

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 28 December 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for November 2020

Pretoria, 28 December 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for November 2020 recording a trade surplus of R36.72 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 November 2020) trade surplus of R238.33 billion is an improvement from the R9.18 billion surplus for the comparable period in 2019. Exports increased by 18.9% year-on-year whilst imports declined by 7.7% over the same period.

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

The R36.72 billion trade surplus for November 2020 is attributable to exports of R138.66 billion and imports of R101.94 billion. Exports decreased by R9.19 billion (6.2%) between October and November 2020 and imports decreased by R10.96 billion (9.7%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 November 2020) increased by 6.2% to R1 267.78 billion from R1 193.40 billion over the same period during 2019. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 029.45 billion were 13.1% less than the R1 184.22 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2019. The cumulative trade surplus for 2020 is R238.33 billion.

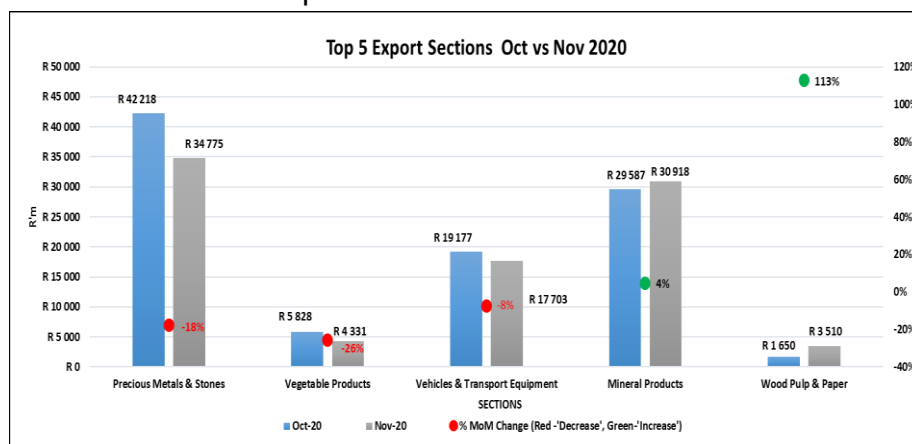
On a year-on-year basis, the R36.72 billion trade surplus for November 2020 was an improvement from the R6.24 billion surplus recorded in November 2019. Exports of R138.66 billion were 18.9% more than the R116.64 billion exports recorded in November 2019. Imports of R101.94 billion were 7.7% less than the R110.40 billion imports recorded in November 2019.

October 2020's trade surplus was revised downwards by R1.19 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary surplus of R36.13 billion to the revised surplus of R34.94 billion.

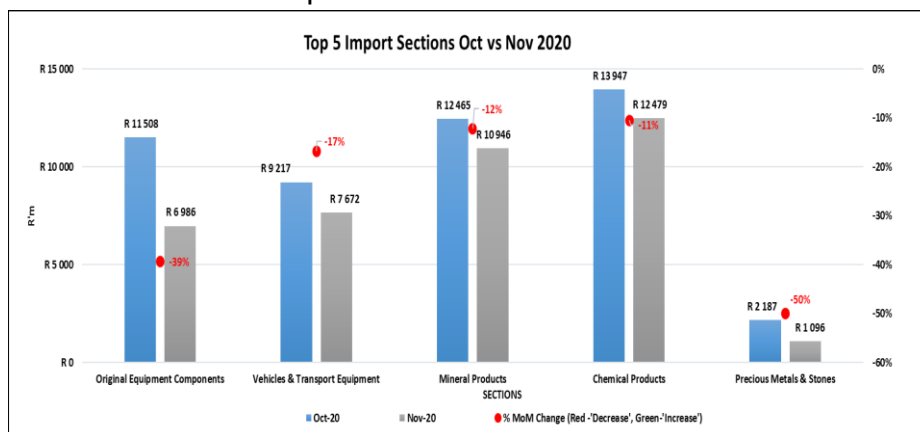
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Trade highlights by category

