

Media Releases 2010

South African Trade Release for April 2010

Pretoria, 31 May 2010 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for April 2010 that record a trade deficit of R1.9 billion.

Summary

The R1.9 billion deficit for April 2010 was due to a decrease in imports of 9.83% and a decrease in exports of 14.29%.

Exports for April 2010 of R44.17 billion and imports of R46.06 billion resulted in a deficit of R1.89 billion.

Imports decreased by R5.02 billion (9.83%) to R46.06 billion and exports decreased by R7.37 billion (14.29%) to R44.17 billion.

The trade deficit for April 2010 is R1.89 billion (Deficit of R1.53 billion in April 2009) compared to a surplus of R0.46 billion in March 2010, a month on month decline of R1.43 billion.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R10.90 billion compared to R21.75 billion in 2009, an improvement of R10.85 billion or 50%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The March to April change (down by 14.29%) in exports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals [down by R2.5 billion (-20%)]
 - Mineral products [down by R1.4 billion (-13%)];
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [down by R1.20 billion (-25%)]
 - Base metals and articles thereof [down by R0.7 billion (-9%)] and
 - Machinery and electrical appliances [down by R0.4 billion (-11%)]
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- The March to April change (down by 9.83%) in imports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Mineral products [down by R1.6 billion (-15%)];
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [down by R0.8 billion (-15%)] and
 - Machinery and electrical appliances [down by R0.5 billion (-4%)]

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for March and April 2010 as given below are unaudited.

- **Asia:** The deficit increased from R4.3bn in March 2010 to R5.4bn in April 2010. Exports decreased by R1.5bn to R15.9bn and imports decreased by R0.46bn to R21.3bn.
- **Europe:** The deficit decreased from R4.4bn in March 2010 to R3.5bn in April 2010. Exports decreased by R1.4bn to R12.5bn and imports decreased by R2.3bn to R16bn.
- **America:** The surplus of R0.4bn in March 2010 changed to a deficit of R1.1bn in April 2010. Exports decreased by R1.8bn to R4.4bn and imports decreased by R0.33bn to R5.5bn.
- **Africa:** The surplus increased from R3.5bn in March 2010 to R4.7bn in April 2010. Exports decreased by R0.7bn to R6.9bn and imports decreased by R2bn to R2.1bn.

See Table below and our [Trade Statistics page](#) for more information.

		TRADE				Exports				Imports			
Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade									
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 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	58	1.15	292	1.18	452	1.02	1,815	1,884	394	0.85	1,389	1,592
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	881	2.42	3,102	2.04	1,502	3.40	7,450	6,091	620	1.35	3,736	2,989
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(470)	0.21	(1,677)	0.19	127	0.29	272	383	597	1.30	1,656	2,060
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	643	1.63	1,260	1.28	1,666	3.77	6,252	5,838	1,023	2.22	5,246	4,579
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	251	1.03	(619)	0.98	9,404	21.29	37,802	36,336	9,153	19.87	39,254	36,955
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2,182)	0.53	(8,416)	0.54	2,452	5.55	9,950	9,742	4,634	10.06	17,122	18,158
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,231)	0.35	(4,571)	0.38	673	1.52	3,231	2,756	1,904	4.13	6,968	7,327
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(21)	0.84	(144)	0.76	110	0.25	490	451	131	0.28	634	595
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	275	2.66	229	1.28	441	1.00	830	1,055	166	0.36	983	826
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	233	1.35	172	1.05	903	2.04	3,593	3,325	670	1.45	3,427	3,153
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(996)	0.28	(4,107)	0.28	383	0.87	1,637	1,593	1,379	2.99	6,510	5,700
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(380)	0.07	(1,425)	0.16	27	0.06	90	265	407	0.88	1,959	1,690
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(341)	0.32	(1,709)	0.26	161	0.36	612	613	502	1.09	2,073	2,322
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	9,433	25.27	39,251	20.09	9,822	22.24	40,313	41,307	389	0.84	1,818	2,056
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,689	3.47	21,003	3.42	7,995	18.10	23,279	29,675	2,307	5.01	8,912	8,672
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(8,826)	0.28	(32,565)	0.30	3,463	7.84	14,069	13,636	12,289	26.68	53,805	46,201
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(765)	0.83	(4,125)	0.77	3,674	8.32	14,559	13,874	4,439	9.64	16,912	17,999
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,038)	0.15	(4,027)	0.18	180	0.41	1,619	902	1,218	2.65	5,774	4,930
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(243)	0.62	(1,066)	0.58	395	0.89	1,303	1,494	638	1.39	2,662	2,559
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	3	1.20	66	2.50	18	0.04	67	110	15	0.03	100	44
XXXII	Other Unclassified 1)	263	5.74	(175)	0.77	318	0.72	1,463	584	55	0.12	384	759
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(3,126)	0.00	(11,648)	0.00	0	0.00	4	5	3,126	6.79	11,119	11,653
Total SA Rand		(1,889)	0.96	(10,899)	0.94	44,167	100.00	170,699	171,920	46,056	100.00	192,444	182,818

World Zones	TRADE				Exports				Imports			
	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)								
Africa	4,732	3.23	12,702	1.90	6,858	15.53	31,033	26,737	2,126	4.62	12,313	14,035
Europe	(3,521)	0.78	(14,905)	0.77	12,468	28.23	49,189	49,703	15,989	34.72	66,555	64,609
America	(1,080)	0.80	(2,319)	0.89	4,432	10.03	16,439	18,110	5,512	11.97	27,971	20,429
Asia	(5,399)	0.75	(21,027)	0.73	15,851	35.89	54,266	58,009	21,251	46.14	80,770	79,035
Oceania	(542)	0.49	(1,307)	0.64	521	1.18	2,199	2,320	1,063	2.31	4,064	3,628
Other Unclassified Goods	3,877	34.88	15,763	15.57	3,991	9.04	17,257	16,846	114	0.25	771	1,082
Ships/ Aircraft Stores	46	-	194	-	46	0.10	316	194	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand	(1,889)	0.96	(10,899)	0.94	44,167	100.00	170,699	171,920	46,056	100.00	192,444	182,818

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	4,442	4,159	3,286	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 revised and the 2010 data is preliminary

- 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