OVERSEAS TRADE – March 2004

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- According to the March 2004 provisional trade figures, trade deficit stood at 871 million Vatu showing a deterioration of 120 million Vatu compared to March 2003, and 203 million Vatu compared to February 2004.

- Total imports recorded an increase of 21.7 % in March 2004 compared to the same period of 2003. This was due to an improvement of 21.5% in Imports for home consumption from 1,049 million Vatu in March 2003 to 1,275 million Vatu in March 2004.

- Domestic exports (excluding Re-export) showed an improvement of 35.2% from 256 million Vatu in March 2003 to 346 million Vatu in March 2004. This increase was mainly due to an increase in Sawn Timber, Copra and Beef exports by 325%, 41.7% and 13.3% respectively compared to the same period of 2003.
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