



Merchandise exports decline by 11.1% and imports rise 11.7%, in 2019

Merchandise exports decreased by 11.1% in 2019 compared to 2018. The value of exports amounted to 981,012 million riyals in 2019, down from 1,103,900 million riyals in 2018. This decrease was mainly due to a decrease of 13.4% in oil exports, corresponding to a decline of 116,614 million riyals. The share of oil exports in total exports decreased from 78.7% (2018) to 76.6% (2019).

Non-oil exports declined by 2.7% compared to 2018. The most important non-oil goods, "Plastics, Rubber and Articles thereof" (31.8% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 8.6% (-6,833 million riyals) and "Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries" (30.3% of non-oil merchandise exports) declined by 7.8% (-5,904 million riyals) from 2018.

Merchandise imports increased by 11.7% (60,369 million riyals) in 2019. The value of imports amounted to 574,361 million riyals in 2019 compared to 513,993 million riyals in 2018. This increase was due to the increase in many sections compared to 2018, mainly "Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment" (+8.2%) and "Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment" (+39.7%).

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports at 39.9%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreased to 39.9% in 2019 compared to 45.8% in 2018. This is due to the decrease in non-oil exports (-2.7%) and increase in imports (+11.7%) during this period.

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

In 2019, exports to China amounted to 179,669 million riyals, rendering the country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. India and Japan followed next with 100,703 million riyals and 100,365 million riyals, respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A, Singapore, the Netherlands, Taiwan and Bahrain were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 672,279 million riyals, accounting for 68.5% of the total exports.

Imports from China amounted to 105,571 million riyals in 2019, rendering the country the main origin of imports for Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 71,024 million riyals and 39,806 million riyals, respectively. Germany, Japan, India, France, Italy, South Korea, and United Kingdom were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to 358,704 million riyals, accounting for 62.5% of the total imports.

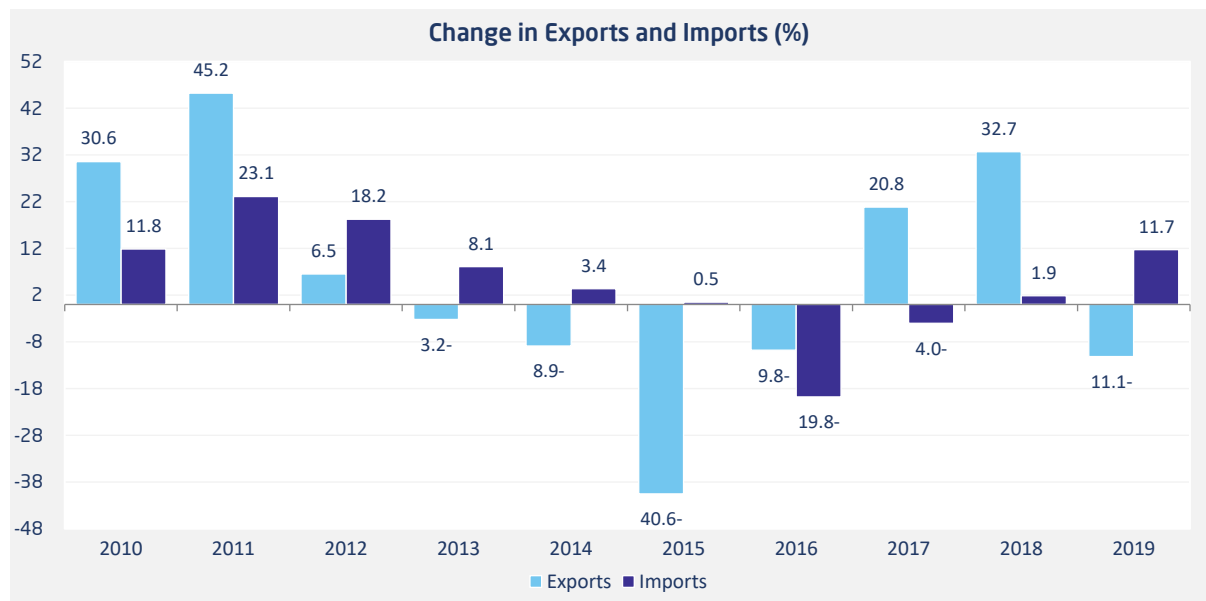
Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

169,787 million riyals of imports, corresponding to 29.6% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdul-Aziz Port (19.0%), King Khalid International Airport (11.9%), Bat'ha (6.9%), and King Abdul-Aziz Airport (6.0%). Those five ports together accounted for 73.4% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.



