

**Foreign trade statistics: Volume and indices
of volume and unit value
P6161**

January 1997
Embargo: 13:00
Date: 14 April 1998

Read the following [notice](#) with regard to the eleven official languages

© Copyright, 1997

Users may apply or process this data, provided Statistics South Africa is acknowledged as the original source of the data; that it is specified that the application and/or analysis is the result of the user's independent processing of the data; and that neither the basic data nor any reprocessed version or application thereof may be sold or offered for sale in any form whatsoever.

P Lehohla
Statistician-General: Statistics South Africa

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available in the Stats SA Library,
and in the following public libraries:

State Library, Pretoria	Library of Parliament, Cape Town
South African Library, Cape Town	Bloemfontein Public Library
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg	Johannesburg Public Library
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho	Central Regional Library, Pietersburg
Central Reference Library, Nelspruit	Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town	

CONTENTS

Key findings

Summary

Explanatory notes

Tables

- 1.Foreign trade - Historical table
- 2.Foreign trade - Indices of volume and unit value according to the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) (revision 3)
- 3.Foreign trade - Value according to the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) (revision 3)
- 4.Foreign trade - Merchandise - Volume indices according to the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) (revision 3)
- 5.Foreign trade - Merchandise - Unit value indices according to the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) (revision 3)
- 6.Foreign trade - Value according to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)
- 7.Foreign trade - Volume indices according to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)
- 8.Foreign trade - Unit value according to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)

INCREASE IN VOLUME OF EXPORTS FOR JANUARY 1997

The seasonally adjusted volume index of merchandise exports (total exports excluding gold) for January 1997 increased by 8,6% compared with December 1996, while that of total imports decreased by 2,8%.

The value of merchandise exports for January 1997 increased marginally by 1,4% to R8 146,5 million compared with December 1996. The value of merchandise exports for December 1996 shows a decrease of 4,8% when compared with November 1996.

In general, January 1997 was a good trading month. Gold exports increased by 72,3% and food, beverage

and tobacco by 30,6%, compared with December 1996. The exports of inedible raw materials (-13,3%), chemicals (-36,2%), miscellaneous manufactured articles (-49,1%), machinery and transport equipment (-58,1%) and animal, vegetable oils and fat (-58,2%) decreased compared with December 1996.

The value of merchandise imports for January 1997, which totals R10 715,9 million, is 26,8% higher than December 1996, while December 1996 is 23,1% lower than November 1996.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Foreign trade statistics refer to the Customs Union Area Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa (including the former TBVC states) and Swaziland. Consequently the statistics do not include the trade between South Africa and the aforementioned territories but only the direct trade of these territories with other "overseas" countries is included.

The information shown in the tables is compiled by the Central Statistical Service on the basis of information supplied by the Commissioner for Customs and Excise, Department of Finance and the SA Reserve Bank (gold).

The information does not include the value of immigrants' and emigrants' effects. Exports include re-exports.

The indices of volume and unit value (prices) are calculated from basic data by means of Laspeyres' (fixed weights) and Paasche's (moving weights) formulae respectively.

The terms of trade is the ratio of the unit value index of exports to the unit value index of imports expressed as a percentage.

The monthly figures received by the CSS are subject to revision. The revised figures are not always published but are taken into account when annual figures are compiled. The published monthly figures do not necessarily add up to the annual figures.

SUMMARY

PERIOD	MERCHANDISE			
	IMPORTS		EXPORTS	
	INDEX 1988=100	% CHANGE	INDEX 1988=100	% CHANGE
VOLUME INDICES				

Actual:					
Nov. 1996 -	Jan. 1997	156	+28,9	211	+83,5
Nov. 1995 -	Jan. 1996	121		115	
Seasonally adjusted					
Nov. 1996 -	Jan. 1997	168	+20,0	227	+22,0
Aug. 1996 -	Oct. 1996	140		186	
UNIT VALUE INDICES					
Actual:					
Nov. 1996 -	Jan. 1997	204	+8,5	240	+12,1
Nov. 1995 -	Jan. 1996	188		214	
Seasonally adjusted					
Nov. 1996 -	Jan. 1997	209	+1,5	241	+3,9
Aug. 1996 -	Oct. 1996	206		232	

NOTES

Foreign trade statistics refer to the Customs Union Area Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa (including the former TBVC states) and Swaziland. Consequently the statistics do not include the trade between South Africa and the aforementioned territories but only the direct trade of these territories with other "overseas" countries is included.

