

Media Releases 2009

SARS Media Release: South African Trade Statistics for April 2009

Pretoria, 29 May 2009 -- The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for April 2009 that records a trade deficit of R 1.5 billion.

Summary

The R1.5 billion deficit for April 2009 was due to a decrease in exports of 21.76% and a decrease in imports of 19.75%.

Exports of R 40.6 billion and imports of R42.1 billion resulted in a deficit of R1.5 billion.

Imports decreased from March 2009 to April 2009 by R10.4 billion (19.75%) to R42.1 billion and exports decreased by R11.3 billion (21.76%) to R40.7 billion.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The March to April change (down by 19.75%) in **import** of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Mineral products [down by R3.6 billion (33%)]
 - Vehicles, vessels and aircraft [down by R2.3 billion (41%)];
 - Machinery and mechanical appliances [down by R1.5 billion (11%)],
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- The March to April change (down by 21.76%) in **export** of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Precious metals and stones [down by R2.5 billion (19%)];
 - Mineral products [down by R2 billion (19%)] and
 - Base metals and articles thereof [down by R1.2 billion (17%)]

Trade Highlights by World Zone

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

- **Asia:** The deficit increased from R4.1bn in March 2009 to R4.7bn in April 2009. Exports decreased by R2.6bn to R13.8bn and imports decreased by R2.0bn to R18.5bn.
- **Europe:** The deficit decreased from R4.8 in March 2009 to R2.3bn in April 2009. Exports decreased by R2.9 to R12.1bn and imports decreased by R5.4.bn to R14.4bn.
- **America:** The deficit decreased from R2.9bn in March 2009 to R2.4bn in April 2009. Exports decreased by R1.3bn to R3.4bn and imports decreased by R1.8bn to R5.8bn.
- **Africa:** The surplus decreased from R6.5bn in March 2009 to R4.6 in April 2009. Exports decreased by R2.6bn to R7.0bn and imports decreased by R0.7bn to R2.4bn.

Harmonised Sections		TRADE				Imports				Exports			
		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month Total	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾	Cumulative 2009	Month Total	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾	Cumulative 2009
Code	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	(R'm)		(R'm)	(R'm)	(R'm)		(R'm)	(R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	28	1.07	426	1.31	418	0.99	1,537	1,389	446	1.10	1,898	1,816
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	744	1.99	3,722	2.00	753	1.79	3,714	3,734	1,497	3.68	4,790	7,466
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(210)	0.20	(1,388)	0.16	263	0.62	2,226	1,661	53	0.13	154	273
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	312	1.25	1,027	1.20	1,246	2.96	4,391	5,233	1,557	3.83	4,573	6,260
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	1,579	1.22	(1,640)	0.96	7,148	16.97	50,645	39,254	8,727	21.46	32,988	37,614
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,790)	0.57	(7,117)	0.58	4,187	9.94	18,834	17,125	2,398	5.90	11,888	10,008
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(757)	0.53	(3,734)	0.46	1,624	3.86	7,892	6,967	867	2.13	3,062	3,234
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(48)	0.70	(145)	0.77	163	0.39	706	633	114	0.28	587	489
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	21	1.11	(139)	0.86	198	0.47	1,175	983	219	0.54	1,069	843
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	19	1.03	226	1.07	758	1.80	3,488	3,427	778	1.91	3,007	3,653
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,037)	0.28	(4,836)	0.26	1,439	3.42	5,647	6,510	402	0.99	1,819	1,674
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(394)	0.06	(1,869)	0.05	417	0.99	1,495	1,959	23	0.06	118	90
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(334)	0.29	(1,461)	0.30	474	1.13	2,881	2,073	140	0.34	689	612
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	9,860	26.90	38,494	22.17	381	0.90	3,311	1,818	10,241	25.19	46,479	40,313
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4,024	2.93	15,550	2.75	2,082	4.94	10,733	8,910	6,106	15.02	35,615	24,460
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(9,133)	0.27	(39,705)	0.26	12,532	29.76	57,578	53,798	3,399	8.36	20,190	14,092
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(379)	0.89	(2,291)	0.86	3,412	8.10	23,979	16,911	3,033	7.46	19,772	14,620
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,027)	0.20	(4,157)	0.28	1,282	3.05	5,883	5,776	255	0.63	1,201	1,619
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(367)	0.46	(1,359)	0.49	668	1.59	2,762	2,662	302	0.74	1,743	1,303
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(29)	0.39	(33)	0.67	48	0.11	139	100	19	0.05	105	67
XXXII	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	(73)	0.53	1,081	3.82	155	0.37	487	384	81	0.20	682	1,465
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(2,464)	0.00	(11,116)	0.00	2,464	5.85	15,237	11,119	0	0.00	3	4
Total SA Rand		(1,456)	0.97	(20,463)	0.89	42,112	100.00	224,740	192,427	40,656	100.00	192,431	171,964

World Zones		TRADE				Imports				Exports			
		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month Total	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾	Cumulative 2009	Month Total	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾	Cumulative 2009
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	(R'm)		(R'm)	(R'm)	(R'm)		(R'm)	(R'm)
Africa		4,588	2.90	18,817	2.53	2,413	5.73	18,589	12,311	7,001	17.22	25,764	31,128
Europe		(2,276)	0.84	(16,543)	0.75	14,373	34.13	77,817	66,549	12,097	29.75	65,072	50,006
America		(2,417)	0.59	(11,535)	0.59	5,842	13.87	28,885	27,973	3,425	8.42	25,925	16,438
Asia		(4,722)	0.75	(26,176)	0.68	18,560	44.07	94,432	80,759	13,839	34.04	56,476	54,583
Oceania		(107)	0.86	(1,827)	0.55	770	1.83	4,185	4,064	662	1.63	4,361	2,237
Other Unclassified Goods		3,376	22.96	16,485	22.38	154	0.37	831	771	3,530	8.68	14,606	17,256
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		103		316		-		-	-	103	0.25	226	316
Total SA Rand		(1,456)	0.97	(20,463)	0.89	42,112	100.00	224,740	192,427	40,656	100.00	192,431	171,964

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	2,696								

Notes:

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

2) See also Provision: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)

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