



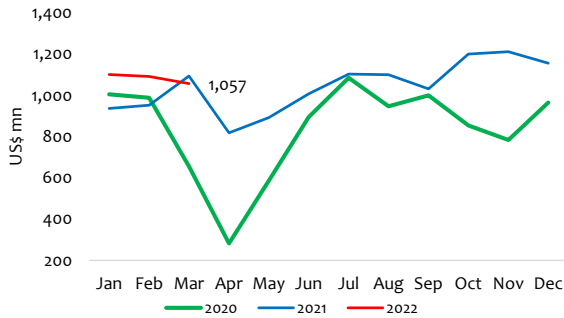
MONTHLY TRADE BULLETIN

ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

March 2022
VOLUME 04 ISSUE 03

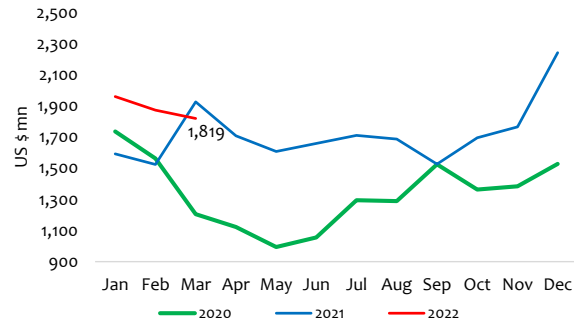
Highlights

Monthly Export Performance



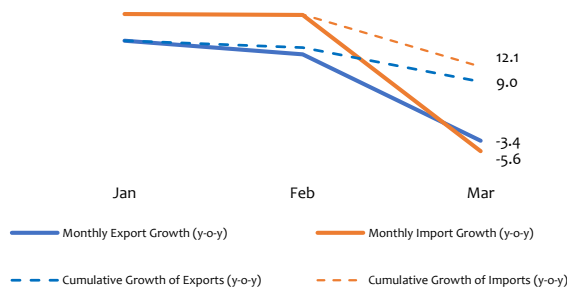
Earnings from merchandise exports decreased by 3.4 per cent (year-on-year) to US dollars 1,057 million in March 2022.

Monthly Import Performance



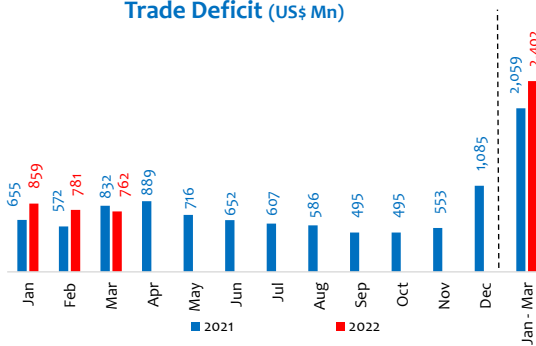
Expenditure on merchandise imports decreased by 5.6 per cent (year-on-year) to US dollars 1,819 million in March 2022.

Export and Import Growth Rates (%)



Export earnings and import expenditure increased (year-on-year) by 9.0 per cent and 12.1 per cent, respectively during the first quarter of 2022.

Trade Deficit (US\$ Mn)



The deficit in the trade account narrowed in March 2022 to US dollars 762 million in comparison to US dollars 832 million recorded in March 2021.

Major Export and Import Categories - (Jan - Mar 2022)

Exports (US\$ mn)

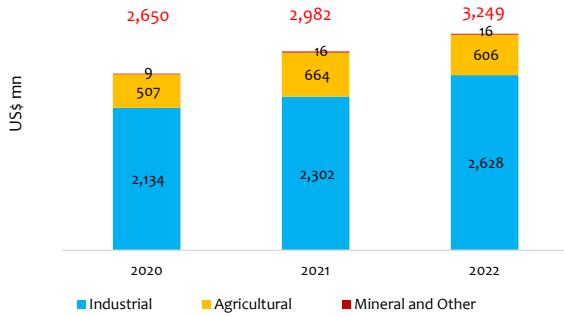
Textiles and garments	1,477.0
Tea	286.8
Rubber products	251.7
Petroleum products	179.5
Food, beverages and tobacco	138.7
Machinery and mechanical appliances	133.8
Coconut	104.7
Gems, diamonds and jewellery	93.7
Spices	85.3
Seafood	67.7