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 2020 (revised) to November 2020 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2020	November 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	32 705	32 425	-280	-0.9%
	Imports	12 122	9 518	-2 604	-21.5%
	Trade Balance	20 583	22 907	2 324	
America	Exports	20 431	13 437	-6 993	-34.2%
	Imports	11 973	10 821	-1 152	-9.6%
	Trade Balance	8 458	2 617	-5 841	
Asia	Exports	40 472	41 564	1 092	2.7%
	Imports	50 252	49 826	-426	-0.8%
	Trade Balance	-9 780	-8 262	1 518	
Europe	Exports	39 614	37 325	-2 289	-5.8%
	Imports	37 005	29 978	-7 027	-19.0%
	Trade Balance	2 609	7 347	4 738	
Oceania	Exports	2 085	996	-1 090	-52.3%
	Imports	1 102	1 586	484	43.9%
	Trade Balance	983	-590	-1 573	
Other Unclassified	Exports	11 876	12 274	399	3.4%
	Imports	444	209	-235	-52.9%
	Trade Balance	11 432	12 065	633	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	660	634	-25	-3.8%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	660	634	-25	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for November 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R27.03 billion.

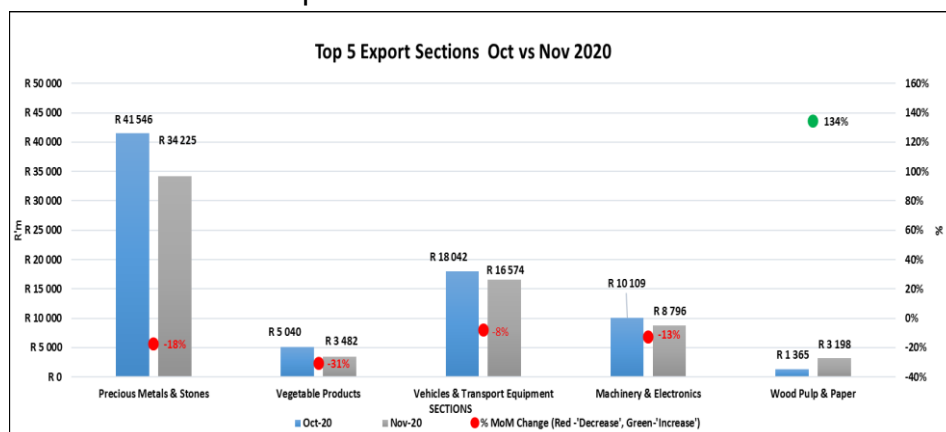
Summary

The R27.03 billion surplus for November 2020 was as a result of exports of R124.75 billion and imports of R97.72 billion. Exports decreased by R9.49 billion (7.1%) between October and November 2020 and imports decreased by R10.61 billion (9.8%) over the same period.

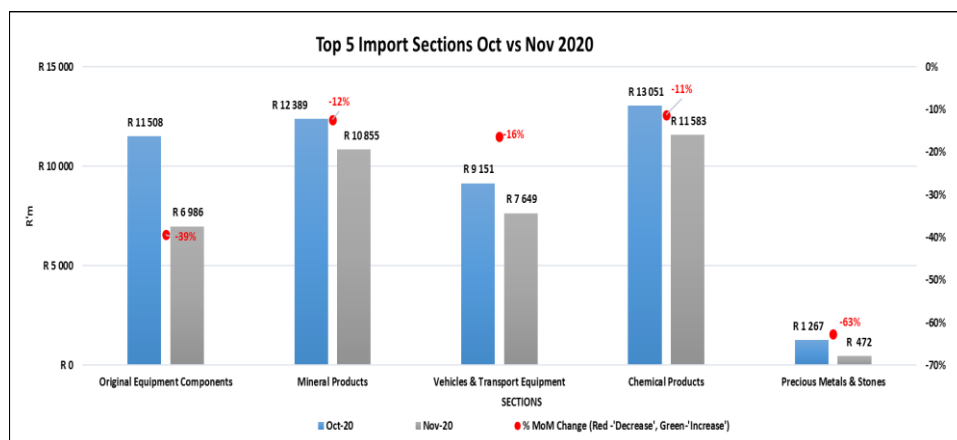
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R157.51 billion compared to R83.38 billion deficit during 2019.

