



Solomon Islands Government

Statistical Bulletin: 19/2018

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

(Third Quarter 2018)

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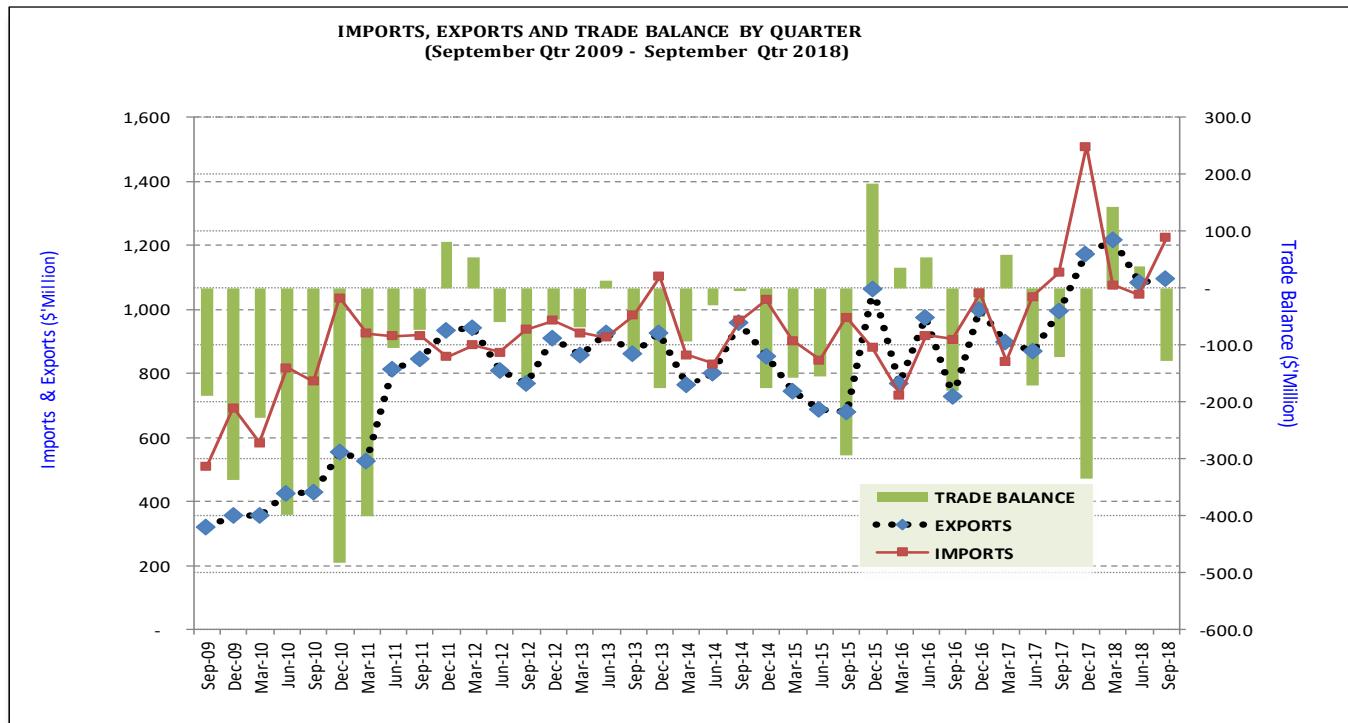
Released on 5th December 2018

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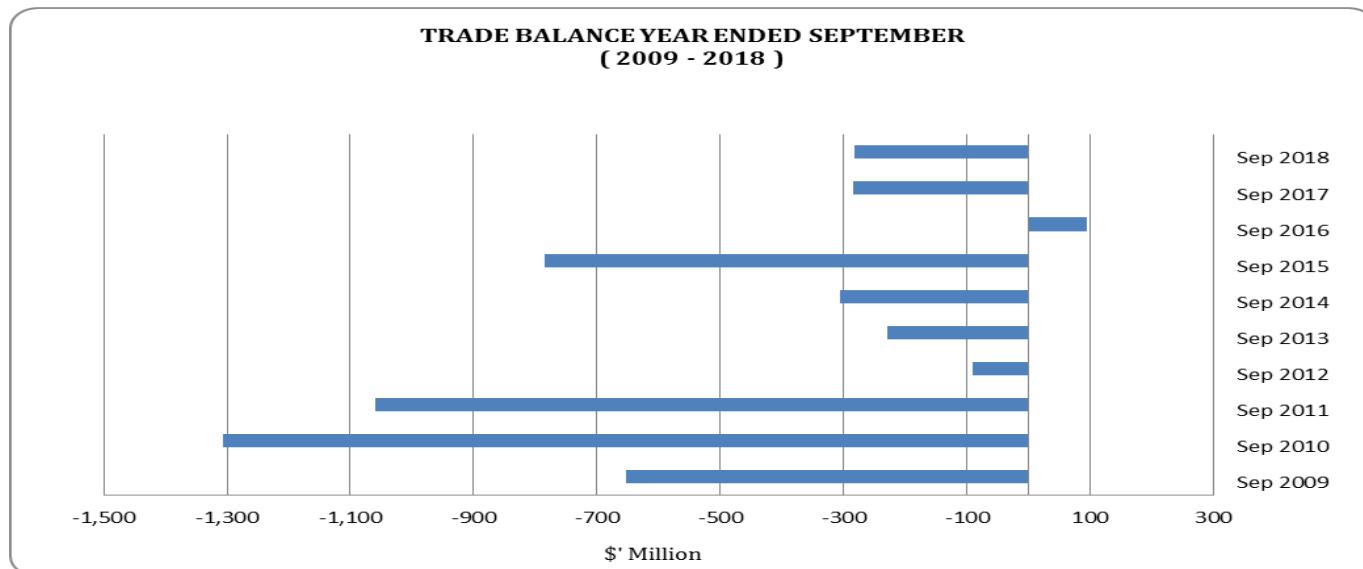
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Highlights

The international merchandise trade balance recorded in the September quarter of 2018 has declined to a deficit of \$128.3m following a surplus of \$37m recorded in the previous quarter. This comes as imports pickup (16.9%) to \$1,224m driven mainly by mineral fuels and lubricants (57.2%), machinery and transport equipment (22.1%), and food (2.8%), offsetting a marginal increase in exports (1.1%) to \$1,095m. During the quarter, the rise in exports have been overshadowed by a decline in exports of crude material commodities (-1.8%). In terms of the corresponding quarter a year ago, this deficit represent an increase of \$8.2m (6.8%) over a deficit of \$120.1m in 2017.



