



Non-oil exports rise by 1.1%, imports decline by 7.4% in Q4 2020

Overall merchandise exports decreased by 25.7% in Q4 2020 compared to Q4 2019. The value of exports amounted to 180.8 billion riyals in Q4 2020, down from 243.4 billion riyals in Q4 2019. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 63.3 billion riyals (-34.0%) in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports decreased from 76.5% (Q4 2019) to 68.0% (Q4 2020). Compared to the previous quarter (Q3 2020), total merchandise exports increased by 18.9 billion riyals (+11.7%).

Non-oil exports increased by 1.1% year-on-year in Q4 2020, raising up to 57.9 billion riyals from 57.3 billion riyals in Q4 2019. The share of non-oil exports in total exports increased from 23.5% (Q4 2019) to 32.0% (Q4 2020). 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof', with a share of 31.9% in non-oil merchandise exports, increased by 14.4% and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (with a share of 25.2% in non-oil merchandise exports) decreased by 5.2% from Q4 2019. Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous quarter (Q3 2020) by 4.5 billion riyals (+8.4%).

Merchandise imports decreased by 7.4% (10.8 billion riyals) in Q4 2020. The value of imports amounted to 134.1 billion riyals in Q4 2020 compared to 144.9 billion riyals in Q4 2019. This decrease was due to the decrease in many sectors compared to Q4 2019, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (-22.2%) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (-13.6%). Imports, however, increased compared to the previous quarter (Q3 2020), by 17.0 billion riyals (+14.5%).

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports increased to (+43.2%)

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 43.2% in Q4 2020 from 39.5% in Q4 2019 as a result of an increase in non-oil exports (+1.1%) in contrast to a decline in imports (-7.4%) during that period.

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

In Q4 2020, exports to China amounted to 34.5 billion riyals, making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with 17.9 billion and 17.8 billion riyals, respectively. United Arab Emirates, South Korea, were the other countries that ranked in the top 5 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 5 countries amounted to 98.8 billion riyals, accounting for 54.6% of the total exports.

Imports from China amounted to 27.6 billion riyals in Q4 2020, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates, followed next with imports of 13.9 billion and 9.7 billion riyals, respectively. India, Germany, were the other countries that ranked in the top 5 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 5 countries amounted to 64.3 billion riyals, accounting for 47.9% of the total imports.

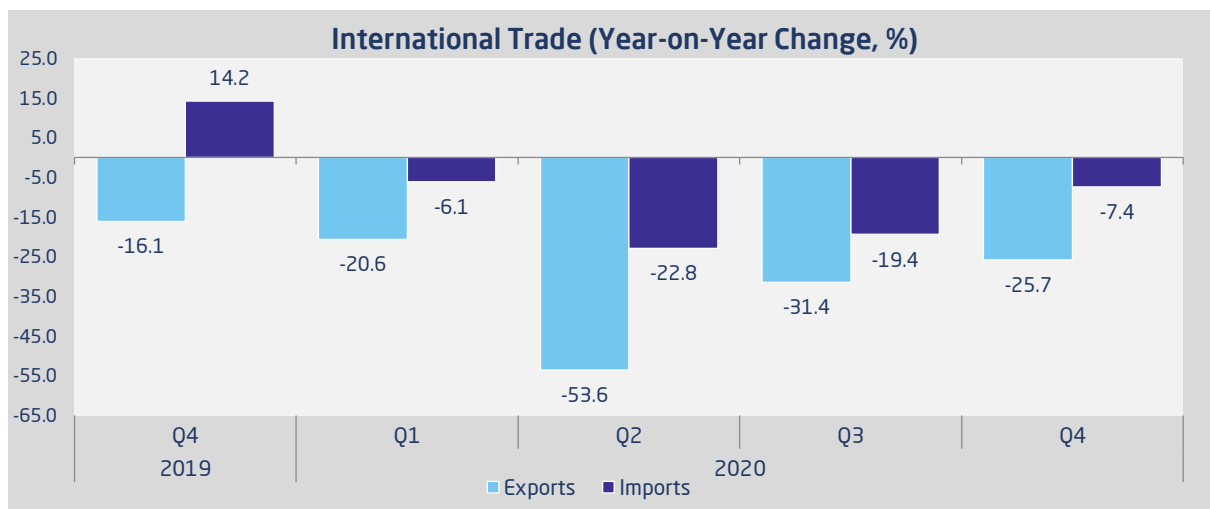
Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

37.5 billion riyals of imports (27.9% of total imports), entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in Q4 2020. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (18.6%), King Khalid International Airport (13.8%), Bat'ha (6.7%), and King Fahad Airport (6.0%). Those five ports together accounted for 73.0% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.



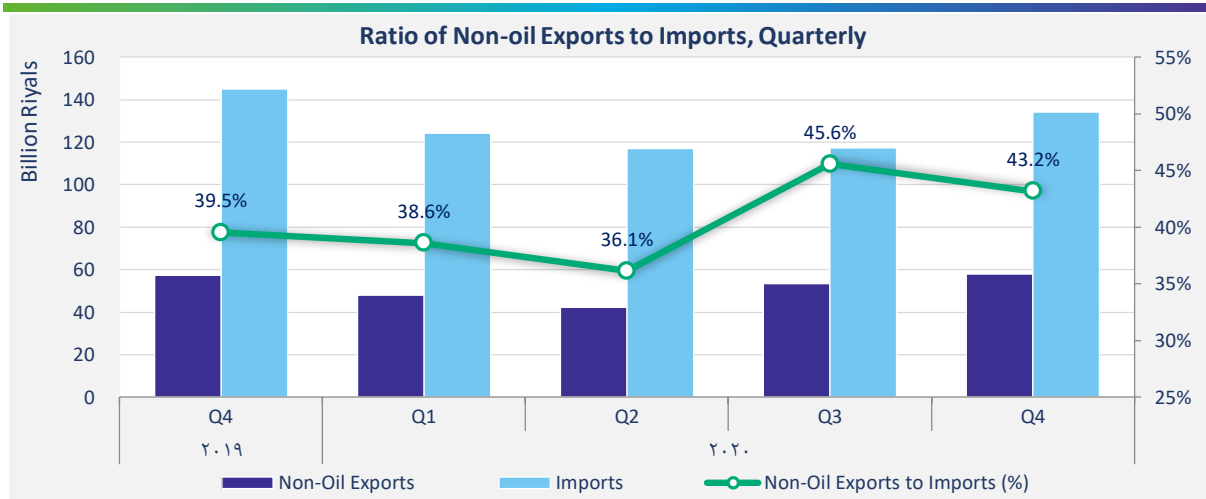
Methodology

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	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
	Q4	180,771	134,144	314,915	46,627



International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
1	Live animals; animal products	1,532	1,295	4,163	4,556
2	Vegetable products	407	433	7,548	7,116
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	248	212	837	595
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,453	1,490	6,753	6,885
5	Mineral products	186,835	123,945	4,377	5,446
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	16,532	14,592	13,844	11,963
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	17,007	18,439	4,771	4,744
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)	74	44	505	363
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	84	83	1,164	1,355
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	653	665	1,639	1,342
11	Textiles and textile articles	450	603	5,324	4,904



Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
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	39	15	881	751
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	486	450	1,716	2,076
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,391	2,314	3,115	2,256
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	4,331	4,581	12,276	11,856
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	3,187	3,159	32,838	30,161
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	6,901	6,645	29,966	23,322
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	392	542	4,360	4,112
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	91	93	2,797	4,352
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	537	430	3,701	3,647
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	804	742	2,326	2,342
Total		243,434	180,771	144,900	134,144

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