



MAURITIUS

Economic Indicators

An Occasional Paper

Issue No. 110

6th July 1990

External Trade - First Quarter 1990

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

External Trade - First Quarter 1990

1. Total value of trade and balance of visible trade

During the first quarter of 1990, the country imported around Rs 4,800 million worth of goods and exported for some Rs 3,500 million bringing the total value of trade to Rs 8,300 million. This trade figure is 3% higher than that of the corresponding quarter of 1989 but 18% below the previous quarter's level.

The balance of visible trade consequently resulted in a deficit of Rs 1,300 million as against Rs 1,100 million in the corresponding period of 1989 and Rs 1,400 million in the previous quarter. The negative trade balance recorded in the first quarter of 1990 is mainly due to the lower exports of sugar and the decreasing net export earnings of the EPZ enterprises.

It is pointed out that the balance of visible trade is a component of the balance of payment and relates to the net value of transactions involving merchandise only. It should not therefore be used as the sole indicator of how the country's balance of payments is behaving; the current account which includes merchandise as well as services and required transfers is a more appropriate indicator.

2. Terms of trade

The terms of trade (ratio of export to import price index) for the first quarter of 1990 have improved by 6 points to reach 99 from 93 for the year 1989.

The price level of exported goods, during the 1st quarter 1990 were 8% higher than in 1989 mainly resulting from higher sugar prices (+ 13%) and higher prices of EPZ products (+ 5%). Prices of imported commodities, on the other hand, seem to have remained at the previous year's level when a substantial annual increase of around 20% was recorded.

3. Exports

Total export proceeds for the first three months of 1990 amounted to Rs 3,470 million remaining at the same level as in the corresponding quarter of 1989 although some Rs 800 million lower than in the preceding quarter. The volume of exports was however 10% lower than that of the corresponding period a year earlier.

A lower volume of sugar was exported - 129,000 metric tons for some Rs 1,150 million compared to 163,000 metric tons for Rs 1,300 million a year ago. Consequently, the share of sugar in total exports dropped to 33% from 38%.

EPZ exports, on the other hand, amounted to Rs 2,000 million compared to Rs 1,800 million during the corresponding period of last year and Rs 2,300 million in the previous quarter.

The country's main market remained the EEC which purchased over 80% worth of our goods, exports to U.S.A. to accounted for another 11%.

4. Imports

The import bill for the period January to March 1990 attained around Rs 4,800 million compared to Rs 4,500 million in the corresponding quarter of 1989. As the nominal increase was entirely due to price effects, volumewise imports recorded no growth.

Imports from the EEC accounted for nearly 35% of the total, whilst South Africa and Japan supplied 9% and 6% respectively.

5. The EPZ sector

The EPZ enterprises exported around Rs 2,000 million worth of goods compared to Rs 2,250 million in the previous quarter and Rs 1,800 million in the corresponding period of last year. Though 8% higher in value, by volume, EPZ exports were 2% lower than in the corresponding quarter of 1989.

In the first quarter of 1990, the EPZ sector purchased some Rs 1,680 million worth of raw materials whilst machinery cost around Rs 170 million. The EPZ import bill amounted Rs 1,850 million representing nearly 40% of total imports.

Consequently, net export earnings of the EPZ sector amounted to Rs 150 million representing only 7% of total exports.

It is recalled that this ratio was 16% in the first quarter of 1989 and had declined to 10% in the fourth quarter.

Central Statistical Office
Port Louis

July 1990

External Trade - First Quarter 1990
=====

N O T E S

Figures for 1988, 1989 and 1990 are provisional and subject to revision

1. COVERAGE

EXPORTS

- Cover
1. Domestic exports (including exports from the Export Processing Zone)
 2. Re-Exports
 3. Export ex Warehouse
 4. Returned goods
- Include
1. Government, Parcel Post and Air Freight
- Exclude
1. Trade with Outer Islands
 2. Ships' stores and bunkers

[IMPORTS

- Cover
1. Landed merchandise sent to warehouse for subsequent delivery
 2. Landed merchandise issued for home consumption
- Include
1. Government, Parcel Post and Air Freight
 2. Donations from other Government and International Organisations
- Exclude
1. Trade with Outer Islands
 2. Bullion and specie

2. VALUATION

Exports are valued F.O.B. and imports C.I.F.

