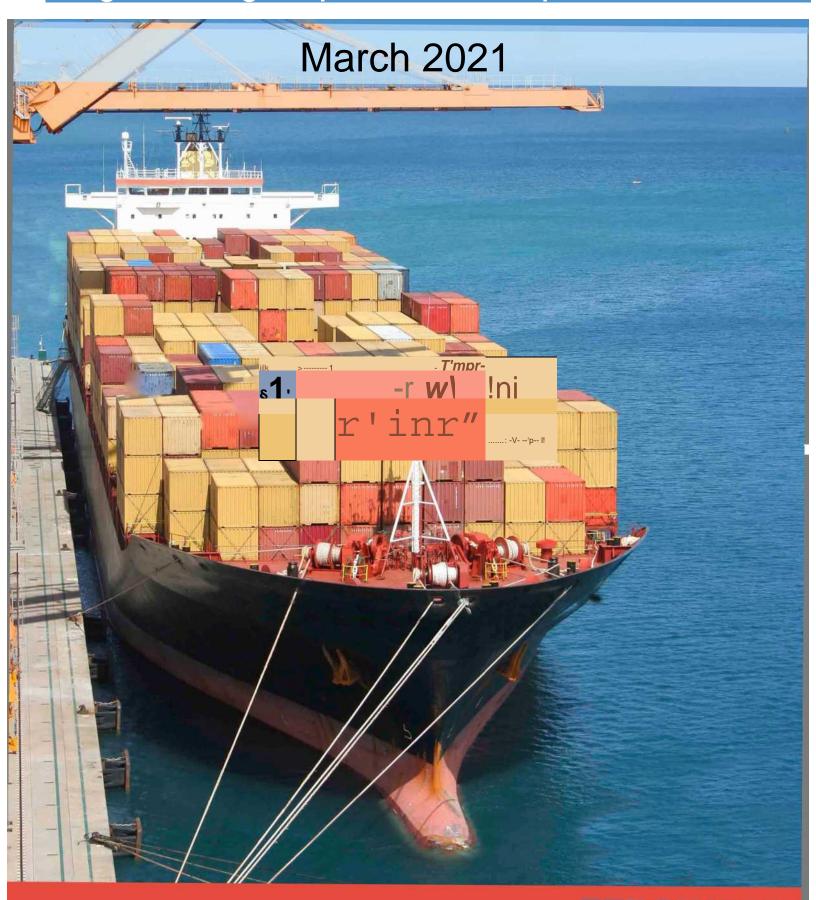
Engineering Exports and Imports Monitor





Analysis of Indian engineering exports and imports for March 2021

20th April 2021

A Snapshot of Engineering export Performance in 2020-21

India's engineering exports decline 2.95% in 2020-21 to US\$ 73.11 billion

- ♣ The last fiscal of 2020-21 witnessed significant de-growth in all economic factors including trade around the globe due to the COVID 19 pandemic
- Mirroring the global trends both India's merchandise and engineering exports in 2020-21 declined
- ♣ The merchandise exports in 2020-21 registered a drop of 7.26 percent while in case of engineering exports it recorded at 2.95 percent decline over last fiscal
- ♣ The fall however could be minimized due to significant recovery in the last few months especially in March 2021
- ♣ In March 2021 alone, engineering exports registered a substantial growth of around 68 percent while in case of merchandise trade it recorded a 60.29 percent rise over March 2020
- In terms of export destinations, East Asian and South Asian countries including China, Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia recorded a healthy growth in 2020-21
- ♣ Engineering export growth was also witnessed in some European countries including Belgium and Italy during 2020-21
- ♣ This is contrary to the fact that in March 2021, export decline was only witnessed in four countries including UAE, Malaysia, Nigeria and Netherland
- ♣ This may indicate that with improving monthly exports, we may witness a revival in all markets shortly

- ♣ In the same lines, the fiscal 2020-21 witnessed a drop in exports of almost all engineering panels barring a few metals
- ➡ However, March 2021 witnessed a significant growth in exports of all panels barring only motor vehicles –the drop was insignificant too in that case
- ♣ Like exports, India's engineering imports during the fiscal 2020-21 also witnessed around 20 percent drop
- ♣ However increase in manufacturing activities in March 2021 alone increased imports by almost 28 percent compared to March 2020
- The revival in monthly trade activities is majorly attributed to revival in global economic activities and rising global demand

Analysis of India's engineering exports

1. Engineering exports: Monthly trend

The monthly engineering figures for 2020-21 vis-à-vis 2019-20 are shown below as per the latest DGCIS estimates:

Table 1: Engineering Exports: Monthly trend 2020-21 (US\$ million)

Month	2019-20	2020-21	Growth (%)
April	6410.79	2368.99	-63.05
May	7159.43	5572.41	-22.17
June	6274.90	5949.78	-5.18
April-June	19845.12	13891.18	-30.00
July	5877.95	6498.79	10.56
August	6273.83	5833.92	-7.01
September	6257.50	6513.53	4.09
July-September	18409.28	18846.24	2.37
October	6171.31	5861.87	-5.01
November	6129.02	5615.72	-8.37
December	6731.46	6669.06	-0.93
October-December	19031.79	18146.64	-4.65
January	5941.41	6931.20	16.66
February	6908.79	6567.77	-4.94
March	5208.01	8736.56	67.75
January-March	18058.21	22235.53	23.13
April-March	75344.41	73119.60	-2.95

Source: DGCIS, Govt. of India.

67.75, 10.00 70.0 œ. 9.00 .94 50.0 6.41 8.00 30.0 7.00 16!66 6.00 10.0 5.00 -0.93 4.94 -5.18 -10.0 4.00 5.01 7.01 22.17 8.37 3.00 -30.0 2.00 -50.0 1.00 -63<mark>.05</mark> 0.00 -70.0 October January *february* الالا June May ys^{t.} O^Č -Growth (%) March 2019-20 2020-21

Figure 1: Monthly Engineering Exports in 2020-21 vis-à-vis 2019-20

Source: DGCIS&S, EEPC research

2. Correlation between Manufacturing Production and Engineering Exports

Engineering sector is an important component of the broader manufacturing sector and the share of engineering production in overall manufacturing output is quite significant. As exports generally come from what is produced within a country, some correlation between manufacturing production growth and engineering export growth should exist. We briefly looked at the trend in manufacturing growth as also engineering export growth to see if they move in tandem. It may be mentioned that manufacturing has 77.63% weightage in India's industrial production.

During fiscal 2019-20, engineering exports growth and manufacturing growth moved in the same direction in as many as nine out of twelve months, including March 2020. The first four months of Fiscal 2020-21 saw both of them moved in the same direction but the month of August saw the opposite. However, both moved in the same direction during September 2020 when both engineering exports and manufacturing output witnessed improvement over the month. The month of October however saw manufacturing output came back to growth path but engineering exports recorded negative growth while the month of November and December 2020 saw both of them moving in the same direction once again. January 2021 however saw both of them moving in opposite direction while both performed poorer during the month of February 2021. During the first eleven months of fiscal 2020-21, engineering exports growth and manufacturing growth moved in the same direction in eight months. The following table depicts the short-term trend of both manufacturing output and engineering exports.

