



## Non-oil exports rise by 23.1%, Imports by 4.0% in Q1 2021

Overall merchandise exports increased by 10.8% in Q1 2021 compared to Q1 2020. The value of exports amounted to 212.4 billion riyals in Q1 2020, 20.7 billion riyals higher than in Q1 2021. This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by 9.5 billion riyals (6.6%) in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports decreased from 74.6% (Q1 2020) to 71.8% (Q1 2021). Compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2020), total merchandise exports increased by 32.4 billion riyals (+18.0%).

Non-oil exports increased by 23.1% year-on-year in Q1 2021, raising up to 59.9 billion riyals from 48.7 billion riyals in Q1 2020. The share of non-oil exports in total exports increased from 25.4% (Q1 2020) to 28.2% (Q1 2021). 'Plastics and Rubber and Articles Thereof', with a share of 33.3% in non-oil merchandise exports, increased by 8.2% and 'Products of the Chemical or Allied Industries' (with a share of 27.2% in non-oil merchandise exports) increased by 8.3% from Q1 2020. Non-oil exports increased compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2021) by 1.4 billion riyals (+2.4%).

Merchandise imports increased by 4.0% (5.3 billion riyals) in Q1 2021. The value of imports amounted to 137.7 billion riyals in Q1 2021 compared to 132.3 billion riyals in Q1 2020. 'Machinery and Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment', with a share of 20.1% in non-oil merchandise exports, increased by 3.7% and 'Vehicles and Associated Transport Equipment' (with a share of 16.4% in non-oil merchandise exports) decreased by 5.7% from Q1 2020. Imports, however, increased compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2020), by 0.5 billion riyals (+0.3%).

## Ratio of Non-oil Exports to Imports increased to (+43.5%)

The ratio of non-oil exports to imports increased to 43.5% in Q1 2021 from 36.8% in Q1 2020 as a result of a higher increase in non-oil exports (23.1%) than in imports (4.0%) over that period.

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

In Q1 2021, exports to China amounted to 38.9 billion riyals, making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and India followed next with 22.4 billion and 19.4 billion riyals, respectively. South Korea, United Arab Emirates, were the other countries that ranked in the top 5 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 5 countries amounted to 110.2 billion riyals, accounting for 51.9% of the total exports.

Imports from China amounted to 28.5 billion riyals in Q1 2021, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and United Arab Emirates, followed next with imports of 15.9 billion and 12.4 billion riyals, respectively. India, Germany, were the other countries that ranked in the top 5 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 5 countries amounted to 70.9 billion riyals, accounting for 51.5% of the total imports.

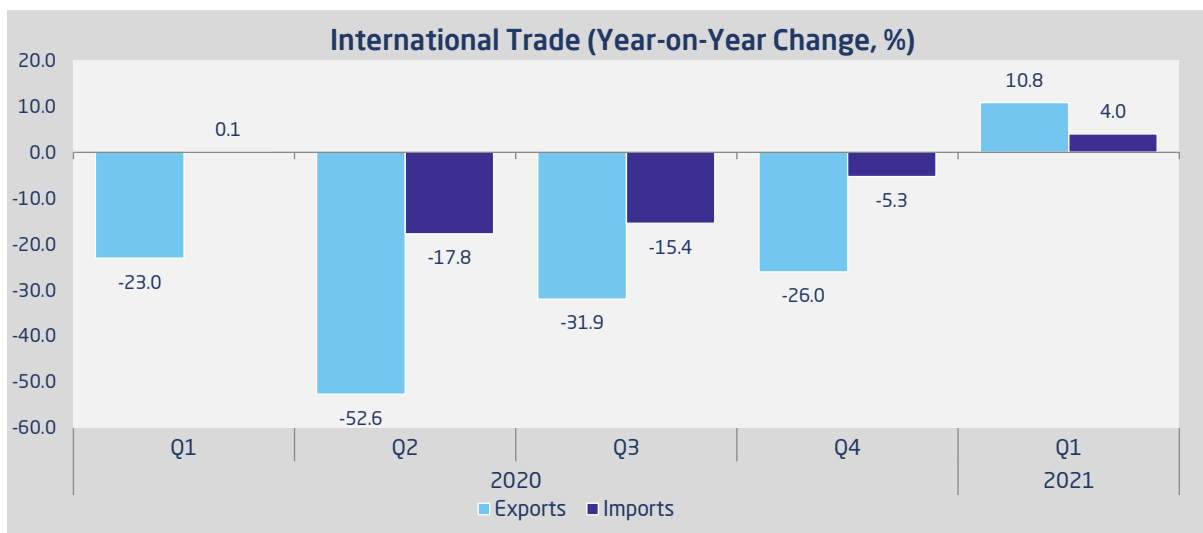
## Top Five Customs Ports for Imports

39.7 billion riyals of imports (28.9% of total imports), entered the Kingdom from Jeddah Islamic Sea Port in Q1 2021. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Port (18.3%), King Khalid International Airport (12.8%), Bat'ha (7.0%), and King Fahad Airport (6.9%). Those five ports together accounted for 73.8% of the total merchandise imports of the Kingdom.



