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Statistical release:
Niue International Merchandise Trade
2022 and 2023

2023 FIGURES AT A GLANCE

Total Imports (CIF NZ\$)	30,440,911
<i>Annual movement</i>	+23.2%
Total Exports (FOB NZ\$)	2,012,423
<i>Annual movement</i>	+29.1%
Domestic Exports	134,586
<i>Annual movement</i>	-43.8%
Re-exports	1,877,838
<i>Annual movement</i>	+42.4%
Balance of Trade (NZ\$)	-28,428,488
<i>Annual movement</i>	-22.8%

Other export information (not included in export totals):

Repair and return (NZ\$)	\$25,380
Fill and return (NZ\$)	\$36,662

INTRODUCTION

Fakaalofa lahi atu.

We are very happy to put out this statistical release – International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) – for the years 2022 and 2023.

The report is structured as follows:

1. Value of exports and imports
2. Balance of trade and terms of trade
3. Imports
 - a. Total imports
 - b. Imports by country of origin
4. Exports
 - a. Total exports
 - b. Domestic exports
 - c. Re-exports
5. Annex tables – imports and exports by HS group
6. General information
7. Disclaimer
8. Metadata

Domestic exports and re-export figures were extracted from Niue Customs records, Niue Philatelic and Numismatic records, and records from Niue Bulk Fuel. Niue import figures used for this statistical release are NZ export figures provided by the Trade Statistics Section of Statistics New Zealand (often referred to as *mirror statistics*), with estimates made for insurance and freight. New Zealand is the biggest trading partner for Niue, around 95% of imports and over 75% of exports travel through New Zealand.

Niue trade figures currently do not include estimates of goods carried by passengers when travelling (informal/shuttle trade), or trade in services sold to visitors to Niue. Goods sent overseas for repairing and containers for refilling are not included in the IMTS but are recorded for Balance of Payments and National accounts use. We request users note the limitations of the data and use with due care.

If you have any questions please let us know.

Kia monuina e totouaga. Fakaauae lahi.

Fanuma Sioneholo

Government Statistician

Niue Statistics Office

Ministry of Finance and Planning

Niue ke monuina, Numela ke taki aki

1. Value of exports and imports

Exports: The total value of exports for Niue in 2023 was \$2,012,423, an increase of 29% from 2022. The increase reflected a 42% increase in re-exports, which reached \$1,877,838 in 2023 due to increased re-exports of aviation fuel. Domestic exports dropped to \$134,586, the lowest value since 2015, and a decrease of 44% from 2022.

Imports: The total value of imports rose from \$24,715,463 in 2022 to \$30,440,911 in 2023 – an increase of +23.2%.

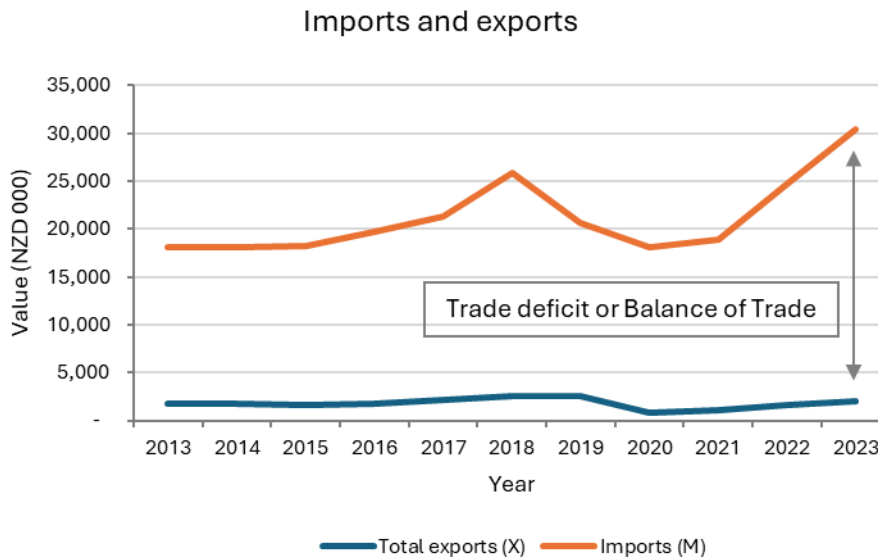


Figure 1: Value of imports and total exports, 2013–2023

2. Balance of trade and terms of trade

The balance of trade or trade deficit of Niue is the gap between the value of exports and imports (Figure 1). It ranges from -\$16.4M in 2013 to -\$28.4M In 2023, the largest margin recorded in the timeseries.

