

## SA Trade Statistics for January 2016

### SARS MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO – 2pm Monday, 29 February 2016*

### SARS releases trade statistics for January 2016

**Pretoria, 29 February 2016** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for January 2016 that recorded a trade deficit of R17.87 billion. This figure includes trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS).

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

The R17.87 billion deficit for January 2016 is due to exports of R71.50 billion and imports of R89.37 billion. Exports decreased from December 2015 to January 2016 by R16.57 billion (18.8%) and imports increased from December 2015 to January 2016 by R8.86 billion (11.0%).

The R17.87 billion deficit is a 23.7% decrease on the deficit recorded in January 2015 of R23.43 billion. Exports of R71.50 billion are 5.4% more than the exports recorded in January 2015 of R67.82 billion. Imports of R89.37 billion are 2.1% less than the imports recorded in January 2015 of R91.25 billion.

The month of December 2015 trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.66 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R8.22 billion to a revised surplus of R7.56 billion.

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### Trade highlights by category

The month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	- R6 563	- 36.6%
Vehicle & Transport Equipment	- R3 195	- 34.5%
Chemical Products	- R1 488	- 24.9%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R1 077	- 25.5%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 970	- 12.2%

The month-on-month import movements:

<b>R' million</b>		
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Including BLNS:</b>	
Equipment Components	+ R 3 973	+ 129.4%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R3 403	+ 16.5%
Base Metals	+ R1 274	+ 30.5%
Vehicle & Transport Equipment	- R1 070	- 10.9%
Mineral Products	- R2 271	- 17.2%

### **Trade highlights by world zone**

The world zone results from December 2015 to January 2016 are given below.

#### **Africa:**

Exports: R21 411 million – this is a decrease of R2 126 million from December 2015

Imports: R9 563 million – this is a decrease of R 175 million from December 2015

Trade surplus: R11 848 million – This is a 14.1% decrease in comparison to the R13 798 million surplus recorded in December 2015.

#### **America:**

Exports: R5 676 million – this is a decrease of R2 852 million from December 2015

Imports: R9 263 million – this is a decrease of R1 159 million from December 2015

Trade deficit: R3 587 million – This is an 89.4% increase in comparison to the R1 894 million deficit recorded in December 2015.

#### **Asia:**

Exports: R22 339 million – this is a decrease of R4 550 million from December 2015

Imports: R40 087 million – this is an increase of R6 499 million from December 2015

Trade deficit: R17 748 million – This is a deterioration in comparison to the R6 698 million deficit recorded in December 2015.

#### **Europe:**

Exports: R16 906 million – this is a decrease of R3 153 million from December 2015

Imports: R29 474 million – this is an increase of R3 753 million from December 2015

Trade deficit: R12 568 million – This is a deterioration in comparison to the R5 662 million deficit recorded in December 2015.

#### **Oceania:**

Exports: R 654 million – this is a decrease of R 373 million from December 2015

Imports: R 939 million – this is a decrease of R 38 million from December 2015

Trade deficit: R 285 million – This is a deterioration in comparison to the R 49 million surplus recorded in December 2015.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for January 2016 recorded a trade deficit of R25.49 billion.

### **Summary**

The R25.49 billion deficit for January 2016 is as a result of exports of R61.31 billion and imports of R86.80 billion. Exports decreased from December 2015 to January 2016 by R16.32 billion (21.0%) and imports increased from December 2015 to January 2016 by R8.49 billion (10.8%).

The cumulative deficit for 2016 is R25.49 billion compared to R30.49 billion in 2015.

### **Trade highlights by category**

The month-on-month export movements:

<b>R' million</b>		
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Excluding BLNS:</b>	
Precious Metals & Stones	- R7 377	- 41.2%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R3 051	- 37.2%
Chemical Products	- R1 299	- 26.0%
Prepared Foodstuff	- R1 055	- 37.0%
Machinery & Electronics	- R 910	- 13.8%

The month-on-month import movements:

<b>R' million</b>		
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Excluding BLNS:</b>	
Equipment Components	+ R3 973	+ 129.4%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R3 245	+ 15.8%
Base Metals	+ R1 295	+ 31.6%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R1 093	- 11.2%
Mineral Products	- R2 267	- 17.3%

### **Trade highlights by world zone**

The world zone results other than Africa from December 2015 to January 2016 are given above.

