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EXTERNAL TRADE - FIRST QUARTER 1989

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EXTERNAL TRADE - FIRST QUARTER 1989

1. TOTAL TRADE

In the first quarter of 1989, the total value of trade amounted to Rs 7,766 million with exports contributing Rs 3,447 million and imports, Rs 4,319 million.

Compared to the previous quarter, there have been decreases in both nominal and real terms, amounting to 3% and 14% respectively.

Relative to the corresponding quarter of 1988 however, an increase in value of 18% is observed though the volume has been subject to a contraction of about 5%.

2. BALANCE OF VISIBLE TRADE

With EPZ exports as usual at their lowest in this period of the year, the first quarter of 1989 saw the deficit of Rs 618 million registered in the previous quarter increased to Rs 872 million. This was mainly due to the effect of decreased export earnings from the EPZ sector as well as to higher prices of imported commodities.

In the corresponding period of last year, the deficit was Rs 473 million. The higher deficit of the first quarter of 1989 is explained by the fact that our imports have witnessed a greater increase (22%) than our exports (13%) over the period.

3. TERMS OF TRADE (1988 = 100)

A new base has been introduced for the computation of import and export unit value indices and terms of trade as from this year. The new base is the calendar year 1988.

On this basis, the terms of trade for the first quarter 1989 have declined by 8 percentage points relative to the year 1988. This is due to a high increase of nearly 21% in the price level of imported merchandise together with a lower increase of around 11% in export prices. The significant rise in the import unit value index is explained by substantial increases in the price levels of food commodities (46%), mainly dairy products, rice and flour and petroleum products (27%).

4. EXPORTS

Total export earnings in the first quarter of 1989 amounted to Rs 3,447 million, representing a decrease of Rs 249 million in value or 11% in volume when compared with the previous quarter. In comparison with the corresponding period of 1988, an increase of Rs 386 million is apparent in nominal terms, amounting however to a fall of 6% in real terms.

As usual, the main exports were EPZ goods (Rs 1,842 million) and sugar (163 thousand m. tons for Rs 1,295 million).

The bulk of our exports were directed to the EEC countries which absorbed some Rs 2,697 million worth of our goods. The United Kingdom and France were the main importers with Rs 1,342 million and Rs 700 million respectively. The United States of America took in another Rs 435 million.

5. IMPORTS

Imports, during the first quarter of 1989 kept its level of the previous quarter at Rs 4,319 million in value though showing a decrease of 16% in volume.

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 1988, this quarter saw a rise of Rs 785 million in nominal terms. This was mainly the result of increases in imports of textile fabrics (+ Rs 417 million), food products (+ Rs 159 million) and mineral fuels (+ Rs 117 million). In real terms, however, imports during this quarter declined by 4%.

The main suppliers of our imports were the E.E.C. countries with Rs 1,582 million. France remained the main supplier with Rs 596 million, followed by the Federal Republic of Germany with Rs 392 million and the United Kingdom with Rs 304 million. The Republic of South Africa, Japan and China with Rs 357 million, Rs 327 million and Rs 284 million worth of imported goods respectively were our main suppliers outside the E.E.C.

6. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EPZ SECTOR

EPZ exports during the first quarter of 1989 reached Rs 1,842 million, that is a decrease of Rs 368 million (17%) over the previous quarter. Compared to the corresponding quarter of 1988, however, an increase of Rs 295 million (19%) is noted, arising mainly from a higher level of exports in textile and clothing (+ Rs 177 million).

The main market for EPZ products consisted as usual of the following countries: France (Rs 634 million), the United States of America (Rs 357 million), the United Kingdom (Rs 268 million) and the Federal Republic of Germany (Rs 230 million).

EPZ imports have stayed at its level of the previous quarter at Rs 1,555 million. This is however some 12% higher than its level at the corresponding quarter of 1988, mainly arising from an increase in imports of raw materials.

EPZ goods were imported mainly from France (Rs 283 million), Hong Kong (Rs 183 million), Taiwan (Rs 173 million), the Federal Republic of Germany (Rs 127 million) and China (Rs 115 million).

