

Media Releases 2010

South African Trade Statistics for November 2010

Pretoria, 31 December 2010 - The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for November 2010 that record a trade surplus of R8.4 billion, compared to a trade deficit of R3.2 billion in October 2010.

Summary

The R8.4 billion surplus for November 2010 was due to an increase in exports of 20.8% and a decrease in imports of 2.4%.

Iron ore export transactions totalling R3.2 billion (reflected under mineral product exports) which occurred in October 2010 were only captured in November 2010 and is included in the surplus of R8.4 billion for November 2010. Had the transactions been captured in October 2010 the trade deficit in October 2010 would have been R0.02 billion instead of R3.2 billion and the November 2010 surplus R5.2 billion instead of R8.4 billion. All published figures do not take the above into account.

Exports for November 2010 of R60.2 billion and imports of R51.8 billion resulted in a surplus of R8.4 billion.

Exports increased by R10.4 billion (20.8%) and imports decreased by R1.3 billion (2.4%).

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R5.0 billion compared to R29.5 billion in 2009, an improvement of R24.5 billion or 82.9%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The October to November change (up by 20.8%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - Mineral products increased by R5 455 million (61%);
 - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals increased by R2 236 million (16%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof increased by R1 216 million (15%);
 - Products of the chemical or allied industries increased by R734 million (33%); and
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R130 million (2%).
- The October to November change (down by -2.4%) in imports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
 - Machinery and electrical appliances decreased by R546 million (-4%).
 - Original equipment components decreased by R363 million (-11%)
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels decreased by R69 million (-1%); and
 - An increase in Mineral products by R275 million (3%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for October and November 2010 as given below are unaudited.

- Asia: The deficit decreased from R10.6bn in October to R1.7bn in November 2010. Exports increased by R6.6bn to R21.5bn and imports decreased by R2.3bn to R23.2bn.
- Europe: The deficit decreased from R3.3bn in October to R2.5bn in November 2010. Exports increased by R1.1bn to R15.0bn and imports increased by R0.2bn to R17.5bn.
- America: The deficit decreased of R0.8bn in October changed to a surplus of R0.7bn in November 2010. Exports increased by R0.6bn to R6.4bn and imports decreased by R0.9bn to R5.7bn.
- Africa: The surplus decreased from R5.9bn in October to R4.9bn in November 2010. Exports increased by R0.9bn to 9.2bn and imports increased by R1.8bn to R4.3bn.
- Oceania: The deficit decreased from R0.3bn in October to R0.2bn in November 2010. Exports decreased by R0.03 billion to R0.1billion and imports decreased by R0.01bn to R1.0bn.

For more detail, visit our [Trade Statistics web page](#) or path www.sars.gov.za>Customs & Excise>Trade Data>Preliminary Trade Statistics

SA Trade Release Table:

		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 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(11)	0.97	228	1.05	419	0.70	4,761	4,788	430	0.83	4,245	4,559
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	173	1.19	11,237	2.31	1,096	1.82	19,947	19,801	923	1.78	10,149	8,564
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(387)	0.26	(4,198)	0.21	136	0.23	843	1,148	522	1.01	4,304	5,348
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	331	1.22	4,593	1.33	1,807	3.00	18,794	18,318	1,476	2.85	14,873	13,725
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	4,235	1.42	5,889	1.05	14,328	23.81	94,391	113,040	10,093	19.49	107,090	107,352
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(2,001)	0.60	(23,878)	0.54	2,950	4.90	27,166	20,455	4,951	9.56	48,834	52,333
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,142)	0.43	(13,599)	0.39	850	1.41	8,225	8,639	1,992	3.85	18,574	22,238
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(81)	0.63	(764)	0.64	138	0.23	1,207	1,361	219	0.42	1,778	2,125
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	16	1.08	461	1.22	204	0.34	2,446	2,563	188	0.36	2,161	2,102
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	75	1.09	962	1.11	910	1.51	9,071	9,800	834	1.61	8,807	8,838
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,272)	0.27	(13,034)	0.24	461	0.77	4,340	4,103	1,733	3.35	15,773	17,138
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(53)	0.06	(5,243)	0.06	36	0.06	279	316	570	1.10	5,158	5,559
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(489)	0.25	(4,968)	0.28	166	0.28	1,834	1,906	655	1.27	6,207	6,874
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	15,220	25.54	132,642	24.79	15,840	26.32	116,876	138,218	620	1.20	4,554	5,576
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	6,714	3.77	58,928	3.28	9,140	15.19	67,841	84,781	2,426	4.68	21,993	25,853
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(8,871)	0.34	(94,148)	0.32	4,589	7.63	40,234	43,552	13,467	26.01	131,786	137,700
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	326	1.06	(9,064)	0.83	5,479	9.10	42,294	45,507	5,153	9.95	43,587	54,571
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,148)	0.20	(12,193)	0.18	284	0.47	3,300	2,611	1,431	2.76	15,170	14,804
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(469)	0.50	(4,361)	0.51	473	0.79	4,031	4,545	941	1.82	7,928	8,906
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	26	2.82	156	2.34	40	0.07	208	272	14	0.03	184	116
XXXII	Other Unclassified 1)	789	16.98	1,485	2.14	838	1.39	1,949	2,783	49	0.10	628	1,283
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(3,094)	0.00	(35,965)	0.00	1	0.00	5	18	3,095	5.98	27,766	35,983
Total SA Rand		8,400	1.16	(5,034)	0.99	60,184	100.00	470,042	536,525	51,784	100.00	499,550	541,559

		TRADE											
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
		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 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2009 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2010 ³⁾ (R'm)
Africa		4,918	2.15	40,927	1.98	9,188	15.27	82,229	82,712	4,270	8.25	37,562	41,785
Europe		(2,480)	0.86	(36,535)	0.80	15,009	24.94	135,180	147,239	17,489	33.77	173,407	183,774
America		694	1.12	(2,165)	0.97	6,389	10.62	47,348	61,871	5,695	11.00	65,145	64,035
Asia		(1,742)	0.92	(60,587)	0.75	21,454	35.65	147,682	179,096	23,196	44.79	212,280	239,683
Oceania		(245)	0.75	(3,134)	0.69	733	1.22	6,398	6,971	978	1.89	9,607	10,106
Other Unclassified Goods		7,237	47.64	56,003	26.74	7,392	12.28	50,457	58,179	155	0.30	1,548	2,175
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		20	-	457	-	20	0.03	750	457	-	-	-	-
Total SA Rand		8,400	1.16	(5,034)	0.99	60,184	100.00	470,042	536,525	51,784	100.00	499,550	541,559
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	5,071	4,308	9,417	-

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