

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 29 April 2022

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for March 2022

Pretoria, 29 April 2022 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for March 2022 recording a preliminary trade balance surplus of R45.86 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2022) preliminary trade balance surplus of R62.10 billion is a deterioration from the R99.06 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2021. Exports increased by 9.8% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 21.3% over the same period.

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

The R45.86 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2022 is attributable to exports of R185.82 billion and imports of R139.96 billion. Exports increased by R43.88 billion (30.9%) between February and March 2022 and imports increased by R9.51 billion (7.3%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 March 2022) increased by 11.6% to R459.08 billion from R411.49 billion over the same period during 2021. Imports for the year-to-date of R396.98 billion were 27.1% more than the R312.44 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2021. The cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 is R62.10 billion.

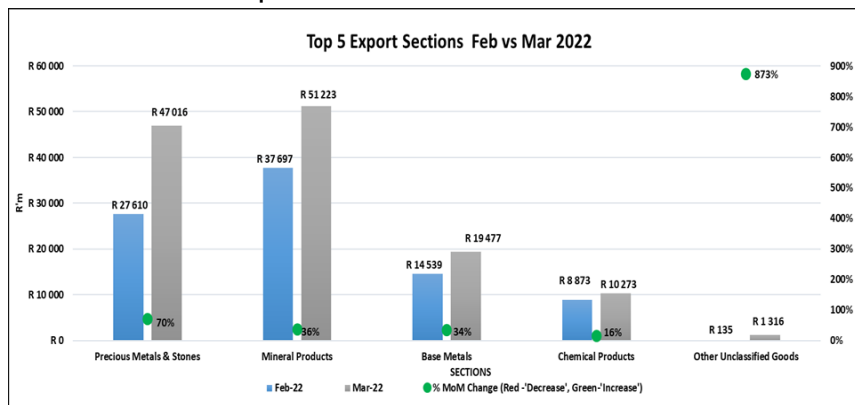
On a year-on-year basis, the R45.86 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2022 was a deterioration from the R53.86 billion trade balance surplus recorded in March 2021. Exports of R185.82 billion were 9.8% more than the R169.27 billion exports recorded in March 2021. Imports of R139.96 billion were 21.3% more than the R115.42 billion imports recorded in March 2021.

February 2022 preliminary trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R0.89 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.60 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R11.50 billion.

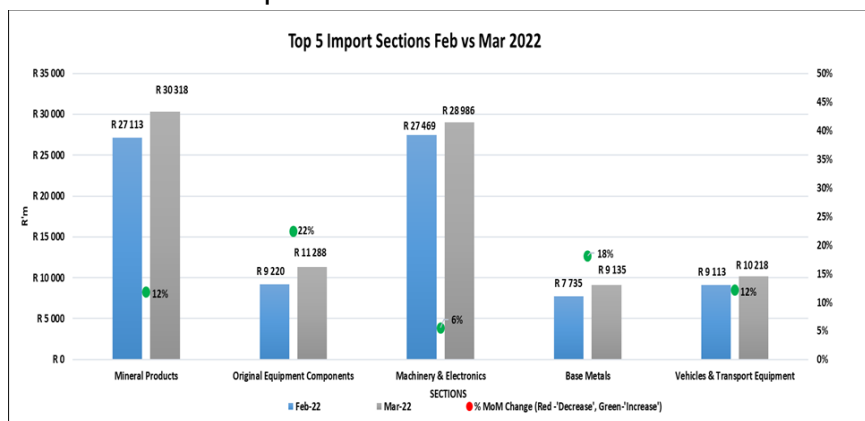
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Trade highlights by category