By the year-ended September 2018, the trade deficit was recorded at \$283m, slightly lower (-0.7%) but similar in size to the deficit recorded in the previous year-ended September 2017.



Merchandise trade movements by major commodity in the third quarter of 2018 compared to the previous quarter recorded the following:

Major Exports

- Total timber exports comprising of log and sawn timber declined by 12.7m (-1.68%) to \$768m offsetting an increase (20.6%) in sawn timber.
- Total of fresh/frozen and canned fish increased by \$5.6m (+4.4%) to \$132.9m offsetting a decline (-88.4%) in fresh/frozen/dried fish attributed in part to lower than expected stock.
- Total agricultural products decreased by \$16.3m (-15.3%) to \$90.2m. This was mainly driven by low exports of palm oil (-15.2%), palm kernel oil/meal (-5.8%), and cocoa (-13.3%).
- Gold has decreased by \$3.4m (-72.4%) to \$8m.

Major Imports

- Food imports increased by \$6.2m (+2.8%) to \$224.5m driven mainly by flour (+18.5%) and doubling (111.8%) of fish preparations. This comes at the backdrop of declines in rice (-8.6%) and meat preparations (-16.5).
- Mineral fuel and lubricant imports increased by \$76.9m (45.75%) to \$245.1m. This is attributed to the doubling (+102.4%) of distillate fuels.
- Machinery and transport equipment increased by \$70.8m (22.1%) to \$390.6m noting a 2.1% increase in vehicles (goods & special purpose).

Merchandise trade balance with major trading partners in the September quarter of 2018 compared to the previous quarter records the following:

- The trade deficit with Singapore, the main source of fuel imports, increased by \$94m (+72.5%) to -\$224m.
- The trade deficit with Australia increased by \$2m (+0.8%) to -\$209.5m.
- The trade deficit with Papua New Guinea reduced by \$1m (-4.38%) to -\$18.8m.
- The trade surplus with South Korea increased by \$8m (+205.9%) to a surplus of \$11.6m.
- The trade surplus with China, the main destination of exported logs, decreased by \$21m (-4.0%) to a surplus of \$516.8m.
- The trade surplus with Italy, the main destination of fish-loin exports, increased by \$29m (+38.9%) to \$105.2m.

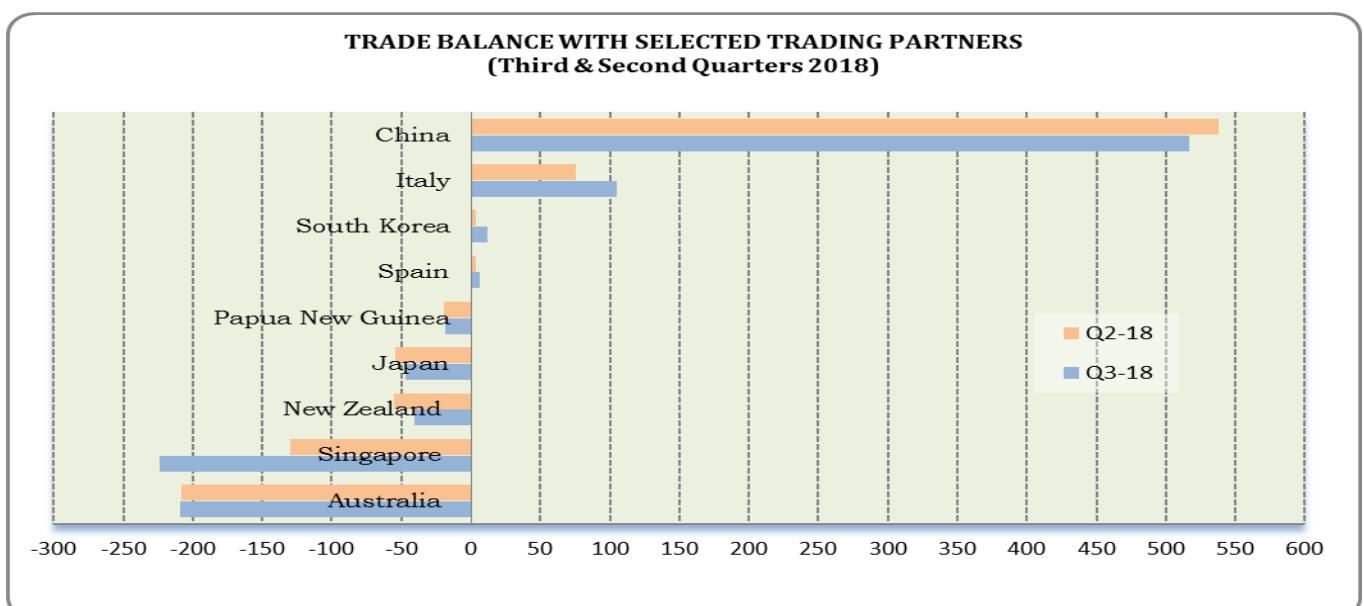


Table 1: Value of International Merchandise Trade in the Solomon Islands by Year and Quarter: 2009-2018