F.O.B. Free on Board

C.I.F. Cost, Insurance and Freight

All figures quoted are in Mauritian Rupees

3. COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION

The classification used for the compilation of trade statistics is based on the Standard International Trade Classification (Revised III) or S.I.T.C. (Rev. III). However, import and export bills of entry are being worked upon according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System Nomenclature, shortly known as the Harmonized System Nomenclature (H.S.N.).

4. Rounding of figures

Figures have been rounded off to the nearest final digit and in some cases to the nearest one decimal place and as a result in some tables there may be discrepancies between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

5. SYMBOLS

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

6. ABBREVIATIONS

- Rs : Rupees
- 000 : Thousand
- Mn : Million
- m.ton : Metric ton : 1,000 kilos
- No. : Number
- M² : Square metres

Table 1 - Balance of Visible Trade, 1988 - 1990

Value Rs Mn

	1988	1989	1989				1990 1st Qr.
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Exports of goods	13,465	15,049	3,344	3,597	3,928	4,180	3,352
Domestic exports	13,220	14,542	3,276	3,475	3,853	3,940	3,288
Re-exports	245	506	69	123	76	240	65
Ships' Stores and Bunkers	389	470	125	104	122	120	120
A. Total Exports (f.o.b.)	13,854	15,517	3,469	3,701	4,050	4,300	3,472
B. Total Imports (c.i.f.)	17,460	20,217	4,536	4,824	5,112	5,745	4,779
Total Value of Trade (A + B)	31,314	35,734	8,005	8,525	9,162	10,045	8,251
BAALANCE OF VISIBLE TRADE (A - B)	-3,606	-4,700	-1,067	-1,123	-1,062	-1,445	-1,307

Table 2 - Price (unit value) indices of exports and imports and terms of trade
1984 - 1990

P e r i o d	P r i c e i n d i c e s		T e r m s o f t r a d e *
	E x p o r t	I m p o r t	
	(1982 = 100)		
Base Year 1982 = 100			
1984	119	110	108
1985	136	121	113
1986	144	98	147
1987	161	102	158
1988	172	111	156
Base Year 1988 = 100			
1989 ^{1/}	111	119	93
1989 : Qr. 1	107	114	94
Qr. 2	110	120	92
Qr. 3	115	120	96
Qr. 4	110	118	93
1990 : Qr. 1	119	120	99

* Ratio of export to import price index.

N o t e : A rise in this ratio indicates that the terms of trade have moved in favour of Mauritius.

^{1/} revised

Table 3 - Domestic exports of main commodities - value, 1988 - 1990

F.O.B Value Rs Mn

Commodity/Sector	1988	1989	1989				1990
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.
Sugar	4,467	4,946	1,313	791	1,325	1,516	1,152
Molasses	92	66	4	18	6	39	17
Tea	88	87	27	33	7	20	32
EPZ	8,179	9,057	1,842	2,538	2,423	2,254	1,996
Other	394	386	90	95	92	111	91
Total Exports	13,220	14,542	3,276	3,475	3,853	3,940	3,288

Table 4 - Domestic exports of selected commodities, quantity, 1988 - 1990

Commodity	Unit	1988	1989	1989				1990
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Sugar	(000) m. ton	652	636	163	123	160	190	129
Molasses	"	154	125	5	31	11	78	33
Tea	m. ton	5,501	4,755	1,513	1,800	395	1,047	1,309

