

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 31 January 2023

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for December 2022

Pretoria, 31 January 2023 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2022 recording a preliminary trade balance surplus of R5.43 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2022) preliminary trade balance surplus of R193.28 billion is a deterioration from the R431.74 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2021. Exports increased by 4.6% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 25.1% over the same period.

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

The R5.43 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2022 is attributable to exports of R163.27 billion and imports of R157.83 billion. Exports decreased by R8.72 billion (-5.1%) between November and December 2022 and imports decreased by R6.85 billion (-4.2%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2022) increased by 11.1% to R2 013.62 billion from R1 812.73 billion over the same period during 2021. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 820.34 billion were 31.8% more than the R1 380.99 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2021. The cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 is R193.28 billion.

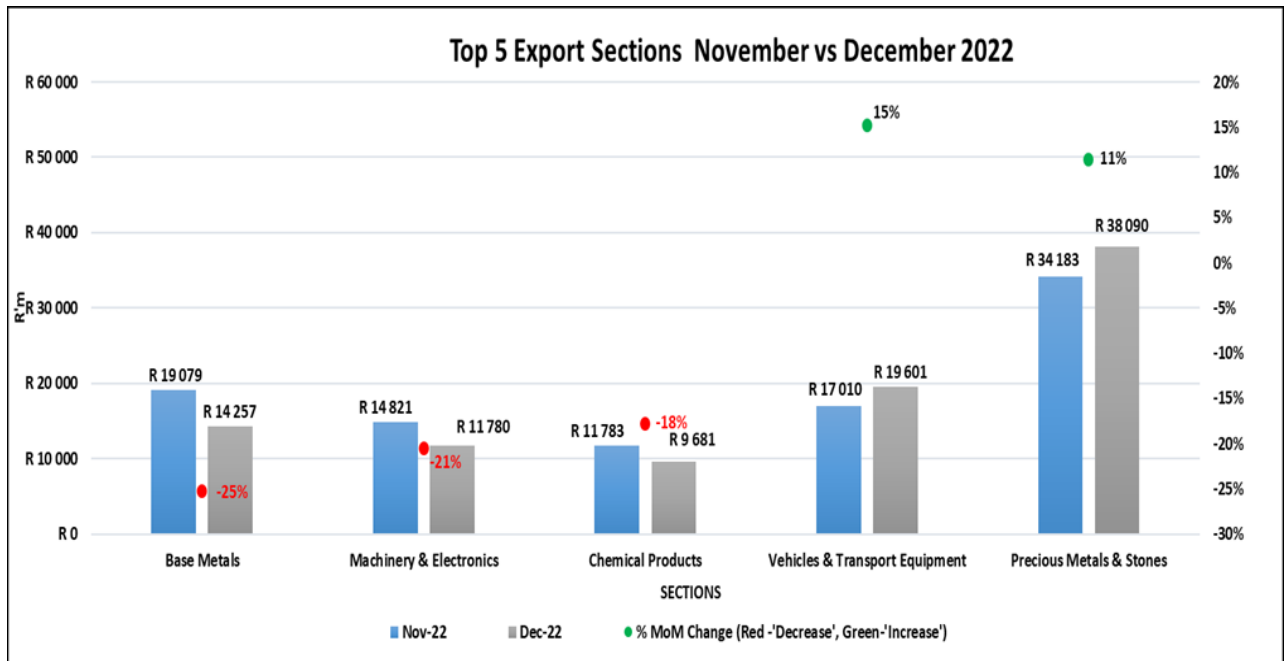
On a year-on-year basis, the R5.43 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2022 was a deterioration from the R29.88 billion trade balance surplus recorded in December 2021. Exports of R163.27 billion were 4.6% more than the R156.03 billion exports recorded in December 2021. Imports of R157.83 billion were 25.1% more than the R126.14 billion imports recorded in December 2021.

November 2022 preliminary trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.68 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary trade balance surplus of R7.98 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R7.30 billion.

