

## Media Releases 2011

### South African Trade Statistics for October 2011

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**Pretoria, 30 November 2011** – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for October 2011 that record a trade deficit of R9.6 billion.

#### Summary

The trade deficit for October 2011 is R9.6 billion (deficit of R3.1 billion for October 2010) compared to a surplus of R2.5 billion in September 2011, a month to month decrease of R7.1 billion. The deficit was due to a decrease in exports of R6.6 billion (-9.7%) to R61.2 billion and an increase in imports of R5.5 billion (8.5%) to R70.8 billion.

The change in the trade balance from a surplus of R2.5 billion in September 2011 to a deficit of R9.6 billion in October 2011 was mainly due to increased imports of mineral products, base metals, machinery and electrical appliances, vehicles and aircrafts and original equipment components and decreased exports of mineral products, products of the chemicals or allied industries, precious and semi-precious stones and metals and machinery and electrical appliances.

The cumulative deficit for the year to date is R15.3 billion compared to R13.4 billion in 2010, an increase of R1.9 billion (14%).

#### Trade Highlights by Category

- The September to October change (down by -9.7%) in exports of goods reflected decreases mainly in:
  - - Precious and semi-precious stones and metals decreased by R4 834 million (-25%);
    - Products of the chemicals or allied industries decreased by R1 696 million (-41%);
    - Machinery and electrical appliances decrease by R176 million (-3%);
    - Mineral products decreased by R107 million (-1%); and
    - An increase in base metals by R435 million (6%).
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- The September to October change (up by 8.5 %) in imports of goods reflected increases mainly in:
  - - Mineral products increased by R1 726 million (14%);
    - Base metals and articles thereof increased by R996 million (33%);
    - Vehicles and aircraft increased by R744 million (11%);
    - Machinery and electrical appliances increased by R713 million (4%); and
    - An increase in Original components by R583 million (15%);

#### Trade Highlights by World Zone

The world zone results for September and October 2011 as given below are unaudited.

- Asia The deficit increased from R 9.0bn in September to R 13.5bn in October 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.5bn to R 21.6bn and imports increased by R 3.9bn to R 35.1bn.
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- Europe: The deficit increased from R 4.0bn in September to R 7.6bn in October 2011. Exports decreased by R 2.7bn to R 14.6bn and imports increased by R 0.9bn to R 22.2bn.
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- America: The surplus of R0.2bn in September changed to a deficit of R 0.7bn in October 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.5bn to R 7.5bn and imports increased by R 0.5bn to R 8.2bn.
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- Africa: The surplus decreased from R 6.7bn in September to R 6.1bn in October 2011. Exports decreased by R 0.4bn to R 10.1bn and imports increased by R 0.1bn to R 4.0bn.
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- Oceania The deficit decreased from R 0.4bn in September to R 0.3bn in October 2011. Exports increased by R 0.01bn to R 0.7bn and imports decreased by R 0.001bn to R 1.0bn.

For more detail, visit our [Trade Data website](#).

#### 1.1 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 <sup>1)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 <sup>2)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 <sup>2)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(249)	0.64	(1,264)	0.77	445	0.73	4,369	4,177	694	0.98	4,129	5,440
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	536	1.40	11,949	2.14	1,890	3.09	18,705	22,476	1,354	1.91	7,641	10,527
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(365)	0.32	(4,903)	0.22	169	0.28	1,012	1,376	534	0.75	4,824	6,279
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	66	1.04	1,914	1.14	1,939	3.17	16,511	15,760	1,873	2.65	12,249	13,846
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	2,018	1.14	14,602	1.11	16,366	26.75	98,713	142,130	14,348	20.27	97,259	127,528
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(3,960)	0.39	(24,533)	0.55	2,482	4.06	25,505	30,072	6,442	9.10	47,382	54,605
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(1,699)	0.38	(13,599)	0.41	1,020	1.67	7,789	9,642	2,719	3.84	20,246	23,241
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(96)	0.67	(315)	0.85	193	0.32	1,223	1,770	289	0.41	1,906	2,085
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(47)	0.82	29	1.01	223	0.36	2,359	2,152	270	0.38	1,914	2,123
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	69	1.07	1,750	1.21	1,035	1.69	8,890	10,135	966	1.37	8,003	8,385
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(1,730)	0.26	(13,768)	0.23	600	0.98	3,642	4,220	2,330	3.29	15,405	17,988
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(815)	0.04	(6,033)	0.05	36	0.06	280	292	851	1.20	4,989	6,325
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(655)	0.25	(4,720)	0.29	219	0.36	1,740	1,899	874	1.24	6,219	6,619
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	13,708	20.44	140,097	23.30	14,413	23.55	122,378	146,378	705	1.00	4,956	6,281
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	3,822	1.96	50,474	2.81	7,813	12.77	75,641	78,419	3,990	5.64	23,427	27,944
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(11,831)	0.31	(96,386)	0.33	5,333	8.72	38,963	46,761	17,164	24.25	124,233	143,148
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(1,602)	0.79	(16,559)	0.74	6,139	10.03	40,028	47,574	7,741	10.94	49,418	64,133
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1,511)	0.16	(12,576)	0.19	297	0.49	2,327	2,946	1,808	2.56	13,372	15,522
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(818)	0.35	(4,993)	0.43	445	0.73	4,072	3,726	1,263	1.78	7,965	8,720
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	5	1.45	40	1.22	17	0.03	233	219	12	0.02	102	179
XXII	Other Unclassified 1)	(25)	0.82	889	2.58	115	0.19	1,945	1,450	141	0.20	1,249	561
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions 2)	(4,399)	0.00	(37,431)	0.00	1	0.00	17	15	4,400	6.22	32,888	37,446
<b>Total SA Rand</b>		<b>(9,580)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>(15,334)</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>61,190</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>476,341</b>	<b>573,591</b>	<b>70,769</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>489,775</b>	<b>588,925</b>

		TRADE											
World Zones		Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Exports				Imports			
		Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio <sup>1)</sup> (Exports/Imports)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 <sup>2)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)	Month Total (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2010 <sup>2)</sup> (R'm)	Cumulative 2011 <sup>3)</sup> (R'm)
Africa		6,128	2.51	44,555	2.04	10,174	16.63	73,525	87,428	4,046	5.72	37,515	42,873
Europe		(7,622)	0.66	(43,781)	0.77	14,612	23.88	132,230	150,154	22,234	31.42	166,285	193,935
America		(758)	0.91	(9,448)	0.87	7,478	12.22	55,482	65,633	8,236	11.64	58,340	75,081
Asia		(13,447)	0.62	(62,248)	0.77	21,643	35.37	157,642	202,712	35,090	49.58	216,487	264,960
Oceania		(287)	0.70	(4,841)	0.54	668	1.09	6,238	5,789	955	1.35	9,127	10,630
Other Unclassified Goods		6,392	31.72	60,296	42.70	6,600	10.79	50,787	61,742	208	0.29	2,020	1,446
Ships/ Aircraft Stores		14	-	132	-	14	0.02	437	132	-	-	-	-
<b>Total SA Rand</b>		<b>(9,580)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>(15,334)</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>61,190</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>476,341</b>	<b>573,591</b>	<b>70,769</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>489,775</b>	<b>588,925</b>

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 imports 4) (R'm)	6,432	13,005	10,133	6,583	6,063	6,489	5,959	7,704	7,251	6,538	-	-

**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