

Media Releases 2011

South African Trade Statistics for April 2011

Pretoria, 31 May 2011 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for April 2011 that record a trade deficit of R2.4 billion.

Summary

The trade deficit for April 2011 is R2.4 billion (Deficit of R2.3 billion in April 2010) compared to a surplus of R0.97 billion in March 2011, a month to month decrease of R3.4 billion. This deficit was due to a decrease in exports of 14.2% and a decrease in imports of 8.7%.

Exports for April 2011 of R51.7 billion and imports of R54.1 billion resulted in a deficit of R2.4 billion.

Exports decreased by R8.6 billion (14.2%) and imports decreased by R5.2 billion (8.7%).

The trade deficit of R2.4 billion for April 2011 was buoyed mainly by higher imports of mineral products.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R7.5 billion compared to R12.1 billion in 2010, an improvement of R4.6 billion or 38.0%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The March to April change (down by -14.2%) in exports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - - Products of the chemical or allied industries by R 452 million (-14%);
 - Mineral products by R 883 million (-6%);
 - Machinery and electrical appliances by R 942 million (-18%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels by R1 044 million (-20%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof by R1 647 million (-18%) and
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals by R2 122 million (-14%).
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- The March to April change (down by -8.7%) in imports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - - Prepared foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco by R 527 million (-34%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof by R 607 million (-22%);
 - Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products by R 820 million (-74%);
 - Original equipment components by R 863 million (-23%);
 - Products of the chemical or allied industries by R 998 million (-17%);
 - Machinery and electrical appliances by R1 492 million (-10%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels by R2 961 million (-34%); and
 - An increase in mineral products by R4 328 million (42%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

- The world zone results for March and April 2011 as given below are unaudited.
- Asia: The deficit increased from R 1.3bn in March to R 5.9bn in April 2011. Exports decreased by R 3.9bn to R 18.2bn and imports increased by R 0.8bn to R 24.1bn.
- Europe: The deficit decreased from R 8.9bn in March to R 3.2bn in April 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.5bn to R 14.2bn and imports decreased by R 6.2bn to R 17.4bn.
- America: The deficit increased from R 0.8bn in March to R 1.1bn in April 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.9bn to R 6.1bn and imports decreased by R 0.6bn to R 7.2bn.
- Africa: The surplus decreased from R 6.0bn in March to R 3.4bn in April 2011. Exports decreased by R 1.6bn to R 7.9bn and imports increased by R 1.1bn to R 4.5bn.
- Oceania: The deficit decreased from R 0.3bn in March to R 0.1bn in April 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.05bn to R 0.6bn and imports decreased by R 0.2bn to R 0.8bn.

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

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	(107)	0.77	(230)	0.88	369	0.71	1,874	1,673	476	0.88	1,592	1,903
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	859	2.06	3,268	1.86	1,670	3.23	6,077	7,054	811	1.50	2,988	3,786
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(169)	0.42	(2,205)	0.17	123	0.24	370	436	292	0.54	2,060	2,641
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	236	1.23	228	1.05	1,249	2.42	5,636	5,111	1,013	1.87	4,581	4,883
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(1,553)	0.89	2,501	1.05	13,203	25.55	36,170	50,823	14,756	27.27	36,958	48,322
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,862)	0.58	(8,196)	0.58	2,746	5.31	9,552	11,317	4,708	8.70	18,156	19,512
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,213)	0.39	(4,895)	0.41	770	1.49	2,745	3,400	1,983	3.66	7,327	8,294
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(20)	0.88	(17)	0.98	147	0.28	453	675	167	0.31	595	692
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(39)	0.79	(32)	0.96	151	0.29	1,071	813	191	0.35	826	845
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	279	1.39	611	1.20	990	1.92	3,322	3,731	711	1.31	3,153	3,120
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(941)	0.34	(4,750)	0.25	474	0.92	1,591	1,606	1,415	2.62	5,700	6,356
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(421)	0.05	(2,037)	0.05	24	0.05	264	102	445	0.82	1,691	2,139
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(412)	0.31	(1,593)	0.30	183	0.35	616	680	595	1.10	2,321	2,273
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	12,241	24.13	49,413	23.32	12,770	24.72	41,305	51,627	529	0.98	2,056	2,214
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,511	3.56	23,662	3.51	7,667	14.84	29,433	33,071	2,156	3.98	8,685	9,409
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(8,934)	0.32	(35,114)	0.33	4,220	8.17	13,604	17,008	13,154	24.31	46,208	52,122
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1,543)	0.73	(9,038)	0.64	4,229	8.18	13,625	16,057	5,772	10.67	17,999	25,094
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,166)	0.17	(4,799)	0.17	237	0.46	900	966	1,403	2.59	4,930	5,765
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(274)	0.57	(1,223)	0.53	357	0.69	1,493	1,384	631	1.17	2,546	2,607
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	12	2.48	29	1.45	21	0.04	110	94	8	0.02	44	65
XXII	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	24	1.62	338	3.14	62	0.12	488	496	38	0.07	759	158
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(2,854)	0.00	(13,434)	0.00	4	0.01	5	9	2,859	5.28	11,650	13,444
Total SA Rand		(2,446)	0.95	(7,512)	0.97	51,666	100.00	170,703	208,132	54,113	100.00	182,825	215,644

		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		3,369	1.74	14,432	1.84	7,901	15.29	26,555	31,545	4,531	8.37	14,038	17,113
Europe		(3,209)	0.82	(18,816)	0.75	14,206	27.49	49,002	56,298	17,414	32.18	64,604	75,114
America		(1,147)	0.84	(4,465)	0.84	6,057	11.72	18,032	22,727	7,205	13.31	20,430	27,192
Asia		(5,923)	0.75	(16,875)	0.82	18,156	35.14	57,851	75,243	24,079	44.50	79,040	92,118
Oceania		(137)	0.82	(1,526)	0.59	639	1.24	2,294	2,167	776	1.43	3,630	3,693
Other Unclassified Goods		4,587	43.49	19,684	48.67	4,695	9.09	16,779	20,097	108	0.20	1,082	413
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		14	-	55	-	14	0.03	190	55	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand		(2,446)	0.95	(7,512)	0.97	51,666	100.00	170,703	208,132	54,113	100.00	182,825	215,644
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	6,583	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

END