



MONTHLY TRADE BULLETIN

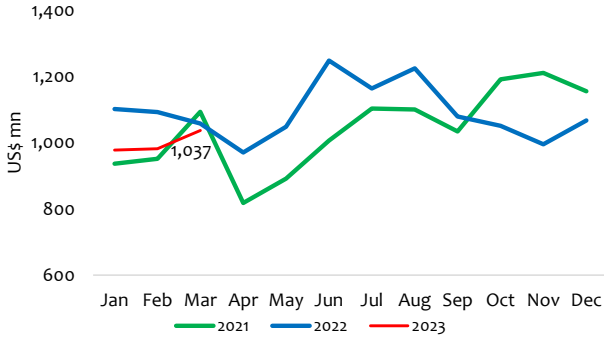
ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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VOLUME 05 ISSUE 03

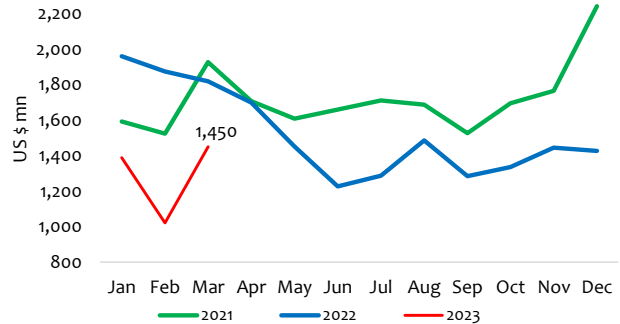
Highlights

Monthly Export Performance



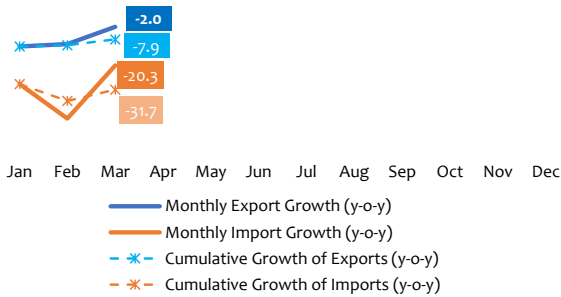
Earnings from merchandise exports decreased by 2.0 per cent (year-on-year) to US dollars 1,037 million in March 2023.

Monthly Import Performance



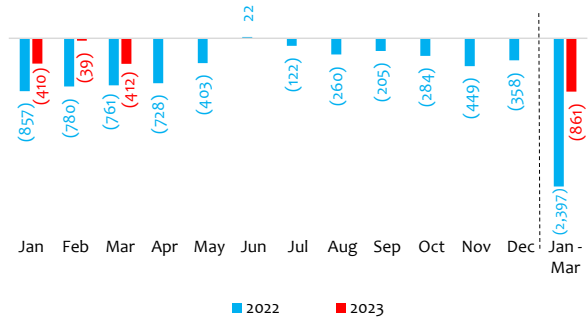
Expenditure on merchandise imports declined by 20.3 per cent (year-on-year) to US dollars 1,450 million in March 2023.

Export and Import Growth Rates (%)



