



## Merchandise exports increase by 1.1% in December 2022

Overall merchandise exports increased by 1.1% in December 2022, compared to December 2021. The value of exports amounted to SAR 108.2 billion in December 2022, up from SAR 107.0 billion in December 2021. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR 8.5 billion or 11.1% in the same period, increasing to SAR 85.5 billion from SAR 77.0 billion in December 2021. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 71.9% in December 2021 to 79.0% in December 2022. Compared to November 2022, total merchandise exports decreased by SAR 4.6 billion or 4.0%.

Non-oil exports (including re-exports) decreased by 24.4%, compared to December 2021, decreasing to SAR 22.7 billion from SAR 30.1 billion in December 2021. Non-oil exports (excluding re-exports) decreased by 17.0% as re-exports also fell by 49.0% in the same period. Non-oil exports (including re-exports) decreased compared to November 2022 by SAR 0.04 billion or 0.2%.

Merchandise imports increased by 16.9% (SAR 9.0 billion) in December 2022. The value of imports amounted to SAR 62.2 billion in December 2022 compared to SAR 53.2 billion in December 2021. Imports also decreased compared to November 2022 by SAR 2.4 billion or 3.7%.

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

Most important non-oil export goods were "Products of the chemical and allied industries" (35.6% of non-oil merchandise exports), which decreased by 14.2% SAR 1.3 billion, and "Plastics & articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof" (26.9% of non-oil merchandise exports) which decreased by 28.6% SAR 2.4 billion from December 2021.

Most important imported merchandise goods were "Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof" (22.6% of total merchandise imports), and "Transport equipment and parts thereof" (17.0% of total merchandise imports).

### Ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreases to 36.5%

Ratio of non-oil exports (including re-exports) to imports decreased to 36.5% in December 2022 from 56.5% in December 2021, as a result of a decrease in non-oil exports (24.4%) in contrast to an increase in imports (16.9%) over that period.

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

In December 2022, exports to China amounted to SAR 16.2 billion (15.0% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with SAR 12.6 billion (11.6% of total exports) and SAR 11.3 billion (10.5% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, U.S.A, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Poland, Singapore, and Malaysia were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR 72.1 billion, accounting for 66.6% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 13.7 billion (22.0% of total imports) in December 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 6.4 billion (10.3% of total imports) and SAR 4.4 billion (7.1% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Italy, France and United Kingdom were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to SAR 40.2 billion, accounting for 64.6% of total imports.

### Top five customs ports for imports

Jeddah Islamic Sea Port is one of the most important ports through which goods crossed into Saudi Arabia at a value of SAR 18.2 billion of imports, corresponding to 29.2% of the total, in December 2022. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Sea Port in Dammam (19.4%), King Khalid Int Airport in Riyadh (12.2%), King Fahad Int Airport in Dammam (6.0%), and Al Bat'ha Port (5.9%). Those five ports together accounted for 72.8% of the total merchandise imports of Saudi Arabia.

Table1. 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	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	58	199	83
	Aug	134	64	198	70
	Sep	125	61	186	64
	Oct	121	66	187	55
	Nov	113	65	178	48
	Dec	108	62	170	46

Source: Tables

Figure 1. International Trade (Dec 2021 – Dec 2022) (SAR billion)

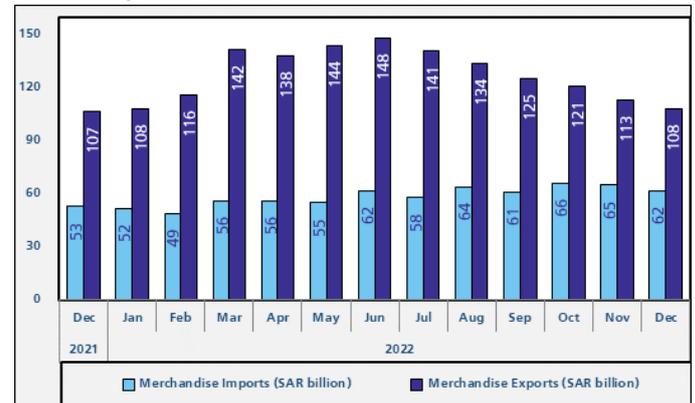


Figure 2. Non-Oil Exports and Imports (Dec 2021 – Dec 2022)

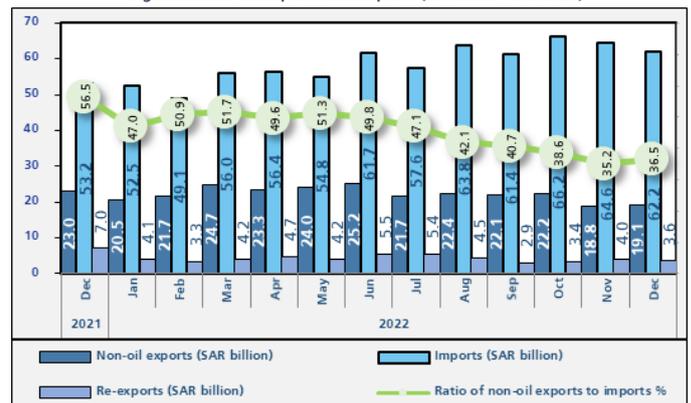
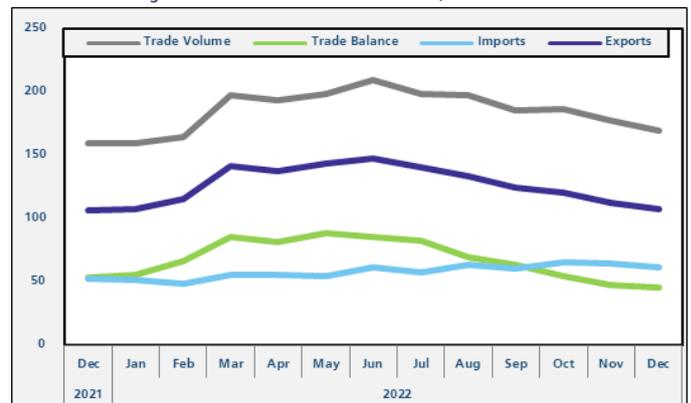


Figure 3. Trade Balance & Trade Volume, value SAR billion



## 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 2022, 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](#)