

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Wednesday, 31 March 2021

SARS releases trade statistics for February 2021

Pretoria, 31 March 2021 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for February 2021 recording a trade balance surplus of R28.96 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 28 February 2021) trade surplus of R41.38 billion is an improvement from the R10.28 billion surplus for the comparable period in 2020. Exports increased by 18.0% year-on-year whilst imports increased by 4.1% over the same period.

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

The R28.96 billion trade surplus for February 2021 is attributable to exports of R128.25 billion and imports of R99.29 billion. Exports increased by R18.14 billion (16.5%) between January and February 2021 and imports increased by R1.60 billion (1.6%) over the same period.

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 28 February 2021) increased by 13.9% to R238.36 billion from R209.35 billion over the same period during 2020. Imports for the year-to-date of R196.98 billion were 1.0% less than the R199.07 billion imports recorded during the same period in 2020. The cumulative trade surplus for 2021 is R41.38 billion.

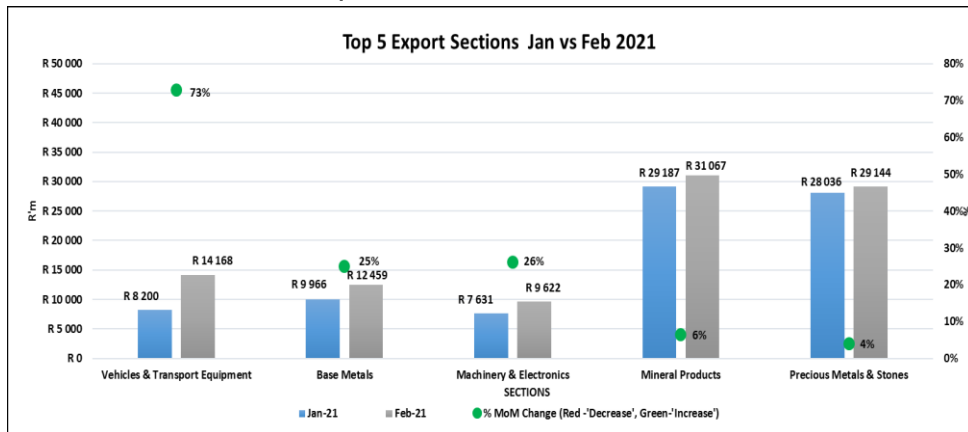
On a year-on-year basis, the R28.96 billion trade balance surplus for February 2021 was an improvement from the R13.27 billion trade balance surplus recorded in February 2020. Exports of R128.25 billion were 18.0% more than the R108.67 billion exports recorded in February 2020. Imports of R99.29 billion were 4.1% more than the R95.40 billion imports recorded in February 2020.

January 2021's trade surplus was revised upwards by R0.59 billion due to the ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC). The revision was from the preliminary surplus of R11.83 billion to the revised surplus of R12.42 billion.

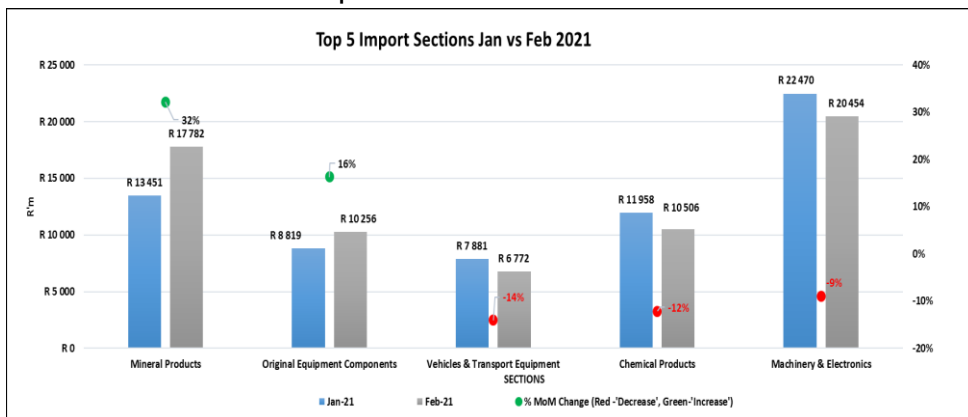
[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics February 2021](#)

