



ກະຊວງອຸດສາຫະກຳ ແລະ ຫານຄ້າ
Ministry of Industry and Commerce

2023

**INTERNATIONAL
MERCHANDISE
Trade Statistics
(IMTS)**





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INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (IMTS)



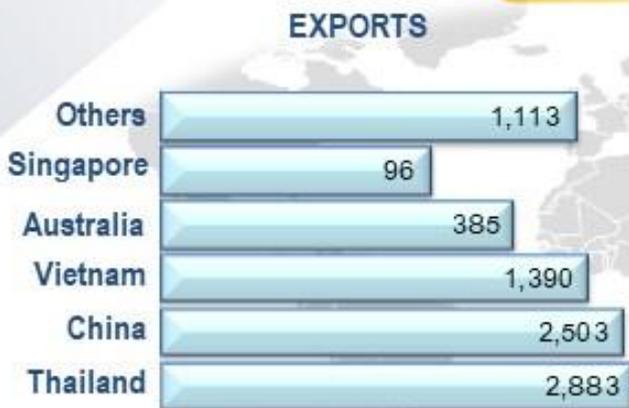
Value (USD Million)

Top 3 Commodities



Value (USD Million)

Major Trading Partners



Value (USD Million)



International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in 2023

Highlights

- Total international trade for 2023 was USD 15,558.5 million, comprising export valued at USD 8,369.7 million and imports amounting to USD 7,188.7 million. This represented an increase of 3.7 percent from USD 15,006.1 million in 2022.
- The trade balance recorded a decrease of 15.0 percent to USD 1,181.1 million from USD 1,389.9 million in 2022.

Table 1: Exports, Imports, Total Trade and Trade Balance

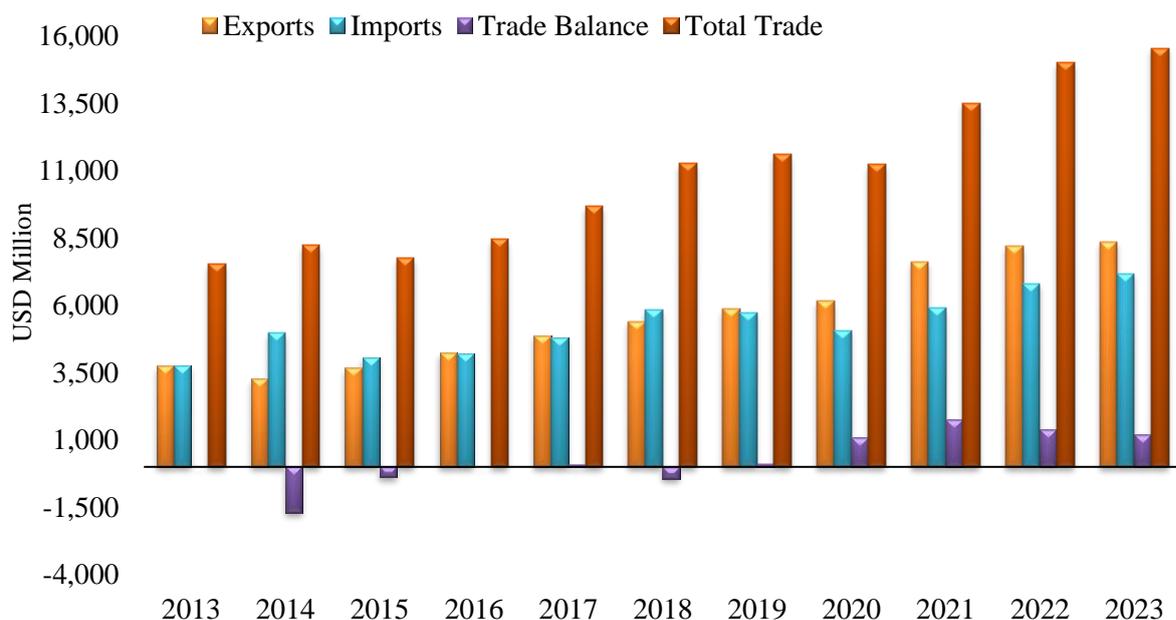
	Value (USD Million)			Change (%)
	2021	2022	2023	(2023/2022)
Total Trade	13,514.2	15,006.1	15,558.5	3.7
Exports	7,626.9	8,198.0	8,369.7	2.1
Imports	5,887.3	6,808.0	7,188.7	5.6
Trade Balance	1,739.6	1,389.9	1,181.1	-15.0

