

Non-oil Exports increase by 54.5% in December 2021

Overall merchandise exports increased by 62.6% in December 2021 compared to December 2020, when international trade was impacted by Covid-related lockdowns and travel bans in numerous countries. The value of exports amounted to SAR 106.3 billion in December 2021, up from SAR 65.3 billion in December 2020. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR 30.6 billion or 65.9% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 71.0% in December 2020 to 72.4% in December 2021. Compared to November 2021, total merchandise exports decreased by SAR -1.7 billion or 1.6%.

Non-oil exports increased by 54.5% year-on-year in December 2021, rising to SAR 29.3 billion from SAR 18.9 billion in December 2020. Non-oil exports increased compared to November 2021 by SAR 2.6 billion or 9.9%.

Merchandise imports increased by 17.7% (SAR 8.0 billion) in December 2021. The value of imports amounted to SAR 53.5 billion in December 2021 compared to SAR 45.5 billion in December 2020. Imports also increased compared to November 2021 by SAR 2.9 billion or 5.8%.

Ratio of non-oil exports to imports increases to 54.7%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 54.7% in December 2021 from 41.7% in December 2020, because of a higher increase in non-oil exports (54.5%) than in imports (17.7%) over that period (Figure 2).

Chemicals most important non-oil export commodity

The most important non-oil goods were 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (32.1% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 93.4% SAR 4.5 billion and 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (29.1% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 29.4% SAR 1.9 billion from December 2020.

And the most important imported commodities were 'Base Metals and Articles of Base Metal' (21.4% of total merchandise imports), and 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (17.0% of total merchandise imports).

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

In December 2021, exports to China amounted to SAR 17.6 billion (16.6% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with SAR 11.5 billion (10.8% of total exports) and SAR 11.5 billion (10.8% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, U.S.A, 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 73.3 billion, accounting for 69.0% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 11.5 billion (21.5% of total imports) in December 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 6.0 billion (11.2% of total imports) and SAR 3.5 billion (6.6% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Egypt, Switzerland, Italy, 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 SAR 34.3 billion, accounting for 64.0% of total imports.

Top five customs ports for imports in December 2021

SAR 13.9 billion of imports, corresponding to 25.9% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in December 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (17.9%), King Khalid International Airport (14.3%), King Abdulaziz International Airport (6.8%), and King

Fahad Airport (5.9%). Those five ports together accounted for 70.8% 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)
2020	December	65,335	45,479	110,814	19,856
	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	71,710	49,988	121,698	21,722
	May	82,192	45,076	127,268	37,116
	June	84,795	47,351	132,146	37,444
	July	92,072	47,303	139,375	44,769
	August	89,205	51,731	140,936	37,474
	September	94,684	47,522	142,206	47,162
	October	106,257	47,038	153,295	59,219
	November	107,952	50,578	158,530	57,374
December	106,256	53,523	159,779	52,733	

Source: Tables.

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

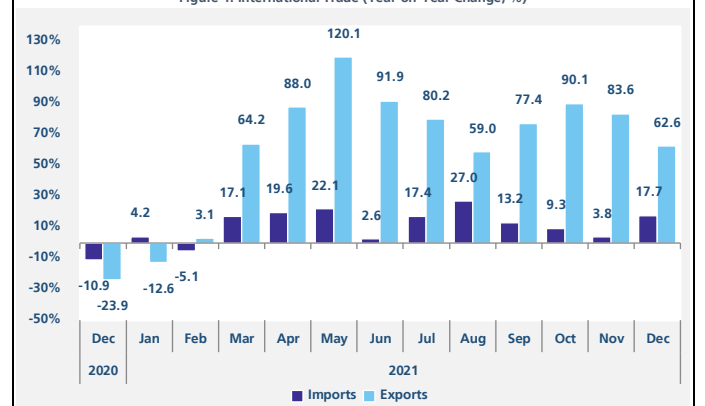
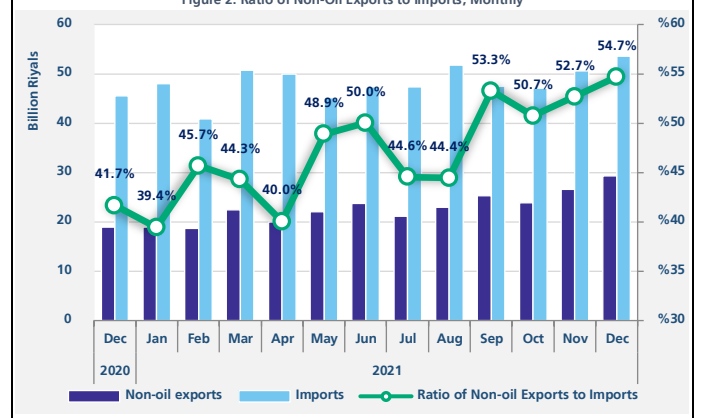


Figure 2. Ratio of Non-Oil Exports to Imports, Monthly



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](#)