

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Tuesday, 28 December 2021

SARS releases the preliminary trade statistics for November 2021

Pretoria, 28 December 2021 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for November 2021 recording a preliminary trade balance surplus of R35.83 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 30 November 2021) preliminary trade balance surplus of R412.51 billion is an improvement from the R238.42 billion trade balance surplus for the comparable period in 2020. Exports increased by 18.4% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 24.6% over the same period.

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

The R35.83 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2021 is attributable to exports of R162.79 billion and imports of R126.96 billion. Exports increased by R6.96 billion (4.5%) between October and November 2021 and imports decreased by R1.19 billion (0.9%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 30 November 2021) increased by 31.4% to R1 665.98 billion from R1 267.76 billion over the same period during 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 253.47 billion were 21.8% more than the R1 029.33 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2020. The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 is R412.51 billion.

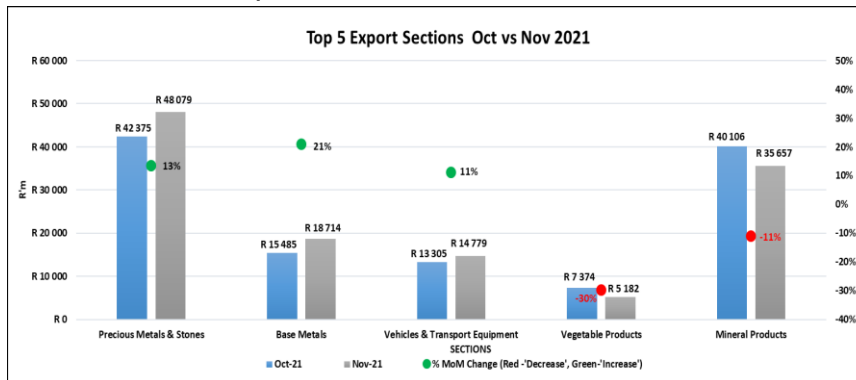
On a year-on-year basis, the R35.83 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2021 was an improvement from the R35.60 billion trade balance surplus recorded in November 2020. Exports of R162.79 billion were 18.4% more than the R137.53 billion exports recorded in November 2020. Imports of R126.96 billion were 24.6% more than the R101.93 billion imports recorded in November 2020.

October 2021 preliminary trade balance surplus was revised upwards by R7.90 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary trade balance surplus of R19.78 billion to the revised trade balance surplus of R27.68 billion.

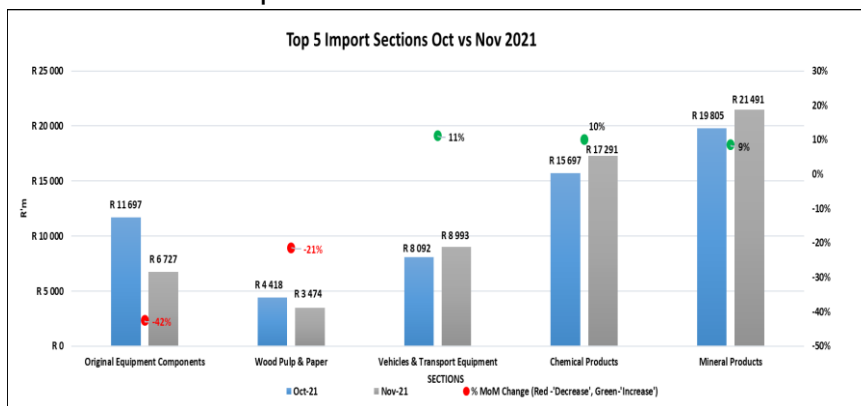
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Trade highlights by category