#### **Africa:**

Exports: R11 218 million – this is a decrease of R1 868 million from December 2015

Imports: R6 988 million – this is a decrease of R 544 million from December 2015

Trade surplus: R4 230 million – This is a 23.8% decrease in comparison to the R5 554 million surplus recorded in December 2015.

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

## 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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	13	1.01	13	1.01	1.59	1 140	942	1 140	1.26	1 127	1 067	1 127
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1 435	1.60	1 435	1.60	5.33	3 810	3 278	3 810	2.66	2 375	1 340	2 375
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(323)	0.47	(323)	0.47	0.40	287	172	287	0.68	610	338	610
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	636	1.25	636	1.25	4.39	3 142	2 814	3 142	2.80	2 505	2 547	2 505
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	5 795	1.53	5 795	1.53	23.34	16 692	17 784	16 692	12.19	10 896	18 799	10 896
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(4 502)	0.50	(4 502)	0.50	6.29	4 494	4 820	4 494	10.07	8 996	8 537	8 996
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 410)	0.39	(2 410)	0.39	2.12	1 515	1 228	1 515	4.39	3 925	4 072	3 925
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(80)	0.80	(80)	0.80	0.44	315	304	315	0.44	395	366	395
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(175)	0.69	(175)	0.69	0.54	384	329	384	0.63	559	476	559
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	462	1.32	462	1.32	2.69	1 921	1 281	1 921	1.63	1 459	1 295	1 459
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 752)	0.26	(2 752)	0.26	1.37	981	797	981	4.18	3 733	3 056	3 733
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 267)	0.10	(1 267)	0.10	0.19	134	132	134	1.57	1 401	1 070	1 401
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(781)	0.38	(781)	0.38	0.68	485	322	485	1.42	1 266	1 096	1 266
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	10 646	15.53	10 646	15.53	15.91	11 379	10 456	11 379	0.82	733	638	733
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4 806	1.88	4 806	1.88	14.34	10 255	9 339	10 255	6.10	5 450	5 275	5 450
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(17 091)	0.29	(17 091)	0.29	9.75	6 972	6 126	6 972	26.92	24 063	21 727	24 063
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(2 695)	0.69	(2 695)	0.69	8.48	6 067	6 587	6 067	9.80	8 762	10 002	8 762
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 637)	0.27	(1 637)	0.27	0.86	614	527	614	2.52	2 252	1 973	2 252
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 165)	0.31	(1 165)	0.31	0.72	516	456	516	1.88	1 681	1 349	1 681
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(8)	0.83	(8)	0.83	0.06	41	32	41	0.05	49	17	49
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	265	3.86	265	3.86	0.50	357	91	357	0.10	93	78	93
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(7 044)	0.00	(7 044)	0.00	0.00	0	4	0	7.88	7 044	6 129	7 044
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(17 871)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>(17 871)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71 502</b>	<b>67 820</b>	<b>71 502</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89 374</b>	<b>91 246</b>	<b>89 374</b>

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 % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
AFRICA	11 848	2.24	11 848	2.24	29.94	21 411	19 715	21 411	10.70	9 563	12 028	9 563
AMERICA	(3 587)	0.61	(3 587)	0.61	7.94	5 676	6 797	5 676	10.36	9 263	9 826	9 263
ASIA	(17 748)	0.56	(17 748)	0.56	31.24	22 339	20 055	22 339	44.85	40 087	41 414	40 087
EUROPE	(12 568)	0.57	(12 568)	0.57	23.64	16 906	16 376	16 906	32.98	29 474	26 469	29 474
OCEANIA	(285)	0.70	(285)	0.70	0.91	654	864	654	1.05	939	1 359	939
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	4 189	87.70	4 189	87.70	5.93	4 237	3 373	4 237	0.05	48	150	48
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	280	-	280	-	0.39	280	640	280	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(17 871)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>(17 871)</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>71 502</b>	<b>67 820</b>	<b>71 502</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89 374</b>	<b>91 246</b>	<b>89 374</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2016</b>											
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	5 901											