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 (revised) to March (preliminary) 2022 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2022	March 2022	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	33 801	43 198	9 396	27.8%
	Imports	16 501	15 173	-1 328	-8.0%
	Trade Balance	17 301	28 025	10 724	
America	Exports	15 131	18 294	3 163	20.9%
	Imports	14 123	17 124	3 001	21.2%
	Trade Balance	1 008	1 170	162	
Asia	Exports	44 619	63 350	18 731	42.0%
	Imports	64 270	71 171	6 901	10.7%
	Trade Balance	-19 652	-7 822	11 830	
Europe	Exports	41 407	51 636	10 229	24.7%
	Imports	33 345	34 166	821	2.5%
	Trade Balance	8 062	17 470	9 408	
Oceania	Exports	1 138	1 648	510	44.9%
	Imports	1 834	1 787	-47	-2.6%
	Trade Balance	-697	-139	558	
Other Unclassified	Exports	5 161	6 608	1 447	28.0%
	Imports	374	540	165	44.1%
	Trade Balance	4 787	6 068	1 282	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	687	1 089	402	58.6%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	687	1 089	402	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for March 2022 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R34.34 billion.

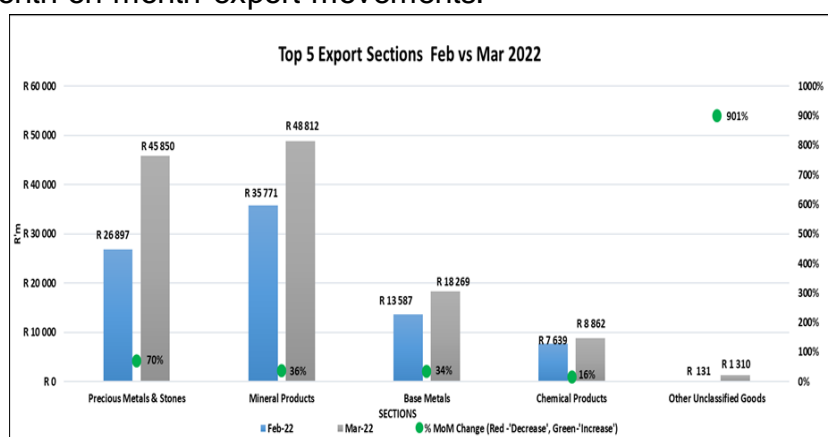
Summary

The R34.34 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2022 was as a result of exports of R169.64 billion and imports of R135.30 billion. Exports increased by R41.21 billion (32.1%) between February and March 2022 and imports increased by R9.25 billion (7.3%) over the same period.

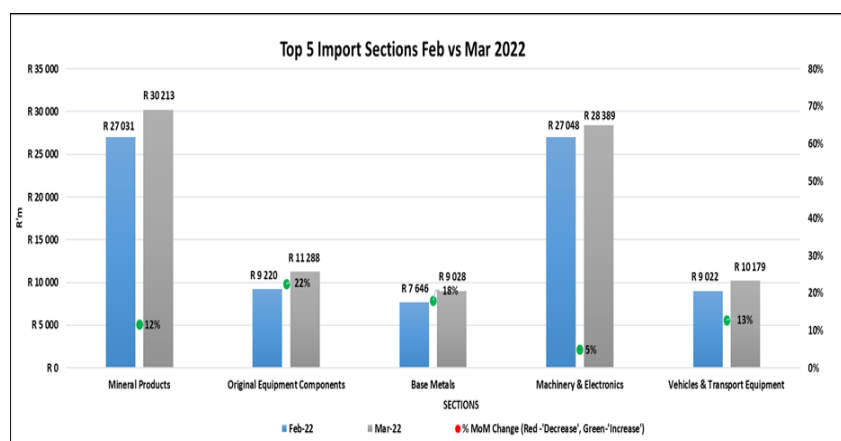
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 was R34.20 billion compared to R74.98 billion trade balance surplus during 2021.

