

# MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Dr. Kamau Thugge, CBS Governor

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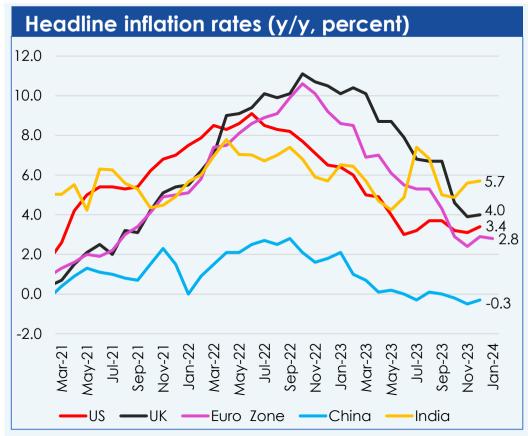
# **Monetary Policy Decision**

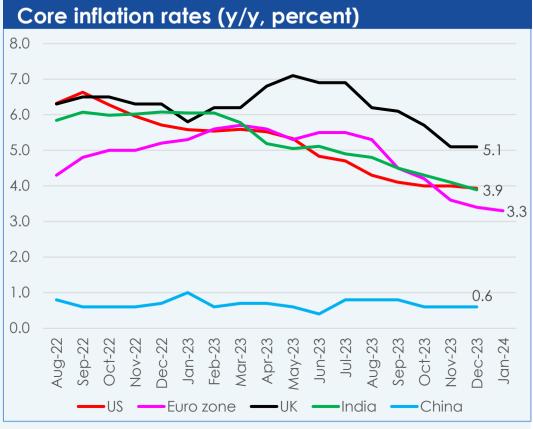
During its Meeting on February 6, 2024, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) raised the Central Bank Rate (CBR) from 12.50 percent to 13.00 percent.

- The MPC noted:
  - o Overall inflation has remained sticky in the upper bound of the target range.
  - All key components of inflation fuel, food, and NFNF had increased in January 2024.
  - o The continued, albeit reduced, pressures on the exchange rate and therefore concluded that further action was needed to stabilise prices.
  - The proposed action will ensure that inflationary expectations remain anchored, while setting inflation on a firm downward path towards the 5.0 percent mid-point of the target range, as well as addressing residual pressures on the exchange rate.
- The MPC will closely monitor the impact of the policy measures as well as developments in the global and domestic economy and stands ready to take further action as necessary in line with its mandate.
- The Committee will meet again in April 2024.

### Global inflation:

Headline inflation has continued to decline across most economies due to tight monetary policy, and lower commodity prices, particularly of oil and food.



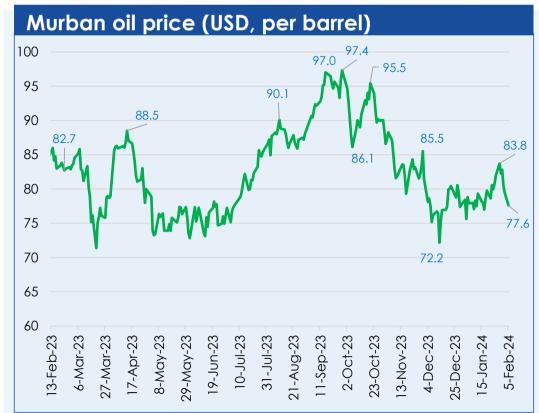


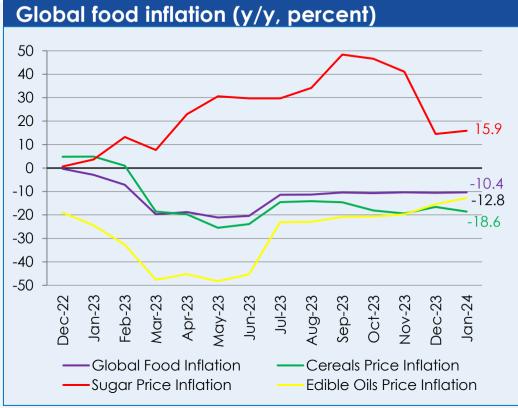
- Headline inflation rates in the US, UK and Eurozone have eased, reflecting gradual easing in core inflationary pressures due to the tight monetary policy, and moderating energy and food price inflation.
- In India inflation increased in December 2023, driven by higher food prices particularly vegetables like onions following poor harvests.
- China remained in deflation in December 2023, due to weaker domestic demand exacerbated by falling food prices.

Source: Websites of Statistics Offices/Central Banks of respective countries

# Global commodity prices:

Commodity prices in the global markets have continued to decline, but oil prices remain volatile due to heightened geopolitical risks arising from the Middle East conflict





- The price of oil averaged USD79.1 per barrel in January 2024 which is below the USD83.1 per barrel average in 2023, reflecting increased production by the non-OPEC+ countries particularly the U.S. and Brazil, which has offset supply cuts by the OPEC+ economies aimed at shoring up prices.
- The price of oil remains volatile, reflecting increased uncertainties and supply disruptions from escalation of the Israel-Palestinian conflict and attacks on commercial ships by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea.
- Global food prices fell further in January 2024, largely reflecting lower wheat and maize prices partly reflecting improved supplies from harvests in the U.S. and Argentina.
- Palm oil prices rose slightly in January 2024 due to season lower production in major producing countries and unfavourable weather conditions in Malaysia. However, prices remained below the 2023 levels
- Global sugar prices have moderated from the peak levels witnessed in 2023, largely reflecting improved supplies from Brazil.

Source: UN FAO Food Index

Source: Oilprice.com

### Global economic outlook:

Global growth is estimated at 3.1 percent in 2023 and is projected at 3.1 percent and 3.2 percent in 2024 and 2025

