

## Indonesia Trade Indicators

	October	November
<b>Exports yoy</b>	-10.4%	-8.6%
- Oil & gas yoy	6.5%	16.4%
- Non-oil & gas yoy	-11.4%	-9.8%
<b>Imports yoy</b>	-2.4%	3.3%
- Oil & gas yoy	-4.7%	24.4%
- Non-oil & gas yoy	-1.9%	-0.4%
<b>Trade balance (USD bln)</b>	3.5	2.4
- Oil & gas balance	5.3	4.6
- Non-oil & gas balance	-1.8	-2.2
<b>Selected Export Partners yoy</b>		
China	-7.4%	-13.9%
Japan	-24.9%	-23.9%
US	-11.8%	-7.5%
ASEAN	-13.4%	-11.0%
EU	-30.4%	-16.8%
<b>Selected Import Partners yoy</b>		
China	2.9%	-3.3%
Japan	5.2%	-11.1%
US	-9.5%	-11.4%
ASEAN	13.1%	3.8%
EU	8.9%	21.0%
<b>Types of Goods Imported yoy</b>		
Consumption goods	3.8%	19.8%
Intermediary goods	-6.1%	-1.0%
Capital goods	11.1%	13.7%

Source: BPS, SSI Research

## Year-end import surge erodes November trade balance surplus

- Indonesia's trade balance surplus came in at USD 2.41bn in November (Oct: USD 3.47bn; Cons: USD 2.97bn; SSI: USD 3.7bn); the drop was mainly caused by the unexpected import surge, particularly consumer goods and fuel.
- Even though commodity prices, including coal, palm oil (CPO), and steel, continue to decline, commodity export value has remained relatively stable at USD 7.9bn (Nov: USD 8.4bn) since 2Q23, which is believed to be due to the effect of better export volumes.
- In light of the situation, we maintain our current account deficit projections for FY23 (-0.2% of GDP) and FY24 (-0.9%).

Indonesia's trade balance surplus came in at USD 2.41bn in November (Oct: USD 3.47bn; Cons: USD 2.97bn; SSI: USD 3.7bn). The drop was mainly caused by the unexpected spike in imports of 3.3% yoy (Oct: -2.4% yoy; Cons: -0.2% yoy; SSI: -9.4% yoy), which was triggered by a surge in the growth of imports of consumer goods to 19.8% yoy (Oct: 3.8% yoy) and the reversal of oil and gas imports, from a -4.7% yoy drop in October to a 24.4% yoy growth in November ahead of the Christmas and New Year holidays. The reversal caused the contraction in imports of raw materials to decline to -1% yoy (Oct: -6.1% yoy).

Export contraction eased further in November, coming in at -8.6% yoy (Oct: -10.4% yoy; Cons: -9.5% yoy; SSI: -13.3% yoy), thanks to the increase in the export value of non-oil and gas commodities, including coal, oil palm oil (CPO), and steel to USD 8.4bn (Oct: USD 8.3bn). We noticed that the value of non-oil and gas commodity exports has remained relatively stable at USD 7.9bn since 2Q23, indicating positive growth in the volume of non-oil and gas commodity exports, which is quite interesting considering the fact that commodity prices have been stuck in a slump since 2Q23 (see Chart 1). The increase in the volume of non-oil and gas commodity exports might be the main factor leading to the slowdown in export contraction rate (see Chart 2).

In light of November's results, we maintain our FY23 current account deficit projection of -0.2% of GDP. We expect the export value of non-oil and gas commodities to remain at USD 8-9bn in December. Assuming the rate of imports continues to grow in December (max. 10% mom) or even stagnates (0%), we project the 4Q23 cumulative trade balance surplus to reach USD 6.3-8.3bn with a current account deficit of USD -2bn to -3bn (or -0.6% to -0.9% of GDP in 4Q23 alone).

We also maintain our FY24 current account deficit projection at -0.9% of GDP scenario (see Chart 3). The figure matches Bank Indonesia's highest current account deficit projection (-0.1% to -0.9% of GDP).

Considering the possibility of the current account deficit widening in 2024 to close to -1% of GDP, we expect the size of BI's rate cuts in 2024 to be smaller than the Fed's. According to the FOMC's December projection, the size of the Fed's rate cuts is estimated at 75 bps. However, market players consider the projection too low, and they predict a dovish pivot of 150 bps to 4%. In light of the situation, we project the optimal size of BI's rate cut at 75 bps to 5.25% (see Chart 4).