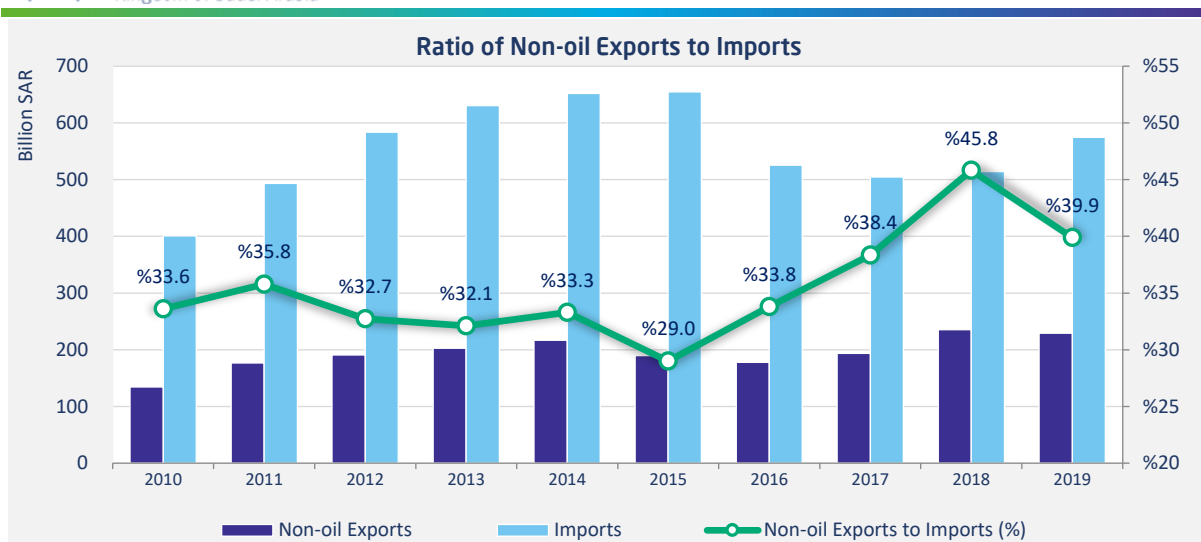
Methodology

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 (Million Riyals)

Year	Merchandise Exports (A)	Merchandise Imports (B)	Trade Volume (=A+B)	Trade Balance (=A-B)
2010	941,785	400,736	1,342,521	541,049
2011	1,367,620	493,449	1,861,069	874,171
2012	1,456,502	583,473	2,039,975	873,029
2013	1,409,523	630,582	2,040,105	778,941
2014	1,284,122	651,876	1,935,998	632,246
2015	763,313	655,033	1,418,346	108,280
2016	688,423	525,636	1,214,059	162,787
2017	831,881	504,447	1,336,328	327,434
2018	1,103,900	513,993	1,617,893	589,907
2019	981,012	574,361	1,555,373	406,651



International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)

Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		2018	2019	2018	2019
1	Live animals; animal products	6,058	5,687	18,095	19,508
2	Vegetable products	1,441	1,564	32,996	31,124
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	820	850	3,522	3,338
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	5,470	5,782	25,635	27,399
5	Mineral products	872,030	754,961	21,090	18,021
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	75,455	69,552	51,716	53,854
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	79,667	72,834	17,487	20,568
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)	270	281	1,873	2,296
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	311	365	4,272	4,751
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	2,777	2,556	7,261	7,151
11	Textiles and textile articles	2,028	1,874	18,115	22,732
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	81	81	3,341	4,100
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	2,161	2,059	6,931	7,631
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	3,614	5,740	15,725	13,507
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	20,645	16,869	43,988	48,896
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	11,901	12,104	111,167	120,291
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	15,381	22,605	84,652	118,264
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	1,210	1,433	15,758	16,483
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	122	207	13,867	9,872
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,645	1,635	12,050	13,700
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	813	1,976	4,452	10,875
	Total	1,103,900	981,012	513,993	574,361

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