

Media Releases 2009

SARS Media Release: South African Trade Statistics for May 2009

Pretoria, 30 June 2009 -- The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for May 2009 that records a trade surplus of R 2.0 billion.

Summary

The R2.0 billion surplus for May 2009 was due to an increase in exports of 1.97% and a decrease in imports of 6.35%.

Exports of R 41.4 billion and imports of R39.4 billion resulted in a surplus of R2.0 billion.

Imports decreased from April 2009 to May 2009 by R2.7 billion (6.35%) to R39.4 billion and exports increased by R0.8 billion (1.97%) to R41.5 billion.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The April to May change (down by 6.35%) in import of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Machinery and mechanical appliances [down by R1.3 billion (-11%)],
 - Original equipment components [down by R0.6 billion (-26%)]
 - Base metals and articles thereof [down by R0.6 billion (-30%)]; and
- The April to May change (up by 1.97%) in export of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - Vehicles, vessels and aircraft [up by R0.9 billion (33%)],
 - Vegetable products [up by R0.6 billion (42%)]; and
 - Other unclassified goods [up by R0.5 billion (671%)]

Trade Highlights by World Zone

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

- Asia: The deficit decreased from R4.7bn in April 2009 to R2.2 billion. Exports increased by R0.25bn to R13.8bn and imports decreased by R2.6bn to R16bn.
- Europe: The deficit decreased from R2.3bn in April 2009 to R1.8bn in May 2009. Exports decreased by R0.2bn to R11.9bn and imports decreased by R0.7bn to R13.7bn.
- America: The deficit decreased from R2.4bn in April 2009 to R1.6bn in May 2009. Exports increased by R0.4bn to R3.8bn and imports decreased by R0.5bn to R5.4bn.
- Africa: The surplus decreased from R4.6bn in April 2009 to R3.6bn in May 2009. Exports increased by R0.3bn to R7.2bn and imports increased by R1.2bn to R3.6bn.

		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 ³⁾ (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	3	1.01	429	1.24	424	1.08	1,932	1,813	427	1.03	2,396	2,242
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1,166	2.22	4,880	2.04	953	2.42	4,464	4,889	2,119	5.11	6,856	9,569
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(190)	0.26	(1,574)	0.18	257	0.65	2,603	1,913	67	0.16	296	339
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	612	1.61	1,619	1.26	1,000	2.54	5,560	6,246	1,613	3.89	5,969	7,885
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(886)	0.90	(2,338)	0.95	8,887	22.54	63,010	48,142	8,002	19.30	40,846	45,804
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,744)	0.65	(8,917)	0.67	3,837	9.73	23,987	20,969	2,092	5.06	14,487	12,042
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(714)	0.50	(4,451)	0.47	1,431	3.63	9,962	8,400	717	1.73	4,003	3,948
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(31)	0.77	(175)	0.77	136	0.34	882	769	104	0.25	740	594
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	43	1.23	(110)	0.91	183	0.46	1,419	1,166	226	0.54	1,368	1,066
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	208	1.32	374	1.09	647	1.64	4,263	4,075	856	2.06	3,924	4,448
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(750)	0.34	(5,623)	0.26	1,138	2.89	6,862	7,648	388	0.94	2,288	2,025
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(363)	0.07	(2,222)	0.05	380	0.96	1,824	2,339	27	0.06	143	117
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(132)	0.71	(1,693)	0.37	460	1.17	3,714	2,533	328	0.79	844	940
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	9,902	40.48	48,396	24.39	251	0.64	4,440	2,069	10,153	24.49	60,384	50,485
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4,007	3.74	18,374	2.77	1,461	3.71	14,169	10,373	5,468	13.19	49,337	28,747
XVI, Ch 84-86	Machinery and Appliances	(7,640)	0.32	(47,376)	0.27	11,205	28.41	72,963	66,010	3,666	8.60	26,846	17,634
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	966	1.32	(1,368)	0.93	3,035	7.69	29,637	19,947	4,020	9.70	24,396	18,579
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,007)	0.22	(5,163)	0.27	1,280	3.27	7,266	7,086	283	0.68	1,463	1,902
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(216)	0.62	(1,674)	0.61	666	1.44	3,674	3,228	362	0.86	2,173	1,666
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	14	2.33	(19)	0.83	10	0.03	149	110	24	0.06	133	91
XXXII	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	564	10.11	1,644	4.89	62	0.16	517	446	626	1.51	719	2,080
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(1,823)	0.00	(12,939)	0.00	1,824	4.62	19,452	12,943	1	0.00	3	4
Total SA Rand		2,020	1.05	(19,726)	0.91	39,437	100.00	282,640	231,881	41,457	100.00	248,623	212,156

		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 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)
Africa		3,621	2.00	22,342	2.40	3,636	9.22	23,170	16,948	7,267	17.60	33,941	38,290
Europe		(1,842)	0.87	(19,208)	0.76	13,714	34.77	98,362	80,269	11,872	28.64	85,811	61,061
America		(1,574)	0.71	(13,106)	0.61	5,386	13.66	36,136	33,358	3,812	9.20	31,088	20,252
Asia		(2,174)	0.86	(28,679)	0.70	16,987	40.54	119,417	96,768	13,813	33.32	72,996	68,079
Oceania		(18)	0.97	(1,883)	0.80	628	1.59	5,504	4,692	610	1.47	5,535	2,808
Other Unclassified Goods		3,951	48.73	20,436	24.82	86	0.22	1,052	868	4,037	9.74	18,975	21,294
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		56		372		-	-	-	-	56	0.14	269	372
Total SA Rand		2,020	1.05	(19,726)	0.91	39,437	100.00	282,640	231,881	41,457	100.00	248,623	212,156

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	3,630							

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

For more detail, visit the detailed Trade Statistics page.