

Non-oil and oil exports decline by 9.3% and 38.7% in September 2020

Overall merchandise exports decreased by 31.1% in September 2020 compared to September 2019. The value of exports amounted to 53,317 million riyals in September 2020, down from 77,330 million riyals in September 2019. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 22,155 million riyals or 38.7% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports, therefore, decreased from 74.1% (September 2019) to 65.8% (September 2020). Also, compared to the previous month (August 2020), total merchandise exports decreased by -4,059 million riyals or 7.1%.

On the other hand, non-oil exports decreased by 9.3% year-on-year in September 2020, falling down to 18,209 million riyals from 20,067 million riyals in September 2019. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (30.4% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 13.4% (-856 million riyals) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (30.1% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 1.6% (-87 million riyals) from September 2019. However, non-oil exports increased compared to the previous month (August 2020) by 451 million riyals or 2.5%.

Merchandise imports decreased by 8.1% (-3,564 million riyals) in September 2020. The value of imports amounted to 40,547 million riyals in September 2020 compared to 44,111 million riyals in September 2019. This decrease was due to the decrease in many sectors compared to September 2019, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (-26.0%) and 'Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment' (-17.6%). Imports, however, increased compared to the previous month (August 2020), by 1,561 million riyals or 4.0%.

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports decreased to 44.9%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreased to 44.9% in September 2020 compared to 45.5% in September 2019. This is due to the fact that the decrease in non-oil exports (-9.3%) was more muted than the decrease in imports (-8.1%) during this period.

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

In September 2020, exports to China amounted to 8,960 million riyals, making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and South Korea followed next with 5,631 million riyals and 5,100 million riyals, respectively. Japan, United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, U.S.A, Egypt, Singapore, and Taiwan were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 36,211 million riyals, accounting for 67.9% of the total exports.

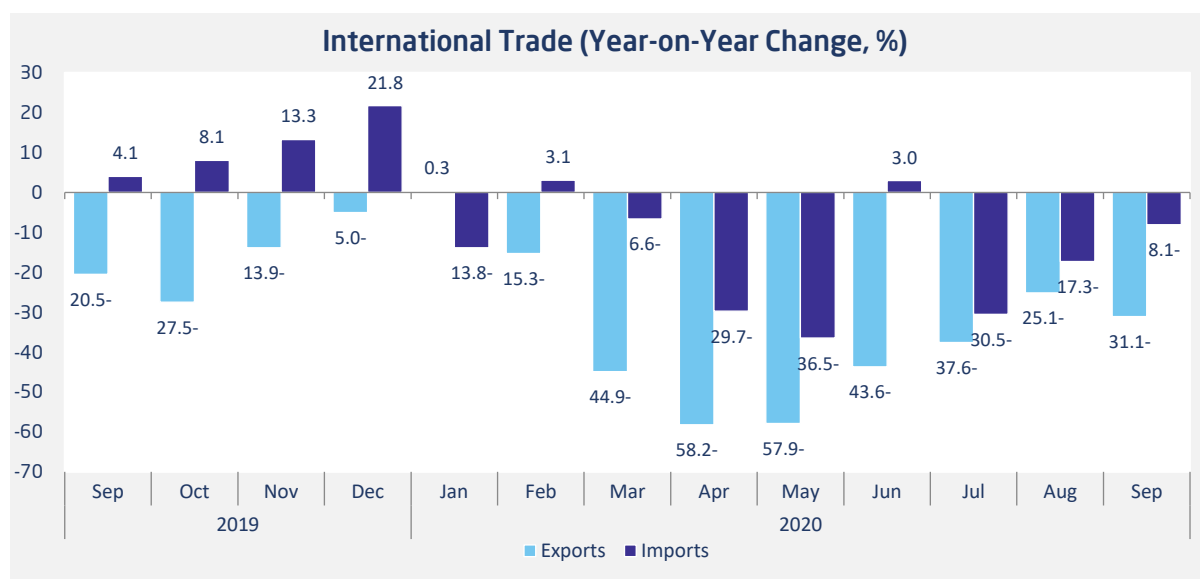
Imports from China amounted to 8,316 million riyals in September 2020, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 3,972 million riyals and 2,748 million riyals, respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Bahrain, Italy, South Korea and France were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to 24,997 million riyals, accounting for 61.6% of the total imports.

Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

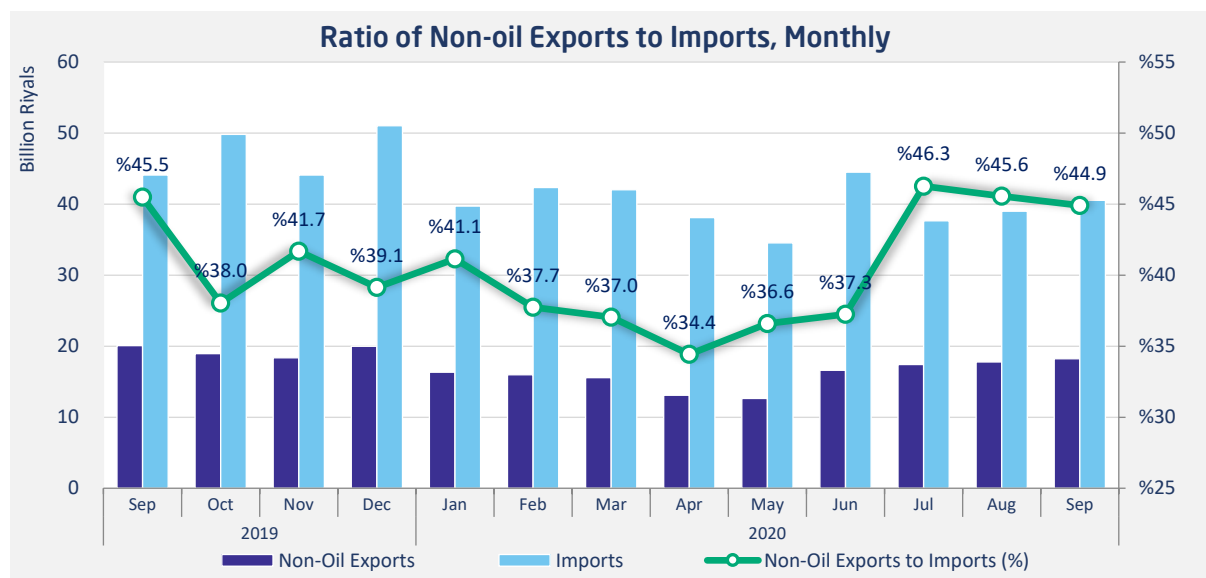
11,149 million riyals of imports, corresponding to 27.5% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in September 2020. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (20.2%), King Khalid International Airport (10.3%), Bat'ha (7.2%), and Riyadh (Dry Port) (6.3%). Those five ports together accounted for 71.5% 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	September	77,772	42,910	120,682	34,862
	October	74,711	42,833	117,544	31,878
	November	79,827	37,813	117,640	42,014
	December	84,992	49,586	134,578	35,406
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	88,799	13,477
	August	57,376	38,986	96,362	18,390
	September	53,317	40,547	93,864	12,770



International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Sep 2019	Sep 2020	Sep 2019	Sep 2020
1	Live animals; animal products	417	452	1,424	1,553
2	Vegetable products	118	111	2,506	2,608
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	85	90	249	151
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	503	530	2,023	2,299
5	Mineral products	57,545	35,509	1,567	2,599
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	5,562	5,475	4,725	4,054
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	6,396	5,540	1,606	1,595
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)	26	13	188	122
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	22	23	362	406
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	207	172	586	487
11	Textiles and textile articles	144	168	1,929	1,603
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	4	5	300	233
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	164	166	696	675
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	524	1,350	701	431
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	1,337	1,458	3,698	3,960
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	1,148	1,006	9,815	8,088
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	2,090	873	7,924	5,861
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	106	166	1,462	1,352
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	41	37	601	891
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	128	133	1,159	1,111
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	763	40	592	468
	Total	77,330	53,317	44,111	40,547

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