

# INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

ANNUAL 2013

## 1. Balance of Trade

- 1.1. In 2013 Tonga recorded a trade deficit of 321.2 million pa'anga. When compared with the 2012 deficit of 316.0 million pa'anga, the 2012 deficit was 1.6% lower. The 2013 deficit was the result of excess Imports of 351.6 million pa'anga over Total Exports of 30.4 million pa'anga. Of the Total Exports, Domestic Exports was 21.8 million pa'anga and Re-exports was 8.6 million pa'anga.
- 1.2 Compared to 2012, Imports increased by 8.9 million pa'anga (2.6%) whereas total exports also increased by 3.7 million pa'anga (13.7%). The increase in total exports was driven by an increase of 5.4 million pa'anga in re-exports due to the inclusion of fuel re-exported to visiting aircrafts and vessels from 2013, as a consequence of methodological improvement to the compilation of international merchandise trade statistics in Tonga.

## 2. Imports

### 2.1. Composition of Imports

Harmonized system sections that contributed the most to Imports were **Mineral products** which accounted for 22.5% of total imports, followed by **Machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical appliances, and parts thereof** at 15.1%, **Prepared foodstuff, beverages, spirits and tobacco** at 14.1%, **Live animals and animal products** at 12.1% **Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment** at 5.4%, and **Others** at 5.0%. Together these sections comprised 74.2% of total imports.

### 2.2. Principle Imports

Dominating the principle imports were **Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals; other than crude** with 81.0 million pa'anga, followed by **Meat and edible offal** at 32.6 million pa'anga, **Telephone sets and apparatus for transmission and reception of voice, images and data** at 16.8 million pa'anga, **Motor vehicles** at 16.2 million pa'anga and **Preparations of meat and fish** at 10.3 million pa'anga.

## 3. Exports

### 3.1. Composition of Exports

Harmonized system sections that contributed the most to Domestic Exports were **Vegetable products** which accounted for 56.9%, and **Live animal and animal products** at 29.6%. Together they comprised 86.5% of domestic exports.

Harmonized system sections that contributed the most to Re-exports were **Mineral products** which accounted for 62.6% and **Machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof** at 18.4%. Together they comprised 81.0% of re-exports

### 3.2. Principle Domestic Exports

Dominating the principle domestic exports in 2013 were **Fish** with 4.7 million pa'anga, followed by **Root crops** with 4.4 million pa'anga, **Squash pumpkins** with 2.9 million pa'anga, **Kava** with 2.1 million pa'anga, **Crustaceans and molluscs** with 1.5 million pa'anga and **Fresh brown coconuts** with 1.4 million pa'anga.

## 4. Direction of Trade

- 4.1. Leading in the major source markets for Imports is **New Zealand** with 99.4 million pa'anga (28.3%), followed by **Singapore** with 91.2 million pa'anga (25.9%), **United States of America** with 39.3 million pa'anga (11.2%), **Fiji** with 30.1 million pa'anga (8.5%), **Australia** with 19.9 million pa'anga (5.7%) and **China** with 19.1 million pa'anga (5.4%).
- 4.2. Leading in the major destination markets for Exports is again **New Zealand** with 7.4 million pa'anga (24.4%), **Japan** with 3.4 million pa'anga (11.2%), **Australia** with 3.3 million pa'anga (10.8%), **United States of America** with 3.2 million pa'anga (10.5%) and **Korea** with 2.4 million pa'anga (7.8%).
- 4.3. In terms of Imports by Geographical regions, **Asia** and **Oceania** dominated by 42.8% and 42.6% respectively. In terms of Exports by Geographical regions **Oceania** dominated by 41.5% followed by **Asia** at 28.9%.

## 5. Mode of Transport

Sea is the main mode of transport for Tonga. In 2013 90.3% of imports came via sea and 54.3% of exports went via sea.

## 6. Contacts

More detailed information concerning this release is available at the Tonga Statistics Department, TMF Building, Taufa'ahau Road, Nuku'alofa.