

SA Trade Statistics for December 2015

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

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SARS releases trade statistics for December 2015

Pretoria, 29 January 2015 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2015 that recorded a trade surplus of R8.22 billion. This figure includes trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS).

Including trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS)

The R8.22 billion surplus for December 2015 is due to exports of R88.77 billion and imports of R80.55 billion. Exports decreased from November 2015 to December 2015 by R4.80 billion (5.1%) and imports decreased from November 2015 to December by R12.34 billion (13.3%).

The R8.22 billion surplus is a 4.4% increase on the surplus recorded in December 2014 of R7.88 billion. Exports of R88.77 billion are 0.3% more than the exports recorded in December 2014 of R88.47 billion. Imports of R80.55 billion are 0.1% less than the imports recorded in December 2014 of R80.59 billion.

The cumulative deficit for 2015 of R48.63 billion is 40.9% less than the deficit for the comparable period in 2014 of R82.27 billion.

The month of November 2015 trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R1.09 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R1.77 billion to a revised surplus of R0.68 billion.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2015](#)

Trade highlights by category

The month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicle & Transport Equipment	- R3 595	- 27.6%
Machinery & Electronics	- R1 338	- 14.4%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 921	- 4.9%
Mineral Products	- R 227	- 1.3%
Vegetable Products	+ R 1 463	+ 49.6%

The month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BLNS:	
Machinery & Electronics	- R 3 897	- 15.9%
Equipment Components	- R1 632	- 34.7%
Base Metals	- R1 194	- 22.3%
Textiles	- R1 163	- 29.8%
Vehicle & Transport Equipment	+ R1 246	+ 14.5%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from November 2015 to December 2015 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R23 552 million – this is a decrease of R3 355 million from November 2015

Imports: R9 743 million – this is a decrease of R 468 million from November 2015

Trade surplus: R13 810 million – This is a 17.3% decrease in comparison to the R16 696 million surplus recorded in November 2015.

America:

Exports: R8 520 million – this is a decrease of R1 651 million from November 2015

Imports: R10 424 million – this is an increase of R 256 million from November 2015

Trade deficit: R1 903 million – This is a deterioration in comparison to the R3 million surplus recorded in November 2015.

Asia:

Exports: R27 177 million – this is an increase of R1 053 million from November 2015

Imports: R33 592 million – this is a decrease of R9 483 million from November 2015

Trade deficit: R6 416 million – This is a 62.2% decrease in comparison to the R16 952 million deficit recorded in November 2015.

Europe:

Exports: R20 456 million – this is an increase of R 833 million from November 2015

Imports: R25 728 million – this is a decrease of R2 692 million from November 2015

Trade deficit: R5 271 million – This is a 40.1% decrease in comparison to the R8 796 million deficit recorded in November 2015.

Oceania:

Exports: R1 028 million – this is an increase of R 205 million from November 2015

Imports: R 991 million – this is an increase of R 116 million from November 2015

Trade surplus: R 36 million – This is an improvement in comparison to the R 53 million deficit recorded in November 2015.

Excluding trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS)

The trade data excluding BLNS for December 2015 recorded a trade deficit of R0.04 billion.

Summary

The R0.04 billion deficit for December 2015 is as a result of exports of R78.30 billion and imports of R78.34 billion. Exports decreased from November 2015 to December 2015 by R2.96 billion (3.6%) and imports decreased from November 2015 to December 2015 by R11.42 billion (12.7%).

The cumulative deficit for 2015 is R154.40 billion compared to R185.82 billion in 2014.

Trade highlights by category

The month-on-month export movements:

R' million		
Section:	Excluding BLNS:	
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R3 104	- 27.1%
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 910	- 4.8%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 823	- 11.1%
Mineral Products	- R 456	- 2.9%
Vegetable Products	+ R1 422	+ 61.1%

The month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Excluding BLNS:	
Machinery & Electronics	- R3 694	- 15.2%
Equipment Components	- R1 632	- 34.7%
Base Metals	- R1 197	- 22.6%
Plastics & Rubber	- R 971	- 23.8%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R1 257	+ 14.7%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results other than Africa from November 2015 to December 2015 are given above.

Africa:

Exports: R13 084 million – this is a decrease of R1 508 million from November 2015

Imports: R7 535 million – this is an increase of R 451 million from November 2015

Trade surplus: R5 549 million – This is a 26.1% decrease in comparison to the R7 507 million surplus recorded in November 2015.

