

Media Releases 2011

South African Trade Statistics for January 2011

Pretoria, 28 February 2011 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for January 2011 that record a trade deficit of R4.9 billion.

Summary

The R4.9 billion deficit for January 2011 was due to a decrease in exports of 17.0% and an increase in imports of 14.0%.

Exports for January 2011 of R44.8 billion and imports of R49.7 billion resulted in a deficit of R4.9 billion.

Exports decreased by R9.1 billion (17.0%) and imports increased by R6.1 billion (14.0%).

The trade deficit for January 2011 is R4.9 billion. (Deficit of R3.4 billion in January 2010) compared to a surplus of R10.3 billion in December 2010, a month-on-month decline of R15.2 billion.

The trade deficit for January 2011 was buoyed by higher commodity imports, specifically in machinery and electrical appliances, original equipment components and products of the chemicals or allied industries.

The cumulative deficit for January 2011 is R4.9 billion compared to R3.4 billion in 2010, a decline of R1.5 billion or 45.3%.

Trade Highlights by Category

The December 2010 to January 2011 change (down by -17.0%) in exports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:

- Machinery and electrical appliances decreased by R825 million (-20%);
- Vehicles, aircraft and vessels decreased by R2 230 million (-48%);
- Mineral products decreased by R2 503 million (-19%);
- Precious and semi-precious stones and metals decreased by R2 958 million (-21%) and
- An increase in base metals and articles thereof by R758 million (10%).

The December 2010 to January 2011 change (up by 14.0%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in:

- Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R1 849 million (17%);
- Original equipment components increased by R1 306 million (67%);
- Products of the chemicals or allied industries increased by R 906 million (24%);
- Base metals and articles thereof increased by R 806 million (51%);
- Plastics and rubber and articles thereof increased by R 464 million (29%);
- Textile and textile articles increased by R 428 million (34%) and
- Decreases in mineral products by R 264 million (-3%) and
- Vehicles, aircraft and vessels by R 131 million (-2%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

- Asia: The deficit increased from R 2.1bn in December to R 4.9bn in January 2011. Exports decreased by R 1.5bn to R 16.6bn and imports increased by R 1.3bn to R 21.5bn.
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- Europe: The surplus of R 0.2bn in December changed to a deficit of R 4.8bn in January 2011. Exports decreased by R 1.1bn to R 13.0bn and imports increased by R 3.9bn to R 17.8bn.
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- America: The surplus of R 0.6bn in December changed to a deficit of R 2.1bn in January 2011. Exports decreased by R 2.2bn to R 3.9bn and imports increased by R 0.5bn to R 6.0bn.
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- Africa: The surplus decreased from R 5.3bn in December to R 2.9bn in January 2011. Exports decreased by R 2.0bn to R 6.3bn and imports increased by R 0.4bn to R 3.4bn.
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- Oceania: The deficit increased from R 0.2bn in December to R 0.4bn in January 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.3bn to R 0.5bn and imports decreased by R 0.01bn to R 0.9bn.

For more detail, go to Customs and Excise; Trade Data or click on the [direct link](#).

		TRADE											
Harmonised Sections		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 2010 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ¹⁾ (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Anim	(53)	0.88	(53)	0.88	387	0.87	393	387	440	0.89	328	440
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Pro	581	1.62	581	1.62	1,518	3.39	1,377	1,518	937	1.89	772	937
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(518)	0.13	(518)	0.13	80	0.18	63	80	598	1.20	374	598
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Food	(165)	0.86	(165)	0.86	979	2.19	1,127	979	1,144	2.30	1,115	1,144
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Produ	1,452	1.15	1,452	1.15	10,916	24.39	8,333	10,916	9,464	18.05	6,337	9,464
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Prod	(2,031)	0.57	(2,031)	0.57	2,641	5.90	2,091	2,641	4,672	9.40	4,160	4,672
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and R	(1,353)	0.34	(1,353)	0.34	685	1.53	595	685	2,038	4.10	1,841	2,038
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins a	(47)	0.75	(47)	0.75	139	0.31	91	139	187	0.38	134	187
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and artic	18	1.08	18	1.08	245	0.55	146	245	226	0.46	222	226
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper	65	1.08	65	1.08	862	1.93	878	862	797	1.61	828	797
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and C	(1,371)	0.19	(1,371)	0.19	312	0.70	276	312	1,683	3.39	1,292	1,683
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and	(590)	0.03	(590)	0.03	17	0.04	13	17	607	1.22	397	607
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster	(460)	0.19	(460)	0.19	111	0.25	118	111	570	1.15	698	570
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Ston	10,666	19.25	10,666	19.25	11,251	25.14	9,188	11,251	585	1.18	485	585
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,868	3.46	5,868	3.46	8,257	18.45	6,117	8,257	2,389	4.81	1,900	2,389
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and	(9,507)	0.26	(9,507)	0.26	3,320	7.42	2,819	3,320	12,826	25.82	11,065	12,826
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equ	(2,904)	0.46	(2,904)	0.46	2,441	5.46	2,436	2,441	5,346	10.76	3,574	5,346
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Pro	(977)	0.18	(977)	0.18	222	0.50	193	222	1,199	2.41	1,068	1,199
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufac	(382)	0.42	(382)	0.42	277	0.62	309	277	659	1.33	602	659
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/A	(6)	0.66	(6)	0.66	13	0.03	28	13	19	0.04	8	19
XXXII	Other Unclass	49	2.67	49	2.67	78	0.17	(16)	78	29	0.06	39	29
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provis	(3,261)	0.00	(3,261)	0.00	4	0.01	3	4	3,265	6.57	2,728	3,265
Total SA Ra		(4,926)	0.90	(4,926)	0.90	44,755	100.00	36,577	44,755	49,682	100.00	39,967	49,682

		TRADE											
World Zones		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 2010 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 ¹⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 ¹⁾ (R'm)
Africa		2,910	1.86	2,910	1.86	6,293	14.06	5,515	6,293	3,383	6.81	2,533	3,383
Europe		(4,819)	0.73	(4,819)	0.73	12,999	29.04	12,114	12,999	17,817	35.86	14,693	17,817
America		(2,105)	0.65	(2,105)	0.65	3,924	8.77	3,813	3,924	6,029	12.14	4,435	6,029
Asia		(4,301)	0.77	(4,301)	0.77	16,570	37.02	11,993	16,570	21,472	43.22	17,257	21,472
Oceania		(393)	0.56	(393)	0.56	501	1.12	346	501	894	1.80	973	894
Other Unclass		4,371	51.28	4,371	51.28	4,458	9.96	2,734	4,458	87	0.17	75	87
Ships/ Aircraft		11	-	11	-	11	0.02	61	11	-	-	-	-
Total SA Ra		(4,926)	0.90	(4,926)	0.90	44,755	100.00	36,577	44,755	49,682	100.00	39,967	49,682

Temporary	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11
Gold import	6,432	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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) 2010 data is revised and the 2011 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