Table 2: Engineering exports growth vis-à-vis manufacturing growth from April 2019

Months/ Year	Engg. Export Growth (%)	Manufacturing Growth (%)
April 2019	-7.70	2.5
May 2019	4.57	4.4
June 2019	-2.46	0.3
July 2019	-1.72	4.8
August 2019	-8.99	-1.6
September 2019	-6.27	-4.0
October 2019	1.63	-2.1
November 2019	8.00	3.0
December 2019	-1.05	-0.3
January 2020	-4.52	1.6
February 2020	8.90	3.1
March 2020	-42.52	-20.6
April 2020	-63.05	-66.6
May 2020	-22.17	-37.8
June 2020	-5.18	-17.0
July 2020	10.56	-11.4
August 2020	-7.01	-7.6
September 2020	4.09	-0.4
October 2020	-5.01	4.5
November 2020	-8.37	-1.6
December 2020	-0.93	2.1
January 2021	16.66	-1.3
February 2021	-4.94	-3.7
March 2021	67.75	N A

(Source: Department of Commerce and CSO)

We also present the month-wise **revised engineering exports for 2019-20** as compared to 2018-19.

Table 3: Revised engineering exports for 2019-20 (US\$ million)

Months	2018-19	2019-20	Growth (%)
April	7020.54	6410.79	-8.69
May	6928.08	7159.43	3.34
June	6512.31	6274.90	-3.65
Quarter 1	20460.93	19845.12	-3.01
July	6052.64	5877.95	-2.89
August	6974.48	6273.83	-10.05
September	6769.15	6257.50	-7.56
Quarter 2	19796.27	18409.28	-7.01
October	6151.93	6171.31	0.32
November	5740.17	6129.02	6.77
December	6905.63	6731.46	-2.52

Months	2018-19	2019-20	Growth (%)
Quarter 3	18797.73	19031.79	1.25
January	6295.94	5941.41	-5.63
February	6442.37	6908.79	7.24
March	9162.30	5208.01	-43.16
Quarter 4	21900.61	18058.21	-17.54
April-March	80955.54	75344.41	-6.93

Source: DGCI&S * Revised data for 2019-20 up to Feb 2020

Impact of Exchange Rate

How did the exchange rate fare during March 2021 and what was the recent trend in Re-Dollar movement? In order to get a clearer picture of the recent Re-Dollar trend, not only we took the exchange rate of March 2021, but considered monthly average exchange rate of Rupee vis-à-vis the US Dollar for each month of fiscal 2019-20 against those of 2020-21 as mere one month figure does not reflect any trend. The tables and the charts below depict the short-term trend clearly:

Table 4A: USD-INR monthly average exchange rate in 2020-21 (As per latest data released by FBIL)

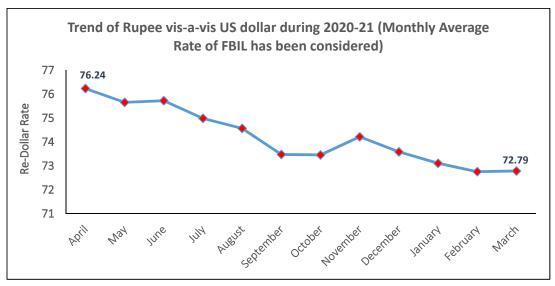
Monthly Av	erage Excha	ange Rate	Year-on-		Month-on-	
(1	USD to INR		Year Change	Direction	Month	Direction
Month	2019-20	2020-21	(%)		Change (%)	
April	69.43	76.24	9.81	Depreciation	2.54	Depreciation
May	69.77	75.66	8.44	Depreciation	-0.76	Appreciation
June	69.44	75.73	9.06	Depreciation	0.09	Depreciation
July	68.81	74.99	8.98	Depreciation	-0.98	Appreciation
August	71.15	74.57	4.81	Depreciation	-0.56	Appreciation
September	71.33	73.48	3.01	Depreciation	-1.46	Appreciation
October	71.04	73.46	3.41	Depreciation	-0.03	Appreciation
November	71.45	74.22	3.88	Depreciation	1.03	Depreciation
December	71.19	73.59	3.37	Depreciation	-0.85	Appreciation
January	71.31	73.11	2.52	Depreciation	-0.65	Appreciation
February	71.49	72.76	1.78	Depreciation	-0.48	Appreciation
March	74.35	72.79	-2.10	Appreciation	0.04	Depreciation

Average) 7.9 18.0 78 12 75.7 75.7 8.98 75.0 74.6 10 76 73.5 Year-on-Year Change (%) 8 74 44 2.1.3 4.8<u>1</u> 71.2 6 (USD/INR) 69.8 69 69 70 3.01 68 66 64 October January **February** May June March etabet Yea<mark>You</mark>enthet Yea<mark>You-Year Change (%)</mark> 2019-20

Figure 2A: Performance of Rupee against US Dollar in 2020-21 vis-à-vis 2019-20 (Monthly Average)

Source: RBI, FBIL, EEPC Research

Figure 2B: Movement of Rupee vis-à-vis the US Dollar during fiscal 2020-21 (Monthly Average)



Source: FBIL

Rupee appreciated vis-à-vis the US Dollar in March 2021 for the first time in fiscal 2020-21 on a year-on-year basis as economic lockdowns imposed across the globe to arrest the spread of Coronavirus made the global economy virtually standstill and Rupee experienced a sudden slump in March 2020. However, the month-on-month trend showed depreciation of Rupee once again after November 2020. Rupee appreciated by 2.10 percent during March 2021 over

the same month last fiscal. After a record low in April 2020, rupee has strengthened vis-à-vis the greenback during fiscal 2020-21.

Note: For the purpose of both y-o-y and m-o-m trend analysis, monthly average of the USDINR exchange rate as obtained from FBIL was considered.

Outlook: Rupee has ended the fiscal year below 73 per US Dollar but the second wave of the Pandemic may impact the Re-Dollar trend depending on the intensity of the wave.

Performance of Rupee over US Dollar in 2019-20 vis-à-vis 2018-19

Table 4B: USD-INR average exchange rate in 2019-20

Average	Direction			
Month	2018-19	2019-20	Change (%)	
April	65.64	69.42	5.76	Depreciation
May	67.53	69.77	3.32	Depreciation
June	67.79	69.44	2.43	Depreciation
July	68.69	68.81	0.17	Depreciation
August	69.55	71.15	2.30	Depreciation
September	72.21	71.33	-1.22	Appreciation
October	73.63	71.03	-3.53	Appreciation
November	71.85	71.45	-0.56	Appreciation
December	70.73	71.19	0.65	Depreciation
January	70.73	71.31	0.82	Depreciation
February	71.22	71.49	0.38	Depreciation
March	69.48	74.35	7.01	Depreciation
April – March (Monthly Avg.)	69.92	70.90	1.46	Depreciation

Source: RBI, FBIL

During 2019-20, Rupee depreciated over the US Dollar between April to August 2019 but at a narrowing rate over the month and then witnessed some appreciation in the next three months. December 2019 to February 2020 again saw marginal depreciate ion of rupee over the greenback but the month of March 2020 saw a record low of rupee as COVID-19 Pandemic started taking toll on investors' sentiment. The pictorial representation may provide a clearer picture.

