**External Merchandise Trade Statistics – 2nd Quarter 2025**

# **Introduction**

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

Figures for 2025 are still provisional and subject to revision as and when the Customs Department of the MRA submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

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 second quarter of 2025 was valued at Rs 109,595 million, i.e., 9.3% higher than the value of Rs 100,314 million of the previous quarter and 3.6% higher than the value of Rs 105,836 million of the corresponding quarter of 2024.

For the second quarter of 2025, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers[[1]](#footnote-1)) were valued at Rs 27,718 million against total imports of Rs 81,877 million. In the first quarter of 2025, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores and bunkers) amounted to Rs 26,344 million against total imports of Rs 73,970 million while for the second quarter of 2024, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers) amounted to Rs 29,565 million against total imports of Rs 76,271 million.

Compared to the previous quarter, total exports which was valued at Rs 26,344 million and total imports valued at Rs 73,970 million were higher by 5.2% and 10.7%, respectively.

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total exports valued at Rs 29,565 million were lower by 6.2% while total imports (Rs 76,271 million) were higher by 7.4%.

The resulting trade deficit for the second quarter of 2025 worked out to Rs 54,159 million, 13.7% higher than the deficit of Rs 47,626 million of the previous quarter and 16.0% higher than the deficit of Rs 46,706 million of the corresponding quarter of 2024.



Compared to the first semester of 2024, total exports (inclusive of ship’s stores & bunkers) rose from Rs 53,396 million to Rs 54,062 million in the first semester of 2025, showing an increase of around 1.2% (Fig 1). Total imports went up from Rs 146,070 million in first semester of 2024 to Rs 155,847 million in the first semester of 2025, representing an increase of 6.7%. Consequently, the trade deficit for first semester of 2025 worked out to around Rs 101,785 million, 9.8% higher than the deficit of Rs 92,674 million in the first semester of 2024.

1. **Total Exports**

**3.1 Total exports (Tables 1 & 3) – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2025**

Total exports proceed for the second quarter of 2025, including domestic exports[[2]](#footnote-2),re-exports[[3]](#footnote-3) and ship’s stores and bunkers amounted to Rs 27,718 million, showing an increase of 5.2% compared to the previous quarter. This is mainly explained by increases in exports of “Food and live animals” (+22.7%), “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s” (+9.6%), “Ships’ stores & bunkers” (+3.4%) and “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+1.1%), partly offset by decreases in the exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (-14.7%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-4.7%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total exports for the second quarter of 2025 decreased by 6.2%. This is mainly explained by decreases in the exports of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-18.0%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles”   
(-15.5%), “Ships’ stores & bunkers” (-3.3%) and “Machinery and transport equipment”  
(-0.6%), partly offset by increases in the exports of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+3.0%) and “Food and live animals” (+1.8%).

Total exports for the first semester of 2025, amounting to Rs 54,062 million increased by 1.2%, compared to the corresponding semester of 2024. This is mainly explained by increases in the exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (+38.7%) and “Ships’ stores & bunkers” (+12.6%), partly offset by decreases in the exports of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-6.2%), “Food and live animals” (-4.7%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-4.5%) and “Chemicals and related products” (-0.1%).

Domestic exports, amounting to Rs 14,180 million, accounted for 51.2% of total exports in the second quarter of 2025 and has increased by 10.8% compared to a value of Rs 12,800 million in the previous quarter. This is mainly explained by increases in domestic exports of “Food and live animals” (+17.0%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+5.5%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+4.3%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+2.7%), partly offset by a decrease in the exports of “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (-3.2%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, domestic exports for the second quarter of 2025 were lower by 8.7%, mainly explained by decreases in exports of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-15.1%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-12.5%), “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (-7.7%) and “Food and live animals” (-3.3%), partly offset by an increase in the exports of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+1.7%).

Domestic exports for the first semester of 2025, valued at Rs 26,980 million were lower by 7.3% compared to the corresponding semester of 2024. This decline was mainly due to decreases in the exports of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-10.7%), “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (-6.8%), “Food and live animals” (-6.2%) and “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-3.5%), partly offset by an increase in the exports of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+0.7%) (*Table 4*).

For the second quarter of 2025, re-exports stood at Rs 5,057 million, i.e. lower by 5.4% compared to the previous quarter, mainly due to decreases in re-exports of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-28.1%), “Machinery and transport equipment” (-17.0%) and “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-13.3%), partly offset by increases in the exports of “Food and live animals” (+68.2%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.”(+12.4%) (*Table 5*).