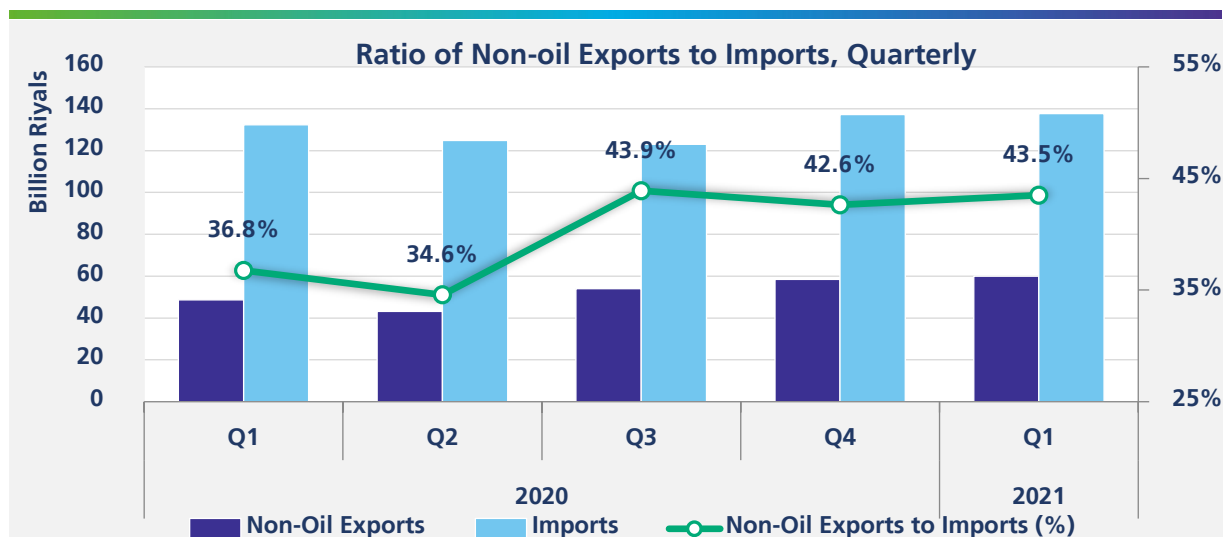
## Methodology

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 (Quarterly, Million Riyals)

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports (A)	Merchandise Imports (B)	Trade Volume (A+B)	Trade Balance (A-B)
2020	Q1	191,673	132,381	324,054	59,292
	Q2	119,656	124,849	244,505	-5,193
	Q3	160,579	123,033	283,612	37,547
	Q4	180,044	137,228	317,272	42,815
2021	Q1	212,417	137,704	350,122	74,713



International Trade by HS Section (Million Riyals)					
Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Q1 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2020	Q1 2021
1	Live animals; animal products	1,422	1,330	4,791	5,103
2	Vegetable products	586	730	9,454	7,988
3	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	237	321	1,094	817
4	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,529	1,695	6,987	6,951
5	Mineral products	286,960	305,957	3,591	4,049
6	Products of the chemical or allied industries	14,792	16,290	14,186	13,863
7	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	14,376	19,961	4,690	5,033
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)	64	45	492	460
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	73	90	1,257	1,150
10	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	652	628	1,628	1,420
11	Textiles and textile articles	484	580	5,342	5,463



Section	Description	Exports		Imports	
		Q1 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2020	Q1 2021
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	14	18	1,076	1,100
13	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	447	481	2,194	2,058
14	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,150	2,315	2,387	5,372
15	Base metals and articles of base metal	4,272	4,594	13,083	11,402
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	3,191	3,163	26,642	27,638
17	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	3,532	6,734	23,955	22,581
18	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	364	551	3,586	4,098
19	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	16	93	1,378	6,002
20	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	447	431	3,248	3,571
21	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	81	743	1,320	1,586
Total		334,687	301,574	137,228	137,704

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