

Non-oil exports increase by 5.7% in August 2020, while oil exports fall by 33.8%

Merchandise exports decreased by 25.1% in August 2020 compared to August 2019. The value of exports amounted to 57,376 million riyals in August 2020, down from 76,643 million riyals in August 2019. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 20,226 million riyals or 33.8% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports, therefore, decreased from 78.1% (August 2019) to 69.0% (August 2020). However, compared to the previous month (July 2020), total merchandise exports increased by 6,237 million riyals or 12.2%.

Non-oil exports, however, increased by 5.7% year-on-year in August 2020, rising up to 17,758 million riyals from 16,799 million riyals in August 2019. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (30.0% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 8.8% (-512 million riyals) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (26.0% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 13.5% (-721 million riyals) from August 2019. Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous month (July 2020) by 334 million riyals or 1.9%.

Merchandise imports declined by 17.3% (-8,173 million riyals) in August 2020. The value of imports amounted to 38,986 million riyals in August 2020 compared to 47,159 million riyals in August 2019. This decrease was due to the decrease in many sections compared to August 2019, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (-57.0%) and 'Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment' (-8.3%). Imports, however, increased compared to the previous month (July 2020), by 1,324 million riyals or 3.5%.

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports increases to 45.6%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 45.6% in 2020 أغسطس compared to 35.6% in August 2019. This is due to the fact that the increase in non-oil exports (5.7%) was alongside the decrease in imports (-17.3%) during this period.

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

In August 2020, exports to China amounted to 9,708 million riyals, rendering the country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and United Arab Emirates followed next with 6,133 million riyals and 5,450 million riyals, respectively. India, South Korea, U.S.A, Kenya, Singapore, Bahrain, and Egypt were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 39,327 million riyals, accounting for 68.5% of the total exports.

Imports from China amounted to 7,970 million riyals in August 2020, rendering the country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 4,470 million riyals and 2,697 million riyals, respectively. India, Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Turkey 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 24,542 million riyals, accounting for 63.0% of the total imports.

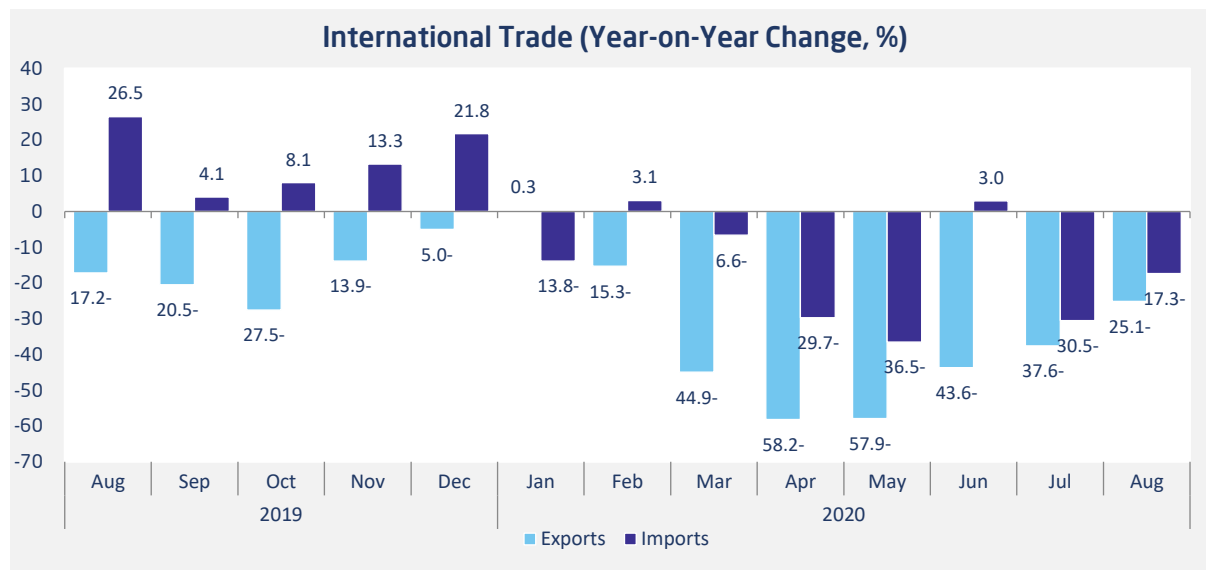


Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

12,105 million riyals of imports, corresponding to 31.0% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in August 2020. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (19.7%), King Khalid International Airport (10.6%), Bat'ha (6.5%), and Riyadh (Dry Port) (6.4%). Those five ports together accounted for 74.3% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

