



Non-oil exports increase by 15.6% while oil exports fall in January 2021

Overall merchandise exports decreased by 13.4% in January 2021 compared to January 2020. The value of exports amounted to 71.9 billion riyals in January 2021, down from 83.0 billion riyals in January 2020. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 13.7 billion riyals or 20.5% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports, therefore, decreased from 80.3% (January 2020) to 73.7% (January 2021). However, compared to the previous month (December 2020), total merchandise exports increased by 7.1 billion riyals or 11.0%.

Non-oil exports increased by 15.6% year-on-year in January 2021, rising to 18.9 billion riyals from 16.3 billion riyals (January 2020). Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (32.4% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 24.5% (1.2 billion riyals) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (27.5% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 3.3% (0.2 billion riyals) from January 2020. Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous month (December 2020) by 0.5 billion riyals or 2.6%.

Merchandise imports increased by 20.7% (8.2 billion riyals) year-on-year in January 2021. The value of imports amounted to 47.9 billion riyals in January 2021 compared to 39.7 billion riyals in January 2020. This increase was due to the increase in many sectors compared to January 2020, mainly 'Arms and Ammunition; Parts and Accessories Thereof' (524.9%) and 'Base Metals and Articles of Base Metal' (17.9%). Imports also increased compared to the previous month (December 2020), by 3.0 billion riyals or 6.8%.

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports decreased to 39.4%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreased to 39.4% in January 2021 from 41.1% in January 2020, as a result of a higher increase in imports (20.7%) than in non-oil exports (15.6%) over that period.

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

In January 2021, exports to China amounted to 14.0 billion riyals, making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with 7.8 billion riyals and 7.6 billion riyals, respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A, Egypt, Bahrain, Singapore, and Belgium were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 50.2 billion riyals, accounting for 69.8% of the total exports.

Imports from China amounted to 9.6 billion riyals in January 2021, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 8.0 billion riyals and 3.7 billion riyals, respectively. India, Germany, Japan, France, United Kingdom, Italy and South Korea were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to 33.6 billion riyals, accounting for 70.1% of the total imports.



Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

16.2 billion riyals of imports, corresponding to 33.7% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in January 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (16.5%), King Khalid International Airport (11.9%), Bat'ha (6.6%), and Riyadh (Dry Port) (6.2%). Those five ports together accounted for 74.9% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

Methodology

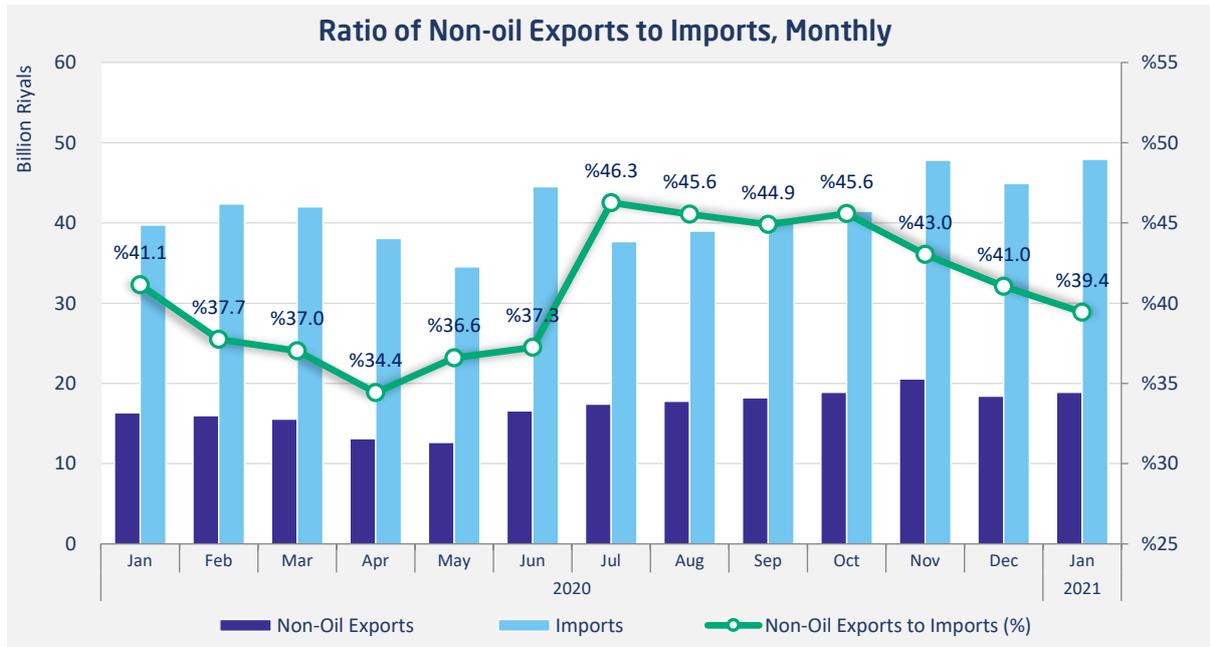
GASTAT's statistics on International trade are built on administrative records from Saudi Customs (non-oil) and the Ministry of Energy (oil). Saudi Arabia's merchandise exports and imports are classified according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (2017), also known as the Harmonized 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 products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) of the Harmonized System (HS). Non-oil exports refer to all other goods exported (including petrochemicals).





Exports, Imports, Trade Volume, and Trade Balance (Monthly, Million Riyals)

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports (A)	Merchandise Imports (B)	Trade Volume (A+B)	Trade Balance (A-B)
2020	January	83,040	39,732	122,772	43,308
	February	66,303	42,358	108,661	23,945
	March	48,500	42,009	90,509	6,491
	April	37,116	38,085	75,201	-969
	May	36,506	34,534	71,040	1,972
	June	43,490	44,521	88,011	-1,031
	July	51,138	37,661	88,799	13,477
	August	57,376	38,986	96,362	18,390
	September	53,317	40,547	93,864	12,770
	October	57,798	41,439	99,237	16,359
	November	58,152	47,800	105,952	10,352
	December	64,821	44,905	109,726	19,916
2021	January	71,937	47,937	119,874	24,000





International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Jan 2021
1	Live animals; animal products	479	414	1,195	1,648
2	Vegetable products	134	190	1,849	2,445
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	73	97	205	286
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	411	493	1,795	2,339
5	Mineral products	66,846	53,311	570	1,134
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	5,042	5,207	4,299	4,164
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	4,918	6,121	1,369	1,523
8	Raw hides and skins, leather, fur skins and articles thereof; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut (other than silk-worm gut)	22	12	149	145
9	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal; cork and articles of cork; manufactures of straw, of esparto or of other plaiting materials; basket ware and wickerwork	26	25	353	414
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	174	160	486	460
11	Textiles and textile articles	136	190	1,477	1,598
12	Footwear, headgear, umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat-sticks, whips, riding-crops and parts thereof; prepared feathers and articles made therewith; artificial flowers; articles of human hair	4	7	342	314



Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Jan 2021
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	153	155	642	671
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	392	591	1,055	1,647
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	1,387	1,239	3,420	4,033
16	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	938	1,155	8,900	9,258
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	1,589	2,208	8,325	8,163
18	Optical, cinematographic, photographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	129	69	1,035	1,172
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	3	119	777	4,854
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	154	151	1,028	1,221
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	32	26	461	449
	Total	83,040	71,937	39,732	47,937

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