

## Non-oil exports increase by 35.8%, oil exports by 69.4% in 2021

Overall merchandise exports increased by 58.9% in 2021 compared to 2020. The value of exports amounted to SAR 1035.7 billion in 2021, up from SAR 652.0 billion in 2020. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR 310.5 billion or 69.4% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 68.7% in 2020 to 73.2% in 2021.

Non-oil exports increased by 35.8% year-on-year in 2021, rising to SAR 277.5 billion from SAR 204.4 billion in 2020.

Merchandise imports increased by 10.8% (SAR 55.7 billion) in 2021. The value of imports amounted to SAR 573.2 billion in 2021 compared to SAR 517.5 billion in 2020.

### Non-oil exports increase by 35.8% in 2021

Non-oil exports increased by 35.8% year-on-year in 2021, rising to SAR 277.5 billion from SAR 204.4 billion in 2020. The most important non-oil goods were 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (32.8% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 45.2% SAR 28.3 billion and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (30.3% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 45.3% SAR 26.2 billion from year 2020.

And the most important imported commodities were 'Machinery and Mechanical Appliances' (20.0% of total merchandise imports), and 'Transport Equipment and Parts Thereof' (15.0% of total merchandise imports).

### Ratio of non-oil exports to imports increases to 48.4% in 2021

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 48.4% in 2021 from 39.5% in 2020, as a result of a higher increase in non-oil exports (35.8%) than in imports (10.8%) over that period. (see figure (2))

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

In 2021, exports to China amounted to SAR 190.9 billion (18.4% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with SAR 102.6 billion (9.9% of total exports) and SAR 100.0 billion (9.7% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A, Egypt, Singapore, Bahrain, and Taiwan were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR 708.6 billion, accounting for 68.4% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 113.4 billion (19.8% of total imports) in 2021, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of SAR 60.5 billion (10.6% of total imports) and SAR 46.8 billion (8.2% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Italy, France, 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 SAR 364.6 billion, accounting for 63.6% of total imports.

### Top five customs ports for imports in 2021

SAR 157.9 billion of imports, corresponding to 27.6% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (19.2%), King Khalid International Airport (13.0%), King Fahad International Airport (6.4%), and Bat'ha (6.4%). Those five ports together accounted for 72.6% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

Table1. Exports, Imports, Trade Volume & Trade Balance (Million SAR)

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports	Merchandise Imports	Trade Volume (Merchandise Exports + Merchandise Imports)	Trade Balance (Merchandise Exports - Merchandise Imports)
2021	January	69,863	48,051	117,913	21,812
	February	64,585	41,041	105,626	23,543
	March	73,584	50,300	123,884	23,284
	April	69,252	49,703	118,955	19,549
	May	78,583	44,214	122,798	34,369
	June	84,343	46,507	130,850	37,836
	July	88,674	46,600	135,274	42,075
	August	89,714	50,830	140,544	38,884
	September	95,205	47,327	142,532	47,878
	October	106,009	45,852	151,861	60,157
	November	108,814	49,559	158,373	59,256
	December	69,863	53,203	160,247	53,842
Total:		1,035,672	573,185	1,608,857	462,476

Source: [Tables](#)

Figure 1. International Trade (Year-on-Year Change, %)

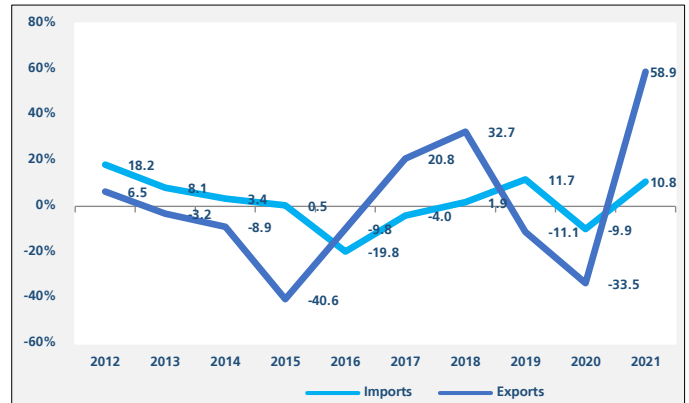
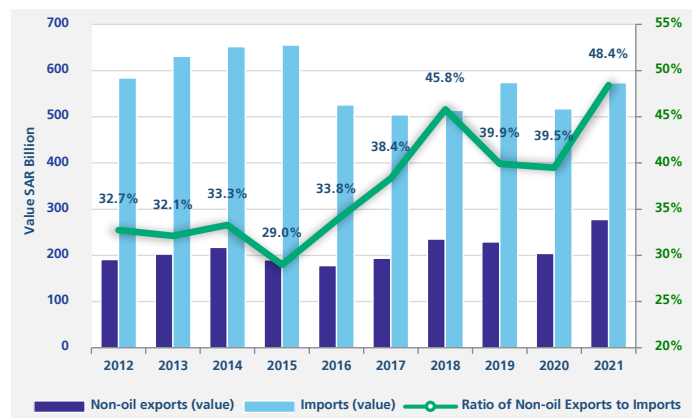


Figure 2. Ratio of Non-Oil Exports to Imports, Annual



## 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). [Methodology](#)