



Non-oil exports increase by 16.2% in February 2021, while oil exports fall by 1.4%

Overall merchandise exports increased by 3.0% in February 2021 compared to February 2020. The value of exports amounted to 65.8 billion riyals in February 2021, up from 63.8 billion riyals in February 2020. This increase originated mainly from non-oil exports; however, oil exports fell by 0.7 billion riyals or 1.4% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports, therefore, decreased from 74.9% (February 2020) to 71.7% (February 2021). However, compared to the previous month (January 2021), total merchandise exports decreased by 6.2 billion riyals or -8.6%.

Non-oil exports increased by 16.2% year-on-year in February 2021, rising up to 18.6 billion riyals from 16.0 billion riyals in February 2020. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (34.0% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 39.1% (1.8 billion riyals) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (26.0% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 1.7% (0.1 billion riyals) from February 2020. Non-oil exports decreased compared to the previous month (January 2021) by 0.3 billion riyals (-1.5%).

Merchandise imports decreased by 6.2% (2.7 billion riyals) in February 2021. The value of imports amounted to 40.4 billion riyals in February 2021 compared to 43.0 billion riyals in February 2020. This decrease was due to the decrease in many sectors compared to February 2020, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (-27.8%) and 'Base Metals and Articles of Base Metal' (-18.3%). Imports also decreased compared to the previous month (January 2021), by 7.6 billion riyals or -15.8%.

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports increased to 46.1%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 46.1% in February 2021 from 37.2% in February 2020, as a result of an increase in non-oil exports (16.2%) in contrast to a decline in imports (6.2%) over that period.

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

In February 2021, exports to China amounted to 10.6 billion riyals, making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with 7.7 billion riyals and 5.5 billion riyals, respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Singapore, Netherlands, U.S.A, and Taiwan were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 44.4 billion riyals, accounting for 67.4% of the total exports.

Imports from China amounted to 9.5 billion riyals in February 2021, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. United Arab Emirates and U.S.A followed next with imports of 3.8 billion riyals and 3.3 billion riyals, respectively. India, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Egypt and United Kingdom were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to 27.4 billion riyals, accounting for 68.0% of the total imports.

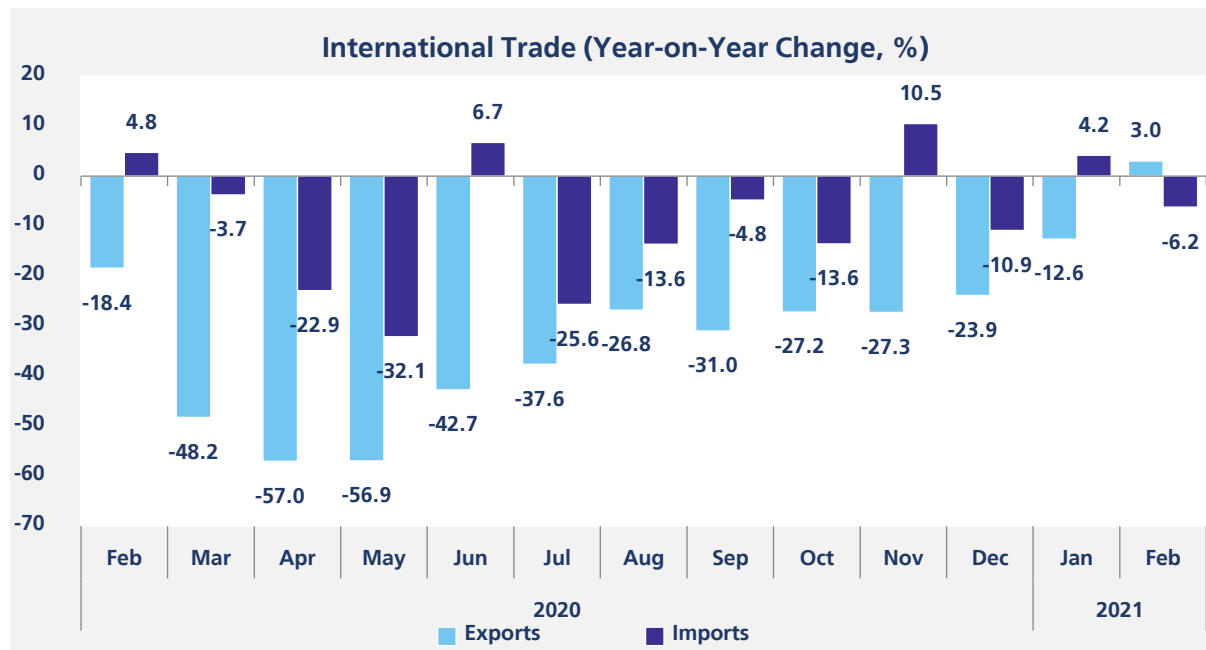


Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

11.0 billion riyals of imports, corresponding to 27.3% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in February 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (17.9%), King Khalid International Airport (14.9%), King Fahad Airport (7.4%), and Bat'ha (7.0%). Those five ports together accounted for 74.5% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