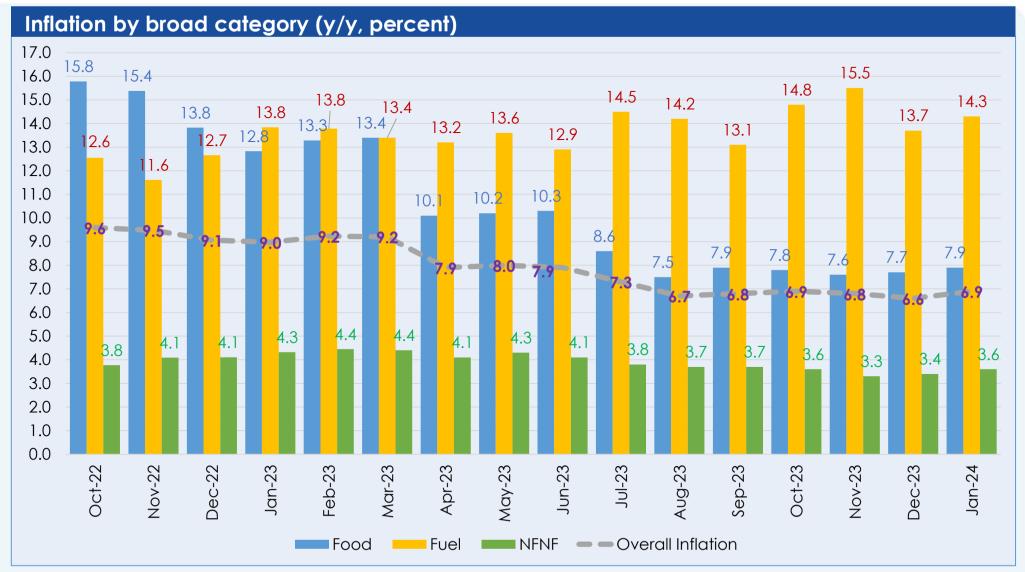
Global and selected countries' real GDP growth (y/y, percent)											
	Ĭ			2024 Proj.		2025	2025 Proj.				
	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	Jan. 2024 WEO	Difference from Oct. 2023 WEO	Jan. 2024 WEO	Difference from Oct. 2023 WEO				
World	6.3	3.5	3.1	3.1	0.2	3.2	0.0				
Advanced Economies	5.4	2.6	1.6	1.5	0.1	1.8	0.0				
United States	5.9	1.9	2.5	2.1	0.6	1.7	-0.1				
United Kingdom	7.6	4.3	0.5	0.6	0.0	1.6	-0.4				
Japan	2.2	1.0	1.9	0.9	-0.1	0.8	0.2				
Euro area	5.3	3.4	0.5	0.9	-0.3	1.7	-0.1				
Germany	2.6	1.8	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.6	-0.4				
France	6.4	2.5	0.8	1.0	-0.3	1.7	-0.1				
Italy	7.0	3.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.1				
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	6.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.1	4.2	0.1				
China	8.4	3.0	5.2	4.6	0.4	4.1	0.0				
India	9.1	7.2	6.7	6.5	0.2	6.5	0.2				
Russia	5.6	-1.2	3.0	2.6	1.5	1.1	0.1				
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.7	4.0	3.3	3.8	-0.2	4.1	0.0				
South Africa	4.7	1.9	0.6	1.0	-0.8	1.3	-0.3				
Nigeria	3.6	3.3	2.8	3.0	-0.1	3.1	0.0				
Kenya	7.6	4.8	5.1	5.0	-0.3	5.3	0.0				

- The growth outlook for 2024 has been revised upwards, reflecting stronger-than-expected U.S. growth, continued strengthening of the Chinese economy,
- Growth projections in 2024 were upward for: U.S. due to stronger than expected outcome in 2023; in China due to increased Government spending and stronger than expected growth in 2023; in India due to resilience in domestic demand; and in Russia due to high military spending and private consumption. However, growth projections for the Eurozone were revised downwards due to a lower-than-expected outcome in 2023.
- The IMF projections show that Kenya's real GDP growth is expected to remain strong in 2024 and above the global and SSA averages, mainly supported by resilient services and improved performance in agriculture.

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO)

# Domestic inflation:

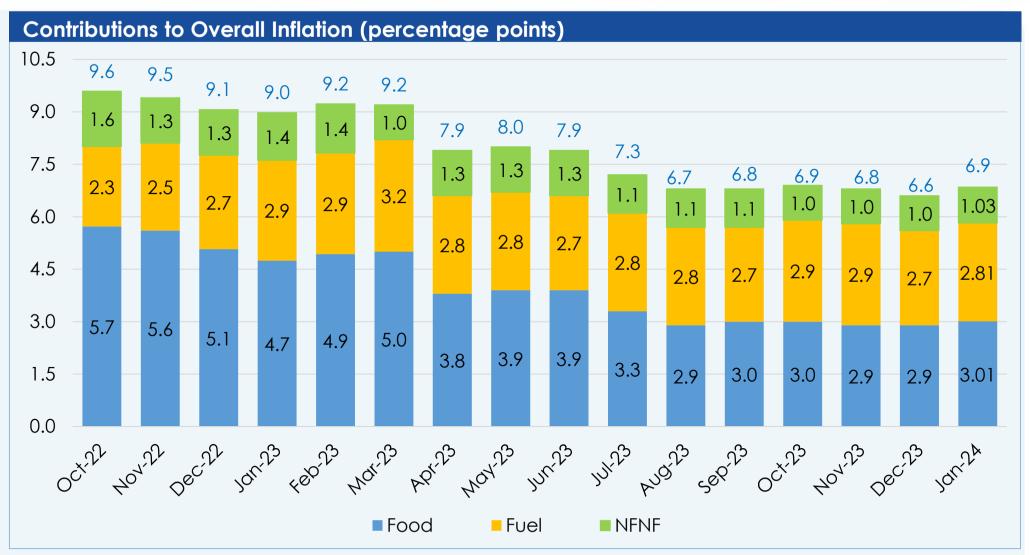
Overall inflation increased in January 2024, and remained sticky in the upper bound of the Government's target range. All the key components of inflation increased in January.



Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and Central Bank of Kenya

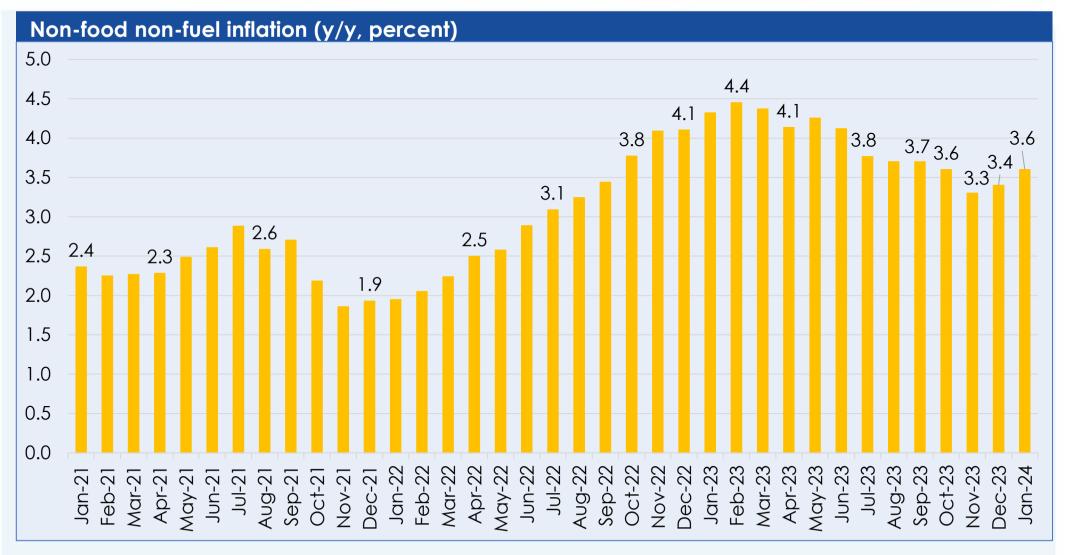
### **Domestic inflation:**

The contribution of the three components of inflation (food, fuel and NFNF) increased in January 2024