Year/Quarter	Exports FOB (a) including re exports (SBD '000)	Change from previous period (%)/r	Imports (CIF) (b) (SBD '000)	Change from previous period (%)/r	Re-Exports (SBD '000)	Trade balance (Exports-Imports) (SBD '000)
<u>Year-ended</u>						
Sep 2009	1,297,660		1,949,552		31,703	-651,892
Sep 2010	1,562,792	20.4	2,870,082	47.2	51,034	-1,307,290
Sep 2011	2,737,982	75.2	3,797,617	32.3	18,881	-1,059,635
Sep 2012	3,452,286	26.1	3,544,124	-6.7	63,005	-91,839
Sep 2013	3,557,015	3.0	3,785,666	6.8	18,046	-228,651
Sep 2014	3,448,589	-3.0	3,755,240	-0.8	74,979	-306,650
Sep 2015	2,966,185	-14.0	3,750,432	-0.1	37,304	-784,247
Sep 2016	3,536,513	19.2	3,441,369	-8.2	41,844	95,144
Sep 2017	3,759,989	6.3	4,044,947	17.5	1,010	-284,957
Sep 2018	4,571,725	21.6	4,854,565	20.0	10,120	-282,839
<u>Quarter-ended</u>						
Dec 2008	368,026	-	543,028	-	1,525	-175,001
Mar 2009 e	275,905	-25.0	496,863	-8.5	11,022	-220,958
Jun 2009 e	332,699	20.6	399,829	-19.5	12,277	-67,131
Sep 2009	321,030	-3.5	509,832	27.5	6,880	-188,802
Dec 2009	357,082	11.2	693,131	36.0	1,867	-336,049
Mar 2010	355,312	-0.5	583,202	-15.9	21,101	-229,095
Jun 2010	423,230	19.1	818,285	40.3	20,965	-397,474
Sep 2010	427,169	0.9	775,464	-5.2	7,101	-349,876
Dec 2010	555,785	30.1	1,035,483	33.5	14,165	-482,213
Mar 2011	524,000	-5.7	925,574	-10.6	-	-401,573
Jun 2011	812,089	55.0	917,318	-0.9	-	-105,229
Sep 2011	846,108	4.2	919,242	0.2	4,716	-73,134
Dec 2011	933,506	10.3	853,171	-7.2	12,812	80,335
Mar 2012	942,500	1.0	887,602	4.0	20,701	54,898
Jun 2012	808,388	-14.2	867,181	-2.3	23,149	-58,793
Sep 2012	767,892	-5.0	936,170	8.0	6,343	-168,278
Dec 2012	911,188	18.7	965,502	3.1	5,515	-54,314
Mar 2013 r	857,194	-5.9	926,592	-4.0	9,741	-69,398
Jun 2013 r	925,664	8.0	913,059	-1.5	327	12,605
Sep 2013 r	862,969	-6.8	980,513	7.4	2,463	-117,544
Dec 2013 r	925,973	7.3	1,102,229	12.4	1,104	-176,256
Mar 2014 r	763,624	-17.5	857,414	-22.2	4,894	-93,789
Jun 2014	799,813	4.7	830,590	-3.1	7,286	-30,777
Sep 2014 r	959,179	19.9	965,008	16.2	61,695	-5,828
Dec 2014	855,174	-10.8	1,030,758	6.8	18,534	-175,584
Mar 2015	744,660	-12.9	902,635	-12.4	1,979	-157,975
Jun 2015 r	686,322	-7.8	842,538	-6.7	4,738	-156,216
Sep 2015 r	680,029	-0.9	974,501	15.7	12,053	-294,472
Dec 2015 r	1,065,058	56.6	880,772	-9.6	19,149	184,286
Mar 2016	769,679	-27.7	733,267	-16.7	13,547	36,412
Jun 2016	973,265	26.5	919,649	25.4	8,510	53,616
Sep 2016	728,510	-25.1	907,681	-1.3	639	-179,171
Dec 2016	999,014	37.1	1,050,887	15.8	520	-51,873
Mar 2017	896,340	-10.3	838,815	-20.2	219	57,525
Jun 2017	869,448	-3.0	1,039,916	24.0	197	-170,467
Sep 2017	995,188	14.5	1,115,329	7.3	74	-120,142
Dec 2017	1,173,803	17.9	1,508,047	35.2	617	-334,244
Mar 2018	1,218,554	3.8	1,075,793	-28.7	1,223	142,761
Jun 2018	1,083,943	-11.0	1,046,953	-2.7	8,145	36,990
Sep 2018	1,095,425	1.1	1,223,771	16.9	135	-128,346

e Estimates

r revised

(a) FOB is Freight on Board

(b) CIF is Cost Insurance and Freight

Source: Solomon Islands' National Statistics Office

Table 2a: Value of Imports to the Solomon Islands by Country of Origin and Calendar Year: 2007 to 2017

