



सत्यमेव जयते

EMBASSY OF INDIA
CARACAS



NOVEMBER 2020

COMMERCIAL REPORT

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Embassy of India

Economic & Commercial Report for November 2020

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
2020-21 (Apr - Sep) (P)	305.38	228,146.10	516.43	382,796.83	821.81	610,942.93
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	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	Mineral fuels and mineral oils	0.05	0.03	-	83.45	263.12
2	Pharmaceutical Products	73.17	24.55	54.48	62.13	38.79
3	Cereals (Rice)	-	-	0.09	0.03	8.05
4	Cotton	6.58	3.11	1.56	2.46	6.42
5	Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances	14.58	11.01	5.58	3.41	3.42
6	Electrical Machinery	4.79	1.21	0.54	0.60	2.81
7	Miscellaneous chemical products	4.07	0.81	2.88	1.20	1.97
8	Man-Made Staple Fibres	3.69	1.91	3.85	0.62	1.83
9	Organic Chemicals	3.39	1.75	1.75	1.98	1.47
10	Paper and paperboard	0.44	0.66	0.52	0.96	0.90

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	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	1,791.58	2,026.32	4,579.99	965.35
2	Cereals	823.56	792.06	897.60	554.66
3	Machinery and mechanical appliances	2,326.53	1,479.55	877.15	519.90
4	Electrical machinery, equipment and parts	997.94	608.54	440.62	396.70
5	Rubber and articles thereof	243.50	147.74	150.39	197.36
6	Pharmaceutical products	1,857.03	1,292.04	356.41	194.34
7	Vehicles, parts and accessories	880.38	371.96	207.14	192.89
8	Residues and waste from the food industries	369.22	181.84	205.95	177.22
9	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk	108.14	204.70	110.24	161.35
10	Plastics and articles thereof	347.07	196.56	179.93	147.54

Source: National Institute of Statistics (INE), Government of Venezuela. Venezuela has not published any official data in respect of trade after 2014. The above data after 2014 has been obtained from the International Trade Centre (ICT) – Trade Map (calendar year).

iv. Top 10 items of Venezuelan Exports to India

(US\$ million)

S.N.	Imports	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	Mineral Fuels and Oils	5,678.63	5,505.88	5,859.40	7,248.15	6,029.57
2	Iron and Steel	13.87	-	0.08	1.54	7.10
3	Aluminium and Articles thereof	6.56	3.52	2.22	5.49	5.54
4	Copper and articles thereof	-	-	-	-	5.22
5	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	0.06	0.21	0.37	-	3.90
6	Lead and Articles thereof	0.76	0.45	1.67	0.74	2.79
7	Zinc and articles thereof	-	-	0.71	0.44	1.07
8	Electrical Machinery	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.47
9	Wood and Articles thereof	0.01	0.11	0.84	0.86	0.45
10	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	-	-	-	0.13	0.23

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	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	24,207.76	28,246.42	29,981.84	14,820.06
2	Organic chemicals	376.42	534.23	561.66	404.78
3	Iron and steel	280.83	356.80	251.39	238.41
4	Fish and crustaceans	125.78	154.10	163.94	236.68
5	Natural or cultured pearls	2,929.33	1,058.71	2,718.24	120.00
6	Ores, slag and ash	363.15	339.28	219.03	111.00
7	Aluminium and articles thereof	242.92	332.26	229.15	78.12
8	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	48,63	63,92	73,14	76.08
9	Copper and articles thereof	48.12	61.07	73.94	55.99
10	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	129.42	128.70	80.69	53.62

Source: National Institute of Statistics (INE), Government of Venezuela. Venezuela has not published any official data in respect of trade after 2014. The above data after 2014 has been obtained from the International Trade Centre (ICT) – Trade Map (calendar year).

