



सत्यमेव जयते

EMBASSY OF INDIA
CARACAS



DECEMBER 2020

COMMERCIAL REPORT

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Embassy of India

Economic & Commercial Report for December 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 - Oct) (P)	490.52	364,147.76	522.46	387,219.77	1,012.98	751,367.53
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%	-
12	December	21.20%	-

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	Orbio Agro Exim Pvt Ltd	Not provided	Fresh Vegetables, Fresh Fruits, Naturally Processed Jaggery and Bio-Fertilizers & Bio-Pesticides
2	HONEY LACE	AIHPL8766H1ZV	Lace & Fringes, Fabrics (Polyester- Viscose), Embroidery Fabrics.
3	SRRF GLOBAL	AEDFS4126A	
4	Trayam Exports Private Limited - India	0317503278	Pharmaceutical Products
5	WEST-COAST PHARMACEUTICAL WORKS LTD.	0888011652	Pharmaceutical Products
6	Santosh Jha	Not provided	Tubers and beans
7	Sri agro Commodities Exports	ADOPY5130A	Agro commodities
8	Montage Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	0807000469	Pharmaceutical Products
9	AARAVI INTERNATIONAL	BNIPA7525E	Cleaning items
10	Flyroship Exim India pvt ltd	Not provided	Bamboo toothbrushes
11	SANKALP EXPORTS.	Not provided	Spices and food grains
12	Sonal Enterprise	Not provided	Tea
13	MUNISH FORGE PRIVATE LIMITED	Not provided	Carbon Steel Forged Flanges, Scaffolding Fittings & Formwork Accessories, Hex Nuts, Raw Forgings, Castings
14	Revenza Ceramic	Not provided	Ceramic tiles
15	Shree Import Export Pvt. Ltd.	ABECS1071K	Organic cereals, Pulses, Agro Products, Fruits and nuts, Frozen Seafoods, Frozen foods, Spices, Honey, Metallic and Electrical products, Wooden Handicrafts
16	TRIPADA TRADE LINK LLP	Not provided	Ceramic tiles
17	Crown Studio	Not provided	Men and Women Apparels i.e. Shirts and T-Shirts.
18	Simpan and Cebon Ceramic	Not provided	Ceramic tiles
19	Everva Lifecare Pvt. Ltd., India	AAFCE4588H	Tablets, Capsules, SVP'S, LVP'S,utraceuticals, Multivitamin Gummies
20	ASPAC CERAMIC	Not provided	Ceramic Tiles & Sanitary-Ware
21	Vandan Bhatt	Not provided	Khakhra, Chakari, Tikha Gathiya, Farsi Puri, Bhakharwadi, Sing Bhajiya (Spicy Peanuts), Chewdo (Spicy/Dessert), Skaar Paraa (Dessert), Gujia (Dessert) etc.
22	Aarush Exim India	Not provided	Velvet fabrics, Taffeta fabrics, Abaya fabrics / burkha fabrics, Nylon net fabrics, Acetonitrile, Hcl
23	AMAZING ENTERPRISES OPC PRIVATE LIMITED	AARCA7336H	Garments
24	Precious Export Corporation	Not provided	Ayurvedic medicines

25	SHYAMA SHYAM FOODWORKS PRIVATE LIMITED	ABCCS4611H	Food products
26	Kosync	0815900759	Acrylic Sheets, Polycarbonate Sheets, PP Corrugated Sheets, PET Sheets, Pet Trays, PVC-WPC Foam Board
27	Whitefields Overseas Limited	0508018463	Rice
28	Kapadia Exports	BILPK0328P	Spices, Tea & Coffee.
29	Joinhub Pharma	AAPFJ9497H	Pharmaceutical Products
30	Meghmani Dyes & Intermediates LLP	Not provided	Dye-house & Detergent
31	Maruti Plastic Industries	2415008117	PP and Pet straps

3. Commercial and Economic News:

INDIA - VENEZUELA

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, "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.](#)

Venezuela's national air carrier transported 26 tons of medical supplies from India: On 09 December 2020, Venezuela's national air carrier CONVIASA

informed that they have transported around 26 tons of medical supplies and pharmaceutical products from **India** as part of their cargo services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The airline informed that the supplies are meant for the public and private sectors. [Read more.](#)

26 containers loaded with timber left for India: From the Batalla de Araure Dry Port at Portuguesa state, 26 containers loaded with teak wood left for **India**. Manuel Domínguez, Director of Industry and Commerce of Portuguesa, reported that this is the last cargo that is transported in 2020 from the intermodal terminal and with it, "almost 1.700 containers exported this year" are counted. He added that large volumes of Chinese beans, coffee and wood, among other products that are grown in Portuguesa State, have been sent to Turkey, **India** and other international destinations. He pointed out that for 2021 there are plans that outline Portuguesa as "the epicenter of agribusiness in Venezuela", among them the consolidation of projects of great impact for economic development and foreign trade, such as the Law of the Special Economic Zone, the Intermodal Logistics Activity and the International Cargo Airport. [Read more.](#)

