## **External Merchandise Trade Statistics – 1st Quarter 2025**

# **Introduction**

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents external merchandise trade statistics for the first quarter of 2025 and the years 2023 and 2024. These statistics have been compiled from declarations lodged by importers and exporters at Customs Department. Some of these declarations are at times revised at a later period and corrections are made accordingly on the computerised database of the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA).

Thus, while revised figures for 2023 and 2024 are published in this indicator, those for 2025 are still provisional and will be revised, as and when latest amendments are obtained from the Customs Department of the MRA.

Data on external merchandise trade are compiled as per the recommendations of the United Nations General Trade System. According to this system, all goods entering and leaving the national frontier, including trading activities of the Freeport Zone should be accounted for.

1. **Total value of trade and trade balance**

Total external merchandise trade for the first quarter of 2025 was valued at Rs 100,628 million, i.e. 11.1% lower than the value of Rs 113,167 million of the previous quarter and 7.5% higher than the value of Rs 93,630 million of the corresponding quarter of 2024.

For the first quarter of 2025, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers) were valued at Rs 26,658 million against total imports of Rs 73,970 million. In the previous quarter, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores and bunkers) amounted to Rs 26,980 million against total imports of Rs 86,187 million, while for the corresponding quarter of 2024, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers) amounted to Rs 23,831 million against total imports of Rs 69,799 million. In the first quarter of 2025, total exports and total imports were lower by 1.2% and 14.2 % respectively compared to the previous quarter. Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total exports and total imports were higher by 11.9% and 6.0% respectively.

The resulting trade deficit for the first quarter of 2025 worked out to Rs 47,312 million, 20.1% lower than the deficit of Rs 59,207 million of the previous quarter and 2.9% higher than the deficit of Rs 45,968 million of the corresponding quarter of 2024.



1. **Exports**

**3.1 Total exports – 1st Quarter 2025**

For the first quarter of 2025, total exports proceeds, including domestic exports1,re-exports2 and ship’s stores and bunkers amounted to Rs 26,658 million, showing a decrease of 1.2% compared to Rs 26,980 million in the previous quarter. This is mainly explained by decreases in the exports of “Food and live animals” (-22.0%), “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s..” (-6.7%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-2.9%), partly offset by increases in the exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (+42.8%), “Ship’s Stores and Bunkers” (+24.4%) and “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+5.8%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers) for the first quarter of 2025 increased by 11.9%. This is mainly explained by increases in exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (+109.1%), “Ship’s Stores and Bunkers” (+35.7%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+14.5%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+4.6%), partly offset by decreases in the exports of “Food and live animals” (-7.5%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s..” (-3.4%).

For the first quarter of 2025, domestic exports amounted to Rs 13,114 million, accounting for 49.2% of total exports proceeds. Compared to the previous quarter, domestic exports which amounted to Rs 15,290 million, showed a decrease of 14.2%. This is mainly explained by decreases in the domestic exports of “Food and live animals” (-19.1%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-13.9%), partly offset by an increase in the domestic exports of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+6.7%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, domestic exports were lower by 3.2%, mainly explained by decreases in the exports of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles”  
(-5.4%), “Food and live animals” (-4.9%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s..”   
(-0.3%), partly offset by an increase in the domestic exports of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+8.1%) (*Table 4).*

For the first quarter of 2025, re-exports stood at Rs 5,343 million, i.e. higher by 4.8% compared to the previous quarter, mainly due to increases in the re-exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (+52.7%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+36.7%), partly offset by decreases in the re-exports of “Food and live animals” (-39.8%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s..” (-3.8%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, re-exports were higher by 26.2%, mainly due to increases in the re-exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (+118.8%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+38.1%), partly offset by decreases in the re-exports of “Food and live animals” (-24.6%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s..” (-4.6%) (*Table 5).*

**3.2 Exports by SITC section (Tables 1 & 3) – 1st Quarter 2025**

Around 30.8% of total exports for the first quarter of 2025 consisted of “Ship’s Stores & Bunkers” (Rs 8,201 million), 27.7% of “Food and live animals” (Rs 7,371 million), 20.9% of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (Rs 5,570 million) and 8.6% of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (Rs 2,286 million).

1 Domestic exports are defined as goods of national origin

2 Re-exports are goods which are exported in the same condition as imported or after undergoing minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged.

