



File Ref: MTR July 2023

## SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

### Overseas Merchandise Trade July 2023

#### Highlights of the month

*July 2023 compared with June 2023*

#### Merchandise Exports<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ The total value of merchandise exports declined 34.7 percent (or \$4.4 million) to \$8.3 million in July 2023. This was due to the reduction in the exports of:
  - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products (down \$1.9 million)
  - ❖ Electrical machinery, equipment and products (down \$3.7 million)
  - ❖ Furniture, mattresses, bedding and products (down \$0.5 million)
  - ❖ Iron and Steel products (down \$0.1 million)
- ❖ Asia region recorded the largest decreases of \$3.5 million and \$0.4 million when compared to the previous month and the same month last year respectively.
- ❖ Exports to Singapore (down \$3.5 million), Fiji (down \$0.8 million) and New Zealand (down \$0.7 million) largely contributed to the reduction in July 2023. This was due to lower exports of co-axial cables and electronic products as well as the re-exports of fuel to mention a few.

#### Merchandise Imports

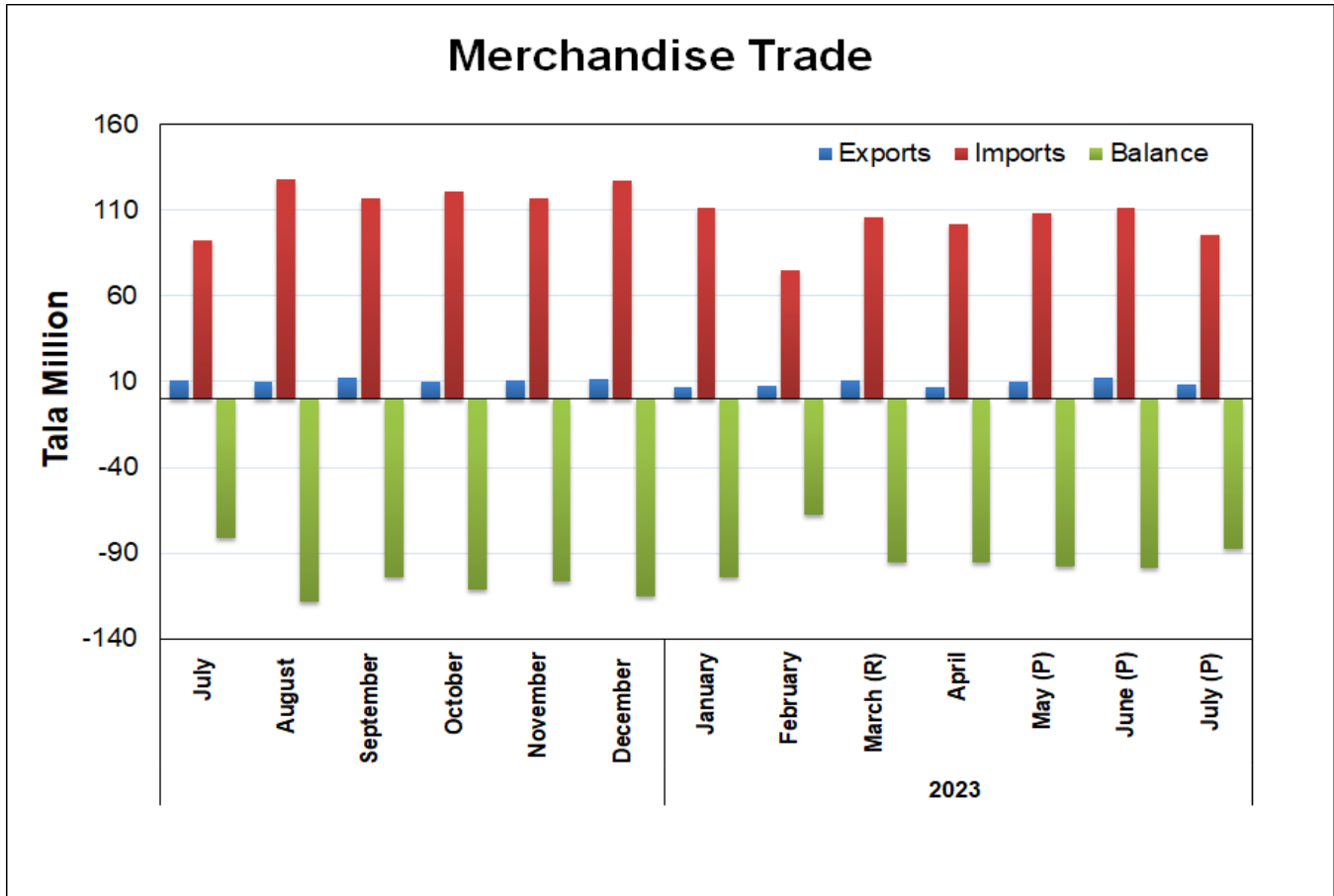
- ❖ The total value of merchandise imports decreased 14.3 percent (or \$16.0 million) to \$95.7 million in July 2023. This was mainly driven by the decreases of:
  - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products (down \$20.4 million)
  - ❖ Nuclear reactors, boilers and machinery products (down \$1.5 million)
  - ❖ Cereal products (down \$2.3 million)
  - ❖ Printed books, newspapers and products (down \$1.1 million)
- ❖ The Asia region recorded the largest decrease in July 2023 (down \$16.9 million) to \$32.2 million, due to the reduction of petroleum products to mention a few.
- ❖ Imports from Singapore (down \$22.3 million), New Zealand (down \$1.2 million) and USA (down \$2.5 million) had the largest decreases in the reviewed month as a result of lower imports of petroleum, machinery & mechanical appliances and food products such as rice to name a few.

#### Trade Balance

- ❖ In July 2023, the total value of merchandise imports amounting to \$95.7 million, exceeded total value of exports of \$8.3 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$87.4 million. The trade deficit decreased by 11.7 percent when compared to its balance in June 2023 but was 7.2 percent higher when compared to July 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 August 2023 Merchandise trade report is expected to be available on 13 October 2023.

