



Merchandise exports decline by 14.5% and imports rise by 3.2%, in February 2020

Merchandise exports in February 2020 recorded a decrease of 14.5%, corresponding to 11,246 million riyals, from February 2019, as they amounted to 66,249 million riyals in February 2020 compared to 77,494 million riyals in February 2019. This decrease was mainly due to the decrease in the most important goods, "Mineral Products" and "Plastics, Rubber and Articles thereof", which constituted 80.5% and 5.9% of merchandise exports in February 2020, respectively. These goods recorded a decrease of 40.2%, valued at 10,368 million riyals, from February 2019. Exports also decreased compared to the previous month (January 2020), by 20.2% or 16,792 million riyals.

Merchandise imports in February 2020 recorded an increase of 3.2%, corresponding to 1,295 million riyals, from February 2019, as they amounted to 41,639 million riyals in February 2020 compared to 40,345 in February 2019. This increase was due to the increase in most sections, mainly "Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries" and "Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment" which together recorded an increase of 34.1%, valued at 1,504 million riyals, from February 2019. Imports also increased compared to the previous month (January 2020), by 4.8% or 1,907 million riyals.

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports at 38.3%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreased to 38.3% in February 2020 compared to 44.9% in February 2019. This is due to the decrease in non-oil exports by 12.1% and the increase in imports by 3.2% during this period.

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

In February 2020, merchandise exports to China amounted to 12,930 million riyals, rendering the country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with 7,338 million riyals and 6,081 million riyals, respectively. South Korea, U.S.A, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Malaysia, Bahrain, and Taiwan were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 45,851 million riyals, accounting for 69.2% of the total merchandise exports.

Merchandise imports from China amounted to 7,390 million riyals in February 2020, rendering the country the main origin of imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with 4,364 million riyals and 2,973 million riyals, respectively. India, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Egypt, 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 26,427 million riyals, accounting for 63.5% of the total imports.

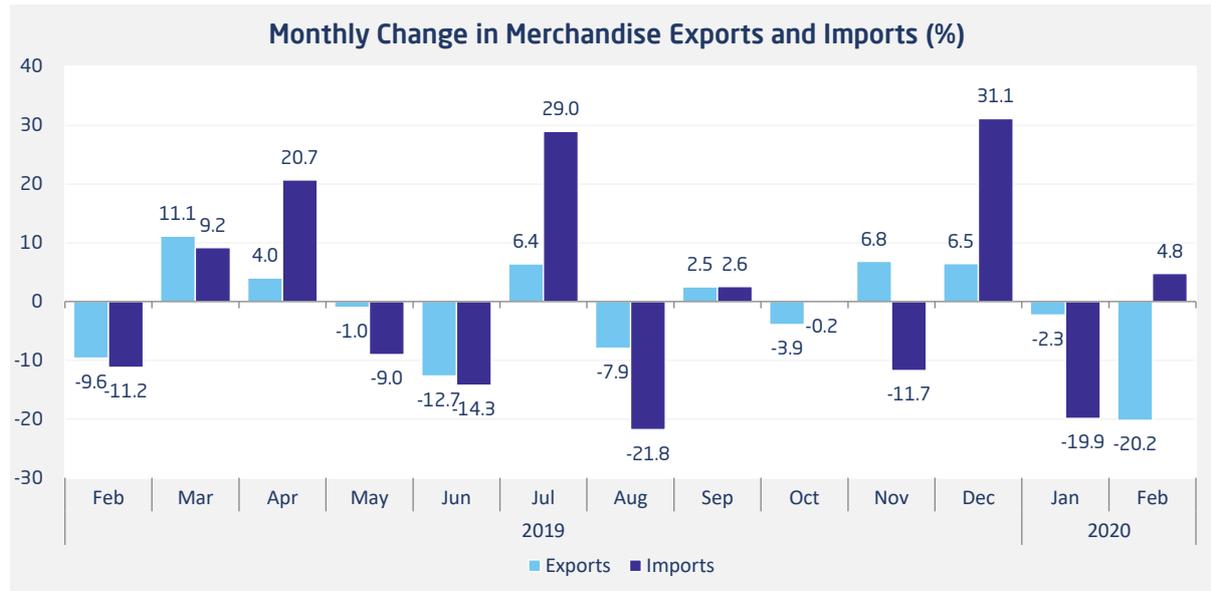
Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

29.9% (12,470 million riyals) of total merchandise imports of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in February 2020 entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port. Among the other major ports of entry were King Abdul-Aziz Port (20.1%), King Khalid International Airport (10.6%), Bat'ha (8.4%), and King Fahad Airport (6.0%). Those five ports together accounted for 75.0% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