Central Statistical Office,
Rose Hill

June 1989

External Trade - First Quarter 1989

NOTES

Figures for 1988 and 1989 are provisional and subject to revision

1. COVERAGE

EXPORTS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Cover | 1. Domestic exports (including exports from the Export Processing Zone) |
| | 2. Re-Exports |
| | 3. Export ex Warehouse |
| | 4. Returned goods |
| Include | 1. Government, Parcel Post and Air Freight |
| Exclude | 1. Trade with Outer Islands |
| | 2. Ships' stores and bunkers |

IMPORTS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Cover | 1. Landed merchandise sent to warehouse for subsequent delivery |
| | 2. Landed merchandise issued for home consumption |
| Include | 1. Government, Parcel Post and Air Freight |
| | 2. Donations from other Government and International Organisations |
| Exclude | 1. Trade with Outer Islands |
| | 2. Bullion and specie |

2. VALUATION

Exports are valued F.O.B. and imports C.I.F.

F.O.B. Free on Board

C.I.F. Cost, Insurance and Freight

All figures quoted are in Mauritian Rupees

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3. COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION

The classification used for the compilation of trade statistics is since January 1988 based on the Standard International Trade Classification (Revised III) or S.I.T.C. (Rev. III). Prior to 1988 the classification was based on S.I.T.C. (Rev. II). However, import and export bills of entry are now being worked upon according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding system Nomenclature, shortly known as the Harmonized System Nomenclature (H.S.N.). Prior to 1988, the goods items were coded according to the Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature (C.C.C.N.).

4. ROUNDING OF FIGURES

Figures have been rounded off to the nearest final digit and in some cases to the nearest one decimal place and as a result in some tables there may be discrepancies between the sum of the constituent items and to the total as shown.

5. SYMBOLS

- Nil or negligible
- ... Not available
- Not applicable

6. ABBREVIATIONS

- Rs : Rupees
- 000 : Thousand
- Mn : Million
- m. ton : Metric ton : 1,000 kilos
- No. : Number
- M² : Square metres

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Table 1 - Balance of Visible Trade, 1987 - 1989

Value Rs Mn

	1987	1988	1988				1989
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Exports of goods	11,497	13,447	2,956	2,923	4,008	3,561	3,327
Domestic exports	11,335	13,202	2,896	2,872	3,943	3,492	3,258
Re-exports	162	245	60	51	65	69	69
Ships' Stores and Bunkers	430	450	105	105	105	135	120
A. Total Exports (f.o.b.)	11,927	13,897	3,061	3,028	4,113	3,696	3,447
B. Total Imports (c.i.f.)	13,042	17,247	3,534	5,429	3,970	4,314	4,319
Total Value of Trade (A + B)	24,969	31,144	6,595	8,457	8,083	8,010	7,766
BALANCE OF VISIBLE TRADE (A-B)	-1,115	-3,350	-473	-2,401	+ 143	- 618	- 872

Table 2 - Price (unit value) indices of total exports and imports and terms of trade, 1987 - 1989

P e r i o d	Unit Value Price Indices		Terms of Trade
	Total exports	Total imports	
1982 = 100 <u>Year 1987</u>	<u>160.8</u>	<u>101.5</u>	<u>158</u>
1st quarter 1988	159.8	105.1	152
2nd quarter 1988	168.2	111.2	151
3rd quarter 1988	172.1	114.9	150
4th quarter 1988	181.9	112.1	162
1988 = 100 <u>Year 1988</u>	<u>172.0</u>	<u>110.8</u>	<u>155</u>
1st quarter 1989	111.2	120.8	92

Table 3 - Domestic exports of main commodities - value, 1987 - 1989

F.O.B. Value Rs Mn

Commodity/Sector	1987	1988	1988				1989
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Sugar	4,328	4,449	1,223	647	1,480	1,099	1,295
Molasses	81	92	19	3	18	51	4
Tea	90	88	34	27	9	17	27
LP4	6,567	8,176	1,547	2,069	2,350	2,210	1,842
Other	269	400	73	126	86	115	90
Total Exports	11,335	13,202	2,896	2,872	3,943	3,492	3,258

Table 4 - Domestic exports of selected commodities, quantity, 1987 - 1989

Commodity	Unit	1987	1988	1988				1989
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Sugar	(000) m. ton	656	652	195	96	216	146	163
Molasses	"	131	154	34	5	31	84	5
Tea	m. ton	6,615	5,501	2,199	1,754	579	969	1,513

Table 5 - Domestic exports of main commodities, quantity and value, 1987 - 1989

(F.O.B. Value Rs Mn)

Commodity	Unit	1987		1988		1st Qr. 1988		1st Qr. 1989	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Sugar	(000) m. ton	656	4,328	652	4,449	195	1,223	163	1,295
Molasses	"	131	81	154	92	34	19	5	4
Tea	m. ton	6,615	90	5,501	88	2,199	34	1,513	27
E P Z	---	---	6,567	---	8,176	---	1,547	---	1,842

