

Media Releases 2010

South African Trade Statistics for March 2010

Pretoria, 30 April 2010 -- The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for March 2010 that record a trade surplus of R0.46 billion.

Summary

The R0.46 billion surplus for March 2010 was due to an increase in imports of 11.16% and an increase in exports of 27.50%.

Exports for March 2010 of R51.53 billion and imports of R51.08 billion resulted in a surplus of R0.46 billion.

Imports increased by R5.13 billion (11.16%) to R51.08 billion and exports increased by R11.11 billion (27.50%) to R51.53 billion.

The trade surplus for March 2010 is R0.46 billion (Deficit of R0.57 billion in March 2009) compared to a deficit of R5.5 billion in February 2010, a month-on-month improvement of R6 billion.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R8.56 billion compared to R19.01 billion in 2009, an improvement of R10.45 billion or 55%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The February to March change (up by 11.16%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - Machinery and electrical appliances [up by R2.8 billion (28%)];
 - Products of the chemical or allied industry [up by R0.7 billion (15%)];
 - Base metals and articles thereof [up by R0.6 billion (29%)] and
 - Plastics and rubber and articles thereof [up by R0.5 billion (33%)].

- The February to March change (up by 27.50%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - Mineral products [up by R3.2 billion (42%)];
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals [up by R2.4 billion (24%)];
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [up by R2.0 billion (68%)] and
 - Base metals and articles thereof [up by R1.6 billion (22%)].

- Trade Highlights by World Zone:

The world zone results for March 2010 as given below are unaudited, and those for February 2010 are audited.

- Asia: The deficit decreased from R5.8bn in February 2010 to R4.3bn in March 2010. Exports increased by R4.4bn to R17.4bn and imports increased by R2.9bn to R21.7bn.
- Europe: The deficit decreased from R4.5bn in February 2010 to R4.4bn in March 2010. Exports increased by R2.5bn to R13.9bn and imports increased by R2.4bn to R18.3bn.
- America: The deficit of R0.9bn in February 2010 changed to a surplus of R0.4bn in March 2010. Exports increased by R2.5bn to R6.2bn and imports increased by R1.2bn to R5.8bn.
- Africa: The surplus increased from R1.8bn in February 2010 to R3.5bn in March 2010. Exports increased by R0.6bn to R7.6bn and imports decreased by R1.2bn to R4.1bn.

See Table below and our [Trade Statistics page for more information.](#)

Harmonised Sections		TRADE				Imports				Exports			
Code	Description	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁴⁾ (Exports/Imports)								
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(9)	0.98	235	1.20	516	1.01	971	1,198	508	0.98	1,370	1,434
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	749	1.87	2,242	1.95	862	1.69	2,981	2,369	1,611	3.13	5,960	4,611
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(593)	0.14	(1,206)	0.18	694	1.36	1,398	1,463	100	0.19	220	258
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	611	1.50	710	1.20	1,216	2.38	3,987	3,555	1,826	3.54	4,703	4,265
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	84	1.01	(784)	0.97	10,764	21.07	32,107	27,802	10,848	21.05	28,887	27,018
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2,265)	0.55	(6,186)	0.54	5,019	9.83	12,938	13,525	2,754	5.34	7,610	7,339
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,284)	0.37	(3,328)	0.39	2,045	4.00	5,343	5,423	761	1.48	2,366	2,095
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(20)	0.88	(122)	0.74	162	0.32	471	463	142	0.28	374	341
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	29	1.13	(49)	0.93	220	0.43	785	660	248	0.48	624	611
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	60	1.08	(7)	1.00	769	1.51	2,669	2,484	828	1.61	2,875	2,476
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,009)	0.36	(3,090)	0.28	1,572	3.08	5,071	4,319	563	1.09	1,272	1,229
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(211)	0.49	(1,044)	0.19	414	0.81	1,542	1,283	203	0.39	67	239
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(433)	0.29	(1,369)	0.25	607	1.19	1,598	1,821	174	0.34	472	452
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	11,909	28.03	29,821	18.89	441	0.86	1,438	1,667	12,350	23.96	30,072	31,488
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6,231	3.48	15,622	3.46	2,509	4.91	6,828	6,357	8,740	16.96	18,354	21,979
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(8,909)	0.30	(23,700)	0.30	12,816	25.09	41,265	33,904	3,906	7.58	10,693	10,204
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(342)	0.93	(3,603)	0.74	5,217	10.21	13,499	13,822	4,874	9.46	11,587	10,219
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,071)	0.24	(2,988)	0.19	1,406	2.75	4,494	3,711	335	0.65	1,364	723
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(257)	0.63	(817)	0.57	687	1.35	1,993	1,921	430	0.83	1,002	1,104
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	31	3.54	63	3.16	12	0.02	52	29	43	0.08	48	92
XXXII	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	235	5.53	(439)	0.38	52	0.10	229	703	287	0.56	1,384	264
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(3,077)	0.00	(8,525)	0.00	3,078	6.03	8,655	8,530	1	0.00	3	5
Total SA Rand		458	1.01	(8,565)	0.94	51,075	100.00	150,314	137,010	51,533	100.00	131,308	128,446

World Zones		TRADE				Imports				Exports			
World Zones	Description	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁴⁾ (Exports/Imports)								
Africa		3,560	1.87	8,177	1.69	4,082	7.99	9,898	11,909	7,642	14.83	24,127	20,086
Europe		(4,381)	0.76	(11,545)	0.76	18,272	35.78	52,175	48,878	13,891	26.96	37,909	37,333
America		402	1.07	(1,190)	0.92	5,847	11.45	22,131	14,903	6,248	12.12	13,013	13,712
Asia		(4,342)	0.80	(15,297)	0.74	21,711	42.51	62,199	57,790	17,369	33.70	40,745	42,492
Oceania		(332)	0.70	(745)	0.71	1,096	2.15	3,294	2,563	764	1.48	1,574	1,818
Other Unclassified Goods		5,501	82.14	11,886	13.28	68	0.13	617	968	5,569	10.81	13,727	12,854
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		50	-	151	-	-	-	-	-	50	0.10	213	151
Total SA Rand		458	1.01	(8,565)	0.94	51,075	100.00	150,314	137,010	51,533	100.00	131,308	128,446

Temporary Imports	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Gold imports ⁴⁾ (R'm)	3,532	4,442	4,159	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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) 2009 & 2010 Data is revised and the current reporting month data of 2010 is preliminary

- 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