**External Merchandise Trade Statistics – 1st Quarter 2022**

# **Introduction**

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents external merchandise trade statistics for the first quarter of 2022 and the years 2020 and 2021. These statistics have been compiled from declarations lodged by importers and exporters at Customs Department. Some of these declarations are at times revised at a later period and corrections are made accordingly on the computerised database of the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA).

Thus, while revised figures for 2021 are published in this indicator, those for 2022 are still provisional and will be revised, as and when latest amendments are obtained from the Customs Department of the MRA.

Data on external merchandise trade are compiled as per the recommendations of the United Nations General Trade System. According to this system, all goods entering and leaving the national frontier, including trading activities of the Freeport Zone should be accounted for.

1. **Total value of trade and trade balance**

Total external merchandise trade for the first quarter of 2022 was valued at Rs 83,807 million, i.e. 7.6% lower than the value of Rs 90,674 million of the previous quarter and 36.4% higher than the value of Rs 61,461 million of the corresponding quarter of 2021.

For the first quarter of 2022, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers) were valued at Rs 21,837 million against total imports of Rs 61,970 million. In the previous quarter, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores and bunkers) amounted to   
Rs 23,001 million against total imports of Rs 67,673 million while for the corresponding quarter of 2021, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers) amounted to   
Rs 17,297 million against total imports of Rs 44,164 million. In the first quarter of 2022, total exports and total imports were lower by 5.1% and 8.4% respectively compared to the previous quarter. Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total exports and total imports were higher by 26.2% and 40.3% respectively.

The resulting trade deficit for the first quarter of 2022 worked out to Rs 40,133 million, 10.2% lower than the deficit of Rs 44,672 million of the previous quarter and 49.4% higher than the deficit of Rs 26,867 million of the corresponding quarter of 2021.



1. **Exports**

**3.1 Total exports (Tables 1 & 3) – 1st Quarter 2022**

For the first quarter of 2022, total exports proceeds, including domestic exports1,re-exports2 and ship’s stores and bunkers amounted to Rs 21,837 million, showing a decrease of 5.1% compared to the previous quarter. This is mainly explained by decreases in exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (-19.2%), “Food and live animals”  
(-11.6%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-9.5%), and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-6.2%), partly offset by increases in the exports of “Ship’s Stores and Bunkers” (+17.2%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+2.7%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total exports for the first quarter of 2022 increased by 26.2%. This is mainly explained by increases in exports of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+75.5%), “Ship’s Stores and Bunkers” (+72.6%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+48.8%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+15.9%), and “Food and live animals” (+3.5%).

For the first quarter of 2022, domestic exports amounted to Rs 13,055 million, accounting for 59.8% of total exports proceeds. Compared to the previous quarter, domestic exports which amounted to Rs 14,229 million, showed a decrease of 8.3%. This is mainly explained by decreases in exports of “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (-13.6%), “Food and live animals” (-9.6%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-7.6%), “Manufactured goods classified by material” (-7.2%) and “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (-5.3%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, domestic exports were higher by 11.5%, mainly explained by increases in exports of “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (+75.7%), “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (+25.9%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+25.4%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+13.5%) and “Food and live animals” (+1.6%) *(Table 4).*

For the first quarter of 2022, re-exports stood at Rs 4,623 million, i.e. lower by 11.5% compared to the previous quarter, mainly due to decreases in re-exports of “Food and live animals” (-24.0%), “Machinery and transport equipment” (-23.5%) and “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-13.1%), partly offset by increases in re-exports of “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s” (+9.4%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+0.6%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, re-exports were higher by 45.5%, mainly due to increases in re-exports of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+114.5%), “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s” (+101.6%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+27.8%), “Food and live animals” (+21.4%) and “Machinery and transport equipment” (+6.9%) *(Table 5).*

**3.2 Exports by SITC section (Tables 1 & 3) – 1st Quarter 2022**

Around 29.4% of total exports for the first quarter of 2022 consisted of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (Rs 6,422 million), 26.6% of “Food and live animals”  
(Rs 5,799 million), 19.0% of “Ship’s Stores & Bunkers” (Rs 4,159 million) and 13.5% of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (Rs 2,953 million).

1 Domestic exports are defined as goods of national origin

2 Re-exports are goods which are exported in the same condition as imported or after undergoing minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged.