OTHER NEWS

Venezuela is at risk of running short of diesel: Venezuela is at risk of running short of diesel, which is necessary for food production and people & 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. Asicaf indicated that the damage caused to the coffee producers and to the national economy by the coffee endangers the health of the consumers to the presence of “strange particles”. In late December Venezuelan Customs authorities at Bolivar State, barred the entry of 4 trucks loaded with Marata coffee. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela participated in the 1st Kimberley Process conference: 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 participated in the diamond activity that is currently being held in Venezuela. [Read more.](#)

Belarus keen to boost milk powder export to Venezuela: Belarus intends to increase export of milk powder to Venezuela. Ambassador of Belarus to Venezuela met with a local milk producing company and discussed prospects for enhancing cooperation, including by means of increasing milk powder supplies to Venezuela. [Read more.](#)

PDVSA's exports doubled due to new Russian buyers: PDVSA's crude oil exports almost doubled in November in comparison to October 2020. The hike in sales was due to new buyers from Russia. A total of 24 consignments sailed in November 2020 transporting around 639,000 barrels per day of crude oil and refined products, against 360,000 exported in October 2020. [Read more.](#)

National Assembly published inflation rate for November 2020: Opposition-led National Assembly published that their estimate for inflation in November 2020 was 65.70%. [Read more.](#)

Government of Venezuela says that the country is producing gasoline: President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, stated that despite harassment and siege to the Venezuelan refineries, they are continuing to produce gasoline. “After we brought parts with more than 40 flights and three times more expensive, we were able to repair the refineries and produce the gasoline that the country needs”, the President said after casting his vote on 06 December 2020. [Read more.](#)

90% of the agricultural production of 2020 was made by the private sector: The President of the Venezuelan Confederation of Agricultural and Livestock Producers (Fedeagro), said that around 90% of the sector's production was largely possible thanks to the efforts of the private companies. He further detailed that the private sector joined efforts to buy fertilizers and seeds from the international markets without any credit line. [Read more.](#)

Government of Venezuela assured that dollar circulation is “temporary”: During a press conference, President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, denied that the country is dollarized. He explained that Venezuelans are using the US currency to escape from the crisis generated by the economic war. He added that the Government had to make adjustments to the economy to allow the temporary circulation of the US dollar, thus facilitating transactions. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela lost 99% of its income due to US sanctions: Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro held a meeting with journalists at the Miraflores Palace, where he denounced that the U.S. arbitrary sanctions have caused a loss of 99% in the country's income. The sanctions have also impacted the wages received by workers, so a strategy was outlined for their recovery in the first half of 2021. [Read more.](#)

PDVSA started oil transfer from offshore facility to barge: Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA began transferring crude off an offshore oil facility where governments in two neighbouring countries have voiced concerns about a potential spill. PDVSA has reportedly begun the first of the several transfers from the Nabarima floating storage and offloading facility (FSO), anchored in the Corocoro oilfield off Venezuela's eastern coast, onto the Inmaculada barge. The Inmaculada will transport the crude onto PDVSA's Icaro tanker. [Read more.](#)

Panama suspended flights by Venezuelan airlines: Panama's aviation authority said flights by Venezuelan airlines to Panama were cancelled from 13 December 2020 until Venezuela withdraws a suspension on services by Panamanian airline Copa to Venezuela. In a statement, the authority said flights were suspended until Venezuela permitted Copa to resume its service and re-established "fair and equal" treatment under a bilateral accord. [Read more.](#)

CONSETURISMO requested authorities to reconsider flight cancellation: In respect of the Venezuelan Government's decision to cancel international flights to and from Panama and Dominican Republic, the Superior Council for Tourism of Venezuela has issued a statement in which they have

requested the Government to reconsider the measure as it not only affects the airlines but also the general public after 9 months of pandemic. [Read more.](#)

CIFAR recommended procuring medicines from certified entities: The President of the Pharmaceutical Industry Chamber of Venezuela (CIFAR) highlighted the importance of acquiring medicines and other supplies directly from certified entities instead of any trader, salesman or company. According to the industrial representative, there has been an increase in pharmaceutical trade via social media that is not compliant with any sanitary or health certification. [Read more.](#)

Central Bank of Venezuela indicated deadline for public institutions to close unauthorized Dollar accounts: Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV) established a 20-day deadline for public undertakings and other Government institutions that are holding US Dollar accounts within the national banking system, to request clearance from the BCV and the Government. Otherwise, the accounts shall be closed and the balance sold to the financial institution. [Read more.](#)

Conviasa to schedule two weekly flights to Russia in 2021 and aims to boost international trade: Venezuela's national air carrier Conviasa has set the goal of having two weekly flights to Russia. The Vice Minister for Foreign Trade and Investment Promotion, Mr. Hector Silva, indicated that they are expecting to send agro-industrial products to Russia to position the highest quality Venezuelan products in the Russian market. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela and The Netherlands evaluated reactivating commercial relations: The

Vice Minister for Europe of the Venezuelan Government and the Cd'A of the Netherlands in Venezuela held a working meeting on 16 December 2020, to discuss and evaluate reactivating the commercial relations between both nations. [Read more.](#)