76 8 74 6 Year-on-Year Change (%) 72 (NSD/INK) 68 66 69. 0 -0.6 -2 64 62 60 -6 september August October october Movember January February March MU April June Nay 2019-20 Year-on-Year Change (%) 2018-19 Source: RBI, FBIL, EEPC Research 3. Top 25 engineering export destinations in March 2021

Figure 2C: Movement of USD-INR Exchange Rate (2019-20) (Monthly Average)

We now look at the export scenario of the top 25 nations that had highest demand for Indian engineering products during April- March 2021 over April- March 2020.

Table-5: Engineering exports country wise (April-March 2021)
US\$ million

33¢ 111111311						
Row Labels	March 2020	March 2021	Growth (%)	Apr-Mar, 2020	Apr-Mar, 2021	Growth (%)
USA	917.02	1152.82	25.71	11747.29	10574.96	-9.98
CHINA	126.44	553.06	337.40	2124.24	4836.09	127.66
UAE	368.56	312.62	-15.18	4424.44	3148.62	-28.84
SINGAPORE	106.05	273.68	158.06	2259.69	2778.74	22.97
GERMANY	187.51	263.49	40.52	2973.52	2614.74	-12.07
MALAYSIA	192.30	173.47	-9.79	2325.66	2386.69	2.62
NEPAL	181.40	302.63	66.83	2548.17	2298.14	-9.81
ITALY	145.26	377.68	160.00	1935.57	1938.59	0.16
KOREA RP	114.33	176.70	54.54	1879.56	1934.83	2.94
UK	139.06	334.94	140.87	2593.51	1929.90	-25.59
BANGLADESH	179.85	237.28	31.94	2352.99	1928.59	-18.04
MEXICO	133.65	165.81	24.07	2311.20	1864.89	-19.31
VIETNAM	109.37	196.54	79.71	1750.15	1799.50	2.82
INDONESIA	96.55	550.70	470.36	1614.40	1783.68	10.49
THAILAND	93.60	236.52	152.69	1530.78	1700.13	11.06
SAUDI ARAB	160.91	100.30	-37.67	1641.91	1683.21	2.52
SOUTH AFRICA	107.76	123.65	14.75	1503.15	1514.93	0.78
FRANCE	72.94	117.20	60.67	1351.58	1242.12	-8.10

Row Labels	March 2020	March 2021	Growth (%)	Apr-Mar, 2020	Apr-Mar, 2021	Growth (%)
NIGERIA	131.52	120.64	-8.27	1737.91	1228.01	-29.34
TURKEY	100.78	190.77	89.29	1169.18	1220.69	4.41
BELGIUM	58.68	235.10	300.61	989.61	1104.19	11.58
BRAZIL	85.21	131.46	54.27	1055.88	1022.74	-3.14
JAPAN	66.22	96.02	45.00	1002.95	998.29	-0.46
SRI LANKA	61.94	105.10	69.67	1184.86	942.79	-20.43
NETHERLAND	52.84	104.27	97.33	905.59	929.29	2.62
Total engineering exports to top 25 countries	3989.77	6632.45	66.24	56913.77	55404.33	-2.65
Total engineering						
exports	5208.01	8736.56	67.75	75344.41	73119.60	-2.95
Share (%)	76.61	75.92		75.54	75.77	

Source: DGCI&S

India's top 25 engineering export destinations: Some observations

- 13 out of 25 countries recorded positive cumulative growth in engineering exports during April- March 2021 over April- March 2020. While 21 out of 25 countries recorded positive year on year growth in March 2021, which is a remarkable increase from the previous months record of 16 countries.
- ↓ USA like the previous months, have retained its top position of being the numero uno destination for India's engineering products during April-March 2021 over April-March 2020. But exports to USA fell down in cumulative terms.
- Exports to China, India's second largest export destination have recorded a huge positive monthly as well as positive cumulative growth of more than 127.7%.
- ♣ Within the ASEAN region, monthly export growth recorded positive for all Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia barring Malaysia. In cumulative terms exports to all the above mentioned ASEAN countries recorded positive growth.
- UAE retained its third position of largest export destination for Indian engineering sector although it recorded negative export growth both in cumulative and monthly terms.
- → All the European nations for India's top 25 engineering export destinations —Germany, Italy, France, UK and Belgium, recorded positive monthly growth. Only Italy and Belgium recorded a positive cumulative growth during April- March 2021 over April-March 2020.
- ♣ The share of India's engineering exports to its top 25 nations accounted for 75.8 percent of India's total engineering exports in April-March 2021. This significant high share is indicative of the dependence of India's engineering export on the traditional markets.

4. Region wise India's engineering exports

The following table depicts region wise India's engineering exports for April-March 2021 as opposed to April-March 2020.

Table 6: Region wise engineering exports in April-March 2021

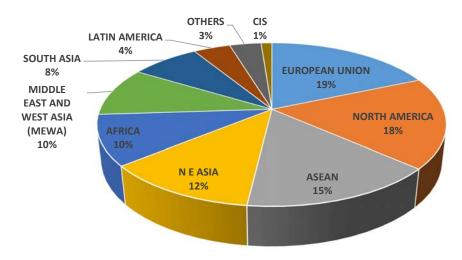
US\$ million

Region	Mar-20	Mar-21	Growth (%)	Apr-Mar, 2020	Apr-Mar, 2021	Growth (%)
EUROPEAN UNION	863.83	1857.99	115.09	14278.33	13528.57	-5.25
NORTH AMERICA	1101.23	1388.29	26.07	14948.24	13191.45	-11.75
ASEAN	668.85	1506.32	125.21	10501.77	11225.68	6.89
N E ASIA	352.77	987.28	179.86	5884.66	8884.77	50.98
AFRICA	533.32	849.83	59.35	7570.84	7253.04	-4.20
MIDDLE EAST AND WEST ASIA						
(MEWA)	752.65	666.42	-11.46	8749.67	7118.97	-18.64
SOUTH ASIA	453.99	696.85	53.49	6591.44	5528.87	-16.12
LATIN AMERICA	245.48	388.76	58.37	3367.98	2968.91	-11.85
OTHERS	171.41	309.52	80.57	2490.16	2545.76	2.23
CIS	64.47	85.31	32.32	961.30	873.58	-9.13
Grand Total	5208.01	8736.56	67.75	75344.41	73119.60	-2.95

Source: DGCI&S

Note: *Figures have been rounded off. Source: DGCI&S; **Myanmar has been included in ASEAN and not in South Asia, since ASEAN is a formal economic grouping.

