



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

## SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

### MERCHANDISE TRADE December 2022 Quarter

#### Highlights of the quarter

(December 2022 quarter compared with December 2021 quarter)

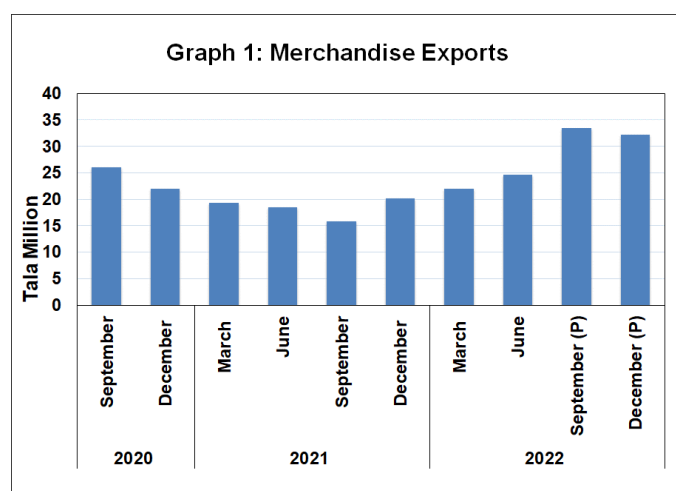
- Total merchandise exports increased 59.1 percent to \$32.2 million.
- Total merchandise imports rose 31.8 percent to \$365.0 million.
- Resulting in a trade deficit of \$332.8 million for the December 2022 quarter.

#### Overview

#### Value of Merchandise Exports

In the December 2022 quarter, merchandise exports stood at \$32.2 million, increasing 59.1 percent when compared to the December 2021 quarter but fell 3.8 percent in comparison to the previous quarter. The increase in the former was due to higher exports of fish and re-exports of petroleum to mention a few in the reviewed period.

(See Graph 1 and Table 1).



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

The four quarters ending December 2022 showed a 34.3 percent decrease in the total value of merchandise exports when compared to the four quarters ending December 2021.

#### Exports of Main Commodities

In the December 2022 quarter, **mineral fuel, mineral oil and product** exports remained as the top commodity group valued at \$12.0 million, increasing \$9.7 million compared to the December 2021 quarter (accounting for 37.2 percent of total merchandise exports value). This was \$2.2 million higher when compared to the September 2022 quarter.

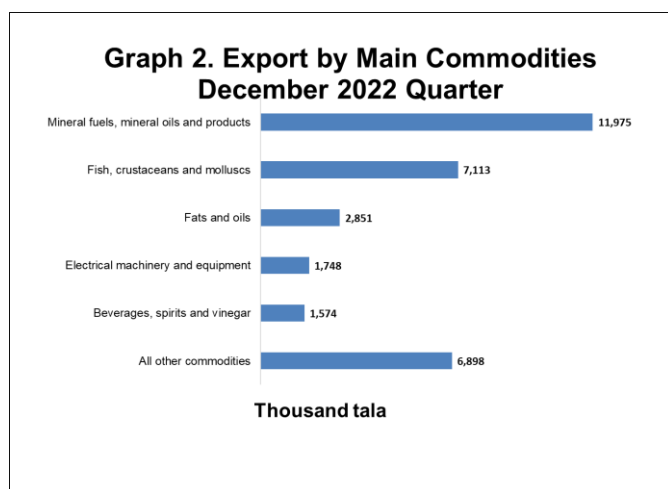
**Fish** exports were valued at \$7.1 million (22.1 percent of total merchandise exports value) increasing \$4.9 million when compared to the December 2021 quarter but was \$0.7 million lower when compared to the September 2022 quarter.

**Electrical machinery and equipment** exports decreased 1.9 percent from the December 2021 quarter (\$2.9 million), accounting for 8.9 percent of total merchandise exports value. On the other hand, the value of electrical and machinery exports rose 33.9 percent when compared to the September 2022 quarter.

