Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)

**4th 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 December 2024.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the fourth quarter of 2024 as well as figures for the years 2023 and 2024. Table 1 shows the main indicators of the EOE sector for the period 2016 to 2024.

## 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 2024**

Compared to the third quarter of 2024, employment in EOE decreased by 798 (-2.5%) from 32,204 to 31,406. Male employment dropped by 230 from 17,873 to 17,643 and female employment fell by 568 from 14,331 to 13,763 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector decreased by 466 (-2.7%) (-14 males and -452 females) from 17,530 to 17,064 and the number of foreign workers decreased by 332 (-2.3%) (-216 males and -116 females) from 14,674 at the end of September 2024 to 14,342 at the end of December 2024 (Table 2).

The decrease of 798 in employment in the EOE sector during the fourth quarter of 2024 is the net result of 1,135 jobs lost and 337 jobs created. The job losses were due to some contraction of workforce in existing enterprises whilst jobs created were due to expansion in some enterprises.

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

From December 2023 to December 2024, total employment in EOE decreased by 1,887 (-5.7%) from 33,293 to 31,406. The number of Mauritian workers decreased by 1,484 (-439 males and -1,045 females). Employment of foreign workers decreased by 403 (-308 males and -95 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

Job losses occurred mainly in enterprises engaged in the manufacture of “Wearing apparel” with a decrease of 1,232 jobs.

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 2023 are final, those for 2024 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 4th Quarter 2024**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the fourth quarter of 2024 amounted to R 11,128 million, that is, R 815 million (-6.8%) lower compared to the third quarter of 2024 (Table 8). That was mainly the result of decreases observed in exports of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles” (-R 420 million or -25.0%), “Fish & fish preparations” (-R 368 million or -10.8%) and “Watches and clocks” (-R 138 million or -36.4%) partly offset by an increase in exports of “Live animals other than fish” (+R 393 million or +32.9%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, EOE exports increased by R 401 million (+3.7%).

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

South Africa, United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA) and France remain the principal EOE markets in the fourth quarter of 2024, together accounting for R 6,187 million (55.6%) 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 2024** | **Change on** | |
| **Q3 2024** | **Q4 2023** |
| South Africa | 2,075 | -406 | +193 |
| United Kingdom | 1,551 | -88 | +141 |
| USA | 1,396 | -283 | +142 |
| France | 1,165 | -14 | +31 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to our main markets showed decreases as follows: United States of America (USA) (-16.9%), South Africa (-16.4%), United Kingdom (-5.4%) and France (-1.2%).

When compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, EOE exports towards USA, South Africa, United Kingdom and France showed increases of 11.3%, 10.3%, 10.0% and 2.7% respectively.

Further details are given in Table 11.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the fourth quarter of 2024 were estimated at R 6,130 million, representing an increase of R 196 million (+3.3%) compared to the thirdquarter of 2024. This increase is due to higher imports of “Raw materials” by R 252 million (+4.5%) offset by lower imports of “Machinery” by R 56 million (-18.7%) (Table 8).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, imports decreased by R 223 million (-3.5%), mainly due to decreases in imports of “Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones” by R 654 million (-84.5%), “Fish and fish preparations” by R 159 million (-7.9%) partly offset by increases in imports of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s” by R 260 million (+56.8%) and “Textile yarn and fabrics” by R 168 million (+17.2%).

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 4,998 million in the fourth quarter of 2024 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 44.9% compared to 40.8% in the corresponding quarter of 2023 (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 5 million in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to R 3 million in the fourth quarter of 2023. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

**Statistics Mauritius**

# Ministry of Finance

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 Industry, SME and Cooperatives

(Industry Division)

8th Floor, Air Mauritius Bldg.

Port-Louis.

Tel. : (230) 260 3326

E-mail : cso\_industry@govmu.org

Website: http://statsmauritius.govmu.org