Notes: p= Provisional

Total Trade = Exports + Imports

Total Balance = Exports – Imports

Chart 1: Exports, Imports, Total Trade and Trade Balance



Merchandise Exports

Exports by Commodity Section

The merchandise exports increased by 2.1 percent to USD 8,369.7 million in 2023 from USD 8,198.0 million in 2022. Electricity recorded the highest share of total exports with 28.5 percent (USD 2,381.7 million) Followed by Gold (USD 703.2 million), Paper and paperboard (USD 467.6 million), Copper ores (USD 424.7 million), and Iron ores (USD 410.6 million).

Table 2: Exports by Commodity Sections

Section	Value (USD Million)			Change (%) (2023/2022)
	2021	2022	2023	
Industry	2,498.6	2,975.5	2,768.7	-7.0%
Electricity	2,168.8	2,357.8	2,381.8	1.0%
Minerals	636.4	551.8	1,075.4	94.9%
Mineral products	1,167.4	1,213.5	1,196.1	-1.4%
Agriculture	814.6	873.0	835.3	-4.3%
Livestock	259.9	134.9	41.0	-69.6%
Wood and wood products	42.5	46.5	36.4	-21.7%
Diamonds	13.2	22.4	21.3	-4.9%
Other precious stones	5.7	2.9	1.8	-37.9%
Metals and Scraps	1.5	1.4	1.9	35.7%
Handicrafts	11.6	11.6	7.7	-33.6%
Forest products	6.7	6.4	2.2	-65.6%
Others	-	-	-	
TOTAL	7,626.9	8,198.0	8,369.7	2.1%

Table 3: Exports by Commodity

Goods	Value (USD Million)			Change (%) (2023/2022)
	2021	2022	2023	
Electricity	2,168.8	2,357.7	2,381.7	1.0%
Gold	961.6	805.4	703.2	-12.7%
Paper and paperboard	528.9	491.2	467.6	-4.8%
Copper ores	329.3	335.8	424.7	26.4%
Pulp of wood	297.2	359.8	284.0	-21.1%
Rubber	269.8	335.5	310.2	-7.6%
Cassava	265.5	328.5	333.1	1.4%
Iron ores	243.0	165.5	410.6	148.1%
Bananas	235.2	235.0	209.1	-11.0%

Goods	Value (USD Million)			Change (%) (2023/2022)
	2021	2022	2023	
Bananas	235.2	235.0	209.1	-11.0%
Live bovine animals	221.5	115.8	24.9	-78.5%
Beverages	216.8	232.0	199.9	-13.8%
Garment	189.8	254.3	241.3	-5.1%
Electrical machinery	148.5	145.6	118.7	-18.5%
Potassic fertilizers	138.6	8.6	9.9	15.1%
Transmission apparatus	122.4	99.7	87.7	-12.0%
Footwear	109.4	158.5	134.7	-15.0%
Cane sugar	96.4	235.9	265.5	12.5%
Cement	91.0	127.4	80.2	-37.0%
Glass and glassware	88.8	126.1	45.3	-64.1%
Coffee (not roasted)	88.2	91.1	95.1	4.4%
Edible fruit	69.2	55.9	52.5	-6.1%
Copper and articles thereof	54.7	62.6	57.6	-8.0%
Tobacco	39.9	31.7	39.3	24.0%
Rice	35.1	39.3	28.4	-27.7%
Precious-metal ores	32.0	3.4	16.3	379.4%
Starches	30.2	52.4	109.2	108.4%
Others	544.9	942.6	838.1	34.6%
TOTAL	7,626.9	8,198.0	8,369.7	2.1%

Major Exports

Major exports decreased by 0.4 percent in 2023. This was due to an increase in exports of electricity by 1.0 percent, meanwhile the exports of gold decrease by 12.7 percent.

