GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT
ON THE
REVISION OF MONTHLY IMPORT TRADE STATISTICS

Financial Years 2020-21 to 2024-25

Transition of Merchandise Trade Data from Pakistan Revenue Automation Ltd. (PRAL) to Pakistan Single Window (PSW), and Reconciliation of the Historical Import Series

August 2026

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1. Executive Summary

This report presents a comprehensive account of the revision of Pakistan's historical monthly import trade statistics for the five-year period spanning Financial Year 2020-21 to Financial Year 2024-25, undertaken by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) following the transition of the source of merchandise trade data from the Pakistan Revenue Automation (Private) Limited (PRAL) system to the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) platform. The exercise was triggered by discrepancies observed in bilateral trade statistics — most notably between Pakistan's reported imports from China and China's recorded exports to Pakistan — and was carried out under the directives of the Prime Minister's Office, the recommendations of an FBR-constituted committee, and the decisions of a Finance Committee formed under the Chairmanship of the Chief Statistician, PBS.

The migration and technological modernization of the Customs Management System through the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) commenced in 2022, as part of the Government's broader initiative to digitalize and integrate Pakistan's cross-border trade processes. The subsequent availability of historical PSW data to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in 2025 provided an opportunity for a comprehensive source-level comparison and reconciliation of the historical import series. The review established that Home Consumption (HC) and Ex-Bond (EB) transactions were broadly covered in both data sources, whereas the principal difference in historical coverage arose from Facilitation Scheme (FS) Goods Declarations (GDs), which were not fully reflected in the earlier PRAL-based data feeds. Differences of relatively smaller magnitude were also identified in certain other GD categories. It is important to emphasize that these differences arose primarily from the technological upgradation of the trade-data ecosystem, changes in data architecture and processing arrangements, and the progressive transition of customs-related functions and data management to the PSW platform. They should be understood as outcomes of institutional modernization, and it is highly unlikely that they stem from deliberate manipulation or intent. The reconciliation exercise therefore represents a data-system transition and coverage issue associated with the modernization of the trade-data infrastructure.

Key Statistical Findings
Revised imports increased by US$0.919 billion in FY2020–21, US$1.018 billion in FY2021–22, US$1.680 billion in FY2022–23, US$5.102 billion in FY2023–24 and US$6.144 billion in FY2024–25. The cumulative five-year increase is approximately US$14.863 billion.

The revision constitutes an improvement in the coverage, completeness and statistical measurement of official import trade statistics and should not be interpreted as a change in the underlying trade activity. The revised historical series has been prepared through source-data reconciliation, statistical validation and regeneration of the affected statistical outputs, thereby providing a more comprehensive and consistent basis for National Accounts, macroeconomic analysis, policy formulation and other official statistical uses.

2. PBS Historic Trade Data Structure, Source and Processes, and Origin of the Issue

2.1 Historical Structure of PBS Trade Data

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) is the national statistical authority responsible for the compilation, processing, analysis and dissemination of Pakistan's External Trade Statistics. These statistics constitute a critical component of the country's macroeconomic statistical system and provide essential information on the volume, value, commodity composition and geographical distribution of Pakistan's exports and imports. PBS disseminates external trade statistics on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis and also maintains historical trade series at detailed commodity and country levels.

PBS maintains external trade statistics in a multi-dimensional structure designed to facilitate analysis at different levels of aggregation. At the detailed level, the database captures trade transactions according to commodity, country and period, while the processed statistical series provide aggregated information for policy, economic analysis and national accounting purposes.

The principal dimensions of the trade database include:

- **Time period:** monthly, quarterly and annual;
- **Trade flow:** exports, imports, re-export and re-import;
- **Commodity:** Harmonized System (HS) commodity classification;
- **Country:** destination country for exports and country of origin for imports;
- **Trade value:** principally reported in US dollars and Pakistani rupees;
- **Quantity:** physical quantity according to the prescribed unit of measurement;
- **Customs-related information:** relevant declaration and clearance attributes;
- **Economic classification:** including Broad Economic Categories (BEC) for imports;
- **Commodity groups:** PBS-defined analytical groups used for regular dissemination; and
- **Trade indicators:** including trade balance, unit values, quantum indices and terms of trade.

