

## NON-OIL EXPORTS INCREASE BY 25.5% IN OCTOBER 2021

Overall merchandise exports increased by 90.0% in October 2021 compared to October 2020, when international trade was impacted by the lockdowns and the travel bans due to the breakdown of Covid-19 in many world countries. The value of exports amounted to SAR106.2 billion in October 2021, up from SAR55.9 billion in October 2020. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR45.5 billion or 123.1% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 66.1% October 2020 to 77.6% October 2021. Compared to the previous month (September 2021), total merchandise exports increased by SAR11.5 billion or 12.2%.

Non-oil exports increased by 25.5% year-on-year in October 2021, rising to SAR23.8 billion from SAR19.0 billion in October 2020. Non-oil exports decreased compared to the previous month September 2021 by SAR1.5 billion or 5.9%.

Merchandise imports increased by 7.6% (SAR3.3 billion) in October 2021. The value of imports amounted to SAR46.3 billion in October 2021 compared to SAR43.0 billion in October 2020. Imports, however, decreased compared to the previous month September 2021 by SAR1.1 billion or 2.4%.

### RATIO OF NON-OIL EXPORTS TO IMPORTS INCREASED TO 51.4% IN OCTOBER 2021

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased from 44.1% in October 2020 to 51.4% in October 2021 because of the bigger increase in the non-oil exports (25.5%) than in imports (7.6%) over that period. (see figure (2))

### MOST IMPORTANT COMMODITIES

The most important non-oil goods were 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (32.3% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 53.5% to SAR2.7 billion then 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (32.0% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 28.7% SAR1.7 billion from October 2020.

Of the most important imported commodities that had the most impact on import growth were 'pearls', precious stones, imitation jewelry with increases of 191.0% and metal products of 68.0%.

### CHINA IS SAUDI ARABIA'S MAIN TRADING PARTNER FOR MERCHANDISE TRADE IN OCTOBER 2021

In October 2021, exports to China amounted to SAR19.1 billion (18.0% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and South Korea followed next with SAR11.4 billion (10.8% of total exports) and SAR10.5 billion (9.9% of total exports), respectively. India, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A, Egypt, Taiwan, Bahrain, and Singapore were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR75.0 billion, accounting for 70.6% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR9.4 billion (20.2% of total imports) in October 2021, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of SAR4.3 billion (9.3% of total imports) and SAR4.1 billion (8.9% of total imports), respectively. Germany, India, Egypt, Japan, Italy, France, and Indonesia were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to SAR29.4 billion, accounting for 63.6% of total imports.

### TOP FIVE CUSTOMS PORTS FOR IMPORTS IN OCTOBER 2021

SAR11.2 billion of imports, corresponding to 24.3% of the total, entered Saudi Arabia from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in October 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (17.5%), King Khalid International Airport (14.6%), King Abdulaziz International Airport (6.5%), and Bat'ha (6.4%). Those five ports together accounted for 69.3% of the total merchandise imports of Saudi Arabia.

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	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
	January	71,937	47,937	119,874	24,000
2021	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	94,667	47,425	142,092	47,242	
October	106,193	46,294	152,487	59,899	

Source: Tables

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

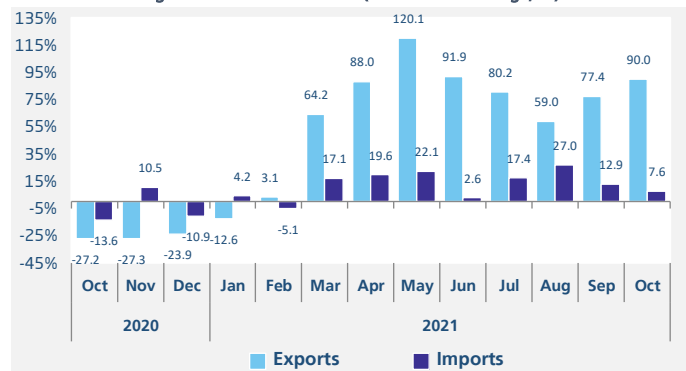
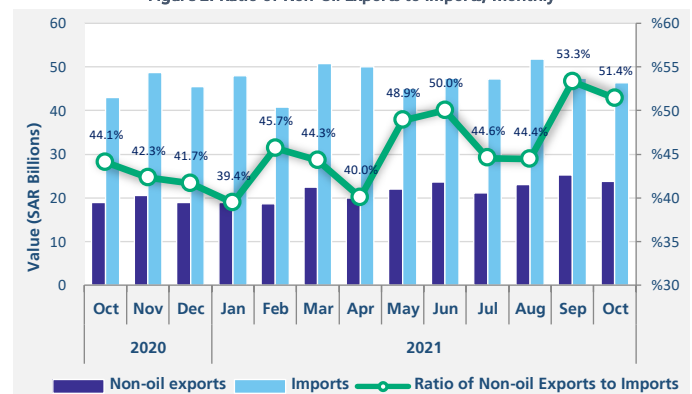


Figure 2. Ratio of Non-Oil Exports to Imports, Monthly



### 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](#)