



सत्यमेव जयते

EMBASSY OF INDIA  
CARACAS



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AUGUST 2021

# COMMERCIAL REPORT

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For more information, please write to Subrata Maity, Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Caracas at [hoc.caracas@mea.gov.in](mailto:hoc.caracas@mea.gov.in) or [com1.caracas@mea.gov.in](mailto:com1.caracas@mea.gov.in)



# Economic & Commercial Report for August 2021

## 1. Statistical data

### i. Bilateral Trade

Period	Imports from Venezuela		Exports to Venezuela		Total trade	
	US\$ million	Rs. Lacs	US\$ million	Rs. Lacs	US\$ million	Rs. Lacs
2021-22 (Apr-Jun)	7.24	5,350.92	186.60	137,803.66	193.84	143,154.58
2020-21	714.24	529,493.32	557.10	412,489.78	1,228.29	941,983.10
2019-20	6,057.01	4,295,510.14	339.71	243,943.87	6,396.72	4,539,454.01
2018-19	7,258.95	5,080,946.23	164.77	115,404.78	7,423.72	5,196,351.01
2017-18	5,866.37	3,779,668.44	79.21	51,053.33	5,945.58	3,830,721.77
2016-17	5,512.06	3,696,429.07	62.22	41,615.42	5,574.28	3,738,044.49
2015-16	5,701.81	3,715,029.41	130.66	85,177.63	5,832.47	3,800,207.00
2014-15	11,729.89	7,158,579.90	258.07	158,004.43	11,987.96	7,316,585.00

**Source:** Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Export Import Data Bank, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Venezuela has not published any official data in respect of trade after 2014.

### ii. Top 10 items of Venezuelan Imports from India

(US\$ million)

S.N.	Exports	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Mineral fuels and mineral oils	0.03	-	83.45	263.12	461.64
2	Pharmaceutical Products	24.55	54.48	62.13	38.79	51.71
3	Cereals (Rice)	-	0.09	0.03	8.05	16.27
4	Cotton	3.11	1.56	2.46	6.42	8.11
5	Organic Chemicals	1.75	1.75	1.98	1.47	2.14
6	Paper and paperboard	0.66	0.52	0.96	0.90	1.82
7	Iron and steel	0.86	0.01	0.23	0.07	1.58
8	Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances	11.01	5.58	3.41	3.42	1.28
9	Miscellaneous chemical products	0.81	2.88	1.20	1.97	1.21
10	Plastics and articles thereof	0.21	0.62	0.54	0.54	1.04

**Source:** Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Export Import Data Bank, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

### iii. Top 10 items of Venezuelan Imports from the World

(US\$ million)

S.N.	Commodity	2017	2018	2019	2020
1	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	2,026.32	4,579.99	965.35	940.50
2	Cereals	792.06	897.60	554.66	672.68
3	Machinery and mechanical appliances	1,479.55	877.15	519.90	642.84
4	Electrical machinery, equipment and parts	608.54	440.62	396.70	536.87
5	Vehicles, parts and accessories	371.96	207.14	192.89	268.17
6	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk	204.70	110.24	161.35	239.37
7	Plastics and articles thereof	196.56	179.93	147.54	195.78
8	Sugars and sugar confectionery	179.35	195.25	84.46	193.71
9	Pharmaceutical products	1,292.04	356.41	194.34	154.75
10	Rubber and articles thereof	147.74	150.39	197.36	114.34

**Source:** International Trade Centre (ICT) – Trade Map (calendar year).

### iv. Top 10 items of Venezuelan Exports to India

(US\$ million)

S.N.	Imports	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Mineral Fuels and Oils	5,505.88	5,859.40	7,248.15	6,029.57	643.93
2	Organic chemicals	0.00	-	0.03	0.04	34.70
3	Iron and Steel	-	0.08	1.54	7.10	18.00
4	Copper and articles thereof	-	-	-	5.22	5.23
5	Lead and Articles thereof	0.45	1.67	0.74	2.79	4.82
6	Articles of Iron or Steel	0.02	-	0.00	0.03	2.54
7	Aluminium and Articles thereof	3.52	2.22	5.49	5.54	1.53
8	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	0.21	0.37	-	3.90	1.49
9	Wood and Articles thereof	0.11	0.84	0.86	0.45	0.67
10	Electrical Machinery	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.47	0.46

**Source:** Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Export Import Data Bank, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

**v. Top 10 items of Venezuelan exports to the World**

(US\$ million)