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 February (Revised) and March (preliminary) 2022 are given below:

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	February 2022	March 2022	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	20 282	27 012	6 729 	33.2%
	Imports	12 097	10 509	-1 588 	-13.1%
	Trade Balance	8 186	16 503	8 317	

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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 ¹⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(1 140 787 689)	0.79	(402 973 907)	0.79	0.83	4 245 181 044	4 335 016 767	1 537 597 278	1.39	4 343 514 050	5 475 804 456	1 940 571 185
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	17 365 580 051	3.29	6 474 902 599	3.41	4.93	20 385 453 685	24 947 566 012	9 163 402 474	1.92	7 177 188 782	7 581 985 961	2 688 499 875
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(3 699 516 167)	0.35	(640 801 295)	0.57	0.45	1 078 526 332	1 990 418 204	842 441 408	1.06	2 422 184 296	5 689 934 371	1 483 242 703
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	3 854 403 517	1.38	1 850 895 517	1.57	2.75	13 121 176 105	13 890 535 987	5 109 238 495	2.33	10 055 085 092	10 036 132 470	3 258 342 978
V, Ch 25-27	Mine ral Products	46 284 901 203	1.60	20 905 013 595	1.69	27.57	108 347 296 862	123 727 914 015	51 223 342 145	21.66	46 702 803 904	77 443 012 812	30 318 328 550
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(15 365 824 924)	0.65	(4 241 429 785)	0.71	5.53	26 065 806 989	28 205 713 855	10 272 739 816	10.37	37 752 393 483	43 571 538 779	14 514 169 601
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(8 781 344 807)	0.47	(2 480 197 651)	0.55	1.63	6 687 660 616	7 708 894 805	3 027 333 403	3.94	14 333 906 245	16 490 239 612	5 507 531 054
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	53 824 205	1.06	62 747 152	1.20	0.20	809 387 238	1 014 433 976	379 582 401	0.23	777 247 392	960 609 771	316 835 249
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	330 528 667	1.17	108 524 370	1.16	0.42	1 910 274 251	2 223 033 709	786 017 566	0.48	1 570 627 992	1 892 505 042	677 493 196
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(9 228 477 061)	0.38	(3 523 283 615)	0.34	0.99	4 897 086 602	5 729 512 258	1 830 493 713	3.83	9 370 595 003	14 957 989 319	5 353 777 328
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(9 852 613 666)	0.33	(2 609 831 985)	0.44	1.10	5 035 816 231	4 928 017 370	2 044 268 362	3.33	12 703 690 986	14 780 631 036	4 654 100 347
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 309 726 038)	0.18	(835 271 327)	0.27	0.17	745 466 022	744 822 949	306 907 215	0.82	3 690 442 365	4 054 548 987	1 142 178 542
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 241 002 796)	0.41	(637 649 037)	0.49	0.33	1 700 647 188	1 587 601 438	605 813 768	0.89	3 915 934 182	3 828 604 234	1 243 462 805
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	99 619 593 538	16.92	45 133 083 024	24.97	25.30	104 636 842 164	105 878 418 101	47 016 261 551	1.35	3 971 917 409	6 258 824 563	1 883 178 572
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	26 586 889 663	2.13	10 341 985 002	2.13	10.48	37 635 807 044	50 200 755 641	19 476 864 071	6.53	18 676 847 951	23 613 865 978	9 134 879 069
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(53 717 199 929)	0.37	(17 235 010 648)	0.41	6.32	28 415 052 250	31 464 532 384	11 751 014 857	20.71	67 530 470 580	85 181 732 313	28 986 025 505
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	13 924 901 810	1.46	7 156 340 786	1.70	9.35	41 099 068 560	44 455 405 034	17 374 502 727	7.30	23 498 152 361	30 530 503 224	10 218 161 941
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(6 930 039 744)	0.25	(2 443 524 802)	0.27	0.49	2 188 117 928	2 250 461 975	910 143 666	2.40	7 949 343 123	9 180 501 719	3 353 668 468
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(2 984 575 404)	0.40	(860 430 865)	0.47	0.41	1 715 884 915	1 994 953 130	760 382 660	1.16	4 562 037 572	4 979 528 534	1 620 813 525
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	66 098 938	1.46	60 819 407	3.20	0.05	211 461 318	210 359 904	88 513 783	0.02	234 554 119	144 260 966	27 694 376
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 088 762 378	3.17	966 034 266	3.76	0.71	547 626 241	1 590 597 469	1 316 451 756	0.25	334 272 065	501 835 091	350 417 490
XXIII, Ch 98	Spe cial Provisions ²⁾	(29 825 919 036)	0.00	(11 287 838 076)	0.00	0.00	13 741 501	2 349 331	32 332	8.06	30 864 074 187	29 828 268 367	11 287 870 408
Total	Total SA Rand	62 098 456 709	1.16	45 862 102 725	1.33	100.00	411 493 381 086	459 081 314 314	185 823 345 447	100.00	312 437 283 139	396 982 857 605	139 961 242 722

