



Merchandise exports decrease by 25.2% in April 2023

Overall merchandise exports decreased by 25.2% in April 2023, compared to April 2022. The value of exports amounted to SAR 103.0 billion in April 2023, down from SAR 137.7 billion in April 2022. This decrease originated mainly from oil exports, which fell by SAR 25.9 billion or 23.6% in the same period, decreasing to SAR 83.8 billion from SAR 109.7 billion in April 2022. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 79.7% in April 2022 to 81.3% in April 2023. Compared to March 2023, total merchandise exports decreased by SAR 4.5 billion or 4.2%.

Non-oil exports (including re-exports) decreased by 31.2%, compared to April 2022, decreasing to SAR 19.2 billion from SAR 28.0 billion in April 2022. Non-oil exports (excluding re-exports) decreased by 32.1% as re-exports also fell by 26.9% in the same period. Non-oil exports (including re-exports) decreased compared to March 2023 by SAR 5.2 billion or 21.4%.

Merchandise imports increased by 1.0% (SAR 0.6 billion) in April 2023. The value of imports amounted to SAR 57.9 billion in April 2023 compared to SAR 57.3 billion in April 2022. Imports also decreased compared to March 2023 by SAR 11.1 billion or 16.1%.

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" (34.6% of non-oil merchandise exports), which decreased by 33.7% SAR 3.4 billion, and "Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof" (25.2% of non-oil merchandise exports) which decreased by 36.4% SAR 2.8 billion from April 2022. Most important imported merchandise goods were "Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof" (19.7% of total merchandise imports), and "Transport equipment and parts thereof" (17.0% of total merchandise imports).

Ratio of non-oil exports to imports decreases to 33.2%

Ratio of non-oil exports (including re-exports) to imports decreased to 33.2% in April 2023 from 48.8% in April 2022, as a result of a decrease in non-oil exports (31.2%) in contrast to an increase in imports (1.0%) over that period.

China is Saudi Arabia's main merchandise trading partner

In April 2023, exports to China amounted to SAR 18.0 billion (17.5% of total exports), making this country the main destination for exports of Saudi Arabia. Japan and South Korea followed next with SAR 11.2 billion (10.9% of total exports) and SAR 9.9 billion (9.6% of total exports), respectively. India, U.S.A, United Arab Emirates, Poland, Bahrain, Taiwan, and Singapore were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 destinations. Exports of Saudi Arabia to those 10 countries amounted to SAR 70.2 billion, accounting for 68.2% of total exports.

Imports from China amounted to SAR 11.3 billion (19.5% of total imports) in April 2023, making this country the main origin for imports of Saudi Arabia. U.S.A and India followed next with imports of SAR 5.0 billion (8.6% of total imports) and SAR 3.4 billion (5.9% of total imports), respectively. United Arab Emirates, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Greece, Switzerland and Italy were the other countries that ranked in the top 10 countries for imports. Imports of Saudi Arabia from those 10 countries amounted to SAR 36.5 billion, accounting for 63.0% 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 17.0 billion of imports, corresponding to 29.3% of the total, in April 2023. Among the other major ports of entry for the imports were King Abdulaziz Sea Port in Dammam (18.7%), King Khalid Int. Airport in Riyadh (11.0%), King Abdulaziz Int. Airport in Jeddah (6.5%), and King Fahad Int. Airport in Dammam (6.2%). Those five ports together accounted for 71.8% of the total merchandise imports of Saudi Arabia.

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

Year	Month	Merchandise Exports	Merchandise Imports	Trade Volume (Merchandise Exports + Merchandise Imports)	Trade Balance (Merchandise Exports - Merchandise Imports)	
2022	Apr	138	57	195	81	
	May	143	56	199	87	
	Jun	147	62	209	85	
	Jul	140	58	198	82	
	Aug	134	64	198	70	
	Sep	125	61	186	64	
	Oct	126	66	192	60	
	Nov	113	65	178	48	
	Dec	109	65	174	44	
	2023	Jan	106	68	174	38
		Feb	102	57	159	45
		Mar	108	69	177	39
Apr		103	58	161	45	

Source: Tables

Figure 1. International Trade (Apr 2022 – Apr 2023) (SAR billion)

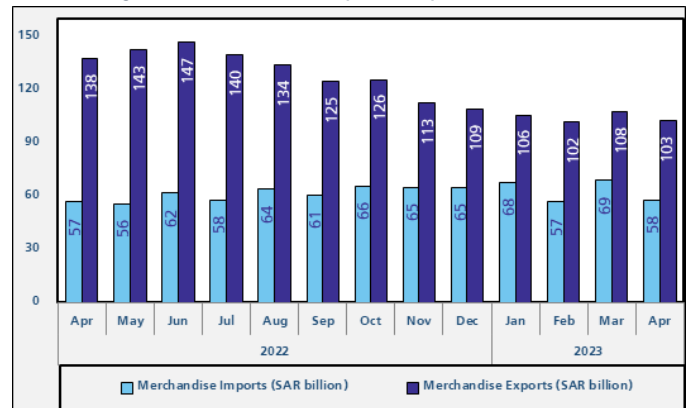


Figure 2. Non-Oil Exports and Imports (Apr 2022 – Apr 2023)

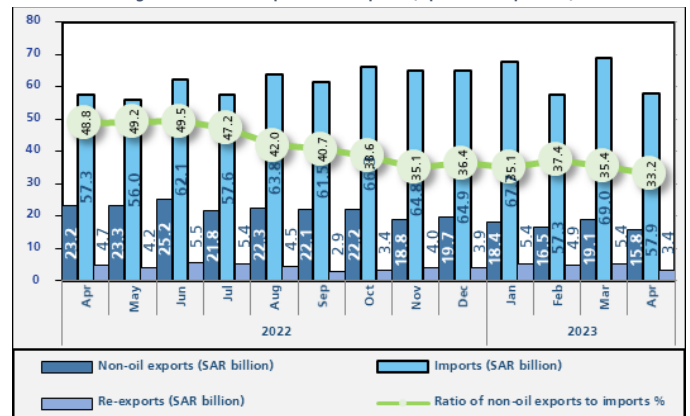
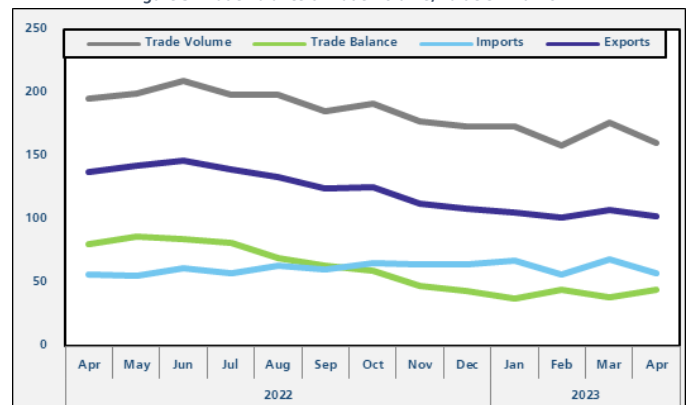


Figure 3. Trade Balance & Trade Volume, value SAR billion



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](#)