Imports (US\$ mn)

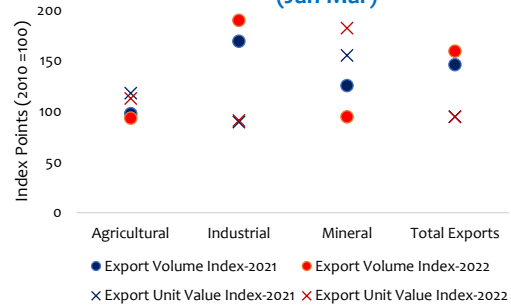
Fuel	1,412.3
Textiles and textile articles	880.5
Machinery and equipment	695.2
Building material	341.8
Chemical products	266.5
Plastics and articles thereof	208.0
Base metals	177.8
Medical and pharmaceuticals	166.4
Cereals and milling industry products	137.9
Paper and paperboard and articles...	122.2

Export Performance

Export Performance - (Jan- Mar)



Volume and Unit Value Indices of Exports (Jan-Mar)

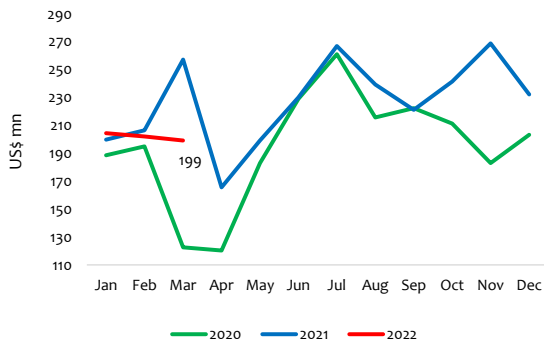


Earnings from exports increased during the first quarter of 2022, mainly due to the increase in industrial exports. However, a decrease was recorded in exports of agricultural and mineral.

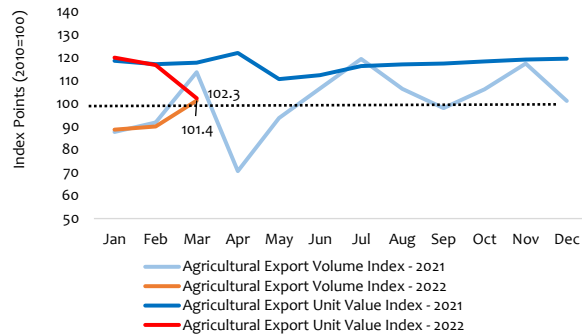
The export volume index increased by 9.1 per cent while the export unit value index declined by 0.2 per cent, on a year-on-year basis, during the first quarter of 2022.

