



South African Reserve Bank

**Information notice on the official gold and foreign exchange reserves of the
South African Reserve Bank as at 28 February 2014**

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 28 February 2014.

	As at 28 February 2014 (million)	As at 31 January 2014 (million)	Change ⁽¹⁾ (million)
Gold reserves	US\$5 344	US\$5 025	US\$319
SDR holdings	US\$2 756	US\$2 747	US\$9
Foreign exchange reserves ⁽²⁾	US\$42 037	US\$41 579	US\$458
Gross reserves	US\$50 137	US\$49 350	US\$787
Foreign currency deposits received ⁽³⁾	-US\$8 075	-US\$7 946	-US\$129
Forward position ⁽⁴⁾	US\$3 275	US\$3 514	-US\$239
International liquidity position⁽⁵⁾	US\$45 337	US\$44 918	US\$419
EUR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.3799	US\$1.3543	
GBP/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.6709	US\$1.6467	
US\$/ZAR exchange rate	R10.7130	R11.2802	
SDR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.5414	US\$1.5363	
Market gold price	US\$1 328.35	US\$1 249.21	
Statutory gold price	R14 230.61	R14 091.22	

The gross gold and foreign exchange reserves increased by US\$787 million and the international liquidity position (ILP) by US\$419 million to US\$50,1 billion and US\$45,3 billion, respectively. The increase in the gross reserves mainly reflects valuations emanating from the significant increase in the US dollar price of gold, the depreciation of the US dollar against the major currencies, maturing foreign exchange swaps previously conducted to sterilise foreign exchange purchases and for liquidity management, as well as transactions conducted on behalf of a client. In comparison with the increase in gross reserves, there was a smaller increase in the international liquidity position due to an increase in foreign currency deposits received and a decline in the forward position. The increase in the foreign currency deposits received balance reflects the net proceeds received from the settlement of foreign exchange swaps and foreign exchange payments made on behalf of government, while the change in the forward position reflects the settlement of swaps conducted for sterilisation and liquidity management purposes.

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 foreign exchange swaps conducted to sterilise foreign exchange purchases mature (sterilisation swaps).
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 impact the gross reserves on maturity date.
5. Calculated as gross reserves minus FDR balances plus/minus the forward position.