



सत्यमेव जयते

EMBASSY OF INDIA  
CARACAS



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JUNE 2020

# COMMERCIAL REPORT

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Embassy of India

# Economic & Commercial Report for June 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
2019-20 (P)	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%	62.2%
2	February	22.4%	21.8%
3	March	21.1%	13.3%
4	April	80.0%	27.5%
5	May	15.3%	38.6%
6	June	19.5%	-

**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%	-	-	-	-

**Source:** Central Bank of Venezuela.

## 2. Trade queries for import/Exports

No.	Name of trader	IE Code	Product
1	US PHARMA (I) PVT LTD	0309087562	Veterinary & Human medicine
2	Drytech Processes India Private Limited	0392005913	Milk Powder Importers / Re-packers, Milk Powder Producer, Milk Powder Blending Companies, Instant Tea/Coffee Premix Producer, Milk Biscuit Manufacturer, Health Food, Baby Food, Body supplements manufacturers, Food Ingredients Importers
3	PJM EXPORT	Not provided	Cumin, Coriander, Fennel, Fenugreek, Mustard, Sesame, Ajwain, Psyllium Husk & All Ground Spices
4	Telenga International Exporter	AJIPT2222L	Black stone carving work (Handicrafts), Organic Fertilizer, and Turmeric
5	Siyafashion Export	Not provided	Ethnic Garments
6	Importadora Valles del Turbio (Venezuela)	n/a	Pharmaceutical products
7	12 Keshaexpo	Not provided	Organic spices
8	Abhiraj Mehta	Not provided	Vegetables, Fruits, Dry Fruits, Agricultural Products
9	ZIBON CERAMIC PVT LTD	2414000708	Wall ceramic tiles
10	Mohan Navani	Not provided	Corn meal
11	Corsol	0516521861	Areca Palm Leaf products
12	Ahir Spice Company.	In process	Spices
13	ORA	Not provided	Women garments
14	Pushpa International	Not provided	Wooden furniture, Silver Furniture, Iron wall decor, Wooden and Iron Gifts
15	SAI CHEM	5204003592	Agro products
16	Garima Leather Exports Pvt. Ltd	Not provided	Leather products
17	TECHIND ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS-IMPEX.	0504061232	Engineering services
18	Nakul Agro	Not provided	Agro products
19	H.P. State Handicrafts & Handloom Corporation Ltd.	Not provided	Sanitizers, Sodium Hypochlorite solution: 1%, 5% & 10%, Surgical masks, N 95 masks, Nitrile gloves, Face shields, PPE kits, Shoe cover, Face mask, Face shield & Gloves, Sanitizer dispensers, Pure cotton face masks, Infra Red thermal scanners.
20	Mandar Organics Pvt. Ltd.	Not provided	Pigment & Pigment Dispersion Products
21	Guru Poly Products	Not provided	Plastic molding products
22	Panwar Enterprises	Not provided	Agro products
23	Zia International	AACFZ5187F	Pharmaceutical, Surgical and Herbal products
24	FASHION PLUS	5214006551	Lace and Fabric
25	HNB Organic Agro Pvt. Ltd.	Not provided	Organic Raw Food Products

26	<b>Thukral Exim</b>	AWBPT8920D	Edible Vegetables And Certain Roots And Tubers, Edible Fruit And Nuts; Peel Or Citrus Fruit Or Melons, Coffee, Tea, Mate And Spices
27	<b>Dolly Natural Product</b>	0212060535	Jute product
28	<b>Ceasefire Industries India</b>	0303054522	Fire Extinguishers, Micro Environment Suppression Systems, Special Application Fire Suppression Systems, Kitchen Suppression System
29	<b>Thanusree Exports and Imports</b>	ACNPV2370H	Fruits, vegetables, edible oil, flour, meat, copper, coal, sugar, salt, maida, coconut, tamarind, wheat, all types of flour
30	<b>Sunworld Vitrified Pvt Ltd</b>	2410002072	Ceramic tiles
31	<b>Shree Shagun Polyfab PVT.LTD.</b>	ABBCS9188A	Agro products
32	<b>Aaravi International</b>	Not provided	Wooden Furniture and Wooden Art
33	<b>BICERO TILES LLP</b>	Not provided	Polished Porcelain Tiles
34	<b>Kalpesh Kumar Inshwarlal Jariwala</b>	Not provided	Imitation Zari Yarn
35	<b>Singa Exports</b>	Not provided	Rice, Wheat, Exotic Spices, Cereals & pulses, Fresh Fruits & Vegetables, Tea, Sugar, Cattle Feed
36	<b>Vruj Agro Industry</b>	Not provided	Agricultural products
37	<b>Winsome Yarns Ltd, Winsome Knitwear and Winsome Hydro</b>	2208003152	PPE
38	<b>Ornet Intermediates Pvt. Ltd.</b>	Not provided	Reactive, Direct and Acid Dyestuffs
39	<b>Shreeji Group</b>	AGZPM9055C	Textile products

