

Media Releases 2011

South African Trade Statistics for August 2011

Pretoria, 30 September 2011 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for August 2011 that record a trade deficit of R3.7 billion.

Summary

The trade deficit for August 2011 is R3.7 billion (Deficit of R4.8 billion in August 2010) compared to a deficit of R3.9 billion in July 2011, a month to month decrease of R0.2b. The deficit was due to an increase in exports of R4.5b (8.0%) to R61.0b and an increase in imports of R4.3b (7.2%) to R64.7b.

The trade deficit of R3.7 billion in August 2011 was mainly due to increased exports of chemical or allied industries and precious and semi-precious stones and increased imports of machinery and electrical appliances, mineral products and original equipment components.

The cumulative trade balance deficit for the year to date is R10.6 billion compared to R13.1 billion in August 2010, an improvement of R2.5 billion (18.8%).

Trade Highlights by Category

The July 2011 to August 2011 change (up by 8.0%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:

- Products of the chemical or allied industries increased by R 952 million (36%);
- Precious and semi-precious stones and metals increased by R 683 million (5%);
- Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R 656 million (15%);
- Mineral products increased by R 606 million (4%) and
- An increase in base metals and articles thereof by R 590 million (8%).

The July 2011 to August 2011 change (up by 7.2%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in:

- Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R 744 million (5%);
- Mineral products increased by R 687 million (5%);
- Original equipment components increased by R 642 million (16%) and
- An increase in vehicles, aircraft and vessels by R 52 million (1%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for July 2011 and August 2011 as given below are unaudited

- Asia: The deficit decreased from R 7.9bn in July to R 7.1bn in August 2011. Exports increased by R 2.7bn to R 21.8bn and imports increased by R 1.9bn to R 28.9bn.
- Europe: The deficit increased from R 2.6bn in July to R 5.6bn in August 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.4bn to R 15.2bn and imports increased by R 2.6bn to R 20.8bn.
- America: The deficit decreased from R 4.2bn in July to R 0.6bn in August 2011. Exports increased by R 2.0bn to R 7.3bn and imports decreased by R 1.5bn to R 8.0bn.
- Africa: The surplus decreased from R 5.5bn in July to R 4.3bn in August 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.1bn to R 9.4bn and imports increased by R 1.1bn to R 5.1bn.
- Oceania: The deficit increased from R 0.9bn in July to R 1.0bn in August 2011. Exports increased by R 0.01bn to R 0.7bn and imports increased by R 0.2bn to R 1.7bn.

For more detail, visit the [Trade Statistics web page](#).

SA Trade Release Table—

Harmonised Sections		TRADE											
		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)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(172)	0.72	(794)	0.81	451	0.74	3,485	3,380	623	0.96	3,301	4,175
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1,940	2.82	10,465	2.31	3,005	4.93	15,330	18,437	1,065	1.64	6,034	7,972
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(495)	0.24	(3,847)	0.22	156	0.26	790	1,079	651	1.01	3,760	4,927
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	371	1.25	1,574	1.15	1,830	3.00	12,978	11,851	1,459	2.25	9,430	10,276
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	780	1.06	7,234	1.07	14,503	23.78	77,948	107,797	13,724	21.20	77,139	100,562
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2,576)	0.58	(18,144)	0.56	3,587	5.88	20,765	23,528	6,163	9.52	37,161	41,671
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,425)	0.42	(10,441)	0.42	1,040	1.71	6,062	7,554	2,466	3.81	16,015	17,995
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(71)	0.71	(136)	0.91	170	0.28	943	1,398	241	0.37	1,431	1,534
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	35	1.15	123	1.07	259	0.42	1,972	1,776	224	0.35	1,547	1,652
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	240	1.25	907	1.14	1,186	1.94	7,158	7,354	945	1.46	6,272	6,448
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,600)	0.19	(10,307)	0.24	384	0.63	2,904	3,189	1,984	3.06	11,818	13,496
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(782)	0.04	(4,422)	0.05	36	0.06	217	228	818	1.26	3,749	4,649
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(527)	0.29	(3,455)	0.30	217	0.36	1,366	1,493	744	1.15	4,867	4,948
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	14,333	20.32	107,984	23.81	15,075	24.71	94,294	112,718	742	1.15	4,109	4,734
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4,702	2.58	42,484	3.03	7,678	12.59	59,474	63,443	2,976	4.60	18,643	20,959
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(10,199)	0.34	(73,748)	0.33	5,178	8.49	30,212	35,769	15,377	23.75	97,926	109,517
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1,981)	0.73	(14,547)	0.71	5,244	8.60	31,700	35,582	7,225	11.16	40,246	50,128
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,292)	0.18	(9,923)	0.17	281	0.46	1,773	2,059	1,573	2.43	10,512	11,982
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(726)	0.35	(3,362)	0.46	386	0.63	3,160	2,869	1,113	1.72	5,975	6,231
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	5	1.37	30	1.19	19	0.03	198	184	14	0.02	89	155
XXII	Other Unclassified 1)	237	4.13	937	3.57	313	0.51	1,509	1,302	76	0.12	1,157	365
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(4,533)	0.00	(29,223)	0.00	0	0.00	13	13	4,534	7.00	26,140	29,236
Total SA Rand		(3,738)	0.94	(10,610)	0.98	60,998	100.00	374,252	443,002	64,735	100.00	387,322	453,612

World Zones		TRADE											
		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	4,297	1.83	31,953	1.92	9,444	15.48	57,552	66,844	5,147	7.95	29,964	34,891	
Europe	(5,619)	0.73	(32,132)	0.79	15,214	24.94	104,561	118,278	20,832	32.18	133,775	150,410	
America	(646)	0.92	(9,510)	0.84	7,343	12.04	43,994	50,239	7,989	12.34	45,561	59,749	
Asia	(7,125)	0.75	(41,840)	0.79	21,750	35.66	124,885	156,853	28,875	44.60	168,883	198,693	
Oceania	(1,014)	0.39	(4,156)	0.52	660	1.08	4,977	4,563	1,674	2.59	7,351	8,719	
Other Unclassified Goods	6,356	30.13	44,970	40.13	6,575	10.78	37,936	46,119	218	0.34	1,788	1,149	
Ships/ Aircraft Stores	12	-	106	-	12	0.02	348	106	-	-	-	-	
Total SA Rand		(3,738)	0.94	(10,610)	0.98	60,998	100.00	374,252	443,002	64,735	100.00	387,322	453,612

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	6,063	6,489	5,959	7,704	-	-	-	-

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