Figure 3: Region-wise shares of India's engineering exports during April-March 2021



Source: Data from DGCI&S and EEPC India analysis

Region wise engineering exports: some observations

- ♣ European Union ranked as the numero uno destination leaving North America behind, as the region with highest shipment of engineering products from India during April-March 2021 over April-March 2020 with a share of 18.5% percent of total engineering exports.
- India's exports to North America and ASEAN ranked second and third in terms of global shipments of Indian engineering goods in April-March 2021 with a share of 18.0 percent and 15.4 percent of total engineering exports respectively.
- ♣ North East Asia ranked fourth in global shipments of Indian engineering goods in April-March 2021 with a share of 12.2 percent, which is lower in comparison to its last month share.
- Engineering exports to all regions barring MEWA recorded positive monthly growth during March 2021 compared to March.
- In cumulative terms engineering exports like before, recorded positive growth only North East Asia and ASEAN.

5. Panel Wise Engineering Exports

We begin by looking at the Engineering Panel wise exports for the month of March 2021 visa-vis March 2020 as well as April-March 2020-21 vis-à-vis April-March 2019-20. The data is given in Table 7 below:

Table 7: Trends in engineering panel Exports for March 2021 compared to March 2020 as well as April-March 2020-21 vis-à-vis April-March 2019-20

US\$ Million

Engineering Panels	March 2020	March 2021	Growt h (%)	Apr- March 2020	Apr- March 2021	Growth (%)
li	ron and Stee	el and Produ	cts made	of Iron and St	eel	
Iron and Steel	627.09	1679.72	167.86	9261.03	12102.30	30.7
Products of Iron and						
Steel	461.49	705.09	52.78	7005.63	6526.54	-6.8
Sub Total	1088.59	2384.81	119.07	16266.7	18628.8	14.52
Non-Fe	rrous Metal	s and Produc	cts made	of Non-Ferrou	s Metals	
Copper and						
products	57.88	279.48	382.88	918.97	1438.91	56.58
Aluminium and						
products	381.49	633.12	65.96	5114.68	5788.97	13.18
Zinc and products	56.54	65.40	15.68	569.07	742.39	30.46
Nickel and products	4.13	5.73	38.7	98.73	58.58	-40.67
Lead and products	26.57	27.57	3.76	372.06	348.20	-6.41
Tin and products	0.48	2.08	337.01	9.80	9.88	0.73

Engineering Panels	March 2020	March 2021	Growt h (%)	Apr- March 2020	Apr- March 2021	Growth (%)
Other Non-Ferrous					2021	
Metals	39.11	71.93	83.90	546.32	570.55	4.44
Sub Total	566.20	1085.32	91.68	7629.64	8957.48	17.40
	000120	Industrial			5551115	
Industrial						
Machinery like						
Boilers, parts, etc	48.87	80.39	64.49	816.07	559.93	-31.39
IC Engines and Parts	188.36	286.20	51.94	2555.71	2481.24	-2.91
Pumps of all types	62.16	100.53	61.72	959.07	879.79	-8.27
Air condition and						
Refrigerators	95.58	122.33	27.99	1383.09	1065.76	-22.94
Industrial						
Machinery for dairy,						
food processing,						
textiles etc	361.99	569.12	57.22	4964.90	4701.37	-5.31
Machine Tools	26.90	49.99	85.86	428.79	414.16	-3.41
Machinery for						
Injecting moulding,						
valves and ATMs	124.23	161.54	30.03	1760.58	1591.20	-9.62
Sub Total	908.10	1370.09	50.88	12868.22	11693.44	-9.13
Electrical Machinery	688.97	824.60	19.69	8962.78	8100.41	-9.62
				nents and Part		
Motor Vehicle/cars	522.80	517.88	-0.94	7623.83	5011.28	-34.27
Two and Three	162.44	262.22	60.50	2440.74	2044 40	2.20
Wheelers Auto	163.44	262.32	60.50	2110.71	2041.49	-3.28
Components/Part	366.14	604.23	65.03	5304.82	4931.89	-7.03
Sub Total	1052.38	1384.42	31.55	15039.35	11984.67	-20.31
Aircrafts and	1032.36	1304.42	31.33	15039.35	11904.07	-20.31
Spacecraft parts and						
products	77.91	101.74	30.59	1424.23	1158.94	-18.63
Ships Boats and						
Floating products						
and parts	239.69	635.17	164.99	4558.20	4508.89	-1.08
	8.	Other engine	eering pro	oducts		
Medical and						
Scientific						
instruments	129.17	176.21	36.42	1768.47	1717.63	-2.87
Railway Transport	5.41	24.45	352.04	238.98	119.51	-49.99
Hand Tools &						
Cutting Tools	49.36	78.80	59.64	752.52	712.13	-5.37
Electrodes						
Accumulators	3.94	4.76	20.96	55.21	43.35	-21.48

Engineering Panels	March 2020	March 2021	Growt h (%)	Apr- March 2020	Apr- March 2021	Growth (%)
Accumulator and						
Batteries	25.97	46.47	78.95	410.97	395.51	-3.76
Bicycle & Parts	24.37	39.76	63.11	384.17	348.10	-9.39
Cranes Lifts &						
Winches	41.73	58.65	40.55	566.49	476.19	-15.94
Office Equipment	10.65	18.20	70.81	177.40	138.55	-21.90
Other Construction						
Machinery	88.10	168.54	91.30	1407.00	1244.54	-11.55
Prime Mica & Mica						
Products	1.95	2.37	21.19	39.32	24.15	-38.58
OTHER MISC. ITEMS	205.51	332.20	61.65	2794.80	2867.30	2.59
Sub Total	586.16	950.40	62.14	8595.32	8086.94	-5.91
Total engineering						
exports	5208.01	8736.56	67.75	75344.41	73119.60	-2.95

Source: DGCI&S

- Indian engineering exports grew by over 67 percent in March 2021 over March 2020 and fell by only 2.95 percent in April 2020 to March 2021 over April 2019 to March 2020. Engineering exports showed remarkable recovery in the month of March 2021 increasing from US\$ 5208.01 million in March 2020 to US\$ 8736.56 million in March 2021. On a broader perspective, India's merchandised exports in March 2021 was recorded at USD 34.45 Billion as against USD 21.49 Billion during March 2020 exhibiting a growth of 60.29%. In cumulative terms, engineering exports in the full fiscal recorded a decline to the extent of 2.95 percent from US\$ 75344.41 million in April-March 2019-20 to US\$ 73119.60 million in April-March 2020-21, given the fact that COVID still continues to impact global trade and economy negatively.
- ♣ Out of 33 engineering panels, only 1 panel recorded negative growth and remaining 32 panels recorded positive growth in exports during March 2021 vis-à-vis March 2020. In cumulative terms, 26 out of 33 panels exhibited a year-on-year decline in exports, while remaining seven panels exhibited positive growth.
- ♣ Exports of iron and steel recorded massive jump to the extent of 168% in March 2021 compared to same period last year. With progressive unlocking of the economy and improving economic activities leading to better domestic demand, resulted in upward trend in exports in latest months. Furthermore, exports of products of iron and steel increased by 53% in March 2021 thereby resulting a growth in export of the total group by more than 119 percent. The total segment recorded a 14.52 percent jump in exports in cumulative terms.
- ♣ In case of non-ferrous metals, all the segments like Copper and products, Aluminium and products, Zinc and products, Lead and products and Nickel and products and Tin and products witnessed growth in exports to the extent of 383%, 66%, 15.6%, 3.76%, 39% and