S.N.	Commodity	2017	2018	2019	2020
1	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	28,246.42	29,981.84	14,820.06	3,280.65
2	Iron and steel	356.80	251.39	238.41	426.95
3	Organic chemicals	534.23	561.66	404.78	241.82
4	Fish and crustaceans	154.10	163.94	236.68	235.95
5	Ores, slag and ash	339.28	219.03	111.00	90.96
6	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	63,92	73,14	76.08	67.27
7	Copper and articles thereof	61.07	73.94	55.99	51.36
8	Aluminium and articles thereof	332.26	229.15	78.12	49.29
9	Fertilizers	186,68	79,22	0,42	45,93
10	Preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	128.70	80.69	53.62	44.82

**Source:** International Trade Centre (ICT) – Trade Map (calendar year).

**vi. GDP Growth %**

Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total
2014	-5.2%	-5.4%	-2.7%	-2.6%	-3.9%
2015	-1.4%	-4.8%	-7.4%	-10.2%	-5.9%
2016	-13.4%	-17.6%	-19.0%	-17.9%	-17.0%
2017	-12.2%	-15.6%	-15.8%	-18.9%	-15.7%
2018	-18.1%	-17.6%	-22.5%	-	-
2019	-26.8%	-	-	-	-
2020	-	-	-	-	-

**Source:** Central Bank of Venezuela.

## 2. Trade queries for import/Exports

No.	Name of trader	IE Code	Product
1	CHAMPAEXPERT DIAMOND	ASNPV1998F	Diamonds
2	NAKODA OVERSEAS	CHUPB8386F	Spices
3	Sarjan Watertech India Pvt Ltd	Not provided	Water treatment/purification systems
4	Productos Medicos Perez C.A (Venezuela)	N/a	Verification of Indian company Bonetech Medisys Pvt. Ltd.
5	Alcon Biosciences Pvt. Ltd.	Not provided	Pharmaceutical/FD/Chemical/API Companies
6	Natural Remedies Private Limited	Not provided	Natural Pet Products
7	Grupo Telares Maracay (Venezuela)	N/a	Textiles and raw materials for textile industry
8	UNIPHOS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	Not provided	Water treatment chemicals
9	GOPINATJI SALES	Not provided	Imitation jewellery
10	Ojas Natural Exporter	Not provided	Pickles
11	SONAR BROTHERS EXIM	Not provided	Artificial flowers, foliage and fruit and parts thereof; articles made of artificial flowers, foliage or fruit
12	Hapifuel Enterprises	Not provided	Spices: Turmeric, Red Chilli, Turmeric Powder, Red Chilli Powder, Cumin. Powder, Coriander Powder, Soya Beans. Grains: Wheat, Rice, Barley, Puffed Rice and Sorghum. Pulses: Chickpeas, Green Gram, Cowpea, Kidney Beans, Flattened Rice, Green Peas, Sesame Seeds.
13	SJ Group – Nutrifoods (Venezuela)	N/a	Fertilizers
14	BOSTO Group (Venezuela)	N/a	Pharmaceutical and healthcare products
15	Prakhar Enterprises	Not provided	Coffee beans
16	Grand Stone International	Not provided	Granite
17	Prasheel International Private Limited	Not provided	Ceramic Tiles (Wall tiles, floor tiles, elevation tiles, and quartz stone)
18	VeeTee Fine Foods Limited	Not provided	Basmati Rice, Non-Basmati Rice and Food
19	Ambuja Impex	Not provided	Paper bags
20	Lotus Grand Exports	Not provided	Agro products
21	KDC Agro & Textile Industries	Not provided	Basmati Rice, Peanut, Cumin Seeds, and Cumin Powder
22	MEDILAB EXPORTS	Not provided	Laboratory Glassware, Scientific Laboratory Supplies and Educational Lab Instruments
23	WEBITO EXPORTS	Not provided	Ceramic Tiles
24	PRATEX INC	Not provided	Petroleum Coke
25	DEVI KRUPA BHANDAR	Not provided	Ethnic wear and Saree
26	Waveri International	Not provided	Ceramic Sanitary-ware, Tiles, Pottery, Homedecor & Handicrafts. Kindly give us a list of