The decrease in exports of gold was due to lower in exports price by 42.2 percent to USD 33,965.6 from USD 58,798.2 (2022). The exports volume also recorded an increase of 51.1 percent to 20,703.3 Kg from 13,699.4 Kg (2022).

However, the exports of electricity increased due to a decrease in exports volume by 2.5 percent to 37,538.8 million kWh from 38,511.5 million kWh in 2022.

Table 4: Major Exports

	Value			Change (%)
	2021	2022	2023	(2023/2022)
Exports	7,626.9	8,198.0	8,369.7	2.1%
<i>Of which</i>				
Major exports	3,995.0	4,163.3	4,152.9	-0.3%
Electricity:				
Value (USD million)	2,168.8	2,357.8	2,381.7	1.0%
Volume (Million kWh)	36,146.8	38,511.5	37,538.8	-2.5%
Average. Price (USD/kWh)	0.06	0.06	0.06	3.6%
Gold:				
Value (USD million)	961.63	805.50	703.2	-12.7%
Volume (Kg)	19,534.60	13,699.40	20,703.30	51.1%
Average. Price (USD/Kg)	49,227.01	58,798.20	33,965.6	-42.2%
Copper ores:				
Value (USD million)	329.30	335.89	424.7	26.4%
Volume (million Kg)	178.00	188.70	264.08	39.9%
Average. Price (USD/Kg)	1.85	1.78	1.61	-9.7%
Rubber:				
Value (USD million)	269.8	335.6	310.2	-7.6%
Volume (million Kg)	282.4	419.5	300.5	-28.4%
Average. Price (USD/Kg)	0.96	0.80	1.03	29.0%
Cassava:				
Value (USD million)	265.4	328.6	333.1	1.4%
Volume (million Kg)	1,876.5	2,190.6	2,307.7	5.3%
Average. Price (USD/Kg)	0.14	0.15	0.14	-3.8%

Note: the data in this table was calculated from data raw of exports base on yearly.

Exports by Trading Partners

The highest share of exports in 2023 went to Thailand (34.5 percent). This was followed by China (29.9 percent), Vietnam (8 percent), Australia (4.6 percent), and Singapore (1.2 percent).

Chart 2: Share of Exports by Trading Partners (%)

