

SA Trade Statistics for August 2016

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Friday, 30 September 2016

SARS releases trade statistics for August 2016

Pretoria, 30 September 2016 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for August 2016 recording a trade balance deficit of R8.56 billion. The cumulative trade balance surplus (01 January to 31 August 2016) of R7.41 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2015 of R35.10 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS).

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

The R8.56 billion trade balance deficit for August 2016 is attributable to exports of R90.24 billion and imports of R98.80 billion. Exports for the year-to-date grew by 9.0% from R679.27 billion to R740.70 billion. Imports for the year-to-date of R733.29 billion are 2.6% more than the imports recorded in January to August 2015 of R714.37 billion.

On a year-on-year basis, August 2016's R8.56 billion trade balance deficit is an improvement from the deficit recorded in August 2015 of R10.45 billion. Exports of R90.24 billion are 3.6% more than the exports recorded in August 2015 of R87.10 billion. Imports of R98.80 billion are 1.3% more than the imports recorded in August 2015 of R97.55 billion.

July 2016's trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.18 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R5.22 billion to a revised surplus of R5.04 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's). Exports decreased from July 2016 to August 2016 by R5.29 billion (5.5%) and imports increased from July 2016 to August 2016 by R8.31 billion (9.2%).

[**Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics August 2016**](#)

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 5 567	- 30%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 1 408	- 10%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 544	- 6%
Wood Pulp & Paper	+ R 1 039	+ 66%
Mineral Products	+ R 619	+ 4%
Vegetable Products	+ R 313	+ 5%
Optical Photographic Products	+ R 273	+ 36%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+ R 3 143	+ 24%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 1 571	+ 205%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 1 044	+ 5%
Chemical Products	+ R 1 018	+ 11%
Vegetable Products	+ R 834	+ 29%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from July 2016 (Revised) to August 2016 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R27 731 million – this is an increase of R1 977 million from July 2016.

Imports: R13 068 million – this is an increase of R2 654 million from July 2016.

Trade Balance surplus: R14 663 million – this is a 4.4% decrease in comparison to the R15 339 million surplus recorded in July 2016.

America:

Exports: R7 110 million – this is a decrease of R1 586 million from July 2016.

Imports: R11 684 million – this is an increase of R2 145 million from July 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R4 574 million – this is a 442.6% increase in comparison to the R843 million deficit recorded in July 2016.

Asia:

Exports: R26 021 million – this is a decrease of R 482 million from July 2016.

Imports: R42 526 million – this is an increase of R3 720 million from July 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R16 505 million – this is a 34.2% increase in comparison to the R12 303 million deficit recorded in July 2016.

Europe:

Exports: R23 700 million – this is an increase of R 318 million from July 2016.

Imports: R30 360 million – this is an increase of R 302 million from July 2016.

Trade Balance deficit: R6 660 million – this is a 0.3% decrease in comparison to the R6 677 million deficit recorded in July 2016.

Oceania:

Exports: R1 113 million – this is an increase of R 55 million from July 2016.

Imports: R1 030 million – this is a decrease of R 571 million from July 2016.

Trade Balance surplus: R 83 million – this is an improvement in comparison to the R 542 million deficit recorded in July 2016.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for August 2016 recorded a trade balance deficit of R18.09 billion.

Summary

The R18.09 billion deficit for August 2016 is as a result of exports of R77.67 billion and imports of R95.76 billion. Exports decreased from July 2016 to August 2016 by R6.58 billion (7.8%) and imports increased from July 2016 to August 2016 by R7.89 billion (9.0%).

The cumulative deficit for 2016 is R62.11 billion compared to R104.40 billion in 2015.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	- R 6 109	- 33%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 1 628	- 13%
Machinery and Electronics	- R 657	- 9%
Wood Pulp & Paper	+ R 1 013	+ 76%
Mineral Products	+ R 661	+ 4%
Optical Photographic Products	+ R 253	+ 42%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+ R 3 152	+ 24%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 1 543	+ 313%
Machinery and Electronics	+ R 1 071	+ 5%
Vegetable Products	+ R 828	+ 30%
Chemical Products	+ R 755	+ 8%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BLNS from July 2016 (Revised) to August 2016 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R15 167 million – this is an increase of R 685 million from July 2016.

