

Non-oil exports increase by 29.4% in Q1 2022

Overall merchandise exports increased by 72.7% in Q1 2022 compared to Q1 2021. The value of exports amounted to SAR 359.3 billion in Q1 2022, up from SAR 208.0 billion in Q1 2021. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR 133.6 billion or 90.3% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 71.1% (Q1 2021) to 78.3% (Q1 2022). Compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2021), total merchandise exports increased by SAR 37.4 billion or 11.6%.

Non-oil exports (including re-exports) increased by 29.4% year-on-year in Q1 2022, rising to SAR 77.8 billion from SAR 60.1 billion in Q1 2021. Non-oil exports decreased compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2021) by SAR 4.4 billion or 5.4%.

Merchandise imports increased by SAR 12.5% (17.4 billion) in Q1 2022. The value of imports amounted to SAR 156.8 billion in Q1 2022 compared to SAR 139.4 billion in Q1 2021. Imports also increased compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2021), by SAR 8.2 billion or 5.5%.

Ratio of non-oil exports to imports increases to 49.6% in Q1 2022

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 49.6% in Q1 2022 from 43.1% in Q1 2021 as a result of a higher increase in non-oil exports (29.4%) than in imports (12.5%) over that period. (see figure (2))

Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries Most important non-oil export commodity in Q1 2022

The most important non-oil export goods were 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (34.2% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 62.9% (SAR 10.3 billion) and 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (30.2% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 17.4% (SAR 3.5 billion) from Q1 2021.

And the most important import goods were 'Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment' (20.5% of total merchandise imports), and 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (14.5% of total merchandise imports).

China is Saudi Arabia's main trading partner for merchandise trade in Q1 2022

In Q1 2022, exports to China amounted to SAR 60.5 billion (16.8% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with SAR 41.4 billion (11.5% of total exports) and SAR 37.6 billion (10.5% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, U.S.A, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Singapore, Bahrain, and Taiwan were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR 255.2 billion, accounting for 71.0% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 34.7 billion in (22.1% of total imports) Q1 2022, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of SAR 14.0 billion (8.9% of total imports) and SAR 9.8 billion (6.2% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Egypt, Italy, South Korea and France were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to SAR 97.4 billion, accounting for 62.1% of total imports.

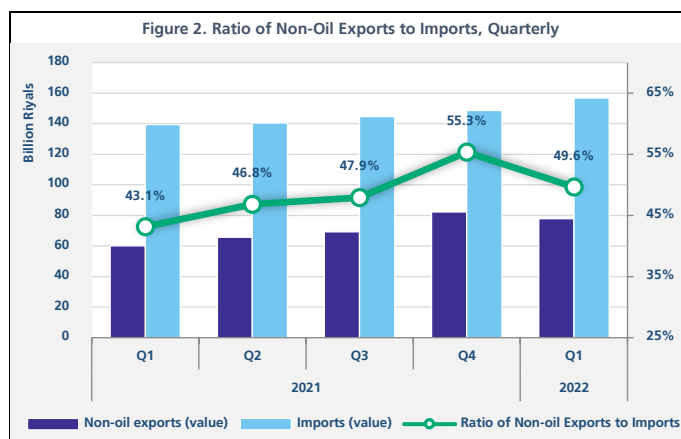
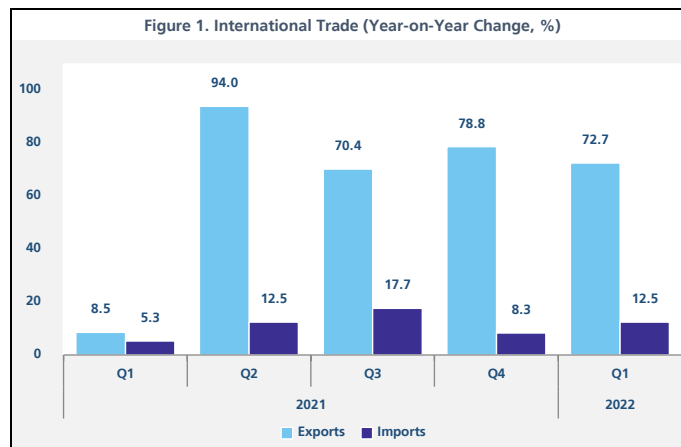
Top five customs ports for imports in Q1 2022

SAR 40.9 billion of imports, corresponding to 26.1% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in Q1 2022. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (19.1%), King Khalid International Airport (13.9%), King Abdulaziz International Airport (6.3%), and Bat'ha (6.1%). Those five ports together accounted for 71.5% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

Table1. Exports, Imports, Trade Volume & Trade Balance (Quarterly, Million SAR)

Year	Quarter	Merchandise Exports	Merchandise Imports	Trade Volume (Merchandise Exports + Merchandise Imports)	Trade Balance (Merchandise Exports - Merchandise Imports)
2021	Q1	208,032	139,392	347,424	68,640
	Q2	232,179	140,424	372,602	91,755
	Q3	273,593	144,756	418,350	128,837
	Q4	321,868	148,613	470,481	173,255
2022	Q1	359,276	156,775	516,052	202,501

Source: Tables



Methodology

GASTAT's statistics on international trade is built on administrative records from Saudi Customs (non-oil) and the Ministry of Energy (oil). Saudi Arabia's merchandise exports and imports are classified according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems 2017, also known as the Harmonized System (HS), which is maintained by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The HS allows countries to classify traded products in an internationally standardized system of product names and codes. Oil exports refer to exported goods classified in Chapter 27 (mineral fuels, mineral oils and waxes) of the Harmonized System (HS). Non-oil exports refer to all other goods exported (including petrochemicals). [Methodology](#)