

Media Releases 2011

South African Trade Statistics for May 2011

Pretoria, 30 June 2011 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for May 2011 that record a trade deficit of R1.0 billion.

Summary

The trade deficit for May 2011 is R1.0 billion (Deficit of R0.04 billion in May 2010) compared to a deficit of R2.4 billion in April 2011, a month to month decrease of R1.4 billion. The deficit was due to an increase in exports of R4.6b (9.0%) to R56.3b and an increase in imports of R32.b (6.0%) to R57.3b.

The reduction in the trade deficit from R2.4b in April 2011 to R1.0 billion in May 2011 was underpinned by higher commodity exports, specifically precious and base metals.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R8.5 billion compared to R13.5 billion in 2010, an improvement of R5.0 billion or 36.9%.

Trade Highlights by Category

- The April to May change (up by 9.0%) in exports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals increased by R1 822 million (14%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof increased by R1 162 million (15%);
 - Vegetable products increased by R 660 million (40%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R 532 million (13%);
 - Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R 102 million (2%) and
 - A decrease in mineral products by R 349 million (-3%).
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- The April to May change (up by 6.0%) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
 - - Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R 867 million (7%);
 - Original equipment components increased by R 811 million (28%);
 - Base metals and articles thereof increased by R 762 million (35%);
 - Plastics and rubber and articles thereof increased by R 449 million (23%);
 - Vehicles, aircraft and vessels increased by R 221 million (4%) and
 - A decrease in mineral products by R1 764 million (-12%).

Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for April and May 2011 as given below are unaudited.

- **Asia:** The deficit decreased from R 5.9bn in April to R 5.0bn in May 2011. Exports increased by R1.4bn to R 19.6bn and imports increased by R 0.5bn to R 24.6bn.
- **Europe:** The deficit decreased from R 3.2bn in April to R 3.0bn in May 2011. Exports increased by R1.6bn to R 15.8bn and imports increased by R 1.4bn to R 18.8bn.
- **America:** The deficit increased from R 1.1bn in April to R 1.3bn in May 2011. Exports increased by R 0.7bn to R 6.8bn and imports increased by R 0.9bn to R 8.1bn.
- **Africa:** The surplus decreased from R 3.4bn in April to R 3.1bn in May 2011. Exports decreased by R0.01bn to R 7.8bn and imports increased by R 0.2bn to R 4.7bn.
- **Oceania** The deficit increased from R 0.1bn in April to R 0.4bn in May 2011. Exports decreased by R0.1bn to R 0.5bn and imports increased by R 0.2bn to R 0.9bn.

For more detail, visit our [Trade Statistics webpage, click here.](#)

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 2010 3) (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 3) (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 3) (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 3) (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Anim	(71)	0.86	(302)	0.88	453	0.80	2,204	2,126	525	0.91	1,997	2,427
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Pro	1,272	2.20	4,540	1.94	2,330	4.14	7,459	9,383	1,058	1.85	3,585	4,842
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(528)	0.23	(2,726)	0.18	154	0.27	468	590	682	1.19	2,324	3,316
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foo	292	1.24	511	1.08	1,532	2.72	7,062	6,634	1,241	2.16	5,655	6,123
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Produ	(138)	0.99	2,663	1.04	12,854	22.82	46,030	63,977	12,992	22.65	46,723	61,314
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Prod	(2,153)	0.57	(10,417)	0.58	2,853	5.07	11,878	14,108	5,006	8.73	22,677	24,525
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and R	(1,417)	0.42	(6,312)	0.41	1,016	1.80	3,445	4,415	2,432	4.24	9,123	10,727
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins a	(23)	0.88	(39)	0.96	167	0.30	585	843	190	0.33	753	882
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and artic	(53)	0.74	(65)	0.94	155	0.27	1,299	989	208	0.36	978	1,053
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Pape	108	1.14	702	1.18	879	1.56	4,147	4,593	771	1.35	3,816	3,891
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and C	(1,128)	0.31	(5,885)	0.26	508	0.90	1,913	2,108	1,636	2.85	6,819	7,994
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and	(447)	0.08	(2,485)	0.05	37	0.07	126	139	484	0.84	2,049	2,624
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster	(430)	0.30	(2,023)	0.30	187	0.33	754	866	617	1.08	2,808	2,890
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Ston	14,218	38.96	63,630	25.58	14,592	25.91	54,585	66,219	375	0.65	2,365	2,589
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	5,910	3.03	29,503	3.39	8,828	15.68	35,810	41,834	2,918	5.09	10,731	12,331
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and	(9,699)	0.31	(44,819)	0.32	4,322	7.67	17,459	21,331	14,021	24.45	58,358	66,150
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equ	(1,232)	0.79	(10,432)	0.66	4,760	8.45	18,041	20,655	5,933	10.45	24,221	31,088
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Pro	(1,370)	0.15	(6,169)	0.16	234	0.41	1,095	1,200	1,603	2.80	6,440	7,369
XX, Ch 93-96	Misc Manufac	(497)	0.41	(1,722)	0.50	350	0.62	1,893	1,733	847	1.48	3,237	3,454
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/A	14	2.37	41	1.54	25	0.04	128	116	10	0.02	58	75
XXXII	Other Unclass	12	1.18	362	2.61	80	0.14	428	587	67	0.12	801	225
XXXIII, Ch 98	Special Provis	(3,669)	0.00	(17,056)	0.00	1	0.00	10	10	3,669	6.40	14,767	17,065
Total SA Ra		(1,030)	0.98	(8,499)	0.97	56,316	100.00	216,818	264,455	57,346	100.00	230,285	272,954

		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 2010 3) (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 3) (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 3) (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 3) (R'm)
Africa		3,126	1.67	17,496	1.80	7,826	13.90	33,727	39,310	4,700	8.20	18,115	21,814
Europe		(3,077)	0.84	(21,720)	0.77	15,758	27.98	61,451	72,239	18,835	32.84	82,805	93,959
America		(1,372)	0.83	(5,846)	0.83	6,760	12.00	23,240	29,480	8,133	14.18	25,800	35,327
Asia		(4,965)	0.80	(21,891)	0.81	19,588	34.78	73,470	94,732	24,553	42.82	97,824	116,623
Oceania		(427)	0.56	(1,961)	0.58	535	0.95	2,885	2,694	962	1.68	4,547	4,655
Other Unclass		5,672	35.68	25,356	44.99	5,836	10.36	21,811	25,933	164	0.29	1,193	576
Ships/ Aircraft		13	-	67	-	13	0.02	234	67	-	-	-	-
Total SA Ra		(1,030)	0.98	(8,499)	0.97	56,316	100.00	216,818	264,455	57,346	100.00	230,285	272,954

Temporary Imports	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	13,005	10,133	6,583	6,063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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