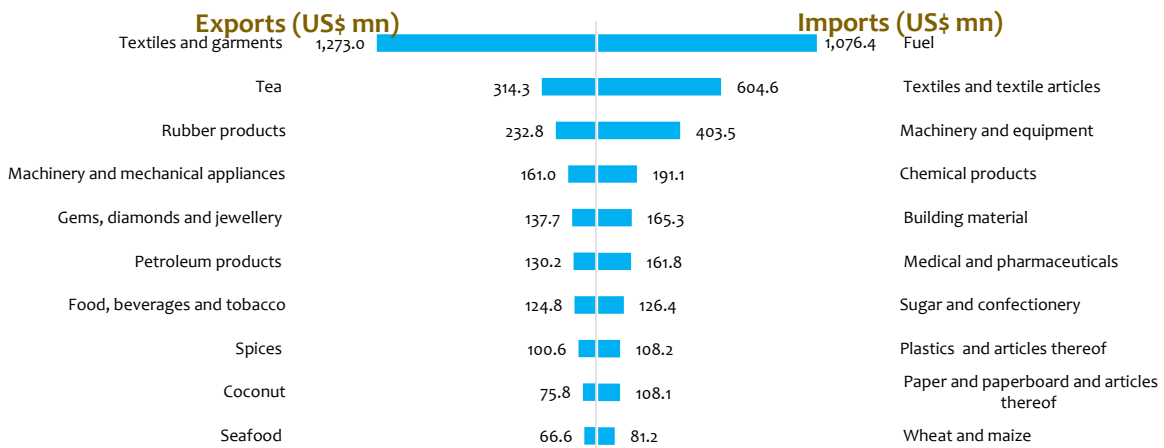
Export earnings and import expenditure decreased (year-on-year) by 7.9 per cent and 31.7 per cent, respectively during the first quarter of 2023.

Trade Balance (US\$ Mn)

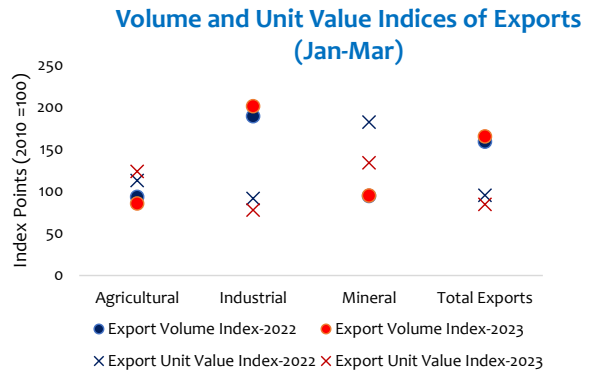
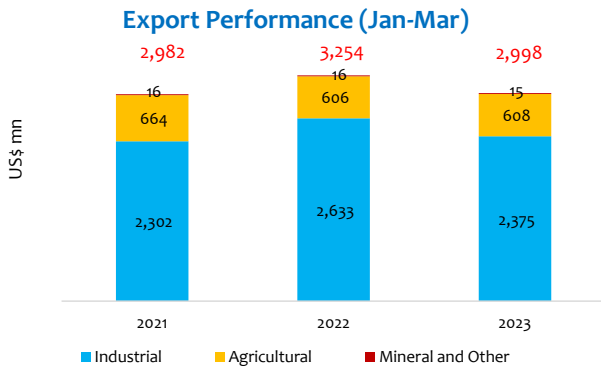


The deficit of merchandise trade account narrowed to US dollars 412 million in March 2023 from US dollars 761 million recorded in March 2022.

Major Export and Import Categories - (Jan-Mar 2023)



