

Selected Economic Indicators

Analysis on External Sector Developments

➤ **Exchange Rate**

In Ordibehesht 1402 (May 2023), each US dollar was exchanged in the unofficial market at an average rate of 528.2 thousand Iranian rials, indicating an increase of 2.4 percent compared with Farvardin 1402 (April 2023). Meanwhile, the rate of each US dollar against the Iranian rial exchanged via the Electronic Transaction System (ETS) increased by 2.9 percent compared with April 2023 to reach 422.2 thousand rials. This is against the backdrop of relatively favorable conditions for the country's foreign exchange sources and uses (as two critical factors affecting the exchange rate). Meanwhile, guided by the goal to preserve stability and tranquility in the foreign exchange market, the CBI has adopted various measures and implemented diverse policies to facilitate the timely provision of the foreign exchange required by importers. Moreover, the CBI has put on its agenda catering for people's precautionary demand for foreign currency, deepening of the official foreign exchange market, and ensuring the sound implementation of policies requiring the exporters to bring their foreign earnings back into the economy.

➤ **External Debt (Actual Obligations)**

The balance of the external debt of the country reached \$4.4 billion in May 2023, down by 30.3 percent compared with Esfand 1401 (March 2023). Out of the total amount of debt, 6.6 percent (equal to \$289 million) was in the form of short-term debt, and 93.4 percent (\$4.1 billion) was related to long-term debt. On this basis, the share of the short-term debt out of total external debt decreased by 21.9 percentage points in May 2023 as compared with March 2023.

➤ **Foreign Trade**

According to Iran's Customs Administration, the value of exports through Customs amounted to \$7.5 billion over the first two months of 1402 (covering April and May 2023), indicating a fall of 13.7 percent compared with the respective period in the year before. Similarly, over the mentioned period, the value of imports decreased by 4.8 percent to \$7.9 billion. The price of each ton of exported goods fell by 23.2 percent, while that of each ton of imported goods rose by 4.3 percent. Meanwhile, the weight of exports through Customs increased by 12.3 percent to reach 21.0 million tons, while that of imports fell by 8.7 percent to reach 4.7 million tons.