Region and Country of Origin	Change from previous year	Year ended December										
		2017	2016	2015 /r	2014 /r	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009/e	2008	2007
	%	Dollars SBD ('000s)										
OCEANIA	47.9	1,701,821	1,150,653	1,412,895	1,449,743	1,221,222	1,571,308	1,460,279	1,341,023	724,799	787,168	974,802
Australia	20.5	896,902	744,609	1,036,477	1,016,131	918,146	1,180,381	1,042,177	986,440	466,709	488,530	689,759
Papua New Guinea	1.3	93,440	92,268	105,571	100,030	92,181	115,044	139,785	123,181	119,770	136,859	125,009
New Zealand	212.3	592,770	189,806	177,194	224,313	139,942	185,287	204,452	166,696	92,683	116,365	122,471
Fiji	-3.3	102,634	106,094	87,394	99,360	57,638	75,306	63,020	55,043	36,925	40,263	32,990
Vanuatu	-13.0	15,174	17,436	6,167	9,324	4,245	6,206	8,467	9,662	8,661	5,044	4,422
Other	104.9	901	440	91	586	9,070	9,084	2,378	-	51	108	151
ASIA	14.3	2,671,942	2,337,566	2,072,701	2,135,758	1,381,198	1,977,028	1,989,814	1,722,613	1,169,617	1,174,137	1,156,979
Japan	-23.6	184,069	241,038	217,351	145,506	733,841	169,836	121,089	131,495	88,643	103,685	179,034
Singapore	11.1	621,428	559,195	620,033	892,598	12,920	1,023,007	967,374	651,251	541,714	672,347	591,410
South Korea	-15.5	24,601	29,121	26,287	18,691	32,504	15,413	13,761	17,644	12,523	14,731	17,678
Hong Kong	32.8	125,384	94,438	74,791	53,518	255,818	43,531	32,526	21,502	13,558	23,421	26,358
China	5.8	565,742	534,653	390,458	441,219	20,076	308,210	385,815	473,968	214,707	136,329	108,414
Taiwan	8.1	26,582	24,588	15,831	14,105	44,429	35,636	26,700	11,120	19,432	5,334	12,226
Thailand	40.1	87,897	62,755	59,870	45,987	64,879	56,255	67,438	59,765	35,575	31,046	41,883
Indonesia	57.7	168,706	107,005	157,487	163,104	162,300	81,697	90,320	37,784	28,493	40,079	45,092
Malaysia	51.4	572,904	378,479	400,316	308,219	11,395	204,007	214,603	155,049	105,644	115,211	127,003
Philippines	4.3	11,052	10,597	9,311	17,826	1,318	17,128	10,947	25,693	8,483	6,591	NA
Vietnam *	13.5	264,085	232,652	48,265	7,498	13,264	3,357	18,254	104,749	84,992	2,901	NA
Other	-69.1	19,491	63,045	52,700	27,487	28,453	18,950	40,987	32,594	15,854	22,461	7,883
EUROPE	-3.9	49,059	51,039	59,850	42,678	26,376	39,484	98,300	34,268	42,379	165,173	35,530
United Kingdom	-44.1	6,737	12,046	14,228	7,325	6,049	4,037	17,594	7,572	16,263	101,497	14,128
Germany	-19.5	11,027	13,705	9,583	11,887	1,681	8,139	49,334	5,715	5,697	51,740	9,326
Denmark	-23.0	4,048	5,258	5,236	3,411	684	3,726	5,542	2,632	3,400	5,911	716
Spain	55.7	2,704	1,737	82	352	2,998	1,746	9,741	265	115	138	-
Italy	119.8	2,922	1,329	6,774	2,672	3,920	3,348	4,208	8,127	2,283	1,884	-
Belgium	8756.8	4,402	50	9	509	1,910	4,260	732	316	372	91	3,679
Netherlands	14.3	6,919	6,056	15,460	7,317	1,849	2,242	6,476	1,800	2,950	931	2,112
Sweden	-0.8	3,110	3,137	3,238	3,688	6,166	2,278	2,996	2,168	1,683	2,026	1,823
Other Europe	-6.9	7,190	7,721	5,241	5,518	1,121	9,709	1,678	5,674	9,616	955	3,747
AFRICA	-36.6	2,215	3,494	1,752	1,042	8,412	1,662	3,286	1,365	-	-	458
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	886	-	-	-	-	-	13
South Africa	2.0	385	377	1,177	453	235	1,428	3,286	1,365	-	-	85
Other Africa	-41.3	1,831	3,117	576	589	7,291	235	-	-	-	-	133
AMERICA	13.4	73,387	64,718	48,572	52,088	4,809	64,482	61,157	107,958	154,570	254,002	18,753
USA	55.1	67,424	43,461	43,032	50,071	2,482	61,991	59,550	105,951	153,598	253,483	15,523
Other	-71.9	5,963	21,257	5,540	2,017	2,327	2,491	1,607	2,006	972	519	3,230
Other regions	-8.3	3,682	4,014	4,675	2,460	126,836	2,492	2,470	5,207	8,290	1,810	3,676
TOTAL IMPORTS	24.7	4,502,107	3,611,484	3,600,446	3,683,769	3,922,393	3,656,456	3,615,304	3,212,434	2,099,655	2,382,291	2,190,199

r revised

e estimate

- nil or rounded to zero

(a) Prior to 2008, Vietnam was included under the 'Other Asia' category

(b) Prior to 2008, the 'Other Asia' category included Vietnam, but afterwards the figures for Vietnam are in their own category

Source: Solomon Islands' National Statistics Office

Table 2b (Cont.): Value of Imports to the Solomon Islands by Country of Origin and Quarter: March Quarter 2009 to September Quarter 2018

