



Non-oil Exports Increase by 26.8% in August 2021

Overall merchandise exports increased by 58.9% in August 2021, compared to August 2020 when international trade was impacted by Covid-related lockdowns and travel bans in numerous countries. The value of exports reached 89.2 billion riyals in August 2021, up from 56.1 billion riyals in August 2020. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by 28.2 billion riyals or 74.2% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 67.8% (August 2020) to 74.3% (August 2021), compared to the previous month (July 2021), total merchandise exports decreased by -2.9 billion riyals or 3.1%.

Non-oil exports increased by 26.8% year-on-year in August 2021, rising to 23.0 billion riyals from 18.1 billion riyals in August 2020. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (36.4% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 56.6% 3.0 billion riyals and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (33.4% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 66.2% (3.1 billion riyals) from August 2020. Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous month (July 2021) by 1.9 billion riyals or 8.9%.

Merchandise imports increased by 23.6% (9.6 billion riyals) in August 2021. The value of imports amounted to 50.3 billion riyals in August 2021, compared to 40.7 billion riyals in August 2020. This increase was due to the increase in many sectors, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (66.1%), and 'Pearls, Precious Stones, Imitation Jewellery' (592.6%). Imports also increased compared to the previous month (July 2021), by 3.1 billion riyals or 6.6%.

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports Increases to 45.6% in August 2021

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased 45.6% in August 2021 from 44.4% in August 2020, as a result of a higher increase in non-oil exports (26.8%) than in imports (23.6%) over that period.

China is Saudi Arabia's Main Trading Partner for Merchandise Trade

In August 2021, exports to China amounted to 17.8 billion riyals (19.9% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with 8.3 billion riyals (9.3% of total exports) and 8.2 billion riyals (9.2% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A, Egypt, Taiwan, Singapore, and Belgium were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 59.6 billion riyals, accounting for 66.8% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to 10.9 billion riyals (21.6% of total imports) in August 2021, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 5.2 billion riyals (10.4% of total imports) and 4.1 billion riyals (8.1% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Italy, France, Bahrain 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 33.0 billion riyals, accounting for 65.6% of total imports.

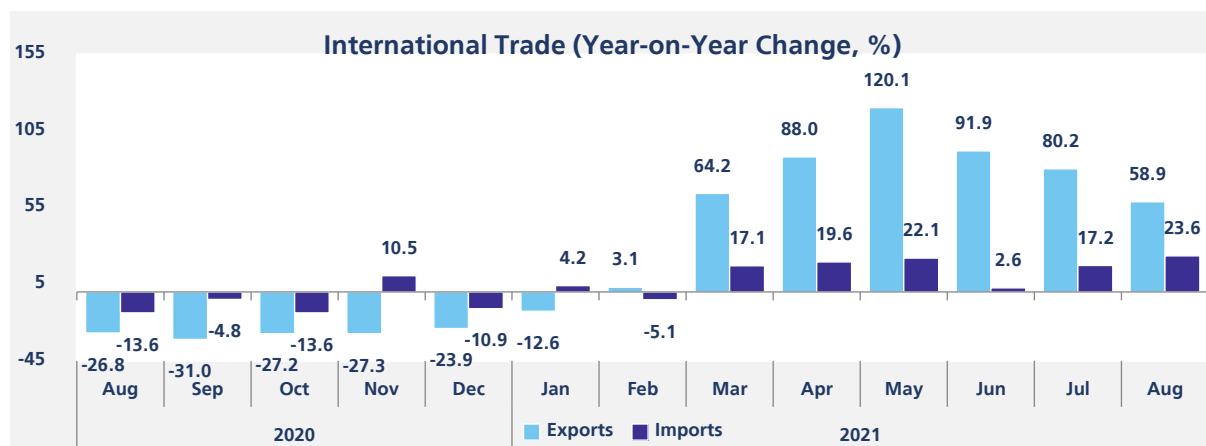


Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

13.8 billion riyals of imports, corresponding to 27.4% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in August 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (17.6%), King Khalid International Airport (11.7%), Ras Tannorah Port (7.5%), and Bat'ha (5.8%). Those five ports together accounted for 69.9% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

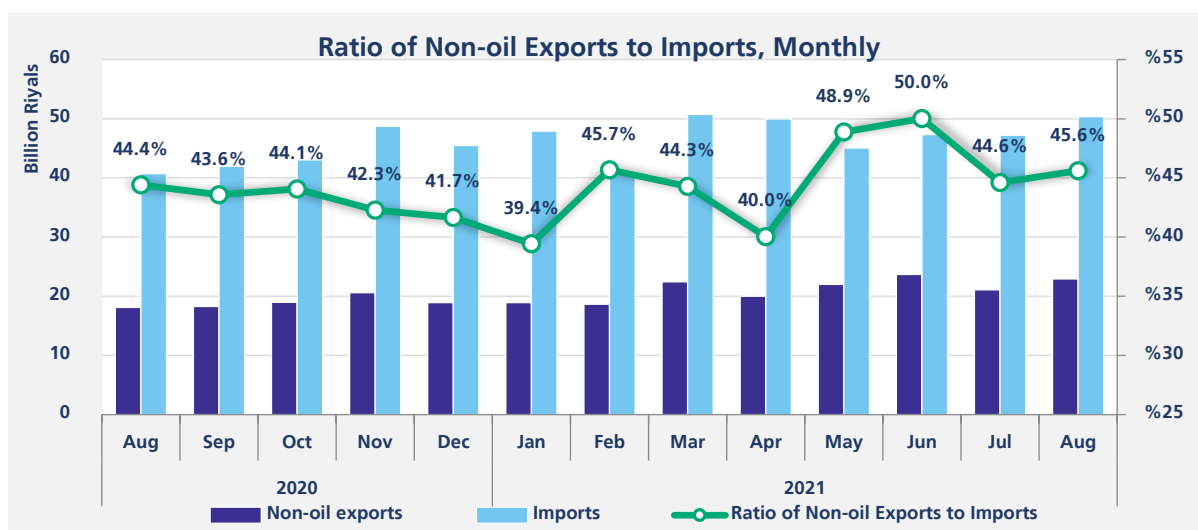
Methodology

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 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	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	24,000
	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	92,064	47,235	139,299	44,829
	August	89,168	50,340	139,508	38,828



International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)

Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Aug 2020	Aug 2021	Aug 2020	Aug 2021
1	Live animals; animal products	406	409	1,517	1,435
2	Vegetable products	82	93	2,772	2,455
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	59	104	242	270
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	481	650	2,347	2,096
5	Mineral products	38,275	66,534	1,806	2,992
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	4,613	7,666	4,321	4,939
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	5,340	8,361	1,729	1,832
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)	15	20	149	159
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	15	32	476	497
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	187	207	585	598



Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Aug 2020	Aug 2021	Aug 2020	Aug 2021
11	Textiles and textile articles	171	231	1,688	1,656
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	5	9	215	342
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	151	188	815	635
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	2,150	310	240	1,660
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	1,592	1,733	3,713	4,937
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	865	1,312	8,662	9,537
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	1,405	1,040	5,706	9,475
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	140	141	1,352	1,259
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	21	1	609	1,500
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	121	108	1,239	1,272
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	27	21	556	794
	Total	56,120	89,168	40,739	50,340

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