Table 6 - Total exports by main countries of destination, 1987 - 1989

F.O.B. Value Rs Mn

Country of destination	1987	1988	1988				1989
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.
1. <u>Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	<u>11,365</u>	<u>12,913</u>	<u>2,881</u>	<u>2,794</u>	<u>3,824</u>	<u>3,414</u>	<u>3,224</u>
(a) <u>E.E.C. Countries</u>	<u>9,095</u>	<u>10,612</u>	<u>2,342</u>	<u>2,319</u>	<u>3,078</u>	<u>2,873</u>	<u>2,697</u>
of which United Kingdom	4,076	4,800	1,238	782	1,433	1,347	1,342
France	2,945	3,025	618	905	734	768	700
Fed. Rep. of Germany	907	1,273	235	336	366	336	238
(b) <u>Other Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	<u>2,271</u>	<u>2,300</u>	<u>532</u>	<u>474</u>	<u>746</u>	<u>541</u>	<u>527</u>
of which U.S. of America	1,699	1,785	362	397	606	420	435
2. <u>General Tariff Countries</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>103</u>
Total Exports	11,497	13,447	2,956	2,923	4,008	3,561	3,327

Table 7 - Imports by section, 1987 - 1989

C.I.F. Value : Rs Mn

S.I.T.C. Section	Description	1987	1988	1988				1989
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
0	Food and live animals	1,471	1,746	411	389	438	508	570
1	Beverages and tobacco	57	66	14	12	16	24	15
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	408	523	155	138	123	107	178
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	978	1,009	211	277	292	229	328
4	Animal and vegetable oils and fats	147	164	19	49	32	64	52
5	Chemicals	830	1,083	216	265	298	304	286
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5,211	6,130	1,402	1,409	1,604	1,715	1,600
7	Machinery and transport equipment	2,886	5,128	794	2,567	847	920	938
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,040	1,362	310	315	313	424	333
9	Other commodities and transactions	14	37	4	8	6	19	18
	Total imports	13,042	17,247	3,534	5,429	3,970	4,314	4,319

Table 8 - Imports of main commodities, value, 1987 - 1989

C.I.F. Value Rs Mn

C o m m o d i t y	1 9 8 8				1989		
	1987	1988	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.		3rd Qr.	4th Qr.
Meat and meat preparations	205	211	46	37	47	81	64
Rice	209	299	87	85	58	69	116
Wheaten flour	189	220	63	57	51	48	94
Dairy products	255	333	72	59	89	112	108
Vegetables and fruits	178	163	41	47	34	41	43
Textile fibres, etc.	276	322	107	88	73	54	102
Refined petroleum products	881	866	176	229	259	202	311
Fixed vegetable oils & fats	100	112	11	28	42	47	35
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	152	207	47	51	59	50	58
Textile yarn	1,035	1,120	304	314	293	282	326
Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	189	321	60	50	146	65	58
Textile fabrics	2,298	2,569	269	291	270	782	686
Cement	158	171	41	36	60	36	63
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones	159	246	38	69	61	77	75
Iron and steel	288	414	86	78	135	114	115
Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.	379	443	157	71	99	116	78
Machinery other than electrical	885	1,325	276	320	371	358	370
General industrial machinery & equipment	290	405	76	115	117	97	124
Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances	808	823	204	189	96	244	237
Road vehicles	563	647	220	134	132	161	172
Watches and clocks	295	427	107	115	86	120	103
Other	3,250	5,603	1,046	2,657	1,401	1,158	978
Total Imports	13,042	17,247	3,534	5,429	3,970	4,314	4,319

Table 9 - Imports of selected commodities, quantity, 1987 - 1989

C.I.F. Value Rs Mn

Commodity	Unit	1987	1988	1988				1989
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Rice	(000) m.ton	84	72	20	24	13	15	26
Wheaten flour	"	58	59	17	17	14	10	20
Dairy products	"	12	14	3	3	4	4	3
Vegetable edible oils and fats	"	16	21	4	5	3	8	5
Fertilizers manufactured	"	52	40	9	12	15	5	26
Cotton fabrics	Mn M ²	66	74	15	19	16	24	19
Cement	(000) m.ton	303	308	77	66	100	65	92
Iron and steel	"	44	71	15	13	24	19	18