### 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 <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(85)	0.91	(85)	0.91	1.44	883	699	883	1.12	969	838	969
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	911	1.39	911	1.39	5.28	3 238	2 822	3 238	2.68	2 327	1 301	2 327
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(404)	0.34	(404)	0.34	0.33	205	113	205	0.70	608	337	608
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(244)	0.88	(244)	0.88	2.93	1 796	1 737	1 796	2.35	2 040	2 182	2 040
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	3 954	1.36	3 954	1.36	24.16	14 810	16 212	14 810	12.51	10 855	18 748	10 855
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(4 752)	0.44	(4 752)	0.44	6.03	3 698	3 950	3 698	9.73	8 449	8 043	8 449
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(2 750)	0.29	(2 750)	0.29	1.87	1 146	856	1 146	4.49	3 897	4 042	3 897
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(109)	0.71	(109)	0.71	0.44	270	259	270	0.44	379	335	379
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(198)	0.58	(198)	0.58	0.45	273	232	273	0.54	471	412	471
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	241	1.17	241	1.17	2.74	1 678	1 025	1 678	1.66	1 437	1 272	1 437
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(2 779)	0.18	(2 779)	0.18	1.02	624	460	624	3.92	3 403	2 792	3 403
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 350)	0.02	(1 350)	0.02	0.05	33	35	33	1.59	1 383	1 062	1 383
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(889)	0.29	(889)	0.29	0.60	366	210	366	1.45	1 254	1 088	1 254
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	10 186	29.20	10 186	29.20	17.20	10 547	10 078	10 547	0.42	361	347	361
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4 299	1.80	4 299	1.80	15.82	9 697	8 760	9 697	6.22	5 398	5 160	5 398
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(18 138)	0.24	(18 138)	0.24	9.24	5 663	4 872	5 663	27.42	23 800	21 536	23 800
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(3 533)	0.59	(3 533)	0.59	8.40	5 150	5 389	5 150	10.00	8 682	9 974	8 682
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 735)	0.23	(1 735)	0.23	0.83	511	414	511	2.59	2 246	1 968	2 246
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 323)	0.20	(1 323)	0.20	0.54	333	262	333	1.91	1 656	1 338	1 656
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	(11)	0.78	(11)	0.78	0.06	38	31	38	0.06	49	17	49
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified <sup>1)</sup>	264	3.98	264	3.98	0.58	353	86	353	0.10	89	73	89
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions <sup>2)</sup>	(7 044)	0.00	(7 044)	0.00	0.00	0	4	0	8.12	7 044	6 129	7 044
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total SA Rand</b>	<b>(25 488)</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>(25 488)</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>61 310</b>	<b>58 504</b>	<b>61 310</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>86 798</b>	<b>88 995</b>	<b>86 798</b>

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 % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month % of total	Month Total 2016 (R'm)	Cumulative 2015 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2016 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	
AFRICA	4 230	1.61	4 230	1.61	18.30	11 218	10 399	11 218	8.05	6 988	9 777	6 988	
AMERICA	(3 587)	0.61	(3 587)	0.61	9.26	5 676	6 797	5 676	10.67	9 263	9 826	9 263	
ASIA	(17 748)	0.56	(17 748)	0.56	36.44	22 339	20 055	22 339	46.18	40 087	41 414	40 087	
EUROPE	(12 568)	0.57	(12 568)	0.57	27.57	16 906	16 376	16 906	33.96	29 474	26 469	29 474	
OCEANIA	(285)	0.70	(285)	0.70	1.07	654	864	654	1.08	939	1 359	939	
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	4 189	87.70	4 189	87.70	6.91	4 237	3 373	4 237	0.06	48	150	48	
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	280	-	280	-	0.46	280	640	280	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(25 488)</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>(25 488)</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>61 310</b>	<b>58 504</b>	<b>61 310</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>86 798</b>	<b>88 995</b>	<b>86 798</b>	
<b>Temporary Imports</b>	<b>January 2016</b>												
Gold Imports <sup>4)</sup>	5 901												

**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 January 2016 recorded a trade surplus of R7.62 billion.

#### Summary

The R7.62 billion surplus for January 2016 is as a result of exports of R10.19 billion and imports of R2.58 billion.

Exports decreased from December 2015 to January 2016 by R0.26 billion (2.5%) and imports increased from December 2015 to January 2016 by R0.37 billion (16.7%).

The cumulative surplus for 2016 is R7.62 billion compared to R7.06 billion in 2015.

#### Trade Highlights by Category

The month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Chemical Products	- R 189	- 19.1%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	- R 145	- 13.6%
Textiles	- R 110	- 23.6%
Live Animals	- R 99	- 27.8%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 814	+ 4542.2%

The month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 334	+ 896.7%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 158	+ 150.8%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 33	+ 7.7%
Live Animals	- R 39	- 19.6%
Chemical Products	- R 160	- 22.6%

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

**ENDS.**

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