



MAURITIUS

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External Trade - 1983

1. General

The total value of trade of the country for the year 1983 amounted to Rs 9,785 million as compared with Rs 9,411 million in 1982, thus showing an increase of 4% in value over the previous year. However, the increase in volume terms has been only 2%.

The share of imports in the total value of trade in 1983 has been Rs 5,153 million and that of exports Rs 4,632 million resulting in a deficit of Rs 521 million in the visible trade of the country. It will be recalled that this deficit was Rs 1,699 million and Rs 685 million in 1981 and 1982 respectively. (see Table I).

In 1983, the overall prices of imported commodities fell by about 2%, whereas those of exported goods rose by just under 7%. The terms of trade of the country has therefore improved by 9% with respect to 1982. Such an improvement occurred for the last time in 1974 when the terms of trade with respect to 1973 was 152 due to the boom in sugar prices. In all the intervening years the terms of trade was unfavourable to Mauritius. (See Table II).

2. Imports

The value of imports has increased by 2.1% and since the overall imports price level has decreased by 2% over the previous year, the volume of imports has increased by 4%. The value of imports has been affected on the one hand by increases in the value of imports of textile yarn and fabrics (+Rs 94 m) and in certain types of machinery and transport equipment (+Rs 168 m) and on the other hand by decreases in the value of imports of rice (-Rs 87 m), wheaten flour (- Rs 39 m), dairy products (- Rs 28 m), synthetic fibres (- Rs 22m) and industrial machinery (- Rs 37.9 m).

Table III shows the main changes that have occurred in the value of imports in 1983 with respect to 1982. The structure of imports by commodity classes in 1983 shows little change over that of 1982 with the exception of a decline in the share of food imports from 24.4% to 21.5% with a corresponding rise in that of machinery from 9.9% to 12.1%. Table IV illustrates this fact. Some of the main items in the imports bill of the country in 1983 were petroleum products (Rs 954 m), textiles (Rs 592 m), machinery (Rs 545 m), chemicals (Rs 402 m), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs 270 m), rice (Rs 210 m), flour (Rs 176 m) and cement (Rs 163 m). (See Table VI).

Imports for industries in the Export Processing zone rose from Rs 742 million in 1982 to Rs 846 million in 1983.

The country's/

The country's main sources of supply have been the EEC countries (Rs 1,615 m) of which the United Kingdom (Rs 449 m) and France (Rs 611 m). Next come Bahrain (Rs 923 m), the Republic of South Africa (Rs 449 m), Japan (Rs 250 m), Australia (Rs 242 m) and Mainland China (Rs 236 m). Table VIII lists the main sources of supply of the country.

3. Exports

The total value of exports has increased by Rs 269 million from Rs 4,363 million in 1982 to Rs 4,632 million in 1983 showing an increase in value of 6.2%. As the exports price level has also increased by about 7%, there has been a slight decrease of less than 1% in volume. The breakdown of total exports is as follows:-

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u> (Rs million)
Total exports	<u>4,363</u>	<u>4,632</u>
Domestic exports	3,899	4,224
Re-exports	90	88
Ships' stores & Bunkers	374	320

Sugar exports reached 608 thousand metric tons valued at Rs 2,679 million in 1983 as compared with 596 thousand metric tons for Rs 2,463 million in the previous year. They accounted for 62% of total exports a percentage similar for the previous year.

The second biggest foreign exchange earner, Export Enterprise Certificate Industries contributed 30% to total exports. The total value of EPZ exports in 1983 amounted to Rs 1,305 million out of which Rs 1,004 million represented the exports of textile and clothing. In 1982, these figures were Rs 1,236 million and Rs 972 million respectively.

The tea industry performed very well in 1983 on the export market. The quantity of tea exported rose from 4,400 to 4,900 metric tons, an 11% increase. In addition, due to the high average price obtained, earnings increased by Rs 30 million to reach Rs 97 million in 1983.

Another important export earner was molasses (Rs 63 m).