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 (revised) to November (preliminary) 2021 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2021	November 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	35 259	40 426	5 167	↑ 14.7%
	Imports	13 533	14 178	645	↑ 4.8%
	Trade Balance	21 726	26 248	4 522	
America	Exports	18 589	19 716	1 127	↑ 6.1%
	Imports	14 332	13 442	-890	↓ -6.2%
	Trade Balance	4 257	6 274	2 017	
Asia	Exports	45 765	51 960	6 195	↑ 13.5%
	Imports	65 032	62 673	-2 360	↓ -3.6%
	Trade Balance	-19 268	-10 713	8 555	
Europe	Exports	47 261	36 676	-10 585	↓ -22.4%
	Imports	32 803	33 530	727	↑ 2.2%
	Trade Balance	14 457	3 146	-11 312	
Oceania	Exports	920	1 223	304	↑ 33.0%
	Imports	2 092	1 737	-355	↓ -17.0%
	Trade Balance	-1 172	-513	658	
Other Unclassified	Exports	7 752	12 430	4 678	↑ 60.4%
	Imports	362	1 401	1 039	↑ 287.5%
	Trade Balance	7 390	11 029	3 639	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	291	363	72	↑ 24.7%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	291	363	72	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for November 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R25.03 billion.

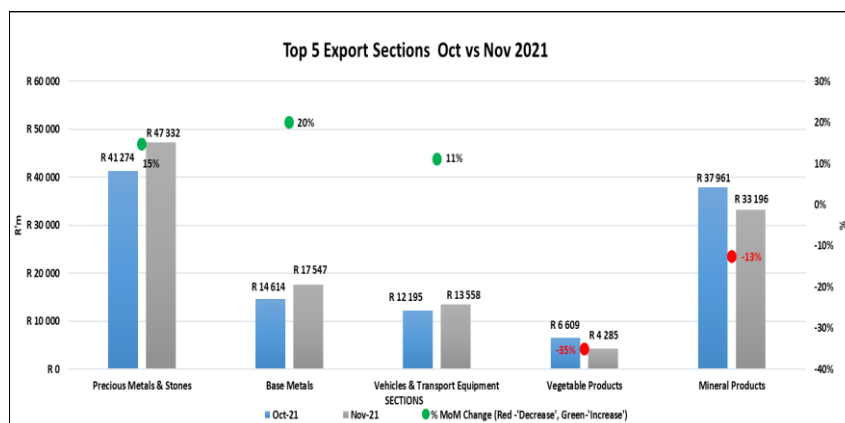
Summary

The R25.03 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2021 was as a result of exports of R146.42 billion and imports of R121.39 billion. Exports increased by R5.31 billion (3.8%) between October and November 2021 and imports decreased by R2.25 billion (1.8%) over the same period.

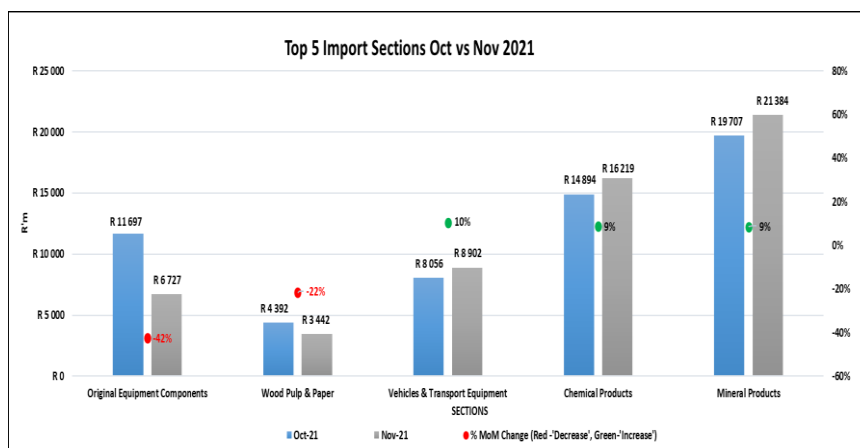
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R315.92 billion compared to R157.68 billion trade balance surplus during 2020.

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 (preliminary) 2021 are given below.

