

Merchandise exports increase by 48.9% in 2022

Overall merchandise exports increased by 48.9% in 2022, compared to 2021. The value of exports amounted to SAR 1,541.9 billion in 2022, up from SAR 1,035.7 billion in 2021. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR 468.2 billion or 61.8% in the same period, increasing to SAR 1,226.3 billion from SAR 758.1 billion in 2021. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 73.2% in 2021 to 79.5% in 2022.

Non-oil exports (including re-exports) increased by 13.7%, compared to 2021, increasing to SAR 315.7 billion from SAR 277.5 billion in 2021. Non-oil exports (excluding re-exports) increased by 14.8% as re-exports also rose by 8.6% in the same period.

Merchandise imports increased by 24.2% (SAR 138.9 billion) in 2022. The value of imports amounted to SAR 712.0 billion in 2022 compared to SAR 573.2 billion in 2021.

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

Most important non-oil export goods were "Products of the chemical and allied industries" (35.8% of non-oil merchandise exports), which increased by 34.5% SAR 29.0 billion, and "Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof" (28.3% of non-oil merchandise exports) which decreased by 1.7% SAR 1.6 billion from 2021. Most important imported merchandise goods were "Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof" (19.4% of total merchandise imports), and "Transport equipment and parts thereof" (14.5% of total merchandise imports).

Ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreases to 44.3%

Ratio of non-oil exports (including re-exports) to imports decreased to 44.3% in 2022 from 48.4% in 2021, as a result of an increase in non-oil exports (13.7%) in contrast to a greater increase in imports (24.2%) over that period.

China is Saudi Arabia's main merchandise trading partner

In 2022, exports to China amounted to SAR 249.9 billion (16.2% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with SAR 157.2 billion (10.2% of total exports) and SAR 152.9 billion (9.9% of total exports), respectively. South Korea, U.S.A, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Taiwan, Singapore and Bahrain were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR 1,021.3 billion, accounting for 66.2% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 149.3 billion (21.0% of total imports) in 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 65.0 billion (9.1% of total imports) and SAR 45.1 billion (6.3% of total imports), respectively. India, Germany, Japan, Egypt, South Korea, Italy and Switzerland were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to SAR 435.8 billion, accounting for 61.2% of total imports.

Top five customs ports for imports

Jeddah Islamic Sea Port is one of the most important ports through which goods crossed into Saudi Arabia at a value of SAR 195.6 billion of imports, corresponding to 27.5% of the total, in 2022. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Sea Port in Dammam (19.5%), King Khalid Int Airport in Riyadh (11.9%), King Abdulaziz Int Airport in Jeddah (6.1%), and King Khalid Int Airport in Dammam (5.8%). Those five ports together accounted for 70.7% of the total merchandise imports of Saudi Arabia.

Table1. Merchandise Exports, Imports, Trade Volume & Trade Balance (2022, SAR Billion)

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports	Merchandise Imports	Trade Volume (Merchandise Exports + Merchandise Imports)	Trade Balance (Merchandise Exports - Merchandise Imports)
2022	Jan	109.2	52.4	161.6	56.9
	Feb	115.9	49.3	165.2	66.6
	Mar	142.0	56.3	198.3	85.7
	Apr	137.7	57.3	195.0	80.4
	May	143.0	56.0	199.0	87.0
	Jun	147.1	62.1	209.2	85.0
	Jul	140.1	57.6	197.7	82.6
	Aug	133.6	63.8	197.4	69.8
	Sep	125.3	61.5	186.8	63.8
	Oct	126.2	66.3	192.5	60.0
	Nov	112.6	64.8	177.4	47.8
	Dec	109.1	64.9	174.0	44.2
Total		1,541.9	712.0	2,254.1	829.9

Source: Tables

Figure 1. International Trade (2013 – 2022) (SAR billion)

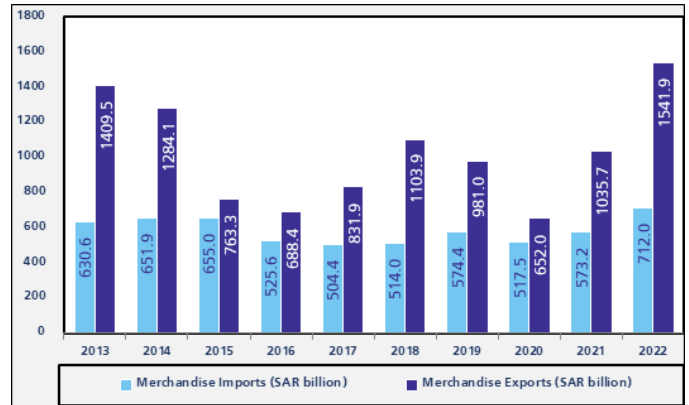


Figure 2. Non-Oil Exports and Imports (2013 – 2022) (SAR billion)

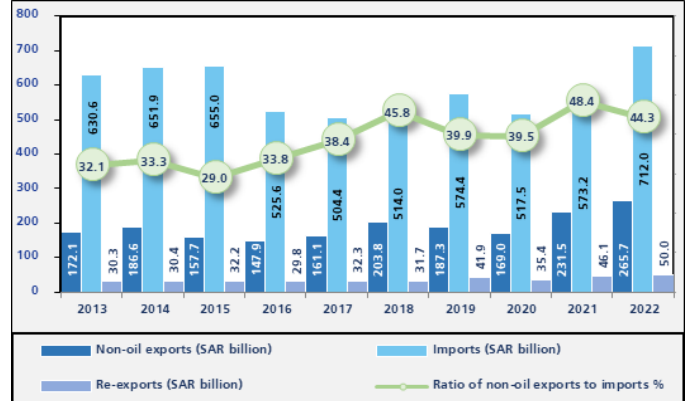
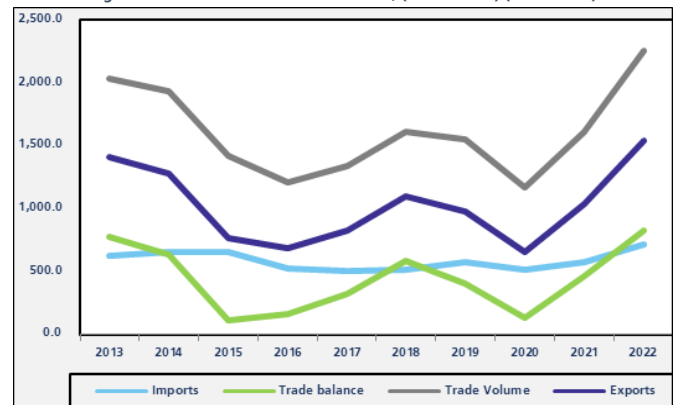


Figure 3. Trade Balance & Trade Volume, (2013 – 2022) (SAR billion)



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](#)