

## Non-oil exports increase by 36.3% in Q4 2021

Overall merchandise exports increased by 78.0% in Q4 2021 compared to Q4 2020, when international trade was impacted by Covid-related lockdowns and travel bans in numerous countries. The value of exports amounted to SAR 320.5 billion in Q4 2021, up from SAR 180.0 billion in Q4 2020. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR 119.2 billion or 98.0% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 67.5% (Q4 2020) to 75.1% (Q4 2021). Compared to the previous quarter (Q3 2021), total merchandise exports increased by SAR 44.5 billion or 16.1%.

Non-oil exports increased by 36.3% year-on-year in Q4 2021, rising to SAR 79.8 billion from SAR 58.5 billion in Q4 2020. Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous quarter (Q3 2021) by SAR 10.4 billion or 15.0%.

Merchandise imports increased by SAR 10.1% (13.9 billion) in Q4 2021. The value of imports amounted to SAR 151.1 billion in Q4 2021 compared to SAR 137.2 billion in Q4 2020. Imports also increased compared to the previous quarter (Q3 2021), by SAR 4.6 billion or 3.1%.

### Ratio of non-oil exports to imports increase to 52.8% in Q4 2021

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 52.8% in Q4 2021 from 42.6% in Q4 2020 because of a higher increase in non-oil exports (36.3%) than in imports (10.1%) over that period (Figure 2).

### Chemicals most important non-oil export commodity

The most important non-oil export goods were 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (32.6% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 72.7% (SAR 10.9 billion) and 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (30.6% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 32.5% (SAR 6.0 billion) from Q4 2020.

The most important import goods were 'Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment' (20.9% of total merchandise imports), and 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (16.0% of total merchandise imports).

### China is Saudi Arabia's main trading partner for merchandise trade in Q4 2021

In Q4 2021, exports to China amounted to SAR 55.3 billion (17.3% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with SAR 34.0 billion (10.6% of total exports) and SAR 33.3 billion (10.4% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A, Egypt, 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 SAR 225.4 billion, accounting for 70.4% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 31.3 billion in (20.7% of total imports) Q4 2021, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of SAR 16.1 billion (10.7% of total imports) and SAR 10.8 billion (7.1% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Egypt, 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 94.7 billion, accounting for 62.7% of total imports.

### Top five customs ports for imports in Q4 2021

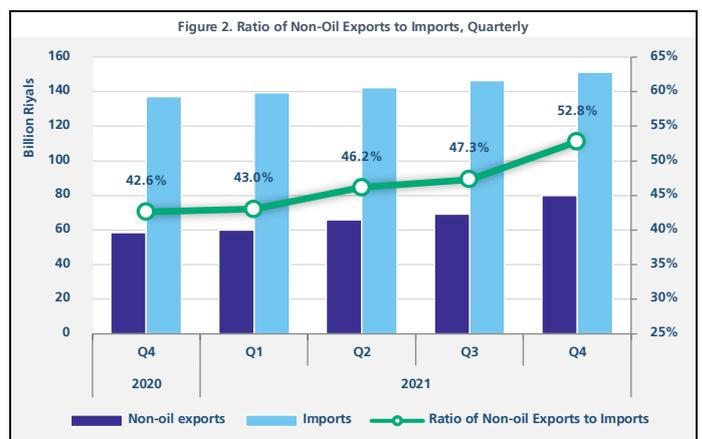
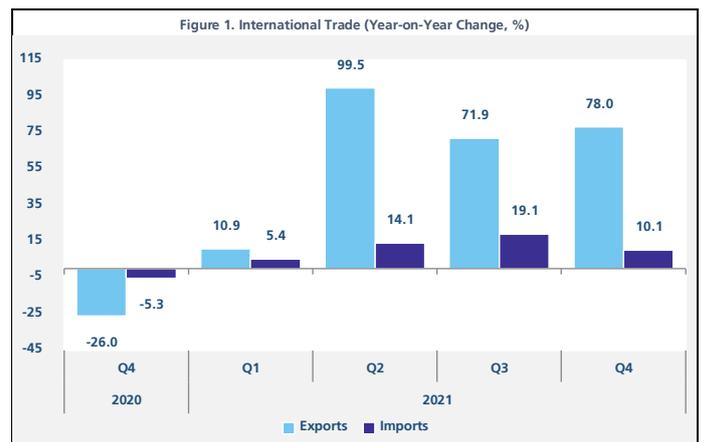
SAR 38.5 billion of imports, corresponding to 25.5% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in Q4 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King

Abdulaziz Port (17.8%), King Khalid International Airport (14.5%), King Abdulaziz International Airport (6.4%), and Bat'ha (6.1%). Those five ports together accounted for 70.2% 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)
2020	Q4	180,044	137,228	317,272	42,815
2021	Q1	212,527	139,502	352,029	73,025
	Q2	238,697	142,415	381,113	96,282
	Q3	275,962	146,556	422,518	129,406
	Q4	320,464	151,139	471,603	169,325

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](#)