			Ceramic Tiles, Ceramic Sanitary-ware, Handicrafts and Pottery
27	<b>VANITY INTERNATIONAL</b>	Not provided	Ceramic tiles
28	<b>Droguería Social SC. C.A</b>	N/a	Pharmaceutical products
29	<b>Jai Santoshi Maa Footwear</b>	Not provided	Leather and non-leather Footwear.
30	<b>KGN INDIA EXPORTS</b>	Not provided	Kitchen storage boxes
31	<b>JK OVERSEAS</b>	Not provided	Faucet and bath accessories
32	<b>NILMAX EXIM</b>	Not provided	Handicrafts
33	<b>SOAMI EXPORTS</b>	Not provided	A4 Paper, Rice, Food Items, Tiles, Garment, Hand Tools, Water Meter & Scaffolding
34	<b>Nityapushta Farm Products Pvt. Ltd.</b>	AAHCN1753F	Medicinal plants and allied ayurvedic products
35	<b>Joyero jlf (Venezuela)</b>	N/a	Jewelry
36	<b>Universal Starch and Shivangan Food and Pharma</b>	Not provided	Food and pharmaceuticals
37	<b>Farm to Fork Exports</b>	Not provided	Organic food products
38	<b>SUNCITY EXIM</b>	Not provided	Guar gum

### 3. Commercial and Economic News:

#### INDIA - VENEZUELA

**Ambassador of India to Venezuela visited to Cojedes State:** On 21 August 2021, Ambassador of India to Venezuela, Shri Abhishek Singh visited Cojedes State and made a presentation on India's

achievements since Independence as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The Ambassador met with senior officials of Cojedes State and discussed the trade potentialities between India and Cojedes State. [Read more.](#)

#### OTHER NEWS

**Venezuela to launch Central Bank Digital Currency in October and cut six zeros from its currency:** The Central Bank of Venezuela will launch a central bank digital currency (CBDC) in October alongside a monetary redenomination that will cut six zeros from the currency due to raging inflation. As of 01 October 2021, the digital Venezuelan bolivar will begin circulation in the economy. Its cash equivalent will get a new 1-bolivar coin, along with banknotes ranging from 5 bolivars to 100 bolivars as part of the six-zero readjustment of the currency. [Read more.](#)

**Only 5% of the ATMs in Venezuela are in operation:** According to media reports, until December 2020, Venezuela had 5,762 ATMs, however only 288 remain in working conditions. The Federation of Bank Workers of Venezuela said that most of the ATMs in the country are outdated since 2007-08. The Federation announced that the machines require maintenance and calibration due to the last iteration of the local currency three years ago. [Read more.](#)

**Remittances to Venezuela decreased by 55.8% during pandemic:** The Institute of Social and Economic Research of the Andrés

Bello Catholic University, released a study that indicated throughout 2021 the money remittances sent to Venezuela would amount to US\$ 2.3 billion. However, since the pandemic started, the remittances have dropped by 55.8%, therefore limiting the purchasing power of many families in the country. [Read more.](#)

**Curaçao completed the sale of a batch of PDVSA asphalt:** La Refineria di Korsou (RdK), the state-owned oil company of Curacao, sold 73,000 tons of AC-30 bitumen (Asphalt) belonging to PDVSA. The 73,000 tons were transferred from the city of Willemstad on the Chinese flag oil tanker Da Ming Shan to Hong Kong on 29 July 2021. Korsou refinery did not identify the buyer or the value of the transaction. The company said that it expects to make US\$ 33.5 million for the release of the inventory of PDVSA. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela seeks to strengthen ties with ASEAN:** The Vice Minister for Asia, Middle East and Oceania, Mrs. Capaya Rodriguez, held a meeting with the Vice Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr. Hector Silva, to discuss a common strategy to incentivize the commercial relations with the countries from

Asia, Middle East and Oceania, emphasizing on those of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). [Read more.](#)

**Gasoline production of Venezuela under 50,000bpd:** Venezuela's August levels of gasoline production amount to around 50,000 bpd. Media indicates that most of the gasoline refining plants are halted. The gasoline supply in the country remains unstable as long queues of motorists trying to obtain fuel in the roads of the major cities in the country continue to grow larger. [Read more.](#)

**Nestlé Venezuela alerts about non-authorized imports of their products:** The Nestlé Venezuela company alerted about forgery and non-authorized imports of their products. The company warned that some food products are being traded in the Venezuelan market that are not compliant with the health standards of the company and may have adverse effects on the consumers. Nestlé has alerted that the forged products may be powdered milk and soups. [Read more.](#)

**Production of citric fruits in Venezuela reduced by 95%:** According to the Federation of Farming Producers of Venezuela (Fedeagro), the production of citric fruits in Venezuela has reduced by 95% due to the Huanglongbing (yellow dragon disease). The disease is one of the most destructive plagues of citrics worldwide. Fedeagro has called for national control of the disease through fumigation. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela dollarization has allowed for some growth in commerce:** According to media reports, Venezuela's partial dollarization has allowed for growth in commerce and services but is not enough to ensure recovery from years of hyperinflation.

