Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)

**4th 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 December 2023.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the fourth quarter of 2023 as well as figures for the years 2022 and 2023. Table 1 shows the main indicators of the EOE sector for the period 2015 to 2023.

## 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 2023**

Compared to the third quarter of 2023, employment in EOE decreased by 680 (-2.0%) from 33,973 to 33,293. Male employment dropped by 97 from 18,487 to 18,390 and female employment fell by 583 from 15,486 to 14,903 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector decreased by 464 (-2.4%) (-54 males and -410 females) from 19,012 to 18,548 and the number of foreign workers decreased by 216 (-1.4%) (-43 males and -173 females) from 14,961 at the end of September 2023 to 14,745 at the end of December 2023 (Table 2).

The decrease of 680 in employment in the EOE sector during the fourth quarter of 2023 is the net result of 953 jobs lost and 273 jobs created. The job losses were due to some contraction of workforce in existing enterprises whilst jobs created were due to expansion in existing enterprises.

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

From December 2022 to December 2023, total employment in EOE decreased by 2,816 (-7.8%) from 36,109 to 33,293. The number of Mauritian workers decreased by 1,300 (-502 males and -798 females). Employment of foreign workers decreased by 1,516 (-643 males and -873 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

The decrease of 2,816 in employment in the EOE sector from December 2022 to December 2023 is due to the combined effect of 3,345 job losses and 529 jobs created 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 2022 are final, those for 2023 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 4th Quarter 2023**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the fourth quarter of 2023 amounted to R 10,737 million, that is, R 1,898 million (-15.0%) lower compared to the third quarter of 2023 (Table 8). That was mainly the result of decreases observed in exports of “Articles of apparel and clothing” (-R 606 million or -16.4%), “Live animals other than fish” (-R 591 million or -41.4%), “Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones” (-R 366 million or -32.8%), and “Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles” (-R 153 million or -11.9%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2022, EOE exports decreased by R 2,230 million (-17.2%).

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

South Africa, United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA) and France are the principal EOE markets in the fourth quarter of 2023, together accounting for R 5,690 million (53.0%) 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 2023** | **Change on**  |
| **Q3 2023** | **Q4 2022** |
| South Africa | 1,883 | -297 | -189 |
| United Kingdom  | 1,414 | -264 | -84 |
| USA | 1,254 | -771 | 46 |
| France | 1,139 | -72 | -203 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to our main markets showed decreases as follows: United states of America (USA) (-38.1%), United Kingdom (-15.7%), South Africa (-13.6%) and France (-5.9%).

When compared to the fourth quarter of 2022, EOE exports towards France, South Africa and United Kingdom showed decreases of 15.1%, 9.1% and 5.6% respectively whilst USA registered an increase of 3.8%.

Further details are given in Table 11.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the fourth quarter of 2023 were estimated at R 6,368 million, representing an increase of R 91 million (+1.4%) compared to the thirdquarter of 2023. This increase is due to higher imports of “Raw materials” by R 238 million (+4.1%) offset by lower imports of “Machinery” by R 147 million (-34.3%) (Table 8).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2022, imports decreased by R 2,600 million (-29.0%), mainly due to decreases in imports of “Cotton” by R 492 million (-53.6%), “Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones” by R 437 million (-36.1%), “Fish and fish preparations” by R 382 million (-15.9%), “Textile yarn and fabrics” by R 321 million (-24.8%) and “Jewellery, goldsmiths & silversmiths wares” by R 216 million (-96.9%).

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 4,369 million in the fourth quarter of 2023 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 40.7% compared to 30.8% in the corresponding quarter of 2022 (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 3 million in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to R 48 million in the fourth quarter of 2022. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

**Statistics Mauritius**

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