



## Non-oil and oil exports increase by 70.0% and 146.7% in May 2021

Overall merchandise exports increased by 120.1% in May 2021 compared to May 2020, when international trade was impacted by Covid-related lockdowns and travel bans in numerous countries. The value of exports amounted to 82.2 billion riyals in May 2021, up from 37.3 billion riyals in May 2020. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by 35.8 billion riyals or 146.7% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 65.3% (May 2020) to 73.2% (May 2021). Compared to the previous month (April 2021), total merchandise exports increased by 10.5 billion riyals or 14.6%.

Non-oil exports increased by 70.0% year-on-year in May 2021, rising to 22.0 billion riyals from 12.9 billion riyals in May 2020. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (35.4% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 82.9% (3.5 billion riyals) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (31.7% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 86.4% (3.2 billion riyals) from May 2020. Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous month (April 2021) by 2.0 billion riyals or 10.0%.

Merchandise imports increased by 20.3% (7.5 billion riyals) in May 2021. The value of imports amounted to 44.4 billion riyals in May 2021 compared to 36.9 billion riyals in May 2020. This increase was due to the increase in many sectors compared to May 2020, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (36.4%) and 'Mineral Products' (139.3%). Imports, however, decreased compared to the previous month (April 2021), by -5.4 billion riyals or 10.8%.

## Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports increased to 49.6%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 49.6% in May 2021 from 35.1% in May 2020, as a result of a higher increase in non-oil exports (70.0%) than in imports (20.3%) over that period.

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

In May 2021, exports to China amounted to 17.6 billion riyals (21.4% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with 7.6 billion riyals (9.3% of total exports) and 6.1 billion riyals (7.5% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, U.S.A, United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Singapore, Taiwan, and Egypt were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 55.9 billion riyals, accounting for 68.0% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to 8.1 billion riyals in May 2021 (18.2% of total imports), making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 4.6 billion riyals (10.3% of total imports) and 4.1 billion riyals (9.3% of total imports), respectively. Germany, India, Japan, Egypt, Italy, United Kingdom and France were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to 28.4 billion riyals, accounting for 63.8% of total imports.

## Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

11.7 billion riyals of imports, corresponding to 26.4% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in May 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (18.9%), King Khalid International Airport (11.0%), King Fahad Airport (6.8%), and Bat'ha (5.9%). Those five ports together accounted for 69.1% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.



## Methodology

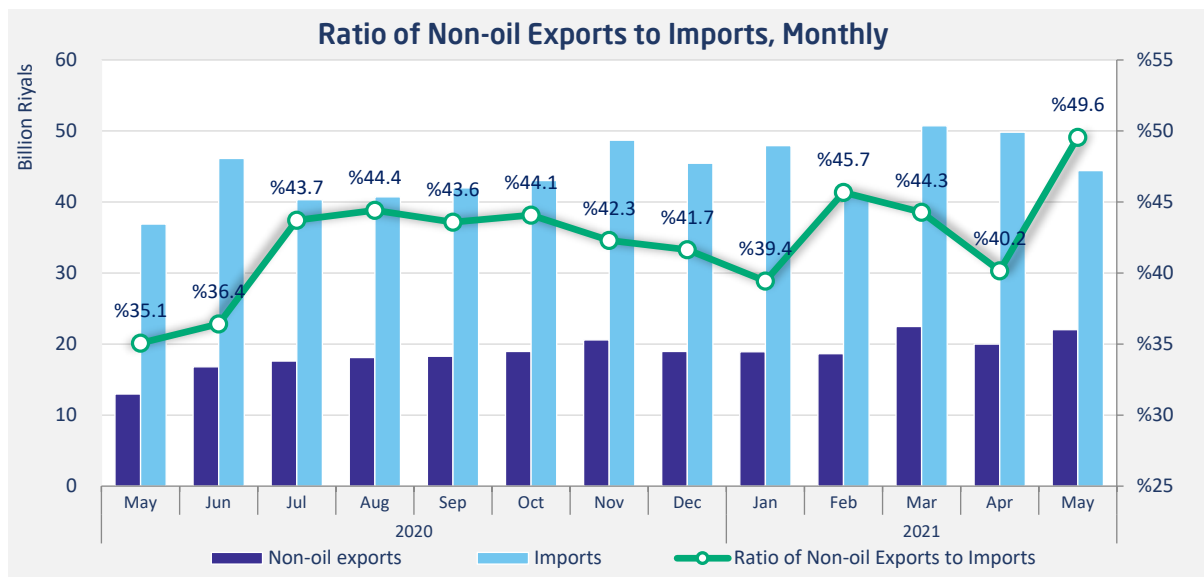
GASTAT's statistics on International trade are built on administrative records from Saudi Customs (non-oil) and the Ministry of Energy (oil). Saudi Arabia's merchandise exports and imports are classified according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (2017), also known as the Harmonized 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. Oil exports refer to exported goods classified in Chapter 27 (mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) of the Harmonized System (HS). Non-oil exports refer to all other goods exported (including petrochemicals).

### International Trade (Year-on-Year Change, %)



### Exports, Imports, Trade Volume, and Trade Balance (Monthly, Million Riyals)

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports (A)	Merchandise Imports (B)	Trade Volume (A+B)	Trade Balance (A-B)
2020	May	37,335	36,916	74,251	419
	June	44,182	46,143	90,325	-1,961
	July	51,085	40,298	91,383	10,787
	August	56,120	40,739	96,859	15,381
	September	53,375	41,995	95,370	11,380
	October	55,902	43,035	98,937	12,867
	November	58,806	48,715	107,521	10,091
	December	65,335	45,479	110,814	19,856
2021	January	71,937	47,937	119,874	24,000
	February	65,814	40,842	106,656	24,972
	March	74,776	50,723	125,499	24,053
	April	71,700	49,815	121,515	21,885
	May	82,173	44,413	126,586	37,760



### International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)

Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		May 2020	May 2021	May 2020	May 2021
1	Live animals; animal products	396	383	1,630	1,348
2	Vegetable products	79	71	3,046	2,626
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	47	136	296	268
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	382	466	2,165	2,220
5	Mineral products	24,581	60,521	1,034	2,474
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	3,742	6,973	4,201	5,044
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	4,265	7,802	1,513	1,874
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)	6	17	79	137
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	10	16	421	502
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	144	207	547	587



Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		May 2020	May 2021	May 2020	May 2021
11	Textiles and textile articles	146	210	1,127	1,461
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	3	5	164	264
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	103	153	498	563
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	25	477	94	1,452
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	905	2,052	3,839	4,586
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	620	1,309	7,893	8,384
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	1,682	1,094	5,351	7,300
18	Optical, cinematographic, photographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	85	141	1,214	1,182
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	2	19	245	315
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	103	101	793	1,118
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	11	20	768	707
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,335</b>	<b>82,173</b>	<b>36,916</b>	<b>44,413</b>

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