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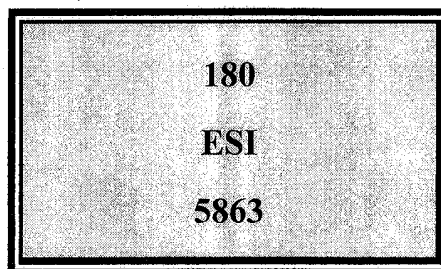
Economic Indicators

An Occasional Paper

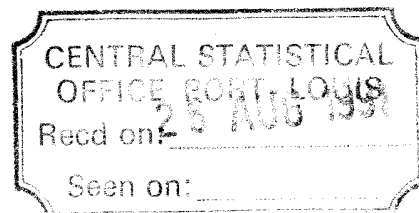
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EXTERNAL TRADE - 2ND QUARTER 1991



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS



External Trade - 2nd Quarter 1991

1. Total trade and balance of visible trade

The value of total international trade attained Rs 9,630 million; during the 2nd quarter of 1991 almost the same level as that of the previous quarter but some 8% below 1990 corresponding quarter's level .

The second quarter is usually unfavourable for the trade balance of the country as export earnings from sugar are usually at a minimum. Accordingly the second quarter ended with a deficit of some Rs 1,600 million which compares with Rs 1,300 million for the previous quarter and Rs 2,100 million for the corresponding quarter of 1990. It is, however, recalled that the latter includes imports of around Rs 650 million, representing the purchase of aircraft.

With exports worth of Rs 8,200 million and an import bill of Rs 11,100 million, the first semester of 1991 registered a trade deficit of Rs 2,900 million showing an improvement of some Rs 500 million over last year's deficit of Rs 3,400 million. But the latter includes the purchase of aircraft, ignoring which the trade balance for January - June 1990 amounted to around Rs 2,700 million.

2. Terms of Trade (Base year: 1988 = 100)

After rising by one percentage point during the first quarter of 1991, the terms of trade for the second quarter of 1991 improved further by one point to reach 100. Export prices were 2% higher, whilst import prices went up by 1% relative to the first quarter.

3. Exports

Export proceeds during the 2nd quarter totalled Rs 4,000 million compared to Rs 4,200 million in the previous quarter. Sugar fetched Rs 438 million only compared to Rs 1,338 million in the previous quarter and some Rs 600 million in the corresponding quarter of 1990. EPZ exports amounted to Rs 3,150 million compared with Rs 2,300 million in the previous quarter and Rs 3,200 million in the corresponding quarter of 1990.

Total exports for the first semester accordingly reached Rs 8,200 million, representing a nominal increase of 7% over the corresponding period of 1990 but in volume terms, exports grew marginally by 1%.

(ii)

Comparative export figures for the first semester of 1990 and 1991 are given below:-

(Fob value Rs Mn)

Commodity	Jan-June 1990	Jan-June 1991	Change
Sugar	1,786	1,776	-10
EPZ	5,207	5,435	+228
Re-Exports	177	476	+299
Other	505	520	+15
Total Exports	<u>7,675</u>	<u>8,207</u>	<u>+532</u>

The country's main market remained the European Economic Community (EEC) which purchased nearly 80% of our exports. The United States accounted for 13% of the total.

4. Imports

Total imports during the second quarter of 1991 increased by 3% to reach Rs 5,600 million from Rs 5,400 million in the first quarter. The total for the first semester therefore attained Rs 11,000 million which is almost the same level as that in the corresponding period of 1990. However, exclusive of aircraft purchased last year, imports were Rs 650 million or 6% higher. As prices between these two periods are estimated to have increased by around 9%, in volume terms, imports registered a decrease of 3%. as shown in the table below, all product groups (exclusive of aircraft) have recorded increases with the exception of EPZ purchase of raw materials which fell by 12% or Rs 436 million.

(iii)

The comparative table below shows imports during the first semester of 1990 and 1991 classified by main product group.

(C.I.F Rs Million)

Product/Product Group	1st Semester 1990	1st Semester 1991	Change
1. Food and beverages	1,234	1,276	+ 42
2. Petroleum products	726	998	+272
3. Chemicals	736	827	+ 91
4. EPZ: Raw Materials	3,515	3,079	-436
Machinery	318	359	+ 41
5. Other manufactured goods	1,382	1,963	+581
6. Machinery (excluding EPZ)	1,902	2,046	+144
7. Aircraft	650	-	-650
8. Other goods	602	528	- 74
Total Imports	11,065	11,076	+11

Over 33% of our imports were purchased from the EEC with France supplying 12% worth of goods. Other major supplies were the Republic of South Africa accounting for 12%, Japan, 7% and China, 4%.