Agricultural Exports

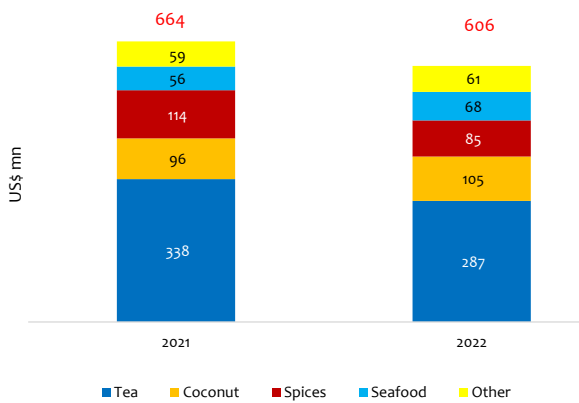
Agricultural Exports



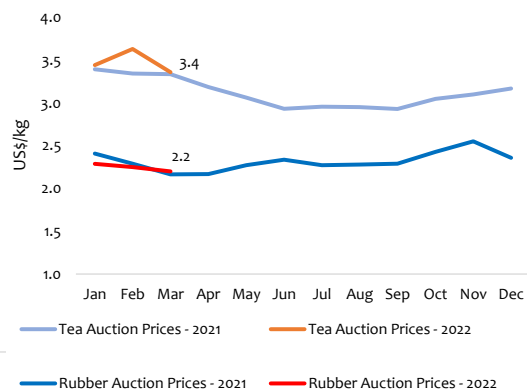
Volume and Unit Value Indices of Agricultural Exports



Performance of Agricultural Exports (Jan-Mar)

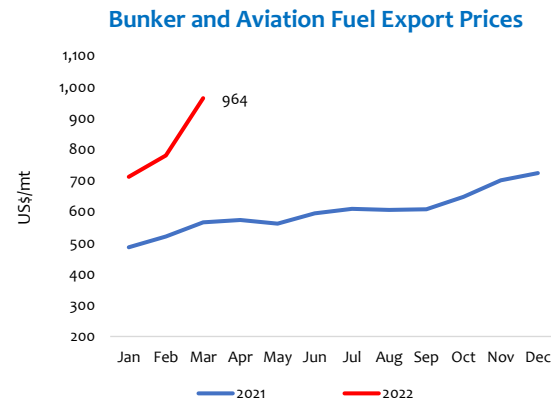
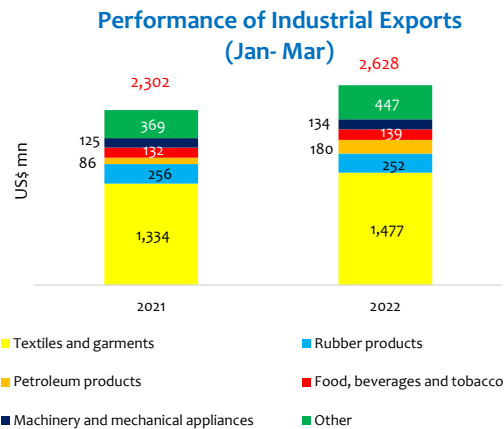
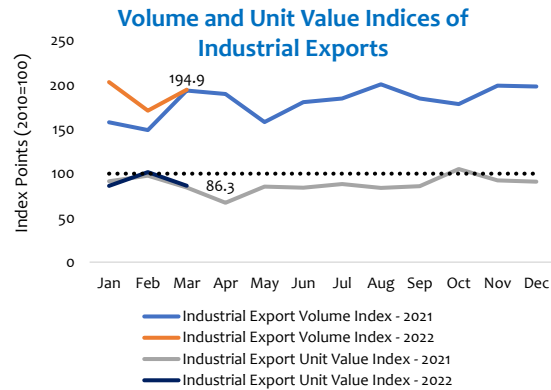
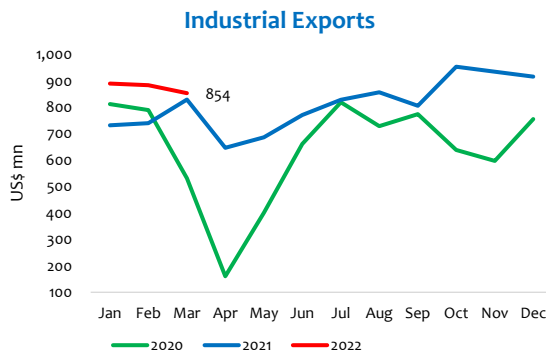


