Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)

**1st Quarter 2022**

## 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 2022.

## It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the first quarter of 2022 as well as figures for the years 2020 and 2021. Table 1 shows the main indicators of the EOE sector for the period 2013 to 2021.

## 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 2022**

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, employment in EOE decreased by 120 (-0.3%) from 35,024 to 34,904. Male employment dropped by 140 from 18,753 to 18,613 while female employment increased by 20 from 16,271 to 16,291 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector increased by 294 (+1.5%) (+108 males and +186 females) from 19,908 to 20,202 and the number of foreign workers decreased by 414 (-2.7%) (-248 males and -166 females) from 15,116 at the end of December 2021 to 14,702 at the end of March 2022 (Table 2).

The decrease of 120 in employment in the EOE sector during the first quarter of 2022 is the net result of 857 jobs lost and 737 jobs created. The job losses were due to some contraction of workforce whilst jobs created were due to expansion in existing enterprises.

## 2.2 Evolution of employment from March 2021 to March 2022

From March 2021 to March 2022, total employment in EOE decreased by 1,603 (-4.4%) from 36,507 to 34,904. The number of Mauritian workers increased by 807 (+222 males and +585 females). Employment of foreign workers decreased by 2,410 (-1,679 males and -731 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

Job losses occurred mainly in enterprises engaged in the manufacture of “Wearing apparel” with a decrease of 1,611 jobs (Table 4).

 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 2020 are final, those for 2021 and first quarter 2022 are provisional and subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

**3.1 Exports and Imports – 1st Quarter 2022**

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the first quarter of 2022 amounted to R 10,932 million, that is, R 519 million (-4.5%) lower compared to the fourth quarter of 2021 (Table 6). That was mainly the result of decreases observed in exports of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles” (-R 161 million or -11.1%) and “Fish & fish preparations” (-R 107 million or -4.2%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, EOE exports increased by R 1,550 million (+16.5%).

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

South Africa, United Kingdom (UK), France and United States of America (USA) remain the principal EOE markets, together accounting for R 5,937 million (54.3%) 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 2022** | **Change on**  |
| **Q4 2021** | **Q1 2021** |
| South Africa | 1,775 | -236 | +212 |
| United Kingdom | 1,460 | +63 | +47 |
| France | 1,370 | +135 | +376 |
| USA | 1,332 | +131 | +415 |

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to our main markets showed increases as follows: France (+10.9%), USA (+10.9%) and United Kingdom (+4.5%). However, a decrease of 11.7% in exports towards South Africa was observed.

When compared to the first quarter of 2021, increases of 45.3%, 37.8%, 13.6% and 3.3% were noted for USA, France, South Africa and United Kingdom respectively.

Further details are given in Table 9.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the first quarter of 2022 were estimated at R 7,483 million, representing a decrease of R 284 million (-3.7%) compared to the fourthquarter of 2021. This decrease is mainly due to lower imports of raw material by R 301 million (-4.1%) (Table 6).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, imports increased by R 2,115 million (+39.4%), mainly due to increases in imports of “Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones” by R 753 million (+187.8%), “Cotton” by R 353 million (+120.5%), “Jewellery, goldsmiths & silversmiths wares” by R 174 million (+183.2%) and “Textile yarn and fabrics” by R 156 million (+15.8%).

 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 3,449 million in the first quarter of 2022 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 31.5 % compared to 42.8 % in the corresponding quarter of 2021 (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 5 million in the first quarter of 2022 compared to R 36 million in the first quarter of 2021. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

**Statistics Mauritius**

# Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development

Port Louis

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**Contact Persons:**

Mrs. T. Joomun, Statistician

Mrs. O. Anadachee, Senior Statistical Officer

Statistics Unit,

Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

8th Floor, Air Mauritius Bldg.

Port-Louis.

Tel.: (230) 260 3326 / 210 7100

Email: cso\_industry@govmu.org

Website: http://statsmauritius.govmu.org