



FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICES REPORT JANUARY 2022

EXPORTS

Total export earnings dropped significantly by 39.1 percent (or \$2.9 million) to \$4.5 million over the previous month due to reductions in both domestically produced exports (down by \$2.1 million) and re-exports (down by \$0.8 million). Export commodities such as coconut, coconut oil, taro and kava all fell for the month.

Nevertheless, total monthly export receipts were 7.4 percent (or \$0.3 million) higher when compared to January 2021, which was well above its average gain of 6.8 percent in the past three years and an average reduction of 0.4 percent in the past five years.

As a result, total export earnings in the first seven months of 2021/22 was down by 27.1 percent to \$40.5 million over the same period last year, reflecting a drop in earnings from fish, taro, beer, coconut, kava and coconut cream.

The Pacific region remained as the main market for Samoa's exports with a share of 74.3 percent (up from 70.6 percent in December 2021) while the Asia, Europe and North America recorded shares of 17.7 percent, 5.9 percent and 2.0 percent respectively.

IMPORTS

Total import payments also fell sharply by 52.2 percent (or \$51.3 million) to \$47.1 million in January 2022, its lowest level since March 2014. This was underpinned by a \$27.9 million reduction in non-petroleum private sector imports as well as the absence of petroleum imports.

Likewise, when compared to January 2021, total import payments were also 28.2 percent (or \$18.5 million) lower, which was way below its average

gains of 1.4 percent and 1.8 percent in the past three and five years respectively.

However, for the first seven months of 2021/22, total import payments were 5.0 percent (to \$499.3 million) higher than the same period last year.

The Pacific region remained as the main source market for imports with a total share of 46.6 percent while Asia, North America, Europe and Others recorded shares of 41.1 percent, 10.9 percent, 1.2 percent and 0.2 percent in that order.

TRADE BALANCE¹

As a result of the bigger drop in imports, the trade deficit narrowed by 53.2 percent to \$42.6 million over the previous month and was also 30.7 percent lower than that of the same month in 2021. Nevertheless, the total trade deficit in the first seven months of 2021/22 went up by 9.3 percent when compared to the same period last year.

WORLD COMMODITY PRICES

Prices for most of the globally traded commodities recorded increasing trends in January 2022. On the export side, prices for coconut oil, cocoa and bananas all rose by 18.9 percent, 3.8 percent and 2.2 percent respectively. On the import side, prices for rice, chicken and beef all grew by 6.7 percent, 5.1 percent and 0.3 percent in that order.

CRUDE OIL PRICE

According to the World Bank, the average spot price of crude oil shot back up by 15.1 percent to USD\$85.50 per barrel due to higher demand outpacing supply. When compared to January 2021, it was 56.6 percent higher, and was way

¹ Trade balance is the difference between exports of goods less imports of goods

above its average decline of 5.7 percent in the past three years and its average gain of 17.3 percent in the past five years.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
3rd March 2022