### 3. Commercial and Economic News:

#### INDIA-VENEZUELA

**Venezuela oil crisis deepens as Indian refiners halt imports:** According to media reports, India's largest private refinery halted purchases of Venezuelan oil, putting additional pressure on the country's oil industry. Reports indicate that Reliance Industries Ltd, which accounted for 25% of Venezuela's oil exports in 2019, has no plans in the short term to make purchases from Venezuela. The last time Reliance loaded a Venezuelan oil cargo was in March 2020, which was received in May. Reliance

bought around 117,650 bpd of Venezuelan crude in 2020, down by 46% compared with 2019. Since June, Venezuela has been shipping crude to China, Cuba, Spain and Italy. Cargoes to Europe are being used to settle old debts. Nayara Energy Ltd, India's second largest private refiner, has reportedly not loaded Venezuelan crude since March. In 2019, Reliance resumed oil imports from Venezuela against payment in diesel. Such actions were compliant with US sanctions. [Read more.](#)

#### OTHER NEWS

**Prices of medicines doubled in Venezuela during the quarantine:** The prices of medicines doubled in Venezuela since 13 March 2020, when the quarantine to prevent COVID-19 started. In some cases, medicines such as antibiotics, painkillers and medications for digestive disorders increased three-fold. [Read more.](#)

**Private commercial chambers met with the Government:** Major private commercial chambers in Venezuela, Consecomercio and Fedecamaras, met with the Vice President and Minister of Health of Venezuela and proposed new measures for the reactivation of economy during the COVID-19 quarantine. The chambers suggested encouraging e-work provided that the internet service in the country could be improved. [Read more.](#)

**PDVSA restarted gasoline production:** PDVSA restarted gasoline production of 91 octane at El Palito refinery at 23.5% of its

capacity. The refinery would be processing around 33,000 bpd (out of a capacity of 140,000 bpd) after receiving chemical additives from Iran. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela reactivated 24% of autoparts industry:** According to the President of the Venezuelan Chamber of Autoparts Manufacturers (FAVENPA), around 24% of the sector restarted in early June, as 13 companies reopened during the flexibilization of quarantine. [Read more.](#)

**Miranda state exported 65 tons of cocoa to Russia:** Governor of Miranda State, informed on 04 June 2020, that 65 tons of cocoa beans, liqueur and cocoa butter were to be exported to Russia. The name of the Venezuelan private exporting company is Cream to Cream 1, C.A. [Read more.](#)

**Iran ready to continue oil shipments to Venezuela:** Iranian Foreign Minister

announced in early June that Iran was ready to continue oil shipments to Venezuela if Caracas requested more supplies. “Iran practises its free trade rights with Venezuela and we are ready to send more ships if Caracas demands more supplies from Iran,” the Minister said. [Read more.](#)

**Mexico's Libre Abordo announced bankruptcy and termination of swap with Venezuela:** On 31 May 2020, Mexico-based company Libre Abordo announced its bankruptcy and that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro had terminated an oil-for-food agreement. Libre Abordo said that they and their partner Schlager Business Group were targets of an international political campaign, driven by the U.S. government, which had led to a loss of over US\$ 90 million and suspension of trading in Venezuelan crude. [Read more.](#)

