# **Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)**

**3rd Quarter 2023**

## 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 September 2023.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the third quarter of 2023 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 – 3rd Quarter 2023**

Compared to the second quarter of 2023, employment in EOE decreased by 498 (-1.4%) from 34,471 to 33,973. Male employment dropped by 494 from 18,981 to 18,487 and female employment slightly decreased by 4 from 15,490 to 15,486 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector decreased by 261 (-1.4%) (-508 males and +247 females) from 19,273 to 19,012 and the number of foreign workers decreased by 237 (-1.6%) (+14 males and -251 females) from 15,198 at the end of June 2023 to 14,961 at the end of September 2023 (Table 2).

The decrease of 498 in employment in the EOE sector during the third quarter of 2023 is the net result of 815 jobs lost and 317 jobs created. The job losses were due to some contraction of workforce whilst jobs created were due to expansion in existing enterprises.

## 2.2 Evolution of employment from September 2022 to September 2023

From September 2022 to September 2023, total employment in EOE decreased by 1,613 (-4.5%) from 35,586 to 33,973. The number of Mauritian workers decreased by 692 (-264 males and -428 females). Employment of foreign workers decreased by 921 (-589 males and -332 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

Job losses occurred mainly in enterprises engaged in the manufacture of “Wearing apparel” with a decrease of 1,730 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 2021 are final, those for 2022 and for the first three quarters of 2023 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 3rd Quarter 2023**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the third quarter of 2023 amounted to R 12,635 million, that is, R 647 million (+5.4%) higher compared to the second quarter of 2023 (Table 6). That was mainly the result of increases observed in exports of “Live animals other than fish” (+R 716 million or +100.7%), “Articles of apparel and clothing” (+R 362 million or +10.8%) and “Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles” (+R 246 million or +23.7 %) partly offset by a decrease in exports of “Fish and fish preparations” (-R 557 million or -16.6%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2022, EOE exports decreased by R 889 million (-6.6%).

Details on EOE exports by section are given in Table 7.

South Africa, United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK) and France are the principal EOE markets in the third quarter of 2023, together accounting for R 7,094 million (56.1%) of total EOE exports (Table 9). 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 Q3 2023** | **Change on**  |
| **Q2 2023** | **Q3 2022** |
| South Africa | 2,180 | 476 | -691 |
| USA | 2,025 | 842 | 707 |
| United Kingdom | 1,678 | 93 | 253 |
| France | 1,211 | -416 | -174 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to our main markets showed increases as follows: USA (+71.2%), South Africa (+27.9%) and United Kingdom (+5.9%). However, a decrease of 25.6% in exports towards France was observed.

When compared to the third quarter of 2022, USA and United Kingdom showed increases of 53.6% and 17.8% respectively whilst South Africa and France showed decreases of 24.1% and 12.6% respectively.

Further details are given in Table 9.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the third quarter of 2023 were estimated at R 6,277 million, representing a decrease of R 1,077 million (-14.6%) compared to the secondquarter of 2023. This decrease is mainly due to lower imports of “Raw materials” by R 1,079 million (-15.6%) (Table 6).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2022, EOE imports decreased by R 2,516 million (-28.6%), mainly due to decreases in imports of “Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones” by R 535 million (-39.6%), “Textile yarn and fabrics” by R 484 million (-31.6%), “Cotton” by R 441 million (-53.5%) and “Fish and fish preparations” by R 328 million (-18.7%).

Details on EOE imports by section are given in Table 8.

3.1.3 Net exports

Net exports, i.e. exports minus imports, amounted to R 6,358 million in the third quarter of 2023 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 50.3% compared to 35.0% in the corresponding quarter of 2022 (Table 6).

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 7 million in the third quarter of 2023 compared to R 5 million in the third quarter of 2022. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

**Statistics Mauritius**

# Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development

Port Louis

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**Contact Persons:**

Mrs. T. Joomun, Statistician/ Senior Statistician

Mrs. O. Anadachee, Statistical Officer/ Senior Statistical Officer

Statistics Unit,

Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

8th Floor, Air Mauritius Bldg.

Port-Louis.

Tel. : (230) 260 3326

E-mail : cso\_industry@govmu.org

Website: http://statsmauritius.govmu.org