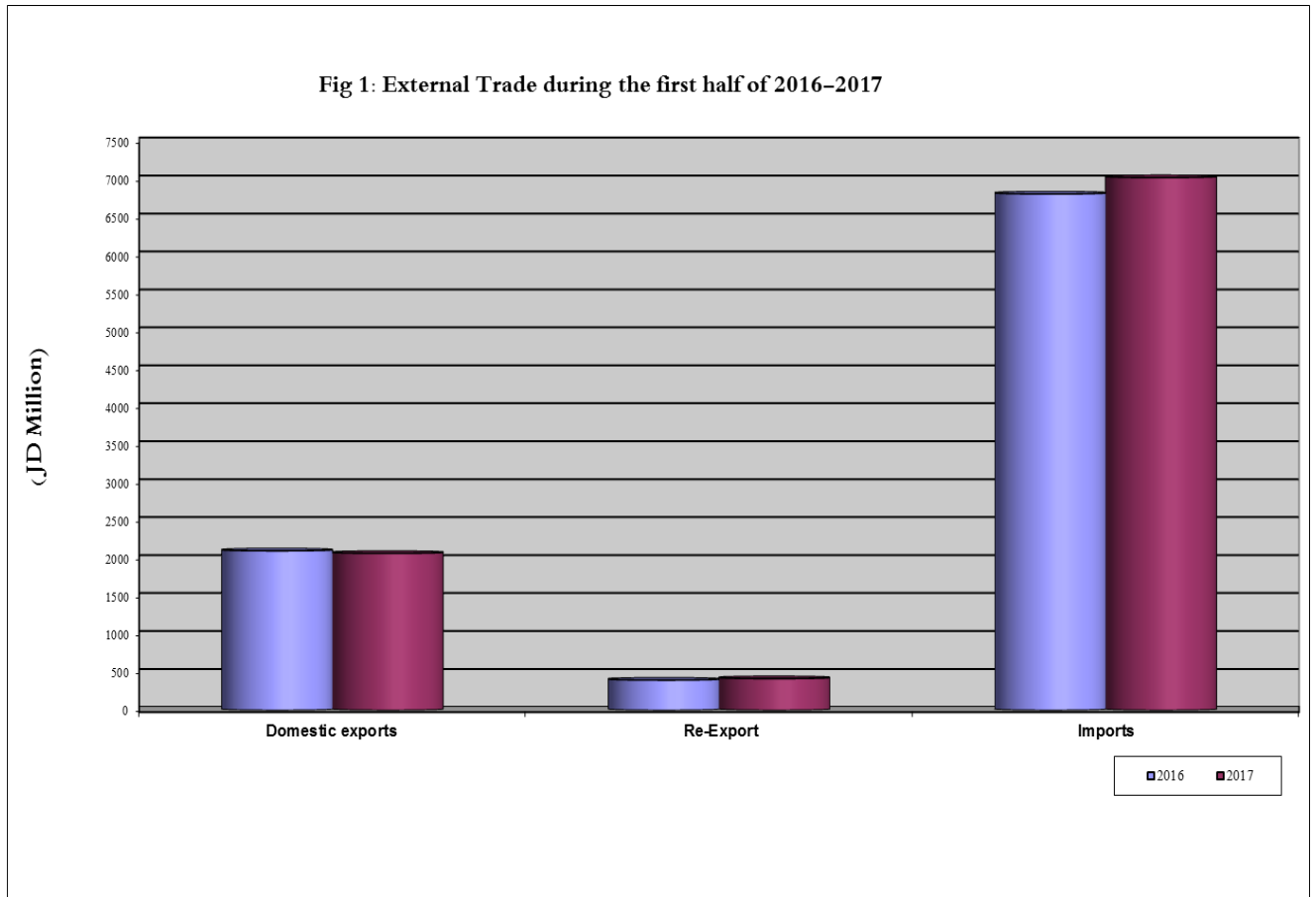


National exports decrease by 1.6% and Imports increase by 3.2% during 1st half of 2017 compared with the same period of 2016

The statistical data issued by the Department of Statistics indicate that the value of total exports reached JD. 2493.6 million During the 1st half of 2017 [i.e., a decrease by 0.6% compared with the same period of 2016]. Meanwhile, the national exports value reached JD. 2071.9 Million during the 1st half of 2017[i.e. a decrease by 1.6% compared with the same period of 2016]. The value of re-exports reached JD.421.7 million during the 1st half of 2017 which indicates an increase by 4.8% as compared with the same period of 2016. The imports value reached JD.7023.0 million during the 1st half of 2017, thus increasing by 3.2% compared with the same period of 2016.

The deficit in the trade balance, which is calculated by deducting the value of imports from the value of total exports, has reached JD.4529.4 million therefore; the deficit has increased during the 1st half of 2017 by 5.3% compared with the same period of 2016. The imports coverage by total exports has become 35.5% during the 1st half of 2017 while it was 36.8% for the same period of 2016, which means a decrease by 1.3% percentage points.



As for commodities, the main exported items that witnessed an increase in their export value were export value of clothes and its related accessories by 8.7%, crude potash 25.8% and fertilizers by 16.7%, while there was a decrease in the export value of pharmaceutical products by 11.3%, crude phosphate by 15.5% and vegetables and fruits by 15.9%. As for imports, there was an increase in the imports value of crude oil and its products by 20.9%, machines, machinery and their part 56.5%, ornaments and jewelry by 75.9%, while there was a decrease in the imports value of vehicles and motorcycles and their parts by 3.0%, electrical appliances and machines and their related parts 1.1% and iron and its products by 22.2%.

