

Media Releases 2011

South African Trade Statistics for November 2011

Pretoria, 29 December 2011 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for November 2011 that record a trade deficit of R8.0 billion.

Summary

The trade deficit for November 2011 is R8.0 billion (surplus of R8.4 billion for November 2010) compared to a deficit of R9.6 billion in October 2011, a month to month decrease of R1.6 billion. There was an increase in exports of R7.3 billion (11.9%) to R68.5 billion and an increase in imports of R5.7 billion (8.1%) to R76.5 billion.

The trade deficit of R8.0 billion in November 2011 revealed an increase in imports of mineral products, machinery and electrical appliances, vegetable products and vehicle, aircraft and vessels and decreased exports of vegetable products and vehicles, aircraft and vessels.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R21.3 billion compared to R5.3 billion in 2010.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The October to November change (up by 11.9%) in exports of goods reflected changes mainly in:
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals increased by R3 706 million (26%);
 - Products of the chemical or allied industries increased by R1 456 million (59%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof increased by R1 356 million (17%);
 - Mineral products increased by R 915 million (6%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels decreased by R 438 million (-7%) and
 - Vegetable products decreased by R 584 million (-31%).
- The October to November change (up by 8.1 %) in imports of goods reflected changes mainly in:
 - Mineral products increased by R3 077 million (21%);
 - Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R2 047 million (12%);
 - Vegetable products increased by R 704 million (52%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R 402 million (5%) and
 - Original equipment components decreased by R 390 million (-9%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

- The world zone results for October and November 2011 as given below are unaudited.
 - Asia: The deficit decreased from R 13.4bn in October to R 11.4bn in November 2011. Exports increased by R 2.4bn to R 24.1bn and imports increased by R 0.4bn to R 35.5bn.
 - Europe: The deficit increased from R 7.6bn in October to R 8.8bn in November 2011. Exports increased by R 0.8bn to R 15.4bn and imports increased by R 1.9bn to R 24.2bn.
 - America: The deficit decreased from R 0.8bn in October to R 0.4bn in November 2011. Exports increased by R 0.5bn to R 8.0bn and imports increased by R 0.2bn to R 8.4bn.
 - Africa: The surplus decreased from R 6.1bn in October to R 4.8bn in November 2011. Exports increased by R 1.3bn to R 11.5bn and imports increased by R 2.6bn to R 6.7bn.
 - Oceania The deficit increased from R 0.3bn in October to R 1.0bn in November 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.01bn to R 0.7bn and imports increased by R 0.7bn to R 1.7bn.

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

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	(353)	0.55	(1,631)	0.74	433	0.63	4,786	4,598	786	1.03	4,559	6,228
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	(752)	0.63	11,196	1.89	1,306	1.91	19,800	23,780	2,058	2.69	8,563	12,584
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(698)	0.22	(5,599)	0.22	197	0.29	1,148	1,573	895	1.17	5,339	7,171
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	75	1.04	1,966	1.13	1,801	2.63	18,312	17,538	1,727	2.26	13,723	15,573
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(144)	0.99	15,603	1.11	17,281	25.24	113,092	160,556	17,425	22.78	107,411	144,953
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2,360)	0.63	(26,890)	0.56	3,939	5.75	28,389	34,015	6,299	8.23	52,348	60,905
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,646)	0.43	(15,840)	0.41	1,261	1.84	8,634	10,887	2,907	3.80	22,233	26,727
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(78)	0.73	(392)	0.83	210	0.31	1,361	1,981	288	0.38	2,125	2,373
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(2)	0.99	29	1.01	296	0.43	2,587	2,450	298	0.39	2,102	2,421
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	164	1.16	1,920	1.20	1,195	1.75	9,794	11,334	1,031	1.35	8,837	9,415
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,376)	0.32	(15,135)	0.24	658	0.96	4,093	4,889	2,035	2.66	17,139	20,025
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(666)	0.07	(6,700)	0.05	49	0.07	316	340	715	0.93	5,559	7,040
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(597)	0.26	(5,320)	0.28	212	0.31	1,906	2,110	809	1.06	6,875	7,430
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	17,449	27.06	157,564	23.66	18,119	26.47	138,218	164,517	670	0.88	5,576	6,953
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,204	2.31	55,711	2.75	3,169	13.39	84,770	87,620	3,965	5.18	25,860	31,909
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(13,548)	0.29	(110,022)	0.32	5,663	8.27	43,604	52,348	19,211	25.11	137,716	162,370
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(2,442)	0.70	(17,964)	0.75	5,701	8.33	45,266	53,242	8,142	10.64	54,569	71,205
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,511)	0.18	(14,089)	0.19	334	0.49	2,611	3,278	1,845	2.41	14,807	17,367
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(883)	0.34	(5,877)	0.42	445	0.65	4,545	4,171	1,328	1.74	8,905	10,448
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	14	2.48	54	1.29	24	0.04	272	244	10	0.01	117	189
XXII	Other Unclassified 1)	105	3.20	1,002	2.65	152	0.22	2,783	1,609	48	0.06	1,298	607
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(4,000)	0.00	(41,432)	0.00	10	0.01	18	25	4,010	5.24	35,983	41,457
Total SA Rand		(8,045)	0.89	(21,845)	0.97	68,457	100.00	536,303	643,106	76,502	100.00	541,644	664,951

		TRADE											
		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
World Zones		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		4,833	1.73	49,309	2.00	11,499	16.80	82,669	98,952	6,666	8.71	41,794	49,543
Europe		(8,797)	0.64	(52,090)	0.76	15,366	22.45	146,992	165,525	24,163	31.59	183,813	217,615
America		(415)	0.95	(9,899)	0.88	7,984	11.66	61,872	73,581	8,399	10.98	64,056	83,480
Asia		(11,395)	0.68	(72,481)	0.76	24,066	35.16	179,176	227,945	35,461	46.35	239,701	300,426
Oceania		(1,026)	0.39	(5,870)	0.52	657	0.96	6,963	6,444	1,683	2.20	10,104	12,314
Other Unclassified Goods		8,740	68.91	69,038	44.89	8,869	12.96	58,179	70,611	129	0.17	2,175	1,573
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		16	-	148	-	16	0.02	453	148	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand		(8,045)	0.89	(21,845)	0.97	68,457	100.00	536,303	643,106	76,502	100.00	541,644	664,951

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	7,251	6,538	8,968	-

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