- 300% (low base) respectively during March 2021. The non-ferrous segment witnessed 92 percent monthly growth and 17.4 percent cumulative growth.
- Within industrial machinery, overall there has been growth in monthly exports to the extent of 50.88% and fall in cumulative exports to the extent of 9.13% during April-March 2020-21. Positive export performance was noticed in all the segments including Industrial Machinery like Boilers (64.49%), IC Engines and Parts (51.94%), Pumps and Valves (61.72%), Air Condition and Repair machinery (28%), industrial machinery for dairy (57.22%), Machine Tools (86%), Other machinery (30%) during March 2021 compared to same period last fiscal. In cumulative terms, the growth was definitely negative to the extent of 9.13%, given the significant decline in exports witnessed in all the sub sectors during April-March 2020-21.
- ♣ The electrical machinery segment showed positive growth in March 2021 unlike the pattern observed in the previous months. In March, exports increased by 19.69% while in cumulative terms the exports dropped by 9.62%, given the sharp decline in exports the sector faced in the last few months of the current fiscal.
- Surprisingly in the auto components and parts sector, exports of two and three wheelers and auto components parts witnessed positive growth to the extent of 60.50% and 65.03% respectively during March 2021 vis-à-vis March 2020. Only Motor Vehicles and cars witnessed negative growth to the extent of 0.94% during March 2021 compared to March 2020. On the other hand, exports in the entire automobile sector remained positive in monthly exports and negative in cumulative terms mainly due to subdued demand in Motor vehicles and cars. Exports in Automobiles increased by 13.7% in March 2021 (on monthly basis) and dropped by 27.5% (on cumulative terms) during April-March 2020-21 compared to same period last fiscal.
- ♣ Exports of aircraft, spacecraft and parts exhibited positive monthly growth by 30.59% in March 2021 and negative cumulative growth to the extent of 18.6% respectively. On the other hand, exports of ships, boats and floating structures witnessed abnormal increase to the extent of 165% from US\$ 239.69 million in March 2020 to US\$ 635.17 million in March 2021 and in cumulative terms exports decreased by 1.08%.
- In the rest of the engineering segments, there has been no negative growth. Increase in exports was noticed in case of Medical Devices and Equipment (36.42%), Railway, Transport and Equipment by 352% (low base), Hand Tools and Cutting Tools increased by 59%, Electrodes and Accumulators increased by 20.96%, Accumulators and Batteries increased by 78.95%, Bicycle and parts increased by 63.11%, Cranes, Lifts and Winches increased by 40.55%, Office Equipment increased by 70.81% and Other Construction Machinery increased by 91.30% during March 2021 compared to March 2020.

6. Engineering panels – country-wise analysis

We now analyze the performance of some of the important products during March 2021. We have taken the major panels and computed the top importers and sharp declines to get an idea of the current trade pattern. (Tables 14-22)

Table 8: Export of Iron & Steel US\$ Million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021			APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)
		Тор Ғ	ive Importer	·s		
CHINA	19.79	118.03	496.54	513.90	2534.60	393.21
VIETNAM	59.47	118.26	98.85	1098.14	1035.34	-5.72
ITALY	61.90	236.17	281.54	727.25	928.80	27.71
NEPAL	82.61	100.63	21.80	982.90	925.44	-5.85
UAE	71.43	71.97	0.76	774.53	765.74	-1.14
		High cu	mulative gro	wth		
CHINA	19.79	118.03	496.54	513.90	2534.60	393.21
HONG KONG	0.20	70.82	35506.86	64.36	159.49	147.82
INDONESIA	15.97	63.93	300.23	198.14	346.91	75.08
THAILAND	5.24	64.78	1135.60	193.70	311.03	60.57
USA	10.40	49.02	371.24	170.56	245.26	43.80
		Sharp cu	ımulative de	cline		
BHUTAN	5.80	3.88	-33.12	81.91	39.15	-52.20
ETHIOPIA	3.08	1.61	-47.65	49.13	27.16	-44.72
BANGLADESH	33.51	19.62	-41.44	349.28	221.00	-36.73
MALAYSIA	18.99	35.29	85.82	236.66	155.12	-34.45
JAPAN	16.76	13.46	-19.67	188.01	150.78	-19.80

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)

- China, Vietnam and Italy were the three top three importers of Indian Iron and Steel during April 2020-March 2021 with market shares of 20.94 percent, 8.55 percent and 7.67 percent respectively.
- ♣ China recorded a substantial growth of 393.21 percent followed by Hong Kong and Indonesia exhibiting growth of 147.82 percent and 75.08 percent respectively in exports of Indian Iron and Steel during April 2020- March 2021 compared to April 2019- March 2020.
- ♣ Bhutan and Ethiopia experienced sharp downfall to the extent of more than/about 45% in exports during April 2020- March 2021 compared to same period last fiscal.

Table 9: Export of Products of Iron & Steel

US\$ Million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	Growth (%)	APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)
		Top Fi	ive Importei	rs		
USA	98.60	167.06	69.44	1589.10	1470.94	-7.44
GERMANY	23.50	32.78	39.47	376.08	315.65	-16.07
UAE	32.35	30.10	-6.96	420.02	314.84	-25.04
CANADA	14.83	14.44	-2.61	373.58	277.24	-25.79
U K	17.02	36.29	113.25	296.54	269.67	-9.06
		High cun	nulative gro	wth		
IRAQ	0.82	0.28	-65.63	6.30	25.95	312.22
EGYPT	1.25	2.44	95.27	34.51	66.04	91.35
OMAN	4.57	33.85	641.17	120.50	214.92	78.36
VIETNAM	1.23	2.61	112.50	22.36	39.67	77.38
KENYA	2.89	3.97	37.33	34.47	46.12	33.77
		Sharp cui	mulative de	cline		
PERU	4.25	1.10	-74.19	70.02	16.96	-75.78
CHILE	0.93	3.34	258.76	52.47	28.73	-45.26
KUWAIT	3.67	3.94	7.52	63.62	41.82	-34.27
NIGERIA	7.90	8.75	10.79	121.94	80.18	-34.24
ETHIOPIA	4.24	2.07	-51.27	51.03	35.82	-29.80

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)

- USA, Germany and UAE were the top three importers of India's 'Products of Iron & Steel' during April 2020- March 2021 with 22.54 percent, 4.84 percent and 4.82 percent share respectively in India's global import of the same.
- → Peru conceded maximum decline in imports by 75.78% followed by Chile at 45.26% for the said product group from India during April 2020- March 2021.