Imports: R10 035 million – this is an increase of R2 234 million from July 2016.

Trade Balance surplus: R5 132 million – this is a 23.2% decrease in comparison to the R6 681 million surplus recorded in July 2016.

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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 ³⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(177 104 519)	0.82	(1 324 731 536)	0.85	1.05	817 061 401	6 366 280 278	7 504 251 971	1.04	994 165 920	7 669 088 015	8 828 983 507
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 389 163 273	1.66	16 005 228 146	1.69	7.75	6 021 481 981	31 512 839 261	39 139 197 219	3.79	3 632 318 708	14 129 340 828	23 133 969 073
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(453 543 582)	0.36	(4 220 944 795)	0.29	0.33	256 129 669	1 524 271 975	1 720 979 318	0.74	709 673 251	4 265 469 591	5 941 924 113
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	113 219 108	1.04	4 613 519 001	1.25	3.76	2 922 565 529	20 101 778 032	23 213 489 486	2.93	2 809 346 421	16 882 750 542	18 599 970 485
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(454 741 732)	0.97	20 386 435 502	1.21	20.29	15 758 919 695	127 080 542 945	119 063 711 789	16.93	16 213 661 427	122 478 101 362	98 677 276 287
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(5 413 615 183)	0.44	(35 012 566 150)	0.51	5.48	4 258 920 617	35 364 298 469	36 141 905 126	10.10	9 672 535 800	68 742 227 058	71 154 471 276
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 823 514 857)	0.35	(19 998 306 259)	0.37	1.95	1 514 797 111	10 201 766 917	11 726 112 544	4.53	4 338 311 968	28 720 288 918	31 724 418 803
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(8 581 434)	0.97	246 093 932	1.10	0.41	322 193 678	2 842 684 284	2 820 305 283	0.35	330 775 112	2 572 855 637	2 574 211 351
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	118 449 494	1.36	600 639 124	1.22	0.57	444 459 191	3 093 690 493	3 368 366 660	0.34	326 009 697	2 615 622 822	2 767 727 536
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	755 945 565	1.48	2 012 640 782	1.18	3.02	2 343 636 319	10 540 972 831	13 481 390 319	1.66	1 587 690 754	9 961 566 373	11 468 749 537
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 553 506 611)	0.21	(19 997 348 164)	0.23	0.86	666 744 069	5 272 440 711	6 040 426 062	3.36	3 220 250 680	23 095 869 607	26 037 774 226
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 312 747 576)	0.05	(9 271 040 328)	0.06	0.09	73 138 643	521 208 022	547 769 910	1.45	1 385 886 219	8 424 538 329	9 818 810 238
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(808 799 505)	0.29	(6 404 902 930)	0.31	0.43	336 394 947	2 495 265 613	2 872 677 202	1.20	1 145 194 452	8 242 419 046	9 277 580 132
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	10 472 845 044	6.14	132 671 572 587	22.74	16.11	12 509 412 776	118 517 917 736	138 775 313 698	2.13	2 036 567 732	3 487 113 985	6 103 741 111
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5 150 034 853	2.13	44 068 374 687	2.11	12.52	9 726 236 097	78 184 486 747	83 816 417 321	4.78	4 576 201 244	39 418 390 241	39 748 042 634
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(15 101 591 779)	0.31	(121 627 732 927)	0.32	8.65	6 720 387 647	52 161 249 519	56 562 832 090	22.79	21 821 979 426	172 760 367 194	178 190 565 017
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	2 364 980 045	1.28	18 651 984 981	1.27	13.99	10 867 092 623	73 927 146 465	87 861 821 217	8.88	8 502 112 578	75 042 213 895	69 209 836 236
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 779 996 076)	0.33	(16 088 119 919)	0.23	1.11	859 856 360	4 187 269 627	4 923 993 151	2.76	2 639 852 436	18 676 135 259	21 012 113 070
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 326 695 474)	0.25	(9 264 957 550)	0.26	0.56	435 184 250	3 007 661 498	3 259 379 303	1.84	1 761 879 724	11 648 266 985	12 524 336 853
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	35 515 547	2.60	393 145 022	2.36	0.07	57 720 066	451 742 899	681 546 522	0.02	22 204 519	190 563 245	288 401 500
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	645 416 859	6.68	4 704 380 385	5.50	0.98	759 022 158	3 182 429 055	5 749 093 618	0.12	113 605 299	890 743 422	1 044 713 233
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(7 923 618 025)	0.00	(63 250 440 264)	0.00	0.00	35 556	10 415 447	4 484 318	8.27	7 923 653 581	55 035 147 690	63 254 924 582
Total	Total SA Rand	(18 092 486 565)	0.81	(62 107 076 673)	0.91	100.00	77 671 390 383	590 548 358 824	649 275 464 127	100.00	95 763 876 948	694 949 080 044	711 382 540 800