Region and Country of Origin	Year/Quarter - ended															
	2012				2011				2010				2009			
	Dec	Sep	Jun	Mar	Dec	Sep	Jun	Mar	Dec	Sep	Jun	Mar	Dec	Sep	Jun	Mar
	Dollars SBD ('000s)															
OCEANIA	467,994	383,797	369,430	350,086	356,264	405,109	365,152	333,753	439,483	303,668	381,167	216,705	217,449	149,547	160,554	197,248
Australia	360,018	281,348	276,780	262,235	265,791	288,544	247,966	239,876	334,174	210,803	294,301	147,163	126,393	98,171	113,843	128,302
Papua New Guinea	30,124	33,612	28,445	22,863	25,753	41,114	36,281	36,637	43,084	26,827	25,395	27,876	48,129	23,161	18,118	30,362
New Zealand	54,759	46,110	39,073	45,345	46,382	55,691	61,469	40,909	48,456	50,384	41,710	26,145	28,559	18,808	20,008	25,308
Fiji	16,530	21,305	19,802	17,668	16,303	17,997	15,531	13,188	11,686	13,102	17,759	12,496	10,434	8,112	7,557	10,821
Vanuatu	2,039	1,321	886	1,961	2,028	1,760	1,930	2,749	2,082	2,553	2,002	3,025	3,933	1,296	1,029	2,403
Other Oceania	4,524	102	4,444	14	7	3	1,975	394	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
ASIA	439,423	496,247	445,527	465,479	456,120	460,832	511,802	538,273	571,615	448,207	414,787	288,005	458,649	252,501	212,205	246,262
Japan	198,591	286,283	248,967	289,166	167,707	215,318	294,180	290,169	48,167	35,179	23,081	25,067	34,100	16,672	13,437	24,433
Singapore	5,124	3,137	4,660	2,493	2,193	5,674	1,599	4,296	203,284	161,957	167,181	118,830	173,006	140,379	104,971	123,358
South Korea	14,218	11,131	7,155	11,027	11,008	7,382	9,095	5,040	2,880	4,426	5,863	4,474	5,677	968	2,862	3,016
Hong Kong	100,386	80,079	75,353	52,393	130,782	97,418	91,532	66,084	8,407	6,859	3,654	2,581	4,708	3,347	2,808	2,695
China	5,458	9,346	5,272	15,560	6,367	5,258	11,605	3,470	155,371	125,977	117,567	75,053	92,214	31,640	43,249	47,603
Taiwan	12,319	13,875	18,235	11,826	22,879	22,304	11,386	10,869	1,808	3,893	2,235	3,185	11,866	4,439	1,033	2,094
Thailand	23,239	22,904	18,736	16,817	19,718	21,565	16,302	32,735	16,278	18,953	14,277	10,257	15,016	7,709	5,378	7,473
Indonesia	54,206	55,826	52,268	41,708	73,956	45,996	52,856	41,796	8,713	11,992	9,879	7,200	4,946	10,280	5,836	7,430
Malaysia	5,835	2,631	2,929	5,734	3,834	3,886	1,474	1,753	39,523	43,310	45,336	26,880	31,439	31,602	23,891	18,712
Philippines	1,076	160	82	2,039	2,560	2,086	1,062	12,546	4,388	9,000	8,490	3,815	1,783	1,891	2,682	2,127
Vietnam	6,623	4,078	2,563	5,686	6,332	11,406	9,395	13,853	74,286	10,610	14,399	5,454	77,381	892	4,064	2,655
Other Asia	12,349	6,797	9,307	11,030	8,784	22,539	11,316	55,662	8,508	16,049	2,825	5,212	6,513	2,680	1,995	4,666
Europe	12,079	6,332	7,965	10,734	9,788	16,849	5,769	51,587	8,429	12,419	5,174	8,246	10,616	20,467	4,291	7,005
United Kingdom	1,370	3,573	1,106	2,090	2,102	5,719	1,560	39,953	1,822	2,698	1,035	2,017	1,227	11,979	1,579	1,478
Germany	1,431	94	155	2,046	25	4,418	10	1,088	1,535	760	1,610	1,810	880	2,216	1,456	1,146
Denmark	158	205	321	1,062	1,161	1,852	582	6,146	40	47	150	2,395	29	39	279	3,054
Spain	1,705	543	750	350	1,939	1,691	211	367	1	0	72	192	1	1	20	93
Italy	3,432	2	486	340	415	283	5	29	1,595	5,845	345	342	882	972	121	308
Belgium	1,297	87	526	332	695	1,437	2,081	2,263	1	4	153	158	247	2	47	75
Netherlands	786	673	390	429	402	932	479	1,184	427	441	262	670	1,559	871	127	393
Sweden	1,286	680	4,200	3,543	259	475	452	492	696	206	909	356	561	472	352	298
Other Europe	615	475	31	542	2,790	42	389	65	2,312	2,418	638	306	5,229	3,915	311	160
Africa	6,009	1,718	685	724	3,692	4,472	597	208	420	945	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	549	306	31	542	2,790	42	389	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	67	168	-	-	-	-	-	-	420	945	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Africa	5,394	1,244	654	182	902	4,430	208	143	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Americas	3,581	832	396	173	501	3,339	151	85	15,317	9,826	14,585	68,230	6,263	81,072	21,853	45,381
USA	1,813	411	258	9	401	1,091	57	58	14,709	9,760	14,298	67,184	6,198	80,895	21,719	44,785
Other Americas	1,768	421	138	164	100	2,248	94	27	608	66	287	1,046	65	177	134	596
Other Regions	36,416	47,242	43,178	60,406	26,806	28,641	33,847	1,667	221	398	2,572	2,015	155	6,244	926	966
TOTAL IMPORTS	965,502	936,170	867,181	887,602	853,171	919,242	917,318	925,573	1,035,484	775,464	818,285	583,202	693,132	509,831	399,829	496,863

r revised

na not available

- nil or rounded to zero

Source: Solomon Islands' National Statistics Office

Table 3a: Value of Exports from the Solomon Islands by Country of Final Destination and Calendar Year: 2007 to 2017