### **Domestic inflation:**

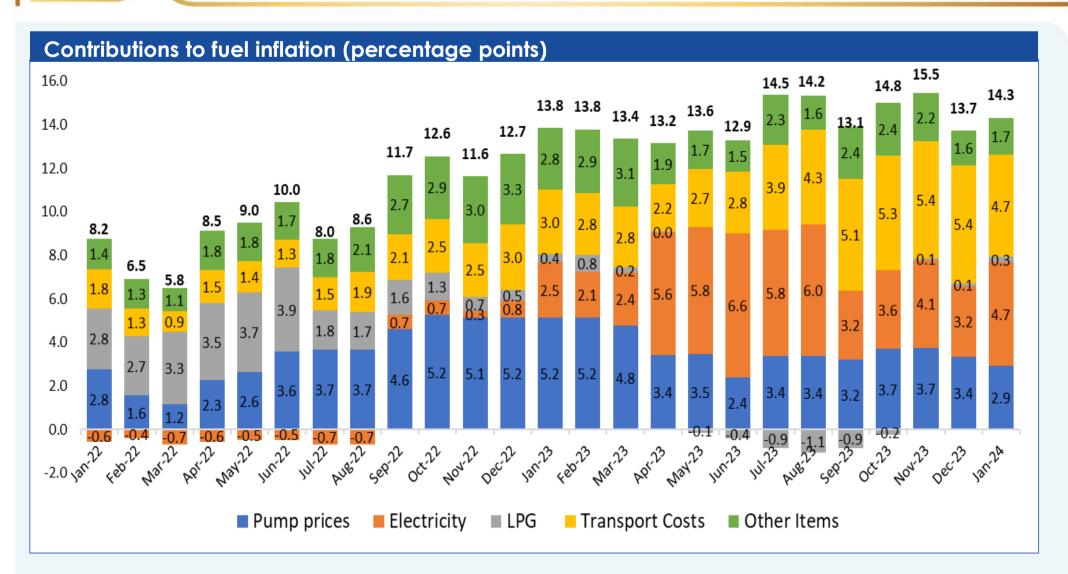
Non-food non-fuel inflation increased in January 2024, partly reflecting seasonal increases in education sector-related costs



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### Main drivers of fuel inflation:

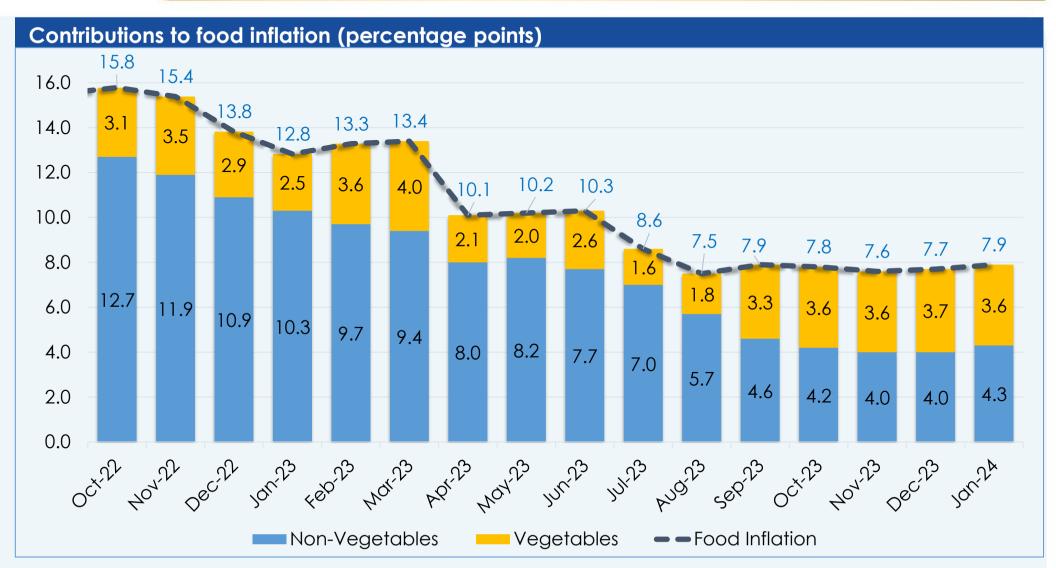
Fuel inflation increased in January 2024, largely due to higher electricity tariffs



Source: KNBS

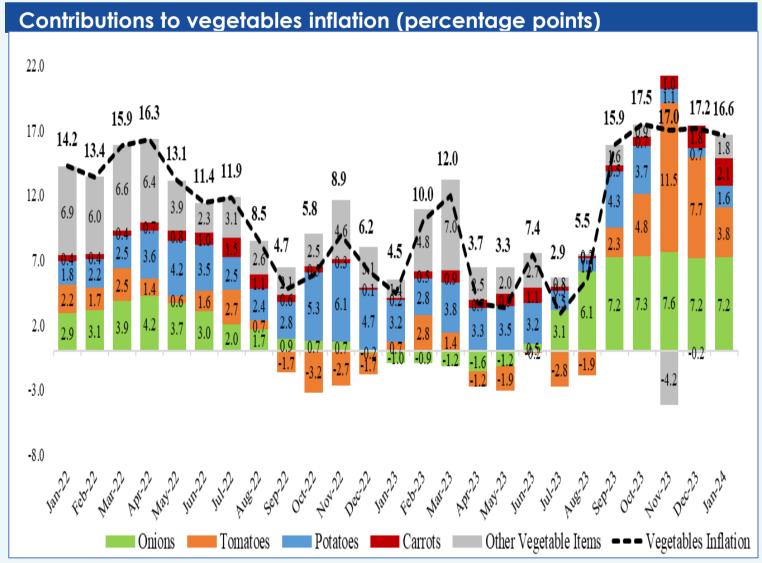
### Main drivers of food inflation:

Food inflation has remained sticky largely reflecting higher prices of a few non-vegetable items, following reduced supply partly attributed to seasonal factors



### Main drivers of vegetables inflation

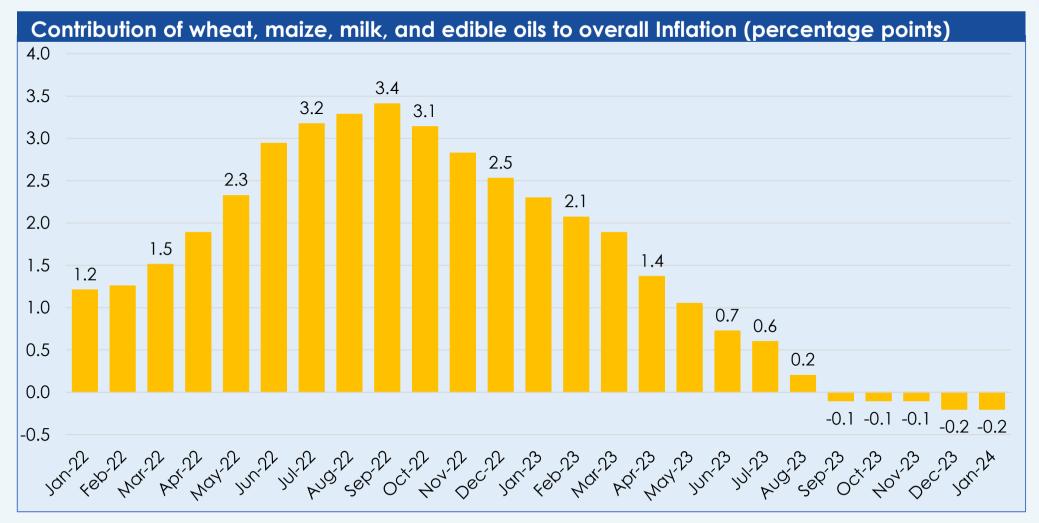
Prices of a few vegetables particularly onions, carrots, and Irish potatoes remained elevated in January 2024 due to reduced supply



- Onion prices rose by 51.4 percent year on year in January 2024, on account of higher import prices from Tanzania compared to locally produced onions.
- The January 2024 Agriculture Sector Survey shows some moderation in onion prices relative to December 2023. with respondents expecting further moderation as harvests kick in from Feb/Mar 2024.
- Prices of carrots rose by 57.2 percent year on year in January 2024, reflecting reduced supply due to excessive rains which destroyed the crop.
- Prices of potatoes rose by 10.1 percent year on year in January 2024, reflecting reduced supply.

