

Selected Economic Indicators

Analysis on External Sector Developments

➤ **Exchange Rate**

In Shahrivar 1403 (September 2024), each US dollar was exchanged in the unofficial market at an average rate of 593.2 thousand Iranian rials, indicating a slight decrease of 0.3 percent compared with Mordad 1403 (August 2024). Meanwhile, the telegraphic transfer (TT) selling rate of each US dollar exchanged in Iran Center for Exchange rose by 2.5 percent to reach 456.7 thousand rials compared with August 2024, and the rate of each US dollar against the Iranian rial exchanged via Iran Center for Exchange increased by 1.8 percent to 493.1 thousand rials in September 2024. Despite the continued military tensions and conflicts and the emergence of political disputes in the region, the exchange rate in the unofficial market was rather stabilized in September 2024, thanks to the mitigation of inflation expectations.

➤ **External Debt (Actual Obligations)**

The balance of the external debt of the country amounted to about \$4.6 billion in September 2024, down by 9.2 percent compared with Esfand 1402 (March 2024). Out of the total amount of debt, \$2.7 billion (59.7 percent) was in the form of short-term debt and \$1.8 billion (40.3 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 12.8 percentage points in September 2024 as compared with March 2024.

➤ **Foreign Trade**

According to preliminary data released by Iran's Customs Administration, the value of exports through Customs (excluding natural gas condensate) amounted to \$25.7 billion in the first six months of 1403 (April-September 2024), indicating a rise of 7.0 percent compared with April-September 2023. Similarly, the value of imports through Customs increased by 7.0 percent to \$32.6 billion. Meanwhile, the weight of exports through Customs (excluding natural gas condensate) increased by 4.1 percent to 70.3 million tons and that of imports rose by 3.7 percent to 18.3 million tons during April-September 2024 period compared with the same period in the year before. Accordingly, the price of each ton of exported goods rose by 2.8 percent and that of each ton of imported goods increased by 3.1 percent.

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