

Analysis of Imports, Exports, and Basic Commodity Prices Pre and Post Finance Bill 2024

The dataset comprises four interconnected tables, each capturing a different dimension of Kenya's trade taxation and levy framework from 2023 to 2024. Together, they provide insight into changing rates, trade volumes, and the fiscal impact of new and adjusted levies.

Sheet 1 outlines key tax and levy changes effective from 1 July 2024. These include increases in the Import Declaration Fee (from 2.5% to 3%) and the Railway Development Levy (from 1.5% to 2%), as well as the introduction of an Eco Levy applied to selected products such as electronics, tires, and diapers. The VAT regime has undergone significant changes, with some previously exempt goods like bread and eggs now taxed at 16%. The VAT registration threshold also rose from KSh 5 million to KSh 8 million, exempting smaller businesses from VAT compliance.

Sheet 2 presents monthly customs revenue data for imports. It details total import values alongside the amounts collected from IDF, RDL, and VAT, as well as the net total duties revenue. The figures reveal seasonal fluctuations, with peak collections often occurring in months such as November and October. Year-on-year comparisons will be essential to quantify the revenue effects of the July 2024 rate increases.

Sheet 3 focuses on total export values by month. The data show variability across the two years, with February 2024 marking a particularly high point (over KSh 107 billion). This export performance is relevant to the broader trade balance context and may influence future tariff policy decisions.

Sheet 4 examines import values by product category for July 2023 and July 2024, specifically targeting goods affected by the East African Community's Excisable Luxury and Import Protection Levy (ELIP) and the Eco Levy. Categories like mobile phones and electronics saw a dramatic jump in reported imports — from USD 50 million to USD 116.5 million — partly due to policy changes and shifting exemptions. Furniture, footwear, and leather goods also appear in the dataset, with corresponding ELIP and Eco Levy amounts. The introduction of the Eco Levy in 2024 represents a significant new revenue stream for certain goods, particularly electronics.

In summary, the data collectively highlight how policy changes, seasonal trade flows, and targeted levies shape Kenya's customs revenue. The July 2024 adjustments — especially the Eco Levy and VAT scope expansions — are poised to influence both import behaviors and government collections, warranting close monitoring in subsequent periods.

References

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