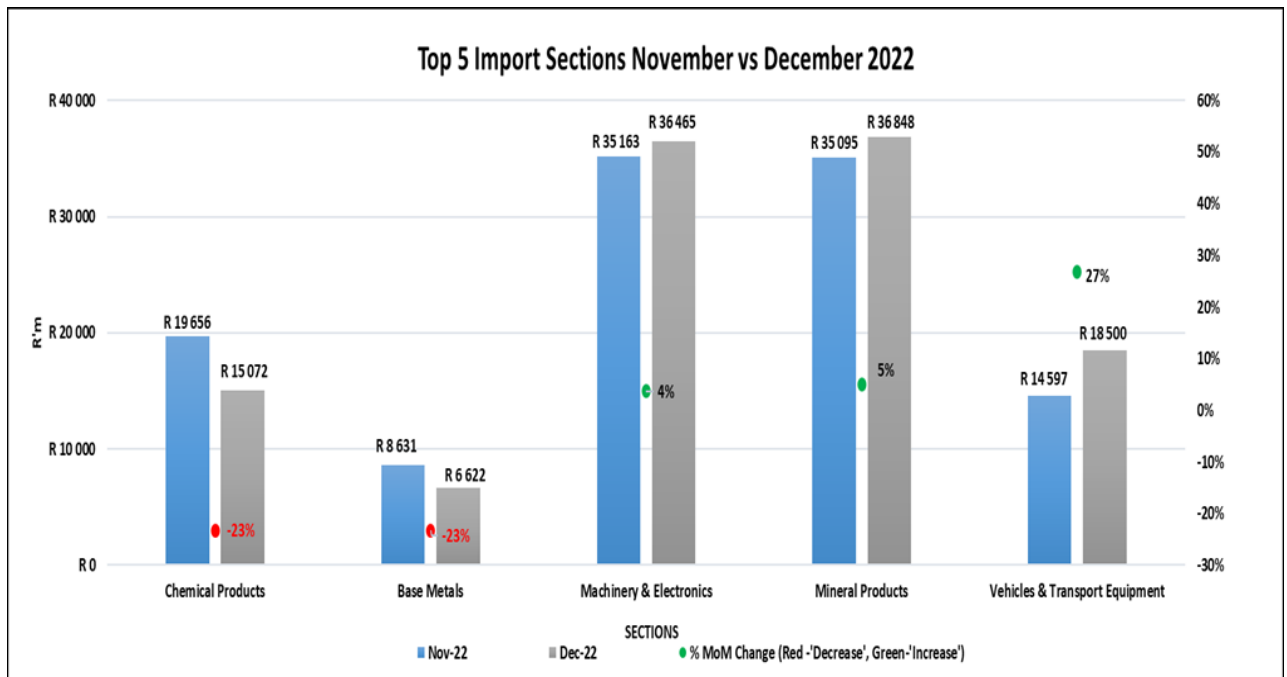
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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from November (revised) to December (preliminary) 2022 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	November 2022	December 2022	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	47 296	40 966	-6 330	↓ -13.4%
	Imports	13 202	10 434	-2 767	↓ -21.0%
	Trade Balance	34 095	30 532	-	-
America	Exports	21 043	19 133	-1 910	↓ -9.1%
	Imports	15 963	18 601	2 638	↑ 16.5%
	Trade Balance	5 080	532	-	-
Asia	Exports	51 304	47 601	-3 703	↓ -7.2%
	Imports	91 002	90 718	-283	↓ -0.3%
	Trade Balance	-39 698	-43 118	-	-
Europe	Exports	43 951	45 044	1 093	↑ 2.5%
	Imports	41 696	35 895	-5 801	↓ -13.9%
	Trade Balance	2 255	9 149	-	-
Oceania	Exports	1 397	1 269	-127	↓ -9.1%
	Imports	1 783	1 396	-386	↓ -21.7%
	Trade Balance	-386	-127	-	-
Other Unclassified	Exports	6 438	8 123	1 686	↑ 26.2%
	Imports	1 040	787	-253	↓ -24.3%
	Trade Balance	5 397	7 336	-	-
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	554	1 130	576	↑ 104.1%
	Imports	-	-	-	-
	Trade Balance	554	1 130	-	-

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

The trade data excluding BELN for December 2022 recorded a preliminary trade balance deficit of R5.81 billion.

