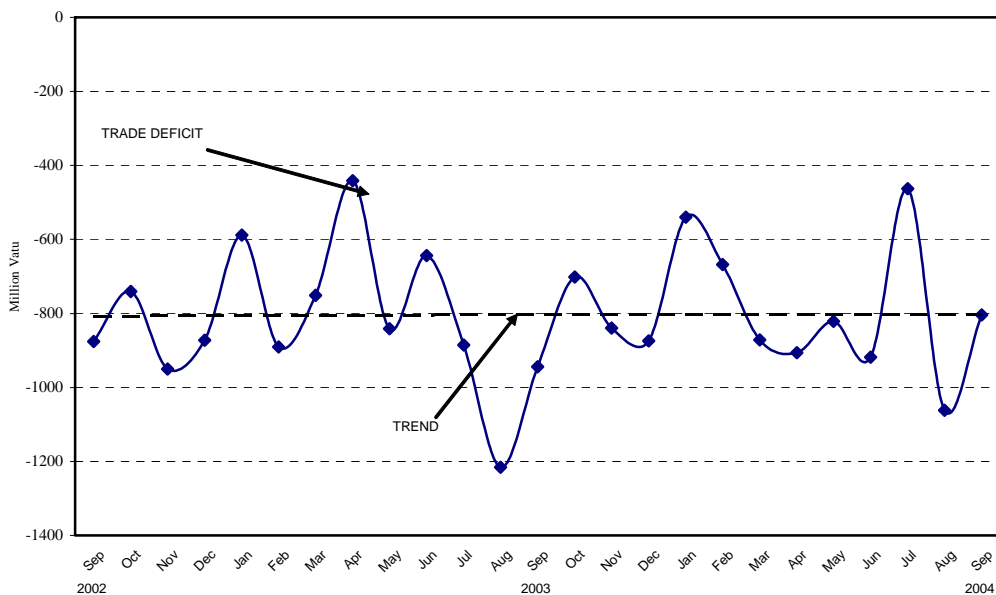
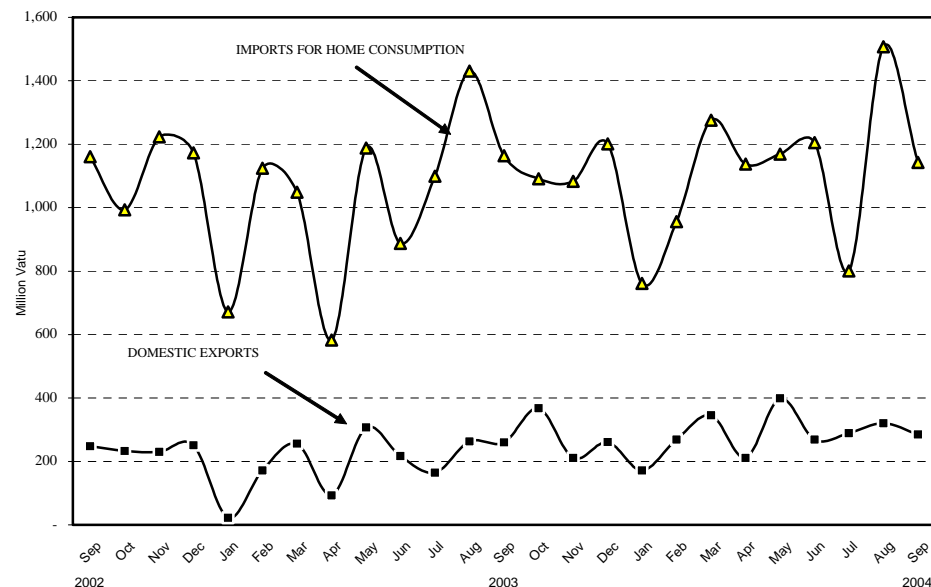


OVERSEAS TRADE – September 2004

TRADE DEFICIT



DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION



HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the September 2004 provisional trade figures, trade deficit stood at 804 million Vatu showing an improvement of 51 million Vatu compared to September 2003.
- Total imports recorded a decrease of 2.8% in September 2004 compared to the same period of 2003. This was due to a decrease of 1.8% in Imports for home consumption from 1,163 million Vatu in September 2003 to 1,142 million Vatu in September 2004.
- Domestic exports (excluding Re-export) increased by 9.2% from 261 million Vatu in September 2003 to 285 million Vatu in September 2004. This increase was mainly due to an increase in Kava, Coconut oil, Beef and Shells exports by 347.4%, 100%, 27.8% and 16.7% respectively compared to the same period of 2003.