The information shown in the tables is compiled by the Central Statistical Service on the basis of information supplied by the Commissioner for Customs and Excise, Department of Finance and the SA Reserve Bank (gold).

The information does not include the value of immigrants' and emigrants' effects. Exports include re-exports.

The indices of volume and unit value (prices) are calculated from basic data by means of Laspeyres' (fixed weights) and Paasche's (moving weights) formulae

respectively.

The terms of trade is the ratio of the unit value index of exports to the unit value index of imports expressed as a percentage.

The monthly figures received by the CSS are subject to revision. The revised figures are not always published but are taken into account when annual figures are compiled. The published monthly figures do not necessarily add up to the annual figures.

Steps have already been taken to obtain the basic information earlier from the Commissioner of Customs and Excise so that more up to date indices (although of a preliminary nature) can be made available in future.

**TABLE 1 - FOREIGN TRADE
HISTORICAL TABLE**

R MILLION

YEAR MONTH	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
IMPORTS (MERCHANDISE)					
J	4 144,3	4 548,1	6 792,9	8 320,1	10 715,9
F	4 051,0	5 379,4	7 829,2	7 724,5	
M	5 347,8	6 196,2	8 274,2	8 531,8	
A	4 982,9	5 025,9	6 648,7	9 859,7	
M	4 183,7	6 070,6	9 153,8	9 698,8	
J	4 591,8	6 598,4	8 510,6	8 879,9	
J	5 346,3	6 687,2	9 329,1	11 203,7	
A	5 868,4	8 053,5	10 004,6	10 546,7	
S	5 541,6	7 313,5	7 443,1	10 364,9	
O	5 949,2	6 807,6	9 181,4	11 016,5	
N	5 312,8	7 274,1	8 369,9	10 992,7	
D	4 395,6	6 303,0	6 975,3	8 451,6	
YEAR	58 926,4	79 471,5	98 512,8	115 421,0	
EXPORTS (MERCHANDISE)					
J	3 121,2	3 680,0	5 877,7	5 611,6	8 146,5
F	3 880,0	4 629,7	6 745,7	6 818,3	
M	4 281,9	6 489,1	6 281,7	7 154,0	
A	4 818,8	4 226,7	5 379,3	9 080,2	

M	4 893,7	4 901,8	7 138,7	7 143,7
J	4 927,0	5 663,0	7 082,2	7 490,0
J	4 946,5	6 045,3	7 575,8	10 206,9
A	4 838,3	6 290,8	7 333,2	9 026,6
S	5 094,9	5 570,6	7 313,8	8 368,0
O	5 543,7	5 950,7	6 994,2	11 457,3
N	5 280,8	6 117,2	7 523,5	8 434,9
D	4 648,6	6 445,1	6 141,3	8 031,3
YEAR	56 988,1	67 352,0	81 386,7	101 257,0

EXPORTS (GOLD AND MERCHANDISE)					
J	5 097,9	5 683,6	7 778,9	7 362,4	11 200,3
F	5 374,8	6 447,2	8 193,3	8 986,3	
M	6 071,5	8 322,1	7 932,2	9 078,3	
A	6 874,0	6 539,5	6 965,8	11 001,9	
M	6 498,6	6 495,5	9 003,5	8 894,1	
J	6 837,8	7 549,0	8 423,8	9 026,4	
J	7 130,0	8 289,2	9 538,5	12 413,6	
A	7 117,6	8 264,3	9 139,5	11 462,0	
S	6 754,4	7 556,4	9 380,9	10 593,7	
O	7 429,2	7 658,2	8 775,7	14 196,1	
N	7 117,9	7 953,6	9 023,9	10 475,6	
D	6 197,8	7 920,9	7 348,7	9 803,6	
YEAR	79 214,3	90 021,5	101 505,0	125 735,0	

Preliminary

TABLE 2 - FOREIGN TRADE

INDICES OF VOLUME AND UNIT VALUE ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC) (REVISION 3)

