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GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

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SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Overseas Merchandise Trade December 2023

Highlights of the month

December 2023 compared with November 2023

Merchandise Exports¹

- ❖ The total value of merchandise exports increased 5.1 percent or \$0.5 million to \$11.3 million in December 2023. This was due to the notable increases in the export of
 - ❖ Fish and crustaceans' products (up \$1.7 million)
 - ❖ Animal or vegetable fats and oils products (up \$0.2 million)
 - ❖ Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts products (up \$0.3 million)
 - ❖ Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits and products (up \$0.2 million)
- ❖ Oceania region had the largest share of 79.6 percent of total merchandise exports in the month under review, increasing 18.7 percent over the previous month.
- ❖ Exports to American Samoa (up \$1.5 million), Fiji (up \$0.5 million) and USA (up \$0.04 million) recorded the largest increases in December 2023 reflecting higher exports of fish, coconut oil, nonu juice and copra to mention a few.

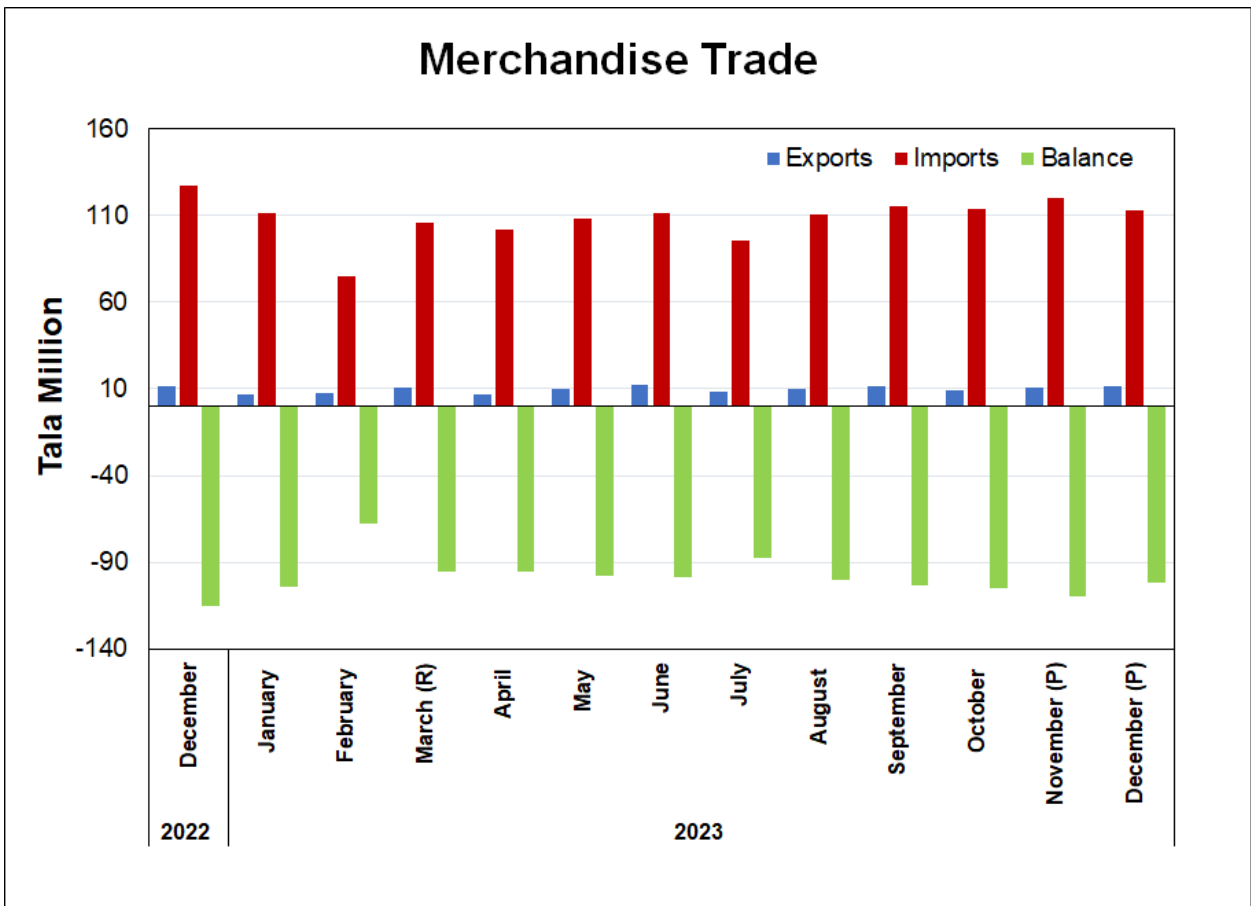
Merchandise Imports

- ❖ The total value of merchandise imports decreased 5.8 percent (or \$7.0 million) to \$113.3 million in December 2023. This was mainly driven by the notable decreases of:
 - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oil and products (down \$5.4 million)
 - ❖ Meat and edible meat offal and products (down \$7.2 million)
 - ❖ Electrical machinery and equipment products (down \$3.4 million)
 - ❖ Beverages, spirits and vinegar products (down \$1.6 million)
- ❖ The Oceania region recorded the largest decrease in December 2023 (down \$4.8 million) to \$43.3 million This was due to the reduction of meat products, electrical equipment, wood and articles of wood to mention a few.
- ❖ Imports from Singapore (down \$9.0 million), New Zealand (down \$3.5 million) and USA (down \$3.1 million) had the largest decreases in the reviewed month as a result of lower importation of petroleum and food products such as chicken leg quarter, mutton flap and flour to name a few.

Trade Balance

- ❖ In December 2023, the total value of merchandise imports amounting to \$113.3 million exceeded total value of exports of \$11.3 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$102.1 million.

¹ Includes re-export commodities



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

The attached tables provide users with more detailed information.

Technical Notes

The main source of imports and exports data comes from the administrative document; a completed customs form (Single Administrative data-SAD) which is required to be filled in by importers and exporters or customs agents when clearing merchandise inward and outward through the Ministry for Customs and Revenue (Custom Department).

The January 2024 Merchandise trade report is expected to be available on March 14th, 2024.

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Economic Statistics Division
FMFM II Building, Level 1
P O Box 1151
Apia, Samoa

Phone: (685) 62014/62015
 Fax: (685) 24675
 E-mail: esd@sbs.gov.ws
 Website: www.sbs.gov.ws