vi. Monthly Inflation Rate

S.N.	Month	National Assembly estimates (2020)	Central Bank of Venezuela figures (2020)
1	January	65.4%	62.20%
2	February	22.4%	21.80%
3	March	21.1%	13.30%
4	April	80.0%	27.50%
5	May	15.30%	38.60%
6	June	19.50%	25.10%
7	July	55.05%	19.60%
8	August	25.04%	19.60%
9	September	30.00%	27.90%
10	October	23.80%	-
11	November	65.70%	-

Source: Central Bank of Venezuela and National Assembly of Venezuela.

vii. 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	Solostone Tiles Pvt Ltd	Not provided	Ceramic and Porcelain tiles
2	Farmers Centre Company	Not provided	Agrochemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, veterinary medicines
3	Rachna Art Prints Pvt. Ltd.	0891010793	Polyester, nylon, cotton, viscose, linen or their blends in plains, georgette, crepe, satin
4	Umiya International Trade	CIJPP9876J	Indian Spices (Cumin, Psyllium husk, fenugreek, Sesame seeds Etc.), Rice (Basmati rice Non-Basmati Rice.
5	Tirumalesaa Internacia Pvt. Ltd.	Not provided	Dried banana, banana powder etc and also Agro chemicals.
6	KANTILAL B. DESAI & SON	Not provided	Timber
7	Varmora Granito Private Limited	2403005282	Ceramic and Porcelain tiles
8	Calendar Exports Private Limited	BRHPS4917D	Home decor, handicrafts, leather, fashion and fresh groceries items
9	ASB Enterprise	Not provided	Textile Fabrics & Garments
10	Zohra Nirmal Udyog Pvt Ltd.	AABCZ0145M	Washing Powder, Detergent Cake, Liquid Detergent, Dish Wash Bar, Dish Wash Liquid, Incense Sticks, Sanitary Pad, Steel Wool, Hand Wash Gel, Toilet Cleaner, Phenyl
11	YASSHREE IMPEX (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED	AABCY2376F	Agricultural products
12	Mc Clelland Engineers Pvt. Ltd.	Not provided	Incinerators for Safe disposal of Waste
13	Parth Antibiotics	Not provided	Pharmaceutical API, Intermediates, Finished formulations, Excipients, Basic and Bulk Chemicals.
14	SANVI POLYFAB LLP	AEEFS8079K	PP Woven Fabric Roll and PP woven Bags/Sacks
15	ENCAVA (Venezuela)	N/a	Import of auto-rickshaws
16	COMERCIAL 2003 CA (Venezuela)	N/a	Import of yarn and textiles
17	Xylem Farms & Exports LLP	AAAFX3410B	Fruits, Vegetables, Cereals and Pulses
18	SHARMA JI TRADER	Not provided	Turmeric
19	Orbio Agro Exim Pvt Ltd	Not provided	Fresh Vegetables, Fresh Fruits, Naturally Processed Jaggery and Bio-Fertilizers & Bio-Pesticides
20	LEADER OVERSEAS	Not provided	Submersible pump, Induction motor and Hardware item
21	Hanumant Export Industries Private Limited	Not provided	High-Grade Plastic Chairs, Plastic Tables, Stools, Water Buckets, Paint & Lubricant Oil Containers, Crates for Storage handling, FDA approved Food Grade Plastic Containers, HDPE Dustbins, Waste bins, Insulated Casseroles, Lunchboxes, Insulated Water Cooler Jugs, Melamine Crockery,
22	DK Overseas	AARFD0776D	Pharmaceutical, Herbal and Nutraceutical products

