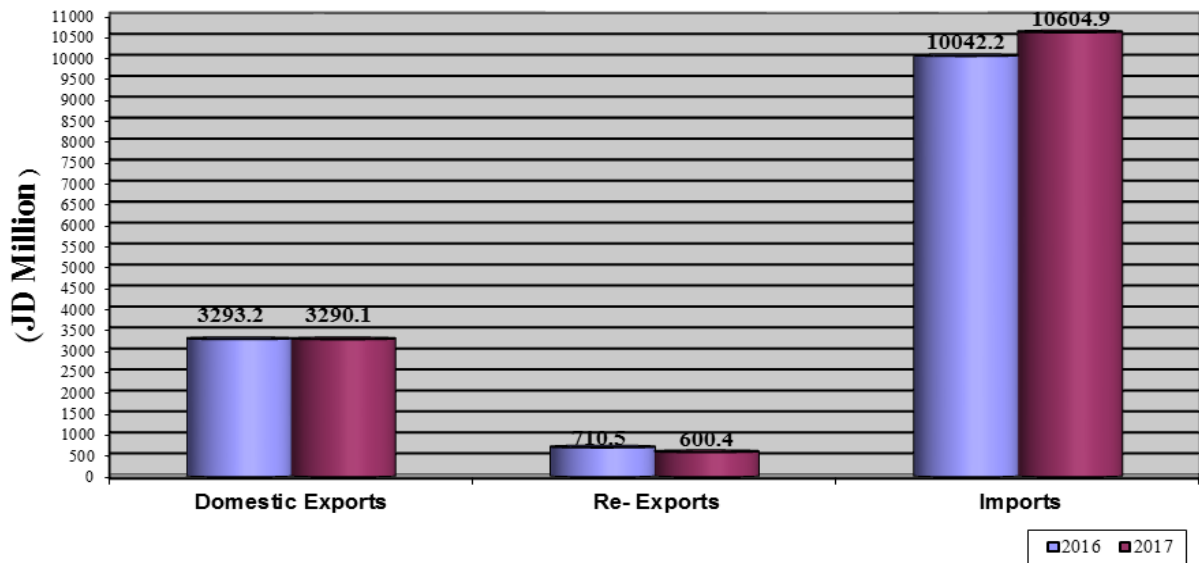


National exports decrease by (0.1%) and Imports increase by 5.6% during 1st nine months of 2017 compared with the same period of 2016

The statistical data issued by the Department of Statistics indicate that the value of total exports reached JD. 3890.5 million During the 1st nine months of 2017 i.e., a decrease by (2.8%) compared with the same period of 2016. Meanwhile, the national exports value reached JD. 3290.1 Million during the 1st nine months of 2017 i.e. a decrease by (0.1%) compared with the same period of 2016. The value of re-exports reached JD.600.4 million during the 1st nine months of 2017 which indicates a decrease by (15.5%) as compared with the same period of 2016. The imports value reached JD.10604.9 million during the 1st nine months of 2017, thus increasing by 5.6% 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.6714.4 million therefore; the deficit has increased during the 1st nine months of 2017 by 11.2% compared with the same period of 2016. The imports coverage by total exports has become 36.7% during the 1st nine months of 2017 while it was 39.9% for the same period of 2016, which means a decrease by (3.2) percentage points.

Fig 1: External Trade during the first nine months of 2016 & 2017



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 7.2%, crude potash 18.1% and fertilizers by 4.3%, while there was a decrease in the export value of pharmaceutical products by (5.9%), vegetables and fruits by (10.0%) and crude phosphate (17.7%). As for imports, there was an increase in the imports value of crude oil and its products by 21.1%, machines, machinery and their part 51.2%, Vehicles, Motorcycle and their parts 5.7%, Machinery, electrical appliances and their parts 6.7%, plastic and its products 0.6% and ornaments and jewelry precious stones 56.7%.

