# **Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)**

**3rd 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 September 2024.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the third 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 – 3rd Quarter 2024**

Compared to the second quarter of 2024, employment in EOE decreased by 200 (-0.6%) from 32,404 to 32,204. Male employment increased by 78 from 17,795 to 17,873 and female employment dropped by 278 from 14,609 to 14,331 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector fell by 494 (-2.7%) (-182 males and -312 females) from 18,024 to 17,530 and the number of foreign workers increased by 294 (+2.0%) (+260 males and +34 females) from 14,380 at the end of June 2024 to 14,674 at the end of September 2024 (Table 2).

The decrease of 200 in employment in the EOE sector during the third quarter of 2024 is the net result of 645 jobs lost and 445 jobs created. The job losses were due to some contraction of workforce in existing enterprises and closure of enterprise whilst jobs created were due to expansion in existing enterprises.

## 2.2 Evolution of employment from September 2023 to September 2024

From September 2023 to September 2024, total employment in EOE decreased by 1,769 (-5.2%) from 33,973 to 32,204. The number of Mauritian workers decreased by 1,482 (-479 males and -1,003 females). Employment of foreign workers decreased by 287 (-135 males and -152 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

Job losses occurred mainly in enterprises engaged in the manufacture of “Wearing apparel” with a decrease of 1,049 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 2022 are final, those for 2023 and for the first three quarters of 2024 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 3rd Quarter 2024**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the third quarter of 2024 amounted to R 11,943 million, that is, R 508 million (+4.4%) higher compared to R 11,435 million in the second quarter of 2024 (Table 6). That was mainly the result of increases observed in exports of “Fish and fish preparations” (+R 414 million or +13.8%) and “Live animals other than fish” (+R 252 million or +26.7%) partly offset by a decrease in exports of “Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones” (-R 174 million or -43.2 %).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, EOE exports decreased by R 655 million (-5.2%).

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 in the third quarter of 2024, together accounting for R 6,978 million (58.4%) 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 2024** | **Change on**  |
| **Q2 2024** | **Q3 2023** |
| South Africa | 2,481 | 430 | 334 |
| USA  | 1,679 | 296 | -346 |
| United Kingdom | 1,639 | 191 | -45 |
| France | 1,179 | 6 | -32 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to our main markets showed increases as follows: USA (+21.4%), South Africa (+21.0%), United Kingdom (+13.2%) and France (+0.5%).

When compared to the third quarter of 2023, South Africa showed an increase of 15.6% whilst USA, United Kingdom and France showed decreases of 17.1%, 2.7% and 2.6% respectively.

Further details are given in Table 9.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the third quarter of 2024 were estimated at R 5,934 million, representing a decrease of R 194 million (-3.2%) compared to R 6,128 million in the secondquarter of 2024. This decrease is mainly due to lower imports of “Raw materials” by R 234 million (-4.0%) offset by an increase in imports of “Machinery” by R 40 million (+15.4%) (Table 6).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, EOE imports decreased by R 339 million (-5.4%), mainly due to a decrease in imports of “Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones” by R 662 million (-81.1%) partly offset by an increase in imports of “Textile yarn and fabrics” by R 290 million (+27.6%).

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 6,009 million in the third quarter of 2024 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 50.3% compared to 50.2% 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 4 million in the third quarter of 2024 compared to R 7 million in the third 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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