Compared to the first quarter of 2024, the main changes by section were as follows:

* “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” increased by 14.5%, mainly explained by an increase in the exports of “Textile yarns, fabrics, made up articles” (+16.1%).
* “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” registered an increase of 4.6%, mainly due to increases in the exports of “Toys, games & sporting goods” (+40.6%) and “Instruments and appliances, n.e.s for medical, surgical, ental or veterinary purposes” (+20.5%) and, partly offset by a decrease in the exports of “Articles of apparel and clothing accessories” (-6.1%).
* “Food and live animals” decreased by 7.5%, mainly due to decreases in the exports of “Live Primates” (-33.3%), “Fish and fish preparations” (-6.1%) and “Cane Sugar” (-2.3%).

**3.3 Exports of Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE) – 1st Quarter 2025**

For the first quarter of 2025, exports of EOE amounted to Rs 9,380 million, compared to   
Rs 9,446 million for the corresponding quarter of 2024 (*Table 1*). Further details on these transactions will be presented in the issue of the Economic and Social Indicator on Export Oriented Enterprises, to be released on 27 June 2025.

**3.4 Exports by country of destination (Table 7) – 1st Quarter 2025**

Analysis of exports figures by country of destination for the first quarter of 2025 showed that the European countries were our main buyers, purchasing some 42.7% of our exports excluding ship’s stores and bunkers, for a value of Rs 7,877 million. Among countries, the major destinations for our exports were Madagascar (11.2%), South Africa (11.0%), U.K (10.4%), France (8.4%), Spain (7.8%), U.S.A (6.6%) and Reunion (5.5%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, exports to Reunion, U.K, South Africa, Spain and Madagascar rose by 52.8%, 20.3%, 13.8%, 10.6% and 3.6% respectively. On the other hand, exports to U.S.A and France decreased by 28.7% and 11.3% respectively.



**4. Imports**

**4.1 Total imports (Table 10) – 1st Quarter 2025**

Total imports for the first quarter of 2025 amounted to Rs 73,970 million, showing a decrease of 14.2% compared to Rs 86,187 million in the previous quarter. This is mainly due to decreases in the imports of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-32.0%), “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (-25.1%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-22.6%), “Food and live animals” (-18.4%) and “Machinery & transport equipment” (-14.0%), partly offset by an increase in the imports of “Mineral fuels, lubricants & related products” (+9.1%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total imports for the first quarter of 2025 increased by 6.0%. This is mainly due to increases in imports of “Machinery & transport equipment” (+6.7%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+6.3%), “Chemicals and related products n.e.s.” (+5.5%), “Food and live animals” (+5.2%), “Mineral fuels, lubricants & related products” (+3.9%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+3.1%).

**4.2 Imports by SITC section (Table 10) – 1st Quarter 2025**

Around 25.1% of imports in the first quarter of 2025 consisted of “Mineral fuels, lubricants & related products” (Rs 18,533 million), 24.3% of “Machinery & transport equipment”   
(Rs 17,994 million), 17.7% of “Food and live animals” (Rs 13,100 million), 11.8% of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (Rs 8,697 million), 8.3% of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (Rs 6,152 million) and 7.9% of “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (Rs 5,841 million).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total imports increased by 6.0%. Main changes by section were as follows:

* “Machinery and transport equipment” increased by 6.7%, mainly due to an increase in the imports of “Road vehicles” (+35.9%), partly offset by decreases in the imports of “Machinery specialised for particular industries” (-12.7%), “General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s., & machine parts, n.e.s” (-5.4%) and “Telecommunications & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment”  
  (-2.7%).
* “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” increased by 6.3%, mainly due to imports of “Other textile fabrics” (+18.6%), “Textile yarn” (+13.4%), “Iron and Steel” (+9.8%), “Paper, paperboard & articles thereof” (+7.5%) and “Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.” (+5.2%).
* “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” increased by 5.5%, mainly due to imports of “Medicinal & pharmaceutical products” (+11.7%), partly offset by decreases in the imports of “Plastics in non-primary forms” (-16.9%) and “Plastics in primary forms” (-2.0%).
* “Food and live animals” increased by 5.2%, mainly due to imports of “Dairy products and bird’s eggs” (+12.0%), “Vegetables and fruits” (+8.9%) and “Rice” (+0.6%), partly offset by a decrease in the imports of “Fish and fish preparations”   
  (-13.2%).
* “Mineral fuels, lubricants & related products” increased by 3.9%, mainly due to imports of “Gas, natural and manufactured” (+7.2%) and “Refined petroleum products” (+4.1%).
* “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” increased by 3.1%, due to imports of “Articles of apparel and clothing” (+20.0%) and “Articles n.e.s, of plastic” (+4.7%), partly offset by a decrease in the imports of “Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus, n.e.s” (-14.1%).
  1. **Imports by country of origin (Table 13) – 1st Quarter 2025**

During the first quarter of 2025, our imports originated from six main countries, namely: China (15.6%), U.A.E. (10.1%), India (9.4%), South Africa (7.5%), France (4.9%) and Germany (4.1%). Among continents, Asia was our main supplier with a share of Rs 42,130 million, representing 57.0% of total imports followed by Europe, with a share of Rs 16,202 million, representing 21.9% of total imports and Africa, with a share of Rs 10,410 million, representing 14.1% of total imports.