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2015](#)

SA Trade Release Table (including BLNS)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2015 (R'm)	Cumulative 2014 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2015 (R'm)	Cumulative 2014 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	273	1.24	(1 551)	0.90	1.60	1 423	12 097	13 373	1.43	1 150	12 193	14 923
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 305	2.09	27 413	2.14	4.97	4 412	47 715	51 395	2.62	2 107	19 985	23 981
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(467)	0.40	(4 367)	0.43	0.35	308	3 058	3 251	0.96	775	8 356	7 618
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	1 383	1.49	12 599	1.40	4.75	4 214	43 061	44 466	3.51	2 830	29 487	31 867
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	4 204	1.32	39 110	1.22	19.57	17 372	236 742	213 858	16.35	13 168	257 052	174 748
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 006)	0.66	(45 856)	0.59	6.72	5 963	62 899	67 040	11.13	8 969	102 418	112 896
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 338)	0.57	(23 127)	0.49	2.01	1 786	23 434	21 825	3.88	3 125	42 185	44 952
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	111	1.34	350	1.08	0.49	439	4 783	4 939	0.41	329	4 158	4 589
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	242	1.84	1 368	1.27	0.60	531	5 598	6 409	0.36	289	4 550	5 042
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	832	1.64	3 482	1.21	2.41	2 137	17 741	19 944	1.62	1 305	15 501	16 462
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 281)	0.53	(25 576)	0.37	1.64	1 459	13 611	14 884	3.40	2 740	34 909	40 461
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(595)	0.28	(10 593)	0.21	0.27	236	2 678	2 848	1.03	832	11 672	13 440
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(401)	0.53	(6 910)	0.46	0.51	453	5 194	5 809	1.06	854	11 356	12 719
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	17 527	43.39	181 371	24.19	20.21	17 940	168 744	189 191	0.51	413	11 166	7 820
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5 838	2.40	64 231	2.07	11.27	10 005	130 072	124 439	5.17	4 166	49 922	60 207
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(12 732)	0.38	(171 882)	0.37	8.95	7 943	99 023	100 420	25.67	20 675	249 328	272 302
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(419)	0.96	17 243	1.15	10.62	9 430	104 821	130 493	12.23	9 848	102 864	113 250
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 638)	0.34	(20 884)	0.29	0.94	832	7 781	8 584	3.07	2 470	26 629	29 467
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(567)	0.56	(11 005)	0.44	0.83	732	8 226	8 531	1.61	1 300	17 460	19 535
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	8	1.19	422	1.98	0.06	52	514	855	0.05	44	638	433
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 014	12.52	5 066	4.58	1.24	1 102	3 482	6 479	0.11	88	1 539	1 414
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(3 072)	0.00	(79 539)	0.00	0.00	0	33	20	3.81	3 072	70 213	79 559
Total	Total SA Rand	8 221	1.10	(48 634)	0.96	100.00	88 771	1 001 308	1 039 053	100.00	80 549	1 083 582	1 087 687

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2015 (R'm)	Cumulative 2014 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2015 (R'm)	Cumulative 2014 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	13 810	2.42	184 419	2.56	26.53	23 552	301 310	302 465	12.10	9 743	145 684	118 046
AMERICA	(1 903)	0.82	(19 796)	0.84	9.60	8 520	92 936	100 923	12.94	10 424	109 654	120 720
ASIA	(6 416)	0.81	(189 364)	0.61	30.61	27 177	306 646	302 137	41.70	33 592	492 989	491 500
EUROPE	(5 271)	0.80	(100 378)	0.71	23.04	20 456	221 709	240 412	31.94	25 728	319 174	340 790
OCEANIA	36	1.04	(2 223)	0.85	1.16	1 028	10 675	12 474	1.23	991	14 176	14 697
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	7 588	106.25	69 436	36.92	8.63	7 660	66 339	71 369	0.09	72	1 906	1 933
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	378	-	9 272	-	0.43	378	1 693	9 272	-	-	-	-
Total	8 221	1.10	(48 634)	0.96	100.00	88 771	1 001 308	1 039 053	100.00	80 549	1 083 582	1 087 687

Temporary Imports	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	August 2015	September 2015	October 2015	November 2015	December 2015
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	7 069	5 252	5 666	5 733	5 316	5 769	5 220	5 324	5 591	6 083	5 808	6 589

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) Current month data is preliminary and all other data is revised

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

SA Trade Release Table (excluding BLNS)

Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2015 (R'm)	Cumulative 2014 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2015 (R'm)	Cumulative 2014 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	115	1.12	(1 646)	0.86	1.36	1 068	8 874	9 876	1.22	952	9 662	11 522
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1 681	1.81	21 355	1.91	4.79	3 750	41 307	44 901	2.64	2 069	19 519	23 546
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(573)	0.26	(5 456)	0.28	0.26	201	2 010	2 145	0.99	775	8 341	7 601
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	448	1.19	4 734	1.18	3.64	2 847	31 591	31 642	3.06	2 398	24 880	26 908
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	2 396	1.18	17 409	1.10	19.82	15 519	214 369	191 591	16.75	13 123	256 334	174 181
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3 285)	0.60	(50 879)	0.52	6.36	4 978	51 920	55 115	10.55	8 263	95 877	105 994
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1 771)	0.43	(28 872)	0.35	1.70	1 333	17 661	15 656	3.96	3 104	41 778	44 529
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	63	1.20	127	1.03	0.48	377	4 298	4 322	0.40	314	3 809	4 195
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	192	1.90	689	1.17	0.52	407	4 035	4 690	0.27	214	3 733	4 000
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	605	1.48	1 020	1.06	2.38	1 867	14 879	16 994	1.61	1 262	14 983	15 974
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1 430)	0.41	(27 263)	0.24	1.27	992	7 864	8 799	3.09	2 422	31 359	36 061
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(738)	0.09	(12 372)	0.06	0.10	77	791	825	1.04	815	11 457	13 197
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(516)	0.39	(8 704)	0.31	0.42	330	3 479	3 881	1.08	846	11 245	12 585
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	17 546	47.65	177 534	34.59	22.89	17 922	161 390	182 819	0.48	376	8 133	5 285
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5 321	2.30	55 889	1.94	12.02	9 414	121 154	115 109	5.23	4 094	48 584	59 220
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(13 996)	0.32	(188 784)	0.30	8.40	6 574	80 765	80 609	26.26	20 570	247 154	269 392
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1 423)	0.85	1 797	1.02	10.69	8 368	88 272	114 634	12.50	9 791	102 461	112 837
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 792)	0.27	(22 617)	0.23	0.86	674	6 107	6 789	3.15	2 466	26 588	29 406
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(823)	0.36	(14 268)	0.26	0.59	464	5 081	4 996	1.64	1 287	17 350	19 264
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	8	1.19	417	1.96	0.07	52	507	849	0.06	44	636	432
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	1 005	12.96	5 028	4.66	1.39	1 089	3 402	6 402	0.11	84	1 496	1 374
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(3 072)	0.00	(79 544)	0.00	0.00	0	19	15	3.92	3 072	70 213	79 559
Total	Total SA Rand	(40)	1.00	(154 405)	0.85	100.00	78 302	869 774	902 657	100.00	78 342	1 055 592	1 057 062

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2015 (R'm)	Cumulative 2014 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2015 (R'm)	Cumulative 2014 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)
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SHIP/AIRCRAFT	378	-	9 272	-	0.48	378	1 693	9 272	-	-	-	-
Total	(40)	1.00	(154 405)	0.85	100.00	78 302	869 774	902 657	100.00	78 342	1 055 592	1 057 062

Temporary Imports	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	August 2015	September 2015	October 2015	November 2015	December 2015
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	7 069	5 252	5 666	5 733	5 316	5 769	5 220	5 324	5 591	6 083	5 808	6 589

Notes:

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- 2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)
- 3) Current month data is preliminary and all other data is revised
- 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

Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (Only)

Trade Statistics with BLNS countries

Trade statistics with the BLNS for December 2015 recorded a trade surplus of R8.26 billion.

Summary

The R8.26 billion surplus for December 2015 is as a result of exports of R10.47 billion and imports of R2.21 billion.

Exports decreased from November 2015 to December 2015 by R1.85 billion (15.0%) and imports decreased from November 2015 to December 2015 by R0.92 billion (29.4%).

The cumulative surplus for 2015 is R105.77 billion compared to R103.54 billion in 2014.

Trade Highlights by Category

The month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Machinery & Electronics	- R 515	- 27.3%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 491	- 31.6%
Base Metals	- R 286	- 32.6%
Plastics and Rubber	- R 191	- 29.6%
Mineral Products	+ R 229	+ 14.1%

The month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Textiles	- R 247	- 43.8%
Chemical Products	- R 207	- 22.6%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 203	- 66.0%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R 59	- 12.0%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 5	+ 15.2%

[Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics December 2015](#)

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