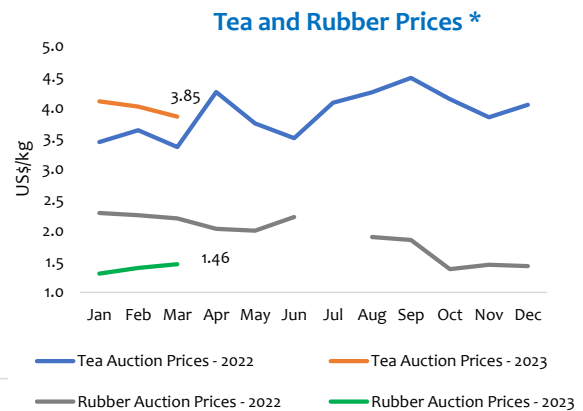
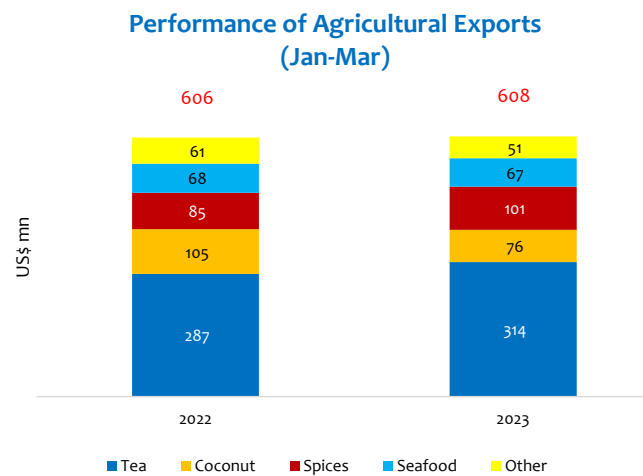
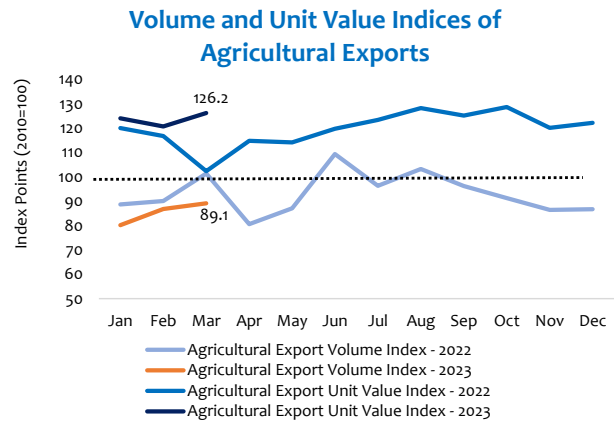
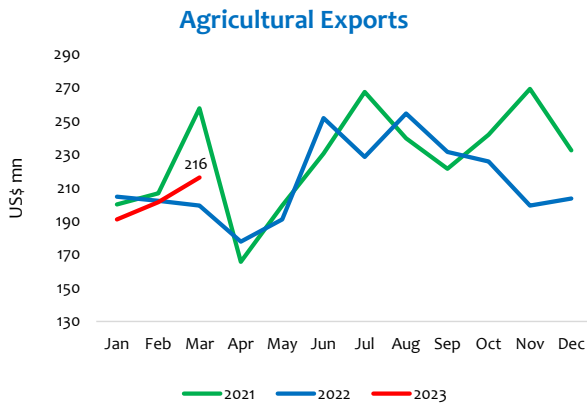
Export Performance



Earnings from exports declined during the first quarter of 2023, mainly due to the decrease in exports of industrial and mineral products. In contrast, a marginal increase was recorded in agricultural exports.

The export volume index increased by 3.9 per cent while export unit value index decreased by 11.4 per cent, on a year-on-year basis, during the first quarter of 2023.