Regarding trade with the main partners, there was a significant increase in the national exports to North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by 5.9% part of which USA by 6.1%, and Non-Arab Asian Countries by 9.4% part of which India by 7.1% While there was a decrease in the exports value to the Greater Arab Trade Zone countries by 10.8% part of which KSA by 22.0% and the European Union countries by 7.6% part of which is Italy by

42.5%. As for the imports, there was a noticeable increase in the imports value from the Greater Arab Trade Zone countries by 8.0% part of which KSA by 5.1%, the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by 69.9% part of which USA by 75.4%.while there was a decrease in the value of imports from the Non-Arab Asian Countries by 4.0% part of which is Turkey by 0.1%, and the European Union countries by 13.5% part of which is Germany by 6.7%.

Regarding the value of imports from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, it has reached JD.1285.8 million representing 18.3% of the total imports during the 1st half of 2017, while the total exports to these countries have reached JD.598.8 million representing 24.0% of the total exports during the same period.

The main reasons behind the decreasing value of national exports during 1st half of 2017 are attributed to a decrease in the value of national exports of the following commodities compared with the same period of 2016:

- 1- Fruits from JD. 29.4 million to JD. 17.2 million – a decrease by 41.5%.
- 1- Non- organic Chemical products from JD. 17.8 million to JD. 8.3 million – a decrease by 53.4%.
- 2- Livestock from JD. 13.3 million to JD 9.1 million- a decrease by 31.6%
- 3- pharmaceutical products from JD. 44.0 million to JD 41.7 million- a decrease by 5.2%

There was also a decrease in the national exports of dairy and eggs and their products, alcoholic liquors and beverages, soap and wash products, plastic and its products, clothes and their knitted accessories, products, products from stone or gypsum or cement, iron and its products, machines and machinery tools and their related parts.

The exports of the above mentioned items made up 53.9% of the total value of the national exports during June. 2017 compared with 60.5% in the same month of 2016.

Clothes have occupied the first rank among the national exported commodities in June 2017; fruits and vegetables came second while pharmaceutical products and crude potash held the third and the fourth ranks respectively.

The data show an increase in the national exports value of fertilizers by 53.8%, crude potash by 35.1%,vegetables by 10.0% in June 2017, also there was an increase in the exports of meat or fish and aluminum and its products.

The most important exported and imported commodities during

1st half 2016 and 2017

Value in (JD Million)

National Exports				Imports			
Commodities	2016	2017	Growth Average %	Commodities	2016	2016	Growth Average %
Clothes	452.9	492.1	8.7	Crude Oil	882.7	1067.1	20.9
Pharmaceutical products	227.5	201.7	-11.3	Machinery and its parts	505.5	791.0	56.5
Crude potash	124.8	157.0	25.8	Vehicles, Motorcycle and their parts	657.9	638.1	-3.0
Crude Phosphates	168.7	142.5	-15.5	Machinery, electrical appliances and their parts	432.2	427.5	-1.1
Vegetables and fruits	168.1	141.4	-15.9	Jewelry and precious metals	149.1	262.2	75.9
fertilizers	95.0	110.9	16.7	Iron and products	310.8	241.8	-22.2
Other items	868.0	826.3	-4.8	Other items	3869.1	3595.3	-7.1
National Exports	2105.0	2071.9	-1.6	Total of Imports (2)	6807.3	7023.0	3.2
Re-exports	402.4	421.7	4.8				
Sum of total Exports (1)	2507.4	2493.6	-0.6	Trade Deficit (1)-(2)	-4299.9	-4529.4	5.3

**Main Trade Partners and Economic Blocs during 1st half
2016 and 2017**

Value in (JD Million)

National Exports				Imports			
Economic Cartels	2016	2017	Growth Average %	Economic Cartels	2016	2017	Growth Average %
Greater Arab Trade Zone countries	1055.7	941.3	-10.8	Greater Arab Trade Zone Countries	1522.2	1644.5	8.0
Of which Saudi Arabia	348.0	271.4	-22.0	Of which Saudi Arabia	812.4	854.2	5.1
North American Free Trade Agreement Countries	496.4	525.5	5.9	North American Free Trade Agreement Countries	521.9	886.6	69.9
Of which USA	473.0	501.8	6.1	Of which USA	448.4	786.6	75.4
Non-Arab Asian countries	358.9	392.7	9.4	Non-Arab Asian countries	2311.7	2219.2	-4.0
Of which India	182.7	195.7	7.1	Of which China	937.5	970.2	3.5
European Union Countries	61.8	57.1	-7.6	European Union Countries	1716.2	1483.7	-13.5
Of which Netherlands	11.4	13.2	15.8	Of which Germany	311.2	290.3	-6.7
Other Economic Cartels	132.2	155.3	17.5	Other Economic Cartels	735.3	789.0	7.3
Of which Free Zone	102.1	112.5	10.2	Of which Nigeria	69.3	113.6	63.9

Fig 2: Exports, Imports and trade Deficit (Jan-June 2017)

