

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Overseas Merchandise Trade May 2023

Highlights of the month

May 2023 compared with April 2023

Merchandise Exports¹

- ❖ In May 2023, the total value of merchandise exports increased 57.1 percent (or \$3.7 million) to \$10.2 million. This was due to the increases in the exports and re-exports of:
 - ❖ Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products (up \$2.4 million)
 - ❖ Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other products (up \$1.6 million)
 - ❖ Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants products (up \$0.3 million)
 - ❖ Iron or steel articles products (up \$0.2 million)
- ❖ Oceania region had the largest share of 71.0 percent of total merchandise exports in the period under review. It increased 70.0 percent from the previous month.
- ❖ Exports to American Samoa (up \$1.6 million), Australia (up \$0.7 million) and New Zealand (up \$0.3 million) recorded the largest increases in May 2023, reflecting higher exports of fresh fish, noni juice and re-exports of fuel to mention a few.

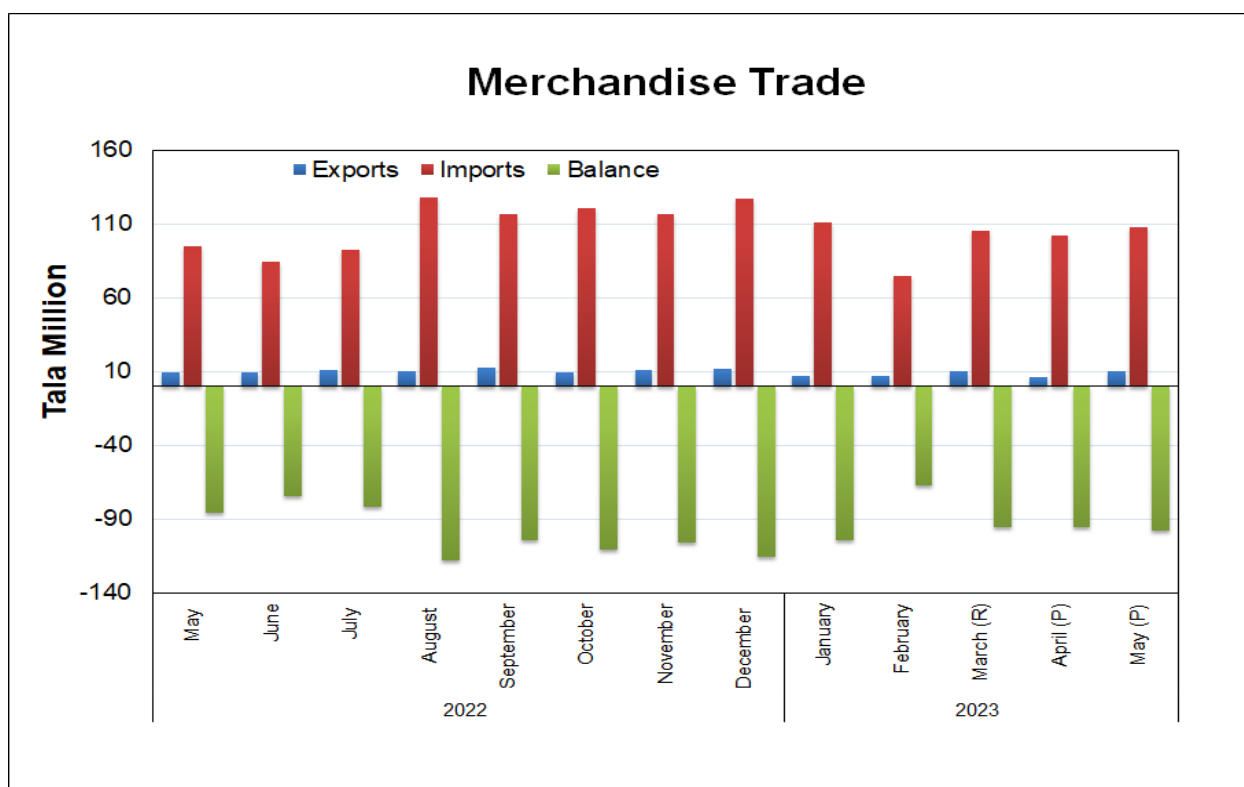
Merchandise Imports

- ❖ The total value of merchandise imports increased 5.6 percent (or \$5.8 million) to \$107.8 million in May 2023. This was mainly driven by higher imports of:
 - ❖ Iron or steel articles products (up \$3.7 million)
 - ❖ Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk products (up \$1.8 million)
 - ❖ Electrical machinery and equipment products (up \$1.9 million)
 - ❖ Plastics and articles thereof products (up \$0.9 million)
- ❖ The Asia region became the leading source market for imports accounting for 51.2 percent of the total merchandise import value. It increased 5.2 percent when compared to the previous month.
- ❖ Imports from China (up \$8.5 million), Australia (up \$3.0 million) and Korea Republic (up \$2.1 million) had the largest increases in the reviewed month as a result of higher imports of galvanized steel products, electrical appliances and food products such as noodles, biscuits and cereals to name a few.

Trade Balance

- ❖ In May 2023, the total value of merchandise imports amounting to \$107.8 million exceeded total value of exports of \$10.2 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$97.6 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 June 2023 Merchandise trade report is expected to be available on August 14th, 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