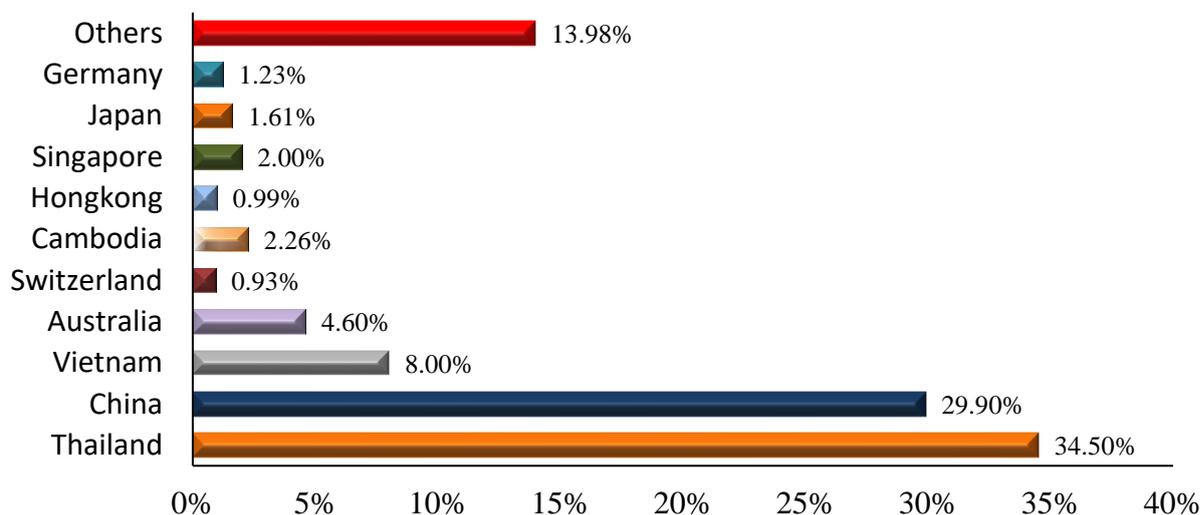


Table 5: Exports by Commodity and Trading Partner (USD million)

Goods	Countries						
	Thailand	China	Vietnam	Australia	Singapore	Cambodia	Japan
Electricity	2,045.2	-	127.9	-	10.7	187.8	-
Gold	19.4	47.8	-	379.2	40.1	-	-
Gold ores	0.2	424.3	4.7	-	-	-	-
Kalium/potassium	21.8	348.1	-	-	-	0.6	-
Cassava	286.5	2.1	44.6	-	-	-	-
Paper and paperboard	2.5	454.8	4.4	-	-	0.0	-
Pulp of wood	0.3	283.7	-	-	-	-	-
Rubber	0.0	106.9	203.1	-	-	0.0	-
Cement	78.9	1.3	0.0	-	-	0.0	-
Electrical equipment and appliances	88.8	0.6	3.4	-	0.2	0.2	13.7
Glass and glassware	0.7	-	0.1	-	44.5	0.0	-
Copper and articles thereof	56.1	1.0	0.4	-	-	-	-
Iron ores	-	280.1	130.5	-	-	-	-
Chemicals products	4.9	27.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	11.0
Coffee (not roasted)	30.5	0.6	50.4	0.0	0.1	5.5	0.9
Bananas	1.9	201.7	0.6	-	-	-	4.8
Starches	2.1	70.1	36.3	-	-	-	-
Live bovine animals	-	0.4	24.6	-	-	-	-
Beverages	9.1	0.0	190.0	-	-	0.9	-
Garment	2.1	1.1	0.5	1.8	0.2	-	15.9

Potassic fertilizers /Gallium	9.9	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Footwear	3.4	0.6	-	0.9	-	0.0	-
Cane Sugar	-	-	229.2	-	-	-	30.2
Rice	-	6.9	17.2	0.3	-	-	-
Others	219.5	244.2	322.4	3.0	0.5	5.2	27.9
TOTAL	2,883.9	2,883.8	2,596.7	1,395.3	385.3	96.4	200.2

Merchandise Imports

Imports by Commodity Section

In 2023, merchandise imports increased by 5.6 percent to USD 7,188.7 million from USD 6,808.1 million (2022). Diesel fuel recorded the highest share to total imports with 13.2 percent (USD 952.1 million) followed by Machinery (USD 606.4 million), Vehicle (USD 579.9 million), Iron and steel (USD 451.4 million), and Electric machinery (USD 314.5 million).

Table 6: Imports by Commodity Section

Section	Value (USD Million)			Change (%) (2023/2022)
	2021	2022	2023	
Vehicle parts and spare parts	720.8	699.0	994.6	42.3%
Construction equipment	603.4	616.4	934.4	51.6%
Fuel and gas	680.6	1,293.2	1,276.5	-1.3%
Electrical equipment and appliances	471.1	505.6	698.0	38.1%
Industrial goods	1,232.9	1,382.0	1,350.8	-2.3%
Food	488.0	740.5	680.8	-8.1%
Electronic and communication Equipment	192.2	156.6	118.3	-24.5%
Clothing and daily life goods	411.4	490.8	401.2	-18.3%
Agricultural goods	568.9	493.9	428.6	-13.2%
Electricity	80.1	40.1	117.8	193.6%
Luxury goods	42.3	57.1	45.9	-19.6%
Office supplies	72.3	180.3	82.7	-54.1%
Medical equipment and drugs	257.8	87.6	59.1	-32.5%
Imported raw materials for garment	54.1	44.6	-	
Jewelry	11.6	20.4	-	
Others	-	-	-	
TOTAL	5,887.3	6,808.1	7,188.7	5.6%