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ¹⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	
AFRICA	64 568 999 498	2.47	28 024 624 929	2.85	23.25	83 272 138 342	108 624 043 173	43 197 644 274	10.84	27 787 666 006	44 055 043 675	15 173 019 345	
AMERICA	(108 180 630)	1.00	1 170 011 532	1.07	9.85	45 921 729 470	45 168 791 573	18 294 410 251	12.24	30 182 851 294	45 276 972 203	17 124 398 719	
ASIA	(48 950 946 673)	0.76	(7 821 594 797)	0.89	34.09	133 858 945 671	151 188 106 034	63 349 527 026	50.85	152 670 317 297	200 139 052 707	71 171 121 823	
EUROPE	28 687 387 815	1.29	17 470 197 638	1.51	27.79	116 737 773 862	128 591 463 987	51 636 284 052	24.41	96 616 589 405	99 904 076 172	34 166 086 414	
OCEANIA	(1 654 193 608)	0.69	(138 924 613)	0.92	0.89	3 259 838 502	3 728 279 454	1 648 107 305	1.28	4 478 967 005	5 382 473 062	1 787 031 918	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	17 334 469 334	8.79	6 068 430 400	12.25	3.56	27 102 334 416	19 559 709 120	6 608 014 903	0.39	700 892 132	2 225 239 786	539 584 503	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 220 920 973	-	1 089 357 636	-	0.59	1 340 620 823	2 220 920 973	1 089 357 636					
Total	62 098 456 709	1.16	45 862 102 725	1.33	100.00	411 493 381 086	459 081 314 314	185 823 345 447	100.00	312 437 283 139	396 982 857 605	139 961 242 722	
Temporary Imports	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022										
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	7 517 354 453	7 876 530 173	9 728 657 074										