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 (Revised) and November 2020 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2020	November 2020	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	19 105	18 523	-582	↓ -3.0%
	Imports	7 555	5 303	-2 253	↓ -29.8%
	Trade Balance	11 549	13 220	1 671	

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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 2019 ³⁾ (R' m)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R' m)	Month Total 2020 (R' m)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R' m)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R' m)	Month Total 2020 (R' m)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(1 033 723 113)	0.94	(85 491 321)	0.95	1.13	13 855 613 294	15 075 626 010	1 573 132 602	1.63	18 368 914 607	16 109 349 123	1 658 623 923
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	55 609 425 498	2.93	1 778 782 226	1.70	3.12	63 918 942 607	84 433 011 369	4 330 635 576	2.50	23 858 224 821	28 823 585 871	2 551 853 350
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 261 637 881)	0.42	(622 724 555)	0.36	0.25	2 925 656 059	4 532 388 633	352 721 299	0.96	8 606 327 790	10 794 026 514	975 445 854
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	18 350 344 554	1.52	2 073 937 940	1.57	4.12	51 828 553 472	53 433 046 482	5 709 053 644	3.57	37 433 922 502	35 082 701 928	3 635 115 704
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	146 222 940 841	2.00	19 972 640 619	2.82	22.30	297 218 064 833	292 820 694 430	30 918 255 616	10.74	199 087 834 303	146 597 753 589	10 945 614 997
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(52 076 741 430)	0.61	(3 692 574 691)	0.70	6.34	73 618 496 545	81 768 711 908	8 786 119 684	12.24	126 077 938 982	133 845 453 338	12 478 694 375
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(20 796 333 221)	0.53	(2 570 525 663)	0.47	1.65	25 101 553 836	23 836 188 148	2 283 541 440	4.76	50 333 215 824	44 632 521 369	4 854 067 103
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(5 305 284)	1.00	(38 526 748)	0.88	0.21	3 183 666 146	2 666 613 296	285 374 163	0.32	3 712 722 587	2 671 918 580	323 900 911
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 887 583 159	1.41	216 358 838	1.39	0.55	6 894 957 564	6 470 487 700	769 450 813	0.54	5 179 979 639	4 582 904 541	553 091 975
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(9 463 799 228)	0.69	191 948 566	1.06	2.53	16 103 030 450	21 002 852 682	3 509 577 551	3.25	33 013 886 099	30 466 651 910	3 317 628 985
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(31 022 287 947)	0.34	(2 703 635 608)	0.41	1.37	16 593 598 923	15 968 832 618	1 894 666 397	4.51	44 396 865 783	46 991 120 565	4 598 302 005
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(9 274 981 159)	0.21	(994 552 641)	0.25	0.24	2 840 504 422	2 402 785 698	335 331 362	1.30	13 719 999 647	11 677 766 857	1 329 884 003
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(5 445 084 992)	0.51	(642 565 553)	0.50	0.46	5 880 658 341	5 591 118 538	640 166 093	1.26	14 386 194 496	11 036 203 530	1 282 731 646
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	282 143 040 100	18.19	33 678 780 705	31.73	25.08	197 647 028 004	298 558 024 365	34 774 699 025	1.08	15 415 098 894	16 414 984 265	1 095 918 320
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	60 406 520 740	2.14	5 140 468 811	1.79	8.39	131 463 571 553	113 477 355 130	11 638 673 028	6.37	59 464 720 175	53 070 834 390	6 498 204 217
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(144 888 682 455)	0.40	(15 172 975 875)	0.42	7.81	96 623 364 637	95 024 236 330	10 825 449 962	25.50	266 314 312 589	239 912 918 785	25 998 425 837
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	58 897 264 236	1.81	10 030 642 645	2.31	12.77	167 936 871 501	131 701 945 400	17 702 742 006	7.53	107 983 065 901	72 804 681 164	7 672 099 361
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(21 445 954 742)	0.28	(2 304 654 317)	0.26	0.58	7 853 566 800	8 230 710 921	810 311 679	3.06	31 426 856 595	29 676 665 663	3 114 965 996
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(9 232 330 473)	0.42	(1 116 171 195)	0.42	0.59	7 337 459 834	6 599 996 226	824 620 640	1.90	19 947 601 834	15 832 326 699	1 940 791 835
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	722 736 376	4.12	97 058 114	6.04	0.08	1 381 506 560	954 027 839	116 299 641	0.02	586 999 034	231 291 463	19 241 527
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	2 027 076 171	2.69	467 057 602	5.36	0.41	3 182 472 697	3 228 298 027	574 261 657	0.11	972 713 693	1 201 221 856	107 204 055
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(76 986 530 669)	0.00	(6 985 142 243)	0.00	0.00	10 016 838	5 358 211	810 925	6.85	103 935 299 440	76 991 888 880	6 985 953 168
Total	Total SA Rand	238 333 539 081	1.23	36 718 135 656	1.36	100.00	1 193 399 154 916	1 267 782 309 961	138 655 894 803	100.00	1 184 222 695 235	1 029 448 770 880	101 937 759 147

