

Media Releases 2010

South African Trade Statistics for December 2009

Pretoria, 29 January 2010 -- The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for December 2009 that record a trade surplus of R3.7 billion.

Summary

The R3.7 billion surplus for December 2009 was due to a decrease in imports of 13.73% and a decrease in exports of 1.08%.

Exports for December 2009 of R45.36 billion and imports of R41.69 billion resulted in a surplus of R3.67 billion.

Imports decreased by R6.64 billion (13.73%) to R41.69 billion and exports decreased by R0.49 billion (1.08%) to R45.36 billion.

The cumulative trade deficit for 2009 is R25.84 billion compared to a deficit of R71.63 in 2008, a decline of R45.79 billion or 64%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The November to December change (down by 13.73%) in imports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - - Machinery and electrical appliances [down by R2.7 billion (22%)];
 - Original equipment components [down by R1.2 billion (42%)];
 - Products of the chemicals or allied industry [down by R0.6 billion (14%)];
 - Base metals and articles thereof [down by R0.6 billion (30%)];
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [down by R0.5 billion (11%)];
 - Plastics and rubber and articles thereof [down by R0.4 billion (23%)] ; and
 - A decrease of R0.4 billion (39%) in vegetable products
- **The November to December change (down by 1.08%) in exports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:**
 - - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [down by R1.9 billion (32%)];
 - A decrease of R0.6 billion in base metals and articles thereof (9%) ; and
 - An increase in mineral products of R1.8 billion (25%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

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

Asia: The deficit decreased from R6.1bn in November 2009 to R5.9bn in December 2009. Exports increased by R0.6bn to R13.2bn and imports increased by R0.3bn to R19.1bn.

Europe: The deficit of R4.2bn in November 2009 changed to a surplus of R0.9bn in December 2009. Exports decreased by R0.1bn to R13.4bn and imports decreased by R5.3bn to R12.5bn.

America: The deficit of R0.5bn in November 2009 changed to a surplus of R0.05bn in December 2009. Exports decreased by R1.0bn to R4.6bn and imports decreased by R1.6bn to R4.6bn.

Africa: The surplus decreased from R3.3bn in November 2009 to R2.9bn in December 2009. Exports decreased by R0.5bn to R7.4bn and imports decreased by R0.01bn to R4.5bn.

For more detail, visit our website, www.sars.gov.za; Customs and Excise; Trade Data or [click here for more detail](#).

		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	109	1.28	625	1.13	395	0.95	5,011	4,640	504	1.11	5,624	5,265
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	749	2.12	10,548	1.98	667	1.60	12,139	10,816	1,417	3.12	23,303	21,364
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(239)	0.24	(3,700)	0.20	316	0.76	6,645	4,620	77	0.17	1,007	920
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	130	1.09	4,051	1.25	1,405	3.37	15,437	16,278	1,535	3.38	17,693	20,329
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	(2,367)	0.79	(15,067)	0.87	11,407	27.36	172,607	118,497	9,040	19.93	120,771	103,431
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,430)	0.62	(21,098)	0.58	3,735	8.96	64,637	50,569	2,305	5.08	40,738	29,471
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(897)	0.40	(11,246)	0.44	1,494	3.58	24,311	20,068	597	1.32	10,473	8,822
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(31)	0.79	(602)	0.69	149	0.36	2,401	1,927	117	0.26	1,727	1,325
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	46	1.42	331	1.15	110	0.26	3,028	2,272	157	0.35	3,689	2,603
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	297	1.43	561	1.06	687	1.65	10,647	9,494	984	2.17	11,752	10,055
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(559)	0.47	(11,992)	0.29	1,058	2.54	16,902	16,831	499	1.10	5,389	4,839
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(285)	0.09	(5,164)	0.06	314	0.75	5,389	5,472	29	0.06	362	308
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(316)	0.33	(4,689)	0.30	471	1.13	8,511	6,678	155	0.34	2,242	1,989
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	12,205	35.35	124,527	26.37	355	0.85	9,370	4,909	12,560	27.69	152,800	129,436
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4,815	4.23	50,663	3.16	1,492	3.58	35,905	23,485	6,306	13.90	114,567	74,148
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(5,389)	0.44	(96,942)	0.31	9,562	22.94	185,532	141,349	4,173	9.20	64,787	44,407
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(451)	0.90	(1,745)	0.96	4,551	10.92	70,878	48,139	4,100	9.04	67,837	46,394
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(897)	0.23	(12,768)	0.22	1,168	2.80	18,773	16,338	271	0.60	3,632	3,571
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(334)	0.47	(4,231)	0.51	625	1.50	10,045	8,553	291	0.64	5,268	4,322
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	13	2.08	37	1.19	12	0.03	529	196	25	0.05	708	233
XXXII	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	200	10.90	1,521	3.34	20	0.05	781	649	220	0.49	1,566	2,169
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(1,698)	0.00	(29,459)	0.00	1,698	4.07	48,155	29,465	1	0.00	66	6
Total SA Rand		3,669	1.09	(25,839)	0.95	41,693	100.00	727,633	541,243	45,362	100.00	655,999	515,404

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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		2,873	1.64	47,540	2.13	4,518	10.84	61,141	42,080	7,391	16.29	103,872	89,620
Europe		949	1.08	(37,279)	0.80	12,488	29.95	238,109	185,895	13,437	29.62	210,514	148,617
America		50	1.01	(17,748)	0.75	4,559	10.93	97,538	69,704	4,608	10.16	81,570	51,956
Asia		(5,865)	0.69	(70,463)	0.70	19,082	45.77	313,474	231,362	13,216	29.14	193,084	160,899
Oceania		(125)	0.67	(3,334)	0.68	968	2.32	15,526	10,576	843	1.86	13,475	7,241
Other Unclassified Goods		5,734	74.96	54,642	34.61	78	0.19	1,846	1,626	5,811	12.81	52,797	56,268
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		54		803		-		-	-	54	0.12	687	803
Total SA Rand		3,669	1.09	(25,839)	0.95	41,693	100.00	727,633	541,243	45,362	100.00	655,999	515,404

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	3,095	3,482	3,863

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

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