



SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Overseas Merchandise Trade February 2023

Highlights of the month

February 2023 compared with January 2023

Merchandise Exports¹

- ❖ The total value of merchandise exports increased 3.0 percent (or \$0.2 million) to \$7.3 million in February 2023. This was due to the increases in the exports of:
 - ❖ Vegetables and root products (up \$0.1 million)
 - ❖ Fruit and nut products (up \$0.1 million)
 - ❖ Beverage, spirits and vinegar products (up \$0.1 million)
 - ❖ Animal or vegetable fats and oil products (up \$0.02 million)
- ❖ Oceania region had the largest share of 68.0 percent of total merchandise exports in the period under review, decreased slightly by 0.2 percent from the previous month.
- ❖ Exports to American Samoa (up \$0.2 million), New Zealand (up \$0.3 million) and Taiwan (up \$0.5 million) recorded the largest increases in February 2023 reflecting higher exports of taro, beer and vegetable oil to mention a few.

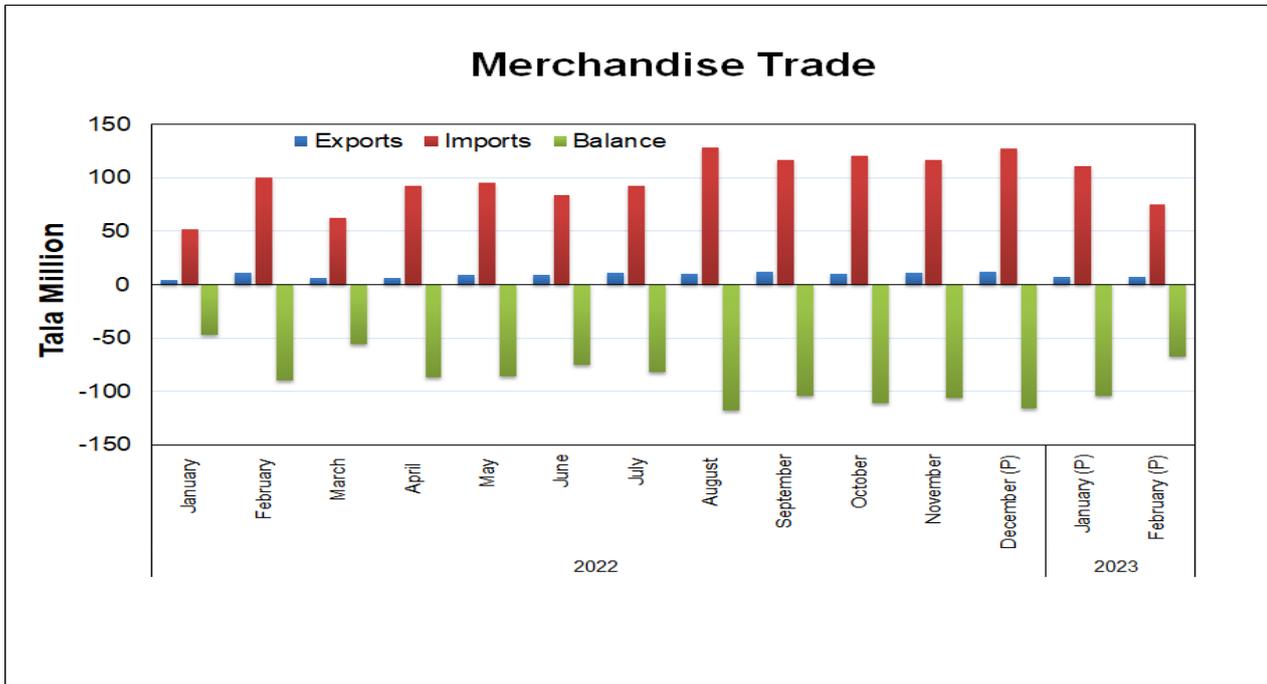
Merchandise Imports

- ❖ The total value of merchandise imports in February 2023 was \$74.6 million, it decreased 32.9 percent (or \$36.5 million) from January 2023. This decrease was mainly driven by:
 - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oil and products (down \$33.8 million)
 - ❖ Vehicles, other than railway products (down \$5.6 million)
 - ❖ Meat and edible meat offal and products (down \$0.5 million)
 - ❖ Electrical machinery and equipment and parts products (down \$1.4 million)
- ❖ Asia region recorded the largest decrease (down \$35.0 million), reflecting the reduction of petroleum products in February 2023.
- ❖ Imports from Singapore (down \$35.0 million), Thailand (down \$3.3 million) and China (down \$1.5 million) had the largest decreases in the reviewed month as a result of lower imports of petroleum, cement and food products such as lamb meat to name a few.

Trade Balance

- ❖ In February 2023, the total value of merchandise imports amounted to \$74.6 million, exceeding total value of exports of \$7.3 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$67.3 million. The trade deficit decreased 35.3 percent and 24.5 percent when compared to its balance in the previous month and the same month last year respectively.

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 March 2023 Merchandise trade report is expected to be available on May 18th, 2023.

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

Leota Aliielua Salani
GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN/CEO