		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 2019 ³⁾ (R' m)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R' m)	Month Total 2020 (R' m)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R' m)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R' m)	Month Total 2020 (R' m)
AFRICA		182 730 894 019	2.62	22 906 976 131	3.41	23.39	318 178 988 813	295 776 993 028	32 425 440 869	9.34	137 455 604 544	113 046 099 009	9 518 464 738
AMERICA		20 531 873 141	1.20	2 616 671 325	1.24	9.69	101 625 279 610	123 838 721 662	13 437 473 574	10.62	117 749 155 411	103 306 848 521	10 820 802 249
ASIA		(84 450 620 330)	0.82	(8 262 213 159)	0.83	29.98	375 103 512 952	390 519 644 066	41 563 775 256	48.88	534 260 160 329	474 970 264 396	49 825 988 415
EUROPE		9 159 088 713	1.03	7 347 040 143	1.25	26.92	315 108 035 077	331 179 009 112	37 325 114 950	29.41	375 294 735 749	322 019 920 399	29 978 074 807
OCEANIA		(1 489 765 916)	0.89	(589 981 774)	0.63	0.72	12 097 563 883	12 172 743 798	995 552 029	1.56	15 597 841 098	13 662 509 714	1 585 533 803
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED		101 121 018 954	42.39	12 065 251 127	58.76	8.85	63 843 178 438	103 564 147 795	12 274 146 262	0.20	3 865 198 104	2 443 128 841	208 895 135
SHIP/AIRCRAFT		10 731 050 500	-	634 391 863	-	0.46	7 442 596 143	10 731 050 500	634 391 863				
Total		238 333 539 081	1.23	36 718 135 656	1.36	100.00	1 193 399 154 916	1 267 782 309 961	138 655 894 803	100.00	1 184 222 695 235	1 029 448 770 880	101 937 759 147
Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020		
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381	11 950 974 198	10 547 791 565	9 909 450 939	9 288 710 036	10 302 915 385	11 435 589 019	8 980 542 231	9 229 645 166		