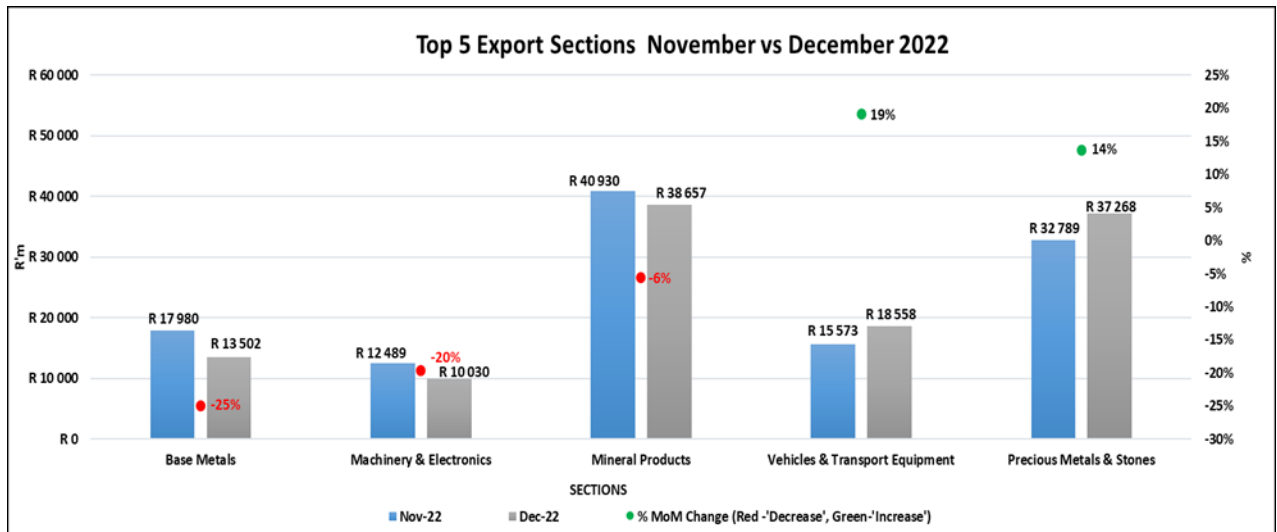
Summary

The R5.81 billion preliminary trade balance deficit for December 2022 was as a result of exports of R148.03 billion and imports of R153.84 billion. Exports decreased by R5.52 billion (-3.6%) between November and December 2022 and imports decreased by R5.13 billion (-3.2%) over the same period.

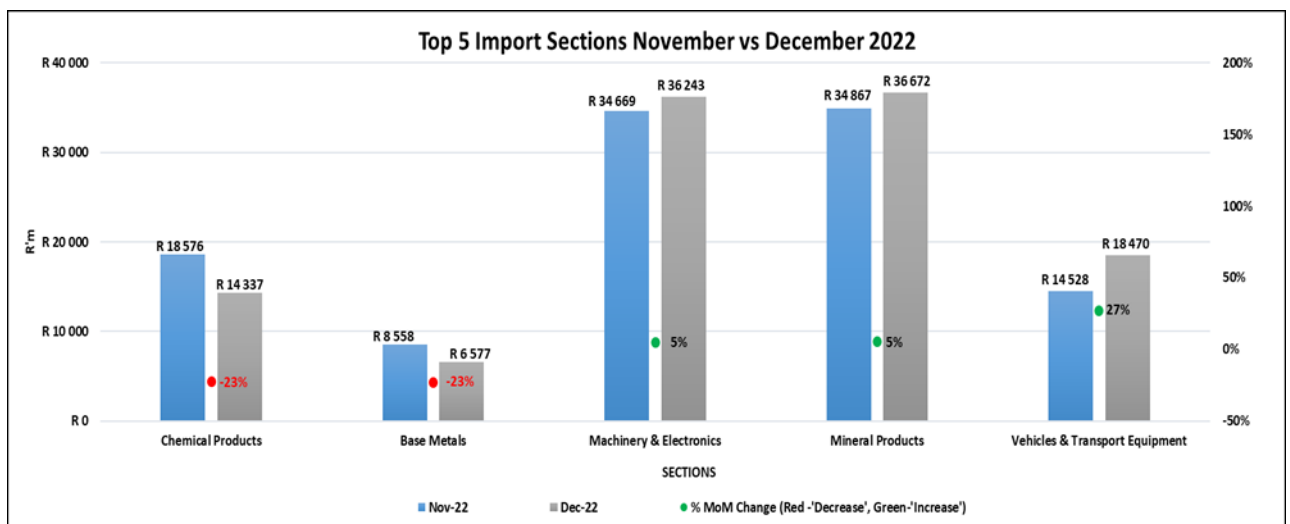
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 was R70.86 billion compared to R325.40 billion trade balance surplus during 2021.

