



## Merchandise exports and imports declined by 58.6% and 28.4%, respectively, in April 2020

Merchandise exports amounted to 37,116 million riyals in April 2020, down from 89,574 million riyals in April 2019, corresponding to a decrease of 52,458 million riyals or 58.6% over this period. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 45,332 million riyals or 65.4% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports, therefore, decreased from 77.4% in April 2019 to 64.7% in April 2020. Compared to the previous month (March 2020), exports also decreased by 11,384 million riyals or 23.5%.

Non-oil exports declined by 35.2% year-on-year in April 2020, shrinking down to 13,111 million riyals. Of the most important non-oil goods, "Plastics, Rubber and Articles thereof" (35.1% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 26.8% (1,685 million riyals) and "Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries" (29.3% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 38.3% (2,381 million riyals) from April 2019. Non-oil exports also decreased compared to the previous month (March 2020) by 2,446 million riyals or 15.7%.

The value of merchandise imports reached 38,085 million riyals in April 2020, down from 53,155 million riyals in April 2019, corresponding to a decrease of 15,070 million riyals or 28.4% over this period. This decrease was due to the decrease in many sections compared to April 2019, mainly "Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment" (-31.5%) and "Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment" (-30.0%). Imports also decreased compared to the previous month (March 2020), by 3,924 million riyals or 9.3%.

## Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports at 34.4%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreased to 34.4% in April 2020 compared to 38.1% in April 2019. This is due to a higher decrease in non-oil exports (-35.2%) than the decrease in imports (-28.4%) during this period.

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

In April 2020, exports to China amounted to 7,156 million riyals, rendering the country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with 3,135 million riyals and 2,728 million riyals, respectively. U.S.A, South Korea, United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Egypt, Singapore, and Belgium were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 25,313 million riyals, accounting for 68.2% of the total exports.

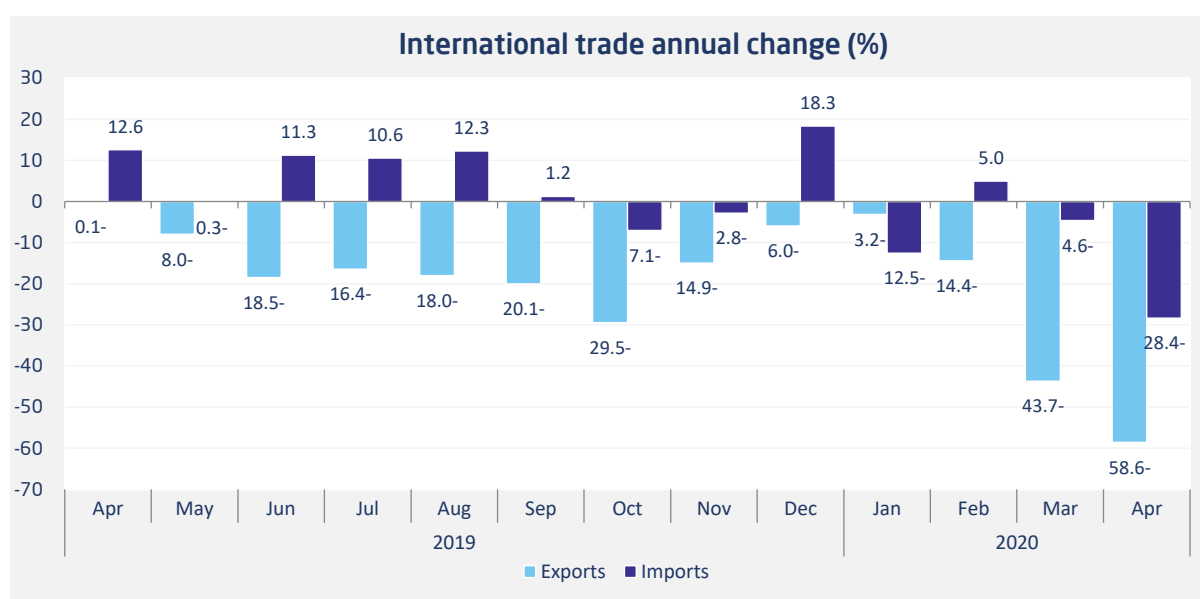
Imports from China amounted to 7,614 million riyals in April 2020, rendering the country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and Japan followed next with imports of 4,343 million riyals and 2,260 million riyals, respectively. United Arab Emirates, Germany, India, South Korea, Canada, France, and Egypt were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to 24,244 million riyals, accounting for 63.7% of the total imports.

## Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

12,339 million riyals of imports, corresponding to 32.4% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in April 2020. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdul-Aziz Port (23.0%), King Khalid International Airport (11.7%), Riyadh (Dry Port) (5.3%), and King Fahad Airport (4.7%). Those five ports together accounted for 77.2% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

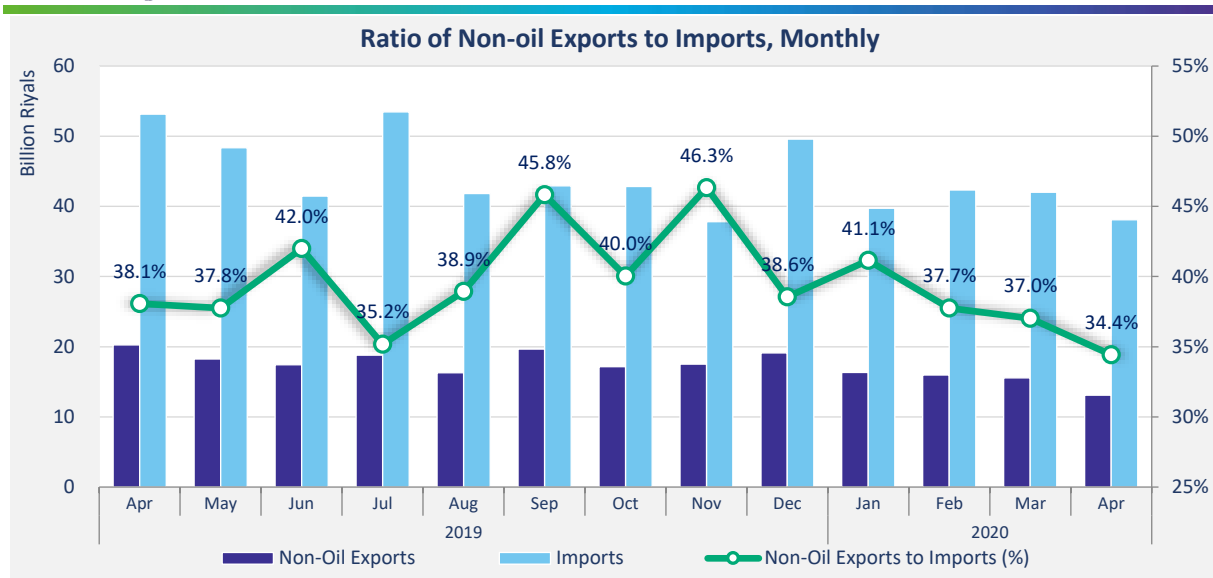
## Methodology

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	April	89,574	53,155	142,729	36,419
	May	88,690	48,360	137,050	40,330
	June	77,449	41,466	118,915	35,983
	July	82,412	53,480	135,892	28,932
	August	75,896	41,835	117,731	34,061
	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



### International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)

Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Apr 2019	Apr 2020	Apr 2019	Apr 2020
1	Live animals; animal products	545.5	472.7	1,777.0	1,551.5
2	Vegetable products	236.7	158.7	2,702.6	2,434.2
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	81.3	76.1	381.6	178.9
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	551.2	448.8	2,325.7	2,277.7
5	Mineral products	69,674.5	24,119.5	1,390.4	1,422.1
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	6,219.4	3,838.5	4,776.1	4,305.3
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	6,287.2	4,601.9	2,048.9	1,563.8
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)	26.4	6.2	175.1	71.0
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	26.4	10.0	441.5	420.3
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	238.8	224.5	601.1	447.3
11	Textiles and textile articles	165.1	126.1	2,192.6	982.4
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	6.0	1.6	413.8	149.9
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	166.6	92.0	689.2	553.8
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	930.5	255.3	2,510.9	105.9
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	1,546.9	959.3	4,695.8	3,796.7
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	1,069.6	536.7	10,308.7	7,217.7
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	1,478.9	952.7	10,957.9	7,501.1
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	85.4	115.8	1,632.3	1,373.9
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	1.6	1.8	1,389.5	382.6
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	125.0	108.2	1,260.8	852.3
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	111.0	9.2	483.6	496.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>89,574.1</b>	<b>37,115.7</b>	<b>53,155.0</b>	<b>38,085.2</b>

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