Table 1. Imports, exports, and balance of trade, 2013–2023

Year	Exports (X)	Imports (M)	Balance Of Trade (X-M)	% of X/M	% change (X)	% change (M)	% change (X-M)
2013	\$1,728,298	\$18,114,880	-\$16,386,582	10%			
2014	\$1,732,533	\$18,158,093	-\$16,425,560	10%	0%	0%	0%
2015	\$1,643,942	\$18,267,002	-\$16,623,060	9%	-5%	1%	1%
2016	\$1,791,174	\$19,710,841	-\$17,919,667	9%	9%	8%	8%
2017	\$2,158,091	\$21,348,781	-\$19,190,690	10%	20%	8%	7%
2018	\$2,583,148	\$25,834,309	-\$23,251,161	10%	20%	21%	21%
2019	\$2,505,299	\$20,698,836	-\$18,193,537	12%	-3%	-20%	-22%
2020	\$853,812	\$18,051,362	-\$17,197,550	5%	-66%	-13%	-5%
2021	\$1,089,752	\$18,856,837	-\$17,767,085	6%	28%	4%	3%
2022	\$1,558,596	\$24,715,463	-\$23,156,867	6%	43%	31%	30%
2023	\$2,012,423	\$30,440,911	-\$28,428,488	7%	29%	23%	23%

The main contributors to the trade deficit in 2023 were imports of mineral products, prepared foodstuffs, machinery and appliances, and transport equipment (which increased the deficit by a collective \$20.9M), and re-exports of mineral products (which decreased the deficit by \$1.8M).

The Terms of Trade measures exports as a fraction of imports. This hovered around 9-12% between 2013 and 2019, before dropping to 5-7% between 2020-2023. This suggests that the value of capital resources or money going out to purchase imports is increasingly large compared to the value coming in through exports.

3a. Total imports

The top contributors (in HS broad groups) to the value of imports in 2023 were mineral products including diesel, motor spirit, and jet fuel (\$7.7m, 25%); prepared foodstuffs, beverages, spirits & tobacco (\$5.2m, 17%); and machinery, mechanical, and electrical appliances and parts (\$4.9m, 16%).