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 ¹⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(867 295 722)	0.80	(287 362 221)	0.80	0.70	3 356 434 431	3 387 255 509	1 181 032 899	1.09	3 421 124 886	4 254 551 231	1 468 395 120
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	14 748 310 170	2.98	5 546 315 475	3.10	4.82	18 120 844 543	22 206 039 302	8 184 162 032	1.95	7 027 826 455	7 457 729 132	2 637 846 557
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(4 324 058 374)	0.24	(922 455 274)	0.38	0.33	603 182 263	1 360 132 364	559 872 723	1.10	2 418 635 899	5 684 190 738	1 482 327 997
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 043 970 731	1.13	775 558 443	1.29	2.02	9 044 292 325	9 278 456 059	3 419 474 260	1.95	8 532 733 368	8 234 485 328	2 643 915 817
V, Ch 25-27	Mine ral Products	40 194 005 002	1.52	18 598 750 878	1.62	28.77	103 525 001 932	117 315 305 724	48 811 536 086	22.33	46 465 431 237	77 121 300 722	30 212 785 208
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(16 944 723 190)	0.59	(4 910 450 079)	0.64	5.22	22 582 750 901	24 351 035 056	8 861 761 493	10.18	35 701 245 066	41 295 758 246	13 772 211 572
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(10 504 293 756)	0.36	(3 104 019 090)	0.43	1.39	5 142 391 651	5 840 558 755	2 352 470 606	4.03	14 157 876 418	16 344 852 511	5 456 489 696
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(49 419 659)	0.95	30 940 929	1.10	0.20	661 567 565	885 666 938	336 664 746	0.23	751 115 985	935 086 597	305 723 817
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	343 182 205	1.26	115 008 789	1.25	0.34	1 406 699 565	1 658 329 613	580 588 068	0.34	1 082 188 609	1 315 147 408	465 579 279
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(10 011 661 463)	0.33	(3 807 745 055)	0.29	0.90	4 175 787 482	4 870 757 070	1 519 740 077	3.94	9 310 234 685	14 882 418 533	5 327 485 132
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(10 030 090 181)	0.22	(2 739 932 336)	0.31	0.72	3 196 631 629	2 845 228 387	1 222 469 835	2.93	10 975 107 397	12 875 318 568	3 962 402 171
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(3 775 640 036)	0.06	(1 020 003 306)	0.09	0.06	276 016 946	242 094 440	107 014 770	0.83	3 665 567 192	4 017 734 476	1 127 018 076
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(2 682 110 174)	0.29	(790 753 607)	0.36	0.26	1 214 254 574	1 114 582 729	442 254 903	0.91	3 890 774 371	3 796 692 903	1 233 008 510
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	100 599 727 767	34.35	44 844 596 390	45.62	27.03	103 386 789 173	103 616 416 801	45 849 545 685	0.74	1 776 430 764	3 016 689 034	1 004 949 295
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	23 943 494 742	2.03	9 241 437 277	2.02	10.77	35 072 729 289	47 283 143 788	18 269 252 677	6.67	18 474 374 473	23 339 649 046	9 027 815 400
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(58 324 403 111)	0.30	(18 878 268 411)	0.34	5.61	23 209 915 403	25 547 563 833	9 510 982 582	20.98	66 429 722 290	83 871 966 944	28 389 250 993
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	10 828 548 605	1.36	5 728 363 275	1.56	9.38	37 830 803 091	40 888 348 880	15 907 483 752	7.52	23 129 573 738	30 059 800 275	10 179 120 477
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(7 416 569 949)	0.19	(2 619 448 164)	0.21	0.42	1 639 287 695	1 725 658 109	709 910 571	2.46	7 922 578 427	9 142 228 058	3 329 358 735
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(3 890 061 433)	0.21	(1 195 023 833)	0.26	0.24	879 269 309	1 043 328 331	413 716 565	1.19	4 536 185 760	4 933 389 764	1 608 740 398
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	64 912 758	1.45	60 395 495	3.19	0.05	209 914 890	208 883 300	87 955 076	0.02	234 490 184	143 970 542	27 559 581
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 079 070 148	3.18	962 377 929	3.77	0.77	535 089 334	1 573 243 581	1 309 533 701	0.26	326 250 296	494 173 433	347 155 772
XXIII, Ch 98	Spe cial Provisions ²⁾	(29 828 197 063)	0.00	(11 287 861 876)	0.00	0.00	641 501	71 304	8 532	8.34	30 864 074 187	29 828 268 367	11 287 870 408
Total	Total SA Rand	34 196 698 017	1.09	34 340 421 628	1.25	100.00	376 070 295 492	417 242 099 873	169 637 431 639	100.00	301 093 541 687	383 045 401 856	135 297 010 011