PBS currently provides historical data at detailed commodity and country levels, including eight-digit HS-level historical series. The official dissemination system also provides yearly, quarterly and monthly exports, imports and balance-of-trade series.

2.2 Primary Data Source

2.2.1 Pakistan Customs

The fundamental administrative source for Pakistan's external merchandise trade statistics is **Pakistan Customs**. PBS uses customs-generated information as the underlying source for the compilation of official external trade statistics. Historically, the customs data were electronically supplied to PBS through Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL), an entity associated with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The customs declaration constitutes the primary transaction-level record from which key statistical variables are derived. These include commodity classification, quantity, customs value, country information and other attributes required for the statistical compilation of imports and exports.

2.2.2 PRAL and Legacy Electronic Data Transmission

For a substantial period (upto April, 2025), PRAL served as the electronic channel through which customs data were transmitted to PBS. The legacy arrangement supported the regular monthly compilation of external trade statistics and formed the basis of a long historical series.

Under this arrangement, PBS received processed customs data and performed statistical validation, editing, classification and aggregation before generating the official monthly trade series.

2.2.3 Directorate of Research & Statistics (DRS)

The Directorate of Research & Statistics (DRS), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), is based at the FBR Headquarters and is responsible for the collection, compilation, consolidation and reconciliation of revenue and trade-related data for FBR, as well as for other government institutions, including the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance.

The DRS obtains trade-related data from two principal sources. The first source comprises data received from Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) till April, 2025 and the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) since May, 2025. The second source consists of data furnished by the Customs Collectorate through daily and monthly revenue collection statements.

In the compilation of external trade statistics, PBS utilizes the trade data received from PRAL/PSW and finalized the reported import and export figures after reconciliation and validation through the DRS and FBR. This reconciliation mechanism serves to ensure consistency between the underlying customs records and the trade statistics compiled and disseminated by PBS.

2.2.4 Commencement of Provision of Trade Data by Pakistan Single Window (PSW) to PBS in 2025

The Pakistan Single Window (PSW) has subsequently emerged as a central digital platform for cross-border trade information. PSW provides a single electronic entry point through which standardized information and documentation can be lodged to fulfil import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements.

The Pakistan Single Window (PSW) commenced the provision of trade data to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) since May 2025, marking an important development in the modernization of the institutional and technological framework for the compilation of Pakistan’s external trade statistics. The transition introduced PSW-generated administrative trade data into the statistical compilation process and complemented the existing arrangements for the provision and processing of customs-based trade information.

2.2.5 Historical Source and Process

Stage	Historical Arrangement	Revised/Current Direction
Administrative source	PRAL + manual collectorates/DRS	PSW transaction-level data, with reconciliation with FBR and relevant DRS inputs
GD coverage	Not fully comprehensive in historical PRAL feeds	Broader GD-type coverage through PSW
PBS processing	Checking, editing, coding and statistical adjustments based on PRAL and DRS system	Same statistical controls, applied to reconciled PSW-based data
Outputs	Monthly, quarterly and annual trade reports	Regenerated monthly, quarterly and annual series

2.3 Origin and Background of the Issue

2.3.1 Identification of the Data Gap

In view of the persistent and substantial gap between Pakistan's recorded imports and the exports reported by its major trading partners, particularly China, and the initial concerns regarding possible under-invoicing and misdeclaration, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), pursuant to the directions of the Prime Minister's Office, constituted a Committee in April 2025 to examine the underlying causes of the discrepancy and recommend appropriate remedial measures. The Committee undertook a comprehensive examination of import data maintained by Pakistan Customs and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), including transaction-level reconciliation and mirror analysis of Pakistan–China trade.

Following the initial two meetings of the Committee, a Joint Working Group comprising representatives of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Directorate of Research & Statistics (DRS), Pakistan Customs, Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL), and Pakistan Single Window (PSW) was constituted to undertake a rapid assessment of the import data maintained in the WeBOC system over the preceding five years and to reconcile it with the import statistics reported by DRS and PBS.

