(3 341 957 597)	0.25	0.57	9 128 330 548	9 341 005 886	1 102 912 072	2.52	38 625 329 535	40 234 461 115	4 444 869 669
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(12 076 112 364)	0.45	(1 601 006 435)	0.41	0.58	9 287 713 692	9 827 134 205	1 106 863 872	1.53	21 205 040 176	21 903 246 569	2 707 870 307
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	155 086 921	1.13	161 026 957	4.92	0.11	1 493 803 782	1 351 450 379	202 107 672	0.02	855 053 413	1 196 363 458	41 080 715
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	5 046 731 159	3.94	339 533 677	3.20	0.26	5 502 559 669	6 765 322 552	494 217 380	0.09	1 860 706 809	1 718 591 393	154 683 703
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(134 795 668 819)	0.00	(15 067 020 401)	0.00	0.00	5 812 475	11 478 701	16 427	8.53	130 316 607 444	134 807 147 520	15 067 036 828
Total	Total SA Rand	142 733 863 668	1.09	15 580 565 542	1.09	100.00	1 701 354 638 439	1 727 737 811 383	192 183 018 931	100.00	1 553 271 259 906	1 585 003 947 715	176 602 453 389

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	316 099 448 778	3.07	30 983 154 143	2.63	25.99	479 081 804 176	469 068 126 382	49 941 343 498	10.73	166 692 516 138	152 968 677 604	18 958 189 355
AMERICA	(12 544 165 814)	0.92	793 797 378	1.05	8.86	160 155 565 731	148 671 645 872	17 034 738 633	9.20	153 203 408 525	161 215 811 686	16 240 941 255
ASIA	(325 146 162 279)	0.61	(39 872 106 290)	0.59	29.93	503 161 317 827	502 070 235 368	57 526 239 639	55.15	787 005 230 862	827 216 397 647	97 398 345 929
EUROPE	13 739 063 053	1.03	2 207 072 530	1.05	23.03	405 386 097 133	431 757 257 471	44 264 722 894	23.81	420 998 015 008	418 018 194 418	42 057 650 364
OCEANIA	(2 523 695 056)	0.88	248 634 297	1.14	1.02	19 155 620 627	18 932 488 309	1 968 497 096	0.97	19 354 850 921	21 456 183 365	1 719 862 799
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	141 975 357 512	35.39	20 341 360 426	90.43	10.70	121 981 006 781	146 104 040 507	20 568 824 113	0.13	6 017 238 452	4 128 682 995	227 463 687
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	11 134 017 474	-	878 653 058	-	0.46	12 433 226 164	11 134 017 474	878 653 058				
Total	142 733 863 668	1.09	15 580 565 542	1.09	100.00	1 701 354 638 439	1 727 737 811 383	192 183 018 931	100.00	1 553 271 259 906	1 585 003 947 715	176 602 453 389

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	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	25 525 062 952