Region and Country of Final Destination	Change from previous year	Year ended December									
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009 e	2008
	(%)	Dollars SBD ('000s)									
OCEANIA	-3.5	99,839	103,509	112,596	463,140	896,874	984,444	591,441	134,612	100,780	103,751
Australia	-19.3	32,438	40,183	45,408	357,838	808,586	865,209	550,743	62,494	46,365	50,774
Papua New Guinea	138.3	16,136	6,771	6,112	47,871	16,386	19,992	2,779	42,290	19,067	13,479
New Zealand	4.8	19,492	18,602	24,994	20,713	39,170	30,825	14,941	10,994	12,498	13,845
Fiji	-4.5	8,409	8,802	17,542	17,982	10,967	13,698	7,616	8,913	11,729	14,450
Vanuatu	26.2	14,776	11,705	7,895	6,932	11,008	43,995	6,098	1,470	6,812	6,552
Other	-50.8	8,587	17,446	10,644	11,804	10,757	10,724	9,264	8,450	4,309	4,651
ASIA	13.7	3,186,241	2,802,431	2,554,815	2,371,409	2,126,299	1,962,914	2,027,280	1,298,215	958,056	1,316,748
Japan	-32.5	17,061	25,257	52,463	30,960	9,360	23,129	7,576	10,997	15,463	29,199
Singapore	205.2	21,863	7,162	56	6,696	2,464	24,170	25,886	43,185	46,679	82,696
Republic of Korea	11.2	32,551	29,260	34,472	35,856	35,012	44,068	35,197	43,776	47,793	65,498
Hong Kong	4.7	50,681	48,390	41,084	19,394	59,914	17,872	7,700	12,868	14,203	8,096
China	18.3	2,565,602	2,169,000	1,841,641	1,943,707	1,600,288	1,325,284	1,373,175	851,999	600,635	672,783
Taiwan	12.6	59,204	52,569	45,399	39,624	95,119	22,113	11,651	473	133	973
Thailand	69.6	49,854	29,403	33,023	74,931	120,215	183,994	168,799	114,461	93,739	219,374
Indonesia	-81.3	3,002	16,067	44,967	19,215	12,242	17,893	57,922	56,743	27,758	5,381
Malaysia	-41.6	59,473	101,753	100,060	88,394	55,997	33,183	59,065	15,341	20,427	6,768
Philippines	7.7	138,454	128,586	130,263	95,900	109,513	215,198	230,038	141,827	80,471	198,170
Vietnam *	-20.0	38,743	48,413	18,046	10,014	11,440	6,315	11,138	3,421	9,756	27,458
Other	2.2	149,753	146,569	213,340	6,719	14,735	49,697	39,132	3,123	998	353
EUROPE	13.3	618,979	546,164	499,883	457,426	477,689	463,010	493,029	314,629	225,905	218,036
United Kingdom	-81.1	28,893	153,236	233,736	213,549	217,837	295,799	109,614	128,684	30,844	124,399
Germany	-97.2	21	749	-	161	480	1	2,603	3,938	5,261	12
Denmark	-100.0	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	50.9	9,693	6,425	8,443	33,208	12,393	37,937	79,863	119,185	132,715	22,925
Italy	25.8	304,693	242,127	219,158	198,044	224,684	126,594	141,471	60,199	55,427	69,901
Belgium	-100.0	-	433	259	111	-	5	-	2	11	-
Netherlands	391.7	118,152	24,030	1,963	1,746	14	-	156,886	-	-	75
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	32.2	157,526	119,120	36,324	10,608	22,282	2,675	2,592	2,620	1,647	799
AFRICA	-	168	-	1,899	-	2,195	27	-	-	-	6,985
AMERICA	86.5	28,997	15,550	6,382	85,558	68,742	19,572	3,911	6,320	1,974	2,034
USA	86.0	28,006	15,059	5,895	85,483	68,520	19,561	3,911	6,320	1,927	2,008
Other	101.8	991	491	486	75	222	12	-	-	48	26
Other regions	-80.3	555	2,814	494	257	-	-	42	-	-	2,245
TOTAL EXPORTS	13.4	3,934,779	3,470,469	3,176,069	3,377,791	3,571,800	3,429,968	3,115,703	1,753,776	1,286,715	1,640,569
1 estimated - nil or rounded to zero na not available											
(a) Prior to 2008, Vietnam was included under the 'Other Asia' category (b) Prior to 2008, the 'Other Asia' category included Vietnam, but afterwards the figures for Vietnam are in their own category											

Source: Solomon Islands' National Statistics Office

Table 3b (Cont.): Value of Exports from the Solomon Islands by Country of Final Destination and Quarter: March Quarter 2009 to September Quarter 2018

Region and Country of Final Destination	2012				2011				2010				2009			
	Dec	Sep	Jun	Mar												
Dollars SBD ('000s)																
Oceania	228,091	208,786	247,323	300,244	242,783	227,643	100,162	20,853	27,932	22,081	41,767	42,833	26,649	21,176	26,386	26,569
Australia	210,877	159,934	220,669	273,729	229,910	218,124	92,680	10,030	9,498	15,289	24,876	12,831	11,999	8,641	15,237	10,488
Papua New Guinea	853	1,397	7,580	10,162	1,097	819	343	520	11,744	1,082	9,515	19,949	1,127	4,728	4,201	9,011
New Zealand	4,190	3,360	15,748	7,528	5,566	2,272	2,386	4,716	1,927	2,240	2,828	3,998	5,291	2,159	2,662	2,386
Fiji	4,318	4,233	178	4,969	2,422	3,420	1,271	502	2,661	698	2,090	3,464	2,991	3,892	2,303	2,542
Vanuatu	4,543	38,300	376	776	2,120	943	1,487	1,548	91	13	564	803	3,979	1,002	702	1,129
Other Oceania	3,310	1,562	2,772	3,080	1,668	2,065	1,994	3,537	2,010	2,760	1,893	1,787	1,262	754	1,282	1,012
Asia	572,430	392,573	470,439	527,472	550,272	521,113	550,789	405,106	423,133	324,791	315,723	234,568	261,544	254,064	238,521	203,928
Japan	3,309	3,021	8,030	8,769	-	1,584	1,825	4,166	2,975	1,661	5,498	862	3,259	2,485	5,911	3,808
Singapore	10,906	9,496	1,635	2,132	4,885	18,162	928	1,911	7,806	13,175	15,219	6,985	18,693	6,929	15,632	5,425
South Korea	13,871	11,589	12,126	6,482	7,674	10,458	7,295	9,770	9,871	10,602	10,083	13,220	11,197	15,584	11,011	10,001
Hong Kong	16,790	227	671	184	1,270	2,163	2,112	2,156	1,067	7,177	1,666	2,958	6,144	3,488	1,316	3,255
China	359,939	279,528	331,496	354,321	410,537	349,825	341,195	271,618	293,254	210,714	193,066	154,966	170,513	172,522	136,668	120,933
Taiwan	9,179	4,956	5,240	2,738	5,818	235	2,872	2,726	351	122	-	-	5	2	18	108
Thailand	103,299	38,540	7,195	34,960	56,822	65,915	22,167	23,896	25,065	22,453	37,955	28,989	19,451	16,174	30,336	27,778
Indonesia	2	2,563	14,065	1,263	10,030	14,947	28,266	4,679	11,894	15,902	17,995	10,952	861	15,250	7,165	4,482
Malaysia	5,705	6,672	11,199	9,607	8,029	25,668	15,786	9,582	7,663	7,185	-	493	11,676	6,382	1,670	698
Philippines	32,606	35,037	63,217	84,338	36,915	20,176	102,463	70,484	61,361	34,935	30,792	14,739	19,745	15,248	21,525	23,954
Vietnam	1,765	944	1,140	2,466	3,225	2,737	1,270	3,905	1,315	444	1,257	406	-	-	6,407	3,350
Other Asia	15,059	-	14,426	20,212	5,068	9,242	24,608	213	510	422	2,192	-	-	-	862	136
Europe	109,929	148,611	89,763	114,707	139,437	96,496	160,340	96,756	99,468	77,293	61,346	76,522	68,381	45,446	66,766	45,312
United Kingdom	100,305	60,314	85,151	50,029	58,167	-	45,856	5,591	66,340	62,340	-	5	3	10	30,786	44
Germany	1	-	-	-	-	2,600	2	1	-	-	1,713	2,225	1,326	2,347	678	910
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	-	-	2,040	35,897	39,028	30,554	10,281	-	3,407	-	59,162	56,616	55,272	21,633	23,261	32,548
Italy	9,051	87,405	1,662	28,476	41,829	44,159	39,143	16,339	29,336	14,256	-	16,606	11,072	21,130	11,856	11,370
Belgium	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	9	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	18,652	64,391	73,843	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Europe	567	893	910	305	414	531	666	981	384	697	469	1,070	706	318	184	439
Africa	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swaziland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Africa	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Americas	738	17,895	862	77	1,014	856	798	1,285	2,737	1,423	1,975	185	508	343	1,027	96
USA	738	17,883	862	77	1,014	814	798	1,285	2,737	1,423	1,975	185	467	343	1,021	96
Other Americas	-	12	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	6	-
Other Regions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Exports	911,188	767,892	808,388	942,500	933,506	846,108	812,089	524,000	553,270	425,588	420,811	354,108	357,082	321,030	332,699	275,905