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	October 2021	November 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	20 537	24 053	3 516 	17.1%
	Imports	9 022	8 611	-411 	-4.6%
	Trade Balance	11 515	15 442	3 927	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics November 2021](#)

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 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(2 694 325 379)	0.85	(277 883 143)	0.86	1.02	15 077 759 871	15 735 304 341	1 663 223 384	1.53	16 121 877 528	18 429 629 720	1 941 106 527
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	63 074 249 691	3.44	2 919 549 774	2.29	3.18	84 430 533 289	88 953 723 065	5 182 249 917	1.78	28 826 340 521	25 879 473 374	2 262 700 143
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(6 569 490 250)	0.43	(944 255 478)	0.38	0.35	4 532 147 215	4 945 643 248	572 589 521	1.19	10 791 442 987	11 515 133 498	1 516 844 999
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	16 218 849 247	1.42	1 941 286 301	1.45	3.82	53 413 952 002	54 600 651 893	6 225 701 831	3.37	35 072 863 357	38 381 802 646	4 284 415 530
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	194 608 471 700	1.94	14 166 057 481	1.66	21.90	296 122 358 245	402 225 725 013	35 657 233 072	16.93	146 577 037 433	207 617 253 313	21 491 175 591
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(56 086 523 174)	0.65	(7 989 236 586)	0.54	5.71	81 709 729 308	102 622 285 818	9 302 169 708	13.62	133 779 456 050	158 708 808 992	17 291 406 294
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(30 826 865 320)	0.47	(3 095 538 786)	0.47	1.65	23 790 351 822	26 991 813 043	2 691 409 961	4.56	44 586 277 491	57 818 678 363	5 786 948 747
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	156 158 965	1.05	(27 895 363)	0.93	0.21	2 665 720 686	3 279 764 590	347 606 454	0.30	2 670 309 602	3 123 605 625	375 501 817
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 338 142 092	1.41	224 110 572	1.36	0.52	6 473 761 065	7 981 924 477	843 129 200	0.49	4 582 141 917	5 643 782 385	619 018 628
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(18 867 196 707)	0.51	(1 139 875 931)	0.67	1.43	18 975 806 824	19 721 114 688	2 334 119 690	2.74	30 469 498 826	38 588 311 395	3 473 995 621
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(27 825 054 917)	0.40	(2 728 024 279)	0.44	1.34	15 964 939 803	18 789 700 075	2 178 726 514	3.86	46 959 626 939	46 614 754 992	4 906 750 793
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(10 337 862 387)	0.22	(949 430 837)	0.28	0.23	2 402 118 576	2 947 448 537	367 721 231	1.04	11 678 403 002	13 285 310 924	1 317 152 068
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(7 410 265 824)	0.47	(574 284 009)	0.55	0.44	5 585 201 467	6 604 121 640	712 046 654	1.01	11 055 526 667	14 014 387 464	1 286 330 663
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	450 790 584 690	23.42	45 641 740 986	19.73	29.53	297 764 098 760	470 899 162 089	48 078 583 894	1.92	16 362 502 127	20 108 577 399	2 436 842 908
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	77 290 047 959	2.01	11 011 503 519	2.43	11.50	113 358 123 555	153 603 236 230	18 714 385 034	6.07	53 056 136 219	76 313 188 271	7 702 881 515
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(153 236 837 979)	0.42	(17 865 127 994)	0.38	6.84	94 819 471 315	112 430 161 866	11 132 461 058	22.84	240 095 411 110	265 666 999 845	28 997 589 052
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	58 296 787 085	1.61	5 785 936 554	1.64	9.08	131 652 411 416	154 524 387 498	14 779 209 646	7.08	72 806 714 847	96 227 600 413	8 993 273 092
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(23 009 562 323)	0.26	(2 513 654 919)	0.24	0.49	8 229 572 047	8 201 835 748	789 723 629	2.60	29 589 641 525	31 211 398 071	3 303 378 548
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(11 745 633 156)	0.38	(1 226 454 888)	0.41	0.53	6 599 480 993	7 320 844 374	861 758 958	1.64	15 843 493 721	19 066 477 530	2 088 213 846
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	264 267 772	1.36	126 433 754	4.93	0.10	953 932 152	1 000 906 129	158 576 167	0.03	231 292 017	736 638 357	32 142 413
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 391 916 937	2.24	22 224 088	1.18	0.09	3 228 294 985	2 511 192 547	147 753 346	0.10	1 201 049 195	1 119 275 610	125 529 258
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(103 309 319 289)	0.00	(6 674 612 763)	0.01	0.03	5 358 211	87 132 032	52 861 346	5.30	76 976 153 928	103 396 451 321	6 727 474 109
Total	Total SA Rand	412 510 539 433	1.33	35 832 568 053	1.28	100.00	1 267 755 123 607	1 665 978 078 941	162 793 240 215	100.00	1 029 333 197 009	1 253 467 539 508	126 960 672 162