Table 7: Imports by Commodity

Goods	Value (USD Million)			Change (%)
	2021	2022	2023	(2023/2022)
Vehicles	463.0	454.0	579.9	27.7%
Machinery	371.7	572.2	606.4	6.0%
Precious stones	271.0	286.1	74.7	-73.9%
Live animal	252.0	136.0	54.6	-59.8%
Pulp of wood	242.2	323.3	224.4	-30.6%
Diesel fuel	447.8	952.7	952.1	-0.1%
Iron and steel	217.0	225.1	451.4	100.6%
Pharmaceutical products	209.0	58.5	33.1	-43.3%
Plastics and articles thereof	187.3	206.2	231.3	12.2%
Electrical machinery	174.9	164.3	314.5	91.5%
Electric cables and cables	145.7	147.2	166.6	13.2%
Residues and waste from the food industries	123.1	122.9	126.1	2.6%
Paper and paperboard	105.8	119.4	80.1	-33.0%
Photographic equipment	109.5	88.1	82.9	-5.9%
Man-made staple fibers	82.8	78.8	78.9	0.1%
Wood and articles of wood	100.5	113.7	88.7	-22.0%
Potassic fertilizers	81.9	119.4	142.7	19.5%
Chemicals products	80.4	140.7	109.0	-22.6%
Tractors	79.7	76.7	74.5	-2.9%
Electricity	80.1	40.1	117.8	193.6%
Others	2,062.0	2,382.8	2,559.1	7.4%
TOTAL	5,887.3	6,808.1	7,188.7	5.6%

Imports by Trading Partners

The highest share of imports in 2022 came from Thailand accounting for 49.60 percent, followed by China (24.24 percent), Vietnam (6.22 percent), United States (4.58 percent), Switzerland (4.10 percent), and Japan (2.18 percent).

Chart 3: Share of Imports by Trading Partners (%)

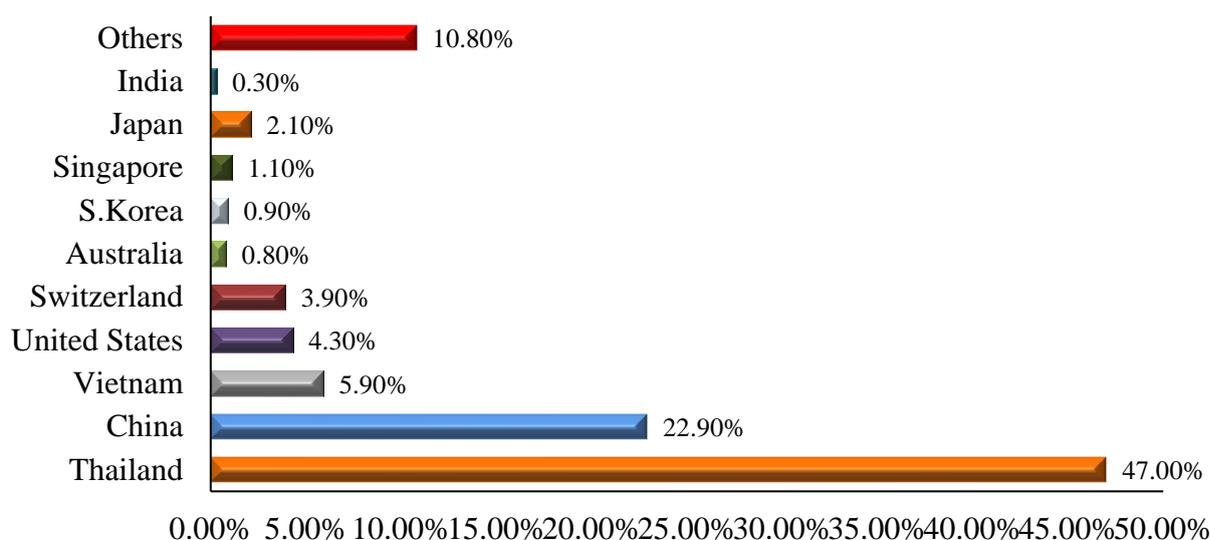


Table 8: Imports by Commodity and Trading Partner (USD million)

