



Non-oil exports increase by 9.7% in September 2022

Overall merchandise exports increased by 30.9% in September 2022, compared to September 2021. The value of exports amounted to SAR 124.7 billion in September 2022, up from SAR 95.2 billion in September 2021. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR 30.3 billion or 43.4% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 73.4% in September 2021 to 80.4% in September 2022. Compared to August 2022, total merchandise exports decreased by SAR 9.1 billion or 6.8%.

Non-oil exports (excluding re-exports) increased by 9.7%, compared to September 2021, increasing to SAR 21.6 billion from SAR 19.7 billion in September 2021. Re-exports fell by 48.7% in the same period, leading to the fact that Non-oil exports, including re-exports, decreased by 3.4% compared to September 2021. Non-oil exports (including re-exports) decreased compared to August 2022 by SAR 2.4 billion or 8.8%, while declining by 0.8 billion (-3.7%) if re-exports are excluded.

Merchandise imports increased by 26.9% (SAR 12.7 billion) in September 2022. The value of imports amounted to SAR 60.0 billion in September 2022 compared to SAR 47.3 billion in September 2021. Imports also decreased compared to August 2022 by SAR 3.5 billion or 5.4%. The general trend of merchandise trade was positive during the reference period, which reflects solid demand for energy products across the world.

Products of chemical and allied industries most important non-oil export merchandise

The most important non-oil export goods were "Products of the chemical and allied industries" (39.7% of non-oil merchandise exports), which increased by 34.8% SAR 2.5 billion, and "Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof" (28.6% of non-oil merchandise exports) which decreased by 11.8% SAR 0.9 billion from September 2021.

Most important imported merchandise goods were "Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof" (19.9% of total merchandise imports), and "Transport equipment and parts thereof" (15.7% of total merchandise imports).

Ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreases to 40.7%

Ratio of non-oil exports (including re-exports) to imports decreased to 40.7% in September 2022 from 53.5% in September 2021, as a result of a decrease in non-oil exports (3.4%) in contrast to an increase in imports (26.9%) over that period.

China is Saudi Arabia's main merchandise trading partner

In September 2022, exports to China amounted to SAR 19.8 billion (15.9% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and South Korea followed next with SAR 12.9 billion (10.4% of total exports) and SAR 12.5 billion (10.1% of total exports), respectively. Japan, U.S.A, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Taiwan, Netherlands, and France were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR 83.6 billion, accounting for 67.1% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 11.9 billion (19.7% of total imports) in September 2022, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of SAR 7.0 billion (11.7% of total imports) and SAR 4.1 billion (6.8% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Switzerland, South Korea, Japan, Italy 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 36.8 billion, accounting for 61.3% of total imports.

Top five customs ports for imports

Jeddah Islamic Port is one of the most important ports through which goods crossed into Saudi Arabia at a value of SAR 15.2 billion of imports, corresponding to 25.3% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in September 2022. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Sea Port in Dammam (19.7%), King Khalid Int Airport in Riyadh (10.8%), King Abdulaziz Int. Airport (6.2%), and King Fahad Int Airport in Dammam (6.1%). Those five ports together accounted for 68.2% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

Table1. Merchandise Exports, Imports, Trade Volume & Trade Balance (Monthly, SAR Billion)

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports	Merchandise Imports	Trade Volume (Merchandise Exports + Merchandise Imports)	Trade Balance (Merchandise Exports - Merchandise Imports)
2021	Sep	95	47	142	48
	Oct	106	46	152	60
	Nov	109	50	159	59
	Dec	107	53	160	54
2022	Jan	108	52	160	56
	Feb	116	49	165	67
	Mar	142	56	198	86
	Apr	138	56	194	82
	May	144	55	199	89
	Jun	148	62	210	86
	Jul	141	58	199	83
	Aug	134	64	198	70
	Sep	125	60	185	65

Source: Tables

Figure 1. International Trade (Sep 2021 – Sep 2022) (Year-on-Year Change, %)

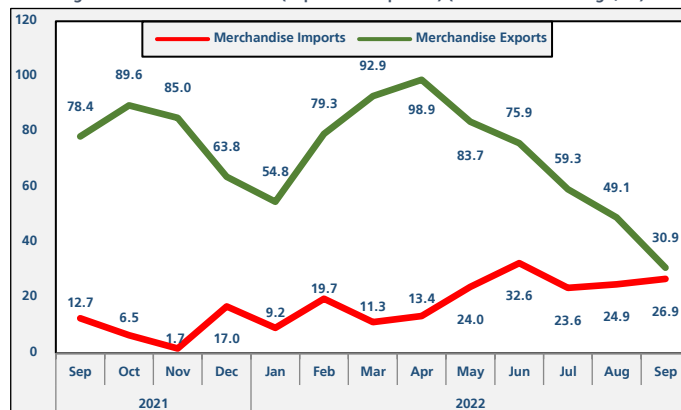


Figure 2. Non-Oil Exports and Imports (September 2021 – September 2022)

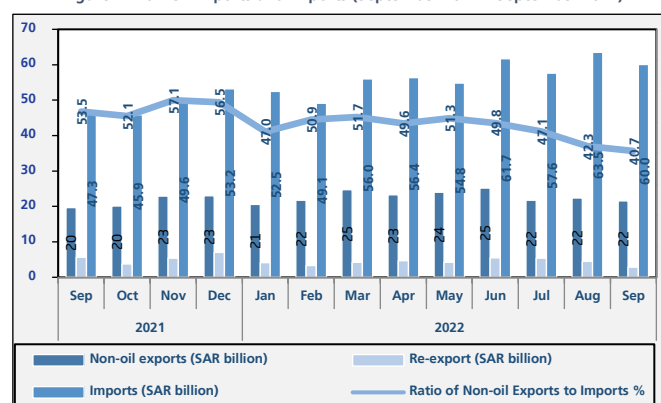
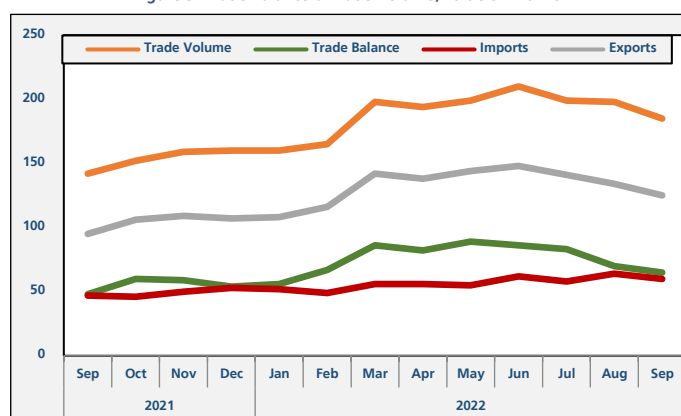


Figure 3. Trade Balance & Trade Volume, value SAR billion



Methodology

GASTAT's statistics on international trade is built on administrative records from Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (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 2022, 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](#)