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 November (revised) and December (preliminary) 2022 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	November 2022	December 2022	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	28 869	25 735	-3 135	↓ -10.9%
	Imports	7 483	6 442	-1 041	↓ -13.9%
	Trade Balance	21 386	19 292	-	-

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2022](#)

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 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(2 710 905 517)	0.87	69 613 056	1.04	1.08	17 470 819 193	18 484 699 536	1 765 997 876	1.07	20 218 719 007	21 195 605 053	1 696 384 820
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	82 327 879 332	3.45	5 451 430 442	4.15	4.40	94 721 592 317	115 896 002 207	7 183 773 050	1.10	27 526 725 211	33 568 122 875	1 732 342 608
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(10 820 301 977)	0.44	(158 006 530)	0.77	0.32	5 554 500 395	8 565 620 182	525 362 868	0.43	12 930 490 855	19 385 922 159	683 369 398
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	21 933 854 728	1.47	2 455 248 856	1.60	4.02	59 576 137 302	68 662 415 318	6 559 989 041	2.60	41 867 129 968	46 728 560 590	4 104 740 185
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	139 450 168 485	1.33	4 946 898 780	1.13	25.60	429 966 986 050	557 662 914 403	41 794 839 639	23.35	234 076 637 438	418 212 745 918	36 847 940 859
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(80 002 508 109)	0.61	(5 391 567 937)	0.64	5.93	113 056 376 722	127 527 538 028	9 680 689 567	9.55	173 613 547 265	207 530 046 137	15 072 257 504
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(39 707 060 783)	0.47	(2 827 123 686)	0.50	1.74	29 433 275 753	35 825 381 868	2 847 240 841	3.60	63 600 628 564	75 532 442 651	5 674 364 527
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(423 037 982)	0.91	26 707 171	1.07	0.25	3 607 377 086	4 198 606 787	403 392 056	0.24	3 486 771 465	4 621 644 769	376 684 885
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 917 196 856	1.41	80 242 405	1.15	0.37	8 795 193 134	10 096 141 262	600 769 394	0.33	6 231 160 112	7 178 944 406	520 526 989
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(22 524 570 005)	0.60	(1 915 600 199)	0.62	1.88	22 170 817 216	34 092 022 053	3 072 505 871	3.16	42 040 332 005	56 616 592 058	4 988 106 070
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(39 324 576 992)	0.35	(3 276 233 046)	0.34	1.04	20 856 996 670	20 837 808 195	1 704 441 076	3.16	51 157 471 013	60 162 385 187	4 980 674 122
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(15 068 152 294)	0.21	(1 272 232 418)	0.24	0.24	3 258 303 706	3 936 702 087	396 737 080	1.06	14 682 534 394	19 004 854 381	1 668 969 498
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(9 855 151 624)	0.43	(791 494 049)	0.42	0.36	7 193 225 626	7 331 706 011	582 565 406	0.87	15 277 596 049	17 186 857 635	1 374 059 455
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	413 597 300 519	17.79	36 751 006 263	28.45	23.33	513 288 986 441	438 235 073 856	38 089 777 728	0.85	21 865 301 032	24 637 773 337	1 338 771 465
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	105 902 508 754	2.09	7 634 949 672	2.15	8.73	171 765 031 909	203 198 290 263	14 256 533 057	4.20	84 303 472 774	97 295 781 509	6 621 583 385
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(235 707 108 344)	0.37	(24 685 141 152)	0.32	7.22	122 893 152 842	139 124 304 406	11 779 671 983	23.10	294 200 535 291	374 831 412 750	36 464 813 135
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	40 923 787 810	1.27	1 100 643 490	1.06	12.01	167 908 060 856	192 598 272 671	19 600 599 724	11.72	106 045 620 080	151 674 484 861	18 499 956 234
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(28 668 141 982)	0.27	(2 255 126 700)	0.32	0.65	9 034 166 841	10 712 854 896	1 069 155 934	2.11	34 357 004 315	39 380 996 878	3 324 282 634
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(13 209 425 793)	0.42	(1 053 860 561)	0.44	0.50	8 042 706 752	9 590 808 680	823 764 874	1.19	21 088 476 038	22 800 234 473	1 877 625 433
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	570 350 208	1.87	(154 262 788)	0.36	0.05	1 057 605 847	1 224 545 145	85 305 845	0.15	763 925 025	654 194 937	239 568 635
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	4 101 931 299	3.41	173 272 659	1.64	0.27	2 992 829 699	5 802 628 197	442 671 626	0.17	1 221 711 686	1 700 696 898	269 398 967
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(120 427 550 715)	0.00	(9 475 267 982)	0.00	0.00	88 205 165	13 210 634	41 002 21	6.00	110 432 063 128	120 440 761 349	9 475 678 003
Total	Total SA Rand	193 276 485 874	1.11	5 434 095 746	1.03	100.00	1 812 732 347 522	2 013 617 546 685	163 266 194 557	100.00	1 380 987 852 715	1 820 341 060 811	157 832 098 811