Tea and Rubber Prices *



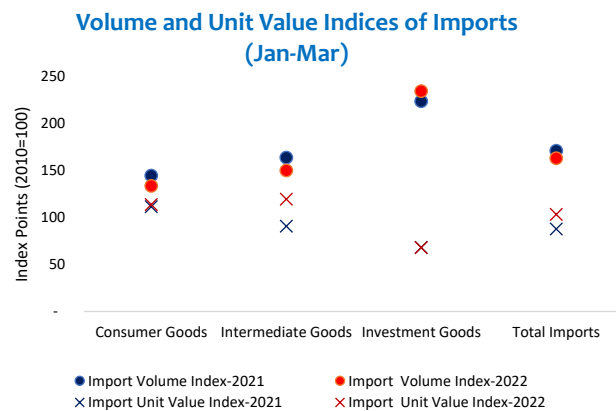
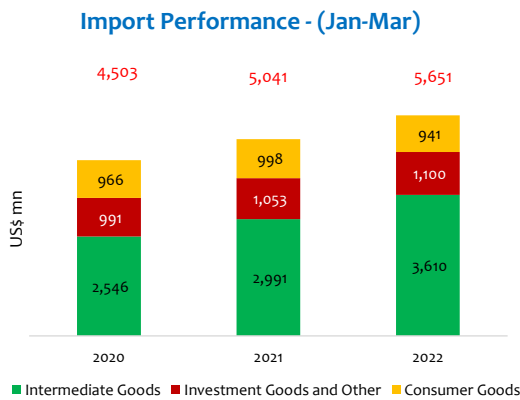
Export earnings from agricultural exports declined significantly during the first quarter of 2022, on a year-on-year basis, with lower export earnings from tea, spices and unmanufactured tobacco. However, higher export earnings were recorded from seafood, coconut, rubber and minor agricultural products during this period.

Industrial Exports



Earnings from industrial exports increased during the first quarter of 2022 on a year-on-year basis, primarily due to the increase in earnings from exports of textiles and garments, petroleum products, gems, diamonds and jewellery, and base metals and articles. However, earnings from exports of rubber products, plastics and articles thereof, chemical products and ceramic products declined during the period.

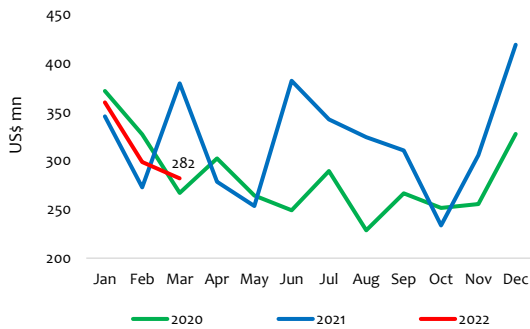
Import Performance



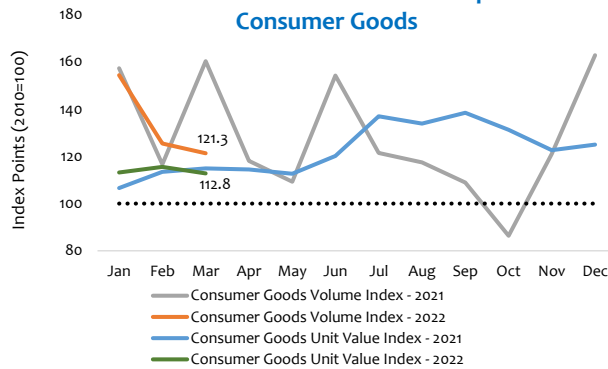
Expenditure on imports increased during the first quarter of 2022 on a year-on-year basis, mainly due to higher expenditure on imports of intermediate and investment goods. Meanwhile, the import volume index declined by 4.7 per cent while the import unit value index increased by 17.6 per cent (year-on-year) during this period.

