

STATEMENT

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 31 January 2020

SARS releases trade statistics for December 2019

Pretoria, 31 January 2020 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2019 recording a trade surplus of R14.85 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 December 2019) trade surplus of R24.70 billion is an improvement from the R15.23 billion surplus for the comparable period in 2018. Exports increased by 4.1% year-on-year whilst imports for the same period showed an increase of 3.3%.

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

The R14.85 billion trade surplus for December 2019 is attributable to exports of R103.31 billion and imports of R88.47 billion. Exports decreased from November 2019 to December 2019 by R13.02 billion (11.2%) and imports decreased from November 2019 to December 2019 by R22.22 billion (20.1%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 December) increased by 4.1% from R1 247.21 billion in 2018 to R1 297.85 billion in 2019. Imports for the year-to-date of R1 273.16 billion are 3.3% more than the R1 231.98 billion imports recorded in January to December 2018, leaving a cumulative trade surplus of R24.70 billion.

On a year-on-year basis, the R14.85 billion trade surplus for December 2019 is a deterioration from the R16.43 billion surplus recorded in December 2018. Exports of R103.31 billion are 1.3% more than the R102.02 billion exports recorded in December 2018. Imports of R88.47 billion are 3.4% more than the R85.58 billion imports recorded in December 2018.

November 2019's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.45 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R6.10 billion to a revised surplus of R5.64 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2019](#)

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BELN:	
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R8 189	-50%
Machinery & Electronics	-R1 468	-16%
Base Metals	-R 747	-6%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 633	-3%
Vegetable Products	+R 663	+17%
Total	-R10 374	80%
Total Movement	-R13 017	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BELN:	
Machinery & Electronics	-R5 822	-23%
Original Equipment Components	-R2 576	-43%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R2 384	-22%
Chemical Products	-R2 328	-19%
Base Metals	-R2 136	-39%
Textiles	-R1 518	-35%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R 628	-16%
Stone, Plaster, etc	-R 599	-43%
Total	-R17 991	81%
Total Movement	-R22 219	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from November 2019 (revised) to December 2019 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R27 952 million – this is a decrease of R4 325 million from November 2019.

Imports: R14 439 million – this is a decrease of R327 million from November 2019.

Trade surplus: R13 512 million – this is a deterioration of R3 998 million in comparison to the R17 511 million surplus recorded in November 2019.

America:

Exports: R9 781 million – this is a decrease of R519 million from November 2019.

Imports: R8 585 million – this is a decrease of R2 281 million from November 2019.

Trade surplus: R1 196 million – this is an improvement of R1 762 million in comparison to the R566 million deficit recorded in November 2019.

Asia:

Exports: R32 165 million – this is a decrease of R4 010 million from November 2019.
 Imports: R38 565 million – this is a decrease of R12 978 million from November 2019.
 Trade deficit: R6 399 million – this is an improvement of R8 968 million in comparison to the R15 367 million deficit recorded in November 2019.

Europe:

Exports: R24 925 million – this is a decrease of R3 468 million from November 2019.
 Imports: R25 086 million – this is a decrease of R6 538 million from November 2019.
 Trade deficit: R161 million – this is an improvement of R3 070 million in comparison to the R3 231 million deficit recorded in November 2019.

Oceania:

Exports: R676 million – this is a decrease of R444 million from November 2019.
 Imports: R1 403 million – this is an increase of R101 million from November 2019.
 Trade deficit: R727 million – this is a deterioration of R545 million in comparison to the R182 million deficit recorded in November 2019.

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

The trade data excluding BELN for December 2019 recorded a trade surplus of R6.79 billion.

Summary

The R6.79 billion surplus for December 2019 is as a result of exports of R91.45 billion and imports of R84.66 billion. Exports decreased from November 2019 to December 2019 by R10.37 billion (10.2%) and imports decreased from November 2019 to December 2019 by R22.23 billion (20.8%).