Access to hard currency has allowed for increased commercial activity in small businesses even though they still have almost no access to financing. A significant recovery will require major improvements to public services such as power and water as well as distribution of fuel and natural gas to consumers. [Read more.](#)

**PDVSA transfers Refidomsa to the Dominican Republic:** On 19 August 2021, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela informed an agreement was subscribed between Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) and PATSA, LTD, corresponding to a successful transfer of 49% of its stock ownership in the REFINERÍA DOMINICANA DE PETROLEO PDV, S.A. (REFIDOMSA) to the Dominican State, in exchange for the foreign currency debt. As a result of this transaction, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and PDVSA were able to reduce their public external debt, and the Dominican State becomes the only shareholder of REFIDOMSA, an operation performed by PATSA LTD, which enabled the operation. [Read more.](#)

**Footwear industry in Venezuela estimates recovery of 40% on the eve of return of in-person classes:** The Vice President of the Venezuelan Chamber of Footwear, Mr. Tony Di Benedetto, said to media that he expects that the footwear sector would increase production by 40% on the eve of return of in-person classes. The chamber informed that the footwear sectors is currently operating at 10-12% of its capacity, however they expect that there would be demand of around 7-8 million pairs of shoes. [Read more.](#)

**Fedeagro affirms that the agro-sector has recovered despite crisis:** The President Confederation of Associations of Agro-



Producers of Venezuela (Fedeagro), Mr. Celso Fantinel, told media that despite the economic difficulties currently present in Venezuela, the agro-sector is slowly recovering its productivity. He indicated that Venezuela is currently exporting products such as maize flour to countries like Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, attributed mostly to the large presence of Venezuelan in those countries. [Read more.](#)

**Government of Venezuela instructs to reactivate by a 100% the production of sugar in the country:** The President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, instructed the Minister for Productive Agriculture and Lands, to do “whatever it takes” to reactivate the production of sugar in the country by a 100%. “I want the 16 sugar mills in the country recovered, we must take the actions needed and there should not be one single idle mill”, the President said. [Read more.](#)

**Tyre industry in Lara State increased production by 70%:** The Covencaucho industry, a tyre manufacturing company located in the city of Barquisimeto in Lara State, has registered an increase of 70% of their production thanks to the policies taken by the Government of Venezuela. “We want to show the Venezuelan people that the policies directed by the National Government in the Superior Council of Economy are giving positive results”, said the Vice Minister of Purchase Policies and National Content, Daniel Gómez. Covencaucho is a company with more than 70 years in the Venezuelan market and offers recycled tyres made in Venezuela, lowering costs for Venezuelan motorists and preserving the environment. [Read more.](#)

**World Bank ranks Venezuela as the 3<sup>rd</sup> country with the worst climate for**

**investment:** According to media reports, Venezuela has been considered as the 3<sup>rd</sup> country in the world with the worst climate to invest in 2021. The World Bank has evaluated 190 countries and Venezuela ranked 188, only after Eritrea and Somalia. [Read more.](#)

**Foreign investors see scope for returning to Venezuela:** According to media reports, there seems to be renewed interest in Venezuela by high-risk appetite investors. Recently, a couple of private equity funds were seeking to acquire shares in Venezuelan companies and invest in Venezuelan financial assets, and some foreign companies and investment groups acquired private companies or established branches in Venezuela, including DirectTV, Cargill and Liberty Mutual Holding. An economic adviser at London’s EM Funding has said that the opportunities for profit in the first phase of economic recovery are “immensely high”. One driver of this emerging interest is likely to be the expectation that the US Government may revise its Venezuela sanctions programme, or at least introduce more exceptions to the very severe sanctions rules currently in place. [Read more.](#)

**President Maduro says that 2021 would be the first year of economic growth cycle:** On 26 August 2021, President Nicolás Maduro, announced that 2021 would be the first year of an economic growth cycle amidst the US sanctions. The President also indicated that the Government hopes that in the near future, Venezuela would recover its GDP. [Read more.](#)

**Fuel scarcity continues to affect the agro-sector:** According to the Federation of Agriculture Farmers of Venezuela (Fedeagro), the Government of Venezuela allocated only 20% of the fuel needed by the

agro-sector, thus affecting the goal of the winter crop cycle of Venezuela. The sector has reported that they have been forced to obtain fuel at black market prices, which cause an increment on the food prices. [Read more](#).