Goods	Countries						
	Thailand	China	Vietnam	Australia	Singapore	United States	Japan
Vehicles	145.4	215.8	40.8	0.2	0.0	8.7	96.9
Diesel fuel	898.7	-	36.2	-	15.7	-	-
Gasoline	247.9	-	0.5	-	-	-	-
Live animal	46.7	0.0	6.1	-	-	-	-
Sugar	194.6	0.3	0.0	-	-	0.0	-
Plastics and articles thereof	95.1	103.6	21.7	0.8	1.0	0.7	2.3
Iron and steel	45.8	368.3	18.8	5.5	0.6	3.0	0.3
Machinery	121.3	373.3	20.9	30.2	6.8	10.8	2.1
Beverages	218.6	4.2	0.0	-	0.1	0.1	0.0
Wood and articles of wood	73.4	9.8	5..218	-	-	0.0	0.2
Electric cables and cables	80.9	73.8	6.5	0.3	0.0	0.8	2.7
Residues and waste from the food industries	67.0	2.2	26.8	-	7.6	9.7	0.6
Paper and paperboard	28.6	32.4	12.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.6
Photographic equipment	82.4	-	0.0	0.1	-	-	0.0
Potassic fertilizers	33.5	92.5	16.3	-	0.0	0.1	-
Cement	32.3	1.7	1.1	-	-	-	-
Pulp of wood	0.0	0.1	-	-	-	144.7	-
Others	921.8	1,115.3	140.6	49.2	53.9	47.5	53.1
TOTAL	3,334.1	2,393.1	348.8	86.4	86.2	226.3	158.8

Major Imports

Major imports increased by 4.1 percent in 2023. This was due to a decrease in import of Diesel fuel by 0.1 percent, meanwhile the imports of vehicles increase by 27.7 percent.

The decrease in imports of Diesel fuel was due to lower in imports volume of Diesel fuel by 0.1 percent to 952.1 million liters from 952.7 million liters (2022). The imports price also recorded a decrease of 30.8 percent to USD 0.8 per liter from USD 1.1 per liter in 2022.

However, the imports of Gasoline increased due to an increase in exports value by 4.2 percent to 248.4 million UDS from 238.3 million USD in 2022.

Table 9: Major Imports

	Value			Change (%)
	2021	2022	2023	(2023/2022)
Imports	5,887.3	6,808.1	7,188.7	5.6%
<i>Of which</i>				
Major Imports	1,376.9	1,900.4	1,977.7	4.1%
Diesel fuel:				
Value (USD million)	447.8	952.7	952.1	-0.1%
Volume (Million Litter)	845.0	874.1	1,263.2	44.5%
Average. Price (USD/Litter)	0.5	1.1	0.8	-30.8%
Gasoline:				
Value (USD million)	132.2	238.3	248.4	4.2%
Volume (Million Litter)	244.8	183.3	360.0	96.4%
Average. Price (USD/Litter)	0.5	1.3	0.7	-46.9%
Potassic fertilizers:				
Value (USD million)	81.9	119.5	142.7	19.5%
Volume (Kg million)	282.4	287.4	430.8	49.9%
Average. Price (USD/Kg)	0.3	0.4	0.3	-20.3%
Vehicles:				
Value (USD million)	463.0	454.0	579.9	27.7%
Live animal:				
Value (USD million)	252.0	136.0	54.6	-59.8%

Note: the data in this table was calculated from data raw of exports base on yearly.

