

Media Releases 2009

South African Trade Statistics for March 2009

Pretoria, 30 April 2009 -- The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for March 2009 that records a trade deficit of R 512 million.

Summary

The deficit of R512 million for March 2009 was mainly due to increased exports of 17.94% and increased imports of 17.58%.

Exports for March 2009 of R 52.0 billion and imports of R52.5 billion resulted in a deficit of R512 million.

Imports increased from February to March 2009 by R7.846 billion (17.58%) to R52.478 billion and exports increased by R7.905 billion (17.94%) to R51.966 billion.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The February to March change (up by 17.58%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - Machinery and mechanical appliances [up by R2.271 billion (19%)],
 - Vehicles, vessels and aircraft [up by R2.037 billion (55%)];
 - Mineral products [up by R1.071 billion (11%)]
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- The February to March change (up by 17.94%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - Precious metals and stones [up by R2.923 billion (30%)]
 - Base metals and articles thereof [up by R1.285 billion (21%)];
 - Mineral products [up by R0.946 billion (10%)].

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for March 2009 as given below are unaudited, and those for February 2009 are audited.

Asia: The deficit decreased from R4.8bn in February 2009 to R4.1bn in March 2009. Exports increased by R3.3bn to R16.4bn and imports increased by R2.6bn to R20.6bn.

Europe: The deficit increased from R2.9bn in February 2009 to R4.8bn in March 2009. Exports increased by R3.0bn to R15bn and imports increased by R4.9bn to R19.8bn.

America: The deficit increased from R1.8bn in February 2009 to R2.9bn in March 2009. Exports decreased by R0.4bn to R4.7bn and imports increased by R0.7bn to R7.6bn.

Africa: The surplus increased from R4.2bn in February 2009 to R6.5bn. Exports increased by R1.4bn to R9.6bn and imports decreased by R0.8bn to R3.1bn.

		TRADE											
Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Imports				Exports			
Code	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ¹⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ²⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	105	1.24	401	1.41	433	0.82	1,181	972	538	1.03	1,392	1,373
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1,405	2.44	2,995	2.00	977	1.86	2,774	2,982	2,382	4.58	3,381	5,977
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(355)	0.24	(1,184)	0.16	469	0.89	1,568	1,405	113	0.22	90	221
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	282	1.19	710	1.18	1,522	2.90	3,121	4,000	1,804	3.47	3,235	4,710
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(7)	1.00	(3,238)	0.90	10,725	20.44	33,705	32,013	10,718	20.63	22,173	28,776
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,690)	0.64	(5,259)	0.59	4,692	8.94	13,481	12,940	3,001	5.78	8,027	7,681
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(831)	0.54	(2,973)	0.44	1,793	3.42	5,617	5,348	962	1.85	2,080	2,375
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	15	1.10	(97)	0.79	139	0.27	529	471	154	0.30	437	373
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	48	1.21	(165)	0.79	236	0.45	897	785	284	0.55	712	619
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	88	1.10	350	1.13	891	1.70	2,511	2,669	979	1.88	2,121	3,019
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,068)	0.32	(3,771)	0.26	1,571	2.99	4,192	5,070	503	0.97	1,298	1,298
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(456)	0.05	(1,474)	0.04	482	0.92	1,117	1,541	25	0.05	83	68
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(364)	0.34	(1,123)	0.30	553	1.05	2,067	1,597	189	0.36	490	473
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	12,240	27.41	28,637	20.91	463	0.88	2,501	1,438	12,703	24.45	35,370	30,075
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,249	3.54	11,770	2.72	2,067	3.94	7,355	6,827	7,316	14.08	25,832	18,597
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(9,920)	0.29	(30,524)	0.26	14,013	26.70	40,838	41,264	4,093	7.88	14,202	10,740
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1,418)	0.75	(1,875)	0.86	5,733	10.93	17,672	13,497	4,315	8.30	13,347	11,623
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(739)	0.56	(3,132)	0.30	1,667	3.18	4,373	4,493	928	1.79	757	1,361
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(259)	0.58	(988)	0.60	622	1.19	2,015	1,992	363	0.70	1,226	1,004
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(17)	0.53	(4)	0.93	36	0.07	108	52	19	0.04	82	48
XXII	Other Unclassified ⁴⁾	504	8.05	1,160	6.07	72	0.14	183	229	576	1.11	621	1,389
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ⁵⁾	(3,322)	0.00	(9,253)	0.00	3,323	6.33	10,775	9,257	0	0.00	1	3
Total SA Rand		(512)	0.99	(19,038)	0.87	52,478	100.00	158,581	150,840	51,966	100.00	136,957	131,802

		TRADE											
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Imports				Exports			
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ¹⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ²⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)
Africa		6,461	3.06	14,361	2.46	3,141	5.99	11,901	9,899	9,602	18.48	18,033	24,260
Europe		(4,835)	0.76	(14,029)	0.73	19,815	37.76	55,025	52,168	14,980	28.83	45,982	38,139
America		(2,933)	0.62	(9,097)	0.59	7,644	14.57	21,703	22,138	4,711	9.07	18,452	13,041
Asia		(4,112)	0.80	(21,881)	0.65	20,560	39.18	66,664	62,724	16,448	31.65	39,238	40,843
Oceania		(555)	0.55	(1,716)	0.48	1,227	2.34	2,957	3,294	671	1.29	3,146	1,578
Other Unclassified Goods		5,398	59.95	13,112	22.23	92	0.17	329	618	5,489	10.56	11,950	13,730
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		64		211		-	-	-	-	64	0.12	156	211
Total SA Rand		(512)	0.99	(19,038)	0.87	52,478	100.00	158,581	150,840	51,966	100.00	136,957	131,802
Temporary Imports		Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09
Gold imports ⁴⁾ (R'm)		4,136	6,047	5,090									

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) 2008 Data is audited and 2009 data unaudited

- 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