

# Imports up 15% in Q1

**Imports reach BD1.293 Billion**

**Value of Exported National Origin at BD538m**

**Aluminium oxide top product imported to Bahrain**

**Four-wheel drive cars top re-export list**

**Deficit reaches BD637 Million**

**Manama**

**A**luminium oxide emerged as the top product imported to Bahrain in the first quarter of 2018 with its value reaching BD60 Million, according to the latest iGA report.

The report, issued by Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), encompasses balance of trade, imports, exports (National Origin) and re-exports in the first quarter of 2018.

As Aluminium oxide occupied top spot, four-wheel drive cars took the second spot with an import value of BD51 Million. Closely following four-wheelers were Sedans with BD45 Million during first quarter of 2018 at the third place.

iGA report states that the value of imports increased by 15 per cent as it reached BD1.293 Billion during first quarter 2018 versus BD1.124 Billion for the same quarter of the previous year.

Top ten countries account for 67pc of the imports value and 33pc for other countries.

China was ranked as the first country that exports to Bahrain with BD160 Million; United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the second with BD116 Million whereas Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) ranked third with BD99 Million.

**KSA tops buying list**

Additionally, the value of the exported national origin decreased by 9pc as it reached BD538 Million during first quarter of 2018 versus BD594 Million for the same quarter of the previous year. The top ten countries account for 79pc of the exported national origin value and 21pc for other countries.

KSA was ranked as the first country importing from Bahrain with BD145 Million, UAE second with BD67 Million and USA comes third place

with BD63 Million.

**Aluminium wire demand rise**

As for national exported products, aluminium wire emerged as the top products exported in the first quarter of 2018 with BD66 Million; agglomerated iron ores and concentrates were positioned second products imported with a value of BD55 Million; and rectangular alloyed aluminium plates stood third place for exported products with BD40 Million.

**Saudi dominates**

As for re-exported field, the value of re-exports decreased by 10pc as it reached BD118 Million during first quarter of 2018 versus BD131 Million for the same quarter of the previous year. The top 10 countries account for 91pc of the re-exported value and 9pc for other countries.