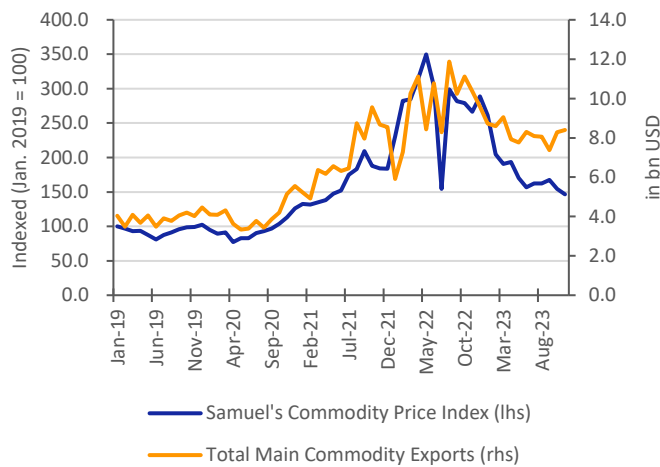
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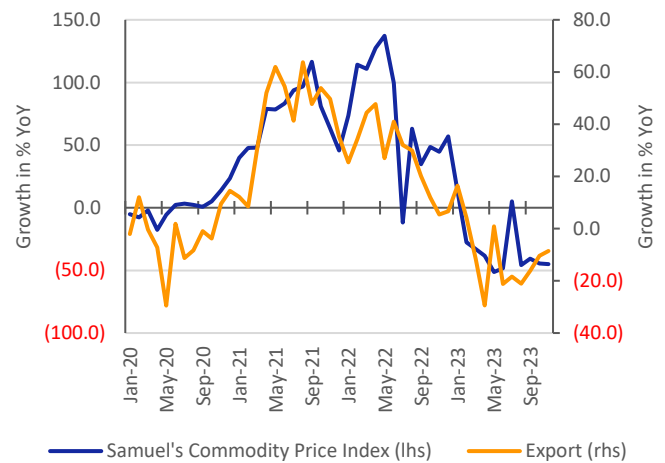
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**Chart 1. SSI's Non-Oil and Gas Commodity Export Tracker**



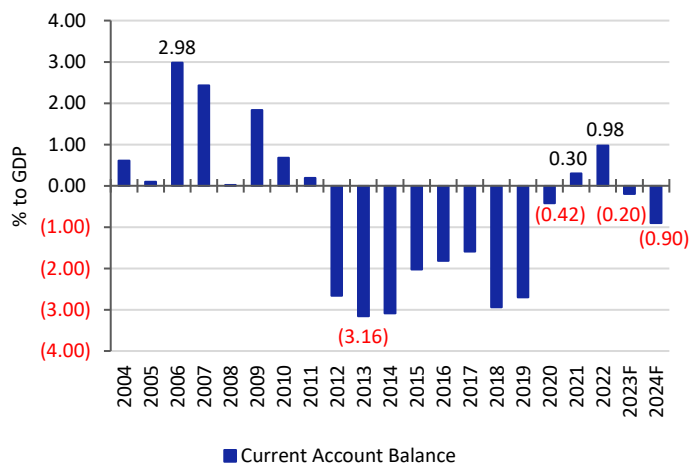
Source: BPS, SSI Research

**Chart 2. SSI's Export Performance Watcher**



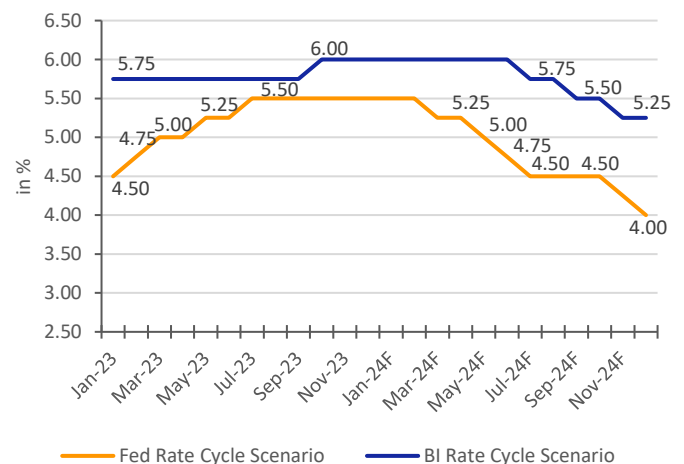
Source: BPS, SSI Research

**Chart 3. SSI's Current Account Balance Projection**



Source: BI, SSI Research

**Chart 4. SSI's Rate Cuts Projection for BI & The Fed**



Source: BI, CME Group, The Fed, Bloomberg, SSI Research

**Table 1. SSI's Forecast Table**

Indicators (% yoy)	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23F	1Q24F	2Q24F	3Q24F	4Q24F	FY22	FY23F	FY24F
Real GDP (NSA % qoq)	1.8	0.4	(0.9)	3.9	1.6	0.3	(0.9)	3.6	1.7	0.6			
Real GDP (% to GDP)	5.7	5.0	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.0	4.8
Unemployment rate (% nsa)	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.9	5.3	5.0
Consumer price	6.0	5.5	5.0	3.5	2.3	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.4	5.5	2.8	3.4
Current account balance (% to GDP)	1.3	1.3	0.9	(0.6)	(0.3)	(0.6)	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(1.0)	1.0	(0.2)	(0.9)
12M rolling sum	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.3	(0.2)	(0.6)	(0.7)	(0.8)	(0.9)			
Fiscal balance (% to GDP)	0.3	(2.4)	0.6	0.7	0.3	(2.0)	(0.4)	(1.0)	(1.5)	(2.3)	(2.4)	(2.0)	(2.3)
Policy rate, 7DRRR (%)	4.25	5.50	5.75	5.75	5.75	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.50	6.00	5.75
10-year gov't bond yield (%)	7.37	6.94	6.79	6.26	6.91	6.90	6.90	6.80	6.70	6.50	6.94	7.00	6.50
Exchange rate (USD/IDR)	15,228	15,568	14,995	14,993	15,455	15,600	15,500	15,400	15,400	15,500	15,568	15,600	15,500

Source: SSI Research

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