

2008

## South African Trade Statistics for September 2008

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**Trade deficit increases in September 2008 from R5.1 billion to R7.1 billion mainly due to a month-on-month increase in imports of mineral products, machinery and chemical products and a month-on-month decrease in exports of vegetable products, base metals and mineral products.**

Pretoria, 31 October 2008 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) announced today that September exports of R61.07 billion and imports of R68.18 billion resulted in a deficit of R7.1 billion. Imports increased by R2.66 billion (4.07%) to R68.18 billion and exports increased by R0.68 billion (1.12%) to R61.07 billion. Highlights include a month-on-month increase in imports of mineral products, machinery and chemical products, and a month-on-month increase in exports of precious stones and metals and vehicles.

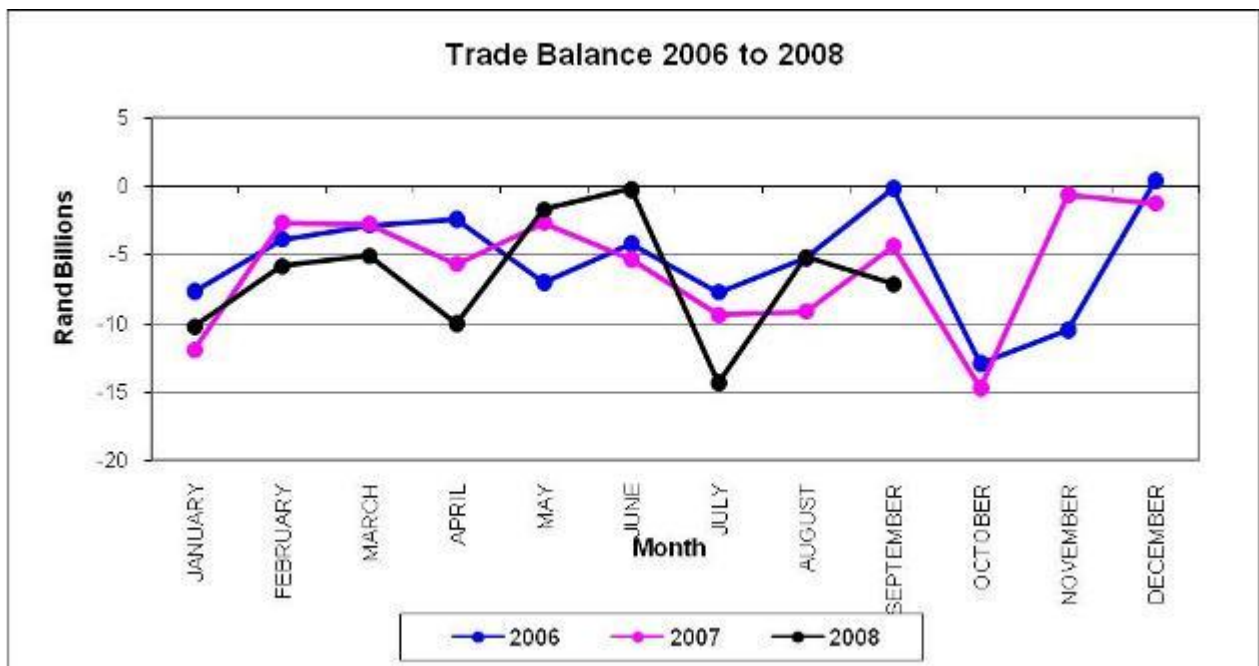
### Trade Highlights by Category

- The August to September change (up by 4.07%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in mineral products [up by R1.5 billion (10%)]; machinery and electrical appliances [up by R2.2 billion (15%)]; and chemical products [up by R1.1 billion (18%)]. The August to September change in exports of goods (increase of 1.12%) reflected an increase in exports of precious and semi-precious stones and metals [up by R1.1 billion (9%)]; and vehicles, vessels and aircraft [up by R1.0 billion (19%)]
- Month-on-month exports increased particularly as a result of increased values of trade in goods such as gold, phosphoric acid and motor vehicles.
  - The month-on-month increase in imports is the result of increased values of trade in goods such as mineral oils and fuels, various machinery and mechanical appliances, cell phones, and chemical products such as urea and potassium chloride.