1988=100

~p

YEAR AND MONTH	IMPORTS		EXPORTS				TERMS OF TRADE		IMPORTS		EXPORTS	
	VOLUME	UNIT VALUE	GOLD AND MERCHANDISE		MERCHANDISE		GOLD AND MERCHANDISE	MERCHANDISE	VOLUME	UNIT VALUE	MERCHANDISE	
			VOLUME	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME	UNIT VALUE					VOLUME	UNIT VALUE
ACTUAL VALUES						SEASONALLY ADJUSTED VALUES						
1994	115	167	71	161	117	173	96	104				
1995	109	177	59	190	122	200	107	113				
1996	112	117	107	191	202	215	163	184				
1996 J	128	188	53	186	111	221	99	118	142	187	134	218
F	118	190	62	193	141	212	102	112	130	187	147	210
M	125	198	64	190	150	208	96	105	126	194	152	209
A	148	194	74	199	188	211	103	109	143	193	215	217

M	140	201	61	195	141	221	97	110	144	199	134	224
J	126	205	61	199	148	222	97	108	131	201	138	224
J	161	202	79	208	196	228	103	113	149	200	178	229
A	146	209	69	222	221	238	106	114	127	207	200	230
S	148	203	64	220	155	236	108	116	142	205	157	230
O	161	199	85	222	212	236	112	119	152	205	202	235
N	154	207	68	205	231	213	99	103	153	212	221	211
D	158	209	60	219	204	230	105	110	178	217	220	240
1997 J	157	197	74	203	199	277	103	141	173	197	239	272

TABLE 3 - FOREIGN TRADE
VALUE ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC) (REVISION 3)
R MILLION

COMMODITY	IMPORTS				EXPORTS			
	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996
TOTAL	115 421,0	10 715,9	8 451,6	8 320,1	125 735,0	11 200,3	9 803,6	7 362,4
GOLD					24 477,4	1 772,4	1 772,4	1 750,8
MERCHANDISE	115 421,0	10 715,9	8 451,6	8 320,1	101 257,0	8 146,5	8 031,3	5 611,6
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	5 771,2	526,1	558,4	384,9	10 573,3	693,0	530,7	509,2
INEDIBLE RAW MATERIALS	5 362,6	995,4	321,5	338,2	18 139,8	1 367,8	1 577,0	1 250,0
ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS	851,8	210,7	79,0	111,6	193,3	8,2	19,6	8,1
CHEMICALS	17 971,8	950,3	1 021,8	932,2	8 983,7	576,5	903,2	458,5
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL	14 768,8	1 138,4	824,4	1 183,0	34 063,4	2 890,8	2 595,5	2 261,3
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	42 343,3	2 740,1	3 258,2	3 318,0	9 627,5	472,4	1 127,3	449,1
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	19 460,2	669,3	686,1	693,2	4 491,3	214,3	420,8	173,1
UNCLASSIFIED	10 437,7	2 009,6	1 702,3	1 358,9	15 447,3	2 409,8	857,1	502,3

TABLE 4 - FOREIGN TRADE - MERCHANDISE
VOLUME INDICES ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC) (REVISION 3)
1988=100

COMMODITY	IMPORTS				EXPORTS			
	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996
MERCHANDISE - TOTAL	112	157	158	128	202	199	204	111
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	108	145	201	153	202	134	121	135
INEDIBLE RAW MATERIALS	206	153	68	77	107	87	110	99
ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS	52	157	36	147	105	40	117	46
CHEMICALS	58	122	180	120	298	197	317	197
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL	138	133	116	187	136	121	117	95
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	140	142	85	121	406	187	451	188
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	222	269	275	116	488	255	479	199

TABLE 5 - FOREIGN TRADE - MERCHANDISE

UNIT VALUE INDICES ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC) (REVISION 3)
1988=100

COMMODITY	IMPORTS				EXPORTS			
	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996
MERCHANDISE - TOTAL	117	197	209	188	215	277	230	221
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	157	236	181	164	215	249	211	184
INEDIBLE RAW MATERIALS	180	146	180	166	191	213	194	172
ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS	183	235	385	333	207	231	189	215
CHEMICALS	423	174	198	184	182	208	203	165
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL	217	242	201	180	225	256	238	256

MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	166	209	204	182	228	244	241	235
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	214	244	245	226	240	248	259	252

TABLE 6 - FOREIGN TRADE
VALUE ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (SIC)
R MILLION

