

Media Releases 2010

South African Trade Release for May 2010

Pretoria, 30 June 2010 -- The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for May 2010 that record a trade deficit of R0.30 billion.

Summary

The R0.30 billion deficit for May 2010 was due to an increase in exports of 6.8% and an increase in imports of 3.1%

Exports for May 2010 of R47.18 billion and imports of R47.48 billion resulted in a deficit of R0.30 billion.

Exports increased by R3.01 billion (6.8%) to R47.18 billion and Imports increased by R1.42 billion (3.1%) to R47.48 billion.

The trade deficit for May 2010 is R0.30 billion (Surplus of R1.99 billion in May 2009) compared to the deficit of R1.89 billion in April 2010, a month on month decline of R1.58 billion.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R12.42 billion compared to R19.82 billion in 2009, an improvement of R7.40 billion or -37%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The April to May change (up by 6.8%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals [up by R3 644 million (37%)];
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [up by R 918 million (25%)];
 - Mineral products [up by R 475 million (5%)];
 - Machinery and electrical appliances [up by R 400 million (12%)] and
 - A decrease in base metals and articles thereof [down by R1 262 million (-16%)].
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- The April to May change (up by 3.1%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels [up by R1 790 million (40%)];
 - Mineral products [up by R 612 million (7%)] and
 - Decreases in machinery and electrical appliances [down by R 130 million (-1%)] and
 - Original equipment components [down by R 7 million (0%)].

Trade Highlights by World Zone updating

The world zone results for April and May 2010 as given below are unaudited.

- **Asia:** The deficit decreased from R5.4bn in April 2010 to R2.9bn in May. Exports increased by R0.06bn to R15.9bn and imports decreased by R2.5bn to R18.8bn.
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- **Europe:** The deficit increased from R3.5bn in April 2010 to R5.1bn in May. Exports increased by R0.65bn to R13.1bn and imports increased by R2.2bn to R18.2bn.
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- **America:** The deficit decreased from of R1.1bn in April 2010 to R0.17bn in May 2010. Exports increased by R0.79bn to R5.2bn and imports decreased by R0.12bn to R5.4bn.
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- **Africa:** The surplus decreased from R4.7bn in April 2010 to R3.2bn in May 2010. Exports increased by R0.40bn to R7.2bn and imports increased by R2.0bn to R4.1bn.

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

		TRADE											
Harmonised Sections		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
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 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(85)	0.79	196	1.10	321	0.68	2,230	2,194	406	0.86	1,813	1,998
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	812	2.36	3,900	2.09	1,408	2.98	9,564	7,485	596	1.26	4,688	3,585
III, Ch 15-24	Fats and Oils	(165)	0.38	(1,855)	0.20	100	0.21	338	470	264	0.56	1,909	2,324
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	381	1.35	1,436	1.25	1,455	3.08	7,860	7,091	1,074	2.26	6,231	5,655
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	114	1.01	(673)	0.99	9,879	20.94	45,791	46,050	9,765	20.57	48,157	46,723
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2,128)	0.53	(10,732)	0.53	2,390	5.07	12,183	11,942	4,518	9.52	20,954	22,674
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,086)	0.40	(5,669)	0.38	711	1.51	3,941	3,456	1,798	3.79	8,398	9,125
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(29)	0.82	(170)	0.77	129	0.27	595	583	158	0.33	769	753
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	76	1.50	321	1.33	229	0.48	1,084	1,300	152	0.32	1,166	979
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	184	1.28	354	1.09	847	1.80	4,444	4,169	663	1.40	4,074	3,816
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(793)	0.29	(4,903)	0.28	325	0.69	2,020	1,916	1,118	2.35	7,648	6,818
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(331)	0.08	(1,757)	0.14	28	0.06	116	291	358	0.75	2,338	2,049
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(350)	0.28	(2,055)	0.27	139	0.29	940	755	489	1.03	2,533	2,809
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	13,156	43.52	52,405	23.16	13,465	28.54	50,459	54,770	309	0.65	2,033	2,365
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4,688	3.29	25,436	3.37	6,733	14.27	28,543	36,166	2,046	4.31	10,374	10,730
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(8,296)	0.32	(40,900)	0.30	3,863	8.19	17,609	17,467	12,159	25.61	65,010	58,368
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1,637)	0.74	(6,010)	0.75	4,593	9.74	18,838	18,218	6,230	13.12	19,945	24,228
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,313)	0.13	(5,344)	0.17	195	0.41	1,901	1,095	1,508	3.18	7,067	6,439
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(290)	0.58	(1,344)	0.58	401	0.85	1,655	1,894	692	1.46	3,228	3,238
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	4	1.28	70	2.20	18	0.04	91	128	14	0.03	110	58
XXXII	Other Unclassified 1)	(100)	(1.35)	(370)	0.54	(57)	(0.12)	1,801	431	42	0.09	446	801
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(3,114)	0.00	(14,759)	0.00	5	0.01	4	10	3,119	6.57	12,939	14,769
Total SA Rand		(302)	0.99	(12,424)	0.95	47,177	100.00	212,008	217,880	47,479	100.00	231,831	230,304

		TRADE											
		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
World Zones		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	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)
Africa		3,172	1.78	15,689	1.87	7,249	15.37	38,191	33,804	4,077	8.59	15,914	18,115
Europe		(5,112)	0.72	(20,714)	0.75	13,113	27.79	61,012	62,115	18,225	38.39	80,258	82,829
America		(165)	0.97	(2,563)	0.90	5,224	11.07	20,228	23,256	5,389	11.35	33,356	25,819
Asia		(2,852)	0.85	(24,041)	0.75	15,908	33.72	68,116	73,759	18,761	39.51	96,755	97,800
Oceania		(314)	0.66	(1,650)	0.64	604	1.28	2,792	2,898	917	1.93	4,689	4,548
Other Unclassified Goods		4,924	45.43	20,621	18.28	5,035	10.67	21,293	21,814	111	0.23	858	1,193
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		44	-	234	-	44	0.09	376	234	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand		(302)	0.99	(12,424)	0.95	47,177	100.00	212,008	217,880	47,479	100.00	231,831	230,304

	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Temporary Imports												
Gold imports 4) (R'm)	3,532	4,442	4,159	3,286	5,406	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 data is revised and the 2010 data 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