Re-exports for second quarter of 2025 for merchandise goods declined by 3.8% compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024. This is mainly explained by decreases in re-exports of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-38.8%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (-16.6%), partly offset by increases in the re-exports of “Food and live animals” (+43.9%), “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (+3.5%) and “Machinery and transport equipment” (+1.3%).

Re-exports amounting to Rs 10,400 million in the first semester of 2025 increased by 9.6% compared to the value of Rs 9,492 million in the first semester of 2024. This was mainly due to increases in the re-exports of “Machinery and transport equipment” (+43.3%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+8.4%) and “Food and live animals” (+6.9%), partly offset by decreases in the re-exports of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-9.1%) and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.” (-0.5%).

**3.2 Exports of Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE) – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2025**

For the second quarter of 2025, exports of EOE amounted to Rs 10,881 million, compared to Rs 9,380 million in the previous quarter and to Rs 11,415 million in the corresponding quarter of 2024 (-4.7%), representing a change of +16.0% and -4.7%, respectively.  
(*Table 1*).

Compared to the first semester of 2024, exports of EOE decreased by 2.9%, i.e., from   
Rs 20,861 million to Rs 20,261 million in the first semester of 2025.

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 30 September 2025.

**3.3 Exports by country of destination (Table 7) – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2025**

Analysis of exports figures by country of destination for the second quarter of 2025 showed that the European countries were our main buyers, purchasing some 41.5% of our exports for a value of Rs 7,991 million. Among countries, the major destinations for our exports were South Africa (12.2%), U.S.A. (11.9%), Madagascar (8.9%), United Kingdom (8.6%), France (8.2%) and Spain (7.9%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, exports to Madagascar, France, United Kingdom and South Africa decreased by 20.5%, 16.1%, 10.9% and 0.8%, respectively whilst to Spain and U.S.A, the exports increased by 20.6% and 16.1%, respectively.



Compared to the corresponding semester of 2024, changes in exports to main markets in the first semester of 2025 were Spain (+15.1%), South Africa (+5.4%), United Kingdom (+3.0%), U.S.A. (-5.9%), Madagascar (-8.7%) and France (-14.2%). *(Figure 2)*

**4. Total Imports**

**4.1 Total imports (Table 10) – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2025**

Total imports for the second quarter of 2025 amounted to Rs 81,877 million, showing an increase of 10.7%, compared to the previous quarter. This is mainly due to increases in imports of “Food and live animals” (+25.7%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+12.9%), “Chemicals and related products” (+12.3%), “Machinery and transport equipment” (+8.1%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+5.8%) and “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (+4.3%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total imports for the second quarter of 2025 increased by 7.4%. This is mainly due to increases in the imports of “Food and live animals” (+23.2%), “Machinery and transport equipment” (+12.0%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+10.8%) and “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (+4.0%), partly offset by decreases in the imports of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material”  
(-2.7%) and “Chemicals and related products” (-2.4%).

Total imports, amounting to Rs 155,847 million in the first semester of 2025 increased by 6.7% i.e., from Rs 146,070 million in the first semester of 2024. This rise was mainly explained by imports of “Food and live animals” (+14.5%), “Machinery & transport equipment” (+9.3%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+7.1%), “Mineral fuels, lubricants, & related products” (+3.9%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+1.5%) and “Chemicals and related products” (+1.1%).

**4.2 Imports by SITC section (Table 10) – 2nd Quarter 2025**

Around 23.7% of imports in the second quarter of 2025 consisted of “Machinery and transport equipment” (Rs 19,443 million), 23.6% of “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (Rs 19,337 million), 20.1% of “Food and live animals” (Rs 16,463 million), 11.2% of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (Rs 9,204 million), 8.5% of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (Rs 6,948 million) and 8.0% of “Chemicals and related products” and (Rs 6,560 million).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total imports for the second quarter 2025 increased by 7.4%. Main changes by section are as follows:

