



Non-oil exports increase by 26.7% in May 2022

Overall merchandise exports increased by 83.4% in May 2022 compared to May 2021. The value of exports amounted to SAR144.1 billion in May 2022, up from SAR78.6 billion in May 2021. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR59.7 billion or 105.5% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 72.0% in May 2021 to 80.6% in May 2022. Compared to April 2022, total merchandise exports increased by SAR6.4 billion or 4.7%.

Non-oil exports (including re-exports) increased by 26.7% year-on-year in May 2022, rising to SAR27.9 billion from SAR22.0 billion in May 2021. Non-oil exports decreased compared to April 2022 by SAR0.03 billion or 0.1%.

Merchandise imports increased by 21.8% (SAR9.6 billion) in May 2022. The value of imports amounted to SAR53.9 billion in May 2022 compared to SAR44.2 billion in May 2021. Imports also decreased compared to April 2022 by SAR2.2 billion or 4.0%.

Products of the chemical and allied industries most important non-oil export merchandise in May 2022

The most important non-oil export goods were 'Products of the chemical and allied industries' (35.3% of non-oil merchandise exports), which increased by 41.4% SAR2.9 billion, and 'Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof' (31.3% of non-oil merchandise exports) which increased by 12.1% SAR0.9 billion from May 2021.

The most important imported merchandise goods were 'Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof' (19.5% of total merchandise imports), and 'Transport equipment and parts thereof' (12.8% of total merchandise imports).

Ratio of non-oil exports to imports increases to 51.8% in May 2022

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 51.8% in May 2022 from 49.8% in May 2021, as a result of a higher increase in non-oil exports (26.7%) than in imports (21.8%) over that period.

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

In May 2022, exports to China amounted to SAR19.2 billion (13.3% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with SAR14.7 billion (10.2% of total exports) and SAR12.5 billion (8.7% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, U.S.A, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Taiwan, and Bahrain were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR95.5 billion, accounting for 66.2% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR10.2 billion (18.9% of total imports) in May 2022, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of SAR5.2 billion (9.6% of total imports) and SAR3.5 billion (6.5% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Switzerland, Sultanate of Oman, Japan, Egypt 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 SAR33.5 billion, accounting for 62.3% of total imports.

Top five customs ports for imports in May 2022

SAR13.6 billion of imports, corresponding to 25.3% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in May 2022. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Sea Port in Dammam (21.0%), King Khalid Int Airport in Riyadh (12.4%), King Abdulaziz Int. Airport (6.8%), and King Fahad Int Airport in Dammam (5.7%). Those five ports together accounted for 71.1% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

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

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports	Merchandise Imports	Trade Volume (Merchandise Exports + Merchandise Imports)	Trade Balance (Merchandise Exports - Merchandise Imports)	
2021	May	78,583	44,214	122,797	34,369	
	Jun	84,343	46,507	130,850	37,836	
	Jul	88,674	46,600	135,274	42,074	
	Aug	89,714	50,830	140,544	38,884	
	Sep	95,205	47,327	142,532	47,878	
	Oct	106,009	45,852	151,861	60,157	
	Nov	108,814	49,559	158,373	59,255	
	Dec	107,044	53,203	160,247	53,841	
	2022	Jan	108,146	52,458	160,604	55,688
		Feb	115,781	49,132	164,913	66,649
		Mar	141,965	55,961	197,926	86,004
		Apr	137,705	56,102	193,807	81,603
May		144,136	53,862	197,998	90,274	

Source: [Tables](#)

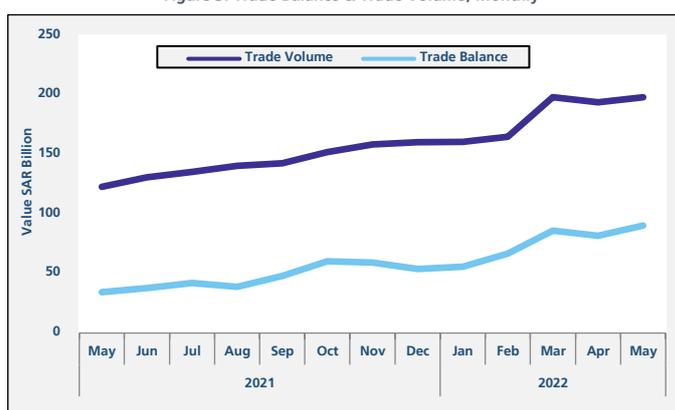
Figure 1. International Trade (Year-on-Year Change, %)



Figure 2. Ratio of Non-Oil Exports to Imports, Monthly



Figure 3. Trade Balance & Trade Volume, Monthly



Methodology

GSTAT'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](#)