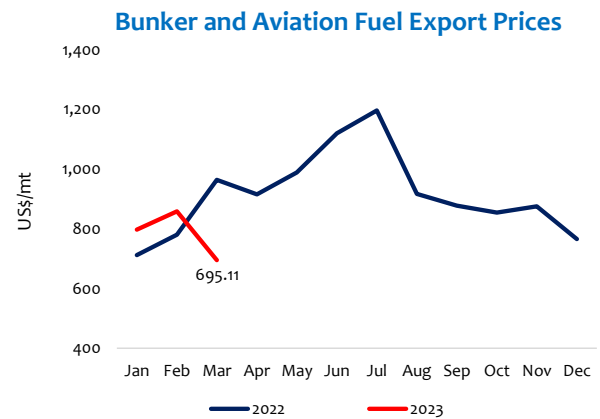
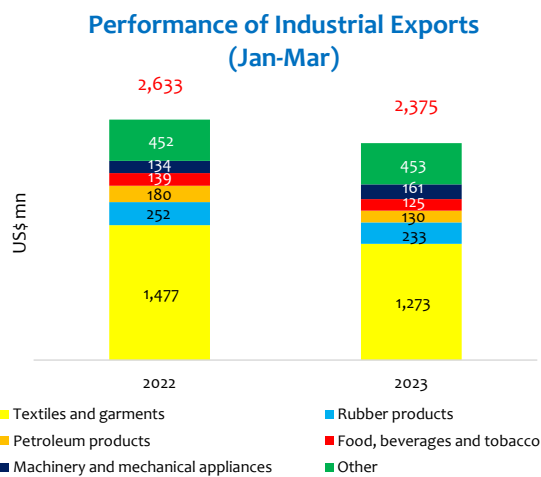
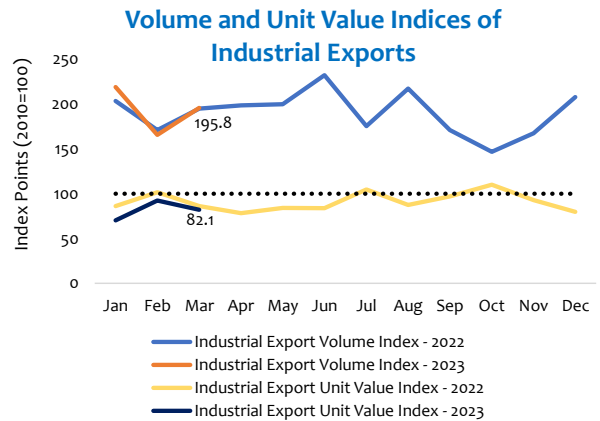
Agricultural Exports



*Rubber (RSS) prices for July 2022 were not determined at the auction

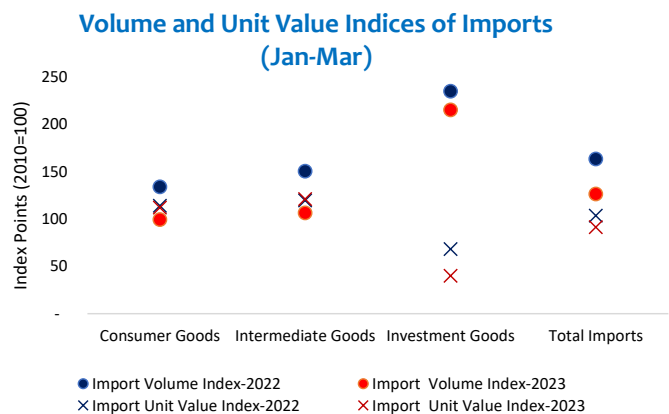
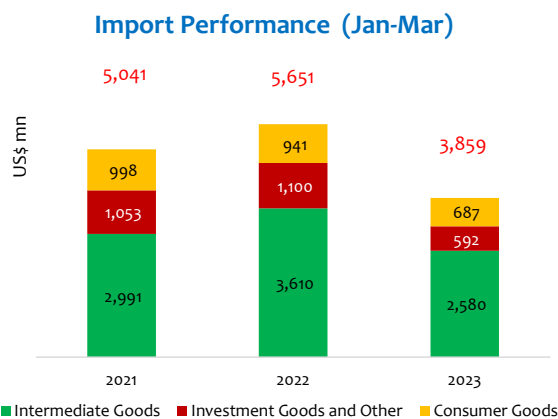
Earnings from agricultural exports increased marginally during the first quarter of 2023 on a year-on-year basis, led mainly by tea, spices and vegetables. However, lower export earnings were recorded mainly from coconut, minor agricultural products and natural rubber during this period.