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 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	
AFRICA	328 590 791 265	2.98	30 531 522 196	3.93	25.09	386 178 856 368	494 595 650 756	40 965 793 826	6.61	138 873 073 119	166 004 859 491	10 434 271 630	
AMERICA	17 888 521 730	1.09	531 756 252	1.03	11.72	218 258 980 917	209 684 568 448	19 132 625 888	11.79	144 076 092 149	191 796 046 718	18 600 869 636	
ASIA	(338 999 508 409)	0.65	(43 117 741 601)	0.52	29.16	583 239 265 207	637 629 917 923	47 600 622 730	57.48	677 610 099 118	976 629 426 332	90 718 364 331	
EUROPE	103 677 768 501	1.23	9 149 277 020	1.25	27.59	496 201 367 831	556 560 345 548	45 044 073 214	22.74	394 303 806 287	452 882 577 047	35 894 796 194	
OCEANIA	(7 907 569 922)	0.67	(126 813 081)	0.91	0.78	13 839 159 425	15 928 610 407	1 269 491 153	0.88	18 951 960 831	23 836 180 329	1 396 304 234	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	78 720 194 796	9.56	7 335 833 533	10.32	4.98	109 370 976 659	87 912 165 690	8 123 326 319	0.50	7 172 821 211	9 191 970 894	787 492 786	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	11 306 287 913	-	1 130 261 427	-	0.69	5 643 741 115	11 306 287 913	1 130 261 427	-	-	-	-	-
Total	193 276 485 874	1.11	5 434 095 746	1.03	100.00	1 812 732 347 522	2 013 617 546 685	163 266 194 557	100.00	1 380 987 852 715	1 820 341 060 811	157 832 098 811	

Temporary Imports	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	7 518 015 338	7 878 929 226	9 726 399 580	8 283 228 923	8 940 440 482	8 688 068 436	7 288 667 606	11 236 088 936	11 432 947 563	8 575 468 545	9 687 128 124	12 615 805 447