23	Simro Overseas	Not provided	Jute handbags, cotton handbags, straw handbags, crochet handbags and carpets
24	Aalim Agro Pvt. Ltd.	AARCA6235H	Dried and Powder Turmeric
25	DREAMZ WORLD	Not provided	Welding electrodes / Flux wire
26	FLY INTERNATIONAL	Not provided	Rice
27	Poonam International Exports and Imports	Not provided	Fresh Vegetables and Fruits
28	KANVI BIOEXTRACT	Not provided	Marine Collagen Peptide
29	SURU International Pvt. Ltd.	Not provided	Medical devices
30	STARCREW OVERSEAS	2416503529	Clothing and accessories
31	Ambuja Impex	ALXPS5338P	Tea, Coffee and Spices
32	SIPZII OCN Global Pvt Ltd	ABECS0189E	All Agriculture Products, Processed foods, Frozen foods, Ready to eat foods, Dairy Products, Raw Honey, Animal Products, and Flowers etc.
33	MELCON	Not provided	Electrical transformers
34	AMAZING ENTERPRISES OPC PVT LTD HUBLI	Not provided	Onion, Garlic, Ginger, potatoes, Rice, beans, tea, oil, oil seeds, pickles, jams, , paste, salt, wheat flour, instant ready mix, ground nuts, pulses, spices grains, seeds, peas, hardware, building material & safety products, FMCG Products, Imitation jewellery, herbal liquid oil, culture pearls, Garments
35	Montage Laboratories Private Limited	Not provided	Pharmaceutical Products
36	Sri Agro Commodities Exports	Not provided	Dry red, chilly, green chillies, potatoes, Red Onions, rice , ginger, groundnut, pumkin, peper, sugar

3. Commercial and Economic News:

INDIA - VENEZUELA

Ambassador of India to Venezuela visited Sucre State for strengthening commercial alliances: On 20 November 2020, the Governor of Sucre State, Edwin Rojas, welcomed Ambassador of India to Venezuela, Shri Abhishek Singh, to discuss different commercial matters. The Governor proposed to the Ambassador the possibilities for Indian investors to come and invest in Sucre State. The Governor also announced that he expects to arrange by early 2021 an event by the name of "Invest in Sucre" in partnership with the Embassy of India for attracting Indian investors and businessmen. [Read more.](#)

India hopes to restart oil imports from Iran and Venezuela: India would like to have more opportunities to work for diversifying its sources of crude, including by resuming oil imports from Venezuela and Iran under President Biden, according to India's Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Speaking at a webinar on 02 December 2020, the Indian Minister said, that "As a buyer I would like to have more buying places. I should have more destinations to go for purchasing (oil)." The Minister was replying to a question whether he hopes the

Biden Administration would ease the current strict sanctions against the two OPEC producers, Iran and Venezuela. Reliance Industries, the owner of the largest refinery in India and the world, stopped buying Venezuelan crude oil in June this year. Reliance Industries is not alone in shunning Venezuelan oil, fearing repercussions from Washington. **India's** second-largest refiner, Nayara Energy, has also stopped buying Venezuelan crude, switching to Canadian, Kuwaiti, and Ecuadorian oil. [Read more.](#)

PDVSA increased diesel imports from India by 19% in October: According to media reports, PDVSA increased its diesel imports from Indian Reliance Industries by 18.75%. Reliance reportedly sent 95,000 bpd of diesel in comparison with the shipments of September that stood at 80,000 bpd. Reliance, like Repsol and Eni had an agreement with PDVSA of taking crude oil in exchange of diesel. Reports indicate that the largest diesel supplier to Venezuela is Reliance. [Read more.](#)

OTHER NEWS

Company suspended establishment of US\$ ATMs in Venezuela: On 05 November 2020, private company AKB Fintech announced that they had decided to suspend establishment of US\$ ATMs in Venezuela that they had initially planned to start during the week ending on 06 November. [Read more.](#)

Venezuelan refineries operated at less than 10% capacity: El Palito, Amuay and Cardón refineries in Venezuela were reportedly operating at less than 10% of their total capacity during early November. Media indicates that this situation stands since 2019 and has worsened so far in 2020. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela to resume flights to 4 countries:

Government of Venezuela announced that air restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic will remain in place, making an exception to allow flights to and from Turkey, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Iran. The Government announced that as a preventive measure against the virus, passengers must comply with a social quarantine while undergoing the corresponding medical evaluations. Domestic flights throughout Venezuela will remain restricted, except for flights to Los Roques, an archipelago of Caribbean islands. [Read more.](#)