**Fats and oil exports** with a total merchandise export value of \$1.7 million (accounting for 5.4 percent of total merchandise exports value) decreased 54.9 percent from the same quarter last year and further declined by 67.2 percent compared to the September 2022 quarter respectively.

**Vegetables and certain roots edible exports** were valued at \$1.6 million (4.9 percent of total merchandise exports value) decreasing \$0.03 million in comparison with the December 2021 quarter but was \$0.9 million higher when compared to the September 2022 quarter.

All **'other commodities'** recorded less than 3.0 percent share each of the total merchandise exports value having a combined total of \$6.9 million. (See Graph 2 and table 2.)



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

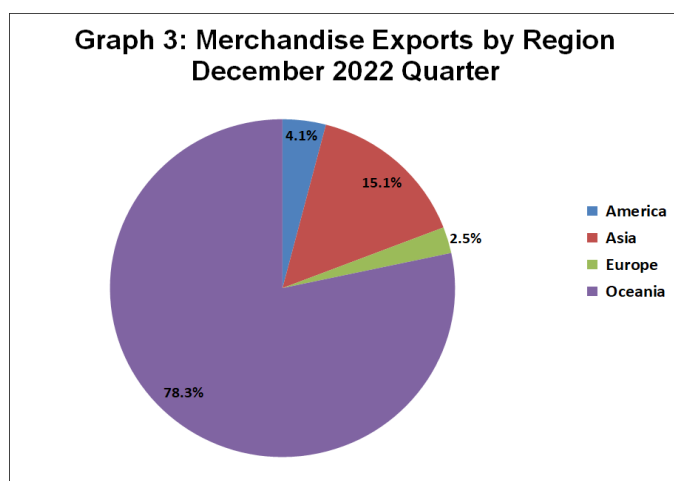
### Merchandise Exports by Region

In the December 2022 quarter, the **Oceania** region recorded a 78.3 percent share of total merchandise exports value, increasing 79.9 percent and 15.2 percent when compared to its corresponding quarter last year and the September 2022 quarter respectively.

The **Asia** region recorded a total share of 15.1 percent, increasing \$2.7 million to \$4.9 million when compared to the December 2021 quarter but was \$0.7 million lower when compared to the previous quarter.

The **America** region recorded a total share of 4.1 percent, declining \$2.7 million and \$4.6 million when compared to the same quarter of 2021 and the previous quarter respectively.

The **Europe** region had a total share of 2.5 percent, increasing \$0.7 million over the December 2021 quarter and \$0.8 million when compared to the September 2022 quarter. (See graph 3 and table 4).



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

### Merchandise Exports by main Country of Destination

Exports to **American Samoa** recorded a total share of 26.3 percent of total merchandise export value, increasing \$4.9 million to \$8.5 million when compared to the December 2021 quarter but was \$0.5 million lower when compared to the previous quarter.

Exports to **New Zealand** followed next with a total share of 24.6 percent increasing 64.1 percent and 43.7 percent when compared to its corresponding quarter last year and September 2022 respectively. Exports to **Tokelau** recorded a share of 14.0 percent, increasing \$2.9 million and \$0.5 million when compared to the same quarter of 2021 and the previous quarter in that order.

Exports to **Taiwan** represented 7.3 percent of the total merchandise exports value, increasing \$1.4 million to \$2.3 million when compared to December 2021 quarter but was \$0.05 million lower when compared to the previous quarter.

Exports to **USA** recorded a share of 6.9 percent (\$2.2 million) of the total merchandise exports value, decreasing 44.3 percent and 61.8 percent in comparison with the December 2021 quarter and September 2022 quarter respectively.

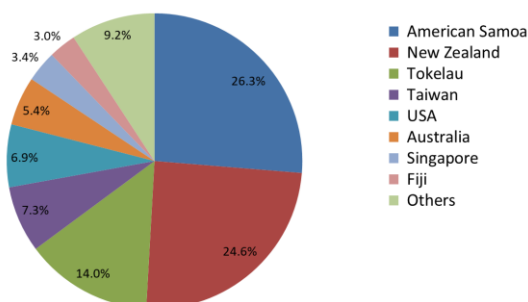
Exports to **Australia** contributed 5.4 percent of the total merchandise exports value, declining 18.2 percent and 22.5 percent from the same quarter last year and the previous quarter respectively.