The EEC countries remain a privileged market for the country. In 1983, 86% of exports were directed to these countries with Rs 2,194 million to the United Kingdom, Rs 1,010 million to France and Rs 167 million to the German Federal Republic. Another important market in 1983 was the United States of America with the value of exports to this country amounting to Rs 366 million. (see Table VIII).

Table I - Balance of visible trade 1982 and 1983^{1/}

Rs Million

	1982	1983
Exports of goods	3,989	4,312
Domestic exports	(3,899)	(4,224)
Re-exports	(90)	(88)
Ships' stores and bunkers	374	320
A. TOTAL EXPORTS (f.o.b.)	4,363	4,632
B. TOTAL IMPORTS (c.i.f.)	5,048	5,153
TOTAL VALUE OF TRADE (A) + (B)	<u>9,411</u>	<u>9,785</u>
Balance of visible trade (A)-(B)	- 685	- 521

Table II - Price (unit value) indices of exports and imports and terms of trade 1982 and 1983

Period	Price Indices		Terms of trade ^{2/}
	Export	Import	
1981 = 100			
1982	111	113	98
1982 = 100			
1983	107	98	109

1/ Provisional

2/ Ratio of export to import price index

Note : A rise in the index indicates that the terms of trade have moved in favour of Mauritius

Table III - Main changes in imports between 1982 and 1983

Commodity	Value: Rs Millions		Changes Increase (+) Decrease (-)
	1982	1983	
Dairy products	228.1	200.0	- 28.1
Fish and fish preparations	84.7	72.5	- 12.2
Rice	297.4	210.1	- 87.3
Maize	30.2	50.3	+ 20.1
Wheaten flour	215.6	176.6	- 39.0
Vegetables, fresh, chilled or frozen	44.5	67.1	+ 22.6
Synthetic fibres	52.9	31.1	- 21.8
Wool and animal hair	105.5	96.3	- 9.2
Other crude minerals	37.0	21.6	- 15.4
Petroleum products refined	908.0	954.2	+ 46.2
Inorganic chemical elements, oxides	50.6	38.7	- 11.9
Textile yarn	189.4	247.9	+ 58.5
Cotton fabrics	50.4	74.4	+ 20.0
Fabrics woven	147.6	162.7	+ 15.1
Steam engines	0.3	57.2	+ 56.9
Rotating electric plant	12.6	61.9	+ 49.3
Textile and leather machinery	41.3	79.7	+ 38.4
Other industrial machinery and equipment	144.2	106.3	- 37.9
Telecommunications equipment and accessories	36.2	59.4	+ 23.2
Scientific instruments and apparatus	38.4	23.3	- 15.1
Watches and clocks	38.3	55.6	+ 17.3
Printed matter	32.6	44.8	+ 12.2

Table IV - Value of Imports by commodity classes - 1982 and 1983^{1/}

Commodity Class	C.I.F. (Rs Mn)		% of total imports		% Change over 1982
	1982	1983	1982	1983	
TOTAL IMPORTS	5,048.2	5,152.7	100.0	100.0	+ 2.1
0. Food and live animals	1,234.2	1,103.3	24.4	21.5	- 11.2
1. Beverages and tobacco	20.8	22.8	0.4	0.5	+ 9.6
2. Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	260.8	227.2	5.2	4.4	- 12.9
3. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	936.9	972.2	18.6	18.9	+ 3.8
4. Animal and vegetable oils and fats	156.6	155.0	3.1	3.0	- 1.0
5. Chemicals	403.5	401.3	8.0	7.8	- 0.4
6. Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials	1,214.1	1,298.2	24.0	25.2	+ 6.9
7. Machinery and transport equipment	499.6	624.7	9.9	12.1	+ 25.0
8. Miscellaneous manufactured articles	317.1	336.2	6.3	6.5	+ 6.0
9. Other commodities & transactions	4.6	6.3	0.1	0.1	+ 37.0

Table V - Value of total exports of goods by commodity classes - 1982 and 1983^{1/}