**Mexico probes Libre Abordo's oil-for-food pact with Venezuela:** The Mexican Government's financial crime department started investigations on Libre Abordo company. The Mexican Financial Intelligence Unit announced that it was also investigating several other companies accused of venturing into food shipments to Venezuela. [Read more.](#)

**PDVSA reduced crude oil production due to stock surplus:** Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA, halted crude oil extraction from one of its Joint Ventures due to stock surplus. Reports indicated that PDVSA halted production at Petrozamora (Joint Venture with GPB Global Resources BV) in the west of the country, by closing the Lagunillas Tierra and Bachaquero Tierra oil fields located near the Maracaibo Lake. [Read more.](#)

**Banks resumed operations on 15 June 2020:** Venezuela's Superintendency for Bank Institutions (Sudeban), instructed the banking sector to resume operations on 15 June 2020, following a schedule of 09:00 am – 01:00 pm. [Read more.](#)

**Sudeban authorized the establishment of Shasta app in Venezuela:** Venezuela's Superintendency for Bank Institutions (Sudeban) allowed the establishment of Shasta app in the country. Shasta is a digital payment platform that would allow users to transact in foreign currency and would receive an international Visa or Master card that would enable them to use their funds either in Venezuela or in any other country. A Venezuelan national based in the US and a Spanish businessperson created the platform in 2018. [Read more.](#)

**Only one oil-drilling rig was active in Venezuela during the month of June:** Only one oil-drilling rig was actively operating in Venezuela in June 2020. The US based company Baker Hughes reported the information. [Read more.](#)

**Iranian gasoline reportedly not fulfilling quality standards:** Many motorists in Venezuela reported the low performance and failures in vehicles running on Iranian gasoline. The most common failure is clacking and rattling noises from the engines when accelerating. Some former PDVSA members have informed media that the Iranian gasoline is not compliant with the quality standards. [Read more.](#)

**Packaging Chamber of Venezuela recognized that their sector has benefited from the quarantine:** The President of the Venezuelan Chamber of Packaging (Cavenvase) informed media that the



packaging sector of Venezuela has enjoyed a privileged position during the quarantine as they were able to sustain operations working for the food and chemical industry, deemed as essential sectors. He indicated that in early 2020, the sector was operating at 22% capacity, however due to the quarantine, they have recovered to 72% as the demand for their products has increased. He further informed that the sector operates with 81% of imported raw materials such as steel cans, aluminum, cardboard, plastic and glass. [Read more.](#)

**Chevron oil cargo tangled in U.S. sanctions on Venezuela:** A Chevron crude oil cargo became embroiled in U.S. sanctions on shipping companies for violating restrictions on doing business with Venezuela. Adamant Maritime Ltd, owner of very large crude-oil carrier (VLCC) Seahero, was sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Treasury for carrying a Venezuelan cargo in February. The vessel is heading to Asia after a stop in Trinidad and Tobago. The tanker was on short-term charter and “performing a voyage that is not related to Venezuela,” a Chevron spokesman said. “We are working with the appropriate Government agencies to ensure compliance with U.S. laws and regulations,” he said. [Read more.](#)

**Bitcoin exchange banned Bank of Venezuela citing US sanctions:** Bitcoin exchange banned transactions made with the state-owned Banco de Venezuela. Local Bitcoin trading in Venezuela, which leads the Latin American region in terms of volume, has now become more difficult. The decision took traders and crypto enthusiasts in Venezuela by surprise, as payments through the Banco de Venezuela had been allowed for years despite sanctions being in place. [Read more.](#)

**Import and sales of gasoline exempted from taxes:** The Government of Venezuela decided to waive off VAT payment for the imports and sales of gasoline or any of the additives related to the improvement of gasoline for one year by either state-owned companies, joint ventures or private companies. [Read more.](#)

**Sidor reactivated production of steel wire rods:** Orinoco Siderurgical Complex (Sidor), informed that they reactivated the production of steel wire rods for the construction sector in Venezuela. This material is used for the manufacturing of welded steel meshes, trusses, nails, steel screens, springs, galvanized wires, etc. [Read more.](#)