Main Mode of Check point

In 2023, the main mode of checkpoint for Lao PDR's international merchandise trading (Exports) is Dansavan International checkpoint (USD 1,340.7 million, 16 percent of total goods exported), followed by Lalay international checkpoint (USD 127.1 million, 2 percent of total goods exported), Borten International checkpoint (USD 457.4 million, 5 percent of total goods exported), and other mode of check point.

The total value of goods by Borten international checkpoint for import was USD 1,466.8 million (20 percent of total goods imported), followed by Friendship bridge 1 international checkpoint (USD 1,861.9 million, 26 percent of total goods imported), and other mode of check point.

Table 10: Exports and Imports by Mode Checkpoint

Mode of Checkpoint	Value (USD Million)			Contribution (%)		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Exports	7,626.9	8,198.0	8,369.7	100%	100%	100%
Dansavan International checkpoint	1,144.6	1,357.2	1,340.7	15%	17%	16%
Lalay International checkpoint	929.6	779.5	127.1	12%	10%	2%
Napao International checkpoint	725.6	343.9	830.5	10%	4%	10%
Friendship bridge 1 international checkpoint	723.2	308.2	913.5	9%	4%	11%
Borten International checkpoint	500.7	469.9	457.4	7%	6%	5%
Others	3,603.2	4,939.3	4,700.6	47%	60%	56%
Imports	5,887.3	6,808.1	7,188.7	100%	100%	100%
Borten International checkpoint	1,800.4	984.8	1,466.8	31%	14%	20%
Lantui international checkpoint	724.8	2.6	8.7	12%	0%	0%
Friendship bridge 4 international checkpoints	422.3	78.7	90.8	7%	1%	1%
Banmom international checkpoint	1,394.4	35.3	6.9	24%	1%	0%
Friendship bridge 1 international checkpoint	0.3	1,464.0	1,861.9	0%	22%	26%
Others	1,545.1	4,242.6	3,753.6	26%	62%	52%

Main Mode of Transport

The main mode of transport for Laos's international merchandise trading is sea transport, followed by air transport, land transport and other modes of transport.

In 2023, the total value of goods transported by road for both exports and imports were USD 4,788.0 million and USD 6,266.0 million. The relative share of road transport accounted for 57.2 percent of goods exported from and 74.9 percent of goods imported into Laos. Goods transported by air contributed about 8.3 percent of goods exports and 1.6 percent of goods imports, meanwhile cross border trading via rail recorded 3.0 percent of exported goods and 6.1 percent of imported goods.

Table 11: Exports and Imports by Mode Transport

Mode of Checkpoint	Value (USD Million)			Contribution (%)		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Exports	7,626.9	8,198.0	8,369.7	100%	100%	100%
Air	929.6	779.6	692.7	12.2%	9.5%	8.3%
Road	4,527.6	4,956.5	4,788.0	59.4%	60.5%	57.2%
Water	1.5	1.7	0.5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rail	-	102.6	252.4		1.3%	3.0%
Others	2,168.2	2,357.6	2,636.2	28.4%	28.8%	31.5%
Imports	5,887.3	6,808.1	7,188.7	100%	100%	100%
Air	76.4	210.1	135.3	1.0%	2.6%	1.6%
Road	5,121.5	6,261.1	6,266.0	67.2%	76.4%	74.9%
Water	0.7	10.8	33.6	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%
Rail	-	152.8	511.3		1.9%	6.1%
Others	688.6	173.2	242.5	9.0%	2.1%	2.9%

TECHNICAL NOTES

1. Introduction

The International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) are compiled on a monthly basis based on the imports and exports data submitted by the Customs Department, Ministry of Finance through customs declarations, the Ministry of Energy and Mine, and the Import and Export Department (Ministry of Industry and Commerce). The general system of recording imports, domestic exports and re-exports by covers that have been cleared through customs.

2. Coverage of Merchandise

All goods imported into or exported from Lao PDR are included in the IMTS. The following classes of goods are excluded:

- currency notes and coins in circulation;
- goods imported and exported by or on behalf of diplomatic services; and
- goods imported by the armed forces.