Industrial Exports



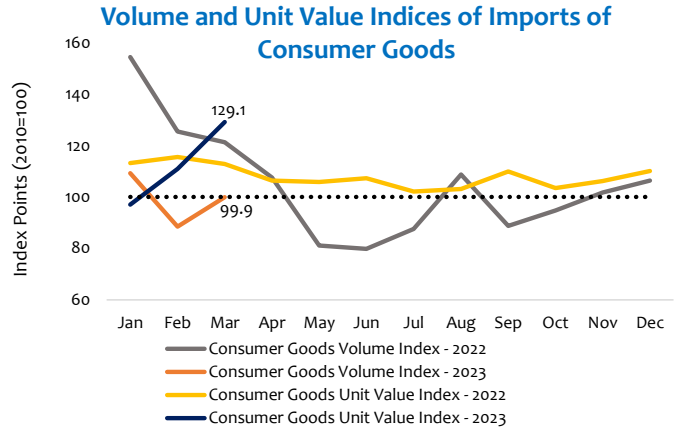
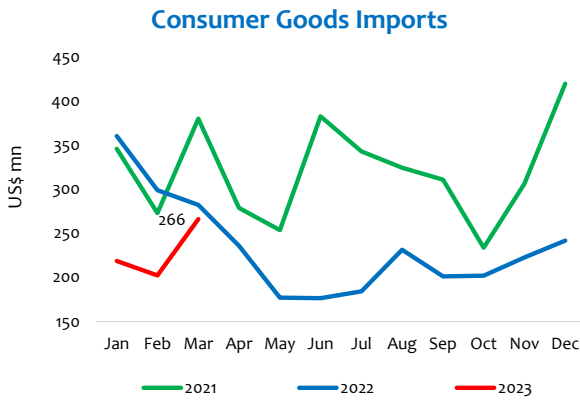
Earnings from industrial exports declined during the first quarter of 2023, on a year-on-year basis, mainly due to the decrease in earnings from exports of textiles and garments, petroleum products, rubber products and food, beverages and tobacco. However, earnings from exports of gems, diamonds and jewellery, machinery and mechanical appliances, animal fodder and printing industry products increased.

Import Performance

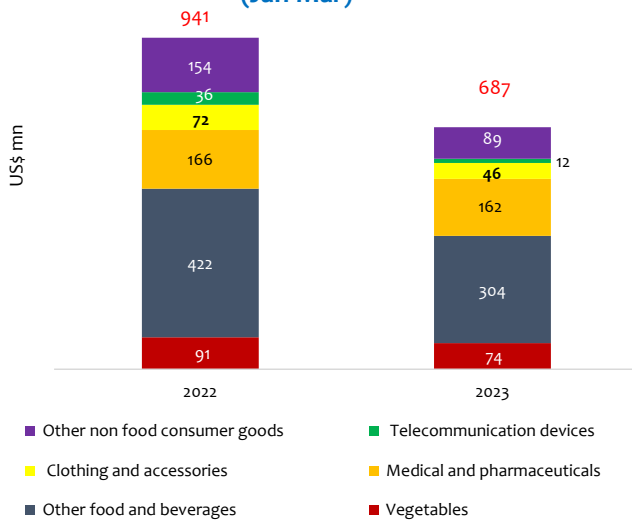


Expenditure on merchandise imports declined significantly during the first quarter of 2023, on a year-on-year basis, due to reduced expenditure incurred on all major categories of imports, namely intermediate, investment and consumer goods. Meanwhile, the import volume index and the import unit value index also decreased (year-on-year) by 22.6 per cent and 11.8 per cent, respectively.

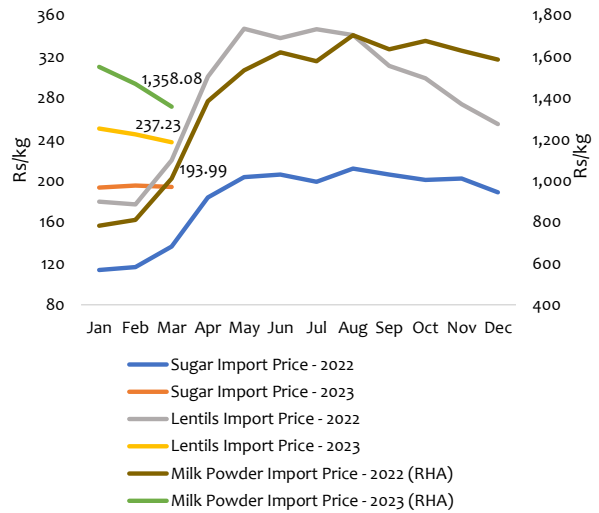
Consumer Goods Imports



Performance of Consumer Goods Imports (Jan-Mar)

