



## Methodology for the Report of "International Trade of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia"

### 1. Data Sources

The report of "International Trade of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" depends on administrative records of Saudi Arabia's International trade in goods, provided to GaStat by concerned governmental entities in order to use them in calculating the International trade statistics and indicators and release them in this report. Administrative records mean data and information that are registered and updated by governmental entities concerned with exports and imports of goods, and result from the operation of official electronic registration and documentation of these entities.

GaStat's statistics on International trade are currently built upon the records from the following two governmental entities:

- The Ministry of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources: The data source for oil exports.
- Saudi Customs: The data source for non-oil merchandise exports and imports.

### 2. Objectives

1. Supporting decision and policy makers, researchers, and those who are concerned with up-to-date and comprehensive statistics and indicators that are related to Saudi Arabia's International trade.
2. Following up with the changes in the movement of exports and imports between Saudi Arabia and major partner countries within two different periods of time.
3. Identifying the amount of trade surplus or deficit between Saudi Arabia and other countries.
4. Identifying key goods imported from or exported to each partner country.
5. Developing important economic indicators for the components of national accounts and balance of payments.
6. Contributing to the creation of a commercial policy to protect and encourage local goods and industries competing with imported ones.

### 3. Concepts and Definitions

1. **Exports (Total):** Exports consist of exports of domestic goods (national exports) and exports of International goods (re-exports). Valuation is on Free-on-Board (FOB) basis.
2. **National Exports:** Exports of all goods fully produced or manufactured in the country or undergone some modifications that lead to a change in their shapes and values.
3. **Re-exports:** Refers to the sale of previously imported goods abroad without any clear modifications on them.
4. **Oil Exports:** Exports of goods classified in Chapter 27 (mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) of the Harmonized System (HS).
5. **Non-oil Exports:** Total exports minus exports of goods classified in Chapter 27 (mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) of the Harmonized System (HS).
6. **Imports:** Refer to all goods entering the country after passing through the customs procedures to meet its local needs. Valuation is on Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) basis.
7. **Indicators**



Indicator	Description
Trade Volume	The sum of exports and imports.
Trade Balance	Exports minus imports.
Monthly Change	Change from the previous month.
Annual Change	Change from the same month of the previous year.

#### 4. Coverage

**Spatial Coverage:** The statistics on International trade cover all goods (oil and non-oil exports as well as imports) passing through customs ports in Saudi Arabia.

**Temporal Coverage:** The statistics on International trade are collected from administrative records on a monthly basis according to the Gregorian calendar.

#### 5. Used Statistical Classification

Saudi Arabia's 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.

#### 6. Obtaining Data

The records received from Saudi Customs and the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources are saved in the databases of GaStat and are audited and reviewed in accordance with the scientific statistical methods and quality standards recognized in coordination with the entity issuing the data.

#### 7. Preparation and review of results

After reviewing the collected administrative records in the previous steps, the results are calculated, extracted, uploaded, and stored in the database. Then, the final review is carried out by specialists in International trade statistics using modern techniques and software designed for auditing purposes.

#### 8. Data Dissemination

##### First: Preparation of Results Designed for Publishing:

At this stage, GaStat coordinates, organizes, and reviews the data contained in the report. Tables, charts, and indicators are then prepared. Finally, the metadata and the methodology are added to the report, which is prepared in both Arabic and English.

##### Second: Preparation of Media materials and the announcement of bulletin release date:

After GaStat publishes the release date of the report on its official website at the beginning of the Gregorian calendar year, it prepares special media materials to announce its release through all media in addition to its various platforms on the social media sites. The announcement is made on the predetermined day of publishing. The publishing starts from the official website in different formats to ensure that it spreads and reaches all customers and those interested in International trade of Saudi Arabia; the report and the attached data file are published on the Statistical Library on the website.

##### Third: Communicating with clients and providing them with the bulletin:

GaStat believes in the importance of communicating with the clients. Therefore, once the report of International trade of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is released, it immediately communicates with the clients and provides them with the report. It also receives questions and queries from clients about



the report and its results through various communication channels where clients can request data as well. Requests and enquiries are received through:

- GaStat official website: [www.stats.gov.sa](http://www.stats.gov.sa)
- GaStat official e-mail: [info@stats.gov.sa](mailto:info@stats.gov.sa)
- Client support's e-mail: [cs@stats.gov.sa](mailto:cs@stats.gov.sa)
- Official visits to GaStat head office in Riyadh or to one of its branches in Saudi Arabia
- Official letters
- Statistical helpline (920020081)

## 9. Applied quality procedures

The results of the report of International trade of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is subject to many technical quality procedures to ensure the quality of the data. These include;

1. Reviewing the data constructed from administrative records, verifying their comprehensiveness, and communicating with data providers if clarifications are needed on concerned data.
2. Verifying outputs' logic by comparing them with historical figures as well as their conformity with the actuality of the International trade of Saudi Arabia.
3. Publishing the results according to the predetermined publication dates.

## 10. Users and benefits of the report

The report of International trade of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia benefits all governmental sectors related to the development work in Saudi Arabia. The most important beneficiaries of the report are the Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, and the National Accounts Statistics Department of GaStat as well as international and regional organizations, researchers and planners concerned with International trade. Data and indicators of International trade are among the most important statistical products that contribute to the formulation of trade policy, which supports and protects local goods from competitive imported goods. Moreover, the report contributes to identifying the amount of surplus or deficit in the balance of trade between Saudi Arabia and other countries, and building economic indicators that are important for the components of the national accounts and the balance of payments, which all support decision-making in this field.