Consumer Goods Imports

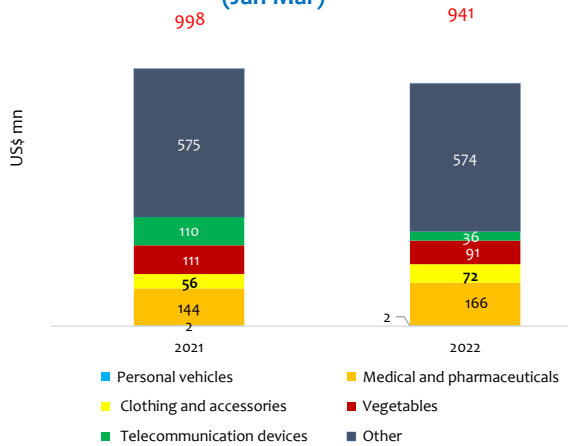
Consumer Goods Imports



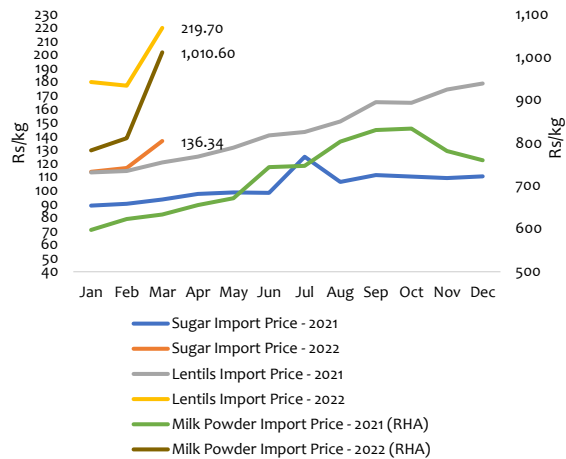
Volume and Unit Value Indices of Imports of Consumer Goods



Performance of Consumer Goods Imports (Jan-Mar)



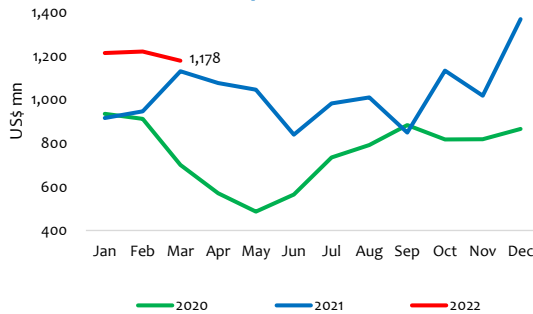
Average Import Prices of Sugar, Lentils and Milk Powder



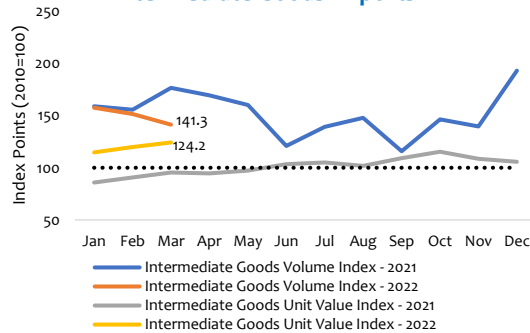
Import expenditure on consumer goods decreased (y-o-y) during the first quarter of 2022, mainly due to the lower import expenditure on non-food consumer goods driven by telecommunication devices. Further, the decreases were observed in the import expenditure on sugar and confectionery and oil and fats categorised under food and beverages. However, import expenditure on cereals and milling industry products (mainly rice), medical and pharmaceutical products and clothing and accessories remained high in this period.

Intermediate Goods Imports

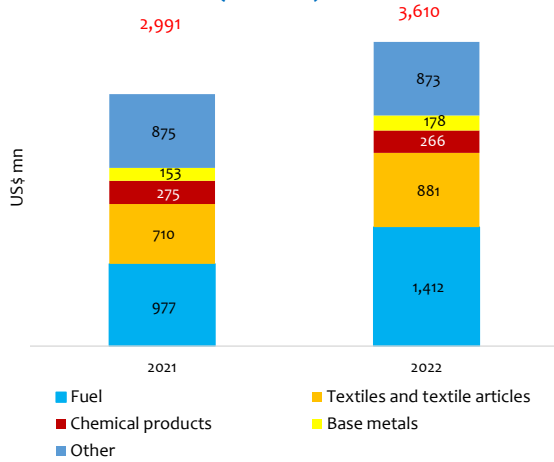
Expenditure on Intermediate Goods Imports