The cumulative deficit for 2019 is R75.96 billion compared to R79.97 billion deficit in 2018.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BELN:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R7 745	-51%
Machinery & Electronics	-R 911	-12%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 672	-3%
Mineral Products	-R 575	-2%
Vegetable Products	+R 732	+24%
Total	-R9 171	88%

Total Movement	-R10 366	100%
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The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Excluding BELN:	
Machinery & Electronics	-R5 640	-23%
Chemical Products	-R3 047	-26%
Original Equipment Components	-R2 576	-43%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R2 299	-22%
Base Metals	-R2 057	-38%
Plastics and Rubber	-R1 409	-30%
Textiles	-R1 229	-34%
Total	-R18 257	82%
Total Movement	-R22 230	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BELN from November 2019 (Revised) to December 2019 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R16 093 million – this is a decrease of R1 674 million from November 2019.

Imports: R10 635 million – this is a decrease of R337 million from November 2019.

Trade surplus: R5 458 million – this is a deterioration of R1 337 million in comparison to the R6 795 million surplus recorded in November 2019.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2019](#)

SA Trade Release Table (including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(52 991 650)	0.97	(4 566 543 298)	0.77	1.42	1 465 024 395	15 234 165 918	15 322 435 803	1.72	1 518 016 045	20 761 590 980	19 888 979 101
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	3 053 580 989	3.12	43 103 003 061	2.70	4.35	4 490 918 268	67 715 740 635	68 401 453 202	1.62	1 437 337 279	23 000 065 864	25 298 450 141
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(267 180 043)	0.50	(5 946 867 802)	0.35	0.26	271 295 054	3 230 454 007	3 197 381 027	0.61	538 475 097	8 769 103 425	9 144 248 829
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 547 029 326	1.48	15 938 930 568	1.39	4.60	4 757 162 046	53 263 510 906	56 601 952 452	3.63	3 210 132 720	37 409 892 448	40 663 021 884
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	6 106 586 604	1.31	104 847 649 519	1.48	25.12	25 950 901 017	294 828 612 762	323 842 015 059	22.43	19 844 314 413	233 098 404 748	218 994 365 540
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 348 472 799)	0.66	(55 893 730 201)	0.59	6.29	6 499 594 440	77 817 896 338	80 177 549 324	11.13	9 848 067 239	134 429 405 404	136 071 279 525
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 433 517 260)	0.57	(26 669 470 176)	0.50	1.86	1 926 568 442	25 243 894 778	27 047 150 782	3.80	3 360 085 702	54 512 829 103	53 716 620 958
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(12 782 574)	0.95	(538 780 999)	0.86	0.26	267 351 751	4 170 273 937	3 449 832 371	0.32	280 134 325	4 095 869 932	3 988 613 370
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	211 729 905	1.65	1 924 572 556	1.35	0.52	539 218 173	7 790 932 480	7 435 491 315	0.37	327 488 268	5 289 228 695	5 510 918 759
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 812 268 956)	0.49	(18 616 027 930)	0.49	1.70	1 758 294 963	22 571 286 889	17 965 922 558	4.04	3 570 563 919	31 653 198 731	36 581 950 488
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 351 387 903)	0.52	(29 165 800 344)	0.38	1.41	1 455 752 204	18 405 573 348	18 051 266 714	3.17	2 807 140 107	44 537 150 963	47 217 067 058
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(561 856 935)	0.33	(11 440 564 259)	0.21	0.27	282 366 413	3 004 979 236	3 123 402 445	0.95	844 223 348	13 919 919 390	14 563 966 704
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(260 483 276)	0.68	(8 762 238 838)	0.42	0.52	541 443 799	6 393 971 484	6 422 923 450	0.91	801 927 075	14 667 027 017	15 185 162 288
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	22 330 618 339	15.06	204 627 969 795	12.99	23.15	23 919 345 844	219 615 308 467	221 697 138 647	1.80	1 588 727 505	19 942 790 046	17 069 168 852
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	7 612 348 689	3.23	79 329 455 651	2.26	10.67	11 018 808 960	150 639 069 138	142 231 590 409	3.85	3 406 460 271	59 960 319 006	62 902 134 758
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(11 317 278 125)	0.41	(181 031 173 966)	0.37	7.61	7 863 706 535	100 937 320 443	104 404 028 530	21.68	19 180 984 660	266 592 385 047	285 435 202 496
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	18 240 511	1.00	59 954 432 816	1.51	8.01	8 277 079 357	153 172 999 227	176 388 353 832	9.34	8 258 838 846	106 740 389 788	116 433 921 016
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 937 646 030)	0.28	(25 503 850 162)	0.25	0.74	767 461 840	7 755 852 302	8 622 589 574	3.06	2 705 107 870	31 710 041 377	34 126 439 736
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(738 942 873)	0.48	(13 026 153 220)	0.39	0.65	670 238 712	8 448 153 762	8 316 511 971	1.59	1 409 181 585	20 579 142 573	21 342 665 191
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	51 041 234	3.52	837 048 557	2.38	0.07	71 284 632	927 793 106	1 443 960 981	0.02	20 243 398	782 257 247	606 912 424
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	451 842 532	7.72	2 661 692 589	3.56	0.50	519 064 214	6 035 719 402	3 701 638 309	0.08	67 221 682	1 179 547 348	1 039 945 720
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(3 441 770 053)	0.00	(107 363 943 900)	0.00	0.00	81 246	8 272 184	10 098 084	3.89	3 441 851 299	98 347 765 418	107 374 041 984
Total	Total SA Rand	14 846 439 652	1.17	24 699 610 017	1.02	100.00	103 312 962 305	1 247 211 780 749	1 297 854 686 839	100.00	88 466 522 653	1 231 978 324 550	1 273 155 076 822