Table 10: Export of Industrial Machinery

US\$ Million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	Growth (%)	APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)
		Top F	ive Import	ers		
USA	130.06	210.61	61.94	1945.61	1810.18	-6.96
THAILAND	48.01	96.25	100.45	631.70	755.67	19.63
GERMANY	34.65	70.63	103.84	580.72	621.54	7.03
CHINA	50.11	71.84	43.36	576.51	587.36	1.88
UAE	49.24	51.45	4.50	550.09	469.84	-14.59
		High cur	mulative gr	owth		
BENIN	0.14	2.54	1683.42	4.05	21.00	418.93
TOGO	0.21	0.99	378.90	4.17	13.35	220.44
ALGERIA	3.23	19.19	494.31	49.10	98.51	100.66
ANGOLA	0.99	3.51	253.86	13.37	22.17	65.76
GUINEA	0.73	1.88	155.44	10.04	15.04	49.79
		Sharp cu	mulative d	ecline		
RUSSIA	10.87	11.79	8.48	268.29	169.00	-37.01
INDONESIA	17.23	25.00	45.14	271.88	173.25	-36.28
NIGERIA	36.61	31.40	-14.24	534.43	341.71	-36.06
SOUTH AFRICA	9.10	11.70	28.58	159.65	115.82	-27.46
BANGLADESH	35.64	50.14	40.69	577.19	426.56	-26.10

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)

- → USA was the largest importer of Indian 'Industrial machinery' during April 2020- March 2021 with 15.48 percent share in India's global import of the product group. Thailand and Germany were the two immediate followers of USA with 6.46 percent and 5.32 percent shares respectively.
- ♣ Benin was the top importer with substantial growth of 418.93 percent followed by Togo, witnessing growth of more than 220 percent in imports of Industrial machinery from India followed by Algeria, Angola and Guinea during April 2020- March 2021 over the same period last fiscal.
- ♣ Among the major importers, Indonesia, Russia and Nigeria exhibited decline of more than 35 percent in imports of Indian 'Industrial machinery' during April 2020- March 2021.

Table 12: Automobiles

US\$ Million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	Growth (%)	APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)					
Top Five Importers											
MEXICO	70.30	65.17	-7.29	1400.34	951.46	-32.05					
SOUTH AFRICA	65.42	60.30	-7.82	919.52	555.69	-39.57					
USA	116.18	28.76	-75.24	1008.83	550.42	-45.44					
SAUDI ARABIA	85.14	25.61	-69.92	723.04	501.84	-30.59					
NIGERIA	39.89	46.12	15.63	541.95	464.99	-14.20					
High cumulative growth											
EGYPT	3.34	16.68	399.04	36.54	135.30	270.33					
AUSTRIA	5.34	10.52	96.90	40.67	70.66	73.75					
TUNISIA	1.25	3.35	168.54	48.85	68.85	40.93					
KENYA	7.35	19.62	166.80	106.70	137.66	29.02					
IRAQ	3.56	0.34	-90.36	50.17	60.76	21.12					
		Sharp cun	nulative de	cline							
SRI LANKA	17.41	3.91	-77.54	249.53	11.18	-95.52					
USA	116.18	28.76	-75.24	1008.83	550.42	-45.44					
SOUTH AFRICA	65.42	60.30	-7.82 919.52		555.69	-39.57					
MEXICO	70.30	65.17	-7.29	1400.34	951.46	-32.05					
SAUDI ARABIA	85.14	25.61	-69.92	723.04	501.84	-30.59					
BANGLADESH	24.96	39.47	58.12	357.91	256.26	-28.40					

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)
Automobiles include Motor Vehicles/cars and Two and Three Wheelers

- Mexico, USA and South Africa were top three importers of India's Automobiles during April 2020- March 2021 with 13.49, 7.88 and 7.80 percent share in India's global exports respectively over the same period last fiscal.
- Egypt recorded a substantial growth of 270.33% followed by Austria with close to 74% growth in imports of the product group from India during April 2020- March 2021 over the same period last fiscal.
- ♣ Sri Lanka saw substantial decline of 95% in imports of automobile followed by USA and South Africa which experienced the drop of more than/about 40% during April 2020- March 2021 compared to same period last fiscal.

Table 13: Export of Non-Ferrous metals

US\$ Million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	Growth (%)	APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)
		Top Fiv	e Importe	rs		
MALAYSIA	129.12	52.76	-59.14	1317.54	1485.36	12.74
KOREA	67.07	105.26	56.94	1149.65	1293.66	12.53
CHINA	22.29	311.68	1298.30	459.09	1208.92	163.33
USA	57.50	88.15	53.30	919.88	809.66	-11.98
SINGAPORE	18.55	24.79	33.67	132.08	412.11	212.01
		High cum	ulative gro	wth		
GREECE	1.99	6.95	248.92	19.86	130.60	557.60
SINGAPORE	18.55	24.79	33.67	132.08	412.11	212.01
CHINA	22.29	311.68	1298.30	459.09	1208.92	163.33
TURKEY	4.45	41.75	838.34	51.57	81.59	58.21
MEXICO	11.90	16.98	42.75	143.12	185.81	29.83
		Sharp cun	nulative de	cline		
OMAN	2.72	2.10	-22.75	65.95	33.10	-49.82
EGYPT	3.28	1.57	-52.19	54.95	28.59	-47.97
ITALY	18.90	16.25	-14.04	126.71	87.61	-30.86
NEPAL	16.47	24.49	48.69	183.89	151.38	-17.68
ISRAEL	5.15	7.99	55.28	62.12	52.52	-15.45

(Source: Department of Commerce and CSO)

- ➡ Malaysia, Korea and China were the top three importers of India's Non-ferrous metals and products' during April 2020- March 2021 with 16.58 percent, 14.44 percent and 13.50 percent shares respectively in India's global import of the same.
- ♣ Greece and Singapore experienced massive growth of 557.60% and 212.01% respectively followed by China at 163.33% in import of Non-ferrous metals and products during April 2020- March 2021.
- ♣ Oman and Egypt conceded decline in imports by more than 45% for the said product group from India during April 2020- March 2021 vis-à-vis same period last fiscal.

