

Non-oil exports decrease by 10.8% in 2020

Overall merchandise exports decreased by 33.5% in 2020 compared to 2019. The value of exports amounted to 652.0 billion riyals in 2020, down from 981.0 billion riyals in 2019. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by 304.2 billion riyals or 40.5% in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports, therefore, decreased to 68.7% (2020) from 76.6% (2019).

Non-oil exports decreased by 10.8% in 2020, falling to 204.4 billion riyals from 229.2 billion riyals in 2019. Of the most important non-oil goods, 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof' (30.7% of non-oil merchandise exports) decreased by 13.9% (10.1 billion riyals) and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (28.3% of non-oil merchandise exports) decreased by 16.8% (11.7 billion riyals) from 2019.

Merchandise imports decreased by 9.9% (56.9 billion riyals) in 2020. The value of imports amounted to 517.5 billion riyals in 2020 compared to 574.4 billion riyals in 2019. This decrease was due to the decrease in many sectors compared to 2019, mainly 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (29.8%) and 'Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment' (9.3%).

Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports decreased to 39.5%

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreased to 39.5% in 2020 from 39.9% in 2019, as a result of a lower decrease in imports (9.9%) than in non-oil exports (10.8%) over that period.

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

In 2020, exports to China amounted to 120.0 billion riyals, making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with 62.3 billion riyals and 60.2 billion riyals, respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, U.S.A, Singapore, Egypt, Bahrain, and the Netherlands were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to 446.0 billion riyals, accounting for 68.4% of the total exports.

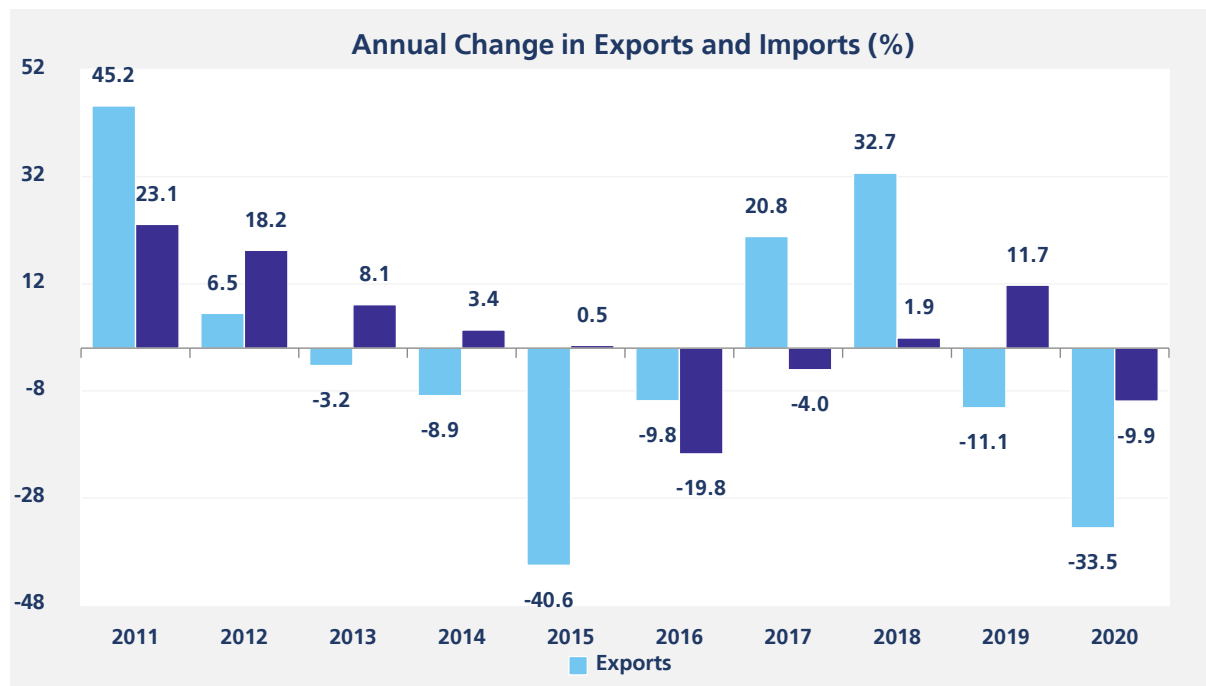
Imports from China amounted to 101.6 billion riyals in 2020, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates followed next with imports of 55.1 billion riyals and 34.3 billion riyals, respectively. Germany, India, Japan, France, Italy, South Korea, and 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 324.1 billion riyals, accounting for 62.6% of the total imports.

Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

152.7 billion riyals of imports, corresponding to 29.5% of the total, entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in 2020. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (20.4%), King Khalid International Airport (12.6%), Bat'ha (6.2%), and King Fahad International Airport (5.7%). Those five ports together accounted for 74.5% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.

Methodology

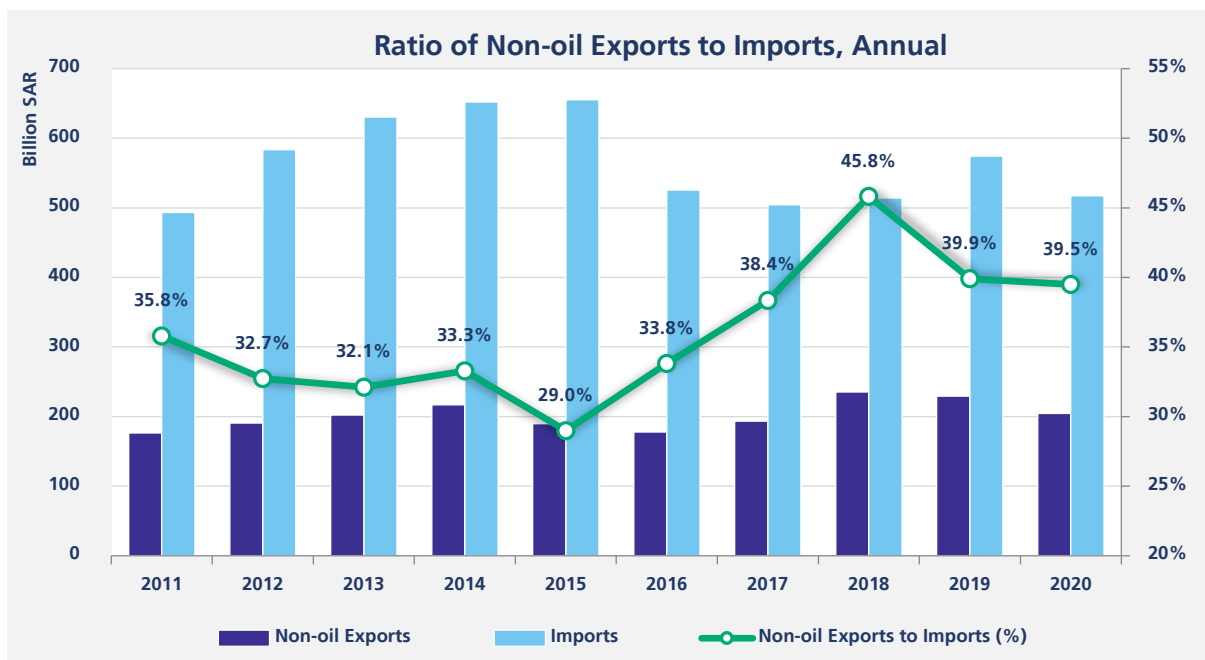
GASTAT's statistics on International trade are built on administrative records from Saudi Customs (non-oil) and the Ministry of Energy (oil). Saudi Arabia's merchandise exports and imports are classified according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding Systems (2017), also known as the Harmonized 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 (Annual, Million Riyals)

Year	Merchandise Exports (A)	Merchandise Imports (B)	Trade Volume (A+B)	Trade Balance (A-B)
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
2020	651,952	517,491	1,169,443	134,461





International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		2019	2020	2019	2020
1	Live animals; animal products	5,687	5,369	19,508	19,013
2	Vegetable products	1,564	1,634	31,124	34,922
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	850	862	3,338	3,363
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	5,782	5,846	27,399	28,418
5	Mineral products	754,961	451,093	18,021	18,613
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	69,552	57,873	53,854	53,404
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	72,834	62,729	20,568	19,462
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)	281	169	2,296	1,650
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	365	253	4,751	5,169
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	2,556	2,482	7,151	6,548
11	Textiles and textile articles	1,874	2,045	22,732	20,018
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	51	4,100	3,023

Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		2019	2020	2019	2020
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	2,059	1,677	7,631	8,153
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	5,740	8,555	13,507	7,173
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	16,869	16,401	48,896	49,600
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	12,104	10,966	120,291	109,094
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	22,605	19,474	118,264	83,009
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	1,433	1,718	16,483	16,094
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	207	212	9,872	9,529
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,635	1,582	13,700	13,252
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	1,976	959	10,875	7,982
Total		981,012	651,952	574,361	517,491

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