

Media Releases 2009

South African Trade Statistics for February 2009

Pretoria, 31 March 2009 -- The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics and RECORDED A DECREASE IN THE TRADE DEFICIT FROM R17.4 BILLION IN JANUARY 2009 TO A TRADE DEFICIT OF R571 MILLION IN FEBRUARY 2009.

Summary

The deficit of R571 million for February 2009 was mainly due to increased exports and reduced imports.

Exports for February 2009 were R44.061 billion (R46.946 billion in February 2008) and imports for February 2009 were R44.632 billion (R52.766 billion in February 2008).

Imports decreased on the previous month by R8.999 billion (16.78%) to R44.632 billion and exports increased by R7.810 billion (21.54%) to R44.061 billion.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The January to February decrease (down by 16.78%) in imports of goods; reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical machinery and equipment [down by R3.755 billion (24%)],
 - Mineral products [down by R1.979 billion (17%)] and
 - Chemical products [down by R622 million (14%)]
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- The January to February change (up by 21.54 %) in exports of goods; reflected increases mainly in:
 - Precious metals and stones [up by R2.183 billion (28%)].
 - Vehicles [up by R1.545 billion (58%)] and
 - Mineral products [up by R1.453 billion and mainly iron ore (22%)].

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for February 2009 as given below are unaudited:

- **Asia:** The deficit with Asia decreased from R12.8 billion in January 2009 to R4.8 billion in February 2009. Exports to Asia increased by R1.8bn to R13.2bn and imports decreased by R6.2 billion to R18 billion.
- **Europe:** The deficit with Europe decreased from R6.2 billion in January 2009 to R2.9 billion in February 2009. Exports to Europe increased by R0.8 billion to R12 billion and imports decreased by R2.5 billion to R14.9 billion.
- **America:** The deficit with America decreased from R4.3 billion in January 2009 to R1.8 billion in February 2009. Exports to America increased by R1.8 billion to R5.1 billion and imports decreased by R0.7 billion to R6.9 billion.
- **Africa:** The deficit with Africa increased from R3.9 billion in January 2009 to R4.2 billion in February 2009. Exports increased by R1 .6 billion to R8.2 billion and imports increased by R1.2 billion to R4 billion.

		TRADE											
Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Imports				Exports			
Code	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	157	1.62	297	1.56	253	0.57	831	540	410	0.93	769	837
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	796	1.77	1,592	1.79	1,031	2.31	2,059	2,004	1,826	4.14	2,169	3,596
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(324)	0.14	(829)	0.11	376	0.84	1,144	937	52	0.12	41	108
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	340	1.28	462	1.19	1,208	2.71	2,075	2,475	1,549	3.51	1,979	2,937
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	119	1.01	(3,195)	0.85	9,654	21.63	22,251	21,286	9,772	22.18	14,712	18,091
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,291)	0.66	(3,453)	0.58	3,813	8.54	8,312	8,247	2,522	5.72	4,970	4,794
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(760)	0.50	(2,138)	0.40	1,535	3.44	3,743	3,553	775	1.76	1,356	1,415
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(21)	0.86	(110)	0.67	147	0.33	381	331	126	0.29	268	222
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(115)	0.49	(212)	0.61	226	0.51	616	549	110	0.25	437	337
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	287	1.36	253	1.14	790	1.77	1,707	1,778	1,077	2.44	1,432	2,031
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,192)	0.28	(2,698)	0.23	1,666	3.73	2,955	3,499	474	1.08	824	801
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(426)	0.05	(1,017)	0.04	450	1.01	812	1,060	24	0.05	52	42
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(307)	0.34	(762)	0.27	464	1.04	1,433	1,043	157	0.36	302	281
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	9,384	24.65	16,403	17.83	397	0.89	1,645	975	9,780	22.20	21,244	17,378
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	3,800	2.70	6,726	2.41	2,233	5.00	4,874	4,757	6,033	13.69	16,888	11,483
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(7,957)	0.32	(20,535)	0.25	11,742	26.31	26,194	27,238	3,785	8.59	9,054	6,704
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	496	1.13	(923)	0.88	3,696	8.28	10,294	7,762	4,192	9.51	7,585	6,839
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,290)	0.15	(2,389)	0.15	1,523	3.41	2,629	2,823	233	0.53	372	434
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(282)	0.54	(728)	0.47	614	1.38	1,388	1,369	332	0.75	779	641
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	10	2.41	13	1.83	7	0.02	49	16	17	0.04	73	29
XXXII	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	715	8.27	1,135	8.21	98	0.22	99	157	813	1.85	519	1,292
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(2,709)	0.00	(5,931)	0.00	2,711	6.07	6,884	5,934	2	0.00	1	3
Total SA Rand		(571)	0.99	(18,037)	0.82	44,632	100.00	102,374	98,331	44,062	100.00	85,825	80,294

		TRADE											
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Imports				Exports			
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)
Africa		4,225	2.06	8,034	2.19	3,983	8.92	6,796	6,754	8,208	18.63	10,833	14,788
Europe		(2,890)	0.81	(9,120)	0.72	14,912	33.41	33,813	32,343	12,022	27.28	28,803	23,222
America		(1,762)	0.74	(6,057)	0.58	6,906	15.47	14,625	14,488	5,144	11.67	12,212	8,431
Asia		(4,816)	0.73	(17,619)	0.58	17,975	40.27	45,001	42,155	13,159	29.87	25,688	24,536
Oceania		(321)	0.57	(1,158)	0.44	755	1.69	1,942	2,066	433	0.98	1,879	908
Other Unclassified Goods		4,949	49.42	7,734	15.71	102	0.23	197	526	5,051	11.46	6,314	8,260
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		45		149		-	-	-	-	45	0.10	97	149
Total SA Rand		(571)	0.99	(18,037)	0.82	44,632	100.00	102,374	98,331	44,062	100.00	85,825	80,294

Temporary Imports	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09
Gold Imports ⁴⁾ (R'm)	4,136	6,047										

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) 2008 Data is audited and 2009 data unaudited

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