



## SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

### Overseas Merchandise Trade January 2023

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

*January 2023 compared with December 2022*

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

- ❖ The total value of merchandise exports decreased 38.9 percent (or \$4.5 million) to \$7.1 million in January 2023. This was due to the decreases in the exports and re-exports of:
  - ✓ Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products (down \$2.1 million)
  - ✓ Fish and crustacean products (down \$0.9 million)
  - ✓ Vegetables and certain root products (down \$0.3 million)
  - ✓ Electrical machinery and equipment products (down \$0.7 million)
- ❖ Oceania region accounting for 70.1 percent of total merchandise exports had the largest decrease of 51.5 percent to \$11.6 million from the previous month.
- ❖ Exports to American Samoa (down \$1.1 million), New Zealand (down \$1.7 million) and Australia (down \$0.7 million) recorded the largest decreases in January 2023 reflecting lower exports of fish, taro and re-exporting of petroleum to mention a few.

#### **Merchandise Imports**

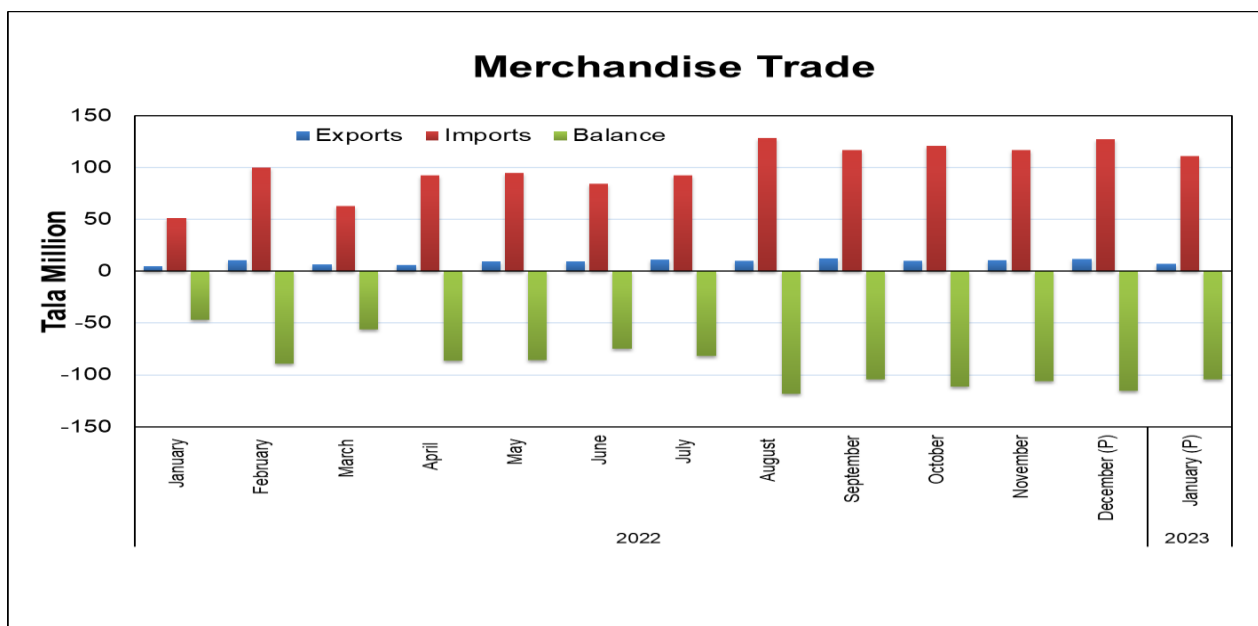
- ❖ The total value of merchandise imports decreased 12.6 percent (or \$16.0 million) from December 2022 to \$111.2 million. This decrease was mainly driven by:
  - ✓ Meat and edible meat offal and products (down \$3.2 million)
  - ✓ Animal or vegetable fats and oils products (down \$1.6 million)
  - ✓ Beverages, spirits and vinegar products (down \$1.3 million)
  - ✓ Mineral fuels, mineral oil and products (down \$0.8 million)
- ❖ Oceania region recorded the largest decrease of \$22.9 million in the reviewed month reflecting the reduction of meat products, beer and petroleum imports to mention a few
- ❖ Imports from New Zealand (down \$20.4 million), Fiji (down \$1.6 million) and Korea (down \$1.4 million) had the largest decreases in the reviewed month, reflecting lower imports of vegetable oil, sugar, chicken leg (quarter) and petroleum products to name a few.

#### **Trade Balance**

- ❖ The total value of merchandise imports of \$111.2 million exceeded exports of \$7.1 million resulting in a trade deficit of \$104.1 million in January 2023.

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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 February 2023 Merchandise trade report is expected to be available on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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