



Information notice on the official gold and foreign exchange reserves of the South African Reserve Bank as at 31 May 2011

This notice provides detail of the US dollar equivalent of the level of the South African Reserve Bank's official gold and foreign exchange reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and foreign currency deposits received from customers published today in the Bank's Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 May 2011.

	As at 31 May 2011 (million)	As at 30 April 2011 (million)	Change ⁽¹⁾ (million)
Gold reserves	US\$6 169	US\$6 177	-US\$8
SDR holdings	US\$2 849	US\$2 896	-US\$48
Foreign exchange reserves ⁽²⁾	US\$41 102	US\$41 529	-US\$427
Gross reserves	US\$50 119	US\$50 602	-US\$483
Foreign currency deposits received ⁽³⁾	-US\$8 405	-US\$8 503	US\$98
Forward position ⁽⁴⁾	US\$4 151	US\$3 940	US\$210
International liquidity position ⁽⁵⁾	US\$45 864	US\$46 039	-US\$175
EUR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.4388	US\$1.4861	
GBP/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.6493	US\$1.6657	
US\$/ZAR exchange rate	R6.8604	R6.5924	
SDR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.5930	US\$1.6197	
Market gold price	US\$1 535.38	US\$1 537.50	
Statutory gold price	R10 533.32	R10 135.74	

The gross gold and foreign exchange reserves and the international liquidity position (ILP) decreased by US\$483 million and US\$175 million, respectively, at the end of May 2011. The decrease in the gross reserves was primarily due to valuation adjustments associated with the appreciation of the US dollar against other major currencies. The decrease in the ILP is a result of a decrease in the gross reserves, which was offset by the decline in the foreign currency deposit received and the increase in the forward position. The latter mainly reflects foreign exchange purchases which were swapped into the forward market.

1 Figures might not add up due to rounding.

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

3 FDR balances include the proceeds of the government's foreign bond issuances, foreign exchange purchases funded by the National Treasury (NT) as well as US dollar amounts delivered when the foreign exchange swaps mature. These balances can be used to finance Government's foreign obligations.

4 The forward position reflects mainly outstanding foreign exchange forward transactions. The forward transactions represent the forward leg of foreign exchange swaps conducted either to sterilise foreign exchange purchases or for liquidity management purposes. The forward leg of swaps conducted for the sterilisation of foreign exchange purchases increases the FDR balance (and therefore the gross reserves) if the swap is not rolled on maturity date. Swaps conducted for liquidity management will increase the gross reserves on maturity date.

5 Calculated as gross reserves minus FDR balances plus/minus the forward position.