Compared to the first quarter of 2021, the main changes by section were as follows:

* “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” increased by 48.8%, mainly explained by increases in exports of “Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones” (+151.0%) and “Textile yarns, fabrics, made up articles” (+24.7%).
* “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” registered an increase of 15.9%, mainly due to increases in exports of “Watches & clocks” (+72.5%), “Instruments and appliances, n.e.s for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary purposes” (+22.3%) and “Articles of apparel and clothing accessories” (+5.2%).
* “Food and live animals” increased by 3.5%, mainly due to increases in the exports of “Live Primates” (+23.7%), partly offset by decreases in exports of “Cane Sugar” (-5.1%) and “Fish and fish preparations” (-1.0%).

**3.3 Exports of Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE) – 1st Quarter 2022**

For the first quarter of 2022, exports of EOE amounted to Rs 10,932 million, compared to   
Rs 9,382 million for the corresponding quarter of 2021 (*Table 1*). Further details on these transactions will be presented in the issue of the Economic and Social Indicator on Export Oriented Enterprises, to be released on 29 June 2022.

**3.4 Exports by country of destination (Table 7) – 1st Quarter 2022**

Analysis of exports figures by country of destination for the first quarter of 2022 showed that the European countries were our main buyers, purchasing some 39.5% of our exports excluding ship’s stores and bunkers, for a value of Rs 6,989 million. Among countries, the major destinations for our exports were South Africa (13.9%), France (9.3%), U.K (9.1%), Madagascar (8.8%), U.S.A (8.5%), Spain (5.0%), Italy (4.2%) and Reunion (3.8%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, exports to Madagascar, U.S.A., France, South Africa, Reunion, Spain and U.K went up by 50.1%, 39.6%, 36.8%, 27.1%, 23.5%, 21.1% and 2.0% respectively. On the other hand, exports to Italy dropped by 32.2%.



**4. Imports**

**4.1 Total imports (Table 10) – 1st Quarter 2022**

Total imports for the first quarter of 2022 amounted to Rs 61,970 million, showing a decrease of 8.4% compared to the previous quarter. This is mainly due to decreases in imports of “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (-31.7%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-23.7%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-16.9%) and “Machinery and transport equipment” (-4.8%), partly offset by increases in imports of “Mineral fuels, lubricants & related products” (+11.9%) and “Food and live animals” (+0.5%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total imports for the first quarter of 2022 increased by 40.3%. This is mainly due to increases in imports of “Mineral fuels, lubricants & related products” (+78.9%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+44.1%), “Chemicals and related products n.e.s” (+30.6%), “Machinery & transport equipment” (+30.1%), “Food and live animals” (+27.3%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+16.5%).

**4.2 Imports by SITC section (Table 10) – 1st Quarter 2022**

Around 22.3% of imports in the first quarter of 2022 consisted of “Mineral fuels, lubricants & related products” (Rs 13,814 million), 20.3% of “Machinery & transport equipment” (Rs 12,598 million), 18.2% of “Food and live animals” (Rs 11,295 million), 16.0% of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (Rs 9,938 million), 8.6% of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (Rs 5,339 million) and 8.5% of “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (Rs 5,281 million).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total imports increased by 40.3%. Main changes by section were as follows:

* “Mineral fuels, lubricants & related products” increased by 78.9%, mainly due to an increase of 63.5% in the imports of “Refined petroleum products”.
* “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” increased by 44.1%, mainly due to increases in imports of “Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones” (+188.6%),

“Iron and Steel” (+74.2%), “Other textile fabrics” (+39.2%) and “Manufactures of metals, n.e.s” (+36.5%), partly offset by a decrease in imports of “Textile yarn” (-15.6%).

* “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” increased by 30.6%, mainly due to increases in imports of “Medicinal & pharmaceutical products” (+44.1%), “Plastics in primary forms” (+28.8%), “Dyeing & tanning materials” (+23.9%) and “Plastics in non-primary forms” (+9.6%).
* “Machinery and transport equipment” increased by 30.1%, mainly due to increases in imports of “Office machines & automatic data processing machines” (+64.5%), “Telecommunications & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment” (+50.3%), “General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s., & machine parts, n.e.s” (+32.0%), “Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances, n.e.s., & electrical parts of household type” (+25.6%) and “Road vehicles” (+9.8%).
* “Food and live animals” increased by 27.3%, mainly due to higher imports of “Meat and meat preparations” (+71.8%), “Dairy products and bird’s eggs” (+37.3%), “Vegetables and fruits” (+29.7%) and “Fish and fish preparations” (+9.0%).
* “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” increased by 16.5%, mainly due to increases in imports of “Articles n.e.s, of plastic” (+36.0%) and “Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus, n.e.s” (+6.6%), partly offset by a decrease in the imports of “Articles of apparel and clothing” (-0.6%).
  1. **Imports by country of origin (Table 13) – 1st Quarter 2022**

During the first quarter of 2022, our imports originated from five main countries, namely: China (17.3%), South Africa (12.2%), United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) (11.1%), India (6.8%) and France (5.1%). Among continents, Asia was our main supplier with a share of  
Rs 31,945 million, representing 51.5% of total imports followed by Europe, with a share of Rs 13,490 million, representing 21.8% of total imports and Africa, with a share of   
Rs 10,460 million, representing 16.9% of total imports.