**ALBA Bank to be re-launched:** On 10 June 2020, the President of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro, announced during a meeting of the Political and Economic Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP), that discussions for the re-launch of the ALBA Bank had started. The President expects that the ALBA Bank would provide a platform for financial support in the region amidst COVID-19 pandemic. The President also announced the plans for reactivation of the Regional Unitary Compensation System (SUCRE) as well as the proposal of using the Petro cryptocurrency for trading in the region. [Read more.](#)

**PDVSA's debts to BCV increased by US\$ 21.5 million:** PDVSA's debt with the Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV), increased by US\$ 21.5 million. Reports indicated that during the COVID-19 pandemic, BCV is one of PDVSA's lifelines, as the crude oil sales have drastically reduced. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela has the highest index of buffalo milking in Latin America:** The Minister for

Agriculture and Land of Venezuela, Wilmar Castro Soteldo, announced that despite the international sanctions on Venezuela the country has the highest index of buffalo milking in Latin America. The Minister informed that Venezuela is producing around 41.42 million liters of buffalo milk per year and around 8 million kilograms of buffalo cheese. The Minister said that buffalos have thrived in Venezuela due to their versatility and adaptability to the country. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela ordered banks to sell dollars from fuel sales through forex market:** Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV), ordered local banks to sell dollars received from gasoline sales through the Government's foreign-exchange system to boost supply of hard currency to the Venezuelan economy. From 01 June 2020, service stations started collecting US dollars from gasoline sales and depositing the foreign currency in local banks, due to which the BCV has asked the banks to sell the dollars through the Government's foreign-exchange market. [Read more.](#)

**PDVSA halted operations at the Orinoco Oil Belt:** PDVSA halted operations of the crude upgrader at Petropiar and also, the hydrocarbon transport from the Petrosinovensa and Petromonagas projects. Petropiar is a joint venture between PDVSA and Chevron. Reports also indicated that PDVSA was set to reduce crude oil production due to excess inventory. On 12 June 2020, Petrosinovensa and Petromonagas projects reportedly reached their maximum storage capacities. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela's oil exports plummeted:** PDVSA's oil exports fell nearly 28% in the first half of June, reaching its lowest level in over 70 years as tanker owners and operators suspended contracts for transporting crude

from Venezuela. Several shippers turned tankers away from Venezuela's waters in the face of increasingly aggressive U.S. efforts against Venezuela's Government. PDVSA and its partners in joint ventures reportedly exported seven cargoes of crude and fuel until mid-June to long-time customers including Italy's Eni, Spain's Repsol and Cuba's state-run Cubametales, averaging 325,000 bpd, down from the 17-year low of 452,000 bpd in May. [Read more.](#)

**PDVSA reactivated catalytic cracker in Cardon refinery:** PDVSA reactivated the catalytic cracker unit at the Cardon refinery, thus allowing the gasoline production operation to restart. Reports indicated that the unit was partially reactivated and operated in "unstable" conditions and was processing around 47,000 bpd of oil out of a 310,000 bpd capacity and would be producing around 30,000 bpd of gasoline. [Read more.](#)

**Patria Portal ranked second worldwide as the most visited financial planning and management website:** The website "Portal Patria" or fatherland portal, created by the Government of Venezuela, ranked at the second place worldwide, as the most visited portal in the financial planning and management category, only behind Paypal. SimilarWeb, one of the most influential online benchmarking tools on the web, released the data. The Patria website along with "Carnet de la Patria", provides financial relief for all Venezuelans during the economic crisis faced by the country. In recent months, the Patria system has also been used to launch online surveys to identify potential COVID-19 cases during the first measures of the aggressive Venezuelan response to the pandemic. During the gasoline shortages, the Patria system has also been used to allocate and control the maximum amount of subsidized

gasoline for each household and to pay for it because the system integrates itself with the Petro cryptocurrency and other savings tools designed by the Government of Venezuela. Patria.org.ve is ranked at position 312 globally and is the fourth most visited website in Venezuela. [Read more.](#)

**Greek ship managers halted Venezuela trade:** Three Greece-based shipping firms said that they halted trade with Venezuela after the United States imposed sanctions on vessels under their management. Reports indicated that US Government tightened sanctions by adding additional tankers to an existing blacklist. The Greek companies that refrained from doing business with Venezuela are: Dynacom Tankers Management, NGM Energy SA and Thenamaris. [Read more.](#)