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	4 053 908 822	1.31	(142 078 564)	0.93	1.05	15 077 323 638	16 943 063 526	1 816 780 228	1.16	14 603 017 072	12 889 154 704	1 958 858 792
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	85 353 611 932	3.31	5 958 790 280	2.70	5.49	107 374 138 558	122 379 354 856	9 470 897 889	2.08	35 798 687 018	37 025 742 924	3 512 107 609
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(9 162 390 876)	0.31	(1 497 307 225)	0.20	0.22	4 534 827 870	4 157 651 358	384 137 646	1.11	12 436 379 664	13 320 042 234	1 881 444 871
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	10 801 472 169	1.25	1 762 363 071	1.40	3.57	50 630 900 216	53 625 780 530	6 150 199 581	2.60	40 503 562 848	42 824 308 361	4 387 836 510
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	100 387 527 868	1.35	6 658 622 602	1.21	22.25	402 256 516 590	387 462 626 828	38 373 330 579	18.77	305 588 747 291	287 075 098 960	31 714 707 977
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(83 827 668 888)	0.49	(9 624 252 893)	0.46	4.81	80 015 716 660	79 484 945 695	8 298 649 713	10.61	159 269 086 936	163 312 614 583	17 922 902 606
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(40 558 101 221)	0.36	(4 416 302 379)	0.36	1.42	21 366 835 906	22 546 400 668	2 444 159 335	4.06	65 073 007 445	63 104 501 889	6 860 461 714
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(1 418 256 513)	0.68	(215 231 121)	0.65	0.24	3 216 412 602	3 051 664 226	405 829 963	0.37	4 455 882 447	4 469 920 739	621 061 084
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	4 774 104 187	2.28	638 202 018	2.53	0.61	6 469 411 751	8 517 148 697	1 054 289 586	0.25	3 873 274 138	3 743 044 510	416 087 568
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	3 072 952 971	1.16	473 720 741	1.21	1.61	25 076 594 507	22 798 434 428	2 783 997 406	1.37	20 250 121 134	19 725 481 457	2 310 276 665
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(36 355 686 468)	0.24	(4 156 038 498)	0.25	0.82	10 711 839 271	11 346 624 867	1 419 542 723	3.30	47 969 359 487	47 702 311 335	5 575 581 221
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(15 220 938 730)	0.10	(1 549 042 924)	0.10	0.10	1 353 502 873	1 728 423 635	169 835 759	1.02	17 483 803 403	16 949 362 365	1 718 878 683
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(8 855 725 469)	0.35	(981 638 237)	0.33	0.28	4 545 492 791	4 771 639 512	477 552 772	0.86	13 554 532 493	13 627 364 981	1 459 191 009
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	331 279 160 944	29.96	46 179 845 194	25.30	27.87	302 229 924 322	342 717 439 464	48 079 979 333	1.12	14 346 142 503	11 438 278 520	1 900 134 139
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	51 404 025 561	1.64	4 958 979 526	1.57	7.92	166 497 554 081	131 153 019 475	13 668 011 796	5.15	83 478 882 513	79 748 993 914	8 709 032 270
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(259 734 045 332)	0.27	(27 070 884 351)	0.28	6.11	95 672 175 890	94 657 608 112	10 542 638 585	22.26	341 518 633 341	354 391 653 444	37 613 522 936
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	75 225 378 351	1.49	6 875 344 001	1.38	14.44	215 098 971 101	227 353 499 926	24 910 125 615	10.67	123 406 224 983	152 128 121 575	18 034 781 614
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(33 311 138 155)	0.17	(3 662 295 558)	0.17	0.45	6 848 594 453	6 817 140 392	774 315 859	2.63	38 528 061 413	40 128 278 547	4 436 611 417
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(16 365 510 696)	0.25	(2 114 171 845)	0.22	0.34	5 139 841 234	5 416 443 372	581 449 868	1.60	21 087 585 302	21 781 954 068	2 695 621 713
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	140 565 889	1.12	156 729 507	4.83	0.11	1 451 693 229	1 335 615 735	197 601 286	0.02	854 100 064	1 195 049 846	40 871 779
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	5 003 194 148	3.94	332 481 037	3.17	0.28	5 459 197 767	6 706 224 055	486 016 957	0.09	1 845 636 230	1 703 029 907	153 535 920
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(134 795 752 878)	0.00	(15 067 023 920)	0.00	0.00	3 702 433	11 394 642	12 908	8.92	130 316 587 444	134 807 147 520	15 067 036 828
Total	Total SA Rand	31 890 687 616	1.02	3 498 810 462	1.02	100.00	1 531 031 167 743	1 554 982 143 999	172 489 355 387	100.00	1 496 241 315 170	1 523 091 456 383	168 990 544 925

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	205 256 272 726	3.25	18 901 399 063	2.67	17.54	308 758 333 480	296 312 458 998	30 247 679 954	6.71	109 662 571 402	91 056 186 272	11 346 280 891
AMERICA	(12 544 165 814)	0.92	793 797 378	1.05	9.88	160 155 565 731	148 671 645 872	17 034 738 633	9.61	153 203 408 525	161 215 811 686	16 240 941 255
ASIA	(325 146 162 279)	0.61	(39 872 106 290)	0.59	33.35	503 161 317 827	502 070 235 368	57 526 239 639	57.64	787 005 230 862	827 216 397 647	97 398 345 929
EUROPE	13 739 063 053	1.03	2 207 072 530	1.05	25.66	405 386 097 133	431 757 257 471	44 264 722 894	24.89	420 998 015 008	418 018 194 418	42 057 650 364
OCEANIA	(2 523 695 056)	0.88	248 634 297	1.14	1.14	19 155 620 627	18 932 488 309	1 968 497 096	1.02	19 354 850 921	21 456 183 365	1 719 862 799
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	141 975 357 512	35.39	20 341 360 426	90.43	11.92	121 981 006 781	146 104 040 507	20 568 824 113	0.13	6 017 238 452	4 128 682 995	227 463 687
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	11 134 017 474	-	878 653 058	-	0.51	12 433 226 164	11 134 017 474	878 653 058				
Total	31 890 687 616	1.02	3 498 810 462	1.02	100.00	1 531 031 167 743	1 554 982 143 999	172 489 355 387	100.00	1 496 241 315 170	1 523 091 456 383	168 990 544 925

