

Media Releases 2010

South African Trade Statistics for February 2010

Pretoria, 31 March 2010 -- The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for February 2010 that record a trade deficit of R5.7 billion.

Summary

The R5.7 billion deficit for February 2010 was due to an increase in imports of 14.96% and an increase in exports of 10.06%.

Exports for February 2010 of R40.26 billion and imports of R45.95 billion resulted in a deficit of R5.69 billion.

Imports increased by R5.98 billion (14.96%) to R45.95 billion and exports increased by R3.68 billion (10.06%) to R40.26 billion.

The monthly trade deficit for February 2010 is R5.69 billion compared to a deficit of R0.57 billion in February 2009, an increase of R5.12 billion or 90% and the cumulative deficit for the year is R9.08 billion compared to R18.53 billion in 2009.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The January to February change (up by 14.96%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - - Mineral products [up by R4.4 billion (69%)] and
 - An increase in vehicles, aircraft and vessels [up by R1.5 billion (41%)].
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- The January to February change (up by 10.06%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - - Base metals and articles thereof [up by R1.1 billion (17%)];
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals [up by R0.8 billion (8%)];
 - Machinery and electrical appliances [up by R0.8 billion (27%)] and
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [up by R0.5 billion (19%)]

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for February 2010 as given below are unaudited, and those for January 2010 are audited.

- Asia: The deficit increased from R5.3bn in January 2010 to R6.0bn in February 2010. Exports increased by R0.8bn to R12.8bn and imports increased by R1.5bn to R18.8bn.
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- Europe: The deficit increased from R2.6bn in January 2010 to R4.5bn in February 2010. Exports decreased by R0.7bn to R11.4bn and imports increased by R1.2bn to R15.9bn.
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- America: The deficit increased from R0.6bn in January 2010 to R0.9bn in February 2010. Exports decreased by R0.1bn to R3.7bn and imports increased by R0.2bn to R4.6bn.
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- Africa: The surplus decreased from R3.0bn in January 2010 to R1.8bn in February 2010. Exports increased by R1.6bn to R7.1bn and imports increased by R2.8bn to R5.3bn.

For more detail, see our [Trade Statistics page](#).

		TRADE				Imports				Exports			
Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Imports				Exports			
Code	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁶⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	180	1.51	245	1.36	355	0.77	539	683	535	1.33	835	928
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	889	2.21	1,494	1.99	736	1.60	2,004	1,508	1,625	4.04	3,594	3,002
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(301)	0.24	(613)	0.20	396	0.86	937	770	95	0.24	107	157
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	90	1.07	103	1.04	1,225	2.67	2,478	2,340	1,315	3.27	2,906	2,443
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(3,041)	0.72	(1,044)	0.94	10,688	23.26	21,289	17,025	7,647	19.00	18,057	15,980
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,966)	0.55	(4,034)	0.53	4,346	9.46	8,248	8,506	2,381	5.91	4,680	4,472
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(786)	0.49	(2,032)	0.40	1,537	3.35	3,556	3,378	751	1.87	1,414	1,346
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(58)	0.65	(102)	0.66	166	0.36	331	301	108	0.27	219	199
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(3)	0.99	(79)	0.82	218	0.47	549	440	216	0.54	335	362
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(97)	0.89	(47)	0.97	886	1.93	1,777	1,715	790	1.96	2,040	1,668
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,061)	0.27	(2,078)	0.24	1,455	3.17	3,499	2,747	394	0.98	796	669
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(449)	0.05	(833)	0.04	472	1.03	1,060	869	23	0.06	42	36
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(356)	0.31	(937)	0.23	516	1.12	1,043	1,214	160	0.40	284	277
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	9,218	13.43	17,922	15.61	742	1.61	975	1,226	9,960	24.74	17,372	19,148
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,231	3.69	9,448	3.46	1,946	4.24	4,760	3,846	7,177	17.83	11,281	13,293
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(6,416)	0.36	(14,662)	0.30	10,021	21.81	27,252	21,086	3,604	8.95	6,647	6,424
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(2,132)	0.58	(3,269)	0.62	5,033	10.95	7,764	8,607	2,902	7.21	7,307	5,338
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,038)	0.16	(1,913)	0.17	1,232	2.68	2,826	2,300	194	0.48	433	388
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(266)	0.58	(559)	0.55	632	1.38	1,370	1,234	366	0.91	641	674
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	12	2.33	32	2.89	9	0.02	16	17	21	0.05	29	49
XXXII	Other Unclassified 1)	(619)	(0.01)	(674)	(0.03)	613	1.33	157	651	(7)	(0.02)	813	(23)
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(2,722)	0.00	(5,447)	0.00	2,723	5.93	5,934	5,451	1	0.00	3	4
Total SA Rand		(5,690)	0.88	(9,080)	0.89	45,947	100.00	98,362	85,914	40,257	100.00	79,836	76,834

		TRADE				Imports				Exports			
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Imports				Exports			
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁶⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)
Africa		1,771	1.33	4,754	1.61	5,295	11.52	6,757	7,828	7,067	17.55	14,658	12,582
Europe		(4,520)	0.72	(7,099)	0.77	15,911	34.63	32,353	30,604	11,391	28.30	23,159	23,505
America		(917)	0.80	(1,540)	0.83	4,619	10.05	14,495	9,055	3,703	9.20	8,330	7,515
Asia		(6,003)	0.68	(11,267)	0.69	18,801	40.92	42,164	36,058	12,798	31.79	24,394	24,791
Oceania		215	1.43	(412)	0.72	495	1.08	2,067	1,469	710	1.76	906	1,056
Other Unclassified Goods		3,725	5.51	6,385	8.09	825	1.80	526	900	4,550	11.30	8,240	7,285
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		39		100		-	-	-	-	39	0.10	148	100
Total SA Rand		(5,690)	0.88	(9,080)	0.89	45,947	100.00	98,362	85,914	40,257	100.00	79,836	76,834

Temporary Imports	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Gold imports 4) (R'm)	3,532	3,053	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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) 2009 Data is audited and 2010 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