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports			Imports				
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ³⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	5 131 893 651	1.51	51 894 427 247	1.86	19.53	15 166 723 160	108 448 279 429	112 525 904 094	10.48	10 034 829 509	60 897 774 756	60 631 476 847
AMERICA	(4 573 996 717)	0.61	(17 039 378 149)	0.80	9.15	7 109 762 975	65 709 067 833	68 712 917 784	12.20	11 683 759 692	78 216 686 578	85 752 295 933
ASIA	(16 504 856 434)	0.61	(101 348 491 016)	0.68	33.50	26 021 186 814	198 581 080 317	212 343 169 675	44.41	42 526 043 248	321 605 832 537	313 691 660 691
EUROPE	(6 660 094 687)	0.78	(59 471 588 441)	0.75	30.51	23 699 807 765	157 570 289 066	182 098 705 413	31.70	30 359 902 452	222 377 681 703	241 570 293 854
OCEANIA	83 428 573	1.08	48 256 758	1.01	1.43	1 113 354 529	8 369 023 483	8 808 156 902	1.08	1 029 925 956	10 453 612 667	8 759 900 144
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	3 848 249 592	30.74	60 111 933 947	62.53	5.12	3 977 665 683	44 712 592 007	61 088 847 278	0.14	129 416 091	1 397 491 803	976 913 331
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	582 889 457	-	3 697 762 981	-	0.75	582 889 457	7 158 026 689	3 697 762 981	-	-	-	-
Total	(18 092 486 565)	0.81	(62 107 076 673)	0.91	100.00	77 671 390 383	590 548 358 824	649 275 464 127	100.00	95 763 876 948	694 949 080 044	711 382 540 800
Temporary Imports	January 2016	February 2016	March 2016	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	August 2016				
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	5 957 954 299	7 360 070 985	8 175 304 858	6 310 188 601	8 661 828 630	8 417 594 111	8 561 676 889	9 744 755 951				

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

Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (Only)

Trade Statistics with BLNS countries

Trade statistics with the BLNS for August 2016 recorded a trade balance surplus of R9.53 billion.

Summary

The R9.53 billion surplus for August 2016 is as a result of exports of R12.56 billion and imports of R3.03 billion.

Exports increased from July 2016 to August 2016 by R1.29 billion (11.5%) and imports increased from July 2016 to August 2016 by R0.42 billion (16.1%).

The cumulative surplus for 2016 is R69.51 billion compared to R69.30 billion in 2015.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 542	+1631%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R 220	+ 16%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 132	+ 12%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 114	+ 7%
Vegetable Products	+ R 79	+ 13%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Chemical Products	+ R 263	+ 66%
Live Animals	+ R 103	+ 54%
Textiles	+ R 44	+ 10%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 28	+ 10%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 27	- 9%

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ENDS.

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