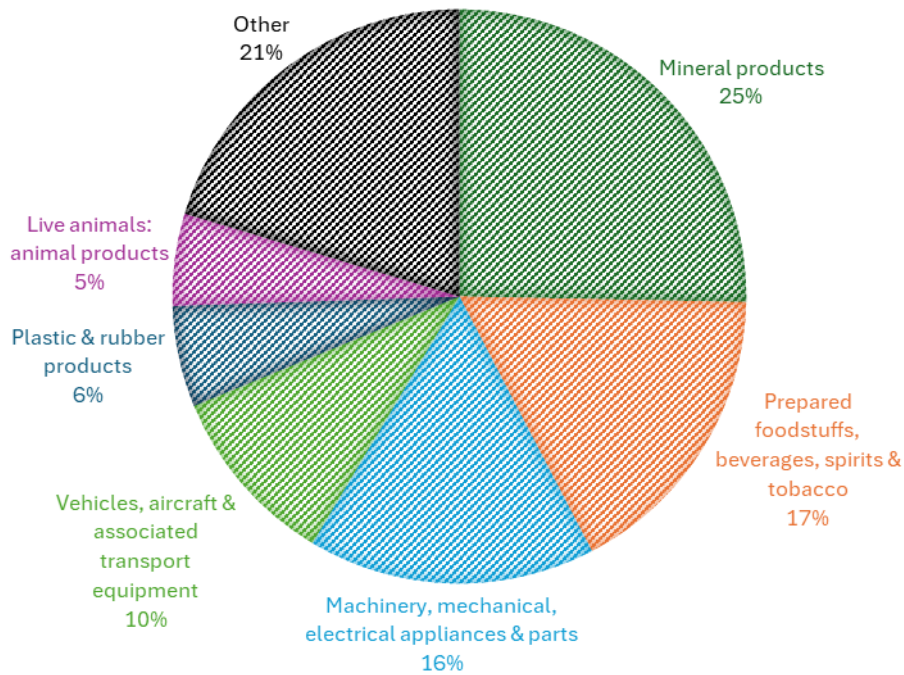


Figure 2: Composition of imports, 2023

The value of imported mineral products has varied over time, imports of aviation fuel in particular dropped significantly during the covid-19 border restrictions before increasing to a series high in 2023.

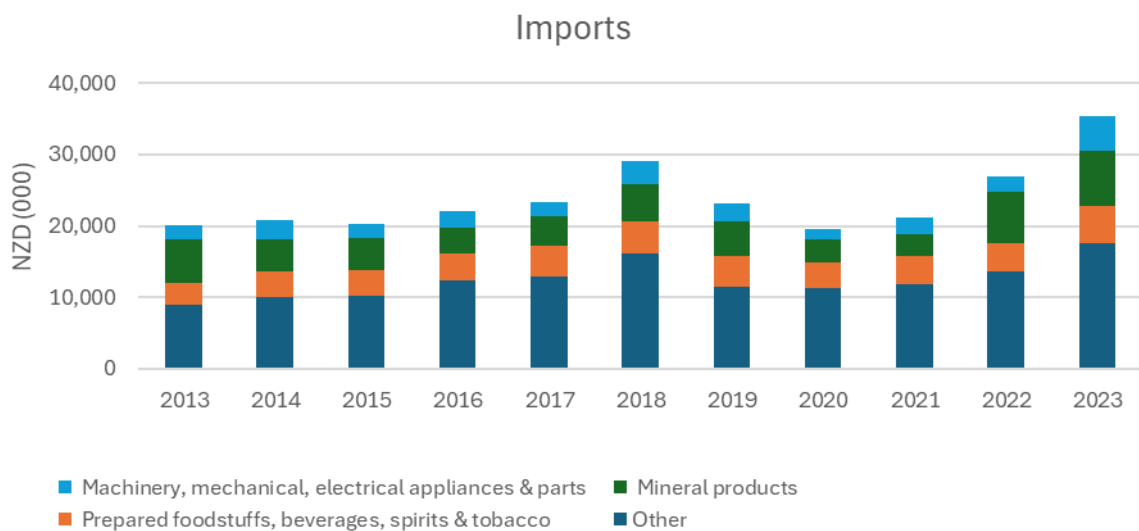


Figure 3: Major imports, 2013–2023

3b. Imports by country of origin

The main trading partners for Niue are depicted in Table 2 below. New Zealand continues to be the top trading partner, in 2023 supplying Niue with imports valued at \$22.2m (72.9% of total imports). This was followed by Japan, China, US, and Australia.

Table 2. Main trading partners: 2023

Countries of Origin	CIF Value	%Total
New Zealand	\$22,184,491	72.9%
Japan	\$3,211,373	10.5%
China, People's Republic of	\$1,631,257	5.4%
United States of America	\$1,038,283	3.4%
Australia	\$987,637	3.2%
Korea, Republic of	\$412,628	1.4%
Thailand	\$254,503	0.8%
Others	\$720,738	2.4%
TOTAL	\$30,440,911	100.0%

Please note that estimates of Niue imports are based on mirror data provided by Statistics New Zealand (New Zealand exports to Niue) where this merchandise was shipped or transhipped.