Table 5 - Total exports by main countries of destination, 1988 - 1990

F.O.B Value Rs Mn

Country of destination	1988	1989				1990	
		1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
1. <u>Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	<u>12,929</u>	<u>3,241</u>	<u>3,463</u>	<u>3,830</u>	<u>3,883</u>	<u>3,263</u>	
(a) <u>E.E.C Countries</u>	<u>10,622</u>	<u>2,714</u>	<u>2,645</u>	<u>3,077</u>	<u>3,147</u>	<u>2,747</u>	
of which United Kingdom	4,808	1,359	1,510	1,708	1,708	1,033	
France	3,025	700	678	657	657	752	
Fed. Rep. of Germany	1,272	238	486	334	334	225	
(b) <u>Other Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	<u>2,307</u>	<u>527</u>	<u>818</u>	<u>753</u>	<u>737</u>	<u>516</u>	
of which U.S of America	1,785	435	639	509	509	385	
2. <u>General Tariff Countries</u>	<u>536</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>82</u>	
Total Exports	13,465	3,344	3,597	3,928	4,180	3,352	

Table 6 - Imports by section, 1988 - 1990

S.I.T.C. Section	Description	1988	1989	1989				1990
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
0	Food and live animals	1,746	2,347	570	583	594	600	578
1	Beverages & tobacco	66	75	15	14	23	22	16
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	523	748	178	198	220	151	168
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,009	1,509	328	343	396	443	332
4	Animal and vegetable oils and fats	164	220	52	53	46	69	51
5	Chemicals	1,083	1,320	286	301	363	371	327
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	6,130	7,580	1,600	1,865	2,015	2,100	1,870
7	Machinery and transport equipment	5,342	4,639	1,155	1,005	1,019	1,460	1,028
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,362	1,684	333	436	411	504	383
9	Other commodities and transactions	37	95	18	26	25	26	26
	Total imports	17,460	20,217	4,536	4,824	5,112	5,745	4,779

Table 7 - Imports of main commodities, value, 1988 - 1990

C.I.F. Value Rs Mn

Commodity	1988	1989	1989				1990
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Meat and meat preparations	212	240	64	58	48	70	80
Rice	299	412	116	110	114	72	68
Wheaten flour	218	162	94	51	17	-	5
Wheat	-	114	3	27	51	33	52
Dairy products	333	473	108	104	131	130	93
Vegetables and fruits	200	256	43	82	60	71	68
Textile fibres, etc.	322	466	102	149	135	81	107
Refined petroleum products	866	1,338	311	276	364	387	291
Fixed vegetable oils & fats	112	157	35	38	41	43	30
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	207	248	58	60	64	67	70
Textile yarn	1,120	1,385	326	352	362	344	366
Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	321	287	58	62	82	84	61
Textile fabrics	2,569	3,235	686	798	851	900	784
Cement	172	286	63	78	61	84	97
Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones	246	386	75	142	96	72	92
Iron and steel	414	533	115	99	155	163	115
Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.	443	410	78	88	123	120	113
General industrial machinery & equipment	405	538	124	122	163	127	119
Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus & equipment	482	747	160	215	189	183	101
Other machinery	1,810	2,009	480	463	454	612	479
Road vehicles	647	808	172	188	211	235	246
Watches and clocks	427	486	103	141	115	128	120
Other	5,635	5,241	1,162	1,121	1,225	1,739	1,222
Total Imports	17,460	20,217	4,536	4,824	5,112	5,745	4,779

Table 8 - Imports of selected commodities, quantity, 1988 - 1990

Commodity	Unit	1988	1989	1989				1990
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.
Rice	(000) m.ton	72	91	26	24	26	14	14
Wheaten flour	"	59	33	20	11	3	-	18
Wheat	"	-	39	11	10	6	12	18
Dairy products	"	14	14	3	3	4	4	2
Vegetable edible oils and fats	"	21	19	5	5	3	5	4
Fertilizers manufactured	"	40	67	26	14	12	15	13
Cotton fabrics	Mn M ²	74	69	19	15	17	19	16
Cement	(000)m.ton	308	396	92	106	85	113	107
Iron and steel	"	71	78	18	14	23	23	11