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	13 512 397 600	1.94	194 697 581 287	2.28	27.06	27 951 704 564	332 060 729 876	346 676 275 488	16.32	14 439 306 964	155 640 380 660	151 978 694 201
AMERICA	1 196 043 626	1.14	(15 230 211 069)	0.88	9.47	9 780 847 823	107 093 508 198	111 282 531 159	9.70	8 584 804 197	118 927 399 335	126 512 742 228
ASIA	(6 399 373 707)	0.83	(166 549 432 500)	0.71	31.13	32 165 249 418	393 944 230 345	406 443 486 967	43.59	38 564 623 125	558 316 241 073	572 992 919 467
EUROPE	(161 418 566)	0.99	(60 282 080 234)	0.85	24.13	24 924 872 624	317 641 005 449	340 130 170 807	28.36	25 086 291 190	374 687 304 951	400 412 251 041
OCEANIA	(726 601 810)	0.48	(4 217 584 627)	0.75	0.65	676 207 361	13 276 341 611	12 788 653 646	1.59	1 402 809 171	20 173 280 565	17 006 238 273
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	6 419 305 220	17.52	67 832 605 229	16.95	6.59	6 807 993 226	78 424 825 079	72 084 836 841	0.44	388 688 006	4 233 717 966	4 252 231 612
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 006 087 289	-	8 448 731 931	-	0.97	1 006 087 289	4 771 140 191	8 448 731 931	-	-	-	-
Total	14 846 439 652	1.17	24 699 610 017	1.02	100.00	103 312 962 305	1 247 211 780 749	1 297 854 686 839	100.00	88 466 522 653	1 231 978 324 550	1 273 155 076 822
Temporary Imports	January 2019	February 2019	March 2019	April 2019	May 2019	June 2019	July 2019	August 2019	September 2019	October 2019	November 2019	December 2019
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	7 098 078 709	5 900 120 784	5 790 034 241	6 196 994 241	5 887 412 588	7 160 616 228	7 138 056 330	8 071 860 584	8 018 686 950	7 595 006 563	6 482 617 888	8 474 304 390

Notes:

1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films

2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)