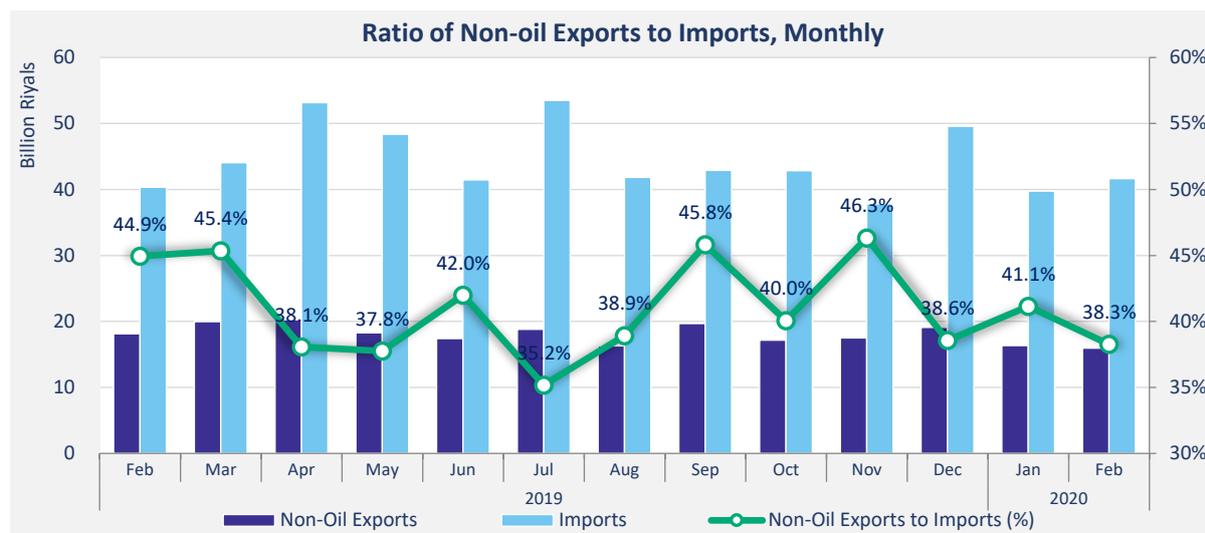


Methodology

GaStat's statistics on merchandise exports and imports 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.



Exports, Imports, Trade Volume, and Trade Balance, Monthly (Million Riyals)					
Year	Month	Merchandise Exports	Merchandise Imports	Trade Volume	Trade Balance
2019	February	77,494	40,345	117,839	37,150
	March	86,125	44,045	130,170	42,080
	April	89,574	53,155	142,729	36,419
	May	88,690	48,360	137,050	40,330
	June	77,449	41,466	118,915	35,983
	July	82,412	53,480	135,891	28,932
	August	75,896	41,835	117,731	34,061
	September	77,772	42,910	120,682	34,862
	October	74,711	42,833	117,544	31,878
	November	79,827	37,813	117,640	42,014
	December	84,992	49,586	134,578	35,406
2020	January	83,040	39,732	122,772	43,308
	February	66,249	41,639	107,888	24,609



Merchandise Exports and Imports by HS Section (Million Riyals)

Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Feb 2019	Feb 2020	Feb 2019	Feb 2020
1	Live animals; animal products	415.8	417.8	1,600.5	1,610.7
2	Vegetable products	128.2	177.3	2,415.6	2,554.2
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	61.6	76.1	316.8	269.0
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	446.3	484.3	2,258.3	2,258.9
5	Mineral products	59,594.8	50,769.1	1,128.5	1,257.1
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	5,363.6	4,759.7	3,552.7	4,515.1
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	6,085.6	4,543.2	1,451.5	1,453.8
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)	23.8	22.4	176.1	205.4
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	29.9	26.4	282.5	426.0
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	190.7	231.6	529.3	518.4
11	Textiles and textile articles	162.2	169.9	1,926.2	1,940.8
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	6.4	378.2	372.3
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	258.1	155.7	615.6	719.0
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	554.8	340.2	641.7	846.6
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	1,427.3	1,410.4	3,818.2	3,931.4
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	1,047.0	1,040.4	7,705.6	8,247.0
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	1,382.6	1,319.9	7,854.1	7,402.2
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	187.2	119.6	1,122.9	1,153.2
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	1.0	2.3	1,205.9	418.2
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	107.4	150.9	1,049.2	1,156.0
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	21.7	24.7	315.1	384.1
Total		77,494.2	66,248.6	40,344.5	41,639.3

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