



Information notice on the official gold and foreign exchange reserves of the South African Reserve Bank as at 30 September 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 30 September 2011.

	As at 30 September 2011 (million)	As at 31 August 2011 (million)	Change ⁽¹⁾ (million)
Gold reserves	US\$6 514	US\$7 341	-US\$827
SDR holdings	US\$2 792	US\$2 876	-US\$84
Foreign exchange reserves ⁽²⁾	US\$40 419	US\$41 233	-US\$814
Gross reserves	US\$49 725	US\$51 449	-US\$1 724
Foreign currency deposits received ⁽³⁾	-US\$8 008	-US\$8 125	US\$117
Forward position ⁽⁴⁾	US\$6 212	US\$5 801	US\$412
International liquidity position⁽⁵⁾	US\$47 930	US\$49 125	-US\$1 195
EUR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.3502	US\$1.4434	
GBP/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.5582	US\$1.6308	
US\$/ZAR exchange rate	R8.0828	R7.0375	
SDR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.5616	US\$1.6083	
Market gold price	US\$1 621.03	US\$1 826.95	
Statutory gold price	R13 102.42	R12 857.07	

The gross gold and foreign exchange reserves and the international liquidity position (ILP) decreased by US\$1,7 billion and US\$1,2 billion, respectively, at the end of September 2011. During a month of exceptionally high volatility in financial markets, a lower US dollar gold price at month-end resulted in a significant decrease in the value of gold reserves, while the appreciation of the US dollar against other major currencies led to a sizeable downward valuation adjustment in foreign exchange reserves. The decrease in the ILP was due to the decline in gross reserves, which decline was partially offset by the net increase in the foreign currency deposits received and the forward position. The latter reflects foreign exchange purchased earlier during the month 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.

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.