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		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(138 474 663)	0.89	(4 122 246 795)	0.74	1.24	1 136 945 876	11 542 282 022	11 776 036 174	1.51	1 275 420 539	16 211 841 247	15 898 282 969
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 387 374 547	2.73	35 669 283 635	2.45	4.12	3 766 648 003	61 042 392 526	60 264 134 043	1.63	1 379 273 456	22 465 278 817	24 594 850 408
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(399 946 121)	0.26	(7 434 165 330)	0.18	0.15	137 744 689	1 844 083 453	1 678 924 750	0.64	537 690 810	8 750 884 372	9 113 090 080
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	523 745 654	1.20	5 288 628 851	1.16	3.49	3 189 587 111	38 068 595 194	39 028 744 692	3.15	2 665 841 457	31 533 488 311	33 740 115 841
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	3 688 026 177	1.19	78 917 151 070	1.36	25.67	23 480 007 214	272 757 218 031	297 121 330 888	23.38	19 791 981 037	232 342 998 563	218 204 179 818
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 163 682 878)	0.63	(60 479 604 469)	0.53	5.95	5 441 321 523	65 496 428 501	67 062 828 397	10.16	8 605 004 401	126 992 037 846	127 542 432 866
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 837 765 622)	0.45	(32 269 933 591)	0.39	1.62	1 481 320 325	19 491 955 334	20 766 444 296	3.92	3 319 085 947	53 997 775 449	53 036 377 887
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(58 595 325)	0.79	(996 355 619)	0.74	0.24	216 579 062	3 640 139 913	2 886 763 665	0.33	275 174 387	3 944 677 527	3 883 119 284
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	178 243 311	1.81	1 621 441 333	1.43	0.44	399 325 399	5 907 249 044	5 428 103 825	0.26	221 082 088	3 776 076 276	3 806 662 492
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(2 088 859 056)	0.41	(21 588 417 201)	0.41	1.60	1 466 668 595	19 129 743 777	14 750 848 488	4.20	3 555 527 651	31 333 411 985	36 339 265 689
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 484 130 016)	0.39	(29 560 539 676)	0.27	1.03	945 891 019	11 827 112 776	11 099 576 465	2.87	2 430 021 035	38 548 551 655	40 660 116 141
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(724 097 750)	0.13	(13 301 367 375)	0.08	0.12	108 939 061	1 036 154 683	1 108 375 367	0.98	833 036 811	13 767 204 301	14 409 742 742
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(400 342 821)	0.50	(10 584 596 697)	0.30	0.43	394 266 223	4 534 935 522	4 481 348 892	0.94	794 609 044	14 552 428 940	15 065 945 589
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	22 689 434 814	30.53	208 278 941 463	22.83	25.65	23 457 776 648	213 311 845 545	217 821 311 466	0.91	768 341 834	13 119 164 119	9 542 370 003
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	7 036 334 235	3.10	71 774 276 329	2.17	11.35	10 381 796 307	141 357 060 199	132 976 232 636	3.95	3 345 462 072	58 406 624 435	61 201 956 307
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(12 530 231 916)	0.34	(196 872 374 769)	0.30	7.08	6 479 424 369	81 374 579 172	84 215 099 499	22.45	19 009 656 285	262 518 998 729	281 087 474 268
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(864 430 708)	0.89	(47 542 850 159)	1.41	8.05	7 360 028 071	140 425 912 272	162 755 073 373	9.71	8 224 458 779	105 877 673 966	115 212 223 214
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 047 462 563)	0.24	(27 207 433 191)	0.20	0.71	653 332 832	6 017 177 152	6 824 545 269	3.19	2 700 795 395	31 632 663 808	34 031 978 460
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 035 599 581)	0.26	(16 694 333 851)	0.21	0.40	369 360 761	4 803 378 241	4 515 380 800	1.66	1 404 960 342	20 434 097 219	21 209 714 651
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	50 638 762	3.50	835 290 894	2.39	0.08	70 873 448	921 947 002	1 438 027 617	0.02	20 234 686	778 543 063	602 736 723
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	453 792 206	8.29	2 586 070 206	3.56	0.56	516 047 558	5 960 857 856	3 595 101 439	0.07	62 255 352	1 137 923 948	1 009 031 233
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(3 441 770 053)	0.00	(107 364 616 166)	0.00	0.00	81 246	8 065 721	9 425 818	4.07	3 441 851 299	98 347 765 418	107 374 041 984
Total	Total SA Rand	6 792 200 633	1.08	(75 962 050 790)	0.94	100.00	91 453 965 340	1 110 499 113 936	1 151 603 657 859	100.00	84 661 764 707	1 190 470 109 994	1 227 565 708 649

