**External Merchandise Trade Statistics – 2nd Quarter 2022**

# **Introduction**

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

Thus, while revised figures for 2021 are published in this indicator, those for 2022 are still provisional and subject to revision as and when the Customs Department of the MRA submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

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 second quarter of 2022 was valued at Rs 101,734 million, i.e. 21.4% higher than the value of Rs 83,807 million of the previous quarter and 50.4% higher than the value of Rs 67,649 million of the corresponding quarter of 2021.

For the second quarter of 2022, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers[[1]](#footnote-1)) were valued at Rs 25,976 million against total imports of Rs 75,758 million. In the first quarter, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores and bunkers) amounted to Rs 21,837 million against total imports of Rs 61,970 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. Compared to the previous quarter, total exports and total imports in the second quarter of 2022 were higher by 19.0% and 22.2% respectively. While compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total exports and total imports were up by 33.8% and 57.1% respectively.

The resulting trade deficit for the second quarter of 2022 worked out to Rs 49,782 million, 24.0% higher than the deficit of Rs 40,133 million of the previous quarter and 72.8% higher than the deficit of Rs 28,813 million of the corresponding quarter of 2021.



Compared to the first semester of 2021, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers) rose from Rs 36,715 million to Rs 47,813 million in the first semester of 2022, showing an increase of around 30.2% (Fig 1). Total imports increased by 49.1% in first semester of 2022, compared to the corresponding period of 2021. Consequently, the trade deficit for first semester of 2022 worked out to around Rs 89,915 million, 61.5% higher than the deficit of Rs 55,680 million in the first semester of 2021.

1. **Total Exports**

**3.1 Total exports (Tables 1 & 3) – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2022**

Total exports proceed for the second quarter of 2022, including domestic exports[[2]](#footnote-2),re-exports[[3]](#footnote-3) and ship’s stores and bunkers amounted to Rs 25,976 million, showing an increase of 19.0% compared to the previous quarter. This is mainly explained by increases in exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (+59.9%), “Ships’ stores & bunkers” (+32.6%), “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (+24.9%), “Food and live animals” (+18.3%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+12.7%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+11.4%), partly offset by a decrease in the exports of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (-5.1%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total exports for the second quarter of 2022 increased by 33.8%. This is mainly explained by increases in exports of “Ships’ stores & bunkers” (+100.3%), “Machinery and transport equipment” (+48.1%), “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (+32.2%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+25.4%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+21.6%), “Food and live animals” (+18.5%) and “Chemicals and related products” (+6.5%).

Compared to corresponding semester of 2021, total exports for the first semester of 2022, increased by 30.2% which is mainly explained by increases in “Ships’ stores & bunkers” (+87.4%), “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (+37.0%), “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+33.4%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+33.0%), “Machinery & Transport” (+31.1%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+20.7%) and “Food and live animals” (+11.2%).

Domestic exports, amounting to Rs 14,858 million, accounted for 57.2% of total exports in the second quarter of 2022. Compared to a value of Rs 13,055 million recorded in the first quarter of 2022, domestic exports increased by 13.8%. This is mainly explained by increases in domestic exports of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+33.9%), “Food and live animals” (+16.4%), “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (+13.3%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+13.2%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+10.2%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, domestic exports were higher by 18.0%, mainly explained by increases in exports of “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (+43.6%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+19.6%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+16.0%), “Food and live animals” (+15.3%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+14.9%).

Compared to the corresponding semester of 2021, domestic exports for the first semester of 2022 were higher by 14.9%. This rise was mainly due to increases in the exports of “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (+57.0%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+20.2%), “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+19.3%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+16.6%) and “Food and live animals” (+8.5%) (*Table 4*).

For the second quarter of 2022, re-exports stood at Rs 5,605 million, i.e. higher by 21.2% compared to the previous quarter, mainly due to increases in exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (+65.8%), “Food and live animals” (+33.3%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+16.4%) and “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+11.9%), partly offset by a decrease in exports of “Chemicals and related products”  
(-17.9%) (*Table 5*).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, re-exports of merchandise goods rose by 37.4%, mainly explained by increases in re-exports “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+57.4%), “Food and live animals” (+46.0%), “Machinery and transport equipment” (+43.6%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+32.3%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+2.5%).

