

## Media Releases 2009

### SARS Media Release - South African Trade Statistics for August 2009

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**Pretoria, 30 September 2009** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for August 2009 that record a trade deficit of R1.98 billion.

#### Summary

The R1.98 billion deficit for August 2009 was mainly due to a decrease in exports of 9.18% and a decrease in imports of 3.76%. Exports for August 2009 of R40.38 billion and imports of R42.36 billion resulted in a deficit of R1.98 billion. Imports decreased by R1.7 billion (3.76%) to R42.36 billion and exports decreased by R4.1 billion (9.18%) to R40.38 billion.

#### Trade Highlights by Category

\* The July to August change (down by 3.76%) in imports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:

- o Vehicles, vessels and aircrafts [down by R1.5 billion (32%)]
- o Machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical machinery and equipment [down by R0.4 billion (4%)] and
- o Original equipment components [down by R0.3 billion (13%)]

\* The July to August change (down by 9.18%) in exports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:

- o Mineral products [down by R1.8 billion (17%)]
- o Vegetable products [down by R0.8 billion (30%)]
- o Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [down by R0.7 billion (21%)]
- o Base metals and articles thereof [down by R0.3 billion (4%)];
- o Precious and semi-precious stones and metals [down by R0.1 billion (1%)].

#### Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for August 2009 as given below are unaudited, and those for July 2009 are audited.

- Asia: The deficit increased from R4.6bn in July 2009 to R6.1bn in August 2009. Exports decreased by R1.6bn to R13bn and imports decreased by R0.1bn to R19.1bn.
- Europe: The deficit increased from R2.6bn in July 2009 to R3.3bn in August 2009. Exports decreased by R3.3bn to R10.5bn and imports decreased by R2.6bn to R13.8bn.
- America: The deficit decreased from R1.2bn in July 2009 to R0.8bn in August 2009. Exports increased by R0.2bn to R4.1bn and imports decreased by R0.2bn to R5bn.
- Africa: The surplus decreased from R5.3bn in July 2009 to R3.2bn in August 2009. Exports decreased by R1bn to R6.9bn and imports increased by R1.2bn to R3.7bn.

For more detail, visit the Trade Stats webpage, [click here](#) or path: [www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za), Customs and Excise, Trade Data.

Harmonised Sections		TRADE											
		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Imports				Exports			
Code	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	18	1.05	530	1.18	342	0.81	3,164	2,968	360	0.89	3,716	3,498
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1,093	2.33	9,579	2.37	821	1.94	7,360	7,016	1,914	4.74	15,019	16,595
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(350)	0.20	(2,474)	0.20	438	1.03	4,266	3,074	88	0.22	771	600
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	257	1.17	2,800	1.27	1,491	3.52	8,978	10,384	1,748	4.33	10,839	13,184
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(1,836)	0.82	(5,105)	0.93	10,278	24.26	116,732	76,811	8,442	20.91	75,967	71,706
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,760)	0.58	(13,532)	0.59	4,220	9.96	41,412	33,204	2,460	6.09	25,870	19,672
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(856)	0.45	(6,955)	0.47	1,557	3.68	15,807	13,081	701	1.74	6,920	6,126
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(57)	0.62	(299)	0.75	148	0.35	1,505	1,200	92	0.23	1,131	900
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	38	1.24	150	1.09	159	0.37	2,122	1,639	197	0.49	2,200	1,789
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	9	1.01	436	1.07	717	1.69	6,854	6,244	726	1.80	7,220	6,680
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(992)	0.25	(8,402)	0.27	1,328	3.14	10,872	11,435	336	0.83	3,620	3,032
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(469)	0.05	(3,492)	0.05	491	1.16	3,209	3,694	23	0.06	228	202
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(403)	0.28	(2,901)	0.31	561	1.33	5,814	4,207	159	0.39	1,461	1,305
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	9,425	28.50	78,252	25.29	343	0.81	7,368	3,221	9,767	24.19	103,007	81,473
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4,692	3.86	31,831	3.08	1,638	3.87	23,690	15,325	6,331	15.68	79,234	47,156
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(6,856)	0.34	(68,881)	0.29	10,407	24.57	118,866	97,087	3,551	8.79	43,246	28,206
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(432)	0.86	(2,628)	0.91	3,138	7.41	47,805	30,878	2,707	6.70	41,412	28,249
XXIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,153)	0.14	(8,528)	0.23	1,345	3.18	11,940	11,115	193	0.48	2,346	2,586
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(437)	0.41	(2,543)	0.51	738	1.74	6,143	5,207	301	0.75	3,471	2,664
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	14	3.30	(11)	0.93	6	0.01	186	151	21	0.05	592	140
XXII	Other Unclassified 1)	245	13.31	1,373	3.85	20	0.05	579	519	265	0.66	992	1,891
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(2,175)	-	(19,614)	0.00	2,175	5.13	33,873	19,618	-	-	15	4
<b>Total SA Rand</b>		<b>(1,981)</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>(20,416)</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>42,362</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>478,546</b>	<b>358,076</b>	<b>40,381</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>429,277</b>	<b>337,660</b>

World Zones		TRADE											
		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Imports				Exports			
World Zones		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>5)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2008 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2009 (R'm)
Africa		3,157	1.85	34,976	2.42	3,720	8.78	40,752	24,567	6,877	17.03	62,840	59,543
Europe		(3,325)	0.76	(26,582)	0.79	13,790	32.55	161,905	123,829	10,465	25.92	139,966	97,247
America		(825)	0.83	(16,904)	0.85	4,959	11.71	60,776	48,792	4,135	10.24	55,663	31,887
Asia		(6,061)	0.68	(44,258)	0.71	19,069	45.01	204,317	152,886	13,008	32.21	128,272	108,627
Oceania		(181)	0.76	(2,305)	0.66	771	1.82	9,364	6,880	590	1.46	8,968	4,575
Other Unclassified Goods		5,209	100.70	34,135	31.40	52	0.12	1,433	1,123	5,261	13.03	33,133	35,258
Ships/Aircraft Stores		45	-	521	-	-	-	-	-	45	0.11	435	521
<b>Total SA Rand</b>		<b>(1,981)</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>(20,416)</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>42,362</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>478,546</b>	<b>358,076</b>	<b>40,381</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>429,277</b>	<b>337,660</b>
<b>Temporary Imports</b>		<b>Jan-09</b>	<b>Feb-09</b>	<b>Mar-09</b>	<b>Apr-09</b>	<b>May-09</b>	<b>Jun-09</b>	<b>Jul-09</b>	<b>Aug-09</b>	<b>Sep-09</b>	<b>Oct-09</b>	<b>Nov-09</b>	<b>Dec-09</b>
<b>Gold imports 4) (R'm)</b>		4,136	6,047	5,090	2,896	3,630	2,406	6,413	2,397				

**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

ENDS.

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