

Media Releases 2010

South African Trade Statistics for August 2010

Pretoria, 30 September 2010 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for August 2010 that record a trade deficit of R4.7 billion.

Summary

The R4.7 billion deficit for August 2010 was due to a decrease in exports of 13.4% and a decrease in imports of 1.5%.

Exports for August 2010 of R48.5 billion and imports of R53.2 billion resulted in a deficit of R4.7 billion.

Exports decreased by R7.5 billion (13.4%) and imports decreased by R0.8 billion (1.5%).

The export of mineral products was impacted negatively in August due to a derailment late July on an export line. The loss in mineral products export volumes however are expected to be recovered over the next few months.

The trade deficit for August 2010 is R4.7 billion (Deficit of R2.3 billion in August 2009) compared to a surplus of R2.0 billion in July 2010.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R12.2 billion compared to R21.4 billion in 2009, an improvement of R9.2 billion or 43.0%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The July to August change (down by -13.4%) in exports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - - Mineral products decreased by R3 441 million (-27%);
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals decreased by R1 664 million (-12%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof decreased by R1 110 million (-14%) and
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels decreased by R740 million (-15%).
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- The July to August change (down by -1.5%) in imports of goods reflected mainly in:
 - - Mineral products decreased by R3 224 million (-27%);
 - Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R1 307 million (10%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R856 million (16%) and
 - Original equipment components increased by R 23 million (1%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone updating

The world zone results for July and August 2010 as given below are unaudited.

Asia: The deficit increased from R5.8bn in July to R8.0bn in August 2010. Exports decreased by R3.5bn to R15.6bn and imports decreased by R1.2bn to R23.6bn

Europe: The deficit increased from R1.5bn in July to R4.7bn in August 2010. Exports decreased by R2.9bn to R12.8bn and imports increased by R0.4bn to R17.5bn.

America: The surplus decreased from R0.3bn in July to R0.2bn in August 2010. Exports decreased by R0.5bn to R6.5bn and imports decreased by R0.4bn to R6.3bn.

Africa: The surplus decreased from R4.2bn in July to R3.2bn in August 2010. Exports decreased by R0.6bn to R7.9bn and imports increased by R0.3bn to R4.7bn.

Oceania: The deficit increased from R0.05bn in July to R0.1bn in August 2010. Exports increased by R0.1bn to R0.8bn and imports increased by R0.2bn to R0.9bn.

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

Harmonised Sections		TRADE											
		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
Code	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ¹ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ¹ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ¹ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	35	1.09	197	1.06	423	0.87	3,494	3,499	388	0.73	2,967	3,301
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	1,526	2.63	9,309	2.54	2,463	5.08	16,583	15,343	938	1.76	7,022	6,034
III, Ch 15 -24	Fats and Oils	(413)	0.20	(2,968)	0.21	106	0.22	598	790	518	0.97	3,073	3,759
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	460	1.33	3,605	1.38	1,871	3.86	13,173	13,033	1,412	2.65	10,405	9,428
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	542	1.06	903	1.01	9,283	19.13	71,214	78,039	8,740	16.43	76,811	77,135
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(1,914)	0.61	(16,396)	0.56	3,023	6.23	19,627	20,765	4,937	9.28	33,202	37,161
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,354)	0.41	(9,959)	0.38	958	1.97	6,120	6,065	2,312	4.35	13,083	16,025
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(135)	0.40	(488)	0.66	91	0.19	902	943	226	0.43	1,200	1,431
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	82	1.43	425	1.28	273	0.56	1,806	1,972	191	0.36	1,631	1,547
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	189	1.23	895	1.14	997	2.06	6,642	7,166	809	1.52	6,244	6,271
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,450)	0.17	(8,919)	0.25	289	0.60	3,016	2,903	1,738	3.27	11,439	11,823
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(624)	0.05	(3,531)	0.06	30	0.06	201	218	653	1.23	3,695	3,749
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(474)	0.30	(3,502)	0.28	205	0.42	1,303	1,365	679	1.28	4,208	4,867
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	11,580	22.22	90,190	22.95	12,125	24.99	81,475	94,300	546	1.03	3,221	4,109
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4,054	2.50	41,336	3.22	6,750	13.91	47,012	59,981	2,696	5.07	15,328	18,645
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(9,756)	0.30	(67,651)	0.31	4,128	8.51	28,177	30,269	13,884	26.10	97,170	97,920
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1,755)	0.71	(8,440)	0.79	4,312	8.89	28,219	31,807	6,067	11.41	30,882	40,247
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,123)	0.16	(8,736)	0.17	214	0.44	2,586	1,775	1,337	2.51	11,120	10,511
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(649)	0.37	(2,784)	0.53	375	0.77	2,663	3,190	1,025	1.93	5,214	5,975
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	17	3.39	107	2.20	24	0.05	140	196	7	0.01	151	89
XXXII	Other Unclassified 1)	490	6.22	352	1.30	583	1.20	1,891	1,510	94	0.18	518	1,157
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(3,989)	0.00	(26,129)	0.00	0	0.00	4	13	3,990	7.50	19,618	26,143
Total SA Rand		(4,664)	0.91	(12,183)	0.97	48,523	100.00	336,846	375,142	53,187	100.00	358,202	387,325

World Zones		TRADE											
		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ¹ (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ¹ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ¹ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ¹ (R'm)
Africa		3,266	1.70	27,758	1.93	7,928	16.34	59,407	57,725	4,662	8.77	24,588	29,967
Europe		(4,764)	0.73	(28,752)	0.79	12,755	26.29	97,156	105,027	17,519	32.94	123,910	133,778
America		209	1.03	(1,529)	0.97	6,553	13.51	31,883	44,030	6,344	11.93	48,796	45,559
Asia		(8,075)	0.66	(43,843)	0.74	15,559	32.07	108,048	125,038	23,634	44.44	152,907	168,880
Oceania		(108)	0.88	(2,372)	0.68	786	1.62	4,574	4,979	894	1.68	6,879	7,351
Other Unclassified Goods		4,778	36.62	36,206	21.24	4,912	10.12	35,256	37,994	134	0.25	1,123	1,788
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		30	-	349	-	30	0.06	521	349	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand		(4,664)	0.91	(12,183)	0.97	48,523	100.00	336,846	375,142	53,187	100.00	358,202	387,325

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	3,286	5,406	4,270	3,945	6,935	-	-	-	-

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