Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)

**4th Quarter 2022**

## 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 2022.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the fourth quarter of 2022 as well as figures for the years 2021 and 2022. Table 1 shows the main indicators of the EOE sector for the period 2014 to 2022.

## 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 2022**

Compared to the third quarter of 2022, employment in EOE increased by 523 (+1.5%) from 35,586 to 36,109. Male employment rose by 195 from 19,340 to 19,535 and female employment increased by 328 from 16,246 to 16,574 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector increased by 144 (+0.7%) (+184 males and -40 females) from 19,704 to 19,848 and the number of foreign workers increased by 379 (+2.4%) (+11 males and +368 females) from 15,882 at the end of September 2022 to 16,261 at the end of December 2022 (Table 2).

The increase of 523 in employment in the EOE sector during the fourth quarter of 2022 is the net result of 829 jobs created and 306 jobs lost. The jobs created were due to expansion in existing enterprises whilst job losses were due to some contraction of workforce in existing enterprises.

## 2.2 Evolution of employment from December 2021 to December 2022

From December 2021 to December 2022, total employment in EOE increased by 1,085 (+3.1%) from 35,024 to 36,109. The number of Mauritian workers decreased by 60 (+72 males and -132 females). Employment of foreign workers increased by 1,145 (+710 males and +435 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

The increase of 1,085 in employment in the EOE sector from December 2021 to December 2022 is due to the combined effect of 1,659 jobs created and 574 job losses in existing enterprises.

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 2021 are final, those for 2022 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 4th Quarter 2022**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the fourth quarter of 2022 amounted to R 12,973 million, that is, R 606 million (-4.5%) lower compared to the third quarter of 2022 (Table 8). That was mainly the result of decreases observed in exports of “Articles of apparel and clothing” (-R 490 million or -10.5%) and “Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles” (-R 403 million or -26.7%) partly offset by an increase in exports of “Fish & fish preparations” (+R 197 million or +6.0%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, EOE exports increased by R 1,522 million (+13.3%).

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

South Africa, United Kingdom (UK), France, Spain and United States of America (USA) are the principal EOE markets in the fourth quarter of 2022, together accounting for R 7,420 million (57.2%) 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 2022** | **Change on** | |
| **Q3 2022** | **Q4 2021** |
| South Africa | 2,072 | -799 | 61 |
| United Kingdom | 1,501 | 60 | 104 |
| France | 1,344 | -48 | 109 |
| Spain | 1,295 | 74 | 701 |
| USA | 1,208 | -111 | 7 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to our main markets showed increases as follows: Spain (+6.1%) and United Kingdom (+4.2%). Exports towards South Africa, USA and France registered decreases of 27.8%, 8.4% and 3.4% respectively.

When compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, increases in EOE exports towards main markets were as follows: Spain (+118.0%), France (+8.8%), United Kingdom (+7.4%), South Africa (+3.0%) and USA (+0.6%).

Further details are given in Table 11.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the fourth quarter of 2022 were estimated at R 8,973 million, representing an increase of R 184 million (+2.1%) compared to the thirdquarter of 2022. This increase is due to higher imports of “Raw materials” by R 321 million (+3.8%) and lower imports of “Machinery” by R 137 million (-32.3%) (Table 8).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, imports increased by R 1,206 million (+15.5%), mainly due to increases in imports of “Fish and fish preparations” by R 827 million (+52.4%), “Cotton” by R 304 million (+49.5%) and “Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones” by R 121 million (+11.1%).

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 4,000 million in the fourth quarter of 2022 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 30.8% compared to 32.2% in the corresponding quarter of 2021 (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 48 million in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared to R 4 million in the fourth quarter of 2021. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

**Statistics Mauritius**

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