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 ⁵¹ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ²¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ²¹ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ²¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ²¹ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	1 752 187 197	0.89	73 045 486	1.06	0.94	13 444 839 125	14 489 230 676	1 397 492 431	0.86	16 052 889 337	16 241 417 873	1 324 446 945
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	72 698 287 948	3.25	4 471 210 137	3.74	4.12	85 606 237 929	104 996 433 521	6 103 054 759	1.06	26 639 569 840	32 298 145 573	1 631 844 622
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(13 615 910 838)	0.30	(341 748 217)	0.50	0.23	3 234 654 837	5 748 344 447	341 054 212	0.44	12 905 448 946	19 364 255 285	682 802 429
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	9 569 880 268	1.25	1 180 989 171	1.34	3.15	41 513 965 287	48 256 811 485	4 658 671 537	2.26	34 595 713 370	38 686 931 217	3 477 682 366
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	109 996 423 703	1.26	1 985 149 867	1.05	26.11	406 109 067 732	526 312 459 735	38 657 311 260	23.84	232 943 458 715	416 316 036 032	36 672 161 393
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(88 020 895 710)	0.56	(6 147 579 922)	0.57	5.53	98 117 748 587	110 179 720 391	8 189 386 222	9.32	165 060 489 899	198 200 616 101	14 336 966 144
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(46 961 701 973)	0.37	(3 369 145 141)	0.40	1.53	22 225 384 361	27 869 583 413	2 262 618 750	3.66	62 880 917 768	74 831 285 386	5 631 763 891
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(908 631 460)	0.80	(29 631 412)	0.92	0.23	3 031 868 864	3 591 642 042	342 276 717	0.24	3 355 517 394	4 500 273 502	371 908 129
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 990 308 819	1.64	66 681 676	1.19	0.28	6 421 273 646	7 688 106 047	418 195 520	0.23	3 967 896 719	4 697 797 228	351 513 844
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(25 855 325 238)	0.54	(2 249 293 662)	0.55	1.83	18 976 103 281	30 304 834 639	2 707 804 007	3.22	41 786 508 238	56 160 159 877	4 957 097 669
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(39 759 036 889)	0.23	(3 322 227 582)	0.25	0.75	12 945 138 900	12 021 165 326	1 103 386 056	2.88	43 457 055 578	51 780 202 215	4 425 613 638
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(17 336 385 908)	0.08	(1 474 253 746)	0.11	0.12	1 157 440 641	1 507 453 662	182 667 860	1.08	14 556 888 156	18 843 839 570	1 656 921 606
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(11 911 452 879)	0.30	(939 604 787)	0.31	0.29	5 145 805 176	5 147 751 641	426 138 163	0.89	15 159 493 248	17 059 204 520	1 365 742 950
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	415 802 033 222	33.93	36 774 464 786	75.56	25.17	506 050 470 624	428 427 933 701	37 267 704 407	0.32	11 651 274 996	12 625 900 479	493 239 621
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	95 142 024 894	1.99	6 924 471 287	2.05	9.12	160 216 100 000	191 429 362 298	13 501 581 812	4.28	83 364 892 947	96 287 337 404	6 577 110 525
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(255 043 987 576)	0.31	(26 213 073 820)	0.28	6.78	100 745 618 917	114 485 608 240	10 030 224 405	23.56	290 136 025 232	369 529 595 816	36 243 298 225
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	29 817 312 953	1.20	87 620 986	1.00	12.54	154 653 015 078	178 141 784 284	18 557 833 547	12.01	103 135 261 452	148 324 471 331	18 470 212 561
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(30 790 949 219)	0.22	(2 451 162 928)	0.26	0.59	6 830 467 206	8 464 096 502	867 088 917	2.16	34 263 035 109	39 255 045 721	3 318 251 845
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(17 388 807 763)	0.23	(1 370 810 599)	0.27	0.34	4 197 156 020	5 279 464 319	499 974 013	1.22	20 957 434 897	22 668 272 082	1 870 784 612
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	562 875 912	1.86	(154 337 951)	0.36	0.06	1 050 991 565	1 216 133 446	85 128 839	0.16	763 288 165	653 257 534	239 466 790
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹¹	4 061 379 833	3.42	169 619 125	1.64	0.29	2 925 270 615	5 738 583 365	435 320 542	0.17	1 189 667 642	1 677 203 532	265 701 417
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²¹	(120 431 648 399)	0.00	(9 475 678 003)	-	-	54 750 165	9 070 493	-	6.16	110 432 063 128	120 440 718 892	9 475 678 003
Total	Total SA Rand	70 863 606 503	1.04	(5 805 295 249)	0.96	100.00	1 654 653 368 556	1 831 305 573 673	148 034 913 976	100.00	1 329 254 790 776	1 760 441 967 170	153 840 209 225

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵¹ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ²¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ²¹ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ²¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ²¹ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	
AFRICA	206 177 911 894	2.94	19 292 131 201	3.99	17.38	228 099 877 402	312 283 677 744	25 734 513 245	4.19	87 140 011 180	106 105 765 850	6 442 382 044	
AMERICA	17 888 521 730	1.09	531 756 252	1.03	12.92	218 258 980 917	209 684 568 448	19 132 625 888	12.09	144 076 092 149	191 796 046 718	18 600 869 636	
ASIA	(338 999 508 409)	0.65	(43 117 741 601)	0.52	32.15	583 239 265 207	637 629 917 923	47 600 622 730	58.97	677 610 099 118	976 629 426 332	90 718 364 331	
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OCEANIA	(7 907 569 922)	0.67	(126 813 081)	0.91	0.86	13 839 159 425	15 928 610 407	1 269 491 153	0.91	18 951 960 831	23 836 180 329	1 396 304 234	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	78 720 194 796	9.56	7 335 833 533	10.32	5.49	109 370 976 659	87 912 165 690	8 123 326 319	0.51	7 172 821 211	9 191 970 894	787 492 786	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	11 306 287 913	-	1 130 261 427	-	0.76	5 643 741 115	11 306 287 913	1 130 261 427	-	-	-	-	-
Total	70 863 606 503	1.04	(5 805 295 249)	0.96	100.00	1 654 653 368 556	1 831 305 573 673	148 034 913 976	100.00	1 329 254 790 776	1 760 441 967 170	153 840 209 225	

Temporary Imports	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Gold Imports ⁴¹	7 518 015 338	7 878 929 226	9 726 399 580	8 283 228 923	8 940 440 482	8 688 068 436	7 288 667 606	11 236 088 936	11 432 947 563	8 575 468 545	9 687 128 124	12 615 805 447

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)

Trade statistics with the BELN countries for December 2022 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.24 billion.