The exercise revealed that the import data provided by Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) did not provide complete coverage of all Goods Declarations (GDs) recorded in the WeBOC system. The data supplied by PRAL covered only seven (7) GD types, while transactions recorded under eight (8) additional GD types were not included in the datasets provided to PBS. This omission was attributable to the outdated programmed query used by PRAL to extract import data from the WeBOC system. Consequently, the official import statistics compiled by PBS did not capture the full universe of import transactions recorded in WeBOC. In FY 2024–25, the non-availability of 8 GD types in the PRAL-supplied dataset accounted for approximately 10.5 percent of Pakistan's total import value, thereby representing a significant coverage gap in the reported import statistics.

2.3.2 The PRAL-to-PSW Transition

The issue originated in the evolution of Pakistan's customs and trade data systems and the transition from the PRAL-based data environment to the Pakistan Single Window (PSW). Historically, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) compiled official external trade statistics primarily on the basis of administrative data received through PRAL, supplemented, where required, by data obtained from Collectorates /Directorate of Research & Statistics (DRS). The data received by PBS were subjected to established processes of data checking, editing, coding, validation and statistical compilation prior to the dissemination of official trade statistics.

The migration of the Customs Management System to the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) commenced in 2022, resulting in the availability of a more comprehensive transaction-level data environment. Following the provision of historical PSW data to PBS in 2025, a detailed comparison of the PSW and PRAL-based data feeds was undertaken to assess the consistency and completeness of historical import coverage. The comparison established that the two data environments did not provide identical coverage across Goods Declaration (GD) types, with certain special and facilitated transactions not being fully reflected in the historical PRAL-based data feeds received by PBS.

The difference in source-data coverage resulted in a historical gap in the statistical recording of certain import transactions. The gap was not readily evident in aggregate trade statistics, as the major Home Consumption (HC) and Ex-Bond (EB) categories were broadly represented in the historical data. However, the significance of the gap increased over time with the growing volume of transactions under the Facilitation Scheme (FS), as well as MB which were significant in 2021 and 2022. This necessitated a comprehensive review, reconciliation and validation of the historical import series to ensure completeness, consistency and reliability of official trade statistics.

3. Institutional Response and Investigation Timeline

3.1 Prime Minister's Office Directive and the FBR Committee

On **26 March 2025**, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) issued Directive No. 7(46) DS(EA-III)/2025, instructing FBR to constitute an expert committee to investigate the bilateral import trade gaps. Pursuant to this directive, FBR constituted a high-level committee on **10 April 2025** comprising trade data experts, representatives of the business community (Pakistan Business Council, FPCCI, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry), and academic institutions (PIDE, LUMS), together with officials from PBS and FBR. The committee's terms of reference were *to examine the under-reporting and value gap in imports from China, identify the sources of data and modes of reporting, ascertain the factual position and reasons for the data gaps, and recommend remedial measures.*

3.2 Finance Committee for Trade Data Reconciliation

Acting on the recommendations of the FBR Committee, and to formally adopt PSW as the primary source of external trade data, the Honorable Minister of Finance constituted a Committee vide Notification No. 1(1) RO/EAW/PBS-PRAL TO PBS dated **17 November 2025**, chaired by the Chief Statistician, PBS. The Committee's mandate was: *"to examine the source(s) of trade related data being reported by PBS and its switch over to other source(s) to ensure consistency and minimize discrepancies."*

The Committee held consultative meetings in November-December 2025. Moreover, under consultative mechanism meetings were held in January, April, May and August 2026. Overall deliberations focused on the PRAL-to-PSW transition, the nature of the trade data discrepancies, and their macroeconomic implications.

3.3 Key Decisions of the FBR and Finance Committee

The FBR Committee after holding deliberations recommends following measures:

The existing international trade data capturing and reporting mechanism needs to be overhauled through following quick measures:

a) PBS as well as DRS should directly integrate with PSW to obtain standardized pre-configured reports as per their requirements from the system in order to ensure accuracy and consistency of trade data.

b) PBS as well as DRS, in consultation with Pakistan Customs, should include all those GD Types against which imports and exports are taking place especially those which involve cross border remittances.