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 from January (revised) to February 2021 are given below:

World Zones (R' m)	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2021	February 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	23 096	27 616	4 520	↑ 19.6%
	Imports	8 288	10 448	2 160	↑ 26.1%
	Trade Balance	14 808	17 168	2 360	
America	Exports	12 161	13 199	1 038	↑ 8.5%
	Imports	10 397	8 197	-2 200	↓ -21.2%
	Trade Balance	1 764	5 002	3 238	
Asia	Exports	38 822	42 780	3 957	↑ 10.2%
	Imports	47 577	49 475	1 899	↑ 4.0%
	Trade Balance	-8 754	-6 695	2 059	
Europe	Exports	28 935	34 634	5 699	↑ 19.7%
	Imports	30 158	29 775	-383	↓ -1.3%
	Trade Balance	-1 223	4 859	6 082	
Oceania	Exports	594	1 068	474	↑ 79.7%
	Imports	1 113	968	-146	↓ -13.1%
	Trade Balance	-519	101	620	
Other Unclassified	Exports	6 031	8 519	2 488	↑ 41.3%
	Imports	159	427	269	↑ 169.5%
	Trade Balance	5 872	8 091	2 219	
Ship/Aircraft	Exports	474	435	-39	↓ -8.3%
	Imports	-	-	-	
	Trade Balance	474	435	-39	

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

The trade data excluding BELN for February 2021 recorded a trade balance surplus of R21.20 billion.

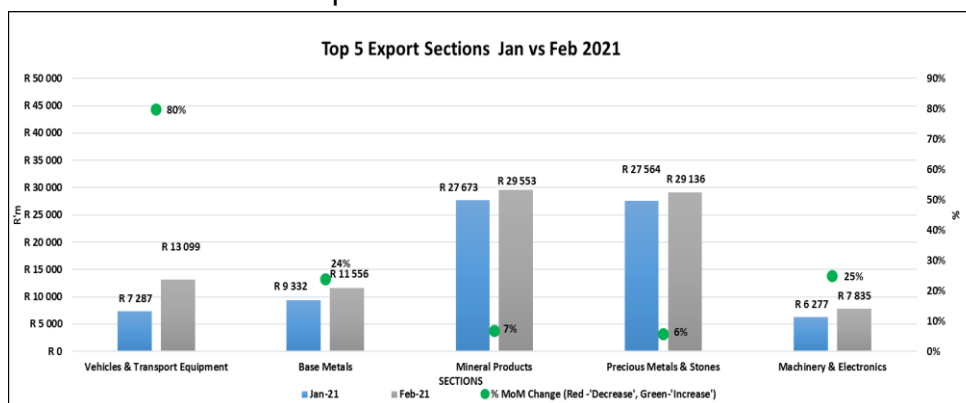
Summary

The R21.20 billion surplus for February 2021 was as a result of exports of R116.94 billion and imports of R95.73 billion. Exports increased by R16.93 billion (16.9%) between January and February 2021 and imports increased by R1.63 billion (1.7%) over the same period.

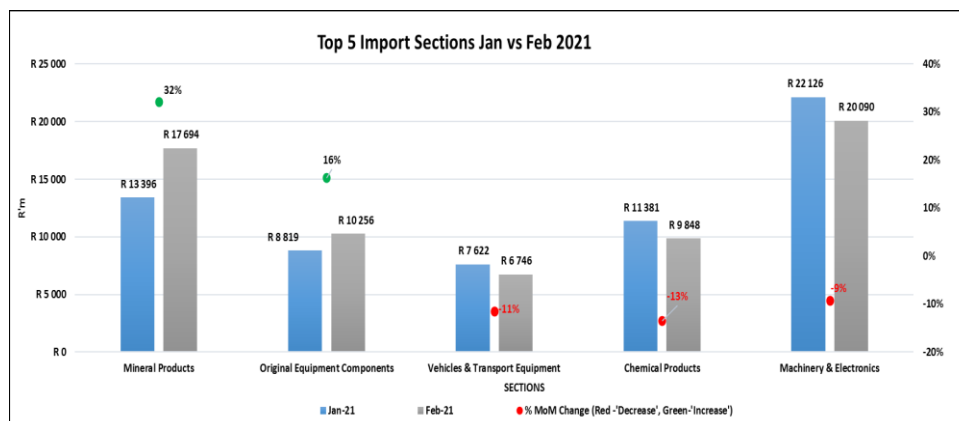
The cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R27.11 billion compared to R4.08 billion trade balance deficit during 2020.