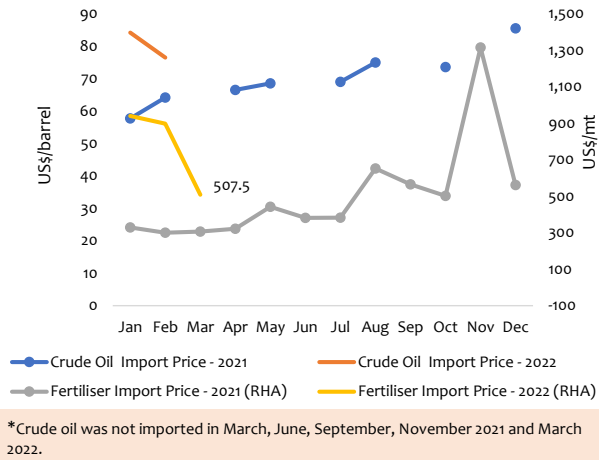
Volume and Unit Value Indices of Intermediate Goods Imports



Performance of Intermediate Goods Imports (Jan-Mar)



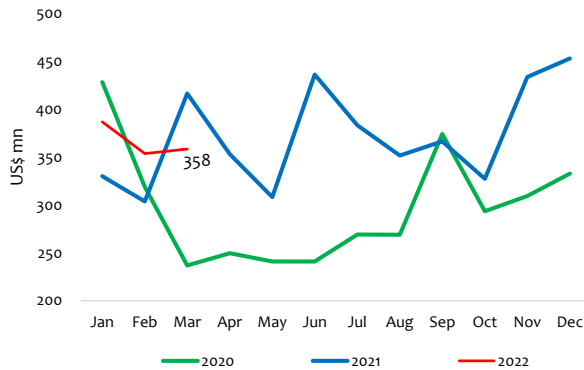
Crude Oil and Fertiliser Import Prices (Monthly Averages)



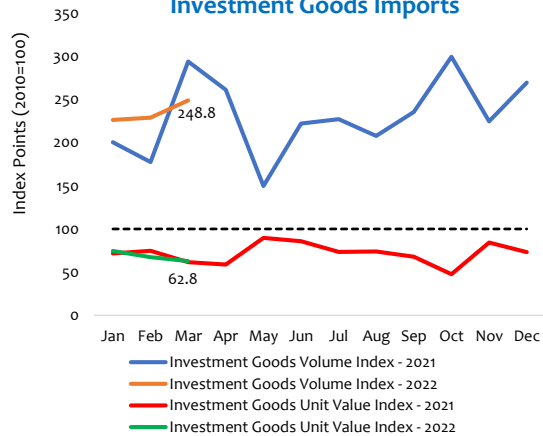
Import expenditure on intermediate goods increased (y-o-y) significantly during the first quarter of 2022, mainly due to the higher expenses incurred on imports of fuel, textiles and textile articles, base metals, mineral products and paper and paperboard and articles. However, import expenditure on food preparations, fertiliser, wheat and agricultural inputs declined.

Investment Goods Imports

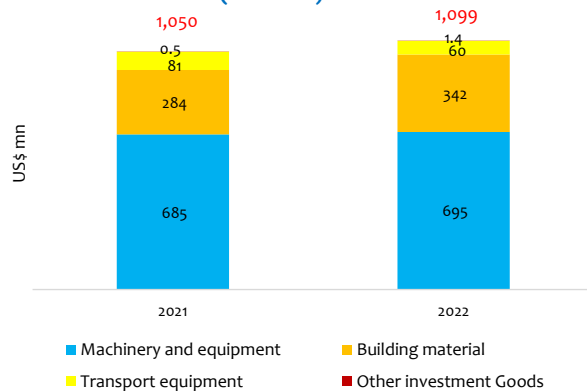
Expenditure on Imports of Investment Goods



Volume and Unit Value Indices of Investment Goods Imports



Performance of Investment Goods Imports (Jan-Mar)



Import expenditure on investment goods increased during the first quarter of 2022 due to the increase in building materials and machinery and equipment. However, the expenditure on the importation of transport equipment declined during this period.