Table 9 - Imports by main countries of origin, 1988 - 1990

C.I.F. Value Rs. Mn

Country of origin	1989				1990				
	1988	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.
<u>1. Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	<u>12,542</u>	<u>2,842</u>	<u>3,245</u>	<u>3,461</u>	<u>3,638</u>	<u>3,252</u>			
(a) <u>E.E.C. Countries</u>	<u>5,350</u>	<u>1,582</u>	<u>1,664</u>	<u>1,804</u>	<u>1,872</u>	<u>1,699</u>			
of which France	2,133	595	657	768	726	798			
Fed. Rep. of Germany	902	392	321	375	372	281			
Italy	514	101	143	142	245	133			
United Kingdom	1,259	304	310	326	344	299			
(b) <u>Other Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	<u>7,194</u>	<u>1,260</u>	<u>1,581</u>	<u>1,657</u>	<u>1,766</u>	<u>1,552</u>			
of which Australia	463	136	133	130	113	137			
Rep. of South Africa	1,482	357	429	465	566	419			
U.S. of America	2,119	56	78	74	112	128			
<u>2. General Tariff Countries</u>	<u>4,917</u>	<u>1,694</u>	<u>1,579</u>	<u>1,651</u>	<u>2,107</u>	<u>1,526</u>			
of which Bahrain	367	162	122	159	216	133			
China	671	284	192	261	264	235			
Kuwait	439	133	127	209	154	140			
Japan	1,289	544	408	261	630	308			
Total Imports	17,460	4,536	4,824	5,112	5,745	4,779			

Table 10 - Net EPZ exports, 1988 - 1990

Value Rs Mn

	1988	1989	1989				1990
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
A. Total exports (f.o.b. value)	8,179	9,057	1,842	2,538	2,423	2,254	1,996
B. Total imports (c.i.f. value)	5,890	7,502	1,555	1,928	1,996	2,021	1,851
Net exports (A - B)	2,289	1,555	287	610	427	233	145
Net exports as % of total exports	28%	17%	16%	24%	18%	10%	7%

Table 11 - EPZ exports by main commodities, 1988 - 1990

F.O.B. Value Rs Mn

Description of Item	1988	1989	1989				1990
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.
Fish and fish preparations	173	190	40	51	47	52	32
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles	180	361	76	90	89	106	103
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones	302	325	90	102	77	55	58
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	6,446	7,038	1,349	1,943	1,955	1,791	1,541
Optical goods, n.e.s.	88	133	35	31	37	30	32
Watches and clocks	563	500	140	178	107	75	95
Toys, games and sporting goods	85	91	24	27	20	20	22
Jewellery goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' wares	69	80	20	25	13	22	23
Other	273	340	68	91	78	103	90
Total EPZ Exports	8,179	9,057	1,842	2,538	2,423	2,254	1,996

Table 12.1. 1987 Imports of main commodities, 1988 - 1990

C.I.F. Value Rs Mn

Description of item	1988	1989	1989				1990 1st Qr.
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	
Synthetic fibres suitable for spinning	37	52	5	11	18	17	8
Wool and other animal hair	250	337	92	128	69	47	86
Chemical	182	234	52	57	66	59	59
Leather	68	97	24	21	25	27	22
Textile yarn and fabrics	3,236	4,172	916	1,032	1,110	1,114	1,056
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones	239	379	75	140	93	71	89
Machinery including spare parts	834	963	132	229	260	342	170
Optical goods, watches and clocks, etc.	443	511	105	149	123	134	126
Jewellery	46	43	10	15	6	12	19
Other	555	714	144	146	226	198	216
Total Imports	5,890	7,502	1,555	1,928	1,996	2,021	1,851