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 January (Revised) and February 2021 are given below.

Excl BELN

World Zones	The main month-on-month movements (R' m)				
	Trade Type	January 2021	February 2021	Variance	% M-o-M
Africa	Exports	12 989	16 302	3 313	↑ 25.5%
	Imports	4 699	6 890	2 191	↑ 46.6%
	Trade Balance	8 291	9 413	1 122	

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics February 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	98 283 938	1.04	69 603 062	1.05	1.07	2 421 353 663	2 618 088 399	1 377 440 446	1.32	3 028 920 989	2 519 804 461	1 307 837 384
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	7 725 316 432	2.91	4 020 940 008	3.02	4.69	11 443 987 969	11 764 893 924	6 013 352 180	2.01	3 533 684 633	4 039 577 492	1 992 412 172
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	4 336 423 801	4.11	2 590 312 698	4.64	2.57	425 580 763	5 732 236 695	3 301 471 449	0.72	1 842 148 162	1 395 812 894	711 158 751
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 059 836 223	1.16	843 394 282	1.27	3.11	7 340 472 707	7 555 340 756	3 986 893 442	3.17	6 308 178 393	6 495 504 533	3 143 499 160
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	29 021 565 531	1.93	13 285 534 087	1.75	24.22	53 689 628 966	60 254 242 278	31 067 137 363	17.91	35 369 566 448	31 232 676 747	17 781 603 276
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(6 981 906 973)	0.69	(2 333 058 246)	0.78	6.37	13 192 885 458	15 481 556 303	8 172 667 279	10.58	20 779 262 161	22 463 463 276	10 505 725 525
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(4 780 697 491)	0.45	(1 958 086 382)	0.55	1.85	4 019 935 843	3 983 961 718	2 377 041 430	4.37	8 138 161 642	8 764 659 209	4 335 127 812
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	16 683 962	1.03	58 322 281	1.24	0.24	535 694 480	541 225 287	304 181 769	0.25	634 542 139	524 541 325	245 859 488
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	15 311 733	1.01	63 809 477	1.13	0.43	1 117 368 164	1 046 892 656	545 826 100	0.49	970 292 774	1 031 580 923	482 016 623
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(2 837 751 932)	0.51	(1 613 352 600)	0.47	1.11	4 373 043 317	2 993 832 431	1 425 979 753	3.06	6 079 415 458	5 831 584 363	3 039 332 353
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(5 220 746 730)	0.36	(2 416 363 919)	0.44	1.47	2 992 800 272	2 906 366 737	1 884 862 310	4.33	8 870 270 166	8 127 113 467	4 301 226 229
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(2 054 472 401)	0.17	(1 065 560 833)	0.19	0.20	391 036 440	420 545 366	250 519 722	1.33	2 646 417 404	2 475 017 767	1 316 080 555
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 490 909 234)	0.40	(643 191 445)	0.46	0.43	1 009 630 347	995 534 597	551 465 669	1.20	2 228 336 132	2 486 443 831	1 194 657 114
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	54 362 774 943	20.30	27 683 667 548	19.96	22.72	43 872 696 881	57 180 048 583	29 143 927 392	1.47	3 605 040 488	2 817 273 640	1 460 259 844
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	10 557 752 409	1.89	6 422 674 363	2.06	9.71	21 183 459 789	22 424 828 189	12 458 864 498	6.08	10 380 620 186	11 867 075 780	6 036 190 135
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(25 670 749 970)	0.40	(10 831 372 795)	0.47	7.50	15 105 073 241	17 252 871 604	9 622 258 462	20.60	41 125 598 843	42 923 621 574	20 453 631 257
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	7 714 524 719	1.53	7 396 067 686	2.09	11.05	22 617 037 712	22 368 271 918	14 168 459 432	6.82	16 359 494 486	14 653 747 199	6 772 391 746
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(3 494 097 199)	0.29	(1 645 825 772)	0.32	0.60	1 746 838 743	1 401 221 707	767 240 287	2.43	5 263 335 072	4 895 318 906	2 413 066 059
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 936 634 005)	0.34	(853 570 522)	0.40	0.45	1 014 223 276	1 013 034 932	580 477 316	1.44	3 040 173 369	2 949 668 937	1 434 047 838
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(87 847 044)	0.60	67 998 074	5.72	0.06	223 793 174	129 975 735	82 417 940	0.01	74 677 317	217 822 779	14 419 866
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	90 159 966	1.47	73 455 835	1.79	0.13	628 772 582	283 275 957	166 153 854	0.09	450 212 209	193 115 991	92 698 019
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(19 060 966 621)	0.00	(10 255 281 935)	0.00	0.00	1 493 402	13 724 101	531 100	10.33	18 340 191 139	19 074 690 722	10 255 813 035
Total	Total SA Rand	41 381 854 057	1.21	28 960 114 952	1.29	100.00	209 346 807 189	238 361 969 873	128 249 169 193	100.00	199 068 539 610	196 980 115 816	99 289 054 241