- nil or rounded to zero

Source: Solomon Islands' National Statistics Office

About the Bulletin

This publication is a statistical report of the country's international merchandise trade statistics released periodically every quarter. The bulletin follows the United Nations definitions and compilation practice of international merchandise trade statistics with closer harmonization with regional compilation standards.

Concepts and Definitions

Imports

Merchandise imports (cif) are goods bought by Solomon Islands residents and institutions from overseas. These goods are imported into Solomon Islands from other countries. The valuation of imports include the cost of insurance and freight (cif).

Exports

Merchandise exports (fob) are goods bought by residents and institutions that reside overseas. These goods are exported from the Solomon Islands as the place of origin to another country. The valuation of exports excludes the cost of insurance and freight (cif) and is valued free on board (fob).

Merchandise trade

Refers to all exports and imports of goods entering and departing the economic territory of the Solomon Islands that have an impact on the country's national stock of material resources as a result of trade. This excludes trade in service transactions classified as non-merchandise trade. See data quality section for more details.

Trade balance

Trade balance is the difference between exports (fob) and imports (cif) or calculated by deducting exports (fob) from imports (cif).

Re-Exports

This refers to merchandise exports that were previously imported or in-transit in the Solomon Islands and have an insignificant value or its contents have below half its value.

Trade Deficit (-)/Trade Surplus (+)

A trade deficit is when the value of imports is greater than the value of exports. The opposite is referred to as a trade surplus.

Country of Origin

The country where the goods originated or was manufactured from.

Country of Destination

The country where exported goods reach its final destination.

Value

All imports and exports are expressed in monetary value in the Solomon Islands Dollar (\$SBD).

Symbols used

r : revised, p : preliminary, e : estimated, na : not available, -- : no items in this category, — : nil or rounded to zero

Upcoming Releases

Fourth Quarter, Week beginning February 12, 2019

First Quarter, Week beginning May 21, 2019

Second Quarter, Week beginning August 19, 2019

Changes to Current Bulletin

Changes were made regarding the percentage change of current quarter to same quarter of previous year to now reflect the percent change of current quarter to previous quarter, as with yearly change. This is due to ongoing revisions and user demands. The user has flexibility to still compute percentage changes as previously stated from the data provided.

