

Jan-Sept: Georgia's Foreign Trade Up by 22.3%

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat) published the preliminary estimates of the country's foreign trade turnover on October 19. According to the information, Georgia's foreign trade turnover in January-September 2021 increased by 22.3% compared to the same period last year, reaching \$10.01 billion.

Exports increased by 24% year-over-year, reaching \$2.98 billion, while imports grew by 21.6%, to \$7.03 billion. Meanwhile, the trade deficit stood at \$4.05 billion, constituting 40.4% of the trade turnover in the first 9 months of 2021.

Geostat reported that Georgia's largest trading partner in the reporting period was Turkey with \$1.48 billion, followed by Russia with \$1.15 billion, China with \$1.08 billion, Azerbaijan with \$789.8 million, and the United States with \$562.3 million.

The second half of top 10 trading partners which amount to 69.7% of total foreign trade turnover included Ukraine, Armenia, Germany, Bulgaria and Italy.

China was Georgia's largest trading partner by exports, followed by Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Ukraine. As for the imports, those were Turkey, Russia, China, the U.S., and Azerbaijan

During the reporting period, copper ores and concentrates took the first place in the top ten exports of the country's commodity groups, although it is the only product from the largest commodity groups, whose exports decreased compared to the first 9 months of last year.

The second on the list of export commodities was cars – \$338.2 million; fol-



Turkey, Russia, China, Azerbaijan, and the United States were Georgia's largest trading partners by turnover.

lowed by ferroalloys – \$316.5 million; wine or fresh grapes – \$166.8 million; spirits – \$105.8 million; mineral waters – \$104.1 million; medicines – \$72.6 million; nuts – \$0 million; nitrogen fertilizers – 65.5 million; t-shirts – \$49.12 million; other commodities – \$1.1 billion.

The share of domestic exports (export of locally produced goods and services, including those of foreign origin that have been substantially changed through local processing) in total exports constituted 72.7% and amounted to \$2.16 billion,

25.9% higher to the same period of 2020.

The top trading partners were: China (\$453.8 million), Russia (\$388.7 million) and Turkey (\$220.8 million).

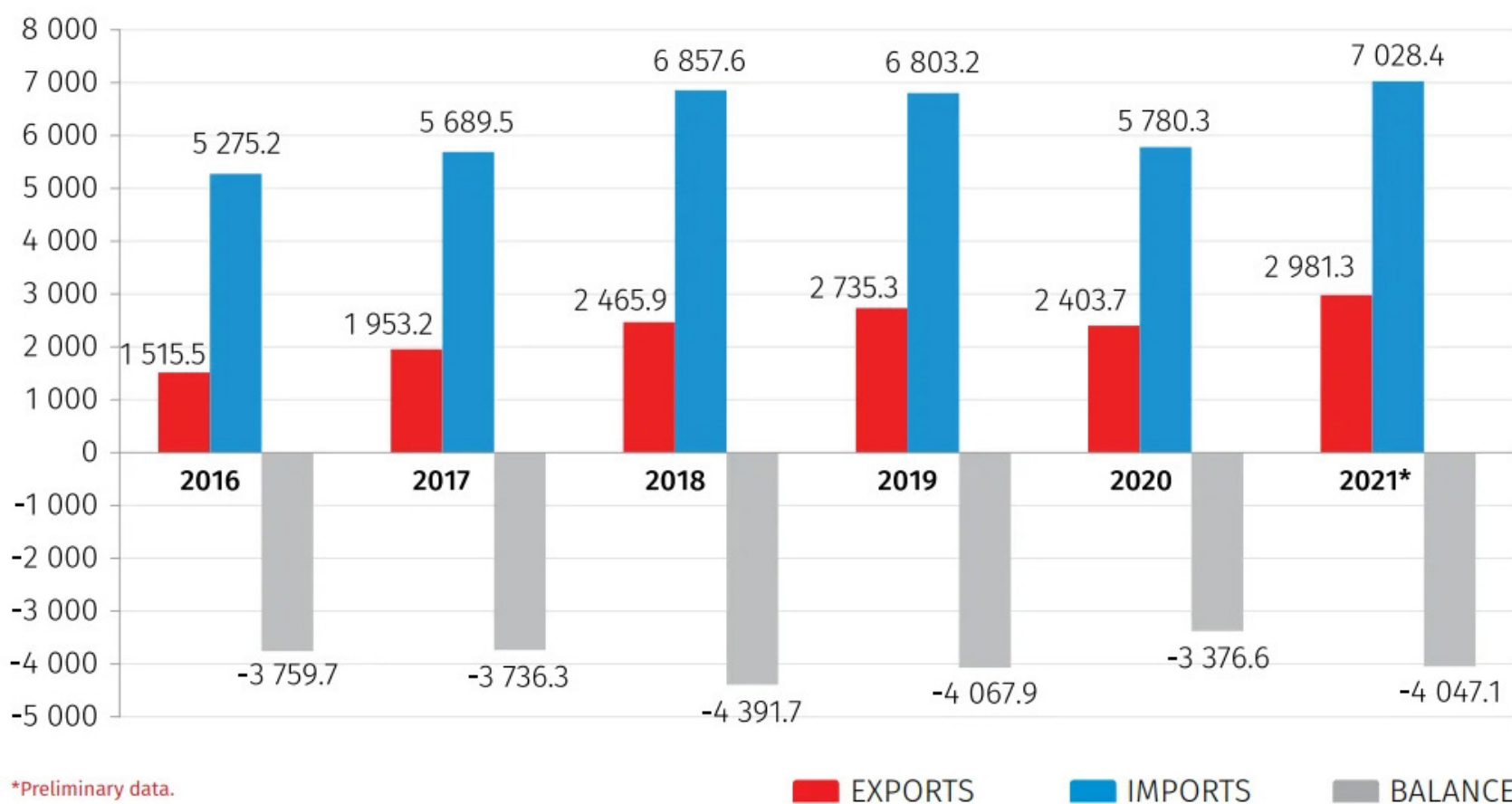
In January-September 2021, copper ores and concentrates reclaimed the first place in the list of top export items (26.4%).