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	31 976 140 544	2.71	17 168 119 839	2.64	21.53	51 043 033 730	50 711 205 759	27 615 664 393	10.52	27 860 842 972	18 735 065 215	10 447 544 554
AMERICA	6 766 437 220	1.36	5 002 234 365	1.61	10.29	19 284 294 796	25 359 759 157	13 198 788 050	8.26	19 376 969 244	18 593 321 937	8 196 553 685
ASIA	(15 449 649 209)	0.84	(6 695 435 005)	0.86	33.36	67 509 850 154	81 602 015 968	42 779 673 623	49.83	87 878 634 930	97 051 665 177	49 475 108 628
EUROPE	3 635 119 079	1.06	4 858 547 785	1.16	27.01	52 365 050 775	63 568 697 041	34 633 697 511	29.99	60 837 487 306	59 933 577 962	29 775 149 726
OCEANIA	(418 231 171)	0.80	100 664 002	1.10	0.83	1 688 142 122	1 662 549 171	1 068 177 613	0.97	2 457 112 238	2 080 780 342	967 513 611
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	13 963 627 682	24.84	8 091 460 750	19.94	6.64	15 481 934 480	14 549 332 865	8 518 644 787	0.43	657 492 920	585 705 183	427 184 037
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	908 409 912	-	434 523 216	-	0.34	1 974 501 132	908 409 912	434 523 216				
Total	41 381 854 057	1.21	28 960 114 952	1.29	100.00	209 346 807 189	238 361 969 873	128 249 169 193	100.00	199 068 539 610	196 980 115 816	99 289 054 241