Data Quality Statement: International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Data Source:	<p>Primary source: Solomon Islands Customs and Excise Division (SICED)</p> <p>Secondary source: Commodity Export Marketing Authority (CEMA); Importer and Exporters (selected firms); Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) Balance of Payments.</p>
Institutional Environment:	<p>Data Collector(s): The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) Trade Unit collects imports and exports data captured by the SICED of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MOFT) through its data system prior to the third quarter of 2015 and subsequently through the current ASYCUDA system. The SICED data are compiled from customs declarations submitted by residents and institutions, many of which are business companies, who are regarded as importers and exporters. The SINSO also collects information independently on exports and imports from selected companies, the CEMA and CBSI balance of payments data.</p> <p>Collection authority: The data is collected under the Statistics Act 1970 (and 2007 Amendments) and a Memorandum of Understanding between the SINSO and the SICED.</p> <p>Data Compiler(s): The SINSO is the Official Compiler of the International Merchandise Trade (MIT) Statistics.</p> <p>Compilation Methodology: The compilation follows the UN's definitions, coding and classification practice of merchandise trade statistics in line with the UN's Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).</p> <p>Standard Classifications: SINSO applies the UN's SITC versions 3 prior to 2012 and subsequently version 4 to date. Other classification references include UN's Broad Economic Categories (BEC) and the Pacific Community's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (2012, 2017). The raw data from SICED is coded and classified following the World Customs Harmonized System (HS) for tariffs and trade statistics and thus the SINSO links the HS formatted data to the SITC/BEC classification but uses the SITC to publish the statistics.</p> <p>Additional information: Statistical confidentiality is guaranteed under the Statistics Act 1970 (and 2007 Amendments).</p>
Relevance:	<p>Data topic: The main data items captured from the declarations made by importers and exporters include: commodity code and description, quantity, value, country (origin, final destination, and consignment), contract details of individual importer/exporter, domestic destination for imports, place of origin for exports, port of clearance, and mode of transportation.</p> <p>Level of geography: The data is available by main ports of Honiara and selected provincial ports.</p> <p>Key Data Items: The key data items currently compiled and published include international trade balance, value of trade by year and quarter, value of imports by country of origin, value of exports by final destination and value of imports and exports by commodity group. The unit record data is available at 8-digit level of classification. The published data is presented up to 4-digit aggregation levels with only selected goods presented at 8-digit level.</p> <p>Data Limitations: Major limitations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data prior to 2015 from SICED was often in unedited format and validated only at the aggregate level. Statistics on the volume of trade cannot be compiled adequately given the poor quality of the volume data. • Data from SICED represents mainly trade through the Honiara port and to a lesser extent data from other outer island ports.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from 1998-2000 and the first two quarters of 2009 are unavailable or incomplete for the purpose of a time series covering these periods. • Data on illegal trading, which may include significant quantities, is not captured. • A number of other secondary data sources are used to adjust for discrepancies in the data from SICED. • Data from third quarter 2015 and onward are extracted from the newly introduced ASYCUDA system which is now adopted by the SICED. • Data on major commodities such as fish, copra, cocoa, palm oil, rice, fuel and tobacco are sourced from the industries/major firms.
Timeliness:	<p>Additional information: The purpose for collecting the data is to assist decision making and understanding of the economic behavior of merchandise trade in the country. Currently the analysis provided does not cover all components required by the United Nations standard (such as mode of transport etc) but this will be expanded over time.</p> <p>Data collected: Data is collected monthly.</p> <p>Data available: Data and published results are expected to be available two months after the relevant quarter. However, delays often occur due mainly to delays in receiving information and data quality checks.</p> <p>Reference Period: The data is collected over one quarter (3 months) and published on a quarterly frequency.</p> <p>Timing of Recording: The timing for exports is recorded on the date when the goods are cleared from SICED. Imports are recorded on the date when the goods are released from SICED.</p> <p>Additional information: Revisions are sometimes made to the statistics after its release if incorrect information is received and/or other related data quality checks are applied.</p>
Accuracy:	<p>Method of Collection: The SINSO collects data from the SICED directly through a flash drive backup prior to mid-2015, and subsequently through the ASYCUDA data system. In addition, the SINSO requests large firms to provide their records on imports or exports for three months. Importers and exporters provide their import and export data through the customs declarations including through the recent electronic self-assessment document (eSAD) forms when they import and export goods.</p> <p>Data Adjustments: Data is checked for quality by SICED, and by the SINSO. Adjustments to data are made where necessary, especially when dealing with data gaps or reconciling inconsistencies following standard statistical techniques. Duplicate entries are often removed, whilst noting that small discrepancies between totals and sums of commodities in tables are due to rounding.</p> <p>Additional information: Following UN recommendations, goods relating to personal effects of travelers, temporary imports and exports, goods in transit, goods on lease for less than a year, and goods consigned to diplomats/diplomatic status are excluded from merchandise trade statistics compilation. Fishing data from the high seas are often unaccounted for in the data collected. Data on trade in service transactions are excluded including goods for repairs in imports. Data on illegal trading of goods, which may include significant quantities is not captured. Processing errors are minimized by using software to detect and remove duplicates. If the SINSO identifies errors in published statistics, SICED are contacted to help resolve the error and a revised figure is published in the next issue of the statistical bulletin.</p>

Coherence:	<p>There is consistent time series data although data from 1998-2000 and the first two quarters of 2009 are unavailable or incomplete and are estimated. Prior to the third quarter of 2015, data was collected from SICED who were using their own processing system until the introduction of the ASYCUDA system.</p> <p>Additional information: There is no data available for 1998 to 2000 due to the period of civil unrest in the country ('Tensions').</p>
Interpretability:	<p>Other Supporting information: The concepts and definitions stated earlier in the section 'About the Bulletin' should assist readers understand and interpret the statistics. In addition, the UN's international merchandise trade statistics classifications are available to help users better understand and interpret the data. The following standard and related classifications are also available to aid understanding:</p> <p>The Standard International Trade Classification V4: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_34rev4E.pdf</p> <p>UN's Broad Economic Categories Classification v4: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=331</p> <p>The Pacific Community's Tariff Classification (2012, 2017)</p> <p>The percentage (%) change applied from year over previous year, or quarter over previous quarter, refers to the extent to which the value of imports or exports gains or loses value over the given period. It is calculated as the value of the current period less the value of the previous period, divided by the value of the previous period and multiplied by 100 (%). For example, taking the 4th quarter (December) 2016 and 2017 export figures ('000), we calculate percentage change (December quarter over same period a year ago) as: $(\\$117,3803 - \\$99,9014) / \\$999,014 \times 100 = 7.5\%$. This implies that the value of exports has increased by 7.5% (\$174,790) from December 2016 to December 2017 period. One can apply similar calculations depending on the period of choice, for example, year over year etc.</p> <p>Additional information: Users are encouraged to firstly read the title of the tables to understand the content of the tabular presentation of the statistics. Table: 1 refer to both imports and exports while Tables: 2 (a, b), 4 and 5 refer to imports, and Tables: 3(a, b), 6 and 7 refers to exports.</p>
Accessibility:	<p>Unpublished data can be requested. Users can request data that has not been published by sending an email or contacting the Government Statistician. There is no charge associated with data requests.</p> <p>Contact details: STATS-management@mof.gov.sb; STATS-economics@mof.gov.sb</p> <p>Additional information: The data are available in spreadsheets which can be downloaded from the Solomon Islands' National Statistics Office website: www.statistics.gov.sb. Unit record information is not published to maintain confidentiality.</p>

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