

## Non-oil exports increase by 28.4% in Q3 2021

Overall merchandise exports increased by 71.8% in Q3 2021 compared to Q3 2020, when international trade was impacted by Covid-related lockdowns and travel bans in numerous countries. The value of exports amounted to 275.9 billion riyals in Q3 2021, up from 160.6 billion riyals in Q3 2020. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by 100.0 billion riyals or 93.9% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 66.4% (Q3 2020) to 74.9% (Q3 2021). Compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2021), total merchandise exports increased by 37.2 billion riyals or 15.6%.

Non-oil exports increased by 28.4% year-on-year in Q3 2021, rising to 69.3 billion riyals from 54.0 billion riyals in Q3 2020. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (34.8% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 49.0% 7.9 billion riyals and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (30.8% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 38.4% 5.9 billion riyals from Q3 2020, Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2021) by 3.6 billion riyals or 5.5%.

Merchandise imports increased by 17.6% (21.6 billion riyals) in Q3 2021. The value of imports amounted to 144.6 billion riyals in Q3 2021 compared to 123.0 billion riyals in Q3 2020. This increase was due to the increase in many sectors, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (58.1%), and 'Mineral Products' (48.3%). Imports also increased compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2021), by 2.2 billion riyals or 1.6%.

## Ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 47.9% in Q3 2021

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 47.9% in Q3 2021 from 43.9% in Q3 2020 as a result of a higher increase in non-oil exports (28.4%) than in imports (17.6%) over that period.

## China is Saudi Arabia's main trading partner for merchandise trade in Q3 2021

In Q3 2021, exports to China amounted to 51.7 billion riyals (18.7% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with 26.4 billion riyals (9.6% of total exports) and 26.1 billion riyals (9.5% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, 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 185.6 billion riyals, accounting for 67.3% of total exports.

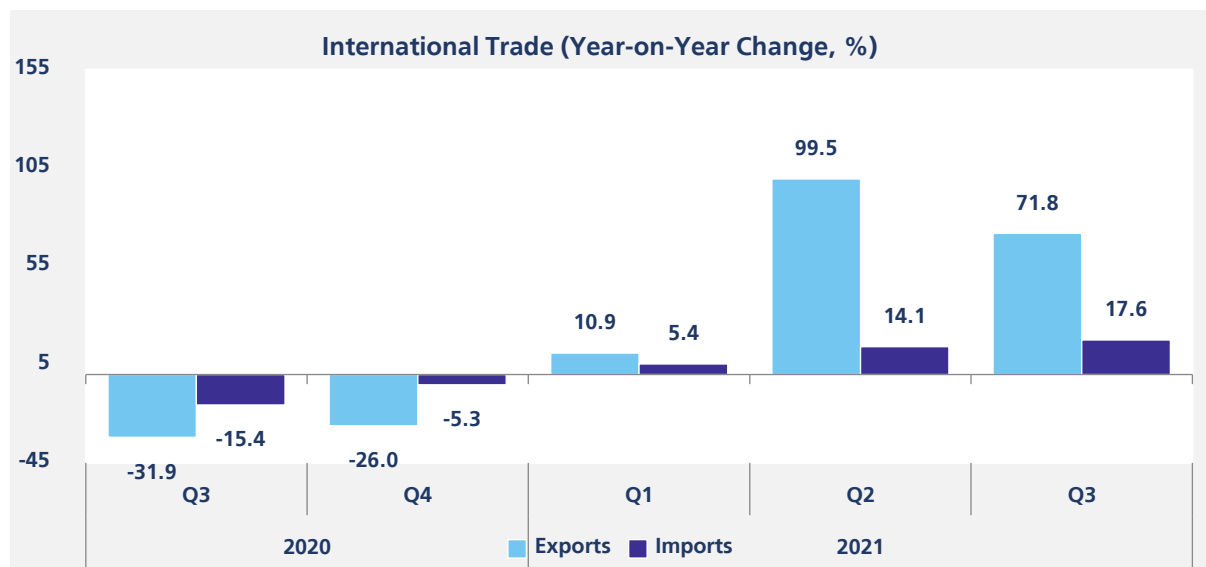
Imports from China amounted to 30.9 billion riyals in (21.4% of total imports) Q3 2021, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 14.8 billion riyals (10.3% of total imports) and 10.4 billion riyals (7.2% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Egypt, Italy, France 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 91.6 billion riyals, accounting for 63.3% of total imports.