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 425 105 635	7 725 919 303

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 ³⁾ (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	81 928 590	1.04	77 645 627	1.08	0.95	1 857 295 308	2 069 788 749	1 105 301 326	1.07	2 406 019 543	1 987 860 159	1 027 655 699
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	6 417 564 596	2.62	3 345 766 955	2.71	4.53	10 042 354 946	10 376 074 067	5 302 382 627	2.04	3 453 930 858	3 958 509 471	1 956 615 672
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	4 066 365 962	3.92	2 448 300 627	4.45	2.70	198 768 073	5 460 513 907	3 158 881 601	0.74	1 841 120 191	1 394 147 945	710 580 974
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(524 782 025)	0.91	85 786 298	1.03	2.30	4 714 725 250	5 024 148 293	2 691 586 748	2.72	5 231 918 816	5 548 930 318	2 605 800 450
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	26 136 281 930	1.84	11 859 546 290	1.67	25.27	49 450 821 040	57 226 465 330	29 553 360 362	18.48	35 216 109 580	31 090 183 400	17 693 814 072
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(7 908 889 839)	0.63	(2 803 724 463)	0.72	6.02	11 097 294 529	13 320 093 999	7 044 052 493	10.29	19 728 731 477	21 228 983 838	9 847 776 956
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(5 615 683 554)	0.35	(2 416 633 734)	0.43	1.59	3 103 540 837	3 043 292 853	1 855 887 466	4.46	8 028 833 792	8 658 976 407	4 272 521 200
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(58 558 290)	0.88	22 624 931	1.10	0.22	456 986 849	449 960 784	258 321 071	0.25	621 210 266	508 519 074	235 696 140
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	7 670 033	1.01	36 660 828	1.11	0.32	837 440 010	740 174 429	372 207 649	0.35	703 350 579	732 504 396	335 546 821
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(3 249 050 992)	0.44	(1 837 286 152)	0.39	1.01	3 848 462 884	2 543 497 185	1 183 675 237	3.16	6 044 163 800	5 792 548 177	3 020 961 389
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(5 267 972 525)	0.25	(2 501 647 953)	0.33	1.05	1 968 433 522	1 789 456 211	1 225 250 917	3.89	7 696 896 730	7 057 428 736	3 726 898 870
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(2 316 617 881)	0.06	(1 224 063 455)	0.06	0.07	112 135 458	146 796 723	84 630 480	1.37	2 625 495 753	2 463 414 604	1 308 693 935
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 768 860 750)	0.28	(805 906 624)	0.32	0.33	711 159 572	701 870 227	381 190 932	1.24	2 211 564 713	2 470 730 977	1 187 097 556
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	55 387 889 896	43.21	28 333 351 642	36.29	24.92	43 755 598 476	56 700 151 641	29 136 330 986	0.84	2 003 000 218	1 312 261 745	802 979 314
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	9 132 415 168	1.78	5 580 915 425	1.93	9.88	19 814 533 600	20 888 180 719	11 555 724 180	6.24	10 133 282 245	11 755 765 551	5 974 808 755
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(28 104 371 701)	0.33	(12 255 788 052)	0.39	6.70	12 087 106 538	14 111 618 782	7 834 653 938	20.99	40 320 523 975	42 215 990 483	20 090 441 990
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	6 018 209 835	1.42	6 353 222 749	1.94	11.20	20 665 082 500	20 385 515 468	13 098 849 711	7.05	16 217 416 317	14 367 305 633	6 745 626 962
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(3 828 449 635)	0.21	(1 840 504 740)	0.23	0.48	1 472 984 127	1 047 195 693	561 575 473	2.51	5 246 786 150	4 875 645 328	2 402 080 213
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(2 421 857 754)	0.17	(1 136 938 691)	0.20	0.25	493 693 308	512 036 057	287 732 638	1.49	3 019 073 104	2 933 893 811	1 424 671 329
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(88 430 631)	0.59	67 606 911	5.70	0.07	222 221 908	129 338 746	81 990 324	0.02	74 625 943	217 769 377	14 383 413
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	88 113 748	1.47	70 972 695	1.78	0.14	621 111 928	275 588 476	161 794 616	0.09	446 677 682	187 474 728	90 821 921
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(19 074 066 621)	0.00	(10 255 281 935)	0.00	0.00	1 493 402	624 101	531 100	10.71	18 340 191 139	19 074 690 722	10 255 813 035
Total	Total SA Rand	27 108 847 560	1.14	21 204 625 209	1.22	100.00	187 533 244 065	216 942 382 440	116 935 911 875	100.00	191 610 922 871	189 833 534 880	95 731 286 666