U.S. assures Eni repairs to Venezuela oil facility are not barred by sanctions:

The US Government assured Italian oil company Eni that efforts to prevent a spill at a floating crude facility in Venezuela would not run afoul of sanctions. The Nabarima tanker has been idle for nearly two years after the US sanctioned PDVSA. The tanker holds some 1.3 million barrels of Corocoro crude. [Read more.](#)

Chamber warned that 40% of industries are on the verge of disappearing:

The Director of the Venezuelan Confederation of Industrials, informed that at least 40% of the industries in Venezuela are on the verge of disappearing due to the lack of continuity in their operations and the absence of effective economic policies that contribute to boost the industries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The chamber representative further indicated that with exception of the food, health and hygiene sector, the industries are operating at 30% of their capacity. [Read more.](#)

Gasoline production restarted at El Palito:

PDVSA restarted gasoline production at its catalytic cracking unit at El Palito refinery. The refinery has been producing 35,000 bpd of

gasoline out of 146,000 bpd capacity. [Read more.](#)

50% decrease on COVID-19 medications:

The Minister for National Trade of Venezuela announced that the Government managed to reduce the prices for COVID-19 medication by 50%. The reduction was achieved by reaching deals with the pharmaceutical sector in the country, increasing the availability and supply of products. The Minister indicated that there is sufficient availability of medications for COVID-19 in the country. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela launched state-run Bitcoin, Litecoin, Dash, and Petro Exchange:

The Venezuelan Government has launched a crypto exchange – with support for Petro (PTR) token as well as bitcoin (BTC), Litecoin (LTC) and Dash (DASH) pairings with the fiat Bolivar. In an official announcement from the National Superintendency of Crypto Assets and Related Activities (Sunacrip), the Venezuelan crypto regulator posted on the Government's state-run media portal that the platform will be named the Venezuela Exchange (VEX). [Read more.](#)

US announced that they will ban swapping of Venezuelan oil for debt or diesel:

US Special Envoy to Venezuela, Elliott Abrams announced that the US Government has effectively ended a sanctions exemption for debt or diesel supplied by non-US companies under transactions that had been permitted on humanitarian grounds since the US imposed oil sanctions on Venezuela in early 2019. The decision was announced after the US Government sold the cargo of four Iranian tankers confiscated in August. [Read more.](#)

Slew of tankers sail towards Venezuela, suggesting oil export rebound:

At least 18 oil tankers are expected to load oil for export

from Venezuela in November. So far in November, nine tankers have loaded almost 6 million barrels of Venezuelan crude and fuel for exports. That amounts to more than 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) so far in November. Of the nine tankers, one was chartered by Thailand's Tipco Asphalt PCL and five by PDVSA's new customers based in Russia. [Read more.](#)

The famous company Cargill left Venezuela after 34 years in the country: Cargill, a legendary US company with more than three decades operating in Venezuela, informed that it sold its operations in Venezuela to the Phoenix Global Investment Fund and the local Puig group. [Read more.](#)

Governor of Nueva Esparta warned about total collapse of tourism in Margarita Island: The opposition Governor of Nueva Esparta, warned that tourism in the Margarita Island is on the verge of collapse due to the negative impact and tourism restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "We are deeply alarmed; it has been almost a year with flights suspended to and from Margarita. This has caused a ferocious unemployment in each and every touristic company", the Governor said. [Read more.](#)

Government of Venezuela reached strategic alliances with Chinese companies to strengthen the National Electrical System: The Minister of People's Power for Electric Energy, held a meeting with Chinese companies on 09 November 2020 to discuss the strengthening of the National Electrical System (SEN) and to establish a new framework. No further details were given on the representatives of the companies and their role within the plan. [Read more.](#)