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ¹⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2021 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2022 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2022 (R'm)	
AFRICA	36 667 240 806	2.22	16 502 943 832	2.57	15.92	47 849 052 748	66 784 828 732	27 011 730 466	7.77	16 443 924 554	30 117 587 926	10 508 786 634	
AMERICA	(108 180 630)	1.00	1 170 011 532	1.07	10.78	45 921 729 470	45 168 791 573	18 294 410 251	12.66	30 182 851 294	45 276 972 203	17 124 398 719	
ASIA	(48 950 946 673)	0.76	(7 821 594 797)	0.89	37.34	133 858 945 671	151 188 106 034	63 349 527 026	52.60	152 670 317 297	200 139 052 707	71 171 121 823	
EUROPE	28 687 387 815	1.29	17 470 197 638	1.51	30.44	116 737 773 862	128 591 463 987	51 636 284 052	25.25	96 616 589 405	99 904 076 172	34 166 086 414	
OCEANIA	(1 654 193 608)	0.69	(138 924 613)	0.92	0.97	3 259 838 502	3 728 279 454	1 648 107 305	1.32	4 478 967 005	5 382 473 062	1 787 031 918	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	17 334 469 334	8.79	6 068 430 400	12.25	3.90	27 102 334 416	19 559 709 120	6 608 014 903	0.40	700 892 132	2 225 239 786	539 584 503	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	2 220 920 973	-	1 089 357 636	-	0.64	1 340 620 823	2 220 920 973	1 089 357 636					
Total	34 196 698 017	1.09	34 340 421 628	1.25	100.00	376 070 295 492	417 242 099 873	169 637 431 639	100.00	301 093 541 687	383 045 401 856	135 297 010 011	
Temporary Imports	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022										
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	7 517 354 453	7 876 530 173	9 728 657 074										

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 March 2022 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R11.52 billion.

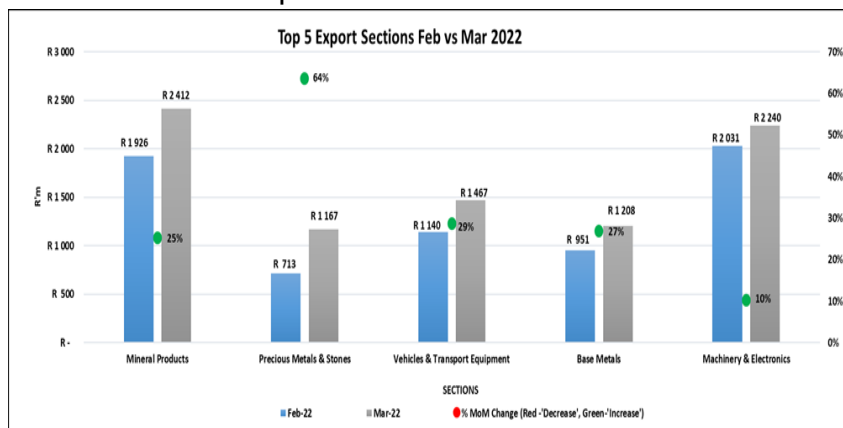
Summary

The R11.52 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for March 2022 was as a result of exports of R16.19 billion and imports of R4.66 billion. Exports increased by R2.67 billion (19.7%) between February and March 2022 and imports increased by R0.26 billion (5.9%) over the same period.

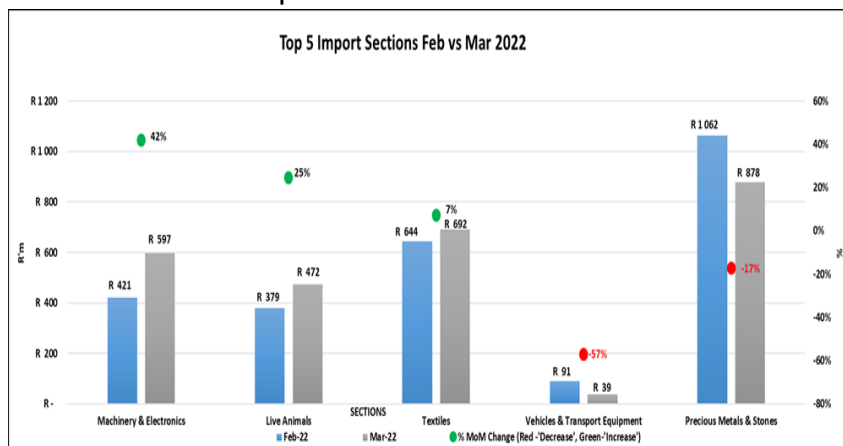
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2022 was R27.90 billion compared to R24.08 billion in 2021.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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ENDS.

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