INDUSTRY	IMPORTS				EXPORTS			
	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996
TOTAL	115 421,0	10 715,9	8 451,6	8 320,1	125 735,0	11 200,3	9 803,6	7 362,4
GOLD					24 477,4	1 772,4	1 772,4	1 750,8
MERCHANDISE	115 421,0	10 715,9	8 451,6	8 320,1	101 257,0	8 146,5	8 031,3	5 611,6
AGRICULTURE	2 710,0	248,5	163,4	236,8	6 158,3	338,4	272,3	281,9
MINING	2 587,2	309,9	90,4	231,9	23 869,2	2 158,2	1 357,3	1 716,5
MANUFACTURING	90 520,1	7 186,5	6 574,4	6 492,0	55 782,6	3 770,3	5 512,9	3 080,8
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	5 771,2	441,3	579,2	379,0	6 831,1	488,5	524,0	354,2
TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND LEATHER	5 003,1	461,8	319,0	391,8	3 083,2	267,3	269,4	107,3
PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS	2 944,3	301,2	187,2	280,3	3 513,3	220,6	329,4	252,1
CHEMICALS	17 777,4	1 382,8	1 316,7	1 161,7	9 750,9	775,6	965,5	502,4
BASIC METAL INDUSTRIES	2 751,9	153,2	139,1	146,7	16 367,9	1 406,5	1 664,5	1 116,4
METAL PRODUCTS EXCLUDING MACHINERY	3 377,6	282,2	231,2	240,5	2 320,5	110,9	210,0	125,7
MACHINERY	20 941,3	2 013,1	1 542,8	1 625,1				
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	13 018,7	1 033,7	966,1	821,7	4 446,8	321,9	526,6	261,2
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	14 508,0	890,3	1 030,6	1 148,2	5 622,5	336,0	652,9	211,8
OTHER MANUFACTURING	4 426,6	384,7	262,4	297,0	3 846,3	254,6	370,8	149,6
OTHER	19 604,0	2 971,0	1 623,4	1 359,4	15 447,3	3 161,0	888,7	532,4

TABLE 7 - FOREIGN TRADE
VOLUME INDICES ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (SIC)
1988=100

INDUSTRY	IMPORTS				EXPORTS			
	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996

MERCHANDISE - TOTAL	112	157	158	128	202	199	204	111
AGRICULTURE	184	208	102	188	121	124	103	129
MINING	190	233	47	170	114	131	308	219
MANUFACTURING	98	137	108	117	115	157	164	130
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	108	187	210	166	120	168	151	115
TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND LEATHER	125	179	112	149	105	120	174	80
PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS	122	191	109	162	87	89	125	82
CHEMICALS	112	146	119	115	114	199	270	166
BASIC METAL INDUSTRIES	90	118	94	108	123	69	194	132
METAL PRODUCTS EXCLUDING MA- CHINERY	101	141	101	118	130	61	203	149
MACHINERY	98	189	119	143				
ELECTRICAL MACHI- NERY	100	167	140	130	119	293	411	229
TRANSPORT EQUIP- MENT	68	61	61	75	106	267	388	119
OTHER MANUFACTU- RING	130	151	110	134	112	81	52	111

TABLE 8 - FOREIGN TRADE
UNIT VALUE ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (SIC)
1988=100

INDUSTRY	IMPORTS				EXPORTS			
	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996	1996	JAN. 1997	DEC. 1996	JAN. 1996
MERCHANDISE - TOTAL	117	197	209	188	215	277	230	221
AGRICULTURE	154	213	286	224	112	102	185	153
MINING	174	225	325	228	110	106	237	193
MANUFACTURING	169	189	219	198	107	214	216	199
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	157	175	205	169	115	111	225	203
TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND LEATHER	160	179	198	183	117	102	199	174
PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS	147	186	203	204	101	237	252	292
CHEMICALS	160	182	213	193	112	113	187	157
BASIC METAL INDUSTRIES	158	181	207	190	102	103	172	170
METAL PRODUCTS EXCLUDING MACHI- NERY	158	173	198	177	105	110	330	270

MACHINERY	168	181	220	193				
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	181	196	218	201	105	211	249	238
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	183	209	242	218	107	213	285	286
OTHER MANUFACTURING	176	244	228	211	105	110	211	214

This page was designed by [Zelma de Bruin](#)