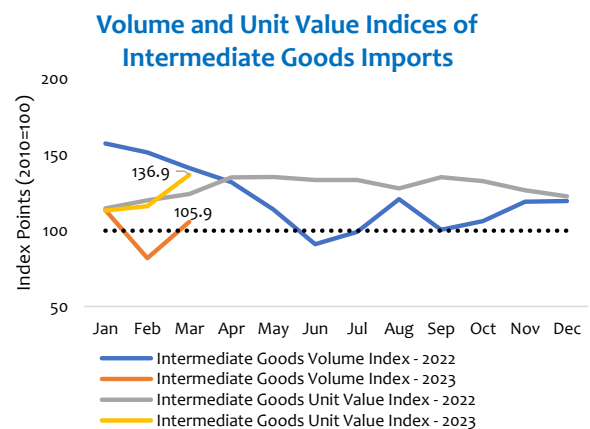
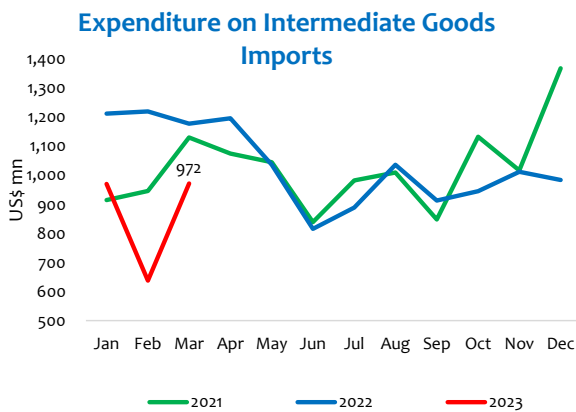


Average Import Prices of Sugar, Lentils and Milk Powder

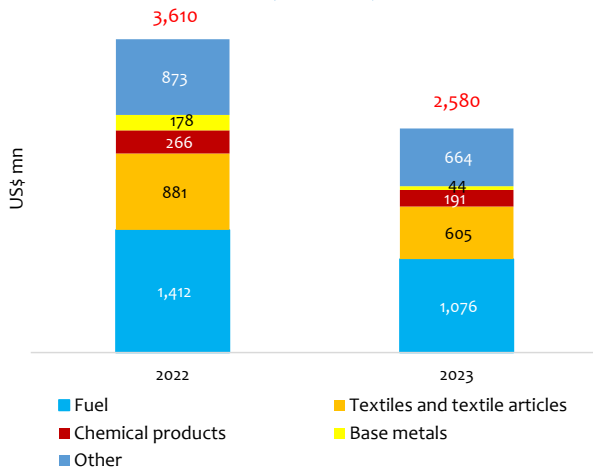


Import expenditure on consumer goods declined notably (year-on-year) during the first quarter of 2023, mainly due to the decline in both food and non-food consumer goods imports, driven by cereals and milling industry products (mainly, rice), dairy products, home appliances and clothing and accessories. However, import expenditure on sugar and confectionery; personal vehicles; printed materials and stationary; and beverages increased.

