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PUBLICATION:	Egyptian Gazette
DATE:	2-May-2015
COUNTRY:	Egypt
CIRCULATION:	60,000
TITLE :	Oil imports rise faster than exports
PAGE:	02
ARTICLE TYPE:	General Industry News
REPORTER:	Staff Report

### *Oil imports rise faster than exports*

**PETROLEUM** exports increased 30.6 per cent to LE1.9 billion, compared to LE1.5 I in January, the Central Agency for Mobilisation and Statistics (CAP-MAS) revealed in a report covering February.

Petroleum imports increased 52.3 per cent to LE5.8 billion, compared to LE3.8 billion in January. Total output of oil products and natural gas fell to 5.4 million tonnes in February, compared to 5.9 million tonnes in the same period last year.

Domestic consumption of petroleum products fell 8.2 per cent compared to 3.04 per cent in January.

The country is set to import over \$3 billion worth of liquefied natural gas as rising consumption and falling production turns the country from an energy exporter to a net importer.