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 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(1 508 994 814)	0.89	(139 993 299)	0.90	0.97	10 638 070 310	11 754 571 157	1 216 191 844	1.39	14 620 536 549	13 263 565 971	1 356 185 143
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	48 521 609 595	2.73	991 038 913	1.40	2.79	56 506 151 511	76 618 406 760	3 481 669 539	2.55	23 212 688 911	28 096 797 165	2 490 630 626
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(7 898 350 284)	0.27	(802 879 138)	0.18	0.14	1 541 156 927	2 879 825 006	1 701 311 796	1.00	8 575 953 328	10 778 175 290	973 190 934
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	9 579 284 672	1.33	922 610 884	1.31	3.16	35 824 725 702	38 535 739 672	3 942 309 225	3.09	31 058 678 169	28 956 455 000	3 019 698 341
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	129 356 625 057	1.89	18 320 545 092	2.69	23.39	273 066 035 024	275 120 909 092	29 175 529 462	11.11	198 350 114 099	145 764 284 035	10 854 984 370
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(57 545 612 404)	0.55	(4 095 611 195)	0.65	6.00	61 565 688 736	69 339 781 175	7 486 958 264	11.85	118 792 246 551	126 885 393 579	11 582 569 459
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(25 576 870 124)	0.42	(3 146 788 621)	0.34	1.32	19 268 191 664	18 515 626 008	1 647 002 829	4.91	49 693 981 671	44 092 496 132	4 793 791 450
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(294 850 895)	0.89	(85 532 215)	0.72	0.18	2 670 664 238	2 291 982 717	224 038 510	0.32	3 612 282 766	2 586 833 612	309 570 725
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	1 752 064 501	1.58	188 722 953	1.51	0.45	5 027 607 634	4 757 711 927	558 808 027	0.38	3 582 356 905	3 005 647 426	370 085 074
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(11 957 542 021)	0.61	(95 775 425)	0.97	2.56	13 181 061 805	18 337 705 781	3 198 235 578	3.37	32 785 953 500	30 295 247 802	3 294 011 003
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(30 793 649 528)	0.25	(2 629 290 569)	0.31	0.93	10 152 778 466	10 411 107 712	1 155 368 956	3.87	38 217 845 554	41 204 757 240	3 784 659 525
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(10 685 884 676)	0.08	(1 213 439 320)	0.07	0.07	998 934 008	871 108 435	90 657 976	1.33	13 576 962 309	11 556 993 111	1 304 097 296
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(6 945 797 285)	0.37	(825 594 089)	0.35	0.36	4 086 892 557	4 011 308 644	445 562 110	1.30	14 274 347 686	10 957 105 929	1 271 156 199
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	286 799 055 361	38.16	33 753 087 482	72.53	27.43	194 241 072 820	294 516 992 142	34 224 950 002	0.48	8 774 004 180	7 717 936 781	471 862 520
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	53 392 007 257	2.02	4 208 179 962	1.65	8.53	122 846 640 481	105 570 857 480	10 635 752 029	6.58	57 823 296 855	52 178 850 223	6 427 572 067
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(158 465 591 376)	0.33	(16 831 376 198)	0.34	7.05	77 829 053 089	78 048 692 152	8 795 714 981	26.22	262 148 073 167	236 514 283 528	25 627 091 179
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	49 639 345 487	1.69	8 924 864 706	2.17	13.29	155 227 196 090	121 837 028 996	16 574 222 934	7.83	106 800 942 010	72 197 683 509	7 649 358 228
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(23 263 707 031)	0.21	(2 480 093 826)	0.20	0.50	6 170 112 617	6 332 178 429	623 999 605	3.18	31 336 752 504	29 595 885 460	3 104 093 431
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(12 316 236 910)	0.22	(1 507 924 047)	0.22	0.34	3 837 854 816	3 415 174 711	422 435 676	1.98	19 818 879 069	15 731 411 621	1 930 359 723
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	711 547 845	4.08	96 723 150	6.04	0.09	1 375 984 380	942 636 706	115 916 961	0.02	582 832 045	231 088 861	19 193 811
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 997 329 393	2.70	465 949 433	5.57	0.46	3 079 054 033	3 170 214 800	567 800 782	0.10	946 767 136	1 172 885 407	101 851 349
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(76 987 327 829)	0.00	(6 985 935 203)	0.00	0.00	9 344 572	4 560 051	17 965	7.15	103 935 299 440	76 991 887 880	6 985 953 168
Total	Total SA Rand	157 508 453 991	1.16	27 031 489 430	1.28	100.00	1 059 144 271 480	1 147 284 119 553	124 753 455 051	100.00	1 142 520 794 404	989 775 665 562	97 721 965 621

