Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)

**1st Quarter 2025**

## 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 2025.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the first quarter of 2025 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 – 1st Quarter 2025**

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2024, employment in EOE decreased by 1,000 (-3.2%) from 31,406 to 30,406. Male employment dropped by 606 from 17,643 to 17,037 and female employment decreased by 394 from 13,763 to 13,369 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector fell by 688 (-4.0%) (-469 males and -219 females) from 17,064 to 16,376 and the number of foreign workers decreased by 312 (-2.2%) (-137 males and -175 females) from 14,342 at the end of December 2024 to 14,030 at the end of March 2025 (Table 2).

The decrease of 1,000 in employment in the EOE sector during the first quarter of 2025 is the net result of 1,350 jobs lost and 350 jobs created. The job losses were due to contraction of workforce in some enterprises and closure of enterprises whilst jobs created were due to expansion in existing enterprises.

## 2.2 Evolution of employment from March 2024 to March 2025

From March 2024 to March 2025, total employment in EOE decreased by 2,198 (-6.7%) from 32,604 to 30,406. The number of Mauritian workers decreased by 1,918 (-755 males and -1,163 females). Employment of foreign workers decreased by 280 (-58 males and -222 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

Job losses occurred mainly in enterprises engaged in the manufacture of “Wearing apparel” with a decrease of 1,367 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 and first quarter 2025 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 1st Quarter 2025**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the first quarter of 2025 amounted to R 9,380 million, that is, R 1,693 million (-15.3%) lower compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 (Table 6). That was mainly the result of decreases observed in exports of “Live animals other than fish” (-R 1,126 million or -70.9%), “Articles of apparel and clothing” (-R 430 million or -14.6%) and “Fish & fish preparations” (-R 183 million or -6.0%) partly offset by an increase in exports of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles” (+R 200 million or +16.2%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, EOE exports decreased by R 66 million (-0.7%).

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

South Africa, United Kingdom (UK), Spain, Madagascar, France and United States of America (USA) are the principal EOE markets in the first quarter of 2025, together accounting for R 7,062 million (75.3%) 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 2025** | **Change on** | |
| **Q4 2024** | **Q1 2024** |
| South Africa | 1,700 | -354 | +232 |
| United Kingdom | 1,478 | -72 | +193 |
| Spain | 1,107 | +84 | +348 |
| Madagascar | 995 | -5 | -29 |
| France | 978 | -182 | -26 |
| USA | 804 | -592 | -520 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to Spain showed an increase of 8.2% while decreases were observed in the other markets as follows: USA (-42.4%), South Africa (-17.2%), France (-15.7%), United Kingdom (-4.6%) and Madagascar (-0.5%).

When compared to the first quarter of 2024, increases in exports were observed for Spain (+45.8%), South Africa (+15.8%) and United Kingdom (+15.0%) while decreases of 39.3%, 2.8% and 2.6% were noted in exports towards USA, Madagascar and France respectively.

Further details are given in Table 9.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the first quarter of 2025 were estimated at R 5,175 million, representing a decrease of R 923 million (-15.1%) compared to the fourthquarter of 2024 (Table 6). This decrease is mainly due to lower imports of raw materials by R 1,003 million (-17.1%) offset by an increase in imports of “Machinery” by R 80 million (+32.9%) (Table 6).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, imports decreased by R 330 million (-6.0%), mainly due to a decrease in imports of “Fish & fish preparations” by R 294 million (-17.1%) partly offset by an increase in imports of “Textile yarn and fabrics” by R 185 million (+18.4%).

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 4,205 million in the first quarter of 2025 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 44.8% compared to 41.7% in the corresponding quarter of 2024 (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 2 million in the first quarter of 2025 compared to R 1 million in the first quarter of 2024. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

**Statistics Mauritius**

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