

Selected Economic Indicators

Analysis on External Sector Developments

➤ Exchange Rate

In Azar 1402 (December 2023), each US dollar was exchanged in the unofficial market at an average rate of 503.9 thousand Iranian rials, indicating a decrease of 1.5 percent compared with Aban 1402 (November 2023). Meanwhile, the rate of each US dollar against the Iranian rial exchanged via Iran Center for Exchange rose by 2.3 percent compared with November 2023 to reach 423.2 thousand rials. Despite political tensions and military conflicts in the region, the foreign exchange market experienced relative stabilization in December 2023. This was mainly attributable to the implementation of stabilization policies by the CBI and the government which, in turn, led to the adjustment of inflation expectations.

➤ External Debt (Actual Obligations)

The balance of the external debt of the country reached \$5.1 billion in December 2023, down by 18.1 percent compared with Esfand 1401 (March 2023). Out of the total amount of debt, \$2.2 billion (42.6 percent) was in the form of short-term debt and \$3.0 billion (57.4 percent) was related to long-term debt. On this basis, the share of the short-term debt out of the total external debt increased by about 14.0 percentage points in December 2023 as compared with March 2023.

➤ Foreign Trade

According to Iran's Customs Administration, the value of exports through Customs amounted to \$36.4 billion over the first nine months of 1402 (covering the period April through December 2023), indicating a rise of 0.5 percent compared with the respective period in the year before. Moreover, the value of imports increased by 13.5 percent to \$48.4 billion over the mentioned period. The weight of exports through Customs increased by 27.5 percent to reach 101.9 million tons and that of imports rose by 7.0 percent to reach 28.7 million tons. Accordingly, the price of each ton of exported goods fell by 21.1 percent, while that of each ton of imported goods rose by 6.0 percent.

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