



South African Reserve Bank

**Information notice on the official gold and foreign exchange reserves of the
South African Reserve Bank as at 31 May 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 31 May 2014.

	As at 31 May 2014 (million)	As at 30 April 2014 (million)	Change (1) (million)
Gold reserves	US\$5 038	US\$5 208	-US\$170
SDR holdings	US\$2 755	US\$2 771	-US\$16
Foreign exchange reserves ⁽²⁾	US\$41 416	US\$41 575	-US\$159
Gross reserves	US\$49 209	US\$49 555	-US\$346
Foreign currency deposits received ⁽³⁾	-US\$7 922	-US\$7 979	US\$57
Forward position ⁽⁴⁾	US\$3 219	US\$3 281	-US\$62
International liquidity position⁽⁵⁾	US\$44 506	US\$44 857	-US\$351
EUR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.3610	US\$1.3865	
GBP/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.6741	US\$1.6841	
US\$/ZAR exchange rate	R10.4797	R10.5493	
SDR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.5405	US\$1.5497	
Market gold price	US\$1 252.25	US\$1 294.53	
Statutory gold price	R13 123.14	R13 656.33	

The gross gold and foreign exchange reserves and the international liquidity position (ILP) decreased by US\$346 million and US\$351 million to US\$49,2 billion and US\$44,5 billion, respectively. The decrease in the gross reserves mainly reflects valuations emanating from the decline in the US dollar price of gold and the appreciation of the US dollar against the major currencies, as well as transactions conducted on behalf of a client. The decline in the ILP reflects the decrease in the gross reserves and the forward position, which was partially offset by the change in the foreign currency deposits received. The decrease in the foreign currency deposits received mainly reflects the payments made on behalf of the government, while the decrease in the forward position reflects the settlement of maturing swaps.

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.