

## Media Releases 2011

### South African Trade Statistics for September 2011

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**Pretoria, 31 October 2011** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for September 2011 that record a trade surplus of R2.5 billion.

#### Summary

The trade surplus for September 2011 is R2.5 billion (Surplus of R3.6 billion for September 2010) compared to a deficit of R3.7 billion in August 2011, a month to month increase of R6.2 billion. The surplus was due to an increase in exports of R6.8 billion (11.1%) to R67.8 billion and an increase in imports of R0.5 billion (0.8%) to R65.3 billion.

The change in the trade balance from a deficit of R3.7 billion in August 2011 to a surplus of R2.5 billion in September 2011 was mainly due to increased exports of precious and semi-precious stones and mineral products and increased imports of machinery and electrical appliances.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R6.1 billion compared to R9.9 billion in 2010, an improvement of R3.8 billion or 38.4%.

#### Trade Highlights by Category

- The August to September change (up by 11.1%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
  - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals increased by R4 172 million (28%);
  - Mineral products increased by R1 969 million (14%);
  - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R 728 million (14%);
  - Products of the chemical or allied industries increased by R 591 million (16%);
  - Base metals and articles decreased by R 301 million (-4%) and
  - A decrease in Vegetable products by R 701 million (-23%).
- The August to September change (up by 0.8%) in imports of goods reflected an increase mainly in:
  - Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R1 074 million (7%);
  - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels decreased by R 229 million (-3%);
  - Original equipment components decreased by R 717 million (-16%); and
  - A decrease in Mineral products by R1 102 million (-8%).

#### Trade Highlights by World Zone

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

- Asia: The deficit increased from R 7.1bn in August to R 9.0bn in September 2011. Exports increased by R 0.4bn to R 22.2bn and imports increased by R 2.3bn to R 31.2bn.
- Europe: The deficit decreased from R 5.6bn in August to R 4.0bn in September 2011. Exports increased by R 2.1bn to R 17.3bn and imports increased by R 0.5bn to R 21.3bn.
- America: The deficit of R 0.6bn in August changed to a surplus of R 0.2bn in September 2011. Exports increased by R 0.7bn to R 8.0bn and imports decreased by R 0.2bn to R 7.8bn.
- Africa: The surplus increased from R 4.3bn in August to R 6.7bn in September 2011. Exports increased by R 1.2bn to R 10.6bn and imports decreased by R 1.2bn to R 3.9bn.
- Oceania: The deficit decreased from R 1.0bn in August to R 0.4bn in September 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.06bn to R 0.6bn and imports decreased by R 0.7bn to R 1.0bn.

For more detail, visit our [Trade Data website](#).

#### **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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(214)	0.62	(1,007)	0.79	354	0.52	3,910	3,736	568	0.87	3,727	4,743
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1,103	1.92	11,533	2.26	2,303	3.40	17,459	20,706	1,201	1.84	6,772	9,173
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(685)	0.17	(4,537)	0.21	139	0.20	880	1,207	824	1.26	4,206	5,745
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	292	1.17	1,847	1.15	1,999	2.95	14,799	13,829	1,707	2.62	10,753	11,982
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	3,850	1.31	11,863	1.10	16,472	24.31	89,740	125,043	12,622	19.34	87,434	113,180
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2,294)	0.65	(20,529)	0.57	4,178	6.17	23,308	27,643	6,473	9.92	42,078	48,172
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,441)	0.43	(11,899)	0.42	1,086	1.60	6,867	8,624	2,527	3.87	18,183	20,523
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(61)	0.77	(218)	0.88	200	0.29	1,072	1,577	261	0.40	1,660	1,795
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(50)	0.75	77	1.04	150	0.22	2,125	1,930	201	0.31	1,724	1,853
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	42	1.04	1,721	1.23	1,011	1.49	8,025	9,139	969	1.49	7,148	7,417
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,714)	0.21	(12,031)	0.23	445	0.66	3,237	3,624	2,159	3.31	13,561	15,656
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(796)	0.04	(5,218)	0.05	29	0.04	251	257	825	1.26	4,363	5,474
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(599)	0.25	(4,057)	0.29	196	0.29	1,541	1,686	795	1.22	5,592	5,743
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	18,405	22.85	126,388	23.66	19,247	28.40	108,931	131,965	842	1.29	4,567	5,577
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4,383	2.46	46,717	2.95	7,378	10.89	67,875	70,672	2,994	4.59	21,054	23,955
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(10,941)	0.33	(84,633)	0.33	5,510	8.13	34,381	41,347	16,451	25.21	110,268	125,980
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1,024)	0.85	(14,897)	0.74	5,972	8.81	34,486	41,498	6,996	10.72	44,206	56,395
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,140)	0.34	(11,063)	0.19	591	0.87	2,001	2,649	1,730	2.65	11,863	13,713
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(809)	0.34	(4,174)	0.44	415	0.61	3,619	3,282	1,224	1.88	6,974	7,455
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	5	1.36	35	1.21	18	0.03	213	202	13	0.02	96	168
XXII	Other Unclassified 1)	19	1.33	968	3.30	74	0.11	2,178	1,388	56	0.09	1,215	421
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(3,816)	0.00	(33,032)	0.00	1	0.00	15	14	3,817	5.85	29,430	33,046
<b>Total SA Rand</b>		<b>2,514</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>(6,146)</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>67,768</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>426,912</b>	<b>512,019</b>	<b>65,255</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>436,871</b>	<b>518,165</b>

		TRADE											
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
Africa		6,678	2.70	38,510	1.99	10,613	15.66	65,313	77,337	3,935	6.03	35,067	38,827
Europe		(3,963)	0.81	(36,206)	0.79	17,332	25.58	118,447	135,496	21,295	32.63	149,041	171,702
America		226	1.03	(8,609)	0.87	8,012	11.82	49,761	58,241	7,786	11.93	51,752	66,850
Asia		(9,008)	0.71	(49,338)	0.79	22,185	32.74	142,683	180,534	31,193	47.80	191,062	229,873
Oceania		(359)	0.62	(4,521)	0.53	598	0.88	5,476	5,154	957	1.47	8,096	9,675
Other Unclassified Goods		8,927	101.55	53,901	44.54	9,016	13.30	44,864	55,139	89	0.14	1,853	1,238
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		12	-	118	-	12	0.02	368	118	-	-	-	-
<b>Total SA Rand</b>		<b>2,514</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>(6,146)</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>67,768</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>426,912</b>	<b>512,019</b>	<b>65,255</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>436,871</b>	<b>518,165</b>

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
<b>Gold imports 4) (R'm)</b>	6,432	13,005	10,133	6,583	6,063	6,489	5,959	7,704	7,251	-	-	-

**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