

Ethiopia's Export Performance (1998 E.C.)

Ethiopia's export performance in the past three consecutive years has shown a great leap in foreign exchange revenue. In 1996 budget year the country earned 819 million USD revenue, that is, an increase of 37% (222.5 million USD) in revenue from the previous fiscal year. The 1998 Budget year revenue stood at 1,008.6 million USD, exceeding by 189.6 million USD that of the 1997 Ethiopian budget year.

The 1998 budget year export trade performance, when viewed in relation to that of the past three consecutive years, it has shown an increase both in variety and quantity of export items. Similarly, export destinations are also on the rise. In the aforementioned budget year 793,511 tons of products were exported to more than 100 destinations.

In general, the 1998 budget year export revenue is much higher than any of the previous years.

Among the exported items, products worth 134.6 million USD were exported to China with 13.3 percentage share of total export trade. Apart from China other major destinations of Ethiopia's export commodities for the 1998 Ethiopian budget year were Germany 99 million USD (9.8%), Japan 79 million USD (7.8%), Switzerland 66.7 million USD (6.61%), Djibouti 57 million USD (5.7%), Italy 55.3 million USD (5.5%), Saudi Arabia 54.8 million USD (5.4%) and USA 47.6 million USD (4.7%).

Table 1. Major Destinations of Export Commodities For 1998 Eth. Budget Year

Country	Major Commodities	Value	% Share
China	Oilseed, sesame, skin, hides, finished leather, leather products, pulse, textile and garment, fruits and vegetables, chat	134,564,964	13.34
Germany	Coffee, sesame, pulse, skin, flower, textile and garment, leather product, chat	99,006,345	9.82
Japan	Coffee, bee wax, sesame, skin, finished leather, flower	78,956,777	7.83
Switzerland	Gold, sesame, pulse, textile and garment	66,743,132	6.62
Djibouti	Chat, oilseed, sesame, fruits and vegetables, pulse, live animal, textile and garment, spice	57,004,518	5.65
Italy	Skin, coffee, hides, sesame, pulse, fruits and vegetables, textile and garment, flower, finished leather, leather products, flower	55,252,643	5.48
Saudi Arabia	Coffee, meat, sesame, pulse, live animal, fruits and vegetables, spice, flower	54,780,588	5.43
United States of America	Coffee, oilseed, sesame, textile and garment, finished leather, flower, fruits and vegetables, leather product	47,606,515	4.72
Somalia	Chat, live animal	38,410,549	3.81
Netherlands	Flower, fruits and vegetables, sesame, textile and garment, chat	38,110,477	3.78
Belgium	Coffee, sesame, pulse, textile and garment, flower	26,672,458	2.64
United Kingdom	Finished leather, skin, hides, pulse, sesame, fruits and vegetables, textile and garment, chat, flower	26,161,167	2.59
Sudan	Spice, oilseed, meet, pulse, spice, leather products, textile and garment, fruits and vegetables, leather products, chat	24,404,669	2.42
Yemen	Live animals, meat, sesame, pulse, spice, leather products, flower	23,449,411	2.33
Somaliland	Chat, live animals	21,851,659	2.17
United Arab Emirates	Meat, sesame, pulse, live animals, fruits and vegetables, spice, chat, flower, gold	21,670,515	2.15
France	Coffee, sesame, pulse, textile and garment, skin, finished leather, flower	20,419,006	2.02
Israel	Sesame, oilseed, live animals, pulse, fruits and vegetables, flower	20,055,691	1.99
Egypt	Live animals, meat, pulse, spice	14,635,679	1.45
Turkey	Sesame, meat, pulse, skin	14,406,292	1.43
Singapore	Oilseed, sesame	10,874,472	1.08
Other Countries		113,529,857	11.26
Total Sum		1,008,567,383	100.00

National Coffee

When we consider continental destinations for Ethiopian export for the year 1998 budget year, Asia's share was among the highest with 387 million USD worth of products. This is 38.4 percentage share of the total export. Following Asia, Europe, Africa, USA and Oceania ranked in that order importing Ethiopia's export products worth 371.8, 172.8, 54.9 and 3.7 million USD respectively.

Table 2 Ethiopian Export by Continent for 1998 Eth. Budget Year

Country	Weight	Value	% Share
Asia	341,179,538	386,974,361	38.37
Europe	191,320,389	371,827,693	36.87
Africa	204,760,043	172,507,868	17.10
America	42,081,578	54,904,086	5.44
Oceania	1,720,586	3,666,174	0.36
Unspecified*2	12,448,517	18,687,201	1.85
Total Sum	793,510,651*1	1,008,567,383	100.00

Weight in Kg
Value in USD

**1 Live animals and Flower Quantity are in Kg*

**2 Unspecified contains 6.1 Millions dollars Value of Sesame Seeds, 11.1 Millions dollars Value of Coffee and 450 Thousands dollar Value of Leather and Leather Products.*

The progressive economic development over the last three years and the successive encouraging results scored by the export sector is part and reflection of the development policies and strategies of the country designed and implemented to this end. The encouraging achievement registered from the export sector is a result of incessant, collective support from concerned government offices to exporters and investors as well as to the export sector as a whole.

Nevertheless, when we compare Ethiopia's export performance and its achievements with other countries, we can notice how far we are lagging behind and that we need to harness all the favorable conditions created in the country in order to boost the development of the export sector.