**U.S. fined Copa Airlines US\$ 450,000 for transporting passengers between U.S. and Venezuela:** The U.S. Transportation Department said on 17 June 2020 that it fined Panama's Copa Airlines US\$ 450,000 for unlawfully transporting passengers between the United States and Venezuela via a stopover point, and ordered the airline to avoid future similar violations. The department said that Copa Airlines violated a May 2019 order that barred U.S. and foreign air carriers from transporting passengers between the United States and Venezuela. It said Copa sold more than 5,000 tickets for air travel between the United States and Venezuela and transported more than 15,000 passengers after the order took effect. Copa told officials that it understands the seriousness of the matter and took considerable steps to avoid future violations. [Read more.](#)

**Mexican President said he would sell gasoline to Venezuela for humanitarian**

**needs if asked:** On 15 June 2020, the Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said that he would sell gasoline to Venezuela for "humanitarian" reasons if asked to, despite U.S. sanctions on Venezuela and its state-run oil firm, PDVSA. Lopez Obrador said that he had not received such a request from the Venezuelan government. [Read more.](#)

**Brazil's Petrobras said it will not hire oil tankers that visited Venezuela:** On 19 June 2020, Brazil's Petroleo Brasileiro SA (Petrobras) told shippers that it will not hire any tankers that have visited Venezuela in the past 12 months, signaling adherence to U.S. sanctions on Venezuela. [Read more.](#)

**Mexico's Libre Abordo said U.S. sanctions wrongly linked it to unrelated entities:** Mexico's Libre Abordo would ask lawyers to evaluate a decision made earlier on 18 June 2020 by the U.S. Treasury Department, which sanctioned the firm and a related company, Schlager Business Group, for trading millions of barrels of Venezuelan oil. An oil-for-food agreement signed by the firms in 2019 with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's Government would be protected from sanctions by a license issued by the United States exempting the supply of humanitarian goods to Venezuela, including food, the company said. Libre Abordo also said U.S. sanctions are wrongly linking the company to unrelated entities under sanctions. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela continued to export oil to China despite sanctions:** Venezuela continued to send oil to China despite stifling U.S. sanctions. Data suggests that in June, there were at least 3.3 million barrels of Venezuelan crude to be unloaded at Chinese ports and another 5 million barrels in transit to the port

of Qingdao. Reports indicate that most of the oil reaches China after a simple ship-to-ship transfer (STS), often with both transponders online. Reports indicated that China never stopped buying Venezuelan oil despite tightening sanctions. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela's minimum wage covered 1% of basic food basket in May:** The Center for Labour Documentation and Analysis (CENDA) estimated that Venezuela's minimum wage was enough to cover the food necessities of an average family by 1%. Minimum wage in Venezuela amounts to Bs. 400,000 (equivalent to around US\$ 2) per month whereas according to CENDA estimates, the basic food basket in Venezuela amounts to Bs. 37,646,884.49 (equivalent to US\$ 190.02). [Read more.](#)

**South Africa showed interest for investing in Venezuelan agriculture:** After a meeting held between the Minister of People's Power for Agriculture and Land and the Ambassador of South Africa to Venezuela during the month of June, it was announced that both countries would move forward as per the agreements on Economic Complementarity for agricultural cooperation. The scheme would include the revision of phyto and zoo-sanitary protocols for the exports of embryos and sperms from South Africa to Venezuela to improve the herds of cows, sheep and goats. [Read more.](#)

**Iran to open supermarket in Venezuela:** On 21 June 2020, an Iranian ship reached the Venezuelan port of La Guaira with a cargo of food to supply the first Iranian supermarket in Venezuela. The Iranian-flagged cargo ship Golsan, owned by Mosakhar Darya Shipping Co, departed on 15 May 2020 from Bandar Abbas. "The Golsan will arrive carrying food to open the first Iranian supermarket in

Venezuela," the Iranian Embassy wrote on 20 June 2020 on its Twitter account. [Read more.](#)