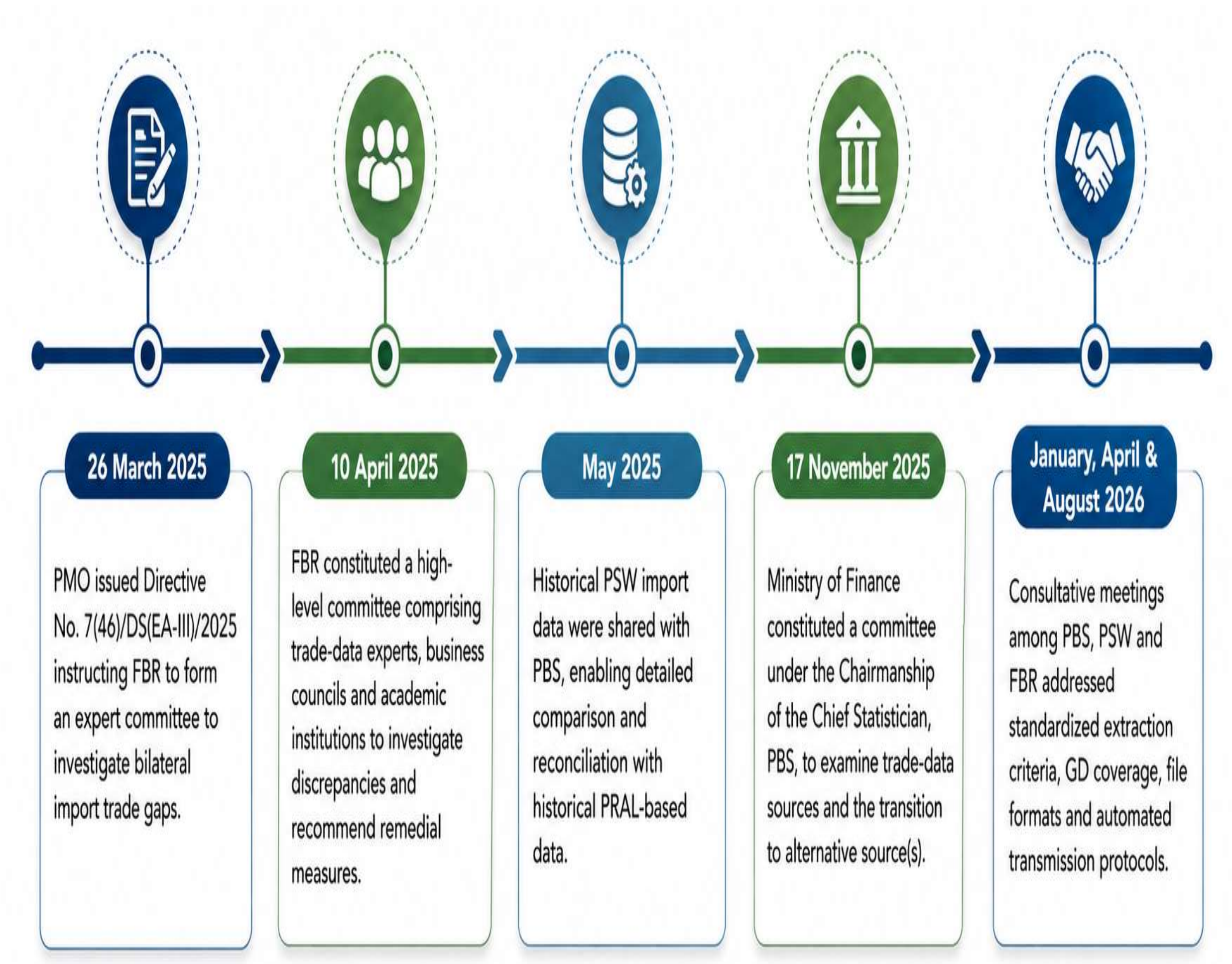
c) PBS and DRS should continue its working with PSW and Customs to ensure that not only the previous errors in trade data are rectified but future reporting is also made error free.

d) Annual review should be made mandatory by a combined team of domain experts from Customs, DRS, PBS, MoC and SBP to ensure that new requirements are continuously being incorporated in the data extracted from the WeBOC/PSW systems.