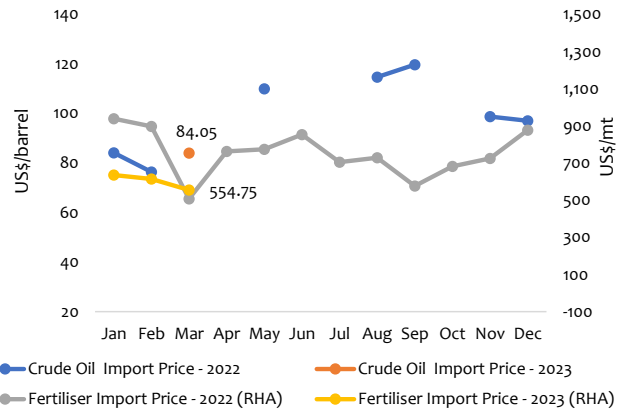
Intermediate Goods Imports



Performance of Intermediate Goods Imports (Jan-Mar)



Crude Oil and Fertiliser Import Prices (Monthly Averages)

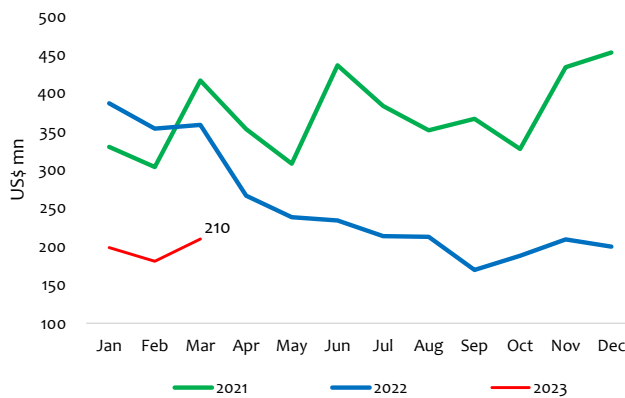


*Crude oil was not imported in March, April, June, July, October 2022 and February 2023.
 ** Data on crude oil imports from Ceylon Petroleum Corporation for January 2023 was not available by the time of this publication.

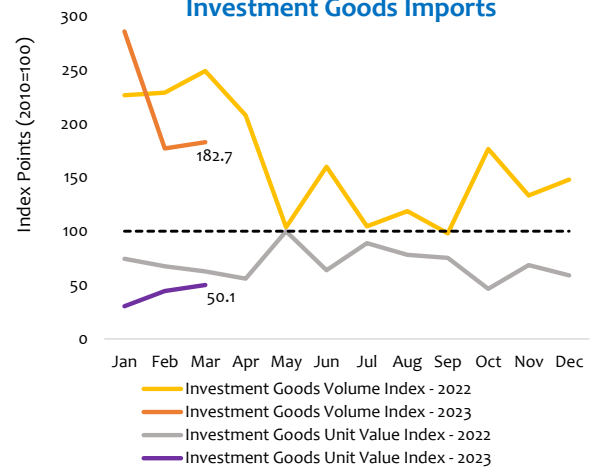
Import expenditure on intermediate goods declined notably (year-on-year) during the the first quarter of 2023, primarily due to the lower expenses incurred on imports of fuel, textiles and textile articles, base metals and plastics and articles thereof. In contrast, import expenditure on diamonds and precious stones and metals, fertiliser and agricultural inputs increased during the considering period.

Investment Goods Imports

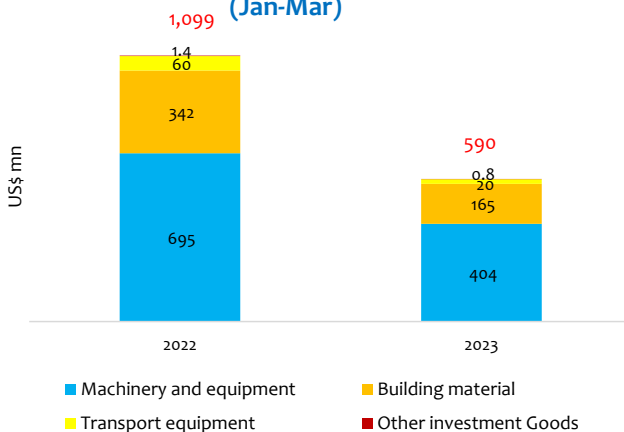
Expenditure on Imports of Investment Goods



Volume and Unit Value Indices of Investment Goods Imports



Performance of Investment Goods Imports (Jan-Mar)



Import expenditure on investment goods declined significantly during the the first quarter of 2023, due to the lower import expenditure across all major categories of investment goods, namely, machinery and equipment, building materials, and transport equipment.