Compared to the corresponding period of 2024, total imports from Germany rose by 42.6% while imports from India, U.A.E., France, China and South Africa decreased by 32.1%, 18.2%, 6.8%, 3.2% and 2.0% respectively.



**5. Trade with Member States of Regional Organisations – 1st Quarter 2025**

For the first quarter of 2025, exports1 to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States stood at Rs 5,631 million against total imports of Rs 8,879 million. The trade deficit with ACP countries worked out to Rs 3,248 million. South Africa was the main supplier with a value

1 Excluding ship’s stores and bunkers

of Rs 5,573 million, representing 62.8% of the total imports from ACP states. Madagascar was the main buyer with a share of 36.9% (Rs 2,076 million) followed by South Africa with a share of 36.2% (Rs 2,039 million) (*Table 14*).

Exports to COMESA member states for the first quarter of 2025 attained Rs 3,202 million, while total imports from these countries amounted to Rs 2,395 million, resulting in a trade surplus of Rs 807 million. Madagascar was the main buyer with a share of 64.8% followed by Kenya (23.1%). The main suppliers were Egypt (34.2%) followed by Seychelles (32.3%), Kenya (15.4%), Madagascar (10.6%) and Kingdom of Eswatini (6.5%) (*Table 15*).

Trade with SADC countries showed a deficit of Rs 2,843 million, as a result of total imports of Rs 7,369 million against exports worth Rs 4,526 million. The main supplier was South Africa (75.6%) and main buyers were Madagascar (45.9%) and South Africa (45.1%)  
(*Table 16*).

**6. Trade in Freeport Zone – 1st Quarter 2025**

During the first quarter of 2025, total imports of the Freeport Zone stood at   
Rs 2,860 million, higher by 6.8% compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024   
(*Table 12*). The main items imported were “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (29.8%), “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (19.9%) and “Food and live animals” (18.7%).

Re-exports were valued at Rs 3,685 million, representing an increase of 13.7% compared to the corresponding period of 2024 (*Table 6*). The main items re-exported were “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (40.1%), “Food and live animals” (19.7%) and “Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.” (13.2%).

**7. Forecast 2025**

Based on trends and information from various sources, the forecast of total exports for 2025 is maintained at the same level as year 2024, that is, Rs 110 billion. The total imports for 2025 will be around Rs 320 billion, 0.6% higher than the total imports of around   
Rs 318 billion in 2024.

The trade deficit for 2025 is forecasted at around Rs 210 billion, 1.0% higher as compared to around Rs 208 billion in 2024.

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#### 27 May 2025

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**Notes**

**(1)** **Scope and coverage**

**External merchandise trade statistics** are compiled according to the General Trade System as recommended by the United Nations. Using the national boundary as the statistical frontier, the General Trade System is a record of all goods entering (imports) and leaving the country (exports).

**Imports** include goods brought in directly for domestic consumption plus goods imported into customs bonded warehouses.

**Exports** cover:

* Domestic exports defined as goods of national origin, that is goods produced in the exporting country.
* Re-exports which are exported in the same condition as imported or after undergoing minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged and include re-exports from customs bonded warehouses.
* Ship’s Stores and Bunkers (SSB)are included in total exports and are shown separately.

Trade by parcel post is also included in imports and exports.

**(2)** **Valuation**

**Imports** are valued on a C.I.F. (Cost, Insurance and Freight) basis, whilst exports on a F.O.B. (Free on Board) basis.

**Cost, Insurance and Freight** (C.I.F) value is the value of a country's imports of goods, including all charges for transporting and insuring the goods from the country of exports to the given country but excluding the cost of unloading from the ship, aircraft unless it is borne by the carrier.

**Free on Board** (F.O.B) value is the value of a country's exports of goods, including all costs of transporting the goods to the customs frontier, export duties.

**(3) Classification of commodities**

Commodities are coded according to the **Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System Nomenclature (HS 2022)**. However, for the purposes of economic analysis and to facilitate international comparison of trade by commodity data, the commodities are also classified according to **the Standard International Trade Classification (Revision 4) (SITC Rev. 4)**. The HS and the SITC Rev. 4 are six- and five-digit codes respectively but have been extended to eight and seven digits to accommodate national requirements.

**(4)** **Symbols used**

- Nil or negligible  
  
 -. - Not applicable  
  
 ... Not available