**More than 30 hotels shut down in Nueva Esparta due to the crisis:** The Vice President of the Hotel Chamber of Nueva Esparta state, Mr. Juan Manuel Colmenares, informed media that around 32 hotels in the state have shut down operations due to the current economic situation and the pandemic restrictions. He indicated that the hotels that remain open are facing major setbacks due to the low occupancy rates. [Read more](#).

**Farmers in Lara use produce as payment method:** According to media reports, farmers in Lara state are using the produce as a payment method due to the scarcity of cash, lack of internet connectivity and the devaluation of the local currency. The farmers have devised to establish prices of their produce such as 1 kilo of coffee is equivalent to US\$ 1. For getting 50 liters of fuel the truckers pay 10 crates of lettuce and 10 crates of broccoli. [Read more](#).

**Venezuela's August average crude production declines to 520,000 bpd:** According to media reports, average crude production by PDVSA and its foreign partners fell to 520,000 bpd in August 2021, dropped slightly below the 524,000 bpd reported for July. Reports indicate that recurrent electricity supply failures and the lack of diluents for extra-heavy crude have affected the PDVSA recovery plan and have put the original goals behind schedule. According to the reports, average crude output during August in the Carabobo block was 140,000 bpd; in Ayacucho 96,000 bpd; in Junín 46,000 bpd;

and in Boyacá 8,000 bpd. In the Orinoco Belt, the Petrolera Sinovensa joint venture (PDVSA 60%, CNPC 40%) operated at an average 25,000 b/d, or 23.8% of its maximum 105,000 capacity. Petromonagas (PDVSA 60%, Russia 40%) processed 55,000 b/d, or 45.8% of its maximum capacity of 120,000 b/d. For its part, the joint venture Petropiar (PDVSA 70%, Chevron 30%) operated at an average 41,000, b/d, or 21.6% of its 190,000 b/d capacity. [Read more](#).

**China's CNPC looks to revive oil projects in Venezuela:** The China National Petroleum Corporation is reportedly preparing to return to Venezuela after the Government of Venezuela finalizes legislation seeking to attract more foreign capital to the industry. According to media reports, CNPC is sending engineers and other staff to Venezuela and talking to local companies for maintenance operations at an oil-blending plant that the Chinese company operates together with PDVSA. Reports also indicated CNPC was in talks with Venezuelan companies to ramp up oil production at five joint ventures that the company has with PDVSA. [Read more](#).

**Garment industry reports to operating at 20-25% of capacity:** The President of the Venezuelan Chamber of Garment (Cavediv), informed media that due to the shrinkage of the market in Venezuela, they are operating at a 20-25% capacity. During a radio interview he indicated that manufacturing in Venezuela as the local currency devaluates on a daily basis. [Read more](#).

**President Maduro calls for diversification of financing instruments:** On 02 September 2021, President Nicolás Maduro, spoke about being in favour of a possible expansion and diversification of the financing instruments in the national market. The President ratified the

decision of removing tariffs on almost 600 products, seeking to protect the national production. The President also announced that soon he will bring “good news” regarding gasoline supply in the country. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela has fully vaccinated around 10% of its population:** At least 3.3 million Venezuelans, or just over 10% of the population, have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, according to a survey by a group of doctors linked to the South American nation's universities. The survey showed that 25.3% had received one dose and 10.6% had received both. The data is similar to vaccinations rates tracked by Our World in Data, which shows 21% receiving at least a first dose and 12% fully vaccinated. [Read more.](#)

**Russia to resume shipments of Sputnik V vaccines to Venezuela:** On 31 August 2021, Russia's Ambassador to Venezuela Serguei Melik-Bagdasarov confirmed that his country would resume shipping doses of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine to Venezuela. "Good news for our people. We congratulate the strategic alliance forged by President Nicolas Maduro with Russia to fight the pandemic," Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Minister Felix Plasencia stated, adding that Russia has donated thousands of medical supplies and COVID-19 masks to his country. [Read more.](#)

**Inpex divest oil and gas assets in Venezuela to Sucre Energy:** Japanese oil company Inpex has reportedly divested two oil and gas assets in Venezuela to local company Sucre Energy Group. The assets divested to Sucre include a 70% stake in the Gas Guarico natural gas partnership with state-owned oil company PDVSA, Reuters reported citing three people familiar with the transaction. The Gas Guarico has a

production capacity of around 50 million cubic feet per day of natural gas. Sucre Energy Group also purchase a stake of 30% in the Petroguarico oil joint venture (JV), the people said. The acquisition is a part of the Venezuelan exploration and production firm's effort to improve mature fields in Latin America. [Read more.](#)