Commodity Class	F.O.B. (Rs Mn)		% of total exports		% Change over 1982
	1982	1983	1982	1983	
TOTAL EXPORTS OF GOODS	3,988.7	4,312.3	100.0	100.0	+ 8.1
0. Food and live animals	2,682.7	2,942.3	67.3	68.2	+ 9.7
1. Beverages and tobacco	0.8	0.8	-	-	-
2. Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	15.3	18.2	0.4	0.4	(+ 19.0)
3. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0.2	-	-	-	-
4. Animal and vegetable oils and fats	3.3	2.1	0.1	-	(- 36.4)
5. Chemicals	11.0	16.7	0.3	0.4	(+ 51.3)
6. Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	176.7	148.9	4.4	3.5	(- 15.7)
7. Machinery and transport equipment	46.4	39.9	1.2	0.9	(- 14.0)
8. Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,050.9	1,142.1	26.3	26.5	(+ 8.7)
9. Other commodities & transactions	1.3	1.0	-	-	(- 23.1)

^{1/} Provisional

Table VI Imports - Main items 1982 and 1983^{1/}

Commodity	CIF (Rs Million)	
	1982	1983
Rice	297.4	210.1
Wheaten flour	215.6	176.3
Petroleum products	908.0	954.2
Chemicals	403.5	401.8
Oils and fats	156.6	155.0
Textiles	484.3	592.3
Cement	167.4	163.4
Metals and manufactures thereof	270.5	270.2
Machinery	417.3	544.5
Road vehicles	80.6	78.8

Table VII Exports - Main items 1982 and 1983^{1/}

Commodity	F.O.B. (Rs Million)	
	1982	1983
Sugar	2,462.5	2,678.9
Molasses	66.6	64.2
Tea	66.7	97.0
Fish and fish preparations	56.0	76.2
Textile	100.0	76.6
Clothing	893.1	936.2

^{1/} Provisional

Table VIII - Direction of Trade 1982 and 1983^{1/}

Rs Million

Country of Origin/Destination	Imports (C.I.F.)		Total Exports (F.O.B.)	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>5,048.2</u>	<u>5,152.7</u>	<u>3,988.7</u>	<u>4,312.3</u>
Preferential Tariff Countries	<u>3,317.2</u>	<u>3,245.7</u>	<u>3,884.7</u>	<u>4,242.6</u>
E.E.C. Countries	<u>1,454.5</u>	<u>1,615.2</u>	<u>3,426.1</u>	<u>3,689.2</u>
United Kingdom	446.5	448.8	2,123.2	2,194.1
France	511.7	611.3	854.4	1,009.9
Germany Fed. Rep.	193.2	211.2	160.5	166.8
Italy	158.4	205.7	78.5	74.9
Réunion	3.9	4.8	68.2	88.0
Other E.E.C. Countries	140.8	133.4	141.3	155.5
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	<u>1,862.7</u>	<u>1,630.5</u>	<u>458.6</u>	<u>553.4</u>
Australia	303.9	242.4	12.8	12.1
India	161.2	123.0	1.5	2.0
Kenya	164.2	142.5	1.6	0.7
Malaysia	84.1	97.4	4.2	2.1
New Zealand	156.2	141.6	0.3	25.6
Rep. of South Africa	449.2	448.2	40.2	32.6
United States of America	264.8	151.3	323.1	366.2
Singapore	99.5	82.6	6.4	2.7
Canada	9.8	4.7	32.4	69.9
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	<u>169.8</u>	<u>196.8</u>	<u>36.1</u>	<u>39.5</u>
General Tariff Countries	<u>1,731.0</u>	<u>1,907.0</u>	<u>103.9</u>	<u>69.7</u>
Bahrain	754.4	923.0	-	-
China Mainland	234.0	235.8	-	0.1
China Taiwan	85.5	114.1	0.1	0.1
Japan	204.4	250.5	0.6	0.9
Switzerland	51.8	37.2	32.7	23.0
Comoro Islands	-	3.2	12.6	14.2
U.S.S.R.	20.6	1.2	7.8	7.7
Finland	5.6	-	23.3	-
Other General Tariff Countries	374.7	342.0	26.8	23.7

^{1/} Provisional