# Main drivers of non-vegetables inflation:

Food inflation was moderated by declines in prices of key non-vegetable food items, reflecting improved supply from recent harvests and Government measures to zero-rate key food imports



### Main drivers of non-vegetables Inflation:

Sugar prices have moderated due to improving domestic and global supply



- Domestic sugar prices have moderated from the peak levels witness in mid-2023 due to improved supply, following the re-opening of sugar factories from October 2023 after shutdown for maintenance
- Additionally, implementation of Government measures to improve the supply of sugar through imports continues to moderate prices.
- Globally, sugar prices have moderated with improved supply following harvests in Brazil.

Source: KNBS

# **Domestic economy:**

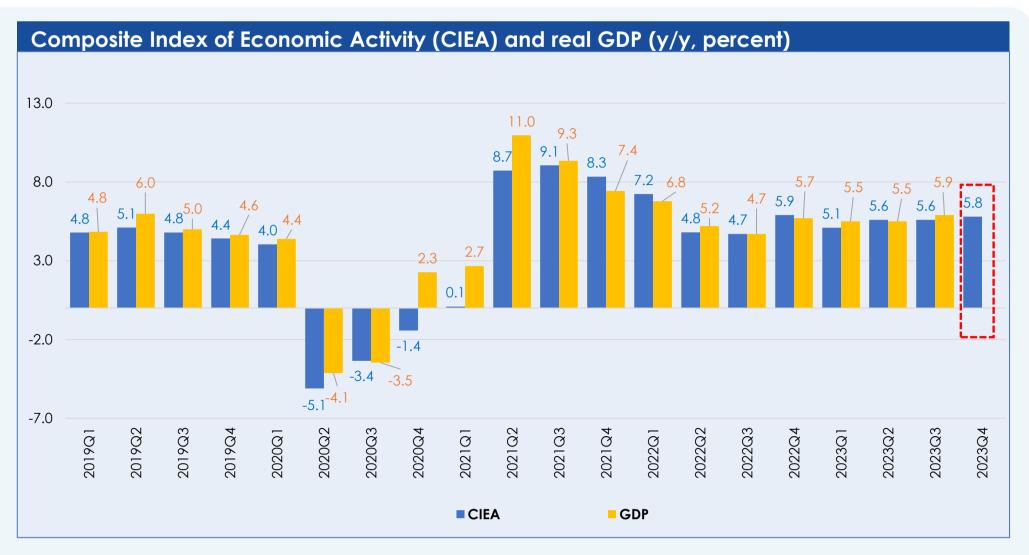
The economy is expected to remain strong in 2024, supported by the resilient services sector, improved performance in agriculture, implementation of measures to boost economic activity in priority sectors by the Government, and the improved alobal arowth outlook which is expected to benefit exports.

Real GDP growth (y/y, percent)										
					2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 Est.	Annual Est.	2024 Proj.
1. Agriculture	2.7	4.6	-0.4	-1.6	6.1	8.2	6.7	5.8	6.6	4.9
2. Non-Agriculture (o/w)	5.7	-1.4	9.5	6.3	5.3	4.8	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.9
2.1 Industry	4.0	3.3	7.5	3.9	2.5	2.0	2.8	2.4	2.4	4.0
Mining & Quarrying	4.3	5.5	18.0	9.3	3.3	5.2	1.1	1.8	3.0	4.0
Manufacturing	2.6	-0.3	7.3	2.7	2.0	1.4	2.6	1,6	1.9	2.9
Electricity & water supply	1.7	0.6	5.6	4.9	2.5	0.8	1.9	2.1	1.8	5.8
Construction	7.2	10.1	6.7	4.1	3.1	2.6	3.8	3.9	3.3	4.9
2.2 Services	6.5	-1.8	9.8	7.0	6.2	5.9	7.1	6.9	6.6	6.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	5.3	-0.4	8.0	3.8	5.7	4.2	4.8	4.9	4.9	6.2
Accommodation & food services	14.3	-47.7	52.6	26.2	21.5	12.2	26.0	14.8	18.4	14.2
Transport & Storage	6.3	-8.0	7.4	5.6	6.2	3.0	2.8	3.2	3.7	5.8
Information & Communication	7.0	6.0	6.1	9.9	9.0	6.4	7.3	7.9	7.6	8.4
Financial & Insurance	8.1	5.9	11.5	12.8	5.8	13.5	14.7	13.8	12.0	7.8
Public administration	8.4	7.0	6.0	4.5	6.6	3.8	4.2	4.3	4.7	5.6
Professional, Admin & Support Services	6.8	-13.7	7.1	9.4	7.3	5.5	9.5	7.9	7.6	6.1
Real estate	6.7	4.1	6.7	4.5	5.2	5.8	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.3
Education	5.7	-9.2	22.8	4.8	3.0	4.0	4.7	4.1	4.2	5.1
Health	5.5	5.6	8.9	4.5	5.4	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.5
Other services	4.3	-14.6	12.5	5.7	3.2	1.6	7.4	6.5	4.7	5.8
FISIM	9.5	-1.8	5.3	1.5	0.6	6.1	3.8	2.9	3.3	2.3
2.3 Taxes on products	3.9	-8.0	11.9	7.0	5.3	4.0	2.8	4.8	4.2	5.6
Real GDP Growth	5.1	-0.3	7.6	4.8	5.5	5.5	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.7

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and Central Bank of Kenya

### **Domestic economy:**

Leading indicators of economic activity point to continued strong performance in the fourth quarter of 2023



**Source:** Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and Central Bank of Kenya

# Agricultural production:

Production of key food crops in 2023 is expected to be strong for most food items due to improved weather conditions across the country