3. Time of Recording

Lao PDR uses the ‘release date’ as its time of recording, which provides the time/date that stipulated in source documents when goods enter or leave the economic territory.

4. Valuation

Imports are valued at CIF, that is, the value of goods at the frontier of the exporting trading partners plus the cost of insurance and freight and any other charges when sold for export to Laos. Custom duties are not included in the value of imports.

Exports are valued at FOB, that is, the value of goods to be purchased abroad up to the point where the goods are deposited on board the outgoing vessel, aircraft and/or vehicle. Goods on consignment are valued at the current import price for imports and the current export price for exports.

Goods are recorded at their market value. Values are reported in millions of Lao Kips. Data reported in foreign currencies (USD) are converted into local currency at the prevailing market exchange rate on the date of permit clearance.

5. Commodity Classification

Commodity items reported are classified in accordance with the Laos Trade Classification and Customs Duties 2017. This classification incorporates the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN), which is based on the 6-digits Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System Nomenclature (H.S) developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

For International comparability in this report, import and export are classified according to the United Nations Standard Trade Classification, Revision 4 (SITC Rev. 4) for the purpose of international comparability of statistics on external trade.

Moreover, the categories which can be aligned into 3 large classes of goods in the System of National Accounts (SNA):

- Capital Goods are used as a means of producing other goods or services.
- Intermediate Goods are semi-processed, semi-manufactured and industrial-supplies; and transformed or used up in the production of goods and services.
- Consumption Goods are final product mainly used by households for final consumption.

6. Mode of Checkpoint

The checkpoint that the most export and import of goods is based on the trade value that covers the largest proportion of the total trade value. (Custom system), as below:

1	Borten international checkpoint	Luangnamtha Province
2	Lantui international checkpoint	Phongsali Province
3	Friendship bridge 4 international checkpoint	Borkeo Province
4	Banmom international checkpoint	Borkeo Province
5	Banmom international checkpoint	Borkeo Province
6	Banmom international checkpoint	Borkeo Province
7	Namsoi international checkpoint	Houaphan Province
8	Pahang international checkpoint	Houaphan Province
9	Bandan local checkpoint	Houaphan Province
10	Bandan local checkpoint	Houaphan Province
11	Namkan international checkpoint	Xiengkhoang Province
12	Phoudou international checkpoint	Xayyabury Province
13	Pangmon international checkpoint	Xayyabury Province
14	Friendship bridge 2 international checkpoint	Savannakhet Province
15	Heuadoisan local checkpoint	Savannakhet Province
16	Savan logistic special economic zone	Savannakhet Province
17	Dansavan international checkpoint	Savannakhet Province
18	Friendship bridge 3 international checkpoint	Khammuon Province
19	Thakhek local checkpoint	Khammuon Province
20	Naphao international checkpoint	Bolikhamxay Province
21	Naphao international checkpoint	Bolikhamxay Province
22	Vangtao international checkpoint	Champasak Province
23	Nongnokkhien international checkpoint	Champasak Province
24	Phoukeua international checkpoint	Attapue Province
25	Friendship bridge 1 international checkpoint	Vientiane capital
26	Lalay international checkpoint	Salavan Province

7. Mode of transport

Merchandise trade in goods by mode of transport are compiled according to the means of transport used when goods enter or leave the economic territory of the economy. The following classifications are the main categories of the mode of transport:

1. Air;
2. Road;
3. Water; and
4. Others include postal consignments, mail or courier shipments and goods crossing

the border not to attribute a transaction to any specific mode of transport categories.

The method of transport used for the carriage of goods is recorded as the mode of transport such as aircraft, vehicle, vessel and other type of transport of goods. The mode of transport for imports refers to the last mode of transport by which the cargo was transported to the port of clearance into the economy whereas, for exports the mode of transport information records the last mode of transport with which cargo crossed the customs border on its exit from the economy.