

## Non-oil and oil exports decline by 4.4% and 39.8% in Q3 2020

Overall merchandise exports decreased by 31.4% in Q3 2020 compared to Q3 2019. The value of exports amounted to 161,830 million riyals in Q3 2020, down from 235,874 million riyals in Q3 2019. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 71,565 million riyals or 39.8% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports, therefore, decreased from 76.3% (Q3 2019) to 67.0% (Q3 2020). However, compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2020), total merchandise exports increased by 44,719 million riyals or 38.2%.

On the other hand, non-oil exports, also decreased by 4.4% year-on-year in Q3 2020, falling down to 53,391 million riyals from 55,869 million riyals in Q3 2019. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (30.2% of non-oil merchandise exports) decreased by 12.4% (-2,281 million riyals) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (28.8% of non-oil merchandise exports) decreased by 8.7% (-1,461 million riyals) from Q3 2019. Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2020) by 11,054 million riyals or 26.1%.

Merchandise imports decreased by 19.4% (-28,258 million riyals) in Q3 2020. The value of imports amounted to 117,194 million riyals in Q3 2020 compared to 145,451 million riyals in Q3 2019. This decrease was due to the decrease in many sectors compared to Q3 2019, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (-51.9%) and 'Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment' (-19.7%). Imports, however, increased compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2020), by 53 million riyals or 0.05%.

## Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports increased to 45.6%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 45.6% in Q3 2020 from 38.4% in Q3 2019 as a result of a larger decline in imports (19.4%) than in non-oil exports (4.4%) over that period.

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

In Q3 2020, exports to China amounted to 28,905 million riyals, making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with 15,766 million riyals and 14,618 million riyals, respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A, Singapore, Bahrain, Egypt, and the Netherlands were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 110,545 million riyals, accounting for 68.3% of the total exports.

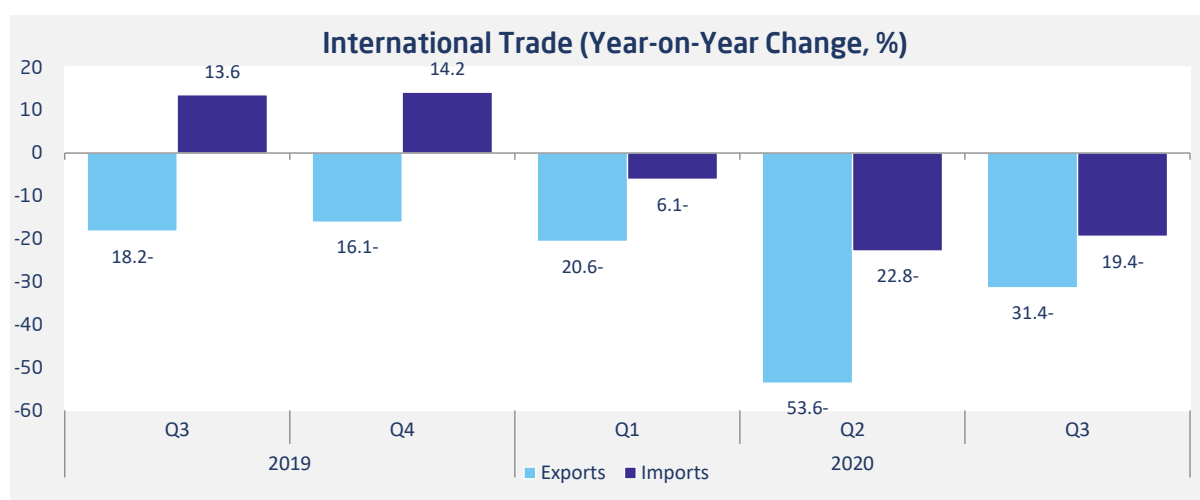
Imports from China amounted to 23,875 million riyals in Q3 2020, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates, followed next with imports of 11,964 million riyals and 8,630 million riyals, respectively. India, Germany, Italy, Japan, France, South Korea, and Bahrain were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to 71,960 million riyals, accounting for 61.4% of the total imports.

## Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

33,086 million riyals of imports, corresponding to 28.2% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in Q3 2020. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (20.4%), King Khalid International Airport (11.3%), Bat'ha (6.3%), and Riyadh (Dry Port) (6.3%). Those five ports together accounted for 72.6% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

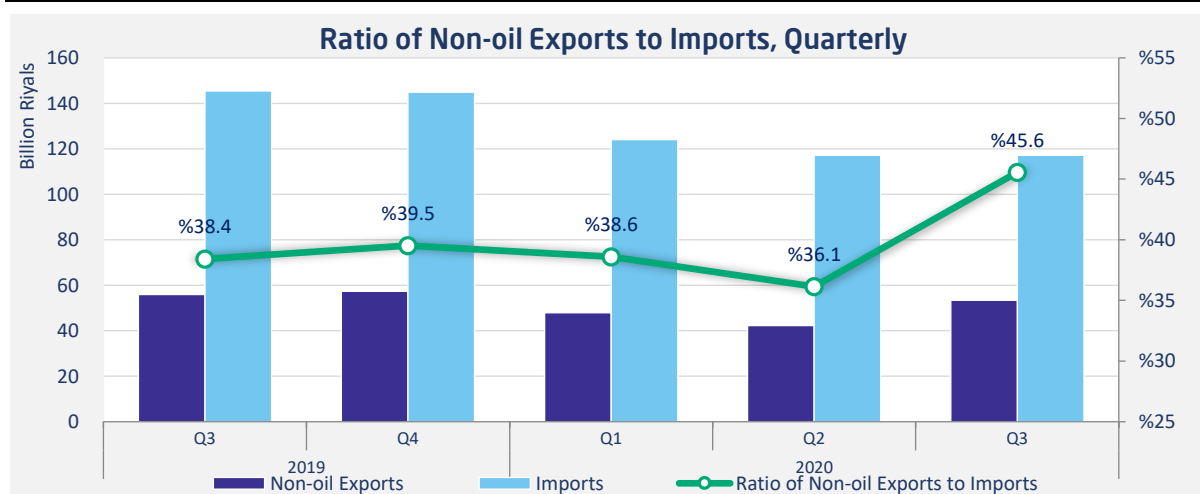
## Methodology

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 (Quarterly, Million Riyals)

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports (A)	Merchandise Imports (B)	Trade Volume (A+B)	Trade Balance (A-B)
2019	Q3	235,874	145,451	381,325	90,422
	Q4	243,434	144,900	388,334	98,535
2020	Q1	197,844	124,099	321,943	73,744
	Q2	117,112	117,140	234,252	-29
	Q3	161,830	117,194	279,024	44,637



International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Q3 2019	Q3 2020	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
1	Live animals; animal products	1,334	1,328	4,960	4,752
2	Vegetable products	270	277	7,349	7,382
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	204	212	711	527
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,413	1,489	6,465	6,914
5	Mineral products	180,809	109,311	5,578	5,479
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	16,850	15,389	13,582	12,379
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	18,403	16,122	5,217	4,814
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)	68	39	658	433
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	75	57	1,197	1,210
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	608	600	1,865	1,811
11	Textiles and textile articles	449	520	5,882	4,653
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	11	14	1,068	633
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	478	470	1,967	2,030
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,431	3,960	1,888	1,596
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	3,837	4,417	12,280	11,797
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	3,250	2,566	30,880	24,799
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	4,652	4,063	31,993	15,397
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	355	440	4,144	4,098
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	86	72	2,461	1,679
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	362	394	3,477	3,343
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	928	92	1,829	1,466
<b>Total</b>		<b>235,874</b>	<b>161,830</b>	<b>145,451</b>	<b>117,194</b>

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