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 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)
AFRICA	224 732 672 676	2.79	26 248 026 553	2.85	24.83	295 307 707 007	350 199 701 659	40 426 193 081	11.17	113 019 573 990	125 467 028 983	14 178 166 528
AMERICA	67 247 320 244	1.51	6 273 855 765	1.47	12.11	123 760 440 967	198 449 667 409	19 715 934 770	10.59	103 259 689 736	131 202 347 165	13 442 079 005
ASIA	(71 942 954 108)	0.88	(10 712 960 844)	0.83	31.92	391 673 558 945	535 370 634 357	51 959 591 715	49.36	475 052 796 656	607 313 588 465	62 672 552 559
EUROPE	99 820 938 407	1.27	3 145 653 234	1.09	22.53	331 331 758 223	465 121 019 312	36 675 653 999	26.41	321 887 363 735	365 300 080 905	33 530 000 765
OCEANIA	(4 994 411 523)	0.72	(513 487 369)	0.70	0.75	12 185 295 503	12 546 476 373	1 223 411 984	1.37	13 672 450 696	17 540 887 896	1 736 899 353
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	92 661 577 351	14.95	11 028 899 676	8.87	7.64	102 765 310 869	99 305 183 445	12 429 873 628	1.10	2 441 322 196	6 643 606 094	1 400 973 952
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 985 396 386	-	362 581 038	-	0.22	10 731 052 093	4 985 396 386	362 581 038				
Total	412 510 539 433	1.33	35 832 568 053	1.28	100.00	1 267 755 123 607	1 665 978 078 941	162 793 240 215	100.00	1 029 333 197 009	1 253 467 539 508	126 960 672 162
Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021	November 2021	
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 250 748 847	7 449 710 604	8 833 315 542	7 720 363 895	6 989 987 025	8 951 919 048	7 535 116 453	6 943 670 741	8 829 119 241	7 465 107 009	8 076 103 290	