Decision of Finance Committee:

"The Committee decided that PBS shall continue compiling and publishing monthly trade statistics based on PSW data after reconciliation with FBR. Quarterly reconciliation and validation mechanisms will be institutionalized. Harmonized data sets will be shared across all relevant entities. Consideration of historical revisions will be referred to the appropriate national forum."

3.4 Investigation Timeline



4. Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations of the FBR Committee

In view of the persistent and substantial discrepancy between Pakistan's recorded imports and the exports reported by its major trading partners, particularly China, and the initial apprehensions regarding possible under-invoicing and misdeclaration, the **Federal Board of Revenue (FBR),**

pursuant to the directions of the Prime Minister's Office, constituted a Committee in April 2025 to examine the underlying causes of the trade data gap and recommend appropriate remedial measures. The Committee undertook a comprehensive examination of the data maintained by Pakistan Customs and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), including a detailed reconciliation of transaction-level records and a mirror analysis of Pakistan–China trade. The investigation subsequently established that the apparent gap could not be explained by under-invoicing alone and that significant discrepancies had arisen from **incomplete coverage of certain Goods Declaration (GD) types, classification and data-processing practices, and differences in reporting methodologies and timing**. The Committee consequently recommended reconciliation and incorporation of the omitted transactions, harmonization of data definitions and reporting methodologies among the concerned institutions, strengthening of system-to-system data integration and information sharing among FBR/Customs, PBS, DRS, PSW and PRAL, and establishment of an effective mechanism for timely communication of changes in GD types or data-processing procedures. Following detailed deliberations, the FBR Committee concluded that the existing mechanism for capturing and reporting international trade data required a comprehensive overhaul, and recommended the following immediate measures:

- **Direct system integration:** PBS and DRS should directly integrate with PSW to obtain standardized, pre-configured reports as per their requirements, in order to ensure the accuracy and consistency of trade data.
- **Comprehensive GD-type coverage:** PBS and DRS, in consultation with Pakistan Customs, should include all GD Types against which imports and exports take place, especially those involving cross-border remittances.

4.2 Finance Committee — Adopted Framework

Building on the FBR Committee's findings, the Finance Committee endorsed PSW as the primary and authoritative source of merchandise trade data going forward, instituted a quarterly reconciliation and validation mechanism between PBS and FBR.

5. PBS's Role and Consultative Process

5.1 Reconciliation Process

To operationalize the transition to PSW as the official source of merchandise trade statistics and finalize standardized extraction criteria, four technical meetings were convened under the consultative mechanism — on **6 January 2026**, **27 April 2026, 11 May and 17 August 2026**— between representatives of PBS, PSW, and FBR. These meetings deliberated on PBS's data requirements, report structures, GD coverage, file formats, and the automated data-transmission mechanism. PSW and PBS have jointly developed a proposed data-extraction mechanism to facilitate the regular supply of merchandise trade data to PBS; its implementation is contingent upon formal approval by FBR, which is currently under discussion.

5.2 Validation Protocols and Statistical Standards

The revised statistical series was compiled using comprehensive transaction-level import data extracted directly from PSW, ensuring complete coverage of all relevant GD categories. The compilation was carried out in conformity with internationally accepted standards and best practices for merchandise trade statistics, including commodity classification, currency-breakdown conventions, and MSB/SDR (Monthly Bulletin Statistics / Special Drawing Rights) reporting standards, thereby enhancing the accuracy, consistency, and international comparability of Pakistan's official import statistics.

5.3 Matters under Deliberation

Two categories of GD-related issues — Export Processing Zone (EPZ) imports and batch-processed consignments — remain under review. Their quantitative impact on the overall revised picture is minimal (EPZ imports show a negligible difference of US$0-1 million across the review years, as shown in Table 1), and both categories continue to be captured within the regenerated reports pending final resolution.