Regarding trade with the main partners, there was a significant increase in the national exports to North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by 5.5% part of which USA by 5.6%, and Non-Arab Asian Countries by 5.6% part of which India by 7.6% While there was a decrease in the national exports value to the Greater Arab Trade Zone countries by (6.6%) part of which KSA by (16.2%) and the European Union countries by (1.0%) part of which is Italy by (27.2%). As for the imports, there was a noticeable increase in the imports value from the

Greater Arab Trade Zone countries by 12.5% part of which KSA by 13.6%, the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by 65.5% part of which USA by 67.6% and Non-Arab Asian Countries by 0.9% part of which china by 5.9%, while there was a decrease in the value of imports from the European Union countries by (8.9%) part of which is Italy by (6.5%).

Regarding the value of imports from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, it has reached JD.1934.2 million representing 18.2% of the total imports during the 1st nine months of 2017, while the total exports to these countries have reached JD.973.2 million representing 25.0% of the total exports during the same period.

The main reasons behind the increasing value of national exports during 1st nine months of 2017 are attributed to an increase in the value of national exports of the following commodities compared with the same period of 2016:

- 1- Clothes and its knitted accessories from JD. 79.2 million to JD. 90.0 million – an increase by 13.6%.
- 2- Vegetables & Fruits from JD. 36.7 million to JD. 46.6 million – an increase by 27.0%.
- 3- pharmaceutical products from JD.32.3 million to JD. 40.6 million- an increase by 25.7%.
- 4- livestock from JD. 4.8 million to JD. 8.4 million – an increase by 75.0%.

There was also an increase in the national exports of ornaments, precious jewelries and products of iron.

The exports of the above mentioned items made up 52.2% of the total value of the national exports during September 2017 compared with 44.3% in the same month of 2016.

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

The data show a decrease in the national exports value of crude potash by (21.9%), non-organic chemical products by (34.1%), fertilizers (17.0%) in September 2017, also there was a decrease in the national exports of non-knitted clothes and its related and Machines and machinery tools and electrical appliances and their related parts.

**The most important exported and imported commodities during
1st nine months of 2016 and 2017**

Value in (JD Million)

National Exports				Imports			
Commodities	2016	2017	Growth Average %	Commodities	2016	2017	Growth Average %
Clothes	765.5	820.7	7.2	Crude Oil	1319.4	1597.5	21.1
Pharmaceutical products	326.3	307.1	-5.9	Machinery and Machinery tools and their parts	738.0	1115.6	51.2
Vegetables and fruits	318.5	286.6	-10.0	Vehicles, Motorcycle and their parts	970.2	1025.4	5.7
Crude Potash	208.7	246.5	18.1	Machinery, electrical appliances and their parts	625.2	666.8	6.7
Crude Phosphates	241.7	199.0	-17.7	Iron and products	369.7	372.0	0.6
fertilizers	168.9	176.2	4.3	Jewelry and precious metals	237.3	371.8	56.7
Other items	1263.6	1254.0	-0.8	Other items	5782.4	5455.8	-5.6
National Exports	3293.2	3290.1	-0.1	Total of Imports (2)	10042.2	10604.9	5.6
Re-exports	710.5	600.4	-15.5				
Sum of total Exports (1)	4003.7	3890.5	-2.8	Trade Deficit (1)-(2)	-6038.5	-6714.4	11.2

**Main Trade Partners and Economic cartels during 1st nine months
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	1610.6	1505.1	-6.6	Greater Arab Trade Zone Countries	2176.5	2447.6	12.5
Of which Saudi Arabia	508.3	425.8	-16.2	Of which Saudi Arabia	1148.8	1305.4	13.6
North American Free Trade Agreement Countries	828.9	874.8	5.5	North American Free Trade Agreement Countries	789.2	1306.4	65.5
Of which USA	794.7	838.9	5.6	Of which USA	674.6	1130.7	67.6
Non-Arab Asian countries	567.7	599.7	5.6	Non-Arab Asian countries	3381.8	3412.5	0.9
Of which India	264.8	285.0	7.6	Of which China	1423.6	1507.9	5.9
European Union Countries	87.8	86.9	-1.0	European Union Countries	2478.7	2259.2	-8.9
Of which Netherlands	14.6	18.5	26.7	Of which Germany	434.1	462.4	6.5
Other Economic Cartels	198.2	223.6	12.8	Other Economic Cartels	1216.0	1179.2	-3.0
Of which Free Zone	149.9	167.2	11.5	Of which Argentine	161.7	145.2	-10.2

Fig 2: Exports, Imports and Trade Deficit (Apr-Sep 2017)

