

INDIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE

(ABSTRACT FROM ECONOMIC SURVEY – GOI, 2016-2017)

India's Merchandise Trade Exports

In line with subdued global growth and trade, India's exports declined by 1.3 per cent and 15.5 per cent in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. The trend of negative growth was reversed somewhat during 2016-17 (April-December), with exports registering a growth of 0.7 per cent to US\$ 198.8 billion from US\$ 197.3 billion in 2015-16 (April-December). During 2016-17 (April-December) Petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) exports constituting 11.1 per cent of total exports declined by 9.8 per cent to US\$ 22.0 billion over corresponding previous period, while non POL exports grew by 2.2 per cent to US \$ 176.8 billion. A large number of export sectors have moved to positive growth territory in April-November 2016-17 as compared to 2015-16.

Region-wise, India's exports to Europe, Africa, America, Asia and CIS and Baltics declined in 2015-16. However, India's exports to Europe, America and Asia increased by 2.6 per cent, 2.4 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively in 2016-17 (April-November), while exports to Africa declined by 13.5 per cent. USA followed by UAE and Hong Kong were the top export destinations.

Imports:

Value of imports declined from US\$ 448 billion in 2014-15 to US\$ 381 billion in 2015-16, mainly on account of decline in crude oil prices resulting in lower levels of POL imports. During 2016-17 (April-December) imports declined by 7.4 per cent to US\$ 275.4 billion compared to the corresponding period of previous year. POL imports declined by 10.8 per cent. Gold and silver imports declined by 35.9 per cent and non-POL and non-gold & silver imports by 2.0 per cent. Positive growth was registered in pearls and semi-precious stones (19.0 per cent) and Food

and allied products (1.3 per cent). Imports of capital goods declined by 8.8 per cent.

India's imports from Europe, Africa, America, Asia and CIS & Baltics regions declined in 2015-16. However, in 2016-17 (April-November), imports from CIS & Baltics region increased by 10.3 per cent while other four regions witnessed decline. Top three import destinations of India were China followed by UAE and USA in 2016-17 (April-November). Trade deficit 8.33 In 2015-16, India's trade deficit declined by 13.8 per cent (vis-à-vis 2014- 15) to US\$ 118.7 billion. Furthermore, it declined by 23.5 per cent to US\$ 76.5 billion in 2016-17 (April-December) as compared to US\$ 100.1 billion in the corresponding period of previous year.