Exports to **Singapore** recorded a total share of 3.4 percent of the total merchandise exports value (\$1.1 million) increasing \$0.9 million when compared to the December 2021 quarter but fell \$0.2 million when compared to the September 2022 quarter.

Exports to **Fiji** had a total value of \$1.0 million, accounting for 3.0 percent of total merchandise exports value. This was 25.1 percent and 12.8 percent higher than its export in the the December 2021 quarter and September 2022 quarter respectively.

Exports to **'other countries'** recorded less than 3.0 percent share each of total merchandise exports value having a combined total of 9.2 percent. (See Graph 4 and Table 4).

**Graph 4: Merchandise Exports by main Countries  
December 2022 Quarter**

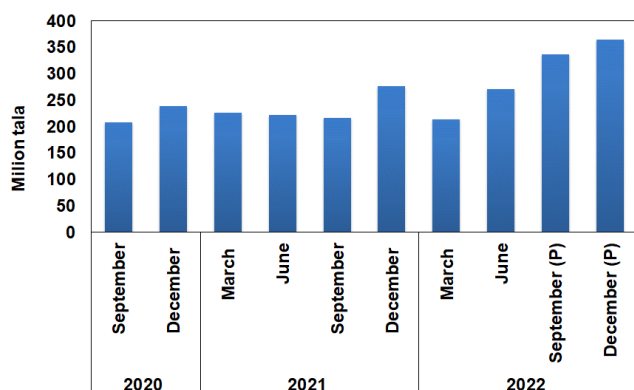


Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

### **Value of Merchandise Imports**

In the December 2022 quarter, merchandise imports were valued at \$365.0 million. This value was 31.8 percent and 8.3 percent higher than that of the December 2021 quarter and the September 2022 quarter respectively. (See Graph 5 and Table 5).

**Graph 5: Merchandise Imports**



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

The four quarters ending December 2022 showed a 26.2 percent increase in the total value of merchandise imports when compared to the four quarters ending December 2021.

### **Import of Main Commodities**

**Mineral fuels, mineral oils** and products imports maintained its position as the top imported commodity in the December 2022 quarter, valued at \$69.2 million and accounting for 19.0 percent of total merchandise import value. It went up by 35.2 when compared to the December 2021 quarter but fell 33.6 percent when compared to September 2022 quarter.

**Ships, boats and float** imports followed with a total value of \$36.1 million (9.9 percent of total merchandise imports value), increasing \$36.1 million and \$13.3 million when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021 and the previous quarter in that order.

**Meat and edible meat offal** imports recorded a total value of \$26.5 million, accounting for 7.2 percent of total merchandise import value. It increased 29.5 when compared to the same quarter last year but fell 14.3 percent in comparison with the previous quarter.

**Vehicle, parts and accessories** imports were valued at \$15.9 million (4.4 percent of total merchandise import value) declining 15.8 percent when compared to the December 2021 quarter but increased 4.5 percent when compared to September 2022 quarter.

**Nuclear reactors, boilers and machinery** imports recorded a total value of \$15.7 million, accounting for 4.3 percent of total merchandise imports value. This was \$2.8 million and \$8.0 million higher than its import in the same quarter last year and the preceding quarter respectively.

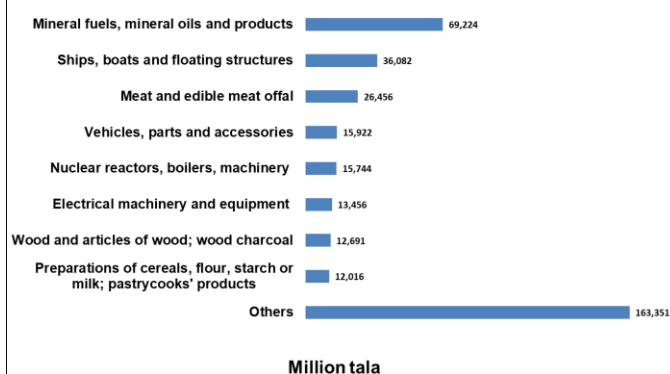
**Electrical machinery and equipment** imports had a total value of \$13.5 million (3.7 percent of total merchandise import value), increasing 12.0 percent and 92.8 percent from the same quarter last year and the previous quarter in that order.