Temporary Imports	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	17 050 705 742	13 386 097 511	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	25 525 062 952

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 October 2025 shows a preliminary trade balance surplus of R12.1 billion.

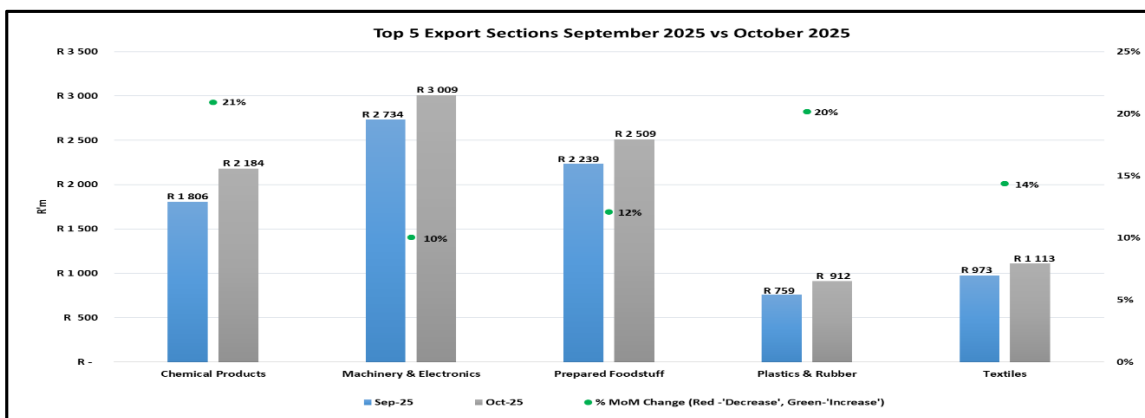
Summary

The R12.1 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for October 2025 was as a result of exports of R19.7 billion and imports of R7.6 billion. Exports increased by R1.9 billion (11.0%) between September and October 2025, and imports increased by R0.8 billion (11.0%) over the same period.

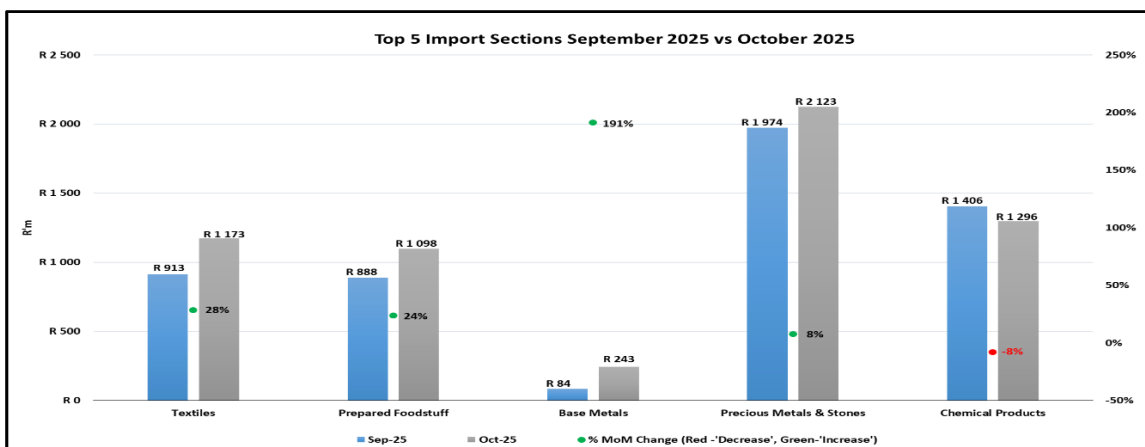
The preliminary cumulative trade balance for 2025 was a surplus of R110.8 billion, compared to R113.3 billion surplus in 2024.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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

ENDS.

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