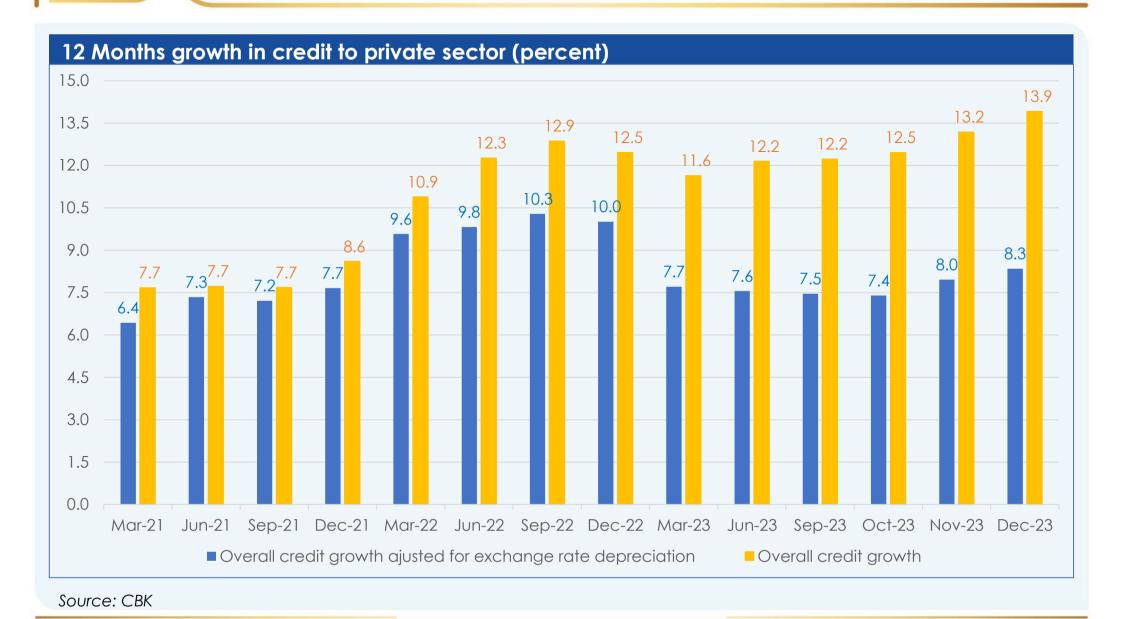
Actual and projected food crops production (million bags)										
				2023 Pr	ojections*					
	2020	2021	2022	Bags in millions	Growth (y/y, %)					
Maize	42.2	36.7	34.3	44.6	29.9					
Wheat	4.5	2.7	3.0	4.9	62.6					
Rice	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.7	-19.6					
Beans	8.6	7.4	5.7	10.3	81.3					
Irish Potatoes	21.1	23.3	20.0	28.1	40.3					
Sorghum	3.5	1.5	1.3	3.3	150.7					
Millet	1.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	61.8					

<sup>\*</sup> Projections based on the updated November 2023 projections from the Ministry of Agriculture

**Source:** Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, and Ministry of Agriculture projections as of November 2023

### Private sector credit:

Growth in credit to the private sector adjusted for exchange rate depreciation has generally slowed down reflecting the impact of monetary policy tightening



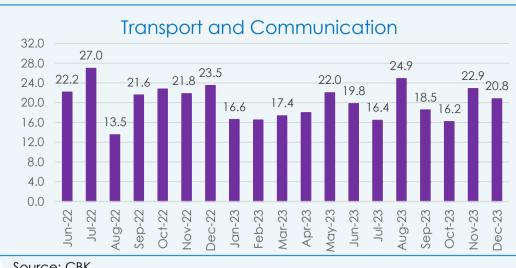
### Private sector credit:

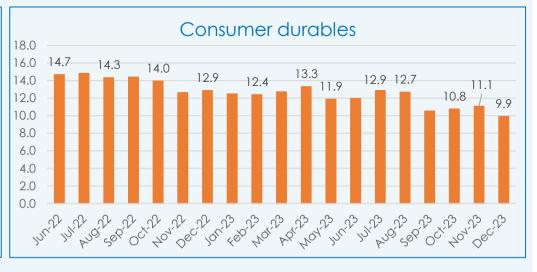
Strong growth in credit to key sectors of the economy

12 Months growth in credit to private sector (percent)









Source: CBK

Balance of payments is expected to record a narrower deficit in 2024 compared to

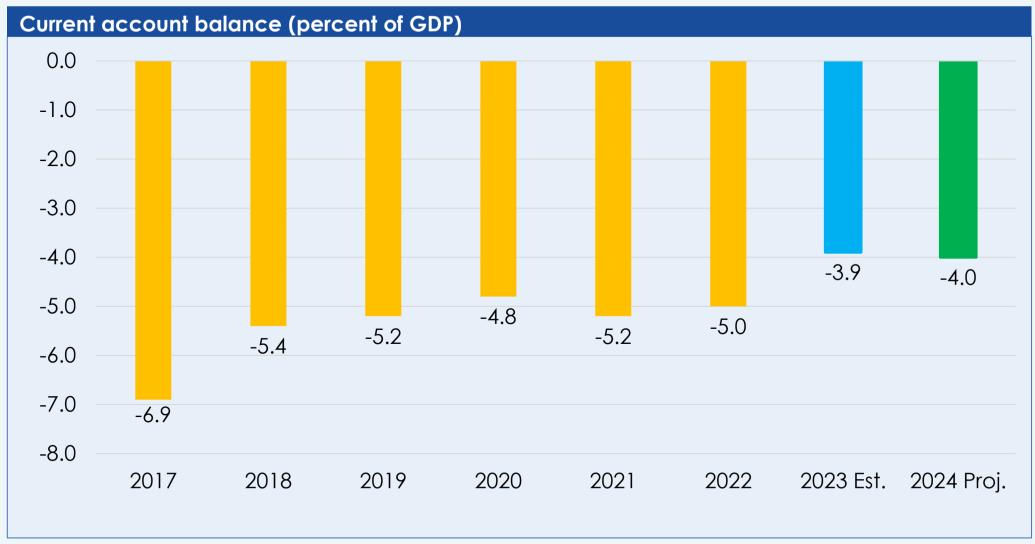
Balance of payments, in millions of U.S. dollars, unless otherwise indicated

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Est.	2024 Proj.
Current account	-5,252	-4,792	-5,748	-5,774	-4,259	-4,869
Trade balance	-10,679	-8,337	-11,052	-11,715	-9,848	-10,588
Goods: exports, f.o.b.	5,872	6,062	6,787	7,421	7,258	8,047
Tea	1,113	1,226	1,192	1,384	1,345	1,543
Horticulture	1.011	950	1,129	944	929	1,165
Manufactured Goods	402	380	512	622	686	858
Other	3,345	3,507	3,954	4,472	4,298	4,480
Goods: imports, f.o.b.	16,551	14,399	17,839	19,136	17,106	18,634
Oil products	3,314	2,219	3,474	5,548	4,802	4,840
Other	13,237	12,181	14,365	13,588	12,304	13,795
Machinery & Transport equipment	4,872	3,974	4,653	3,760	3,252	3,618
Services balance	1,748	333	1,027	1,165	632	866
Services, Credit	5,602	3,659	5,018	6,436	5,411	5,717
Transportation	2,181	1,084	1,642	2,303	1,933	2,479
Travel	1,007	545	843	1,107	1,023	1,125
Services, Debit	3,854	3,326	3,991	5,271	4,778	4,851
Transportation	1,449	1,118	1,565	2,137	1,763	1,910
Goods and services balance	-8,932	-8,004	-10,025	-10,550	-9,216	-9,721
Primary income, balance	-1,606	-1,738	-1,839	-1,740	-2,027	-2,559
Credit	217	54	62	40	Í10	124
Debit	1,823	1,791	1,900	1,780	2,137	2,682
Secondary income, balance	5,285	4,950	6,116	6,516	6,983	7,411
Credit	5,340	5,026	6,256	6,563	7,110	7,545
Remittances	2,796	3,094	3,718	4,028	4,190	4,398
Debit	55	76	140	47	127	134
Capital account	208	131	196	142	127	134
Financial Account	-4,820	-2,682	-5,851	-4,362	-3,536	-4,624
Foreign Direct Investment	-433	-569	-44	-339	-457	-465
Direct Investment, assets	37	-143	420	53	-49	45
Direct Investment, liabilities	470	427	464	392	408	510
Portfolio Investment	-468	1,321	208	712	655	781
Portfolio Investment, assets	857	1,045	1,069	481	502	693
Portfolio Investment, liabilities	1,325	-276	861	-230	-153	-88
Equity and investment fund shares	9	-276	-96	-208	-154	-88
Debt securities	1,316	0	957	-23	1	0
Other Investment	-3,919	-3,434	-6,015	-4,735	-3,734	-4,940
Other investment, assets	564	998	139	-557	2,875	2,877
Other investment, liabilities	4,484	4,432	6,154	4,178	6,609	7,817
Net errors and omissions	1,331	1,311	548	-877	-332	0
Overall balance ("-", indicates a surplus)	-1,107	668	-848	2,147	982	111
Reserves and related items	1,107	-668	848	-2,147	-982	-111
Reserve assets (gross)	953	-822	1,190	-1,528	-604	2,057
Use of Fund credit and loans to the fund (net)	-154	610	847	619	378	2,168