4a. Total exports

Table 3. Export totals and annual change 2016–2023

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Domestic Exports	\$238,352	\$409,746	\$489,203	\$334,483	\$255,187	\$567,982	\$239,616	\$134,586
Change: domestic	129%	72%	19%	-32%	-24%	123%	-58%	-44%
Re-Exports	\$1,552,822	\$1,748,345	\$2,093,945	\$2,170,816	\$598,625	\$521,770	\$1,318,980	\$1,877,838
Change: re-exports	1%	13%	20%	4%	-72%	-13%	153%	42%
Total Exports	\$1,791,174	\$2,158,091	\$2,583,148	\$2,505,299	\$853,812	\$1,089,752	\$1,558,596	\$2,012,423
Change: total	9%	20%	20%	-3%	-66%	28%	43%	29%

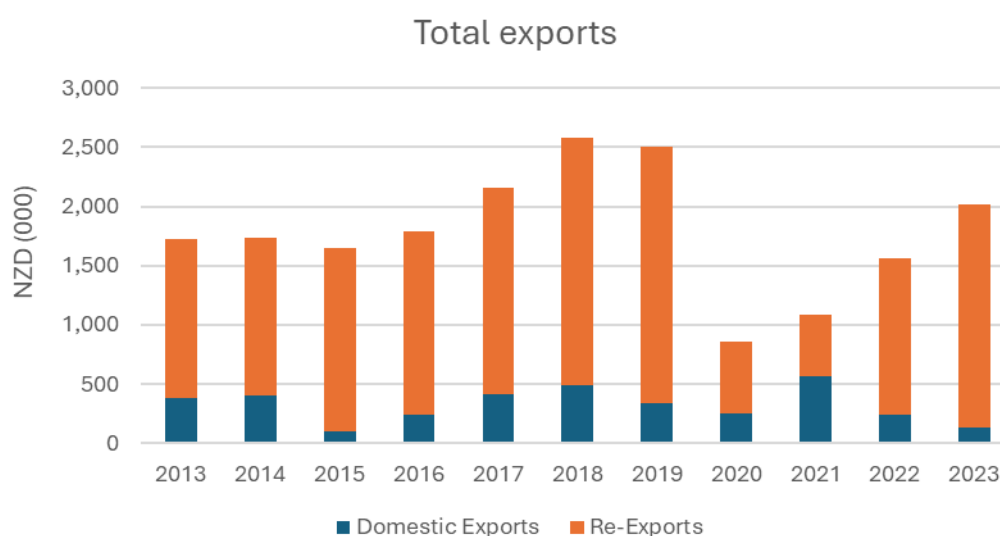


Figure 4: Total exports, 2013-2023

The main contributors to the value of exports in 2023 were re-exported aviation fuel (in HS groups 25-27), noni (in HS groups 16-24), and re-exported machinery and appliances (in HS groups 84-85). Details of other groups' contributions to exports are found in the annexed tables – Table 6.

4b. Domestic exports

The value of domestic exports in 2023 was \$134,586, a 44% decrease from 2022, and a 76% decrease from the series peak during covid-19 border restrictions in 2021.

Table 4. Exports 2012–2020

Commodities	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Nonu juice	\$105,342	\$213,725	\$342,950	\$287,024	\$118,000	\$132,500	\$694	\$86,757
Art	\$400	\$100	\$62,321	\$17,609	\$200	\$710	\$0	\$3,000
Honey	\$111,300	\$117,585	\$67,650	\$29,850	\$0	\$5,025	\$13,600	\$24,000
Stamps & Coins	\$13,310	\$19,264	\$3,523	\$0	\$55,518	\$2,061	\$933	\$18,354
Coconut	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$28,640	\$4,580	\$0
Vanilla	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,093	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
Taro	\$0	\$9,045	\$759	\$0	\$55,331	\$316,875	\$167,125	\$2,475
Other	\$8,000	\$50,027	\$12,000	\$0	\$2,945	\$42,171	\$52,684	\$0
Domestic Exports	\$238,352	\$409,746	\$489,203	\$334,483	\$255,187	\$567,982	\$239,616	\$134,586

Discussions with customs and Niue exporters suggest that conditions during the covid-19 border restrictions (March 2020 to June 2022) were temporarily beneficial for Niue domestic exports. As the number of passengers per flight was heavily restricted, flights from Niue had ample cargo space available, and agricultural products – including coconut, taro, and vanilla – that had previously been exported as informal trade accompanying passengers were exported officially. With tourism-related activities on hold Niuean residents were also more available to participate in agricultural labour.