**Wood and articles of wood** imports recorded a total value of \$12.7 million (3.5 percent of total merchandise imports value), increasing 2.8 percent when compared to the same quarter last year and further went up 61.4 percent from the previous quarter.

**Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk** imports increased 30.9 percent from the December 2021 quarter to \$12.0 million (3.3 percent of total merchandise imports value). When compared to the September 2022 quarter, preparation of cereal, flour or milk imports rose 23.4%.

All '**other commodities**' accounted for less than 3.0 percent share each of total merchandise imports value having a combined total of \$163.4 million. (See Graph 6 and Table 5).

**Graph 6: Imports by Main Commodities  
December 2022 Quarter**



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

### Merchandise Imports by Region

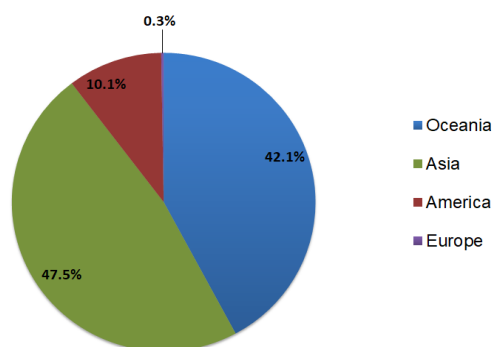
**Asia region** remained as the main source for Samoa's imports with a share of 47.5 percent of total merchandise imports value, increasing 45.5 percent over the same quarter of 2021 and up 4.4 percent compared to the preceding quarter.

**Oceania region** had a total share of 42.1 percent of total merchandise imports value, increasing 15.1 percent and 23.6 percent over the same quarter last year and the preceding quarter respectively.

**America region** had a total share of 10.1 percent, increasing 54.5 percent when compared to the December 2021 quarter but declined 16.9 percent from the September 2022 quarter.

**Europe region** recorded a total share of 0.3 percent, increasing \$0.9 million when compared to the December 2021 quarter but fell \$1.3 million in comparison with the September 2022 quarter. (See Graph 7 and table 7).

**Graph 7: Merchandise Imports by Region  
December 2022 Quarter**



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

### Merchandise Imports by major source markets

**New Zealand** remained as the leading source market for Samoa's imports, valued at \$96.5 million, accounting for 26.5 percent of the total merchandise imports value. It increased 12.2 percent and 47.4 percent when compared to the December 2021 quarter and September 2022 quarter respectively.

Imports from **Singapore** followed with an import value of \$68.7 million, accounting for 18.8 percent of total merchandise imports value, increasing 40.0 percent when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021. However, it went down by 32.9 percent when compared to the previous quarter.

Imports from **Japan** accounted for 11.5 percent (\$41.8 million) of total merchandise imports value, increasing \$37.9 million over the December 2021 quarter and the September 2022 quarter.

Imports from **Fiji** recorded a total value of \$37.1 million (10.2 percent share of total merchandise imports value), increasing 29.1 percent and 17.6 percent when compared to the December 2021 quarter and the September 2022 quarter respectively.

Imports from **USA** recorded a 9.9 percent share of total merchandise imports value (\$36.2 million), increasing 51.9 percent over the same quarter of 2021 but was 17.8 percent lower compared to the preceding quarter.

Imports from **China** represented 7.4 percent (\$26.9 million) of total merchandise imports value. This value was 0.9 percent and 26.4 percent higher than that of the December 2021 quarter and September 2022 quarter respectively.