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 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2021 (R'm)	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(2 528 356 515)	0.83	(358 672 914)	0.78	0.87	11 758 919 617	12 082 032 889	1 267 799 702	1.34	1 626 472 616	13 269 455 300	14 610 389 404
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	55 697 857 213	3.22	2 085 260 434	1.95	2.93	76 616 375 773	80 748 499 385	4 284 663 172	1.81	2 199 402 738	28 099 578 598	25 050 642 172
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(8 645 326 022)	0.25	(1 166 814 337)	0.23	0.24	2 879 776 388	2 849 137 451	347 894 295	1.25	1 514 708 632	10 775 591 763	11 494 463 473
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	6 616 134 832	1.21	706 656 953	1.20	2.90	38 522 931 956	38 274 057 554	4 239 640 265	2.91	3 532 983 312	28 945 997 818	31 657 922 722
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	173 631 795 914	1.84	11 812 003 264	1.55	22.67	278 518 717 863	380 201 559 575	33 195 973 946	17.62	21 383 970 682	145 744 014 105	206 569 763 661
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(61 928 589 715)	0.59	(8 481 867 897)	0.48	5.28	69 286 380 795	88 926 560 275	7 737 331 992	13.36	16 219 199 889	126 820 083 702	150 855 149 990
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(36 697 469 791)	0.36	(3 785 130 664)	0.34	1.33	18 472 004 065	20 438 908 505	1 950 014 327	4.72	5 735 144 991	44 046 553 335	57 136 378 296
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(243 216 260)	0.92	(70 894 176)	0.80	0.20	2 291 091 490	2 755 375 811	286 149 164	0.29	357 043 340	2 585 224 834	2 998 592 071
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	2 259 288 004	1.64	230 247 865	1.59	0.42	4 761 731 229	5 784 847 479	619 167 419	0.32	388 919 554	3 005 085 872	3 525 559 475
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(21 526 480 591)	0.44	(1 479 973 516)	0.57	1.34	16 313 103 049	16 835 546 583	1 962 447 232	2.84	3 442 420 748	30 298 256 957	38 362 027 174
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(27 789 357 741)	0.30	(2 754 968 551)	0.31	0.83	10 405 126 223	11 629 731 423	1 222 576 902	3.28	3 977 545 453	41 167 243 505	39 419 089 164
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(12 125 440 469)	0.08	(1 176 373 453)	0.10	0.09	870 437 811	1 039 665 913	126 083 385	1.07	1 302 456 838	11 557 629 256	13 165 106 382
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(9 191 000 998)	0.34	(771 861 970)	0.39	0.34	4 005 924 741	4 717 683 529	501 636 287	1.05	1 273 498 257	10 976 541 823	13 908 684 527
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	453 742 935 629	42.66	46 276 939 742	44.88	32.33	293 723 066 737	464 635 515 624	47 331 551 298	0.87	1 054 611 556	7 718 354 784	10 892 579 995
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	67 450 985 699	1.89	9 932 803 473	2.30	11.98	105 453 110 255	142 891 867 784	17 546 823 584	6.27	7 614 020 111	52 162 704 294	75 440 882 085
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(169 831 519 240)	0.35	(19 741 986 617)	0.31	6.06	77 848 495 414	91 978 719 788	8 872 504 865	23.57	28 614 491 482	236 695 016 087	261 810 239 028
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	48 857 498 312	1.52	4 656 237 677	1.52	9.26	121 791 415 352	142 210 619 999	13 557 870 913	7.33	8 901 633 236	72 201 089 932	93 353 121 687
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(24 961 473 525)	0.20	(2 723 832 362)	0.17	0.39	6 331 471 674	6 168 569 182	574 262 406	2.72	3 298 094 768	29 513 727 395	31 130 042 707
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(15 144 320 042)	0.20	(1 629 634 163)	0.21	0.30	3 414 727 363	3 800 908 271	444 349 534	1.71	2 073 983 697	15 742 577 987	18 945 228 313
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	258 428 447	1.35	125 838 304	4.92	0.11	942 541 019	994 694 575	157 912 817	0.03	32 074 513	231 089 415	736 266 128
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 359 317 589	2.25	17 174 321	1.14	0.10	3 170 211 758	2 450 490 110	140 460 322	0.10	123 286 001	1 172 712 746	1 091 172 521
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(103 342 774 289)	0.00	(6 674 612 763)	0.01	0.04	4 560 051	53 677 032	52 861 346	5.54	6 727 474 109	76 976 152 928	103 396 451 321
Total	Total SA Rand	315 918 916 441	1.26	25 026 538 650	1.21	100.00	1 147 382 120 623	1 521 468 668 737	146 419 975 173	100.00	121 393 436 523	989 704 682 436	1 205 549 752 296

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 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2020 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2021 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2021 (R'm)
AFRICA	128 141 049 684	2.65	15 441 997 150	2.79	16.43	174 934 704 023	205 690 291 455	24 052 928 039	7.09	73 391 059 417	77 549 241 771	8 610 930 889
AMERICA	67 247 320 244	1.51	6 273 855 765	1.47	13.47	123 760 440 967	198 449 667 407	19 715 934 770	11.07	103 259 689 736	131 202 347 165	13 442 079 005
ASIA	(71 942 954 108)	0.88	(10 712 960 844)	0.83	35.49	391 673 558 945	535 370 634 357	51 959 591 715	51.63	475 052 796 656	607 313 588 465	62 672 552 559
EUROPE	99 820 938 407	1.27	3 145 653 234	1.09	25.05	331 331 758 223	465 121 019 312	36 675 653 999	27.62	321 887 363 735	365 300 080 905	33 530 000 765
OCEANIA	(4 994 411 523)	0.72	(513 487 369)	0.70	0.84	12 185 295 503	12 546 476 373	1 223 411 984	1.43	13 672 450 696	17 540 887 896	1 736 899 353
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	92 661 577 351	14.95	11 028 899 676	8.87	8.49	102 765 310 869	99 305 183 445	12 429 873 628	1.15	2 441 322 196	6 643 606 094	1 400 973 952
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	4 985 396 386	-	362 581 038	-	0.25	10 731 052 093	4 985 396 386	362 581 038				
Total	315 918 916 441	1.26	25 026 538 650	1.21	100.00	1 147 382 120 623	1 521 468 668 737	146 419 975 173	100.00	989 704 682 436	1 205 549 752 296	121 393 436 523