5. The EPZ Sector

During the second quarter, the EPZ enterprises exported some Rs 3,150 million worth of goods bringing the total for the first semester to Rs 5,400 million. This figure compares with Rs 5,200 million achieved last year and represents a nominal increase of 4% only. As price increases between these two periods are estimated to have been around 10%, in volume terms, EPZ exports decreased by around 5%.

Imports of raw materials during the first semester amounted to around Rs 3,100 million, some Rs 400 million lower than in the corresponding semester of 1990. Further, around Rs 360 million of machinery including spare parts were purchased compared to Rs 320 million last year.

Net EPZ exports for the first six months of the year therefore yielded Rs 2,000 million compared to around Rs 1,400 million in the corresponding period of 1990. The ratio of net exports to exports however, maintained the level of 36% recorded for the year 1990.

6. Forecast - Year 1991

On the basis of imports and exports data now available for the first six months of the year 1991, and considering likely trends during the second semester, a forecast of external trade for the year 1991 has been attempted. It is estimated that total exports for the year 1991 may reach around Rs 19,000 million and imports, around Rs 24,000 million. Consequently, the trade balance will result in a deficit of the order of Rs 5,000 million, showing an improvement over last year's deficit of around Rs 6,000 million

	(Rs Million)	
	Year 1990	Year 1991 (Forecast)
Exports (f.o.b.)	18,057	19,000
Sugar	(5,100)	(5,200)
EPZ	(11,474)	(12,500)
Imports (c.i.f.)	24,019	24,000
Trade Balance	<u>-5,962</u>	<u>-5,000</u>

Central Statistical Office,
Ministry of Economic Planning and Development,
Port Louis.

August 1991.

External Trade - Second Quarter 1991
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NOTES

Figures for 1989, 1990, and 1991 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
M ²	:	Square metres

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Table 1 - Balance of Visible Trade, 1989 - 1991

Value Rs Mn

	1989	1990 ^{1/}				1991			
		1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.
Exports of goods	<u>15,049</u>	<u>3,376</u>	<u>4,055</u>	<u>5,025</u>	<u>5,113</u>	<u>4,076</u>	<u>3,687</u>		
Domestic exports	14,542	3,310	3,944	4,943	5,014	3,763	3,724		
Re-exports	506	66	111	82	100	313	163		
Ships' Stores and Bunkers	<u>470</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>122</u>		
A. Total Exports (f.o.b.)	15,517	3,498	4,177	5,147	5,235	4,198	4,009		
B. Total Imports (c.i.f.)	20,217	4,822	6,243	6,763	6,191	5,454	5,622		
Total Value of Trade (A + B)	35,734	8,320	10,420	11,910	11,426	9,652	9,631		
BALANCE OF VISIBLE TRADE (A - B)	-4,700	-1,324	-2,066	-1,616	-956	-1,256	-1,613		

^{1/} revised

Table 2 - Price (unit value) indices of exports and imports and terms of trade
1984 - 1991

P e r i o d	Price indices		Terms of trade*
	Export	Import	
	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	111	119	93
1990	125	127	98
1990 : Qr. 1	119	120	99
Qr. 2	128	120	107
Qr. 3	130	131	99
Qr. 4	124	133	93
1991 : Qr. 1	130	131	99
Qr. 2	132	132	100

* Ratio of export to import price index.

A rise in this ratio indicates that the terms of trade have moved in favour of Mauritius.

Table 3 - Domestic exports of main commodities - value, 1989 - 1991

F.O.B Value Rs Mn

Commodity/Sector	1989	1990	1990				1991	
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
Sugar	4,946	5,104	1,184	602	1,664	1,654	1,338	438
Molasses	66	102	17	7	38	40	15	6
Tea	87	84	32	28	10	14	32	18
EPZ	9,057	11,474	1,986	3,221	3,131	3,136	2,292	3,143
Other	386	447	91	86	101	169	86	119
Total Exports	14,542	17,211	3,310	3,944	4,944	5,013	3,763	3,724