		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 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2020 (R'm)
AFRICA		101 905 808 929	2.39	13 220 329 905	3.49	14.85	183 924 105 377	175 278 802 620	18 523 001 117	5.43	95 753 703 713	73 372 993 691	5 302 671 212
AMERICA		20 531 873 141	1.20	2 616 671 325	1.24	10.77	101 625 279 610	123 838 721 662	13 437 473 574	11.07	117 749 155 411	103 306 848 521	10 820 802 249
ASIA		(84 450 620 330)	0.82	(8 262 213 159)	0.83	33.32	375 103 512 952	390 519 644 066	41 563 775 256	50.99	534 260 160 329	474 970 264 396	49 825 988 415
EUROPE		9 159 088 713	1.03	7 347 040 143	1.25	29.92	315 108 035 077	331 179 009 112	37 325 114 950	30.68	375 294 735 749	322 019 920 399	29 978 074 807
OCEANIA		(1 489 765 916)	0.89	(589 981 774)	0.63	0.80	12 097 563 883	12 172 743 798	995 552 029	1.62	15 597 841 098	13 662 509 714	1 585 533 803
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED		101 121 018 954	42.39	12 065 251 127	58.76	9.84	63 843 178 438	103 564 147 795	12 274 146 262	0.21	3 865 198 104	2 443 128 841	208 895 135
SHIP/AIRCRAFT		10 731 050 500	-	634 391 863	-	0.51	7 442 596 143	10 731 050 500	634 391 863				
Total		157 508 453 991	1.16	27 031 489 430	1.28	100.00	1 059 144 271 480	1 147 284 119 553	124 753 455 051	100.00	1 142 520 794 404	989 775 665 562	97 721 965 621

Temporary Imports	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 007 079 853	7 059 464 247	7 513 978 381	11 950 974 198	10 547 791 565	9 909 450 939	9 288 710 036	10 302 915 385	11 435 589 019	8 980 542 231	9 229 645 166

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)

Trade statistics with the BELN countries for November 2020 recorded a trade surplus of R9.69 billion.

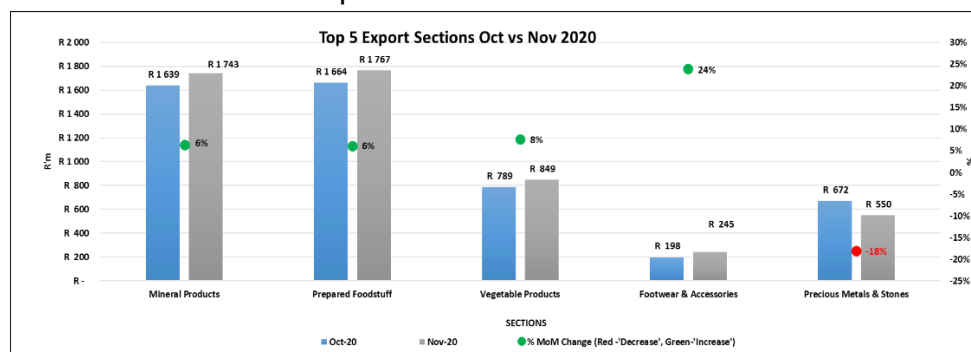
Summary

The R9.69 billion surplus for November 2020 was as a result of exports of R13.90 billion and imports of R4.21 billion. Exports increased by R0.30 billion (2.2%) between October and November 2020 and imports decreased by R0.35 billion (7.7%) over the same period.

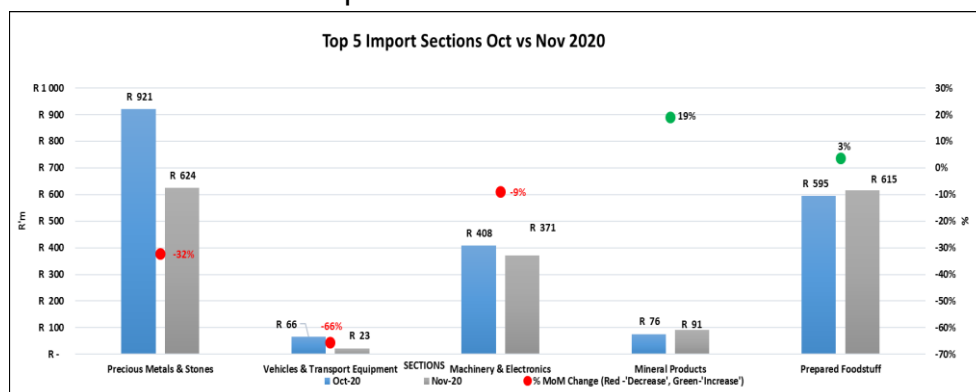
The cumulative surplus for 2020 was R80.83 billion compared to R92.55 billion in 2019.

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