

## **SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

### **Overseas Merchandise Trade September 2023**

#### **Highlights of the month**

*September 2023 compared with August 2023*

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

- ❖ The total value of merchandise exports increased 12.9 percent or \$1.3 million to \$11.7 million in September 2023. This was due to the notable increases of exports and re-exports of:
  - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products (up \$1.4 million)
  - ❖ Animal or vegetable fats and oils products (up \$0.8 million)
  - ❖ Electrical machinery and equipment products (up \$0.2 million)
  - ❖ Furniture, bedding, mattresses and products (up \$0.3 million)
- ❖ Oceania region had the largest share of 71.8 percent of total merchandise exports in the period under review, increasing 8.6 percent from the previous month.
- ❖ Exports to Australia (up \$1.0 million), New Zealand (up \$0.2 million) and China (up \$0.9 million) recorded the largest increases in September 2023 reflecting higher exports of coconut oil, furniture, board panels and re-exports of fuel to mention a few.

#### **Merchandise Imports**

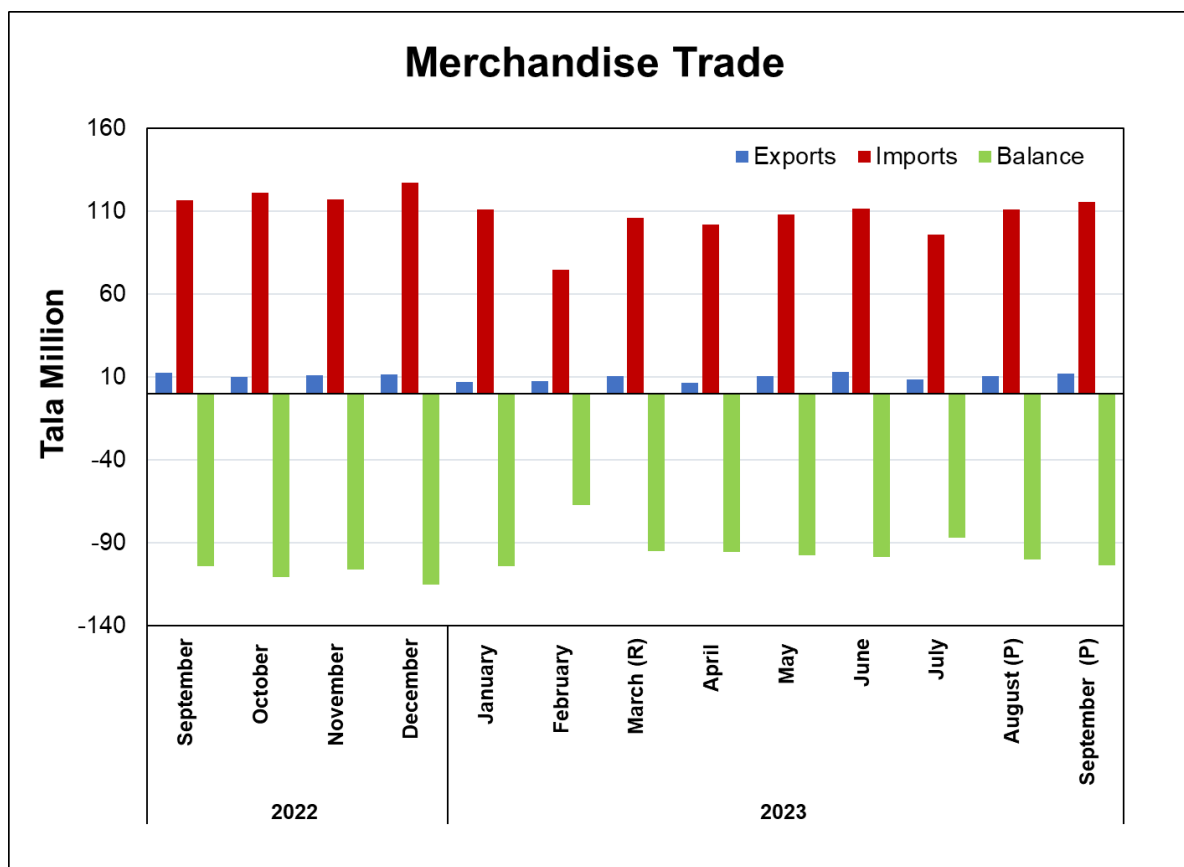
- ❖ The total value of merchandise imports in September 2023 was \$115.3 million, increasing 4.1 percent (or \$4.5 million) from August 2023. This was mainly driven by higher imports of:
  - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oil and products (up \$16.7 million)
  - ❖ Meat and edible meat offal and products (up \$2.4 million)
  - ❖ Nuclear reactor, boilers, machinery and mechanical products (up \$0.3 million)
  - ❖ Wood and articles of wood products (up \$1.3 million)
- ❖ The Asia region became the leading source market for imports accounting for 53.3 percent of the total merchandise import value. It also recorded the largest increase of \$6.3 million from the preceding month.
- ❖ Imports from Singapore (up \$15.7 million) and United States (up \$4.0 million) had the largest increases in the reviewed month. This was due to the increases in imports of petroleum and food products such as chicken leg quarter, sausage and turkey tail to name a few.

#### **Trade Balance**

- ❖ In September 2023, the total value of merchandise imports amounting to \$115.3 million exceeded total value of exports of \$11.7 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$103.6 million.

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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 October 2023 Merchandise trade report is expected to be available on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