6. Discrepancy Analysis — Commentary and Explanatory Notes

6.1 GD-Type Comparison (PSW vs. PRAL)

The investigation established that standard Home Consumption (HC) GDs — the bulk of ordinary import traffic — were accurately captured under both the legacy PRAL system and PSW, with only marginal, statistically insignificant differences. The material gap instead arose from special and facilitated GD categories that PRAL's older architecture did not fully capture, principally the Facilitation Scheme (FS) GDs, alongside lower-volume categories such as Manufacturing Bond (MB), Temporary Imports (TI), Exhibition Goods (EG), Import Exception Goods (EL), EPZ Import (EP), Baggage Vehicle (VB), Courier (CR), Import in Tariff Area from Zone (EI), Un-Accompanied Baggage Declaration (BD), One Customs (OC), Privilege Person (PP), and Ex-Bond (EB).

Table 1: Difference between PSW and PRAL Import Data by GD Type (US$ Million)

GD Type / Description	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
FS (Facilitation Scheme)	-	405	1,330	5,019	6,082
HC (Home Consumption)	58	-8	0	0	0
EB (Ex-Bond)	0	-3	0	0	0
MB (Manufacturing Bond)	460	593	296	13	-
EL (Import Exception Goods)	0	-2	-1	0	-1
EP (EPZ Import)	0	0	0	0	-1
VB (Baggage Vehicle)	0	0	0	0	-1
Other GDs (CR, EI, BD, IE, OC, PP, TI, EG)	401	33	54	70	65
TOTAL DIFFERENCE	**919**	**1,017**	**1,680**	**5,102**	**6,144**

Core cause of variation: Core cause of variation: Initially, difference was jointly driven by Facilitation Scheme (FS) and Manufacturing Bond (MB) GDs. MB accounted for US$460m in 2020–21, US$593m in 2021–22, and US$296m in 2022–23 — consistently significant shares of the total difference. FS began to rise sharply in 2021–22 (US$405m) and expanded further in 2022–23 (US$1,330m). In 2023-24, Facilitation Scheme (FS) GDs accounted for US$5,019 million (98.4 percent) of the US$5,102 million total difference, and in 2024-25, FS omission was almost exclusive, accounting for US$6,082m (99.0%) of the total difference — confirming FS omission as the dominant, and in the most recent years the almost exclusive, driver of the historical under-reporting. It is observed that Manufacturing Bond (MB) scheme appear to be similar to Export Facilitation Scheme (FS) introduced by Pakistan Customs before introducing EFS. FBR subsequently described the EFS as replacing the older schemes over time.

6.2 Country-wise Analysis of Facilitation Scheme Imports

An analysis of FS GDs in FY2024-25 (US$6,082 million in total) shows a high concentration among a small number of trading partners. Imports from the top 20 FS-partner countries rose from US$4.165 billion in FY2023-24 to US$5.231 billion in FY2024-25 — an increase of approximately 25.6 percent.

China remained by far the largest source of FS imports, rising from US$1.443 billion to US$2.085 billion **(+44.4%)**. The United States ranked second, though its imports declined from US$941 million to US$874 million **(-7.1%)**. Among other major suppliers, Brazil recorded the sharpest increase — from US$189 million to US$501 million — while imports from Turkey rose from US$159 million to US$248 million. Afghanistan was a notable exception, with FS imports falling from US$326 million to US$174 million.