Venezuelan exports fell by 68.8% during the first quarter of 2020: According to a report by the InterAmerican Bank of Development (IADB), Venezuelan exports fell by 68.8% during the period of January-June 2020. The IADB attributed the drop to the crash in oil prices between January and August 2020. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela discussed dollarization plan with local banks: Central Bank of Venezuela is discussing plans to create a clearing and settlement system in U.S. dollars to be started in 2021. The move would reportedly formalize transactions in dollars in Venezuela's banking system. It would also allow banks to offer loans in dollars, which could boost the local credit market. The new system would turn the central bank into a dollar clearing-house, allowing instant transactions between the banks and the businesses within the country. [Read more.](#)

President of Venezuela announced that the country is producing its own gasoline: President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, announced that PDVSA is currently producing all the gasoline that the country needs. In this context the President said: "one month ago they stole 3 million barrel of oil and are calling to all the companies in the world not to buy a single drop of gasoline from Venezuela". [Read more.](#)

New U.S. license gives Chevron until 03 June 2021 to wind down Venezuela operations: On 17 November 2020, the U.S. Treasury Department issued a new license to Chevron Corp, the last major U.S. oil company still operating in Venezuela, giving it until 03 June 2021 to wind down its joint ventures in Venezuela. Chevron has had a special U.S. operating license exempting it from sanctions on Venezuela's vital oil sector

but the latest waiver was due to expire on 01 December 2020. The new license, which also applies to Halliburton, Schlumberger Ltd, GE company Baker Hughes and Weatherford International, continues the restrictions imposed in the last waiver and does not authorize the companies to drill, sell, ship or trade Venezuelan oil. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela manufactures airplanes, ships and drones using domestic aluminum: President Nicolás Maduro announced that Venezuela has started manufacturing airplanes, ships and drones using Venezuelan aluminum. The President indicated that the ships are being built using naval Venezuelan aluminum. No further details were given. [Read more.](#)

More than 10 Russian industrial chambers are interested in investing in Venezuela: The Executive Vice President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, announced that more than 10 industrial chambers that represent at least half a million businessmen, 12 ministries from different sectors and spokesperson from 30 regions from Russia, have shown their interest in investing in Venezuela after receiving information about the Anti Blockade Law. [Read more.](#)

Rum maker to revive Venezuela's capital markets with Dollar bond: Ron Santa Teresa, the country's largest rum producer, received the government's approval to sell US\$ 300,000 in commercial papers denominated in dollars, according to a statement published by National Superintendency of Values (Sunaval). Ron Santa Teresa's notes will revive the capital market that has been dormant since 2003. The commercial papers, which will be ruled by local law, will have a validity of one year. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela to buy 10 million doses of Russian COVID-19 vaccine: Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro said that his government has agreed to buy 10 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19. The vaccines will come in the first quarter of 2021, Maduro said at an event in Caracas that was broadcast on government television, adding that "Venezuela will manufacture the Russian vaccine in the Venezuelan laboratories." [Read more.](#)

Venezuela is at risk of running short of diesel: According to media reports, Venezuela is at risk of running short of diesel, which is necessary for food production and people and cargo transport. Reports indicate that the country is producing nearly 63% of the internal consumption of diesel. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela confiscated contraband coffee from Brazil: The President of the Venezuelan Association of Coffee Industrials (Asifcaf), informed that the Venezuelan Government ordered the confiscation of contraband Brazilian coffee by the name of Marata. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela participated in the 1st Kimberley Process conference: According to media reports, the Vice Minister for Exploration and Eco-Mining Investment participated in the 1st virtual Conference of the Kimberley Process and International Diamond. During the conference, the official intervened on the diamond activity that is currently being held in Venezuela. [Read more.](#)

Belarus keen to boost milk powder export to Venezuela: According to media reports, Belarus intends to increase export of milk powder to Venezuela. This matter was in focus of the meeting between Ambassador of

Belarus to Venezuela Andrei Molchan and the director general of Branza 1800, C.A. “This company has already shipped Belarusian milk powder to Venezuela,” the Embassy pointed out. The parties discussed prospects for enhancing cooperation, including means of increasing milk powder supplies to Venezuela. [Read more.](#)