* “Food and live animals” increased by 23.2%, mainly due to increases in the imports of “Fish and fish preparations” (+60.7%) and “Dairy products and bird’s eggs” (+37.3%), partly offset by decreases in the imports of “Vegetables and fruits”   
  (-3.2%) and “Meat and meat preparations” (-0.4%).
* “Machinery and transport equipment” increased by 12.0%, mainly due to increases in the imports of “Road vehicles” (+25.0%), “Telecommunications & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment” (+23.4%), partly offset by decreases in the imports of “General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s., & machine parts, n.e.s” (-0.6%) and “Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances, n.e.s., & electrical parts of household type” (-0.2%).
* “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” increased by 10.8%, mainly due to increases in the imports of “Articles of apparel and clothing” (+23.3%), “Articles n.e.s, of plastic” (+19.7%) and “Footwear” (+10.8%), partly offset by a decrease in the imports of and “Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus, n.e.s” (-17.1%) and “Jewellery, goldsmiths' & silversmiths' wares, n.e.s” (-4.7%).
* “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” increased by 4.0%, mainly due to an increase in the imports of “Refined petroleum products” (+4.6%).
* “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” decreased by 2.7%, mainly due to decreases in the imports of “Other textile fabrics” (-20.1%), “Paper, paperboard & articles thereof” (-7.6%) and “Iron and Steel (-2.8%), partly offset by an increase in the imports of “Manufactures of metal, n.e.s” (+7.4%) and “Cement” (+4.2%).
* “Chemicals and related products” decreased by 2.4%, mainly due to decreases in the imports of “Plastics in primary forms” (-26.5%), “Plastics in non-primary forms”   
  (-17.1%) and “Dyeing & tanning materials” (-11.0%), partly offset by an increase in the imports of “Medicinal & pharmaceutical products” (+3.5%).
  1. **Imports by country of origin – 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 2025**

During the second quarter of 2025, our imports originated from five main countries, namely: China (16.5%), U.A.E. (16.3%), India (8.4%), South Africa (6.2%) and France (6.0%)   
(*Table 13*). Among continents Asia was our main supplier with a share of Rs 45,276 million, representing 55.3% of total imports.

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024, total imports from U.A.E., China and France rose by 26.6%, 20.8% and 2.3% respectively, while imports from South Africa and India declined by 21.8% and 20.8% respectively.



Compared to the corresponding semester of 2024, total imports for the first semester of 2025 from China and U.A.E. have witnessed increases of 8.5% and 5.8% respectively, while imports from India, South Africa and France declined by 26.9%, 12.5% and 1.8% respectively. *(Figure 3)*

**5. Trade with Member States of Regional Organizations – 2nd Quarter 2025**

During the second quarter of 2025, total exports to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States stood at Rs 5,468 million against imports of Rs 9,320 million (*Table 14*). The trade deficit with ACP countries worked out to Rs 3,852 million. The main buyers were South Africa and Madagascar with shares of 43.0% and 31.4% and our main supplier was South Africa with a share of 54.0%.

Exports for the second quarter of 2025 to COMESA member states attained Rs 2,871 million while imports amounted to around Rs 3,267 million, resulting in a trade deficit of Rs 396 million. Madagascar was the main buyer with a share of 59.7%, followed by Kenya (26.8%). Our main suppliers were Egypt (28.9%), Democratic Republic of Congo (27.6%) and Seychelles (18.6%) (*Table 15*).

Trade with SADC countries showed a deficit of Rs 2,746 million, resulting from imports of Rs 7,153 million against exports worth Rs 4,407 million for the second quarter of 2025. The main suppliers were South Africa (70.4,%), Democratic Republic of Congo (12.6%) and Seychelles (8.5%) and our main buyers were South Africa (53.3%) and Madagascar (38.9%) (*Table 16*).

**6. Trade in Freeport Zone – 2nd Quarter 2025**

During the second quarter of 2025, total imports of the Freeport Zone stood at   
Rs 3,739 million, higher by 39.5% compared to the corresponding quarter of 2024 and by 30.7% compared to the previous quarter – (*Table 12*). Compared to corresponding semester of 2024, freeport imports rose by 23.1% and for this period, the main items imported were “Food and live animals” (29.0%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (25.3), and “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s” (18.0%).

Re-exports of the Freeport Zone for the second quarter of 2025 were valued at   
Rs 3,795 million, representing an increase of 11.8% compared to the corresponding period of 2024 (*Table 6*), and by 3.0% compared to the previous quarter. Compared to the corresponding semester of 2024, an increase of 12.7% was recorded in the first semester of 2025. The main items re-exported were “Food and live animals” (33.3%), “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (26.5%), and “Chemicals and related products” (16.6%).

**7. Forecast 2025**

Based on trends and information from various sources, the forecast for year 2025 for both total exports and total imports have been maintained at the previous forecast figures.

Total exports for 2025 will be 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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**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

1. Ships stores and bunkers, which consist of jet fuel and victuals supplied to foreign vessels and aircraft, are included in total exports and are shown separately [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Domestic exports are defined as goods of national origin. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Re-exports are goods which are exported in the same condition as imported or after undergoing minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-3)