Table 4 - Domestic exports of selected commodities, quantity, 1989 - 1991

Commodity	Unit	1989	1990	1991					
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.		
Sugar	(000) m. ton	636	578	129	60	180	209	144	47
Molasses	"	125	161	33	11	51	66	18	6
Tea	m. ton	4,755	4,271	1,277	1,268	892	834	1,623	1,008

Table 5 - Total exports by main countries of destination, 1989 - 1991

F.O.B. Value Rs Mn

Country of destination	1989	1990	1990				1991	
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
1. <u>Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	<u>14,417</u>	<u>16,990</u>	<u>3,286</u>	<u>3,933</u>	<u>4,907</u>	<u>4,864</u>	<u>3,909</u>	<u>3,683</u>
(a) <u>E.E.C. Countries</u>	<u>11,583</u>	<u>13,997</u>	<u>2,775</u>	<u>3,106</u>	<u>4,078</u>	<u>4,038</u>	<u>3,295</u>	<u>2,984</u>
of which United Kingdom	5,384	6,289	1,431	817	2,159	1,882	1,694	847
France	2,986	3,981	752	1,252	928	1,049	764	1,001
Fed. Rep. of Germany	1,391	1,528	225	350	497	456	412	545
Italy	570	793	150	202	178	263	200	224
(b) <u>Other Preferential Tariff Countries</u>	<u>2,835</u>	<u>2,993</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>826</u>	<u>614</u>	<u>692</u>
of which U.S. of America	2,076	2,307	379	615	667	646	337	524
2. <u>General Tariff Countries</u>	<u>632</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>204</u>
Total Exports	15,049	17,569	3,376	4,055	5,025	5,113	4,076	3,887

Table 6 -- Imports by section, 1989 - 1991

C.I.F. Value Rs Mn

S.I.T.C. Section	Description	1989	1990 ^{1/}	1990				1991	
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
0	Food and live animals	2,347	2,611	588	617	729	677	644	583
1	Beverages & tobacco	75	90	16	13	29	32	23	26
2	Crude materials inedible, except fuels	748	765	168	264	182	151	171	182
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,509	1,939	332	394	577	636	566	432
4	Animal and vegetable oils and fats	220	233	51	54	72	56	66	45
5	Chemicals	1,320	1,619	328	408	454	429	393	434
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	7,580	8,360	1,901	2,166	2,236	2,057	1,904	2,119
7	Machinery and transport equipment	4,639	6,366	1,028	1,842	1,974	1,522	1,190	1,215
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,684	1,869	383	447	469	570	462	557
9	Other commodities and transactions	95	167	27	38	41	61	35	29
	Total Imports	20,217	24,019	4,822	6,243	6,763	6,191	5,454	5,622

1/ revised

Table 7 - Imports of main commodities, value, 1989 - 1991

C.I.F. Value Rs Mn

Commodity	1989	1990	1990				1991	
			1990				1991	
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
Meat and meat preparations	240	329	80	55	78	115	65	69
Rice	412	401	68	85	190	58	88	56
Wheat	162	24	5	-	15	4	28	12
Wheaten flour	114	203	52	71	18	62	-	29
Dairy products	473	513	93	133	142	145	149	119
Vegetables and fruits	256	289	69	81	69	71	79	91
Textile fibres, etc.	466	414	107	123	97	88	95	97
Refined petroleum products	1,338	1,739	291	359	528	562	527	355
Fixed vegetable oils & fats	157	167	30	37	57	42	59	31
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	248	288	70	80	76	62	66	82
Textile yarn	1,385	1,470	366	384	362	359	389	414
Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	287	312	61	88	82	82	89	93
Textile fabrics	3,235	3,323	816	875	876	754	653	731
Cement	286	415	97	94	114	110	104	131
Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones	386	357	92	93	94	78	74	96
Iron and steel	533	540	115	150	138	136	132	195
Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.	410	718	113	185	227	192	173	140
General industrial machinery & equipment	538	682	119	184	181	199	142	182
Telecommunications apparatus & equipment and reproducing apparatus & equipment	747	538	101	125	181	130	81	99
Other machinery	2,009	2,431	479	544	638	768	623	554
Road vehicles	808	1,108	246	284	269	309	273	277
Watches and clocks	486	428	120	123	87	101	93	98
Aircraft & marine vessel	500	1,186	-	650	536	-	-	-
Other	4,741	6,144	1,233	1,440	1,708	1,764	1,472	1,671
Total Imports	20,217	24,019	4,822	6,243	6,763	6,191	5,454	5,622