These factors may have led to an artificial increase in estimated exports which returned to normal after borders re-opened, but likely also a real (but temporary) increase in exports as Niue responded to demand from NZ and Australia pacific communities that had previously received agricultural products via informal trade from other pacific islands.

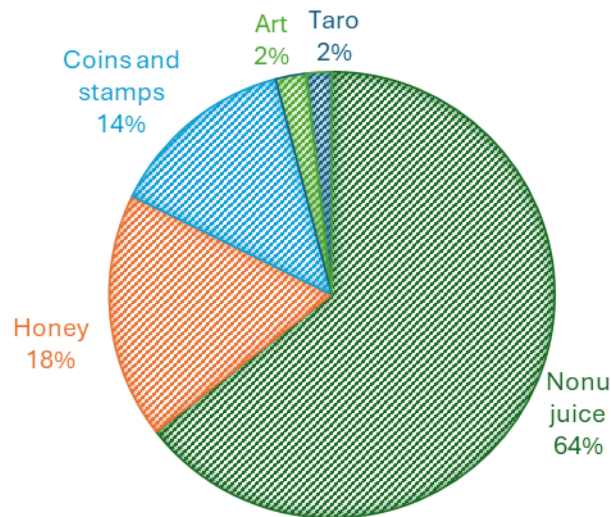


Figure 5: Composition of domestic exports, 2023

Domestic exports in 2023 comprised 6.7% of total exports, compared to 15.4% in 2022. Nonu juice made up 64% of exports followed by Honey (18%) and Coins and Stamps (14%).

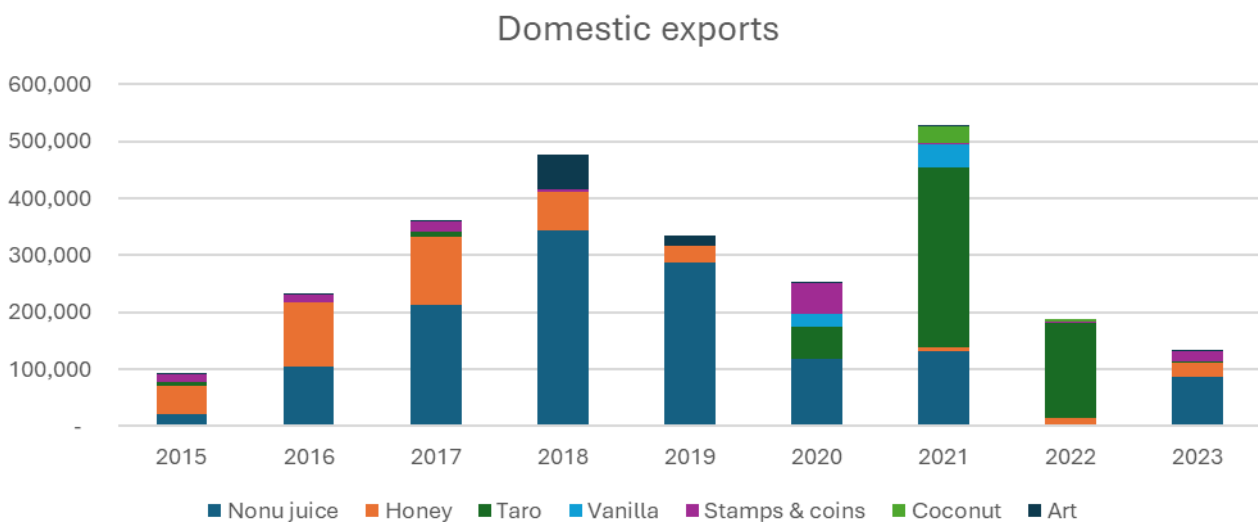


Figure 6: Major domestic exports, 2015–2023

4c. Re-exports

Re-exports were valued at \$1,877,838 in 2023, an increase of 42% from 2022 as flights picked up with the lifting of covid-19 border restrictions. They made up 93% of the total value of exported goods in 2023. Aviation fuel was the primary commodity re-exported, though tools and equipment being returned to the county of origin also contributed. The value of re-exported aviation fuel was \$1,808,157 in 2023, marking a return to pre-covid levels.