Compared to the corresponding period of 2021, total imports from South Africa, China and United Arab Emirates rose by 119.5%, 43.9% and 38.1% respectively, while imports from India and France decreased by 20.9% and 6.7% respectively.



**5. Trade with Member States of Regional Organisations – 1st Quarter 2022**

For the first quarter of 2022, exports1 to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States stood at Rs 5,449 million against total imports of Rs 9,706 million. The trade deficit with ACP countries worked out to Rs 4,257 million. South Africa was the main supplier with a value of Rs 7,540 million, representing 77.7% of the total imports from ACP states as well as the main buyer with a value of Rs 2,457 million, representing 45.1% of the exports1 to ACP states (*Table 14*).

1 Excluding ship’s stores and bunkers

Exports to COMESA member states attained Rs 2,610 million, while total imports from these countries amounted to Rs 2,489 million, resulting in a trade surplus of Rs 121 million. Madagascar was the main buyer with a share of 59.8% followed by Kenya (21.0%). The main suppliers were Seychelles (29.2%), Egypt (23.4%) and Kenya (16.8%) (*Table 15*).

Trade with SADC countries showed a deficit of Rs 4,493 million, as a result of total imports of Rs 9,118 million against exports worth Rs 4,625 million. The main supplier was South Africa (82.7%) and main buyers were South Africa (53.1%) and Madagascar (33.7%)  
(*Table 16*).

**6. Trade in Freeport Zone – 1st Quarter 2022**

During the first quarter of 2022, total imports of the Freeport Zone stood at   
Rs 3,267 million, higher by 34.5% compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021   
(*Table 12*). The main items imported were “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (36.4%) and “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (18.6%).

Re-exports were valued at Rs 2,841 million, representing an increase of 37.6% compared to the corresponding period of 2021 (*Table 6*). The main items re-exported were “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (34.7%) and “Food and live animals” (21.3%).

**7. Forecast 2022**

Based on trends and information from various sources, the forecast of total exports for 2022 will be around Rs 100 billion, 22.0% higher than the total exports of around Rs 82 billion in 2021. Total imports for 2022 including one-off items such as machinery for metro terminals and helicopter, will be around Rs 270 billion, 25.6% higher than the total imports of around Rs 215 billion in 2021.

The trade deficit for 2022 is forecasted at around Rs 170 billion, 27.8% higher as compared to around Rs 133 billion in 2021.

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**Notes**

**(1)** **Scope and coverage**

**External merchandise trade statistics** are compiled according to the General Trade System as recommended by the United Nations. Using the national boundary as the statistical frontier, the General Trade System is a record of all goods entering (imports) and leaving the country (exports).

**Imports** include goods brought in directly for domestic consumption plus goods imported into customs bonded warehouses.

**Exports** cover:

* Domestic exports defined as goods of national origin, that is goods produced in the exporting country.
* Re-exports which are exported in the same condition as imported or after undergoing minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged and include re-exports from customs bonded warehouses.
* Ship’s Stores and Bunkers (SSB)are included in total exports and are shown separately.

Trade by parcel post is also included in imports and exports.

**(2)** **Valuation**

**Imports** are valued on a C.I.F. (Cost, Insurance and Freight) basis, whilst exports on a F.O.B. (Free on Board) basis.

**Cost, Insurance and Freight** (C.I.F) value is the value of a country's imports of goods, including all charges for transporting and insuring the goods from the country of exports to the given country but excluding the cost of unloading from the ship, aircraft unless it is borne by the carrier.

**Free on Board** (F.O.B) value is the value of a country's exports of goods, including all costs of transporting the goods to the customs frontier, export duties.

**(3) Classification of commodities**

Commodities are coded according to the **Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System Nomenclature (HS 2022)**. However, for the purposes of economic analysis and to facilitate international comparison of trade by commodity data, the commodities are also classified according to **the Standard International Trade Classification (Revision 4) (SITC Rev. 4)**. The HS and the SITC Rev. 4 are six- and five-digit codes respectively but have been extended to eight and seven digits to accommodate national requirements.

**(4)** **Symbols used**

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