



South African Reserve Bank

## Information notice on the official gold and foreign exchange reserves of the South African Reserve Bank as at 31 May 2016

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 2016.

	As at 31 May 2016	As at 30 April 2016	Change <sup>(1)</sup>
	(million)	(million)	(million)
Gold reserves	US\$4 873	US\$5 144	(US\$271)
SDR holdings	US\$2 509	US\$2 536	(US\$27)
Foreign exchange reserves <sup>(2)</sup>	US\$38 699	US\$39 276	(US\$577)
<b>Gross reserves</b>	<b>US\$46 081</b>	<b>US\$46 956</b>	<b>(US\$875)</b>
Foreign currency deposits received <sup>(3)</sup>	(US\$7 241)	(US\$7 636)	US\$395
Forward position <sup>(4)</sup>	US\$1 640	US\$1 837	(US\$197)
<b>International liquidity position<sup>(5)</sup></b>	<b>US\$40 480</b>	<b>US\$41 157</b>	<b>(US\$677)</b>
EUR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.1148	US\$1.1407	
GBP/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.4637	US\$1.4623	
US\$/ZAR exchange rate	R15.7730	R14.1646	
SDR/US\$ exchange rate	US\$1.4029	US\$1.4173	
Market gold price	US\$1 210.33	US\$1 277.60	
Statutory gold price	R19 090.54	R18 096.70	

The gross gold and foreign exchange reserves and the international liquidity position (ILP) decreased by US\$875 million and US\$677 million to US\$46,1 billion and US\$40,5 billion, respectively. The decrease in the gross reserves was mainly due to the decrease in the dollar gold price, currency valuations and foreign exchange payments made on behalf of the government. These factors were partially offset by maturing foreign exchange swaps conducted for liquidity management purposes. The decline in the ILP was due to the decrease in the gross reserves and the forward position, which was partially offset by the change in the foreign currency deposits received.

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 mainly reflects 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.