

Media Releases 2011

Trade Statistics for March 2011

Pretoria, 29 April 2011 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for March 2011 that record a trade surplus of R0.97 billion.

Summary

The trade surplus for March 2011 is R0.97 billion (Surplus of R0.17 billion in March 2010) compared to a deficit of R0.35 billion in February 2011, a month to month increase of R1.32 billion. This surplus was due to an increase in exports of 15.3% and an increase in imports of 12.7%.

Exports for March 2011 of R60.24 billion and imports of R59.27 billion resulted in a surplus of R0.97 billion.

Exports increased by R8.0 billion (15.3%) and imports increased by R6.7 billion (12.7%).

The trade surplus for March 2011 was buoyed by higher commodity exports specifically in precious and semi-precious stones and mineral products.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R4.5 billion compared to R9 billion in 2010, an improvement of R4.5 billion or 49.9%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The February to March change (up by 15.3%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals increased by R2 179 million (17%);
 - Mineral products increased by R1 757 million (14%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof increased by R1 415 million (18%);
 - Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R 814 million (19%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R 737 million (16%);
- The February to March change (up by 12.7%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R3 518 million (67%);
 - Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R3 093 million (27%);
 - Products of the chemical or allied industries increased by R1 283 million (29%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof increased by R 663 million (32%);
 - Plastics and rubber and articles thereof increased by R 479 million (25%);
 - Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products increased by R 462 million (71%);
 - Original equipment components increased by R 112 million (3%) and
 - A decrease in Mineral products by R3 210 million (-24%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

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

- Asia: The deficit decreased from R 5.0bn in February to R 1.2bn in March 2011. Exports increased by R 3.7bn to R 22.1bn and imports increased by R0.02 billion to R 23.3bn
- Europe: The deficit increased from R 1.5bn in February to R 8.9bn in March 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.01bn to R 14.7bn and imports increased by R 7.4bn to R 23.6bn.
- America: The deficit increased from R 0.1bn in February to R 0.8bn in March 2011. Exports increased by R 0.9bn to R 7.0bn and imports increased by R 1.5bn to R 7.8bn.
- Africa: The surplus increased from R 2.2bn in February to R 6.0bn in March 2011. Exports increased by R 1.6bn to R 9.5bn and imports decreased by R 2.3bn to R 3.5bn.
- Oceania: The deficit decreased from R 0.5bn in February to R 0.3bn in March 2011. Exports increased by R 0.1bn to R 0.7bn and imports decreased by R 0.03 billion to R 1.0bn.

For more detail, visit our [Trade Statistics webpage](#), [click here](#).

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 2010 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ¹⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(90)	0.84	(121)	0.92	486	0.81	1,432	1,306	576	0.97	1,198	1,427
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1,024	2.06	2,414	1.81	1,991	3.30	4,590	5,389	967	1.63	2,369	2,975
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(989)	0.11	(2,034)	0.13	123	0.20	256	314	1,112	1.88	1,463	2,348
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	78	1.05	20	1.01	1,618	2.69	4,173	3,889	1,540	2.60	3,556	3,869
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	3,658	1.35	4,022	1.12	14,086	23.38	26,932	37,551	10,428	17.59	27,802	33,529
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2,508)	0.56	(5,807)	0.61	3,198	5.31	7,290	8,996	5,706	9.63	13,524	14,803
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,271)	0.47	(3,671)	0.42	1,105	1.83	2,083	2,641	2,375	4.01	5,424	6,311
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	46	1.32	7	1.01	191	0.32	341	531	145	0.24	464	524
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	21	1.10	(7)	0.99	225	0.37	614	648	204	0.34	660	855
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	112	1.13	352	1.15	960	1.59	2,422	2,760	848	1.43	2,483	2,409
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,028)	0.31	(3,808)	0.23	462	0.77	1,210	1,132	1,490	2.51	4,321	4,940
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(409)	0.08	(1,616)	0.05	35	0.06	238	78	443	0.75	1,283	1,694
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(370)	0.37	(1,187)	0.29	214	0.36	452	496	584	0.98	1,821	1,684
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	14,390	29.69	37,171	23.06	14,892	24.72	31,485	38,855	502	0.85	1,667	1,685
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6,551	3.37	18,150	3.50	9,314	15.46	21,680	25,403	2,763	4.66	6,365	7,253
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(9,484)	0.35	(26,162)	0.33	5,162	8.57	10,173	12,798	14,646	24.71	33,312	38,960
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(3,461)	0.60	(7,386)	0.62	5,272	8.75	10,200	11,935	8,733	14.73	13,560	19,321
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,463)	0.16	(3,631)	0.17	285	0.47	722	729	1,747	2.95	3,711	4,360
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(248)	0.62	(942)	0.52	406	0.67	1,098	1,028	653	1.10	1,921	1,970
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	22	1.84	17	1.30	47	0.08	92	73	26	0.04	29	56
XXXIII	Other Unclassified 1)	110	2.79	296	3.47	172	0.29	266	415	62	0.10	703	120
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(3,721)	0.00	(10,592)	0.00	0	0.00	5	5	3,722	6.28	8,526	10,597
Total SA Rand		971	1.02	(4,516)	0.97	60,243	100.00	127,752	156,975	59,273	100.00	136,762	161,491

		TRADE											
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ¹⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ¹⁾ (R'm)
Africa		6,046	2.75	11,133	1.88	9,507	15.78	19,879	23,713	3,461	5.84	11,909	12,580
Europe		(8,942)	0.62	(15,387)	0.73	14,686	24.38	37,235	42,298	23,628	39.86	48,620	57,685
America		(793)	0.90	(3,031)	0.85	6,965	11.56	13,679	16,958	7,758	13.09	14,918	19,989
Asia		(1,263)	0.95	(10,984)	0.84	22,055	36.61	42,157	57,030	23,318	39.34	57,785	68,015
Oceania		(304)	0.69	(1,366)	0.52	691	1.15	1,800	1,531	995	1.68	2,564	2,917
Other Unclassified Goods		6,209	56.15	15,098	50.51	6,321	10.49	12,855	15,403	113	0.19	968	305
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		18	-	41	-	18	0.03	148	41	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand		971	1.02	(4,516)	0.97	60,243	100.00	127,752	156,975	59,273	100.00	136,762	161,491

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	10,133	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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