

Media Releases 2011

South African Trade Statistics for December 2010

Pretoria, 31 January 2011 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2010 that record a trade surplus of R10.3 billion, compared to a trade surplus of R8.4 billion in November 2010.

Summary

The R10.3 billion surplus for December 2010 was due to a decrease in exports of 10.4% and a decrease in imports of 15.9%.

Exports for December 2010 of R53.9 billion and imports of R43.6 billion resulted in a surplus of R10.3 billion.

Exports decreased by R6.3 billion (10.4%) and imports decreased by R8.2 billion (15.9%).

The trade surplus for December 2010 is R10.3 billion (Surplus of R3.6 billion in December 2009) compared to a surplus of R8.4 billion in November 2010, a month-on-month improvement of R1.9 billion.

The trade surplus for December 2010 was buoyed by higher commodity exports, specifically in iron ore, precious metals and base metals.

The cumulative surplus for 2010 is R5 billion compared to a deficit of R27.3 billion in 2009, an improvement of R32.3 billion or 118.3%.

An annual surplus R12 billion was last posted in 2003.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The November to December change (down by -10.4%) in exports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco decreased by R 459 million (-25%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels decreased by R 807 million (-15%);
 - Mineral products decreased by R 908 million (-6%);
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals decreased by R1 632 million (-10%) and
 - Base metals and articles thereof decreased by R1 641 million (-18%).

- The November to December change (down by -15.9%) in imports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Mineral products decreased by R 365 million (-4%);
 - Plastics and rubber and articles thereof decreased by R 417 million (-21%);
 - Textile and textile articles decreased by R 478 million (-28%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof decreased by R 843 million (-35%);
 - Original equipment components decreased by R1 136 million (-37%);
 - Products of the chemical or allied industries decreased by R1 185 million (-24%);
 - Machinery and electrical appliances decreased by R2 489 million (-18%); and
 - An increase in Vehicles, aircraft and vessels by R 324 million (6%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for November and December 2010 as given below are unaudited.

- Asia: The deficit increased from R 1.7bn in November to R 2.1bn in December 2010. Exports decreased by R 3.4bn to R 18.1bn and imports decreased by R 3.0bn to R 20.2bn.
- Europe: The deficit of R 2.5bn in November changed to a surplus of R 0.2bn in December 2010. Exports decreased by R 0.9bn to R 14.1bn and imports decreased by R 3.6bn to R 13.9bn.
- America: The surplus decreased from R 0.7bn in November to R 0.6bn in December 2010. Exports decreased by R 0.3bn to R 6.1bn and imports decreased by R 0.2bn to R 5.5bn.
- Africa: The surplus increased from R 4.9bn in November to R 5.3bn in December 2010. Exports decreased by R 0.9bn to R 8.2bn and imports decreased by R 1.3bn to R 3.0bn.
- Oceania: The deficit decreased by the equivalent value (R 0.2bn) in November and December 2010. Exports increased by R 0.03bn to R 0.8bn and imports decreased by R 0.03bn to R 0.9bn.

For more detail, go to Customs and Excise; Trade Data or click on the [direct link](#).

SA Trade Release Table

		TRADE											
Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
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 2009 ¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ¹ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ¹ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	4	1.01	230	1.05	444	0.82	5,266	5,230	440	1.01	4,640	4,999
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	647	1.85	11,884	2.28	1,404	2.60	21,357	21,204	757	1.74	10,815	9,320
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(628)	0.18	(4,819)	0.21	138	0.26	920	1,286	765	1.76	4,612	6,105
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	161	1.14	4,750	1.32	1,348	2.50	20,301	19,660	1,187	2.72	16,277	14,910
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	3,691	1.38	9,372	1.08	13,419	24.89	102,619	126,511	9,728	22.32	118,494	117,139
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(952)	0.75	(24,911)	0.56	2,814	5.22	29,382	31,203	3,766	8.64	50,563	56,114
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(705)	0.55	(14,304)	0.40	870	1.61	8,820	9,504	1,575	3.61	20,076	23,808
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	17	1.11	(747)	0.67	169	0.31	1,325	1,530	152	0.35	1,927	2,277
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	37	1.36	522	1.24	140	0.26	2,602	2,727	103	0.24	2,271	2,206
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	505	1.80	1,463	1.15	1,137	2.11	10,032	10,931	632	1.45	9,495	9,469
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(853)	0.32	(13,899)	0.24	403	0.75	4,835	4,495	1,255	2.88	16,832	18,394
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(390)	0.08	(5,634)	0.06	32	0.06	308	348	422	0.97	5,471	5,981
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc.	(303)	0.35	(5,272)	0.28	164	0.30	1,985	2,069	467	1.07	6,668	7,342
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	13,819	36.50	146,461	25.55	14,208	26.36	129,414	152,426	389	0.89	4,909	5,965
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,916	4.74	64,827	3.36	7,499	13.91	74,139	92,269	1,583	3.63	23,479	27,443
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(6,833)	0.38	(100,946)	0.32	4,145	7.69	44,345	47,748	10,977	25.19	141,310	148,694
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(805)	0.85	(10,107)	0.83	4,672	8.67	45,922	49,938	5,477	12.57	48,137	60,045
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc.	(866)	0.29	(13,062)	0.18	346	0.64	3,570	2,957	1,212	2.78	16,339	16,019
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(275)	0.57	(4,635)	0.51	362	0.67	4,314	4,907	638	1.46	8,553	9,542
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(38)	0.35	118	1.68	20	0.04	233	292	58	0.13	196	174
XXII	Other Unclassified 1)	136	5.10	1,620	2.22	169	0.31	2,170	2,952	33	0.08	648	1,331
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(1,958)	0.00	(37,923)	0.00	0	0.00	6	18	1,959	4.49	29,462	37,941
Total SA Rand		10,328	1.24	4,988	1.01	53,904	100.00	513,864	590,207	43,576	100.00	541,173	585,219

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	5,262	2.76	46,137	2.03	8,247	15.30	89,518	90,916	2,985	6.85	42,079	44,779
Europe	202	1.01	(36,620)	0.81	14,107	26.17	147,575	161,098	13,905	31.91	185,867	197,718
America	564	1.10	(1,619)	0.98	6,076	11.27	51,838	67,949	5,512	12.65	69,700	69,568
Asia	(2,082)	0.90	(62,607)	0.76	18,102	33.58	160,517	197,277	20,184	46.32	231,325	259,885
Oceania	(173)	0.82	(3,315)	0.70	772	1.43	7,247	7,735	946	2.17	10,576	11,050
Other Unclassified Goods	6,541	146.17	82,544	29.18	6,568	12.22	56,268	64,764	44	0.10	1,625	2,220
Ships/ Aircraft Stores	15	-	468	-	15	0.03	804	468	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand	10,328	1.24	4,988	1.01	53,904	100.00	513,864	590,207	43,576	100.00	541,173	585,219

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	5,406	4,270	3,945	6,935	5,071	4,308	9,417	5,320

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