World Zones	Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ³⁾ (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	17 703 134 047	2.53	9 412 630 096	2.37	13.94	29 229 470 606	29 291 618 326	16 302 407 075	7.20	20 403 226 233	11 588 484 279	6 889 776 979
AMERICA	6 766 437 220	1.36	5 002 234 365	1.61	11.29	19 284 294 796	25 359 759 157	13 198 788 050	8.56	19 376 969 244	18 593 321 937	8 196 553 685
ASIA	(15 449 649 209)	0.84	(6 695 435 005)	0.86	36.58	67 509 850 154	81 602 015 968	42 779 673 623	51.68	87 878 634 930	97 051 665 177	49 475 108 628
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OCEANIA	(418 231 171)	0.80	100 664 002	1.10	0.91	1 688 142 122	1 662 549 171	1 068 177 613	1.01	2 457 112 238	2 080 780 342	967 513 611
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	908 409 912	-	434 523 216	-	0.37	1 974 501 132	908 409 912	434 523 216				
Total	27 108 847 560	1.14	21 204 625 209	1.22	100.00	187 533 244 065	216 942 382 440	116 935 911 875	100.00	191 610 922 871	189 833 534 880	95 731 286 666

Temporary Imports	January 2021	February 2021
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	8 425 105 635	7 725 919 303

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 February 2021 recorded a trade balance surplus of R7.76 billion.

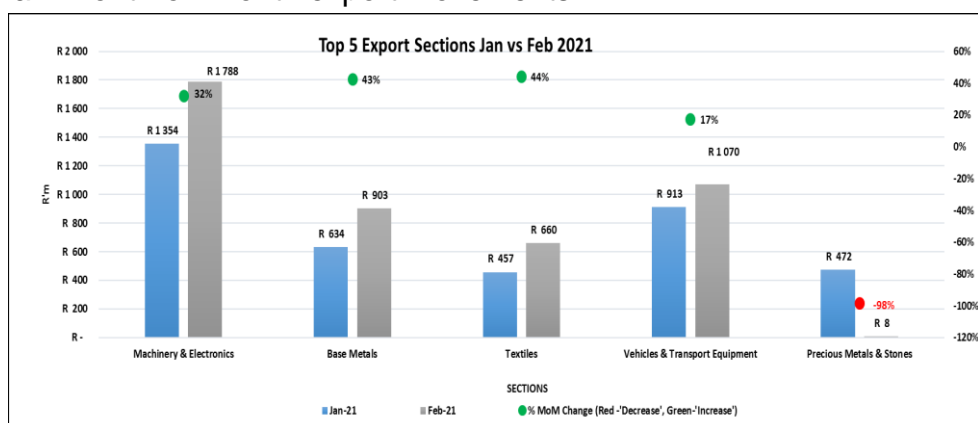
Summary

The R7.76 billion trade balance surplus for February 2021 was as a result of exports of R11.31 billion and imports of R3.56 billion. Exports increased by R1.21 billion (11.9%) between January and February 2021 and imports decreased by R0.03 billion (0.9%) over the same period.

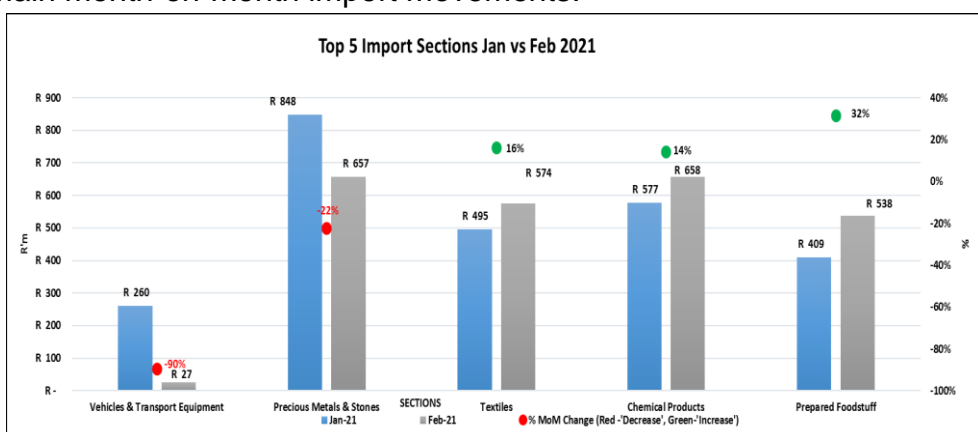
The cumulative trade balance surplus for 2021 was R14.27 billion compared to R14.36 billion in 2020.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:



The main month-on-month import movements:



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

ENDS.

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