

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Overseas Merchandise Trade March 2023

Highlights of the month

March 2023 compared with February 2023

Merchandise Exports¹

- ❖ The total value of merchandise exports increased 46.8 percent (or \$3.4 million) to \$10.6 million in March 2023. This was due to the increases of:
 - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products (up \$1.2 million)
 - ❖ Animal or vegetable fats and oils products (up \$1.3 million)
 - ❖ Vegetables and certain roots and tubers products (up \$0.5 million)
 - ❖ Miscellaneous edible preparations products (up \$0.3 million)
- ❖ Oceania region had the largest share of 56.2 percent of total merchandise exports in the period under review, increasing 19.8 percent from the previous month.
- ❖ Exports to USA (up \$1.5 million), Tokelau (up \$0.8 million) and New Zealand (up \$0.2 million) recorded the largest increases in March 2023 reflecting higher exports of coconut oil, taro and re-exports of fuel to mention a few.

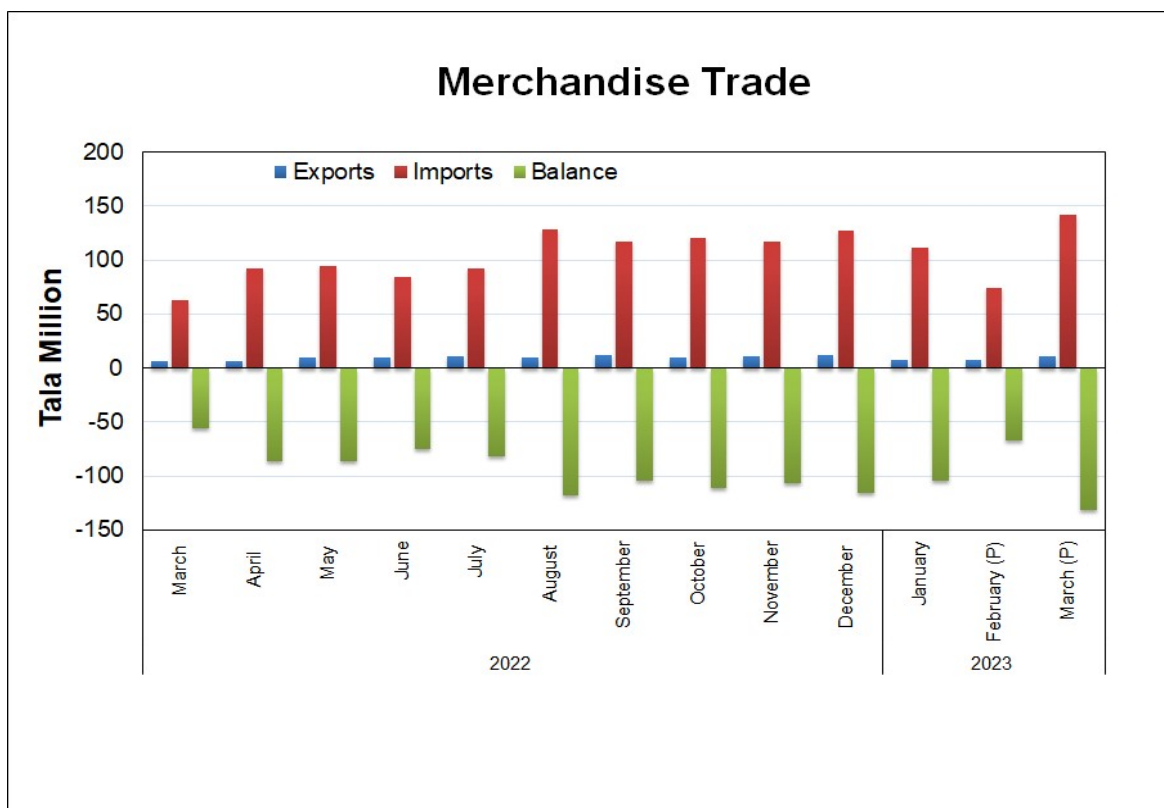
Merchandise Imports

- ❖ The total value of merchandise imports in March 2023 was \$141.5 million, increasing 89.6 percent (or \$66.9 million) from February 2023. This was mainly driven by higher imports of:
 - ❖ Ships, boats and floating structures products (up \$35.8 million)
 - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oil and products (up \$24.1 million)
 - ❖ Meat and edible meat offal and products (up \$3.7 million)
 - ❖ Dairy products (up \$2.7 million)
- ❖ The Asia region became the leading source market for imports accounting for 54.8 percent of the total merchandise import value and also recorded the highest increase of \$50.3 million from the preceding month.
- ❖ Imports from Japan (up \$36.2 million), Singapore (up \$23.9 million) and New Zealand (up \$14.7 million) had the largest increases in the reviewed month as a result of higher imports of petroleum, food products such as chicken leg quarter, milk as well as the importation of the MV Lady Samoa IV to name a few.

Trade Balance

- ❖ In March 2023, the total value of merchandise imports amounting to \$141.5 million exceeded total value of exports of \$10.6 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$130.9 million.

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 April 2023 Merchandise trade report is expected to be available on June 13th, 2023.