Compared to the corresponding semester of 2021, re-exports increased by 40.9% in the first semester of 2022. This increase was mainly due to a rise in re-exports of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+61.5%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+42.1%), “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+40.4%), “Food and live animals” (+34.3%) and “Machinery and transport equipment” (+27.2%).

**3.3 Exports of Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE) – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2022**

For the second quarter of 2022, exports of EOE amounted to Rs 12,517 million, compared to Rs 10,932 million in the previous quarter (+14.5%) and to Rs 10,401 million in the corresponding quarter of 2021 (+20.3%) (*Table 1*).

Compared to the first semester of 2021, exports of EOE increased by 18.5%, from Rs 19,783 million to Rs 23,449 million in the first semester of 2022.

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 September 2022.

**3.4 Exports by country of destination (Table 7) – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2022**

Analysis of exports figures by country of destination for the second quarter of 2022 showed that the European countries were our main buyers, purchasing some 40.7% of our exports for a value of Rs 8,328 million. Among countries, the major destinations for our exports were South Africa (12.3%), Madagascar (9.9%), France (9.7%), United Kingdom (9.6%), U.S.A. (8.2%), Spain (5.3%), India (3.7%) and Reunion (3.5%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, changes in exports to main markets were Madagascar (+63.0%), India (+60.4%), France (+46.7%), U.S.A. (+24.3%), South Africa (+9.4%), United Kingdom (+8.4%), Spain (+6.8%) and Reunion (+6.3%).



From Figure 2, compared to the corresponding semester of 2021, changes in exports to main markets in the first semester of 2022 were Madagascar (+57.2%), France (+42.0%), U.S.A. (+31.1%), South Africa (+17.5%), Reunion (+14.0%), Spain (+12.8%), United Kingdom (+5.4%) and Italy (-21.9%).

**4. Total Imports**

**4.1 Total imports (Table 10) – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2022**

Total imports for the second quarter of 2022 amounted to Rs 75,758 million, showing an increase of 22.2%, compared to the previous quarter. This is mainly due to increases in imports of “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (+57.1%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+19.7%), “Beverages and tobacco” (+17.3%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+17.0%), “Chemicals and related products” (+16.1%), “Food and live animals” (+10.2%) and “Machinery and transport equipment” (+3.6%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total imports for the second quarter of 2022 increased by 57.1%. This is mainly due to increases in imports of “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (+174.9%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+49.1%), “Machinery and transport equipment” (+46.0%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+45.0%), “Food and live animals” (+36.2%) and “Beverages and tobacco” (+27.8%), partly offset by a decrease in the imports of “Chemicals and related products” (-14.2%).

Compared to the corresponding semester of 2021, total imports increased by 49.1% in the first semester of 2022. This rise was mainly explained by increases in the imports of “Mineral fuels, lubricants, & related products” (+127.4%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+46.7%), “Beverages and tobacco” (+42.6%), “Machinery & transport equipment” (+37.7%), “Food and live animals” (+31.8%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+30.4%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+2.0%).

**4.2 Imports by SITC section (Table 10) – 2nd Quarter 2022**

Around 28.6% of imports in the second quarter of 2022 consisted of “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (Rs 21,698 million), 17.2% of “Machinery and transport equipment” (Rs 13,049 million), 16.4% of “Food and live animals” (Rs 12,447 million), 15.3% of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (Rs 11,628 million), 8.4% of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (Rs 6,392 million) and 8.1% of “Chemicals and related products” (Rs 6,133 million).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total imports for the second quarter 2022 increased by 57.1%. Main changes by section are as follows:

* “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” increased by 174.9%, mainly due to an increase in the imports of “Refined petroleum products” (+194.1%).
* “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” increased by 49.1%, mainly due to increases in the imports of “Textile yarn” (+64.5%), Cement” (+62.8%), “Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones (+51.4%), “Other textile fabrics” (+33.8%), “Manufactures of metal, n.e.s” (+27.7%) and “Iron and Steel (+25.8%).
* “Machinery and transport equipment” increased by 46.0%, mainly due to increases in the imports of “Telecommunications & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment” (+117.5%), “Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances, n.e.s., & electrical parts of household type” (+59.7%), “Road vehicles” (+29.3%) and “General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s., & machine parts, n.e.s” (+9.8%).
* “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” increased by 45.0%, mainly due to increases in the imports of “Footwear” (+53.2%), “Articles n.e.s, of plastic” (+50.5%), “Articles of apparel and clothing” (+42.4%) and “Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus, n.e.s” (+23.8%).
* “Food and live animals” increased by 36.2% mainly due to an increase in imports of “Dairy product and bird’s eggs” (+80.1%), “Meat and meat preparations” (+60.4%), “Vegetables and fruits” (+49.3%) and “Fish and fish preparations” (+15.7%).

The above-mentioned increases was partly offset by a decrease in imports of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (-14.2%).

* 1. **Imports by country of origin – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2022**

During the second quarter of 2022, our imports originated from five main countries, namely: India (14.5%), China (14.0%), U.A.E. (13.9%), South Africa (8.3%) and France (5.6%)   
(*Table 13*). Among continents Asia was our main supplier with a share of Rs 45,347 million, representing 59.9% of total imports.

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, total imports from U.A.E., China, France, South Africa and India rose by 114.4%, 64.6%, 50.5%, 35.8% and 30.4% respectively.



From Figure 3, compared to the corresponding semester of 2021, total imports for the first semester of 2022 from U.A.E, South Africa, China, France and India have witnessed increases of 76.1%, 71.6%, 53.5%, 19.3% and 10.5% respectively.

**5. Trade with Member States of Regional Organizations – 2nd Quarter 2022**

During the second quarter of 2022, total exports to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States stood at Rs 5,821 million against imports of Rs 8,863 million (*Table 14*). The trade deficit with ACP countries worked out to Rs 3,042 million. South Africa, was the main buyer and supplier with shares of 43.3% and 70.5%, respectively.

Exports to COMESA member states attained Rs 3,013 million while imports from these countries amounted to around Rs 2,664 million, resulting in a trade surplus of Rs 349 million.

Madagascar was the main buyer with a share of 67.5%, followed by Kenya (16.8%). Our main suppliers were Kenya (23.7%), Seychelles (23.5%) and Madagascar (22.9%) (*Table 15*).

Trade with SADC countries showed a deficit of Rs 2,813 million, resulting from imports of Rs 7,906 million against exports worth Rs 5,093 million. The main suppliers were South Africa (79.1%) and Seychelles (7.9%) and our main buyers were South Africa (49.5%) and Madagascar (40.0%) (*Table 16*).

**6. Trade in Freeport Zone – 2nd Quarter 2022**

During the second quarter of 2022, total imports of the Freeport Zone stood at   
Rs 3,480 million, lower by 34.6% compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021 and higher by 6.5% compared to the previous quarter – (*Table 12*). Compared to corresponding semester of 2021, freeport imports fell by 12.9% and for this period, the main items imported were “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (34.1%) and “Food and live animals” (18.2%).

Re-exports for the second quarter of 2022 were valued at Rs 3,089 million, representing an increase of 31.5% compared to the corresponding period of 2021 (*Table 6*). Compared to the corresponding semester of 2021, an increase of 34.3% was recorded in the first semester of 2022, mainly explained by increases in the re-exports of “Food and live animals”   
(+43.4%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+36.4%).

**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 helicopters, will be around Rs 290 billion, 34.9% higher than the total imports of around Rs 215 billion in 2021.

The trade deficit for 2022 is forecasted at around Rs 190 billion, 42.9% higher as compared to around Rs 133 billion in 2021.

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**August 2022**

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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 2017)**. 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

1. Ships stores and bunkers, which consist of jet fuel and victuals supplied to foreign vessels and aircraft, are included in total exports and are shown separately [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Domestic exports are defined as goods of national origin. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Re-exports are goods which are exported in the same condition as imported or after undergoing minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-3)