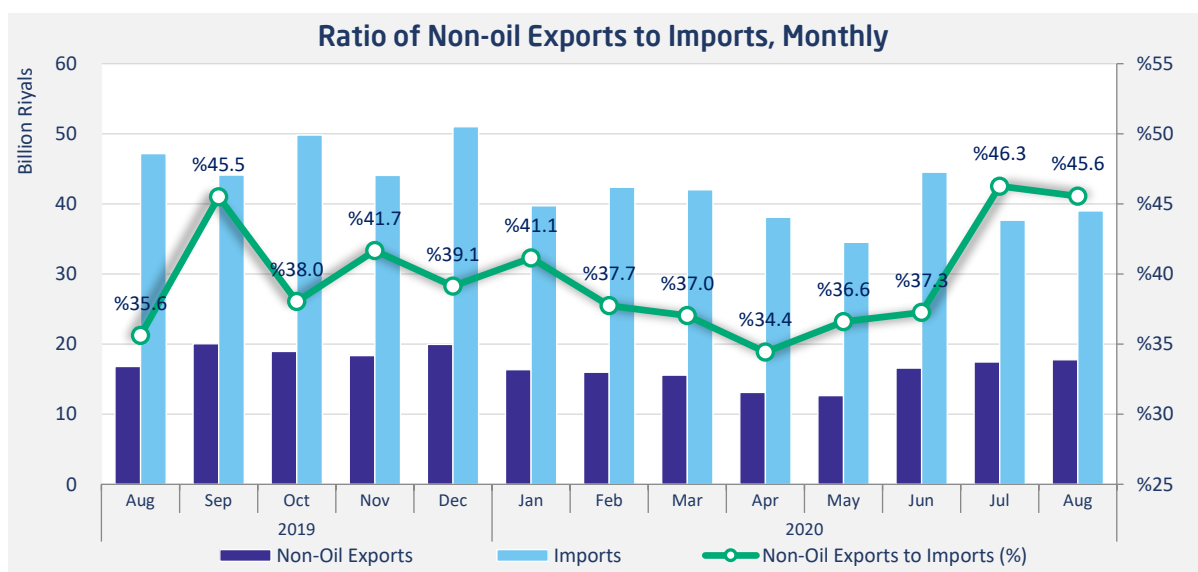
Methodology

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).





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)
2019	August	76,643	47,159	123,802	29,484
	September	77,330	44,111	121,441	33,219
	October	76,762	49,800	126,561	26,962
	November	80,834	44,079	124,913	36,755
	December	85,839	51,021	136,860	34,818
	January	83,040	39,732	122,772	43,308
2020	February	66,303	42,358	108,662	23,945
	March	48,500	42,009	90,509	6,491
	April	37,116	38,085	75,201	-970
	May	36,506	34,534	71,040	1,972
	June	43,490	44,521	88,011	-1,031
	July	51,138	37,661	88,799	13,477
	August	57,376	38,986	96,361	18,390





International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Aug 2019	Aug 2020	Aug 2019	Aug 2020
1	Live animals; animal products	431	404	1,614	1,515
2	Vegetable products	70	79	2,209	2,381
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	60	59	251	205
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	408	479	2,015	2,257
5	Mineral products	59,981	39,871	1,625	1,708
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	5,331	4,610	3,655	4,130
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	5,835	5,323	1,588	1,699
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)	18	15	186	145
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	18	15	393	451
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	193	185	607	573
11	Textiles and textile articles	136	170	1,723	1,521
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	307	204
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	142	151	605	786
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	392	2,132	462	239
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	1,185	1,529	3,813	3,635
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	781	810	9,086	8,333
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	1,351	1,231	13,052	5,609
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	73	139	1,122	1,323
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	0	21	1,185	608
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	104	121	1,092	1,218
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	132	27	569	444
	Total	76,643	57,376	47,159	38,986

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