Table 14: Export of Electrical Machinery and ComponentsUS\$ Million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	Growth (%)	APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)				
Top Five Importers										
USA	280.06	248.61	-11.23	2795.82	2559.38	-8.46				
GERMANY	65.74	38.64	-41.21	881.27	634.11	-28.05				
U K	39.44	123.22	212.44	639.99	378.60	-40.84				
SINGAPORE	16.01	35.57	122.24	422.32	343.34	-18.70				
UAE	19.06	23.92	25.48	257.14	288.91	12.35				
		High cum	ulative gro	wth						
HONG KONG	2.28	2.94	28.89	38.47	102.31	165.92				
NETHERLAND	4.35	11.30	159.91	56.83	112.72	98.34				
JAPAN	4.45	18.77	322.10	116.92	224.05	91.62				
VIETNAM	4.61	6.83	48.18	62.13	113.65	82.93				
POLAND	4.08	21.72	431.77	123.97	200.32	61.58				
		Sharp cum	ulative de	cline						
NIGERIA	28.96	9.28	-67.96	268.80	118.00	-56.10				
U K	39.44	123.22	212.44	639.99	378.60	-40.84				
CHINA	11.37	10.75	-5.40	210.45	137.92	-34.47				
GERMANY	65.74	38.64	-41.21	881.27	634.11	-28.05				
SINGAPORE	16.01	35.57	122.24	422.32 343.34		-18.70				

(Source: Department of Commerce and CSO)

- USA, Germany and U K were the top three importers of Indian Electrical Machinery and Components during April 2020-March 2021 with market shares of 31.60 percent, 7.83 percent and 4.67 percent respectively.
- Hong Kong recorded substantial growth of 165.92 % followed by Netherland and Japan at 98.34% and 91.62% in imports of India's Electrical Machinery and Components during April 2020- March 2021 vis-a-visa April 2019- March 2020.
- Nigeria experienced the sharp decline of more than 50% in imports during April 2020–March 2021 when compared to April 2019- March 2020 followed by U K and China at 40.84% and 34.47% respectively.

Table 15: Export of Aircrafts and Space crafts

US\$ million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	Growth (%) APRIL 2019 MARCH 2020		APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)					
	Top Five Importers										
USA	29.65	30.17	1.75	502.86	393.85	-21.68					
FRANCE	8.31	12.27	47.62	165.80	188.18	13.50					
SINGAPORE	7.00	12.04	72.14	168.23	115.84	-31.14					
UK	9.06	16.37	80.66	80.66 172.37		-45.85					
GERMANY	5.02	5.26	4.78	76.44	47.96	-37.25					
		High cu	ımulative grow	/th							
INDONESIA	0.10	0.02	-82.13	1.11	47.25	4172.32					
IRELAND	0.02	0.11	354.70	2.15	11.17	419.02					
SWITZERLAND	0.15	1.32	791.06	7.64	23.61	208.92					
CANADA	0.57	1.53	168.89	15.24	24.22	58.93					
UAE	0.52	1.57	203.72	22.51	28.59	26.98					
		Sharp ci	umulative decl	ine							
RUSSIA	0.59	0.04	-92.65	29.38	9.40	-68.02					
U K	9.06	16.37	80.66	172.37	93.34	-45.85					
MALAYSIA	3.51	3.72	5.99	52.02	30.07	-42.20					
GERMANY	5.02	5.26	4.78	76.44	47.96	-37.25					
SINGAPORE	7.00	12.04	72.14	168.23	115.84	-31.14					

(Source: Department of Commerce and CSO)

- ↓ USA, France and Singapore were the top three importers of India's 'Aircrafts and Spacecrafts' during April 2020- March 2021 with around 33.98, 16.24 and 10.00 percent shares respectively in India's total global exports of the product.
- ↓ Indonesia is the top importer for the said product group with monumental growth of 4172.32% during April 2020- March 2021. Also, Ireland and Switzerland registered substantial growth of 419.02% and 208.92% respectively in import of the product group from India during April 2020- March 2021 as compared to the same period last fiscal.
- ♣ On the flipside, demand for India's 'Aircrafts & Spacecrafts' from Russia, UK, Malaysia and Germany dropped by more than 35 percent year-on-year basis during April 2020-March 2021 when compared to April 2019 March 2020.

Table 16: Export of Ships, Boats and Floating Structures and partsUS\$ million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	Growth (%)	APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)
		Тор	Five Importe	rs		
SINGAPORE	27.35	128.72	370.57	931.30	1278.88	37.32
INDONESIA	19.95	408.94	1950.24	527.45	829.26	57.22
SOUTH AFRICA	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	439.26	-
UAE	119.37	2.60	-97.83	1307.84	401.30	-69.32
SRI LANKA	0.00	0.00	48.34	228.69	270.56	18.31
		High c	umulative gro	wth		
MALTA	0.00	0.00	-	0.01	115.61	1753418.77
PORTUGAL	0.00	0.00	-	0.01	144.37	991023.64
SAUDI ARABIA	0.00	0.00	-	4.71	243.10	5057.79
INDONESIA	19.95	408.94	1950.24	527.45	829.26	57.22
SINGAPORE	27.35	128.72	370.57	931.30	1278.88	37.32
		Sharp o	cumulative de	cline		
CYPRUS	0.00	0.00	-	349.98	0.00	-100.00
LIBERIA	0.00	0.00	-	69.04	0.00	-100.00
NORWAY	0.00	0.00	-	58.33	0.00	-100.00
U K	0.00	0.07	-	209.36	0.07	-99.97
OMAN	62.45	0.00	-100.00	236.54	69.06	-70.80

(Source: Department of Commerce and CSO)

Note: Export figures in case of some nations are showing zero due to rounding off but actually they are very small in value.

- ❖ Singapore, South Africa and Indonesia became the largest importer of ships, boats and floating structures in April 2020- March 2021 followed by U A E and Sri Lanka. Their respective shares are 28.36 percent, 18.39 percent, 9.74 percent, 8.90 percent and 6.00 percent.
- ❖ Though Malta and Portugal recorded negligible imports in March 2021 but the cumulative Imports to both the nations recorded meteoric increase as they had negligible import in April 2019 March 2020. Saudi Arabia registered substantial growth of 5057.79% in import of the product group from India during April 2020-March 2021 as compared with the same period last fiscal.
- However, sharp decline of more than 70 percent was noticed in exports to Oman from India during April 2020- March 2021 as compared with the same period last fiscal whereas the exports dropped to zilch for Cyprus, Liberia and Norway.