President Nicolás Maduro proposed an anti-Covid-19 vaccine bank for the ALBA countries: On 14 December 2020, the President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, proposed that Cuba and Venezuela would manage an anti-Covid-19 bank of fund, that would be able to assist in the necessities of all the members of the ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples) regional group. “I dare to propose, that Cuba and Venezuela would assume a vaccine bank against the coronavirus and we would be in charge of getting the vaccines, transporting them, and to prepare, coordinate and approve through consensus, a plan for mass vaccination of the ALBA-TCP countries”, said President Maduro during the 18th Summit of the Group held virtually. [Read more.](#)

Iran to send a new fuel shipment to Venezuela: According to media reports, a new shipment of fuel from Iran is expected to be on its way to Venezuela ignoring the US imposed sanctions. The 10-ship flotilla would also help to export Venezuelan crude oil after they unload the fuel. [Read more.](#)

Dollarization in Venezuela reaches up to 80% of commercial transactions: The President of the National Council for Commerce and Services (Consecomercio) announced that the dollarization in the country has currently reached around 70-80% of the transactions that are held in the country. However, there are still many defects in the transactions as dollarization has not been formalized by the country. He remarked that

the organization would promote flexibilization of banking operations in foreign currency in 2021. [Read more.](#)

Deposits in foreign currency increased by 111.7% in November 2020: According to a report issued by a local private firm, deposits in foreign currencies made in local banks have increased by 111.7% in November 2020. The report indicated that state-owned bank Banco de Venezuela led in the forex deposits with 64.35% of market share. Foreign currency deposits have been estimated to be US\$ 790.2 million by the end of November. [Read more.](#)

International reserves rise by US\$ 8 million: According to the Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV), international reserves closed with an increase of US\$ 8 million during the third week of December 2020, at a total of US\$ 6.313 billion in comparison to the previous week when the amount was US\$ 6.305 billion. [Read more.](#)

Entrepreneurs continued to produce in Venezuela: Minister of the People's Power of National Commerce, Eneida Laya, stressed that entrepreneurship in Venezuela has not stopped in the midst of the pandemic and the economic blockade. During an event, the Minister delivered 24 commercial registrations for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), in addition to 62 social loans amounting to 93 billion bolivars. [Read more.](#)

IATA called for the reopening of air connectivity between Panama and Venezuela: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) called on the aviation authorities in Panama and Venezuela to urgently reestablish air services between the two countries, following the suspension of

flights since 13 December 2020. IATA said that it has been cooperating with the relevant authorities across Latin America to ensure that borders can be safely reopened for air travel and is ready to assist in implementing globally aligned measures which will allow for the reopening of the essential Panama – Venezuela air corridor. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela received Chinese medical supplies to fight COVID-19: On 22 December 2020, Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodriguez welcomed the arrival of medical supplies donated by China to support the fight against the pandemic. After pointing out that it was the ninth shipment sent by Chinese authorities, she recalled that over 274 tons of equipment, medical inputs, and medicines have been received so far in 2020. China's Ambassador to Venezuela, Li Baorong condemned the "hypocrisy and cruelty" of certain countries that are intensifying arbitrary sanctions against Venezuela instead of lifting their blockade. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela shipped crude oil to China despite US sanctions: According to media reports, Venezuela resumed direct shipments of oil to China after U.S. sanctions sent the trade underground for more than a year. PDVSA's customers reportedly boosted shipments to Malaysia, where transfers of cargoes between vessels at sea have allowed most of Venezuela's crude to continue flowing to China after changing hands and using trade intermediaries. [Read more.](#)

Halliburton eliminated Venezuela staff after U.S. sanctions halt operations: Oilfield services provider Halliburton has eliminated all staff positions in Venezuela as a result of U.S. sanctions limiting its operations in the country. "We have zero

headcount in Venezuela," a spokeswoman said in an email message on 31 December 2020, adding that the company will maintain presence in Venezuela through equipment and facilities. [Read more.](#)

Government of Venezuela decreed tax waiver on imports until April 2021: The Government of Venezuela issued a decree by which a waiver of VAT, import tax and determination of custom regime tax for imports of goods, will be in effect until April 2021. The imports covered under the waiver are electronics, telecommunications, autoparts and electric materials. [Read more.](#)

Ministry of Transport is assessing changes on subsidies to the transport sector: The Vice Minister for Land Transportation, indicated that the Government is reconsidering special attention for public transportation service providers regarding access and payment of gasoline and diesel. The rates to be paid are still unknown. [Read more.](#)

Conviasa transported 1.3 million kilos of air cargo in 2020: Venezuela's national air carrier Conviasa, announced that they had transported around 1.3 million kilos of air cargo in 2020, mostly in terms of food and medicines. [Read more.](#)

Venezuela signed contract with Russia to acquire coronavirus vaccine: Venezuela signed a contract with Russia to acquire enough of the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine to inoculate 10 million people in the first phase, Vice President Delcy Rodriguez said on 29 December 2020. Venezuela began administering the vaccine to about 2,000 people in October 2020 as part of a clinical trial. Venezuela, with a population of more than 25 million, has recorded some 112,636

coronavirus cases and 1,018 deaths from the virus, according to official statistics. [Read more.](#)