# 19.

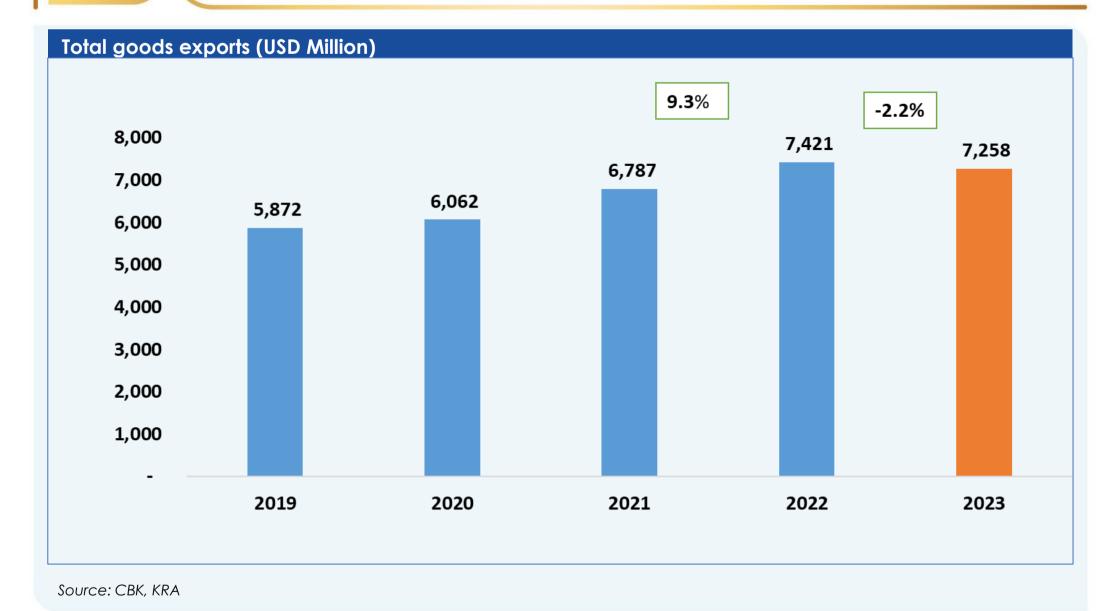
### Current account balance:

The current account deficit is estimated at 3.9 percent of GDP in 2023, down from 5.0 percent in 2022, and is projected at 4.0 percent of GDP in 2024, reflecting the expected recovery in imports, resilient remittances, and expected rebound in agricultural exports.



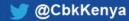
Source: CBK

Goods exports declined by 2.2 percent in 2023 compared to an increase of 9.3 percent in 2022.

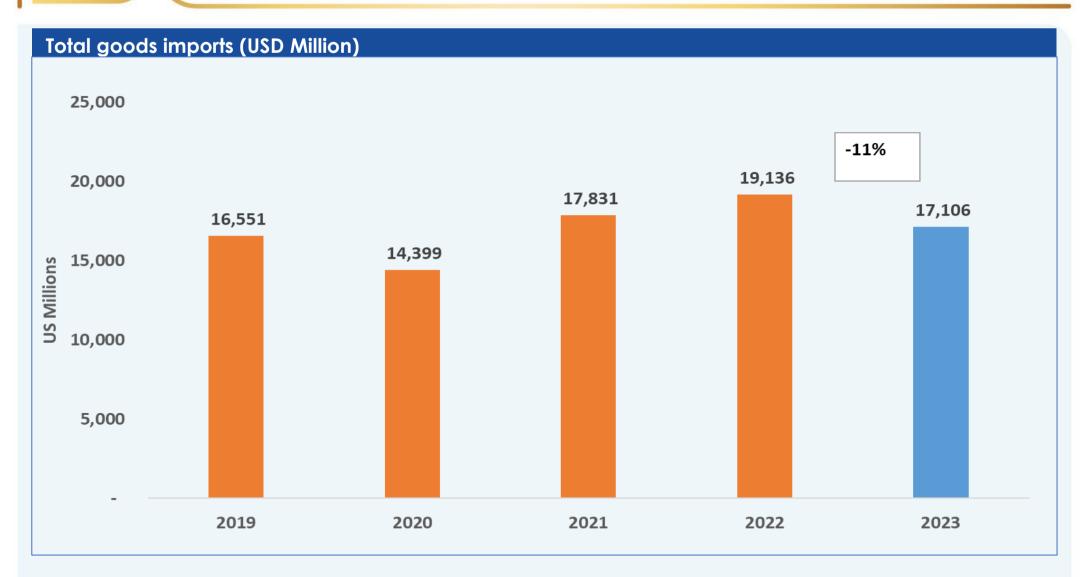


The decline in exports in 2023 was across several categories, except food, chemicals, and manufactured goods exports

Cood	a companie has producedo (IICD Milliam)							
	s exports by products (USD Million)							
SITC							% change	% change
CODES		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2021	2023-2022
0	Food and Live Animals	2,217	2,425	2,551	2,773	2,796	8.7	0.8
05	ow Vegetable & Fruits	546	622	688	584	590	(15.2)	1.0
071	Coffee & Substitutes	205	216	249	331	269	32.9	(18.7)
0741	Tea	1,113	1,226	1,192	1,384	1,354	16.1	(2.2)
1	Beverages & Tobacco	160	181	159	164	146	2.9	(10.6)
2	Crude Materials	1,015	1,015	1,286	1,256	1,204	(2.3)	, ,
29	Crude animal and veg	688	670	853	758	815	(11.1)	, ,
292711	Cut flowers	490	464	551	462	473	(16.1)	
3	Mineral Fuels	56	54	54	88	97	62.3	10.9
4	Animal & Vegetable oils	63	95	137	226	168	65.3	(25.6)
5	Chemicals and related products	447	465	522	606	623	16.2	2.8
54	Medical and Pharmac	101	102	102	103	126	1.7	21.8
55	Perfume materials	131	147	171	182	194	6.9	6.1
6	Manufactured goods	402	380	512	622	692	21.5	11.3
661	Lime, Cement ete	17	28	108	106	158	(2.0)	
67	Iron and Steel	154	139	174	233	241	33.6	3.5
7		146	113	137	120	118		
	Machinery & Transport equipment		_				(12.4)	٠,
8	Miscellenous Manufactured articles	572	566	675	689	597	2.2	(13.4)
84	Clothing accessories	341	308	389	400	319	2.9	(20.2)
	Total	5,872	6,062	6,787	7,421	7,258	9.3	(2.2)



Imports of goods declined by 10.6 percent in 2023 compared to a growth of 7.3 percent in 2022

