



South African Reserve Bank

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

	As at 31 December 2011 (million)	As at 30 November 2011 (million)	Change <sup>(1)</sup> (million)
Gold reserves	US\$6 272	US\$6 887	-US\$615
SDR holdings	US\$2 737	US\$2 780	-US\$43
Foreign exchange reserves <sup>(2)</sup>	US\$39 851	US\$39 983	-US\$132
<b>Gross reserves</b>	<b>US\$48 860</b>	<b>US\$49 650</b>	<b>-US\$790</b>
Foreign currency deposits received <sup>(3)</sup>	-US\$7 527	-US\$7 600	US\$73
Forward position <sup>(4)</sup>	US\$6 534	US\$6 583	-US\$49
<b>International liquidity position <sup>(5)</sup></b>	<b>US\$47 867</b>	<b>US\$48 633</b>	<b>-US\$765</b>
EUR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.2924	US\$1.3295	
GBP/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.5416	US\$1.5586	
US\$/ZAR exchange rate	R8.1429	R8.3288	
SDR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.5304	US\$1.5545	
Market gold price	US\$1 560.52	US\$1 713.47	
Statutory gold price	R12 707.20	R14 271.06	

At the end of December 2011, the gross gold and foreign exchange reserves and the international liquidity position (ILP) decreased by US\$790 million and US\$765 million, respectively. The decrease in the gross reserves was primarily due to the decline in the gold price which led to a sizeable downward valuation adjustment in the gold reserves. The appreciation of the US dollar against other major currencies also resulted in a decline of the SDR holdings and the foreign exchange reserves. The decrease in the ILP was due to the decline in the gross reserves and the forward position, which was marginally off-set by the change in the foreign currency deposit received balance.

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.