Table 8 - imports of selected commodities, quantity, 1989 - 1991

Commodity	Unit	1989	1990	1990				1991	
				1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
Rice	(000)m.ton	91	84	14	18	38	13	24	13
Wheaten flour	"	33	6	-	-	5	1	7	3
Wheat	"	39	95	18	22	18	36	-	16
Dairy products	"	14	14	2	4	4	4	4	3
Vegetable edible oils and fats	"	19	19	4	4	8	6	8	4
Cotton fabrics	Mn M ²	69	63	16	17	16	15	3	37
Cement	(000)m.ton	396	460	107	101	125	125	89	134
Iron and steel	"	78	66	11	19	17	19	16	24

Table 9 - Imports by main countries of origin, 1989 - 1991

C.I.F Value Rs Mn

Country of origin	1989	1990 ^{1/}	1990				1991	
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
1. <u>Preferential Tariff Countries</u>								
(a) <u>E.E.C Countries</u>								
of which France	13,186	16,897	3,298	4,440	4,864	4,296	3,668	4,069
Fed. Rep. of Germany	6,923	8,644	1,743	2,020	2,749	2,132	1,801	1,874
Italy	2,746	3,525	841	947	962	775	645	699
United Kingdom	1,462	1,690	281	311	727	370	419	357
	632	625	133	140	187	165	156	149
	1,284	1,702	299	376	445	582	379	431
(b) <u>Other Preferential Tariff Countries</u>								
of which Australia	6,263	8,253	1,555	2,420	2,115	2,164	1,867	2,195
Rep. of South Africa	512	581	137	162	141	141	158	178
U.S. of America	1,817	2,110	419	471	523	697	477	676
	321	1,102	128	677	182	115	143	185
	7,031	7,122	1,526	1,801	1,899	1,896	1,786	1,553
2. <u>General Tariff Countries</u>								
of which Bahrain	658	789	133	217	132	307	169	98
China	1,000	810	235	183	176	216	250	213
Japan	1,843	1,454	308	382	355	409	388	415
Total Imports	20,217	24,019	4,822	6,243	6,763	6,191	5,454	5,622

Table 10 -- Net EPZ exports, 1989 - 1991

Value Rs Mn

	1989	1990	1990				1991	
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
A. Total exports (f.o.b value)	9,057	11,474	1,986	3,221	3,132	3,135	2,292	3,143
B. Total imports (c.i.f value)	7,502	7,348	1,894	1,939	1,836	1,679	1,701	1,737
Net exports (A - B)	1,555	4,126	92	1,282	1,296	1,456	591	1,406
Net exports as % of total exports	17%	36%	5%	40%	41%	46%	26%	45%

Table 11 - EPZ exports by main commodities, 1989 - 1991

Description of Item	1989	1990	F.O.B. Value Rs Mn					
			1990				1991	
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	
Fish and fish preparations	190	142	31	41	20	50	54	78
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles	361	498	103	117	104	174	110	119
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones	325	354	58	110	91	95	74	100
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	7,038	9,085	1,533	2,556	2,553	2,443	1,759	2,481
Optical goods, n.e.s.	133	124	31	30	26	37	30	39
Watches and clocks	500	616	95	193	173	155	131	147
Toys, games and sporting goods	91	126	22	34	34	36	29	31
Jewellery goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares	80	139	23	38	35	43	29	42
Other	340	390	90	102	96	102	76	106
Total EPZ Exports	9,057	11,474	1,986	3,221	3,132	3,135	2,292	3,143

Table 12 -- EPZ imports of main commodities, 1989 -- 1991

Description of item	1989	1990	C.I.F. Value Rs Mn						
			1990					1991	
			1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	
Synthetic fibres suitable for spinning	52	49	8	13	24	3	15	8	
Wool and other animal hair	337	258	86	78	49	45	49	62	
Chemicals	234	289	59	75	78	77	84	70	
Leather	97	104	22	29	29	24	27	23	
Textile yarn and fabrics	4,172	4,182	1,089	1,135	1,083	874	917	1,007	
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones	379	336	89	90	83	73	66	88	
Machinery including spare parts	963	794	170	148	210	266	202	157	
Optical goods, watches and clocks, etc.	511	450	126	130	92	104	95	100	
Jewellery	43	65	19	12	13	22	26	37	
Other	714	821	226	229	175	191	220	185	
Total imports	7,502	7,348	1,894	1,959	1,836	1,679	1,701	1,737	