Table 2: Top 20 Partner Countries in Facilitation Scheme (FS) Imports (US$ Million)

Country	FY2024-25	FY2023-24
China	2,085	1,443
United States	874	941
Brazil	501	189
Turkey	248	159
Afghanistan	174	326
Italy	133	103
Viet Nam	129	62
Germany	124	114
Saudi Arabia	117	86
Japan	96	115
Indonesia	92	79
Thailand	89	91
Uzbekistan	85	31
Belgium	79	72
South Korea	71	72
South Africa	70	75
Cote D'Ivoire	70	51
Taiwan	68	99
Argentina	67	12
Australia	59	45
Top 20 Total	**5,231**	**4,165**

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6.3 Commodity-wise Analysis

The discrepancy between PSW and PBS-published (PRAL-based) imports for FY2024-25 is highly concentrated in a small number of commodity groups. The **Textile Group** accounts for the single largest shift — **US$3.151 billion**, or more than half of the entire US$6.144 billion difference. Within the Textile Group, **Raw Cotton** alone contributes US$1.428 billion, followed by Other Textile Items (US$1.219 billion), Synthetic & Artificial Silk Yarn (US$340 million), and Synthetic Fibre (US$154 million). The Agricultural & Other Chemicals Group (US$860 million) and Metal Group (US$833 million) are the next-largest contributors, while the Transport Group and Petroleum Group show negligible differences, confirming that the under-reporting is a structural, sector-specific artefact of the FS-GD omission rather than a broad-based measurement error.

Table 3: Commodity Group Discrepancy — PSW vs. PBS Imports, FY2024-25 (US$ Million)

Commodity Group	PSW	PBS (Existing)	Difference
GRAND TOTAL	64,507	58,363	6,144
Food Group	8,195	8,149	46
Machinery Group	10,307	9,637	670
Transport Group	2,442	2,442	0
Petroleum Group	15,944	15,937	7
Textile Group	7,356	4,205	3,151
Raw Cotton	2,694	1,266	1,428
Synthetic Fibre	673	519	154
Synthetic & Artificial Silk Yarn	1,018	678	340
Other Textile Items	2,451	1,232	1,219
Agricultural & Other Chemicals Group	9,644	8,784	860
Metal Group	5,631	4,798	833
Miscellaneous Group	1,044	973	71
All Other Items	3,942	3,438	504

7. Macroeconomic Impact on the Trade Deficit

The inclusion of previously uncaptured import data materially alters Pakistan's recorded trade deficit across the five-year review period. The revision raises the trade deficit by an amount equal to the increase in recorded imports in each year (with exports held at their existing, previously reported levels), rising from a modest US$919 million in FY2020-21 to US$6.144 billion in FY2024-25 — a more than six-fold increase in annual impact over the period, reflecting the progressive expansion of FS-scheme trade that had gone unrecorded.

Table 4: Revised and Existing Imports and Trade Deficit, FY2020-21 to FY2024-25 (US$ Million)

Financial Year	Revised Imports	Existing Imports	Exports	Revised Trade Deficit	Existing Trade Deficit	Increase in Deficit
FY2020-21	57,299	56,380	25,304	-31,995	-31,076	919
FY2021-22	81,154	80,137	31,782	-49,372	-48,355	1,017
FY2022-23	56,878	55,198	27,724	-29,154	-27,474	1,680
FY2023-24	59,881	54,779	30,675	-29,206	-24,104	5,102
FY2024-25	64,507	58,363	32,040	-32,467	-26,323	6,144

Cumulatively across the five financial years, the revision increases recorded imports by approximately **US$14.863 billion**, with a corresponding increase in the recorded trade deficit, subject to the appropriate treatment of exports in the final National Accounts reconciliation. The macro-economic implications extend to external-sector management: a materially wider historical trade deficit affects the interpretation of the current account, foreign-exchange requirements, and import-dependency indicators used in macroeconomic surveillance and IMF programmed reporting.

8. Scope of Statistical Regeneration

To incorporate the revised PSW-based data, PBS was required to re-run and re-publish its entire monthly, quarterly, and annual trade-reporting suite. For each of the 60 months under review, **23 distinct statistical reports** are produced, covering commodity classifications, currency breakdowns, MSB/SDR standards, and administrative categories:

23 Reports per Month × 12 Months × 5 Years = 1,380 Statistical Reports Regenerated

Of these 1,380 regenerated reports, PBS has identified 60 Advance Release reports — one per month across the five-year period — as the priority set for annexation and public dissemination, given the volume of the complete report suite. The full monthly detail, including GD-type tables comparing PSW and PRAL data, is maintained by PBS's External Trade Section and is available.

