Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)

**4th Quarter 2021**

## 1. Introduction

## This issue of “Economic and Social Indicators” (ESI) presents the results of the Quarterly Survey of Employment among Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE), conducted by Statistics Mauritius at the end of December 2021.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the fourth quarter of 2021 as well as figures for the years 2020 and 2021. Table 1 shows the main indicators of the EOE sector for the period 2013 to 2021.

## EOE consist of enterprises formerly holding an EPZ certificate as well as enterprises manufacturing goods for export and holding a registration certificate issued by the ex- Board of Investment.

## 2. Employment

**2.1 Employment – 4th Quarter 2021**

Compared to the third quarter of 2021, employment in EOE decreased by 623 (-1.7%) from 35,647 to 35,024. Male employment dropped by 421 from 19,174 to 18,753 and female employment decreased by 202 from 16,473 to 16,271 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector decreased by 214 (-1.1%) (-175 males and -39 females) from 20,122 to 19,908 and the number of foreign workers decreased by 409 (-2.6%) (-246 males and -163 females) from 15,525 at the end of September 2021 to 15,116 at the end of December 2021 (Table 2).

The decrease of 623 in employment in the EOE sector during the fourth quarter of 2021 is the net result of 1,068 jobs lost and 445 jobs created. The job losses were due to some contraction of workforce in existing enterprises and closure of enterprise whilst jobs created were due to expansion in existing enterprises.

## 2.2 Evolution of employment from December 2020 to December 2021

From December 2020 to December 2021, total employment in EOE decreased by 1,712 (-4.7%) from 36,736 to 35,024. The number of Mauritian workers increased by 788 (+222 males and +566 females). Employment of foreign workers decreased by 2,500 (-1,930 males and -570 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

The decrease of 1,712 in employment in the EOE sector from December 2020 to December 2021 is due to the combined effect of 2,764 job losses and the creation of 1,052 jobs in existing enterprises. Job losses occurred mainly in enterprises engaged in the manufacture of “Wearing apparel” with a decrease of 1,555 jobs (Table 4).

Details of employment by product group and sex are given in Table 3 and changes in employment by product group in Table 4.

**3. Exports and Imports**

Statistics on imports and exports are compiled from declarations lodged at Customs by importers and exporters. Some of these declarations are, at times, revised at a later period and corrections made accordingly on the computerised database of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) - Customs Department. Thus, while figures for 2020 are final, those for 2021 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 4th Quarter 2021**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the fourth quarter of 2021 amounted to R 11,459 million, that is, R 38 million (+0.3%) higher compared to the third quarter of 2021 (Table 8). That was mainly the result of increases observed in exports of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles” (+R 242 million or +20.0%) and “Fish & fish preparations” (+R 173 million or +7.3%) partly offset by a decrease in exports of “Articles of apparel and clothing” (-R 392 million or -9.2%)

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2020, EOE exports increased by R 375 million (+3.4%).

Details on EOE exports by section are given in Table 9.

South Africa, United Kingdom (UK), France and United States of America (USA) remain the principal EOE markets, together accounting for R 5,846 million (51.0%) of total EOE exports (Table 11). The table below highlights the changes in our main EOE exports markets.

**EOE exports by main country of destination**

**(R million)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country of destination** | **Exports Q4 2021** | **Change on** | |
| **Q3 2021** | **Q4 2020** |
| South Africa | 2,011 | -254 | 123 |
| United Kingdom | 1,397 | 158 | -92 |
| France | 1,236 | -223 | 145 |
| USA | 1,202 | 93 | 149 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to our main markets showed increases as follows: United Kingdom (+12.8%) and USA (+8.4%). Exports towards France and South Africa registered decreases of 15.3% and 11.2% respectively.

When compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, USA, France and South Africa showed increases of 14.2%, 13.3% and 6.5% respectively whilst United Kingdom registered a decrease of 6.2%.

Further details are given in Table 11.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the fourth quarter of 2021 were estimated at R 7,778 million, representing an increase of R 1,093 million (+16.4%) compared to the thirdquarter of 2021. This increase is due to higher imports of “Raw materials” by R 995 million (+15.5%) (Table 8).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2020, imports increased by R 1,845 million (+31.1%), mainly due to increases in imports of “Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones” by R 641 million (+142.8%), “Textile yarn and fabrics” by R 373 million (+36.8%), “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s” by R 251 million (+64.7%) and “Cotton” by R 232 million (+60.7%).

Details on EOE imports by section are given in Table 10.

3.1.3 Net exports

Net exports, i.e. exports minus imports, amounted to R 3,681 million in the fourth quarter of 2021 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 32.1% compared to 46.5% in the corresponding quarter of 2020 (Table 8).

It is to be noted that the above exports and imports figures do not include transactions of the EOE with the Freeport. EOE sales to the Freeport, considered as local sales, were valued at R 4 million in the fourth quarter of 2021 compared to R 5 million in the fourth quarter of 2020. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

**Statistics Mauritius**

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