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021	November 2021
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 250 748 847	7 449 710 604	8 833 315 542	7 720 363 895	6 989 987 025	8 951 919 048	7 535 116 453	6 943 670 741	8 829 119 241	7 465 107 009	8 076 103 290

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 November 2021 recorded a preliminary trade balance surplus of R10.81 billion.

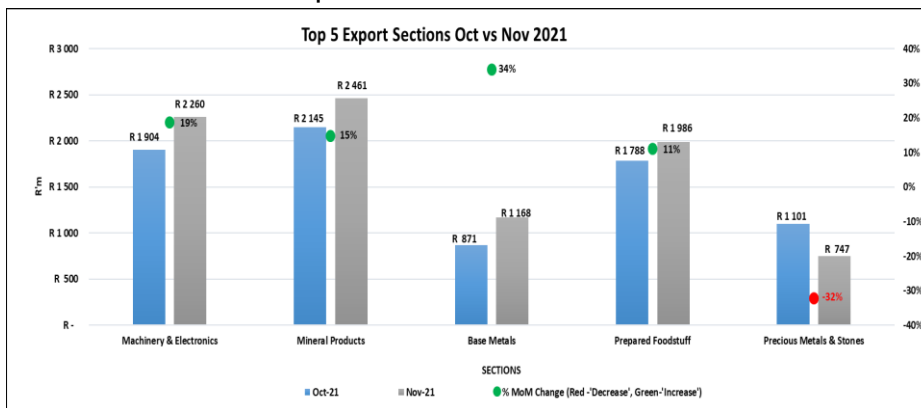
Summary

The R10.81 billion preliminary trade balance surplus for November 2021 was as a result of exports of R16.37 billion and imports of R5.56 billion. Exports increased by R1.65 billion (11.2%) between October and November 2021 and imports increased by R1.06 billion (23.4%) over the same period.

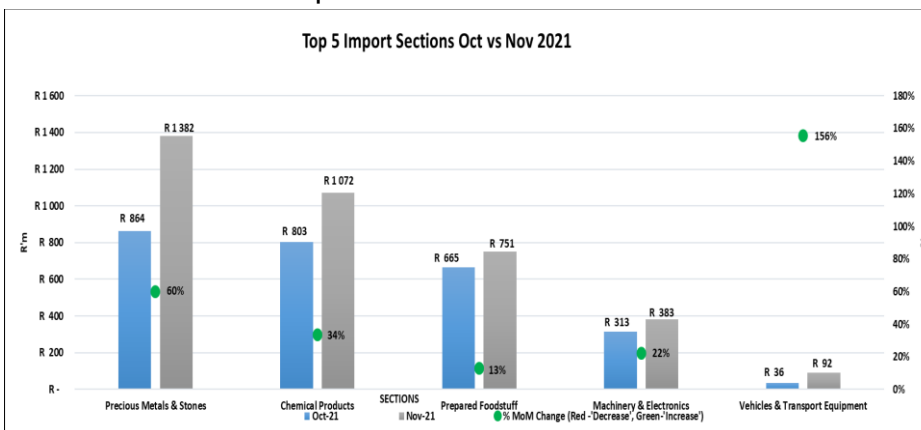
The preliminary cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R96.59 billion compared to R80.74 billion in 2020.

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