Table 17: Export of Auto Components

US\$ Million

COUNTRY	MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021	Growth (%)	APRIL 2019- MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021	Growth (%)
		Top Fiv	ve Importe	ers		
USA	75.44	137.80	82.66	1164.96	1114.36	-4.34
BANGLADESH	23.47	46.71	99.04	283.57	306.96	8.25
TURKEY	19.26	35.12	82.37	267.34	290.31	8.59
GERMANY	17.82	32.70	83.48	258.15	276.22	7.00
VIETNAM	13.17	24.81	88.42	190.22	245.35	28.98
		High cum	ulative gro	owth		
SLOVAKIA	1.22	1.98	62.61	12.35	19.74	59.80
SLOVENIA	1.49	2.70	81.09	15.07	23.21	54.09
AUSTRALIA	1.39	3.36	141.35	19.67	28.05	42.61
SPAIN	6.70	13.22	97.40	70.95	100.82	42.10
AUSTRIA	0.68	1.95	185.36	12.46	16.67	33.82
		Sharp cun	nulative de	ecline		
PHILIPPINES	6.36	7.46	17.37	91.30	32.04	-64.91
COLOMBIA	7.39	5.01	-32.27	79.53	39.58	-50.24
UAE	10.62	9.03	-14.93	156.66	83.26	-46.85
INDONESIA	9.67	9.59	-0.82	121.82	69.34	-43.08
CANADA	5.56	6.77	21.82	80.07	57.10	-28.69

(Source: Department of Commerce and CSO)

- USA remained the top importer of auto components in April 2020- March 2021 with a share of 22.59 percent followed by Bangladesh, Turkey, Germany and Vietnam with respective shares of 6.22 percent, 5.89 percent, 5.60 percent and 4.97 percent.
- ♣ Slovakia and Slovenia recorded increase of more than 50 percent followed by Australia, Spain and Austria in imports from April 2020- March 2021 when compared to April 2019 – March 2020.
- ♣ Philippines and Colombia recorded significant decline of more than 50 percent in April 2020- March 2021 when compared to April 2019 March 2020.

Analysis of India's engineering imports

India's Engineering imports during March 2021 were valued at US\$ 9515.7million compared to US\$ 7437.0 million in March 2020 registering a positive growth of 28.0 percent in dollar terms. In cumulative terms, engineering imports recorded a decline to the extent of 20.8 %

from US\$ 104020.0 million in April-March 2019-20 to US\$ 82406.8 million in April-March 2020-21.

The major engineering panels, like iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, machine tools, machinery, electrical & non-electrical, medicinal & pharmaceutical products and professional instrument, optical goods, etc. witnessed an increase in import while sectors like transport equipment recorded a decline during March 2021 compared to March 2020.

The share of engineering imports in India's total merchandise imports has decreased during March 2021 in comparison to March 2020 which has been estimated at 19.7%.

The monthly engineering import figures for fiscal April- March 2021 vis-a-vis April- March 2020 is depicted below as per the latest availability of figure:

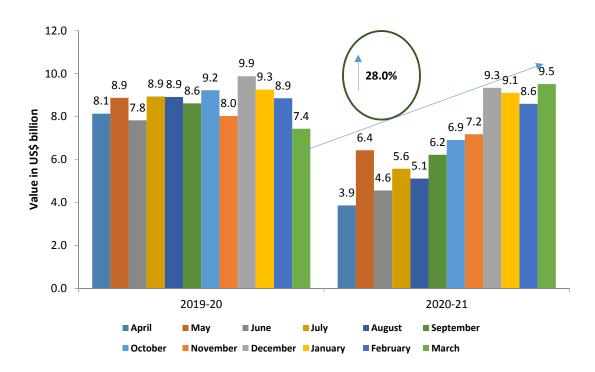
Table 18: Monthly engineering Imports during 2020-21 (US\$ Mn.)

Months	2019-20	2020-21	Growth (%)
April	8143.84	3858.97	-52.6
May	8875.24	6433.42	-27.5
June	7827.95	4558.01	-41.8
July	8938.17	5571.34	-37.7
Aug	8917.11	5114.42	-42.6
Sep	8618.02	6218.92	-27.8
Oct	9228.91	6911.83	-25.1
Nov	8029.28	7178.30	-10.6
Dec	9883.20	9342.97	-5.5
Jan	9265.69	9106.00	-1.7
Feb	8857.39	8594.74	-3.0
Mar	7437.04	9515.74	28.0

The figure below depicts engineering imports for April-Mar 2021 compared to April-Mar 2020

Figure 4: Monthly Engineering Imports for April- Mar 2021 vis-a-vis April- Mar 2020

Monthly Engineering Imports for 2020-21 vis-avis 2019-20



Source: EEPC India analysis

We now present the trend in two way yearly trade for the engineering sector from 2014-15 to 2019-20 as well as the current fiscal 2020-21 depicted in the table below:

Table 19: Year-wise trend in engineering trade (US\$ Billions)

Trade Flow	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Apr- Mar 2019-20	Apr-Mar 2020-21	Growth (%)
Engineering Export	70.7	58.4	65.2	76.2	81.0	75.3	73.1	-2.95
Engineering Import	77.3	75.9	81.8	93.9	110.1	104.0	82.4	-20.8
Trade Balance	-6.6	-17.5	-16.6	-17.7	-23.1	-28.7	-9.3	

Source: DGCI&S, EEPC India Analysis

Figure 6 below depicts the yearly trend in engineering trade from 2014-15 to 2019-20 as well as the latest concluding fiscal April-Mar 2020-21

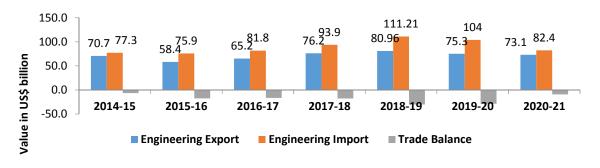


Figure 5: Trend in Yearly Engineering Trade

Conclusion

The financial year of 2020-21 has witnessed much destruction of economic activities around the globe due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Global trade in goods during 2020-21 recorded a decline of 9% as per the latest UNCTAD data. However experts around the world have indicated that gradual recovery of economic activities across the globe and especially in East Asia in the last few months have been able to limit the global trade decline to single digit level.

India is also going through a similar trend where even though the total merchandise as well as engineering exports have come down in 2020-21, the fall could be restricted to single digit due to the sector performing relatively well in the last few months. In March 2021 itself engineering exports from India recorded a massive year-on-year gain of around 68 percent. Revival of exports have been witnessed in all panels barring motor vehicles and cars which experienced a very marginal decline. The significant export growth may become a harbinger of good times for our exporting community which has been reeling under the COVID-related losses in the past one year. We are thankful to the government which has also realised the issues faced by the exporting community and thus taken policy decisions accordingly. The lowering of basic customs duty on key inputs like copper and steel and capacity boosting schemes such as the PLI scheme and extension of the MEIS scheme are all implemented keeping in mind the welfare of the exporting community. Additionally with the global demand increasing, exports are expected to continue on a growing path in the coming months.

While the above is of course a ray of hope, we should not be complacent. Even as we speak now, India is reeling under the second wave of COVID. Many states in order to control the rising numbers are resorting to restrictions in movement much in the lines of the previous lockdown. If we are unable to bring the second wave under control in a short time, we may again resort back to last year's export decline. The most affected will be the MSMEs who do not have access to much capital back up. A persistent lockdown like condition will risk their

survival. Therefore there needs to be a plan for universal vaccination so that the impact of the pandemic can be lessened. At the same time we urge the government to stand by the MSMEs in these difficult times. We sincerely hope that with the help and guidance from the government we will be able to recover from this very soon.