**U.S. sanctioned five Iranian ship captains for bringing oil to Venezuela:** On 24 June 2020, the United States imposed sanctions on five Iranian ship captains who delivered oil to Venezuela. US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo said that the ships delivered about 1.5 million barrels of Iranian gasoline and related components. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela's PDVSA contemplated plan to pay for refinery repairs with fuel and byproducts:** PDVSA approached private contractors about paying for repairs of the Venezuela's refineries with fuel oil, jet fuel and petcoke and other byproducts. The possibility of in-kind compensation comes as U.S. sanctions on PDVSA and severe cash-flow problems at the company have complicated its ability to pay third-party contractors whose help is necessary to revamp gasoline output at its 1.3 million barrel-per-day refining network, which is mostly halted. Payment in fuel could pave the way for those private contractors to export the products themselves. [Read more.](#)

**Iran sold gasoline to Venezuela at market price:** Minister of Petroleum of Iran Bijan Zangeneh said that Iran sold gasoline to Venezuela at market price. The Minister indicated that the continuation of the export depends on the negotiations between the two countries. He added that the claims of Iran sending gasoline free to Venezuela are untrue. "They paid a fair price and provided the necessary guarantees for the payment", he said, adding that a part of the money has already been received. [Read more.](#)

**A fifth of food output is wasted in Venezuela:** About 60,000 tons of food per

month or 13% of national consumption is not being consumed in Venezuela due to fuel shortages that prevent farmers from collecting and distributing food. About 21% of food produced in the first six months of 2020 would remain uneaten, according to a study led by Venezuela's agricultural engineers' association and the chamber of food producers. [Read more.](#)

**U.S. lifted Venezuela-related sanctions imposed on shipping firms, tankers:** On 02 July 2020, the U.S. Treasury Department lifted sanctions on Marshall Islands-based Delos Voyager Shipping Ltd and Greece-based Romina Maritime that had been imposed in May over accusations that the companies operated in the Venezuelan oil sector. In a statement, a Treasury representative said that the delisted entities have committed to cease involvement in the Venezuelan oil sector as long as President Nicolas Maduro remains in power. [Read more.](#)

**Russia announced that Venezuela would increase five-fold its debt payment from 2023:** Government of Russia announced that Venezuela would increase five-fold its debt payment starting from 2023. Reports indicate that Venezuela has been paying US\$ 133 million per year since 2019. From 2023, the new payment scheme would entail that Venezuela has to pay around US\$ 684 million per year until 2026. [Read more.](#)

**IMF forecast a 20% contraction of Venezuelan economy in 2020:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that it expects a contraction of Venezuelan economy by 20% in 2020. Venezuela ranks the highest in terms of contraction followed by Peru with 14% and Mexico with 10.5%. [Read more.](#)

**Venezuela's oil exports fell in June to a 77-year low:** Venezuela's oil exports slumped in June to their lowest level since 1943 after half a dozen tankers, looking to avoid the threat of U.S. sanctions, sailed away from the nation's waters without loading. Tighter sanctions have scared away many remaining customers of state-run oil firm PDVSA, and some shipping firms that had carried their cargoes. PDVSA and its joint ventures shipped a total of 17 cargoes in June, carrying about 379,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude and refined products. The low volume, unseen since 1943, was almost 18% below May exports. [Read more.](#)

**PDVSA's June crude output almost halved to 280,000 b/d:** Crude production by PDVSA and its international partners almost halved during June to 280,000 bpd because of full storage capacity and the collapse in exports due to US sanctions. The June plunge was most pronounced in the Orinoco Belt, the country's main oil reservoir, where production slumped by around two thirds in a single month to 90,000 bpd from 280,000 bpd in May. Reports further indicate that in June, average crude production by the joint ventures with PDVSA's international partners was as follows: in the Carabobo block, the 105,000 bpd capacity Petrolera Sinovensa JV (PDVSA 60%, CNPC 40%) and the 120,000 bpd Petromonagas JV (PDVSA 60% Russian government-owned company 40%), produced nothing in June. In the Ayacucho block the 190,000 bpd Petropiar JV (PDVSA 60% Chevron 40%) had shut down production completely as of 30 June 2020. At Junin block, the 202,000 bpd Petrocedeno JV (PDVSA 60% Total/Equinor 40%) has also closed down the production of extra heavy oil. [Read more.](#)