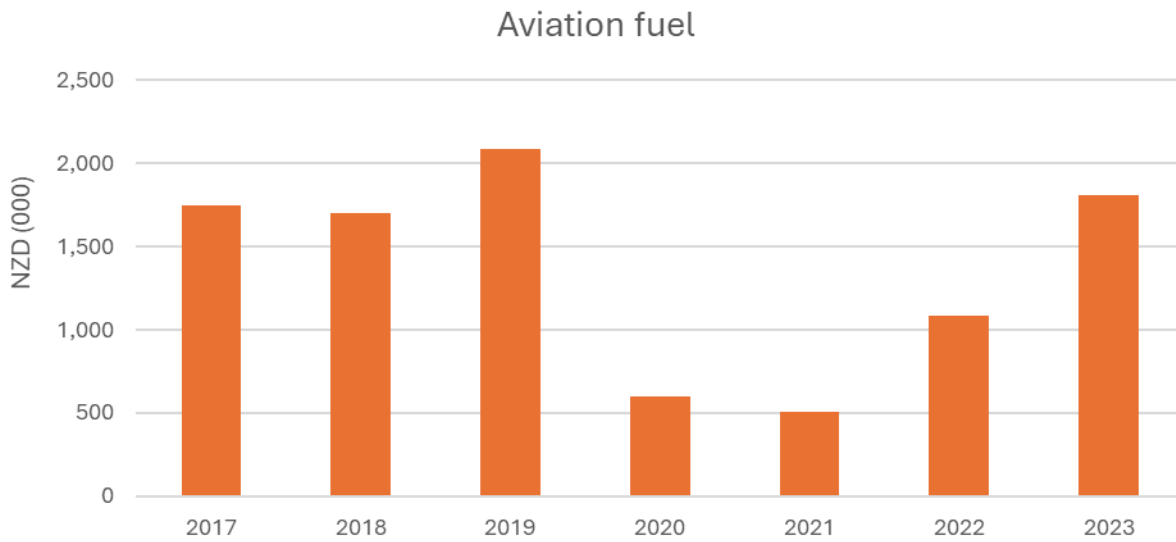


Figure 7. Re-exported aviation fuel, 2017–2023

5. Annex tables – imports and exports by HS group

Table 5: Imports by HS group, 2020–2023

HS groups and Commodities	CIF (NZD)				% Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023
01-05 Live animals: animal products	1,587,613	1,562,670	1,523,462	1,579,111	5.2%
06-14 Vegetable products	456,059	452,378	462,604	462,628	1.5%
15 Animal or vegetable oils and fats	76,946	82,754	107,368	99,064	0.3%
16-24 Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, spirits, tobacco	3,606,803	3,970,104	3,960,008	5,187,673	17.0%
25-27 Mineral products	3,171,954	3,149,690	7,088,381	7,705,872	25.3%
28-38 Chemicals and allied products	1,172,254	1,139,294	1,283,461	1,375,166	4.5%
39-40 Plastic, rubber products	1,541,339	1,486,202	1,525,268	1,735,010	5.7%
41-43 Raw hides/skins/leather products, travel goods	10,385	16,702	10,660	16,000	0.1%
44-46 Wood/cork products and plaiting material	685,700	519,017	581,730	905,220	3.0%
47-49 Wood pulp, paper and paperboard products	282,766	301,588	330,712	326,140	1.1%
50-63 Textile products	189,503	175,568	240,418	171,656	0.6%
64-67 Footwear, headgear, umbrellas and parts	38,198	31,098	46,670	33,305	0.1%
68-70 Articles of stone, plaster, cement, glass/ceramic products	205,997	138,185	100,853	268,463	0.9%
71 Pearls, precious/semi-precious stones/metals	19,339	3,710	60	22,861	0.1%
72-83 Base metals and products	970,924	812,848	768,677	1,161,653	3.8%
84-85 Machinery, mechanical, electrical appliances & parts	1,551,872	2,354,514	2,229,263	4,931,518	16.2%
86-89 Vehicles, aircraft & associated transport equipment	1,400,185	1,225,937	3,002,600	3,111,641	10.2%
90-92 Photographic, optical, medical and surgical goods, clocks/watches, musical instruments	196,912	186,115	365,447	436,698	1.4%
93 Arms and ammunition, parts & accessories	5,200	3,515	8,430	15,343	0.1%
94-96 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	868,358	1,215,204	295,156	643,170	2.1%
97 Works of art, collectors' pieces & antiques	0	0	0	0	0.0%
98-99 Others	13,056	29,743	784,236	252,720	0.8%
Total CIF	18,051,362	18,856,837	24,715,463	30,440,911	
Annual change	-13%	+4%	+31%	+23%	

