

Media Releases 2011

South African Trade Statistics for February 2011

Pretoria, 31 March 2011 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for February 2011 that record a trade deficit of R0.4 billion.

Summary

The trade deficit for February 2011 is R0.4 billion (deficit of R5.5 billion in February 2010) compared to a deficit of R4.9 billion in January 2011 which represents a month-to-month improvement of R4.6 billion.

This deficit was due to an increase in exports of 16.7% and an increase in imports of 5.8%.

Exports for February 2011 amounted to R52.2 billion and imports amounted to R52.6 billion resulting in a deficit of R0.4 billion.

Exports increased by R7.5 billion (16.7%) and imports increased by R2.9 billion (5.8%).

The trade deficit for February 2011 was buoyed by higher commodity imports specifically in Mineral products and machinery and electrical appliances.

The cumulative trade deficit as at February 2011 is R5.3 billion compared to R9.0 billion at the end of February 2010 and represents a year-on-year improvement of R3.7 billion (41.3%).

Trade Highlights by Category

The January to February change (up by 16.7%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:

- Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R2 093 million (86%);
- Precious and semi-precious stones and metals increased by R1 462 million (13%);
- Mineral products increased by R1 412 million (13%);
- Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R1 028 million (31%);
- Products of the chemical or allied industries by R 567 million (21%); and
- A decrease in Base metals and articles thereof by R359 million (-4%).

The January to February change in imports of goods (up by 5.8%) reflected increases mainly in:

- Mineral products increased by R4 174 million (44%);
- Original equipment components by R 345 million (11%) and
- Decreases in Machinery and electrical appliances by R1 273 million (-10%) and
- Vehicles, aircraft and vessels by R130 million (-2%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for January and February 2011 as given below are unaudited.

- Asia: The deficit increased from R 4.9bn in January to R 5.0bn in February 2011. Exports increased by R 1.7bn to R 18.3bn and imports increased by R 1.8bn to R 23.3bn.
- Europe: The deficit decreased from R 4.8bn in January to R 1.5bn in February 2011. Exports increased by R 1.7bn to R 14.7bn and imports decreased by R 1.6bn to R 16.2bn.
- America The deficit decreased from R 2.1bn in January to R 0.1bn in February 2011. Exports increased by R 2.1bn to R 6.1bn and imports increased by R 0.2bn to R 6.2bn.
- Africa The surplus decreased from R 2.9bn in January to R 2.2bn in February 2011. Exports increased by R 1.6bn to R 7.9bn and imports increased by R 2.4bn to R 5.7bn.
- Oceania The deficit remained constant at R0.4b for January and February 2011. Exports increased by R 0.01bn to R 0.6bn and imports increased by R 0.1bn to R 1.0bn.

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 ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	22	1.05	(31)	0.96	433	0.83	926	820	411	0.78	682	851
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	818	1.76	1,399	1.70	1,889	3.62	3,000	3,407	1,071	2.04	1,507	2,008
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(540)	0.17	(1,058)	0.15	111	0.21	157	191	650	1.24	770	1,249
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	109	1.09	(56)	0.98	1,297	2.48	2,438	2,276	1,188	2.26	2,339	2,332
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(1,309)	0.90	144	1.01	12,329	23.60	16,171	23,245	13,638	25.93	17,039	23,102
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,216)	0.73	(3,247)	0.64	3,207	6.14	4,585	5,848	4,424	8.41	8,507	9,095
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,038)	0.45	(2,391)	0.39	859	1.64	1,335	1,544	1,897	3.61	3,378	3,935
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	8	1.04	(40)	0.90	201	0.38	198	340	193	0.37	301	380
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(54)	0.76	(36)	0.92	170	0.32	363	415	224	0.43	440	451
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	182	1.24	247	1.16	946	1.81	1,648	1,808	763	1.45	1,715	1,560
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,407)	0.20	(2,778)	0.19	357	0.68	666	669	1,764	3.35	2,747	3,447
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(617)	0.04	(1,207)	0.03	26	0.05	36	43	644	1.22	869	1,250
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(358)	0.32	(818)	0.26	171	0.33	278	282	530	1.01	1,214	1,100
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	12,114	21.24	22,780	20.26	12,713	24.34	19,138	23,964	599	1.14	1,226	1,183
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,799	3.76	11,667	3.60	7,899	15.12	13,239	16,156	2,100	3.99	3,848	4,488
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(7,205)	0.38	(16,712)	0.31	4,348	8.32	6,298	7,667	11,553	21.97	21,089	24,379
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(680)	0.87	(3,597)	0.66	4,535	8.68	5,345	6,964	5,215	9.92	8,605	10,561
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,189)	0.16	(2,169)	0.17	226	0.43	387	445	1,415	2.69	2,304	2,614
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(312)	0.53	(694)	0.47	346	0.66	674	622	657	1.25	1,234	1,317
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	2	1.15	(5)	0.85	13	0.03	49	26	12	0.02	17	31
XXXII	Other Unclassified 1)	131	5.51	180	4.08	160	0.31	(23)	238	29	0.06	652	58
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(3,610)	0.00	(6,870)	0.00	0	0.00	4	5	3,610	6.87	5,452	6,875
Total SA Rand		(350)	0.99	(5,292)	0.95	52,235	100.00	76,913	96,974	52,585	100.00	85,935	102,266

		TRADE											
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ³⁾ (R'm)
Africa		2,186	1.38	5,084	1.56	7,922	15.17	12,444	14,203	5,736	10.91	7,827	9,119
Europe		(1,465)	0.91	(6,283)	0.82	14,747	28.23	23,442	27,746	16,212	30.83	30,606	34,029
America		(144)	0.98	(2,253)	0.82	6,064	11.61	7,464	9,985	6,209	11.81	9,056	12,238
Asia		(4,986)	0.79	(9,887)	0.78	18,308	35.05	25,123	34,878	23,294	44.30	36,079	44,766
Oceania		(472)	0.54	(865)	0.55	556	1.06	1,054	1,057	1,028	1.95	1,468	1,922
Other Unclassified Goods		4,519	43.83	8,889	47.19	4,624	8.85	7,285	9,082	105	0.20	900	192
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		12	-	23	-	12	0.02	100	23	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand		(350)	0.99	(5,292)	0.95	52,235	100.00	76,913	96,974	52,585	100.00	85,935	102,266

Temporary Imports	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11
Gold imports 4) (R'm)	6,432	13,005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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) 2010 data is revised and the 2011 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