Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)

**1st Quarter 2024**

## 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 March 2024.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the first quarter of 2024 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 – 1st Quarter 2024**

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, employment in EOE decreased by 442 (-1.3%) from 33,293 to 32,851. Male employment dropped by 367 from 18,390 to 18,023 and female employment decreased by 75 from 14,903 to 14,828 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector fell by 188 (-1.0%) (-192 males and +4 females) from 18,548 to 18,360 and the number of foreign workers decreased by 254 (-1.7%) (-175 males and -79 females) from 14,745 at the end of December 2023 to 14,491 at the end of March 2024 (Table 2).

The decrease of 442 in employment in the EOE sector during the first quarter of 2024 is the net result of 810 jobs lost and 368 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 March 2023 to March 2024

From March 2023 to March 2024, total employment in EOE decreased by 2,486 (-7.0%) from 35,337 to 32,851. The number of Mauritian workers decreased by 1,196 (-511 males and -685 females). Employment of foreign workers decreased by 1,290 (-339 males and -951 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

 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 and first quarter 2024 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 1st Quarter 2024**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the first quarter of 2024 amounted to R 9,469 million, that is, R 1,258 million (-11.7%) lower compared to the fourth quarter of 2023 (Table 6). That was mainly the result of decreases observed in exports of “Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones” (-R 642 million or -85.6%), “Articles of apparel and clothing” (-R 274 million or -8.9%), “Articles, n.e.s. of plastics” (-179 million or -48.9%) and “Cereals and cereal preparations” (-R 110 million or -95.7%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, EOE exports decreased by R 2,468 million (-20.7%).

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

South Africa, United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK) and France remain the principal EOE markets, together accounting for R 5,104 million (53.9%) 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 Q1 2024** | **Change on**  |
| **Q4 2023** | **Q1 2023** |
| South Africa  | 1,465 | -417 | -190 |
| USA | 1,325 | +71 | +78 |
| United Kingdom | 1,286 | -124 | -255 |
| France | 1,028 | -106 | -488 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to USA showed an increase of 5.7% while decreases were observed in the other principal markets as follows: South Africa (-22.2%), France (-9.3%) and United Kingdom (-8.8%).

When compared to the first quarter of 2023, an increase of 6.3% was noted for USA while decreases in EOE exports towards France (-32.2%), United Kingdom (-16.5%) and South Africa (-11.5%) were noted.

Further details are given in Table 9.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the first quarter of 2024 were estimated at R 5,507 million, representing a decrease of R 846 million (-13.3%) compared to the fourthquarter of 2023 (Table 6). This decrease is mainly due to lower imports of raw materials by R 860 million (-14.2%) (Table 6).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, imports decreased by R 1,302 million (-19.1%), mainly due to decreases in imports of “Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones” by R 820 million (-85.1%), “Cotton” by R 285 million (-45.2%) and “Jewellery, goldsmiths & silversmiths wares” by R 115 million (-88.5%).

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 3,962 million in the first quarter of 2024 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 41.8% compared to 43.0% in the corresponding quarter of 2023 (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 1 million in the first quarter of 2024 compared to R 4 million in the first quarter of 2023. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

**Statistics Mauritius**

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