

SA Trade Statistics for May 2017

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

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SARS releases trade statistics for May 2017

Pretoria, 30 June 2017– The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for May 2017 recording a trade balance surplus of R9.50 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS). The year-to-date trade balance surplus (01 January to 31 May 2017) of R19.52 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2016 of R13.29 billion.

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

The R9.50 billion trade balance surplus for May 2017 is attributable to exports of R105.02 billion and imports of R95.52 billion. Exports increased from April 2017 to May 2017 by R13.99 billion (15.4%) and imports increased from April 2017 to May 2017 by R9.46 billion (11.0%).

Exports for the year-to-date (01 January to 31 May 2017) grew by 6.1% from R438.01 billion in 2016 to R464.78 billion in 2017. Imports for the year-to-date of R445.25 billion are 1.3% less than the imports recorded in January to May 2016 of R451.30 billion.

On a year-on-year basis, the R9.50 billion trade balance surplus for May 2017 is a deterioration from the surplus recorded in May 2016 of R13.10 billion. Exports of R105.02 billion are 5.8% more than the exports recorded in May 2016 of R99.26 billion. Imports of R95.52 billion are 10.9% more than the imports recorded in May 2016 of R86.16 billion.

April 2017's trade balance surplus was revised downwards by R0.11 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R5.08 billion to a revised surplus of R4.97 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

[**Click here for Merchandise Trade Statistics May 2017**](#)

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Vegetable Products	+ R1 816	+ 46%
Base Metals	+ R1 638	+ 14%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R1 559	+ 15%

Chemical Products	+ R1 435	+ 28%
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	+ R1 305	+ 220%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R1 290	+ 38%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R1 231	+ 8%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R1 096	+ 15%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Including BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+ R3 094	+ 22%
Original Equipment Components	+ R2 115	+ 33%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R1 419	+ 7%
Chemical Products	+ R 786	+ 9%
Textiles	+ R 503	+ 16%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from April 2017 (revised) to May 2017 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R27 758 million – this is an increase of R5 534 million from April 2017.

Imports: R9 906 million – this is a decrease of R 267 million from April 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R17 852 million – this is a 48.1% increase in comparison to the R12 051 million surplus recorded in April 2017.

America:

Exports: R10 221 million – this is an increase of R2 477 million from April 2017.

Imports: R10 083 million – this is an increase of R1 440 million from April 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R 138 million – this is an improvement in comparison to the R 899 million deficit recorded in April 2017.

Asia:

Exports: R32 068 million – this is an increase of R2 757 million from April 2017.

Imports: R43 623 million – this is an increase of R4 826 million from April 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R11 555 million – this is a 21.8% increase in comparison to the R9 486 million deficit recorded in April 2017.

Europe:

Exports: R25 578 million – this is an increase of R1 914 million from April 2017.

Imports: R30 533 million – this is an increase of R3 664 million from April 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R4 955 million – this is a 54.6% increase in comparison to the R3 205 million deficit recorded in April 2017.

Oceania:

Exports: R1 173 million – this is an increase of R 15 million from April 2017.

Imports: R1 204 million – this is an increase of R 193 million from April 2017.

Trade Balance deficit: R 31 million – this is a deterioration in comparison to the R 147 million surplus recorded in April 2017.

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

The trade data excluding BLNS for May 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R1.89 billion.

Summary

The R1.89 billion surplus for May 2017 is as a result of exports of R94.31 billion and imports of R92.42 billion. Exports increased from April 2017 to May 2017 by R12.39 billion (15.1%) and imports increased from April 2017 to May 2017 by R9.20 billion (11.1%).

The cumulative deficit for 2017 is R15.14 billion compared to R55.24 billion deficit in 2016.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Vegetable Products	+ R1 718	+ 50%
Base Metals	+ R1 504	+ 14%
Chemical Products	+ R1 278	+ 29%
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	+ R1 243	+ 363%
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R1 241	+ 8%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R1 227	+ 13%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R1 226	+ 53%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 825	+ 14%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	Excluding BLNS:	
Section:		
Mineral Products	+ R3 070	+ 22%
Original Equipment Components	+ R2 115	+ 33%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R1 374	+ 7%
Chemical Products	+ R 865	+ 11%
Textiles	+ R 438	+ 16%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BLNS from April 2017 (Revised) to May 2017 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R17 052 million – this is an increase of R3 942 million from April 2017.

Imports: R6 807 million – this is a decrease of R 520 million from April 2017.

Trade Balance surplus: R10 245 million – this is a 77.2% increase in comparison to the R5 783 million surplus recorded in April 2017.

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Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (Only)

Trade Statistics with BLNS countries

Trade statistics with the BLNS for May 2017 recorded a trade balance surplus of R7.61 billion.

Summary

The R7.61 billion surplus for May 2017 is as a result of exports of R10.71 billion and imports of R3.10 billion.

Exports increased from April 2017 to May 2017 by R1.59 billion (17.5%) and imports also increased from April 2017 to May 2017 by R0.25 billion (8.9%).

The cumulative surplus for 2017 is R34.66 billion compared to R41.95 billion in 2016.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+ R 332	+ 37%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 271	+ 19%
Chemical Products	+ R 157	+ 19%
Base Metals	+ R 134	+ 22%
Mineral Products	+ R 114	+8%
Plastics & Rubber	+ R 112	+ 29%
Vegetable Products	+ R 98	+ 19%
Textiles	+ R 97	+ 19%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BLNS:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+ R 77	+ 18%
Live Animals	+ R 65	+ 19%
Textiles	+ R 65	+ 17%
Machinery & Electronics	+ R 45	+ 19%
Prepared Foodstuff	+ R 25	+ 6%
Mineral Products	+ R 23	+ 46%
Chemical Products	- R 79	- 13%

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