Summary of External Trade Statistics (a)

Export Performance (US\$ mn)

Item	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Y-O-Y Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Y-O-Y Change (%)
Agricultural Exports	257.3	199.3	-22.6	663.8	605.9	-8.7
o/w Tea	124.6	94.7	-24.0	338.1	286.8	-15.2
Coconut	41.2	36.7	-10.9	96.3	104.7	8.8
Spices	38.6	23.2	-39.8	113.8	85.3	-25.0
Seafood	25.4	22.4	-11.6	56.4	67.7	20.1
Industrial Exports	829.8	853.9	2.9	2,302.4	2,627.8	14.1
o/w Textiles and garments	467.2	464.4	-0.6	1,333.5	1,477.0	10.8
Rubber products	95.2	81.3	-14.5	256.3	251.7	-1.8
Petroleum products	28.8	55.5	93.1	85.8	179.5	109.2
Food, beverages and tobacco	51.0	46.6	-8.6	132.4	138.7	4.8
Machinery and mechanical appliances	44.2	44.3	0.2	124.9	133.8	7.1
Gems, diamonds and jewellery	27.7	38.3	38.3	70.8	93.7	32.3
Leather, travel goods and footwear	3.2	6.9	114.3	11.2	17.0	52.4
Mineral and Other Exports	6.7	3.7	-45.1	16.0	15.6	-2.7
Total Exports	1,093.8	1,056.9	-3.4	2,982.2	3,249.3	9.0

Import Performance (US\$ mn)

Item	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Y-O-Y Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Y-O-Y Change (%)
Consumer goods	379.6	282.0	-25.7	997.9	940.8	-5.7
Food and beverages	189.7	163.9	-13.6	505.3	512.5	1.4
o/w Vegetables (b)	43.4	28.1	-35.3	111.1	90.6	-18.4
Rice	1.2	28.6	2245.6	2.9	118.1	3934.0
Non-food consumer goods	189.9	118.1	-37.8	492.6	428.3	-13.1
o/w Personal vehicles	1.0	0.7	-30.7	2.4	2.1	-14.5
Intermediate goods	1,129.9	1,177.8	4.2	2,990.7	3,610.1	20.7
o/w Fuel	347.2	519.8	49.7	977.2	1,412.3	44.5
Textiles and textile articles	250.9	240.8	-4.0	710.2	880.5	24.0
Fertiliser	16.3	14.9	-8.4	35.0	21.6	-38.3
Wheat and maize	31.1	24.2	-22.1	93.5	81.7	-12.6
Investment goods and other	416.5	359.1	-13.8	1,052.5	1,100.4	4.5
o/w Machinery and equipment	274.6	227.2	-17.3	685.1	695.2	1.5
Total Imports	1,925.9	1,818.9	-5.6	5,041.1	5,651.2	12.1

Trade Balance (US\$ mn)

Item	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Y-O-Y Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Y-O-Y Change (%)
Trade Balance	-832.2	-762.1		-2,059.0	-2,402.0	

Trade Indices and Terms of Trade (2010 = 100) (c)

Item	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Y-O-Y Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Y-O-Y Change (%)
Export						
Value index	152.2	147.1	-3.4	138.4	150.7	9.0
Volume index	167.9	165.2	-1.6	146.1	159.4	9.1
Unit value index	90.7	89.1	-1.8	94.7	94.6	-0.2
Import						
Value index	172.4	162.8	-5.6	150.4	168.6	12.1
Volume index	196.0	158.3	-19.2	171.1	163.0	-4.7
Unit value index	87.9	102.8	16.9	87.9	103.4	17.6
Terms of Trade	103.1	86.6	-16.0	107.7	91.4	-15.1

(a) Provisional

(b) includes lentils, onion, potatoes, leguminous vegetables and others

(c) In US\$ terms