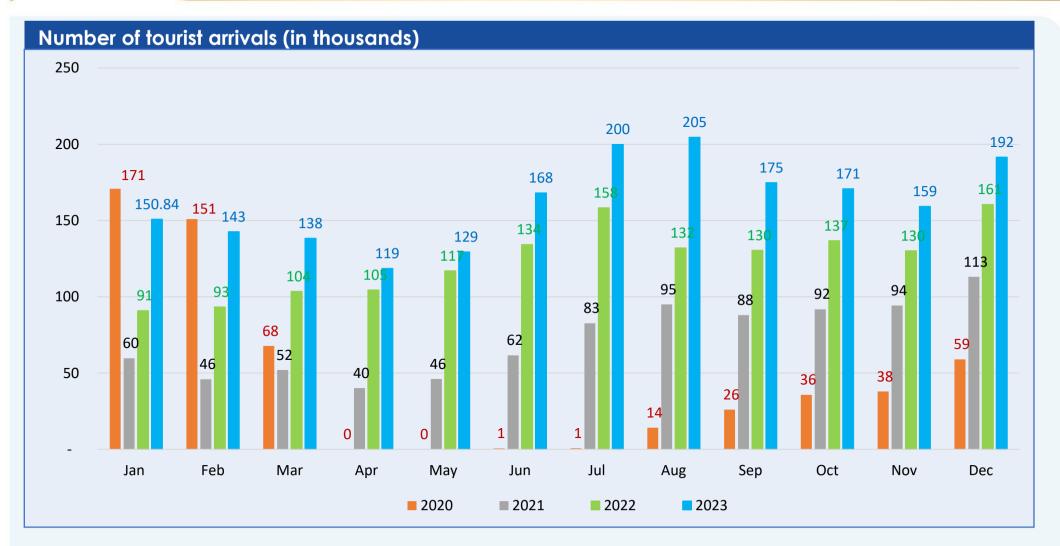


The decline in imports in 2023 reflected lower imports across all categories, except food and crude materials

Good	ds imports by products (USD Million)							
							% change	% change
SITC		2019	2020	2021	2022	2,023	2022-2021	_
0	FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS	1,770	1,582	1,873	2,094	2,370	11.8	13.2
04	of which cereals	884	827	1,067	1,227	1,319	14.9	7.5
1	BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	144	102	135	132	118	(2.2)	(10.1)
2	CRUDE MATERIALS	422	381	448	469	487	4.7	3.8
3	MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS(and Rel. mat.)	3,309	2,185	3,474	5,548	4,802	59.7	(13.4)
33	of which Petroleum Products	3,094	1,983	3,135	5,159	4,402	64.5	(14.7)
4	ANIMAL & VEGETABLE OILS, FATS & WAXES	588	885	1,100	1,215	997	10.5	(18.0)
42	of which Vegetable fat \$oils	573	863	1,047	1,138	920	8.6	(19.1)
4222	Palm oil	0	831	989	1,085	845	9.8	(22.1)
5	CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,485	2,580	3,103	3,277	2,896	5.6	(11.6)
54	Medicinal & Pharm.	645	713	806	791	649	(1.8)	(17.9)
57	Plastics in Pri. Form	531	525	738	706	586	(4.3)	(17.1)
59	Chemical Mtrls & Prdts.	321	394	368	432	392	17.4	(9.3)
6	MANUFACTURED GOODS	2,964	2,781	3,646	3,469	2,654	(4.8)	(23.5)
64	Paper, Paperboard & Articles	380	313	401	472	376	17.8	(20.3)
65	Textile Yarm, Fabrics & Articles	492	462	608	652	540	7.4	(17.3)
67	Iron and Steel	1,019	984	1,420	1,282	870	(9.7)	(32.2)
7	MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	4,872	3,973	4,371	3,760	3,252	(14.0)	(13.5)
72	Mach. for Part. Inds.	720	538	676	576	460	(14.8)	(20.1)
74	Gen. Ind.Mach.	564	585	671	545	519	(18.8)	(4.7)
77	Elec. Mach.	780	674	817	732	585	(10.3)	(20.1)
78	Road vehicles	1,193	1,056	1,302	997	835	(23.4)	(16.3)
79	Other Transport Equipment	573	248	228	207	193	(9.3)	(6.8)
8	MISCELLENEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTIC.	1,091	945	1,110	1,124	1,027	1.2	(8.6)
	Total	16,551	14,399	17,831	19,136	17,106	7.3	(10.6)

# **Services exports:**

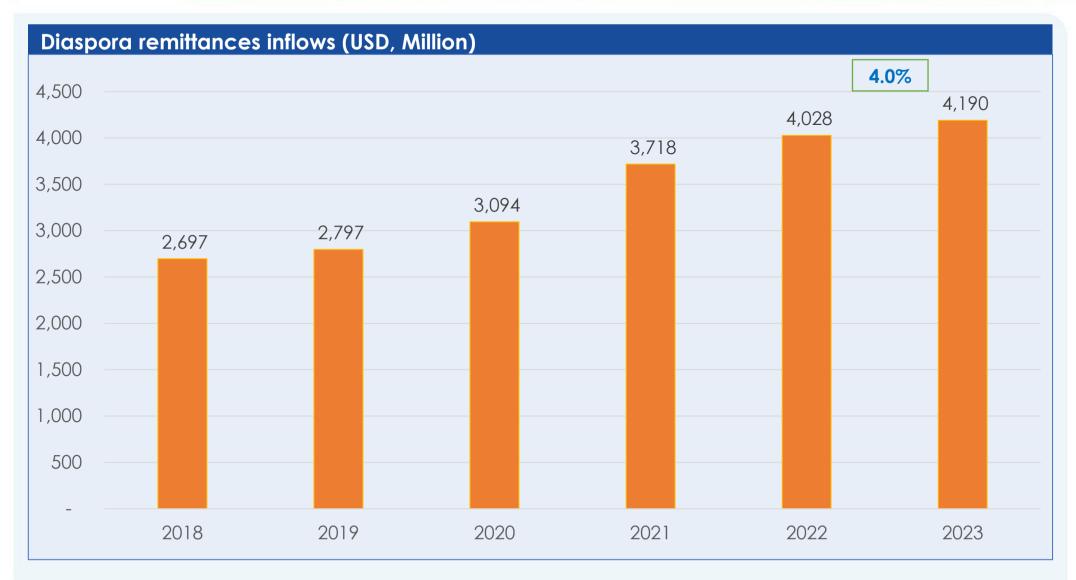
Tourist arrivals improved by 30.7 percent in 2023 compared to 2022, and were 19.3 percent higher in December 2023 compared to December 2022



Source: Kenya Tourism Board

# Diaspora remittances:

Remittances increased by 4.0 percent to USD 4,190 million in 2023 from USD 4,028 million in 2022.