Methodology

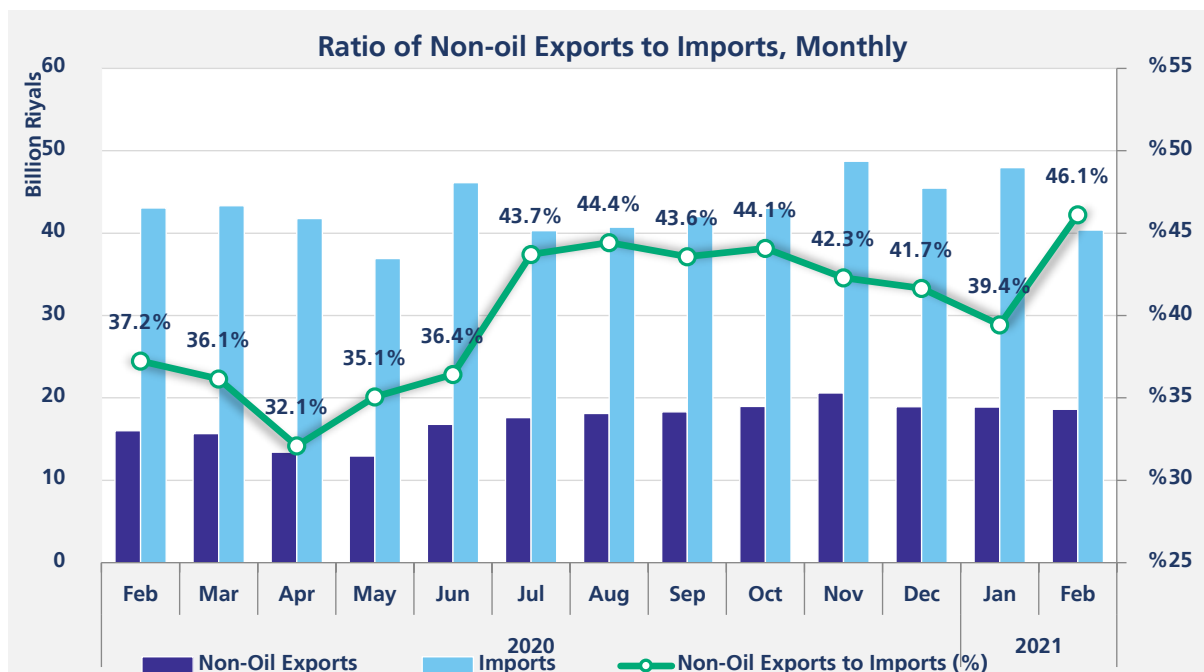
GASTAT's statistics on International trade are built on administrative records from Saudi Customs (non-oil) and the Ministry of Energy (oil). Saudi Arabia's merchandise exports and imports are classified according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (2017), also known as the Harmonized 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)
2020	February	63,846	43,044	106,890	20,802
	March	45,552	43,319	88,871	2,233
	April	38,139	41,790	79,929	-3,651
	May	37,335	36,916	74,251	419
	June	44,182	46,143	90,325	-1,961
	July	51,085	40,298	91,383	10,787
	August	56,120	40,739	96,859	15,381
	September	53,375	41,995	95,370	11,380
	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
	2021	January	71,937	47,937	119,874
February		65,777	40,371	106,148	25,406





International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Feb 2020	Feb 2021	Feb 2020	Feb 2021
1	Live animals; animal products	420	436	1,613	1,591
2	Vegetable products	178	228	3,189	2,527
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	76	86	270	212
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	489	563	2,279	2,038
5	Mineral products	48,284	47,465	1,268	1,297
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	4,763	4,844	4,538	4,399
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	4,548	6,324	1,460	1,622
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)	22	13	207	164
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	27	26	430	306
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	232	214	519	466
11	Textiles and textile articles	171	168	2,003	1,774
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	7	4	375	387



Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Feb 2020	Feb 2021	Feb 2020	Feb 2021
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	156	144	729	668
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	381	378	848	1,575
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	1,413	1,504	4,048	3,307
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	1,044	865	8,409	8,816
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	1,332	2,169	7,673	5,544
18	Optical, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	122	153	1,180	1,459
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	2	21	418	419
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	153	144	1,189	1,243
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	25	27	400	556
	Total	63,846	65,777	43,044	40,371

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