Summary of External Trade Statistics (a)

Export Performance (US\$ mn)

Item		Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Y-O-Y Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Y-O-Y Change (%)
Agricultural Exports		199.3	216.0	8.4	605.9	608.2	0.4
o/w	Tea	94.7	110.1	16.3	286.8	314.3	9.6
	Coconut	36.7	28.8	-21.7	104.7	75.8	-27.7
	Spices	23.2	32.4	39.2	85.3	100.6	18.0
	Seafood	22.4	25.7	14.5	67.7	66.6	-1.6
Industrial Exports		855.3	816.4	-4.6	2,632.7	2,374.7	-9.8
o/w	Textiles and garments	464.4	417.2	-10.2	1,477.0	1,273.0	-13.8
	Rubber products	81.3	87.5	7.6	251.7	232.8	-7.5
	Petroleum products	55.5	39.3	-29.2	179.5	130.2	-27.5
	Food, beverages and tobacco	46.6	48.2	3.3	138.7	124.8	-10.0
	Machinery and mechanical appliances	44.3	57.9	30.8	133.8	161.0	20.4
	Gems, diamonds and jewellery	39.7	51.1	28.7	98.5	137.7	39.7
	Leather, travel goods and footwear	6.9	5.0	-27.4	17.0	16.1	-5.1
Mineral and Other Exports		3.7	5.1	37.5	15.6	14.7	-5.8
Total Exports		1,058.2	1,037.5	-2.0	3,254.2	2,997.6	-7.9

Import Performance (US\$ mn)

Item		Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Y-O-Y Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Y-O-Y Change (%)
Consumer goods		282.0	266.0	-5.7	940.8	686.7	-27.0
Food and beverages		163.9	145.2	-11.4	512.5	378.3	-26.2
o/w	Vegetables (b)	28.1	29.9	6.4	90.6	74.0	-18.4
	Rice	28.6	1.1	-96.1	118.1	4.9	-95.9
Non-food consumer goods		118.1	120.8	2.3	428.3	308.4	-28.0
o/w	Medical and Pharmaceuticals	42.9	68.8	60.4	166.4	161.8	-2.7
Intermediate goods		1,177.8	971.8	-17.5	3,610.1	2,580.0	-28.5
o/w	Fuel	519.8	391.0	-24.8	1,412.3	1,076.4	-23.8
	Textiles and textile articles	240.8	221.2	-8.2	880.5	604.6	-31.3
	Fertiliser	14.9	24.6	65.2	21.6	40.0	85.6
	Wheat and maize	24.2	41.6	71.8	81.7	81.2	-0.7
Investment goods and other		359.1	211.8	-41.0	1,100.4	591.9	-46.2
o/w	Machinery and equipment	227.2	143.7	-36.7	695.2	403.5	-42.0
Total Imports		1,818.9	1,449.5	-20.3	5,651.2	3,858.6	-31.7

Trade Balance (US\$ mn)

Item	Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Y-O-Y Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Y-O-Y Change (%)
Trade Balance	-760.7	-412.1		-2,397.1	-861.0	

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

Item	Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Y-O-Y Change (%)	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Y-O-Y Change (%)
Export						
Value index	147.3	144.4	-2.0	151.0	139.1	-7.9
Volume index	164.2	162.6	-1.0	158.8	165.1	3.9
Unit value index	89.7	88.8	-1.0	95.1	84.3	-11.4
Import						
Value index	162.8	129.7	-20.3	168.6	115.1	-31.7
Volume index	158.3	119.5	-24.5	163.0	126.2	-22.6
Unit value index	102.8	108.5	5.6	103.4	91.2	-11.8
Terms of Trade	87.2	81.8	-6.2	91.9	92.4	0.5

(a) Provisional

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

(c) In US\$ terms