

## Non-oil exports increase by 16.6% in August 2022

Overall merchandise exports increased by 49.1% in August 2022 compared to August 2021. Value of exports amounted to SAR 133.7 billion in August 2022, up from SAR 89.7 billion in August 2021. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR 40.2 billion or 60.2% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 74.4% in August 2021 to 79.9% in August 2022. Compared to July 2022, total merchandise exports decreased by SAR 7.5 billion or 5.3%.

Non-oil exports (including re-exports) increased by 16.6% year-on-year in August 2022, rising to SAR 26.8 billion from SAR 23.0 billion in August 2021. Non-oil exports decreased compared to July 2022 by SAR 0.3 billion or 1.2%.

Merchandise imports increased by 20.0% (SAR 10.2 billion) in August 2022. Value of imports amounted to SAR 61.0 billion in August 2022 compared to SAR 50.8 billion in August 2021. Imports also increased compared to July 2022 by SAR 3.8 billion or 6.6%. The general trend of merchandise trade was positive during the reference period, which reflects solid demand for energy products across the world.

### Products of chemical and allied industries most important non-oil export merchandise

Most important non-oil export goods were the 'products of chemical and allied industries' (35.5% of non-oil merchandise exports), which increased by 24.1% SAR 1.8 billion, and 'Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof' (29.3% of non-oil merchandise exports) which decreased by 6.0% SAR 0.5 billion from August 2021.

Most important imported merchandise goods were 'Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof' (19.6% of total merchandise imports), and 'Transport equipment and parts thereof' (11.1% of total merchandise imports).

### Ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreases to 43.9%

Ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreased to 43.9% in August 2022 from 45.2% in August 2021, as a result of a higher increase in imports (20.0%) than in non-oil exports (16.6%) over that period.

### China is Saudi Arabia's main merchandise trading partner

In August 2022, exports to China amounted to SAR 23.5 billion (17.6% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with SAR 13.2 billion (9.9% of total exports) and SAR 11.9 billion (8.9% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, U.S.A, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, France, Taiwan, and Egypt were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR 85.7 billion, accounting for 64.1% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 13.0 billion (21.4% of total imports) in August 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 4.6 billion (7.5% of total imports) and SAR 3.9 billion (6.4% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Egypt, South Korea, Brazil and Italy were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to SAR 37.5 billion, accounting for 61.5% of total imports.

### Top five customs ports for imports

SAR 16.0 billion of imports, corresponding to 26.2% of the total, entered Saudi Arabia from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in August 2022. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Sea Port in Dammam (20.8%), King Khalid Int. Airport in Riyadh (10.7%), King Fahad Int Airport in Dammam (6.1%), and King Abdulaziz Int. Airport in Jeddah (6.0%). Those five ports together accounted for 69.8% of the total merchandise imports of Saudi Arabia.

Table 1. Merchandise Exports, Imports, Trade Volume & Trade Balance (Monthly, SAR Billion)

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports	Merchandise Imports	Trade Volume (Merchandise Exports + Merchandise Imports)	Trade Balance (Merchandise Exports - Merchandise Imports)
2021	Aug	90	51	141	39
	Sep	95	47	142	48
	Oct	106	46	152	60
	Nov	109	50	159	59
	Dec	107	53	160	54
2022	Jan	108	52	160	56
	Feb	116	49	165	67
	Mar	142	56	198	86
	Apr	138	56	194	82
	May	144	55	199	89
	Jun	148	62	210	86
	Jul	141	57	198	84
	Aug	134	61	195	73

Source: Tables

Figure 1. International Trade (August 2021 – August 2022) (Year-on-Year Change, %)

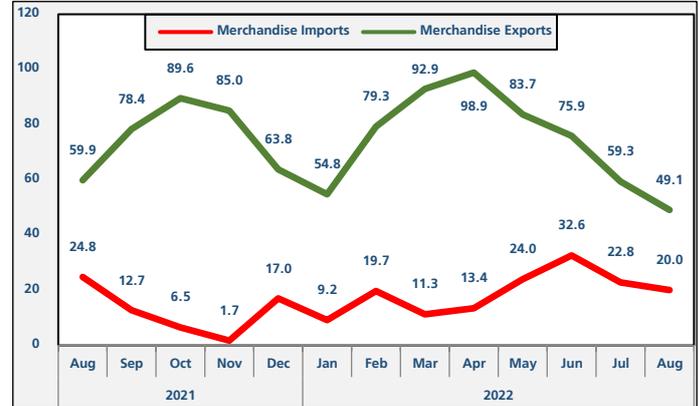


Figure 2. Non-Oil Exports and Imports (August 2021 – August 2022)

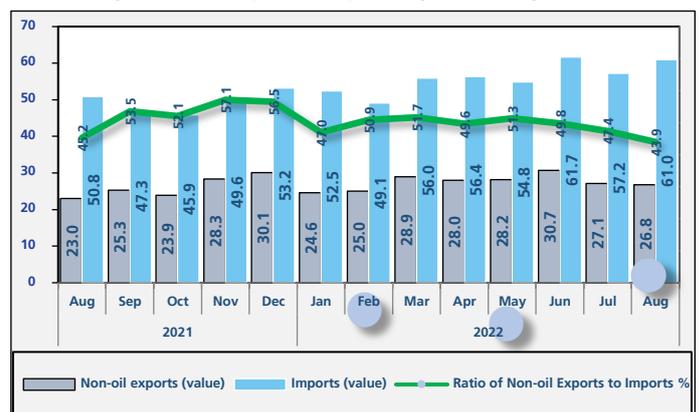


Figure 3. Trade Balance & Trade Volume, value SAR billion



## Methodology

GASTAT's statistics on international trade is built on administrative records from Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (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](#)