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Financial Markets Department

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Information notice on the official gold and foreign exchange reserves of the South African Reserve Bank as at 31 March 2022

This notice provides detail of the US dollar equivalent of the level of the South African Reserve Bank's (SARB) official gold and foreign exchange reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and foreign currency deposits received from customers published today in the SARB's Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2022.

	31 March 2022 (US\$ millions)	28 February 2022 (US\$ millions)	Change ⁽¹⁾ (US\$ millions)
Gold reserves	7 777	7 686	91
SDR holdings	6 522	6 580	(58)
Foreign exchange reserves ⁽²⁾	43 864	43 427	437
Gross reserves	58 163	57 693	470
Foreign currency deposits received ⁽³⁾	(5 841)	(5 513)	(328)
Forward position ⁽⁴⁾	3 066	3 356	(290)
International liquidity position	55 388	55 536	(148)
Exchange rates			% change
EUR/US\$ GBP/US\$ US\$/ZAR SDR/US\$ US\$/CNY	1.1096 1.3118 14.5762 1.3824 6.3437	1.1204 1.3400 15.3899 1.3949 6.3100	(0.96) (2.10) (5.29) (0.90) 0.53
Gold price			% change
Market (US\$) Statutory (ZAR)	1 929.97 28 131.63	1 907.25 29 352.39	1.19 (4.16)

1. Figures might not add up due to rounding.

2. Foreign exchange reserves include foreign currency deposits received (FDR).

3. FDR balances include the foreign loans and foreign exchange purchases by the National Treasury (NT), both through outright purchases and foreign exchange swaps.

4. The forward position mainly reflects outstanding foreign exchange forward transactions. These include foreign exchange swaps to sterilise foreign exchange purchases and liquidity management swaps.

 Sterilisation foreign exchange swaps refers to swaps conducted to sterilise foreign exchange purchases from foreign direct investments and other foreign exchange inflows, such as from International Finance Institutions (IFI'S).

6. Liquidity management swaps refers to foreign exchange swaps conducted in the normal course of business to manage money market liquidity.

The changes in the gross reserves and international liquidity position were mainly due to the proceeds received from foreign borrowings amounting to US\$750 million on behalf of government from the World Bank, as reflected in the foreign currency deposits received. The impact from the World Bank inflows was partially offset by foreign exchange payments made on behalf of government and, the appreciation of the US dollar against other currencies. The increase in the US dollar gold price also contributed to the increase in the gross reserves. In addition, the forward position declined as the SARB matured foreign exchange swaps conducted for sterilisation purposes.