Table 6: Total Exports by HS group, 2020–2023

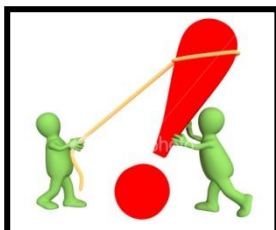
HS groups and Commodities	FOB Values (NZD)				% Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023
01-05 Live animals: animal products	150	12,200	62,109	24,000	1.2%
06-14 Vegetable products	81,319	390,565	174,755	2,475	0.1%
16-24 Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, spirits, tobacco	118,000	132,500	694	86,757	4.3%
25-27 Mineral products	598,625	474,434	1,082,838	1,808,157	89.8%
72-83 Base metals and products	0	28,625	0	0	0.0%
84-85 Machinery, mechanical, electrical appliances & parts	0	48,657	226,572	69,681	3.5%
97 Works of art, collectors' pieces & antiques	55,718	2,771	933	21,354	1.1%
98-99 Others	0	0	10,695	0	0.0%
Total	853,812	1,089,752	1,558,596	2,012,423	
Annual change	-66%	28%	43%	29%	

6. General Information



The information contained in this release was compiled using the data sourced from the Trade Statistics Section of Statistics New Zealand as the main supplier of import figures for Niue. The export figures were compiled from Niue Customs records, Niue Philatelic and Numismatic records, and records from Niue Bulk Fuel.

7. Disclaimer



Statistics Niue gives no warranty that the information or data supplied contains no errors. However all care and diligence has been used in processing, analysing and extracting the information. Therefore, Statistics Niue shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by the customer consequent upon the direct or indirect use of the information supplied in this publication.

The Niue Statistics Office would like to acknowledge the effort of everyone concerned in compiling Niue IMTS for users and stakeholders. For further information concerning this release, and to help us to improve the usefulness of these statistics, please contact:

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Fakaaue lahi.

8. Metadata

The Niue Statistics Office (NSO), in close collaboration with Niue Customs Office (NCO), is responsible for the collection (NCO, NSO), processing and dissemination (NSO) of the Niue International Merchandise Trade Statistics. The Niue Customs Act 1966 & Niue Statistics Act 2009 provide the legal framework and the institutional arrangements.

Niue IMTS are compiled in accordance with the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Pacific Compilation Guide, 2021¹, using the Pacific Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding system² (PACHS22) for commodity classification.

The primary data source for export data is the Niue Customs Office, with supplementary information obtained from govt records of philatelic, numismatic, and aviation fuel sales. Niue imports are compiled using Stats NZ data on New Zealand exports and re-exports to Niue, assuming insurance and freight factor for an additional 20% of the value of imports.

Niue IMTS data is published annually, and released in July of the following year, subject to data availability. All values are in NZ\$, with exports valued in FOB terms, and imports use CIF valuation.

¹ [Lal, N. \(2021\). International merchandise trade statistics: Pacific compilation guide, 2021.](#)

² [2022 Pacific Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System | The Pacific Community](#)