Source: CBK

### Financial account:

Financial account inflows (US\$ millions)

Financial account inflows expected to support foreign exchange reserves in 2024

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 est	2024
Financial Account	(4,820)	(2,682)	(5,851)	(4,362)	(3,536)	(4,624)
Foreign Direct Investment	(433)	(569)	(44)	(339)	(457)	(465)
Direct Investment, assets	37	(143)	420	53	(49)	45
Direct Investment, liabilities	470	427	464	392	408	510
Portfolio Investment	(468)	1,321	208	712	655	781
Portfolio Investment, assets	857	1,045	1,069	481	502	693
Portfolio Investment, liabilities	1,325	(276)	861	(230)	(153)	(88)
Equity and investment fund shares	9	(276)	(96)	(208)	(154)	(88)
Debt securities	1,316	0	957	(23)	1	-

(3,919)

4,484

1,331

(1,107)

1,107

953

(154)

564

Source: CBK

**Other Investment** 

Net errors and omissions

Reserve assets (gross)

Reserves and related items

Other investment, assets

Other investment, liabilities

Overall balance ("-", indicates a surplus)

Use of Fund credit and loans to the fund (net)

(4,735)

4,178

2,147

(2,147)

(1,528)

619

(557)

(877)

(3,734)

2,875

6,609

(332)

982

(982)

(604)

378

(4,940)

2,877

7,817

111

(111)

2,057

2,168

(3,434)

4,432

1,311

668

(668)

(822)

610

998

(6,015)

6,154

139

548

(848)

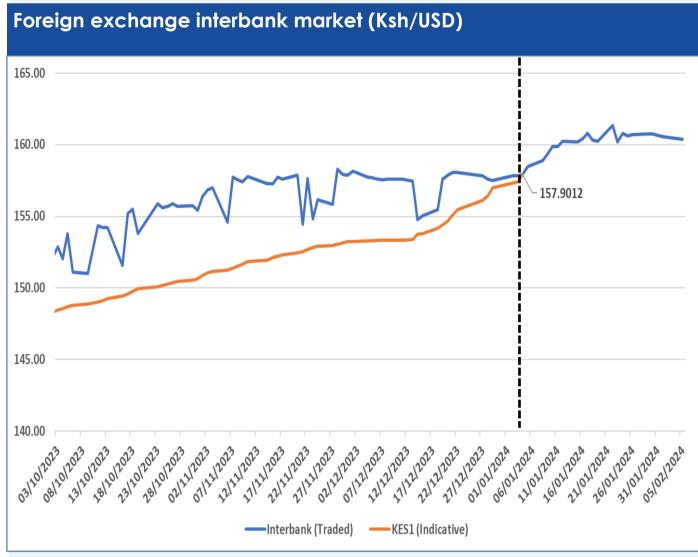
848

1,190

847

### **Exchange rate developments:**

The published exchange rate is now based on executed transactions in the interbank market

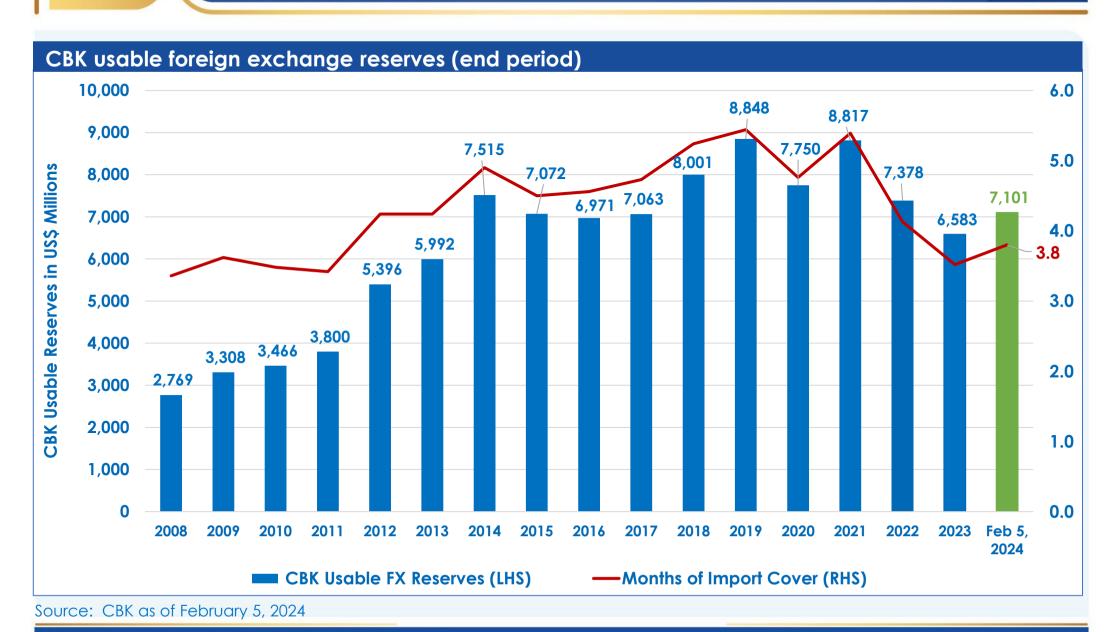


- Recent changes in the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market to streamline and improve operations in the FX interbank market are as follows:
  - Introduction of electronic matchina systems (EMS) in the interbank market
  - Requirement of maximum spread of 20 cents on indicative auotes in the interbank market removed.
  - Adoption of CBK published exchange rate (based on weighted average rate of all interbank transactions executed on previous day). Previously, published rate was based on indicative rate provided by selected major players in interbank market.

Source: CBK as of February 5, 2024

# CBK usable foreign exchange reserves:

Foreign exchange reserves remain adequate

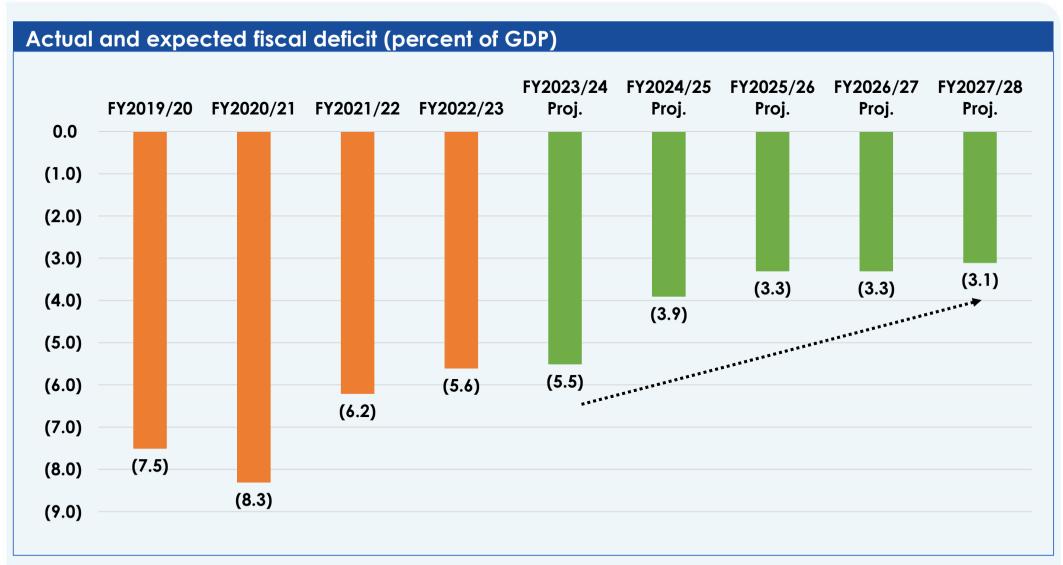


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### Fiscal performance and outlook:

The envisaged fiscal consolidation over the medium-term is expected to reduce growth of public debt and boost debt sustainability position



Source: The National Treasury

# Thank You!