

Media Releases 2009

South African Trade Statistics for September 2009

Pretoria, 30 October 2009 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for September 2009 that record a trade surplus of R3.9 billion.

Summary

The R3.87 billion surplus for September 2009 was mainly due to an increase in exports of 12.77% and a decrease in imports of 1.65%.

Exports for September 2009 of R45.53 billion and imports of R41.66 billion resulted in a surplus of R3.87 billion.

Imports decreased by R0.7 billion (1.65%) to R41.66 billion and exports increased by R5.2 billion (12.77%) to R45.53 billion.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The August to September change (down by 1.65%) in imports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Mineral products [down by R2.1 billion (20%)]
 - Machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical machinery and equipment [down by R0.1 billion (1%)]
- The August to September change (up by 12.77%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals [up by R3.2 billion (32%)].
 - Base metals and articles thereof [up by R1.5 billion (24%)] and
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [up by R0.7 billion (26%)]

Trade Highlights by World Zone

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

- **Asia:** The deficit decreased from R6.2bn in August 2009 to R4.7bn in September 2009. Exports increased by R1.5bn to R14.3bn and imports decreased by R0.1bn to R19.0bn.
- **Europe:** The deficit decreased from R3.4bn in August 2009 to R1.2bn in September 2009. Exports increased by R2.4bn to R12.7bn and imports increased by R0.1bn to R13.9bn.
- **America:** The deficit decreased from R0.8bn in August 2009 to R0.4bn in September 2009. Exports increased by R0.5bn to R4.6bn and imports increased by R0.06bn to R5.0bn.
- **Africa:** The surplus increased from R3.1bn in August 2009 to R4.6bn in September 2009. Exports increased by R0.5bn to R7.4bn and imports decreased by R0.9bn to R2.8bn.

For more detail, visit our website, www.sars.gov.za; Customs and Excise; Trade Data

		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	37	1.10	564	1.17	363	0.87	3,541	3,330	400	0.88	4,087	3,894
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	552	1.55	10,113	2.26	996	2.39	8,806	8,018	1,547	3.40	17,359	18,131
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(214)	0.30	(2,689)	0.20	307	0.74	5,098	3,381	94	0.21	845	691
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	605	1.45	3,373	1.29	1,357	3.26	10,311	11,762	1,962	4.31	12,555	15,135
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(745)	0.91	(6,342)	0.93	8,228	19.75	133,046	85,039	7,483	16.43	87,168	78,696
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,653)	0.62	(15,228)	0.59	4,397	10.55	48,359	37,599	2,744	6.03	30,002	22,370
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,014)	0.39	(7,977)	0.46	1,658	3.98	17,908	14,741	644	1.41	7,908	6,764
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(83)	0.55	(381)	0.72	184	0.44	1,719	1,384	101	0.22	1,275	1,003
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	44	1.27	218	1.12	164	0.39	2,326	1,795	208	0.46	2,552	2,014
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	158	1.20	556	1.08	781	1.87	7,842	7,025	939	2.06	8,303	7,581
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(998)	0.32	(9,420)	0.27	1,458	3.50	12,321	12,897	460	1.01	4,065	3,476
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(469)	0.06	(3,963)	0.06	499	1.20	3,782	4,194	30	0.07	254	231
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(457)	0.26	(3,362)	0.30	616	1.48	6,503	4,824	159	0.35	1,641	1,462
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	12,384	23.76	90,638	25.07	544	1.31	7,916	3,765	12,928	28.39	117,098	94,403
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,797	3.85	37,481	3.16	2,035	4.89	27,047	17,363	7,832	17.20	89,527	54,844
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(6,490)	0.37	(75,483)	0.30	10,259	24.62	135,274	107,429	3,769	8.28	48,823	31,945
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(26)	0.99	(2,689)	0.92	3,448	8.28	53,060	34,330	3,423	7.52	47,612	31,642
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,081)	0.17	(9,615)	0.23	1,296	3.11	13,509	12,416	215	0.47	2,770	2,801
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(437)	0.50	(2,988)	0.51	872	2.09	7,143	6,086	434	0.95	3,933	3,098
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	8	2.03	(2)	0.99	8	0.02	195	159	17	0.04	612	157
XXXII	Other Unclassified 1)	91	2.61	1,464	3.54	57	0.14	615	575	148	0.33	1,015	2,039
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(2,138)	0.00	(21,752)	0.00	2,138	5.13	38,379	21,757	0	0.00	34	4
Total SA Rand		3,871	1.09	(17,486)	0.96	41,664	100.00	544,698	399,867	45,535	100.00	489,438	382,381

		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		4,578	2.62	39,398	2.44	2,818	6.76	46,819	27,406	7,397	16.24	72,659	66,804
Europe		(1,156)	0.92	(27,910)	0.80	13,904	33.37	181,610	137,814	12,748	28.00	158,045	109,904
America		(404)	0.92	(17,317)	0.68	5,018	12.04	69,134	53,814	4,614	10.13	62,282	36,497
Asia		(4,675)	0.75	(49,533)	0.71	19,006	45.62	234,561	171,912	14,331	31.47	146,635	122,379
Oceania		(108)	0.85	(2,413)	0.68	716	1.72	11,025	7,595	608	1.33	10,276	5,182
Other Unclassified Goods		5,546	28.35	39,679	30.93	203	0.49	1,550	1,326	5,748	12.62	39,051	41,004
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		89		611		-	-	-	-	89	0.20	489	611
Total SA Rand		3,871	1.09	(17,486)	0.96	41,664	100.00	544,698	399,867	45,535	100.00	489,438	382,381

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	5,090	2,696	3,630	2,406	6,413	2,397	6,661			

Notes:

1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films

4) Temporary gold imports are not included in imports or export numbers for the trade balance calculation

2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)

5) The ratio is the value of total exports divided by the value of total imports

3) 2008 Data is audited and 2009 data unaudited

ENDS