



Non-oil (-7.7%) and oil exports (-29.6%) decline in December 2020

Overall merchandise exports decreased by 24.5% in December 2020 compared to December 2019. The value of exports amounted to 64.8 billion riyals in December 2020, down from 85.8 billion riyals in December 2019. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 19.5 billion riyals or 29.6% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports, therefore, decreased from 76.7% (December 2019) to 71.6% (December 2020). However, compared to the previous month (November 2020), total merchandise exports increased by 6.7 billion riyals or 11.5%.

On the other hand, non-oil exports also decreased by 7.7% year-on-year in December 2020, falling down to 18.4 billion riyals from 20.0 billion riyals in December 2019. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (35.7% of non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 21.3% (1.2 billion riyals) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (23.9% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 19.2% (-1.1 billion riyals) from December 2019. Non-oil exports decreased compared to the previous month (November 2020) by 2.1 billion riyals (-10.4%).

Merchandise imports decreased by 12.0% (-6.1 billion riyals) in December 2020. The value of imports amounted to 44.9 billion riyals in December 2020 compared to 51.0 billion in December 2019. This decrease was due to the decrease in many sectors compared to December 2019, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (-24.8%) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (-19.7%). Imports also decreased compared to the previous month (November 2020), by 2.9 billion riyals (-6.1%).

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports increased to 41.0%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 41.0% in December 2020 from 39.1% in December 2019, as a result of a larger decline in imports (-12.0%) than in non-oil exports (-7.7%) over that period.

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

In December 2020, exports to China amounted to 13.5 billion riyals, making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with 7.5 billion and 6.3 billion riyals, respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Egypt, Bahrain, the Netherlands, and Taiwan were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 44.8 billion riyals, accounting for 69.1% of the total exports.

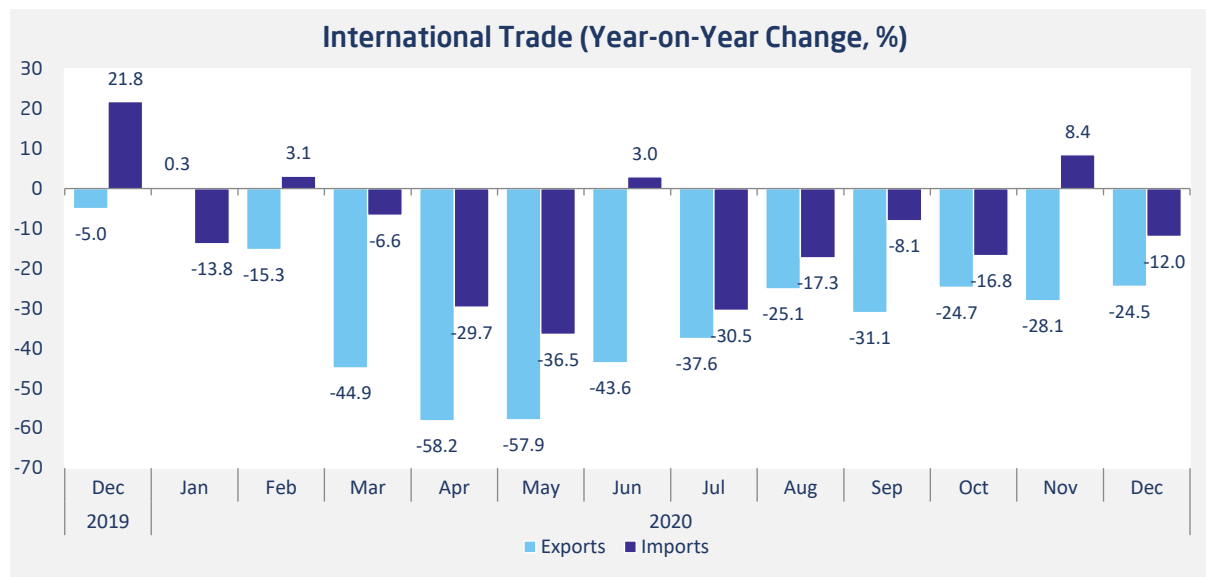
Imports from China amounted to 9.0 billion riyals in December 2020, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 5.2 billion and 3.1 billion riyals. India, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, South Korea and the Netherlands were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to 30.0 billion riyals, accounting for 66.5% of the total imports.

Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

12.8 billion riyals of imports, corresponding to 28.4% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in December 2020. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (18.0%), King Khalid International Airport (13.3%), Bat'ha (6.8%), and King Abdulaziz International Airport (6.3%). Those five ports together accounted for 72.9% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

Methodology

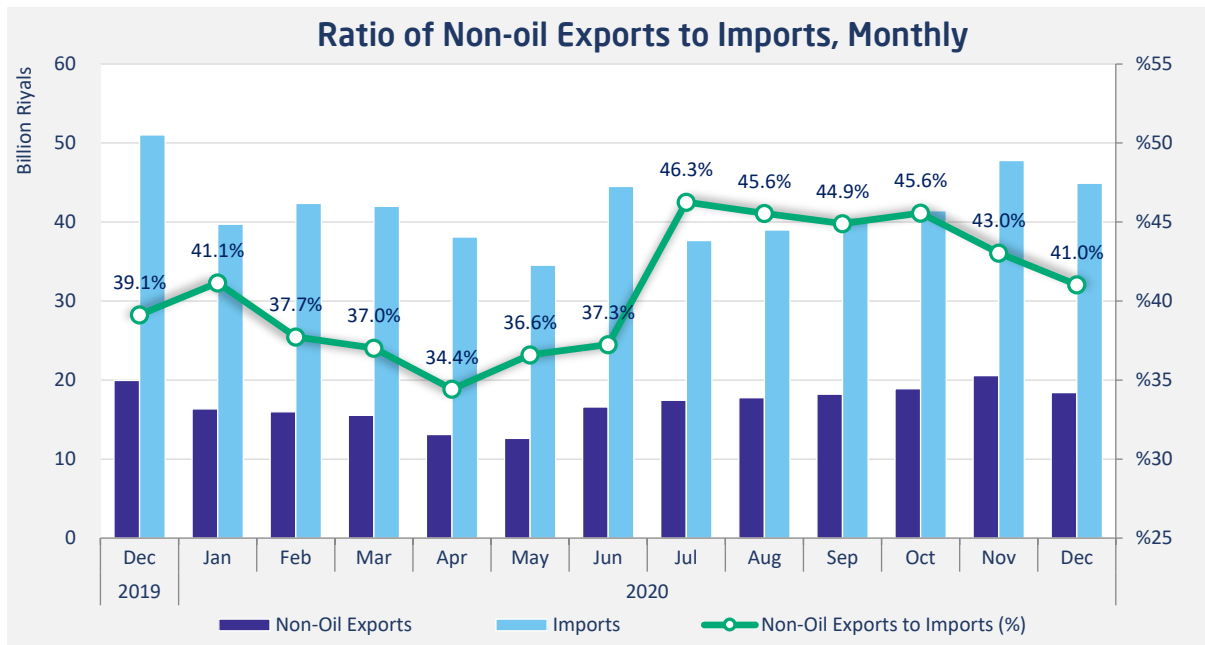
GASTAT's statistics on International trade are built on administrative records from Saudi Customs (non-oil) and the Ministry of Energy (oil). Saudi Arabia's merchandise exports and imports are classified according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (2017), also known as the Harmonized 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 | December | 85,839 | 51,021 | 136,860 | 34,818 |
| 2020 | January | 83,040 | 39,732 | 122,772 | 43,308 |
| | February | 66,303 | 42,358 | 108,663 | 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 | 88,800 | 13,477 |
| | August | 57,376 | 38,986 | 96,361 | 18,390 |
| | September | 53,317 | 40,547 | 93,863 | 12,770 |
| | October | 57,798 | 41,439 | 99,237 | 16,359 |
| | November | 58,152 | 47,800 | 105,952 | 10,352 |
| | December | 64,821 | 44,905 | 109,726 | 19,916 |





| International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals) | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Section | Description | Exports | | Imports | |
| | | Dec 2019 | Dec 2020 | Dec 2019 | Dec 2020 |
| 1 | Live animals; animal products | 474 | 401 | 1,468 | 1,513 |
| 2 | Vegetable products | 143 | 164 | 2,802 | 2,425 |
| 3 | Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes | 94 | 74 | 238 | 225 |
| 4 | Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes | 485 | 505 | 2,583 | 2,373 |
| 5 | Mineral products | 66,110 | 46,857 | 1,305 | 1,698 |
| 6 | Products of the chemical or allied industries | 5,456 | 4,407 | 4,995 | 4,013 |
| 7 | Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof | 5,431 | 6,587 | 1,638 | 1,526 |
| 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) | 31 | 15 | 170 | 130 |
| 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 | 28 | 31 | 437 | 386 |
| 10 | Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof | 226 | 227 | 548 | 454 |
| 11 | Textiles and textile articles | 169 | 200 | 1,782 | 1,513 |
| 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 | 8 | 6 | 327 | 237 |



| Section | Description | Exports | | Imports | |
|---------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Dec 2019 | Dec 2020 | Dec 2019 | Dec 2020 |
| 13 | Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware | 169 | 151 | 634 | 693 |
| 14 | Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin | 377 | 437 | 1,156 | 817 |
| 15 | Base metals and articles of base metal | 1,595 | 1,627 | 4,098 | 3,967 |
| 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 | 1,118 | 1,188 | 10,846 | 10,260 |
| 17 | Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment | 3,243 | 1,514 | 10,299 | 7,741 |
| 18 | Optical, cinematographic, photographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof | 122 | 231 | 1,547 | 1,318 |
| 19 | Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof | 21 | 18 | 1,947 | 1,689 |
| 20 | Miscellaneous manufactured articles | 206 | 153 | 1,286 | 1,193 |
| 21 | Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques | 332 | 27 | 917 | 735 |
| | Total | 85,839 | 64,821 | 51,021 | 44,905 |

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