Imports from **Korea** increased 5.1 percent to \$22.4 million from the same quarter last year, accounting for 6.1 percent of total merchandise imports value.

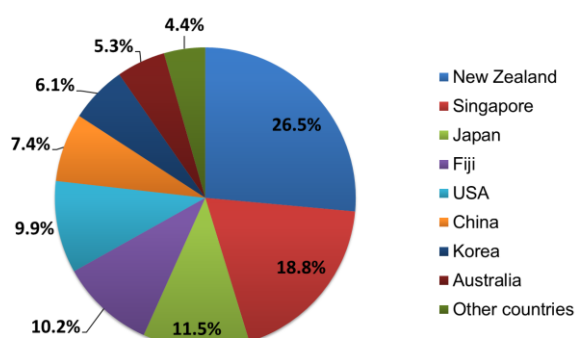
When compared to the preceding quarter, this value was 90.7 percent higher.

Imports from **Australia** recorded a 5.3 percent share of total merchandise import value (\$19.2 million), increasing 12.0 percent over the same quarter of 2021 but was 28.5 percent lower when compared to the previous quarter.

All '**other countries**' accounted for less than 3.0 percent share each of total merchandise imports value having a combined share of 4.4 percent. (See graph 8 and table 8)



**Graph 8: Merchandise Imports by main Countries  
December 2022 Quarter**

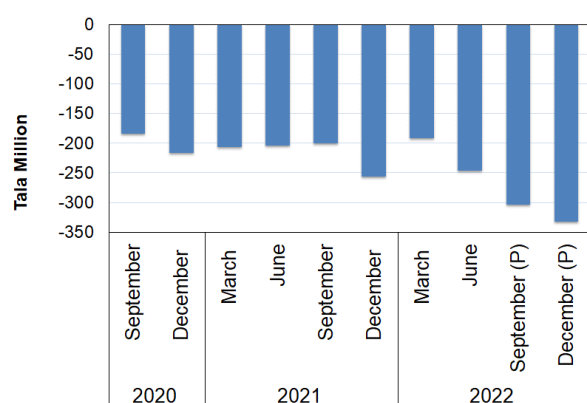


Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

### **Merchandise Trade Balance**

In the December 2022 quarter, the total value of merchandise imports of \$364.9 million exceeded that of exports of \$32.2 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$332.8 million. **(See Graph 9 and table 1).**

**Graph 9: Merchandise Trade Balance**



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

The attached tables provide the user with more detailed information.

The March 2023 quarter Merchandise trade report is expected to be available on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Leota Aliielua Salani  
**Government Statistician/CEO**

## **Technical Notes**

The main source of imports and exports data comes from the administrative document, a completed customs form (Single Administrative data) 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)

### **Definitions**

December 2022 quarter: (October, November, December 2022)

Capital goods: are produced assets that are used repeatedly or continuously, for longer than one year, in industrial production processes. Examples are machinery, trucks, and aircraft.

cif: is the cost of goods, including insurance and freight to Samoa.

Consumption goods: are goods used (without further transformation in industrial production processes) by households, government, or non-profit institutions serving households.

Exports (domestic): are goods of domestic origin exported from Samoa to another country. Exports in this release are valued fob and are shown in Samoan tala.

fob: is free on board (the value of goods at Samoa ports before export).

Imports: are goods imported into Samoa. Imports in this release are valued at cif and are shown in Samoan tala.

Intermediate goods: are goods used up, or transformed in, industrial production processes.

Merchandise trade: covers exports or imports of goods that alter the nation's stock of material resources.

Provisional: statistics for the latest three months are provisional, to allow late data and amendments to be included.

Re-exports: are exports of foreign goods which were previously recorded as Samoa's imports.

Trade balance: is calculated by deducting imports (cif) from exports (fob). These two valuations are not entirely comparable, because the cif valuation includes insurance and freight to Samoa, while the fob valuation excludes insurance and freight from Samoa.

Trade deficit: occurs when the value of imports is more than the value of exports.

Trade surplus: occurs when the value of exports is more than the value of imports.