The complete yearly reconciliation between the existing (previously published) and revised import totals — in both Pakistani Rupees and US Dollars — is presented below.

Table 5: Yearly Revised and Existing Total Imports, FY2020-21 to FY2024-25

Financial Year	Existing Total ('000 Rs.)	Existing Total ('000 $)	Revised Total ('000 Rs.)	Revised Total ('000 $)	Difference ('000 Rs.)	Difference ('000 $)
FY 2020-21	8,982,441,299	56,379,890	9,128,896,774	57,299,088	146,455,475	919,198
FY 2021-22	14,273,393,995	80,136,354	14,454,737,129	81,153,580	181,343,134	1,017,225
FY 2022-23	13,472,987,900	55,198,449	13,882,827,971	56,878,449	409,840,070	1,680,000
FY 2023-24	15,482,119,686	54,779,082	16,924,066,110	59,881,095	1,441,946,424	5,102,013
FY 2024-25	16,306,752,747	58,363,038	18,023,453,139	64,506,827	1,716,700,392	6,143,788

9. PBS Commitments to the IMF on Trade Statistics

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has separately taken up the matter of discrepancies in Pakistan's trade statistics and set a timeline for the revision of historical monthly trade statistics for 2020-25, to be completed for public dissemination by end-August 2026. PBS was further required to work closely with PSW to develop standardized extraction criteria and data definitions — completed by end-May 2026 — and to institute a regular consultative mechanism to ensure that any future modifications to trade data are appropriately reflected in PBS's reporting to internal and external stakeholders.

All three IMF commitments have been substantively met:

- Month-wise revision completed, with PBS finalizing the extraction criteria;
- Monthly reports finalized by end-August 2026, in line with the committed deadline; and
- A consultative mechanism institutionalized, with the Committee notified for quarterly meetings following its 17 August 2026 session.

10. Conclusion and Way Forward

The historical revision of Pakistan's import trade statistics for July 2020 to June 2025 represents a substantial improvement in the coverage, consistency and statistical reliability of the official external trade series. The review traced the issue to differences in administrative data coverage during the transition from the legacy PRAL-based environment to PSW.

The comparison demonstrated that the principal source of the later-year discrepancy was the omission of Facilitation Scheme GDs from the historical PRAL feeds. This finding is reinforced by the GD-wise results, where FS accounts for US$5.019 billion of the US$5.102 billion FY2023–24 difference and US$6.082 billion of the US$6.144 billion FY2024–25 difference.

The country-wise analysis shows that the additional FS coverage is concentrated among a limited number of trading partners, led by China. The commodity-wise analysis similarly shows concentration, with the Textile Group contributing US$3.151 billion to the FY2024–25 difference, including major contributions from Raw Cotton and Other Textile Items.

The proposed revision of the historical import series is also consistent with the principles and good practices set out in the United Nations International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) 2010 framework. The IMTS 2010 Compilers Manual further recognizes the need for revisions where improved or more complete information becomes available, including correction of information reported on customs declarations, changes in commodity classification and adjustments to the scope and coverage of trade statistics. It also recommends that statistical agencies maintain an appropriate revision policy and provide users with explanations concerning revisions and breaks in historical series. Accordingly, where a **new, more comprehensive and demonstrably superior source of administrative data** becomes available—such as reconciled transaction-level data from the Pakistan Single Window and Pakistan Customs—it is methodologically appropriate to revisit and revise the affected historical trade series rather than retain an earlier series based on less complete source information. The revision of Pakistan's import statistics for July 2020–June 2025 may therefore be regarded not as a departure from established statistical practice, but as a necessary quality-improvement measure undertaken to ensure that the published trade statistics reflect the best available source data, improved coverage and more accurate statistical treatment.

The revision has an important macroeconomic implication because higher recorded imports increase the historical trade deficit. The cumulative upward revision in imports over the five-year period is approximately US$14.863 billion. The direction for Full and Simultaneous Adoption provides the institutional route for aligning the revised external trade series with revised National Accounts and related macroeconomic aggregates.