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	
AFRICA	5 458 158 581	1.51	94 035 920 480	1.88	17.60	16 092 707 599	195 348 063 063	200 425 246 508	12.56	10 634 549 018	114 132 166 104	106 389 326 028	
AMERICA	1 196 043 626	1.14	(15 230 211 069)	0.88	10.69	9 780 847 823	107 093 508 198	111 282 531 159	10.14	8 584 804 197	118 927 399 335	126 512 742 228	
ASIA	(6 399 373 707)	0.83	(166 549 432 500)	0.71	35.17	32 165 249 418	393 944 230 345	406 443 486 967	45.55	38 564 623 125	558 316 241 073	572 992 919 467	
EUROPE	(161 418 566)	0.99	(60 282 080 234)	0.85	27.25	24 924 872 624	317 641 005 449	340 130 170 807	29.63	25 086 291 190	374 687 304 951	400 412 251 041	
OCEANIA	(726 601 810)	0.48	(4 217 584 627)	0.75	0.74	676 207 361	13 276 341 611	12 788 653 646	1.66	1 402 809 171	20 173 280 565	17 006 238 273	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	6 419 305 220	17.52	67 832 605 229	16.95	7.44	6 807 993 226	78 424 825 079	72 084 836 841	0.46	388 688 006	4 233 717 966	4 252 231 612	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	1 006 087 289	-	8 448 731 931	-	1.10	1 006 087 289	4 771 140 191	8 448 731 931	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6 792 200 633	1.08	(75 962 050 790)	0.94	100.00	91 453 965 340	1 110 499 113 936	1 151 603 657 859	100.00	84 661 764 707	1 190 470 109 994	1 227 565 708 649	

	January 2019	February 2019	March 2019	April 2019	May 2019	June 2019	July 2019	August 2019	September 2019	October 2019	November 2019	December 2019
Temporary Imports												
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	7 098 078 709	5 900 120 784	5 790 034 241	6 196 994 241	5 887 412 588	7 160 616 228	7 138 056 330	8 071 860 584	8 018 686 950	7 595 006 563	6 482 617 888	8 474 304 390

Notes:

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)
- 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 BELN countries

Trade statistics with the BELN for December 2019 recorded a trade surplus of R8.05 billion.

Summary

The R8.05 billion surplus for December 2019 is as a result of exports of R11.85 billion and imports of R3.80 billion.

Exports decreased from November 2019 to December 2019 by R2.65 billion (18.3%) and imports increased from November 2019 to December 2019 by R0.01 billion (0.3%).

The cumulative surplus for 2019 is R100.66 billion compared to R95.20 billion in 2018.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BELN:	
Section:		
Machinery & Electronics	-R556	-29%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R444	-33%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R371	-19%
Base Metals	-R300	-32%
Chemical Products	-R295	-22%
Textiles	-R192	-27%
Total	-R2 158	81%
Total Movement	-R2 651	100%

The main month-on-month import movements

R' million	BELN:	
Section:		
Chemical Products	+R719	+137%
Precious Metals & Stones	+R356	+77%
Textiles	-R289	-43%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R183	-25%
Machinery & Electronics	-R181	-52%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R84	-71%
Base Metals	-R78	-56%
Mineral Products	-R53	-51%
Wood & Articles thereof	-R48	-31%
Wood Pulp & Paper	-R41	-73%
Live Animals	-R39	-14%
Plastics & Rubber	-R28	-41%
Vegetable Products	-R10	-15%
Raw Hides & Leather	-R7	-61%
Misc Manufactured Articles	-R6	-61%
Footwear & Accessories	-R6	-37%
Optical Photographic Products	-R4	-50%

Stone, Plaster, etc	-R2	-26%
Animal & Vegetable Fats	-R0.8	-36%
Works of Art	-R0.0	-69%
Total	+R8	80%
Total Movement	+R10	100%

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2019](#)

ENDS.

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