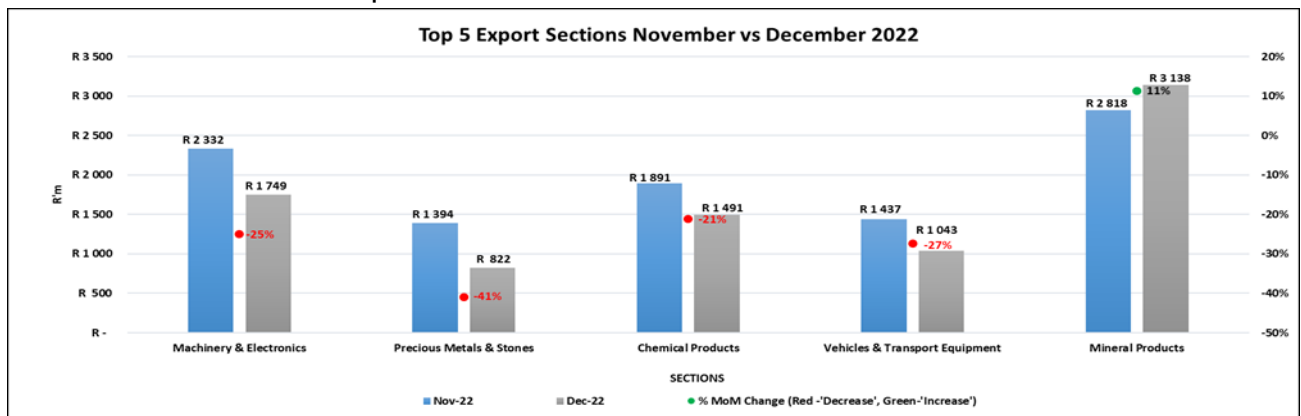
Summary

The R11.24 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for December 2022 was as a result of exports of R15.23 billion and imports of R3.99 billion. Exports decreased by R3.20 billion (-17.3%) between November and December 2022 and imports decreased by R1.73 billion (-30.2%) over the same period.

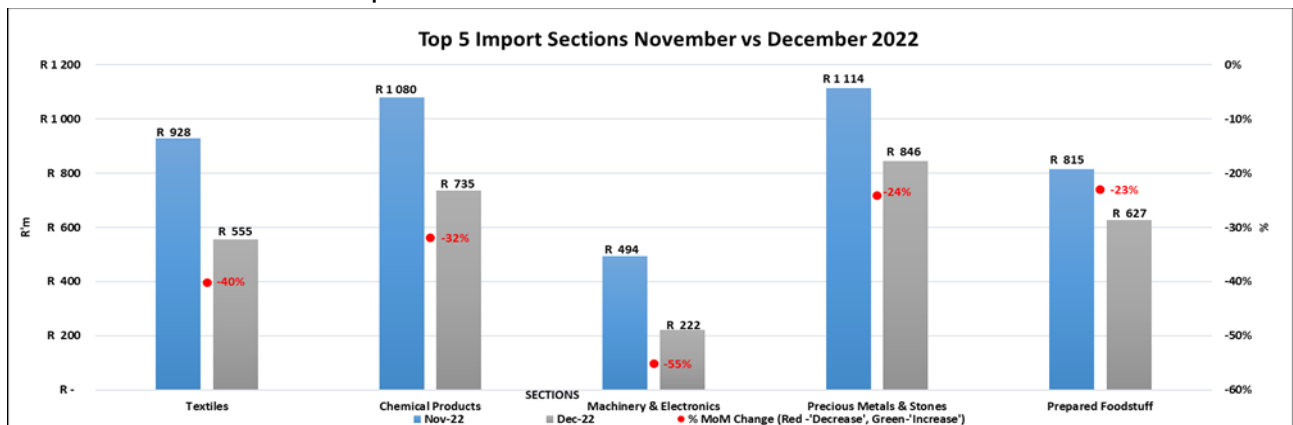
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 was R122.41 billion compared to R106.35 billion in 2021.

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