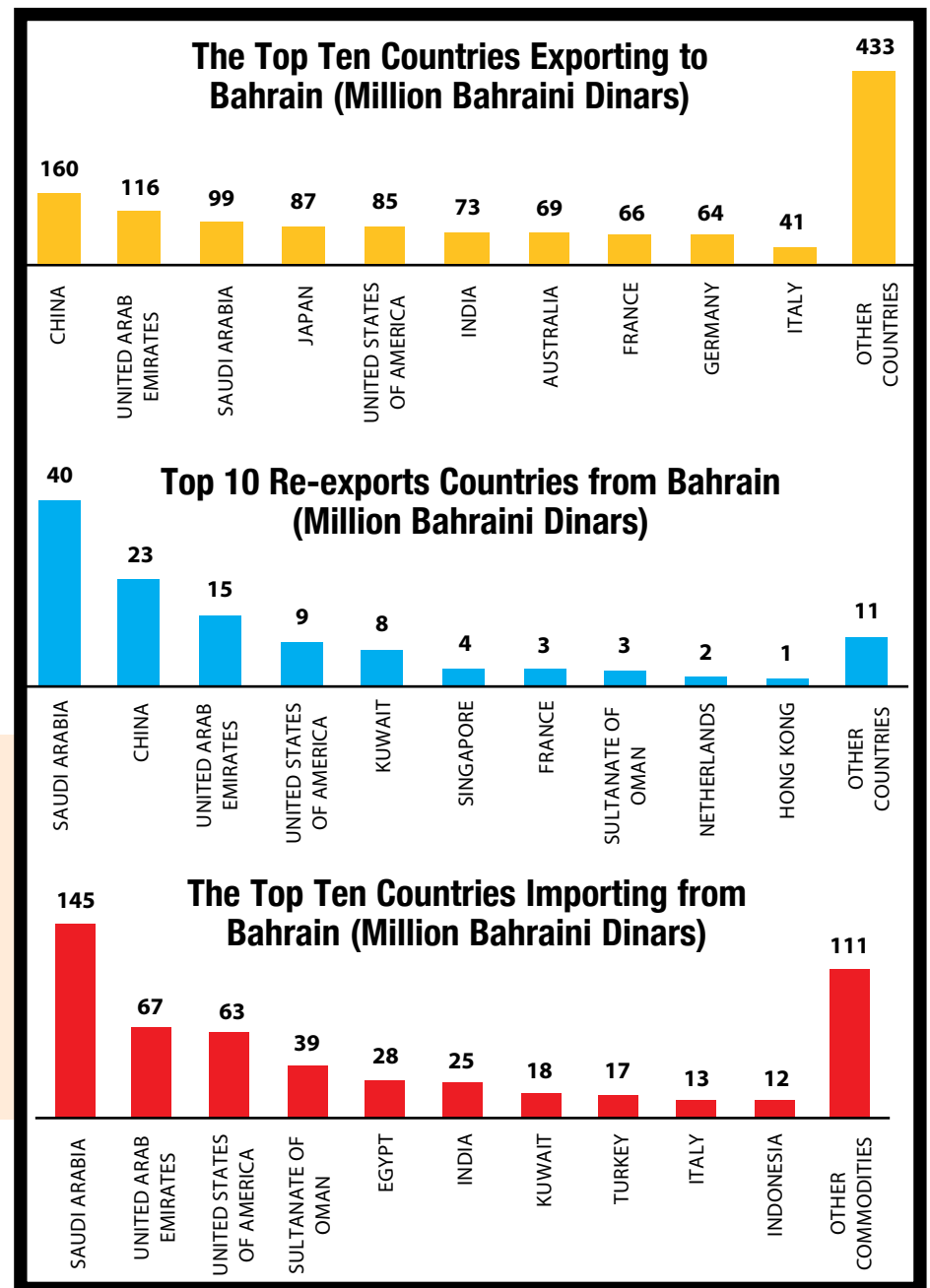
Saudi Arabia was ranked as the first country to re-export from Bahrain with BD40 Million, China ranked as the second with BD23 Million, and UAE as the third with BD15 Million.

**Four-wheel drive again**

Four-wheel drive cars emerged as the top product re-exported from Bahrain with BD24 Million, cigarettes came as second products with BD7 Million, and Sedan cars as third with BD3 Million.

**Deficit reaches BD637 Million**

The value of trade balance, difference between exports and imports, increased the deficit reaching BD637 Million during first quarter 2018 versus BD399 Million for the same quarter of the previous year with increase of 60pc.



## Qatar should pay for US troops in Syria: Saudi FM



**Riyadh**

**Q**atar should pay for the presence of US military forces in Syria, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

FM Jubeir's statement came following comments made by US President Donald Trump during a joint press conference with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron.

Jubeir stated that Qatar must send its military forces to Syria "before the American President cancels American protection of Qatar, which hosts a (US) military base on its lands".

In his statement, the Saudi FM also that if US does withdraw its protection - in the form of military base - "the (Qatari) regime "would fall there in less than a week". (Arab news)

## Annual Heritage festival begins

**Manama**

**U**nder the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the 26th edition of the Annual Heritage Festival will kick off today at its new location in the special functions tent near Arad Fort and its associated heritage village.

The event, held under the theme "Muharraq Memory", will continue until May 5 and will feature programmes by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) depicting Bahrain's folkloric heritage that characterises Muharraq.

This year's festival is part of BACA's programme to celebrate Muharraq as "Capital of Islamic Culture 2018".

## TRA holds VAT for Telecoms Workshop

**Manama**

**A**s part of its initiatives under the Fourth National Telecommunications Plan to develop human resources capacity in the telecommunications sector, The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) held "VAT for Telecoms Workshop" in collaboration with KPMG from 24th to 26th April 2018.

The workshop was conducted with the purpose to discuss VAT which will be introduced soon in the Kingdom of Bahrain and which will have an effect on several functions within the telecoms sector.