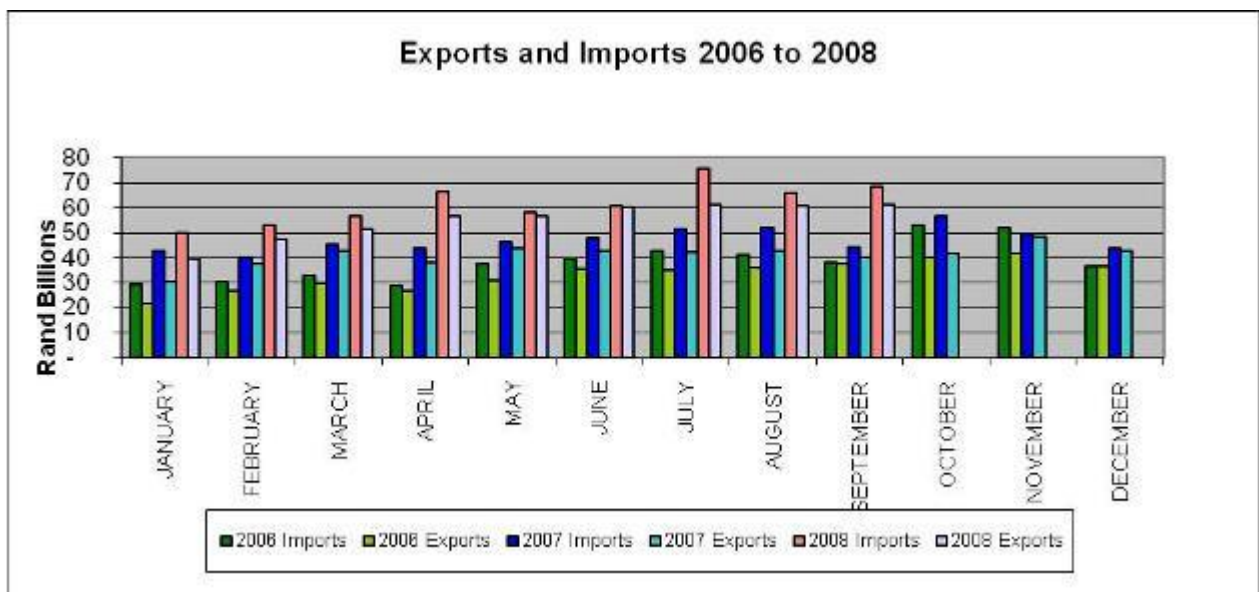
### Trade Highlights by World Zone

- The surpluses and deficits for September 2008 as given below for the world zones are in respect of audited figures, and those for August 2008 are unaudited.
- The trade deficit with Asia increased from R9.1 billion in August to R11.9 billion in September. Exports to Asia increased by R0.6 billion to R18.4 billion and imports increased by R3.3 billion to R30.2 billion.
- The trade deficit with Europe decreased from R2.5 billion in August to R1.4 billion in September. Exports decreased by R0.8 billion to R18.3 billion and imports decreased by R1.9 billion to R19.7 billion.
- The trade deficit with America changed from R0.7 billion in August to R1.6 billion in September. Exports decreased from R7.8 billion to R6.8 billion and imports decreased from R8.5 billion to R8.4 billion.
- The trade surplus with Africa decreased from R2.9 billion to R2.1 billion. Imports increased from R7.1 billion to R8.1 billion and exports increased from R10.0 billion to R10.2 billion.

Trade for the year



The cumulative trade deficit for January 2008 to September 2008 was R61.6 billion versus a deficit of R55.3 billion (audited) for the same period in 2007; this represents a year-on-year growth of R6.3 billion (11%). The cumulative trade deficit for January 2006 to September 2006 was R42.5 billion (audited), yielding a year-on-year growth of R12.8 billion (30%) in 2007.



Compared to the same period in 2007, the growth in exports was 37% and the growth in imports 34%. Cumulative imports increased by R140 billion (34%) from R412 billion to R552 billion and exports increased by 133 billion (37%) from R357 billion to R490 billion. With respect to the same period in 2006, the growth in exports in 2007 was 29% (a cumulative increase of R79 billion year-on-year) and the growth in imports also 29% (reflecting a cumulative increase of R92 billion).

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