### Top five customs ports for imports in Q3 2021

38.3 billion riyals of imports, corresponding to 26.5% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in Q3 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port 19.5%, King Khalid International Airport 11.7%, Ras Tannorah Port 5.9%, and Bat'ha 5.9%. Those five ports together accounted for 69.5% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

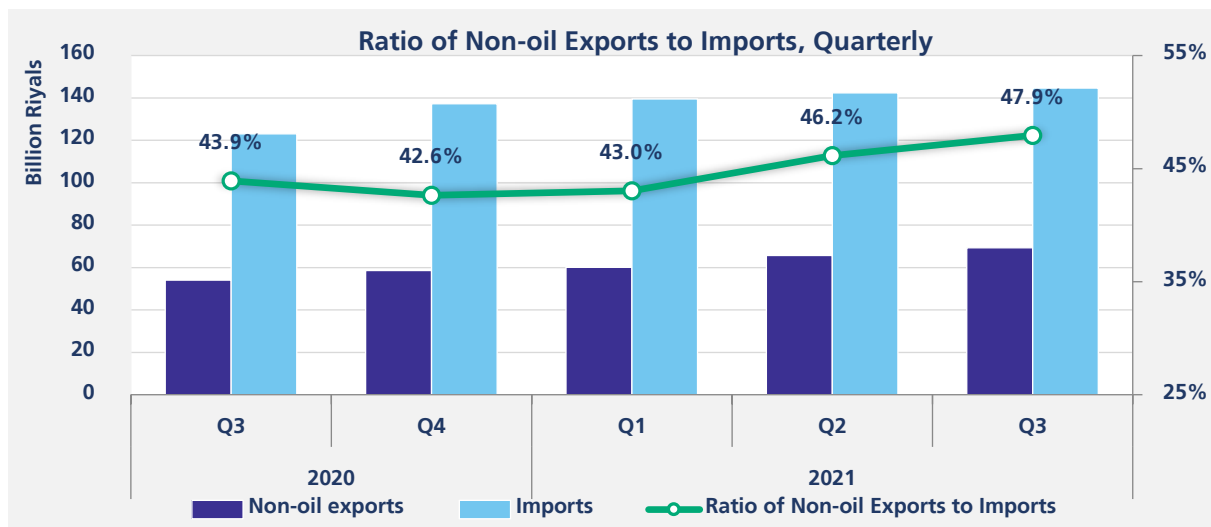
### Methodology

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).



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

Year	Quarter	Merchandise Exports (A)	Merchandise Imports (B)	Trade Volume (A+B)	Trade Balance (A-B)
2020	Q3	160,579	123,033	283,612	37,547
	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	275,934	144,645	420,579	131,289



International Trade by HS section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Q3 2020	Q3 2021	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
1	Live animals; animal products	1,334	1,261	4,770	4,700
2	Vegetable products	281	299	8,867	7,787
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	212	341	705	819
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,495	1,743	7,182	6,743
5	Mineral products	107,446	207,859	5,779	8,573
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	15,453	21,383	12,808	15,029
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	16,180	24,106	4,903	5,717
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)	39	53	446	440
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	60	98	1,272	1,521
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	605	600	1,832	1,814
11	Textiles and textile articles	521	641	5,151	5,225

Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Q3 2020	Q3 2021	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
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	14	26	662	1,031
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	472	553	2,099	1,732
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	4,017	940	1,606	4,428
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	4,486	5,558	12,113	13,791
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	2,669	3,668	25,703	27,577
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	4,281	5,212	15,969	25,244
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	454	432	4,189	3,678
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	72	55	1,681	2,817
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	395	1,030	3,425	3,690
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	94	76	1,870	2,288
<b>Total</b>		<b>160,579</b>	<b>275,934</b>	<b>123,033</b>	<b>144,645</b>

Links: [Tables](#) , [Methodology](#)