Table 10 - Imports of selected commodities, quantity and value, 1987 - 1989

C.I.F. Value Rs Mn

Commodity	Unit	1987		1988		1988		1989	
		1987		1988		1988		1989	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Rice	(000) m. ton	84	209	72	299	20	87	26	116
Wheaten flour	"	58	189	59	220	17	63	20	94
Dairy products	"	12	255	14	333	3	72	3	108
Vegetable edible oils	"	16	100	21	112	4	11	5	35
Fertilizers manufactured	"	52	76	40	84	9	14	26	45
Cotton fabrics	Mn M ²	66	1,047	74	1,324	15	284	19	381
Cement	(000) m. ton	303	158	308	171	77	41	92	63
Iron and steel	"	44	288	71	414	15	86	18	115

Table 11 - Imports by main countries of origin, 1987 - 1989

C.I.F. Value : Rs Mn

Country of origin	1988				1988	1989				
	1988					1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
	1987	1988	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.						3rd Qr.
1. <u>Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	8,352	12,341	2,408	4,269	12,341	2,408	4,269	2,732	2,931	2,842
(a) <u>E.E.C. Countries</u>	4,281	5,350	1,142	1,296	5,350	1,142	1,296	1,458	1,453	1,582
of which France	1,699	2,133	522	491	2,133	522	491	559	560	596
Fed. Rep. of Germany	733	902	174	230	902	174	230	239	259	392
Italy	426	514	99	127	514	99	127	128	160	101
United Kingdom	1,058	1,259	243	316	1,259	243	316	383	316	304
(b) <u>Other Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	4,071	6,991	1,266	2,973	6,991	1,266	2,973	1,274	1,478	1,260
of which Australia	347	445	130	104	445	130	104	102	110	136
Rep. of South Africa	1,110	1,482	286	354	1,482	286	354	422	420	357
U.S. of America	227	2,078	132	1,815	2,078	132	1,815	53	78	56
2. <u>General Tariff Countries</u>	4,690	4,906	1,125	1,159	4,906	1,125	1,159	1,238	1,382	1,477
of which Bahrain	328	367	87	103	367	87	103	92	84	162
China	692	671	130	127	671	130	127	195	219	284
Kuwait	498	439	75	108	439	75	108	155	100	133
Japan	1,279	1,281	365	317	1,281	365	317	267	332	327
Total Imports	13,042	17,247	3,534	5,429	17,247	3,534	5,429	3,970	4,314	4,319

Table 12 - Net EPZ exports, 1987 - 1989

Value Rs Mn

	1987	1988	1988				1989
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.
A. Total exports (f.o.b. value)	6,567	8,176	1,547	2,069	2,350	2,210	1,842
B. Total imports (c.i.f. value)	4,801	5,890	1,384	1,543	1,398	1,566	1,555
Net exports (A - B)	1,766	2,286	163	526	952	644	287
Net exports as % of total exports	27%	28%	10%	25%	40%	29%	16%

Table 13 - EPZ exports by main commodities, 1987 - 1989

F.O.B. Value Rs Mn

Description of Item	1987	1988	1988				1989
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.
Fish and fish preparations	100	173	37	35	53	47	40
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles	138	180	29	37	44	71	76
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones	185	302	22	67	83	129	90
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	5,407	6,446	1,219	1,644	1,916	1,667	1,349
Optical goods, n.e.s.	90	88	24	16	21	28	35
Watches and clocks	337	563	113	160	129	161	140
Toys, games and sporting goods	78	85	19	22	21	23	24
Jewellery goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares	65	69	8	17	20	23	20
Other	167	270	76	71	63	61	68
Total EPZ Exports	6,567	8,176	1,547	2,069	2,350	2,210	1,842

Table 14 - EPZ imports of main commodities, 1987 - 1989

C.I.F. Value Rs Mn

Description of item	1987	1988	1988				1989
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Synthetic fibres suitable for spinning	50	37	7	9	13	8	5
Wool and other animal hair	192	250	93	70	52	35	92
Chemical	121	182	32	49	39	62	52
Leather	56	68	16	17	16	19	24
Textile yarn and fabrics	2,861	3,236	766	829	752	888	916
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones	158	239	36	68	60	75	75
Machinery	595	834	205	248	178	203	132
Optical goods, watches and clocks, etc.	314	443	111	119	89	124	105
Jewellery	46	46	10	14	7	14	10
Other	408	555	108	120	192	138	144
Total Imports	4,801	5,890	1,384	1,543	1,398	1,566	1,555