The exports of ferroalloys totalled \$316.5 million and their share in the total exports amounted to 14.6%, wine of fresh grapes occupied the third place standing at \$165.7 million and constitut-

ing 7.6% of the total exports.

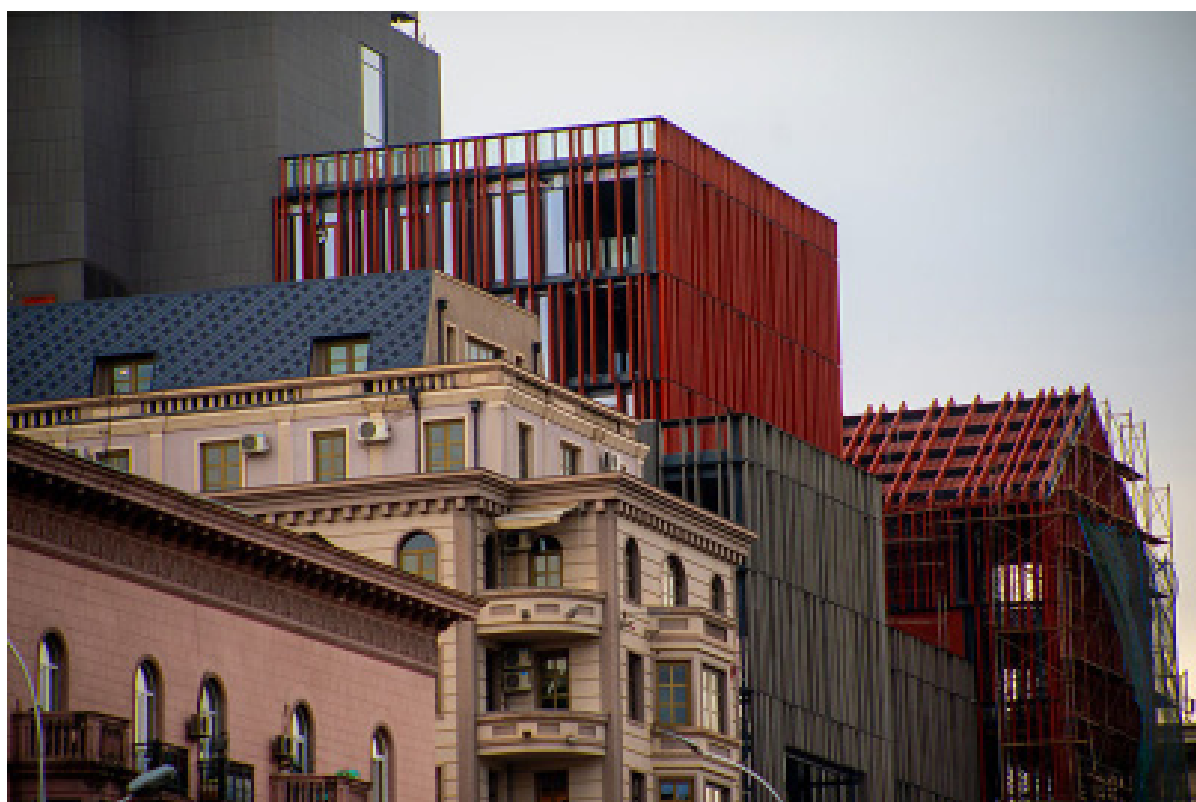
In terms of import, cars held the first place with \$632.5 million; followed by petroleum oils – \$576.3 million; copper ores and concentrates – \$530.2 million; medicines – \$257.3 million; petroleum gases – \$207.4 million; telephone sets – \$157.6 million; automatic data processing machines – \$110.9 million; vehicles for the transport of goods – \$86.1 million; vaccines, blood, and immune products – \$84.3; wheat and meslin – \$67.8 million; other commodities – \$4.3 billion.

GENERAL DATA ON EXTERNAL TRADE OF GEORGIA IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2016-2021 (MILLION US DOLLARS)



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1369; Euro - 3.6573; GBP - 4.3355; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.3981; Swiss Franc - 3.3852

ADB provides \$10 Million Loan to Develop Affordable Housing Projects in Georgia



The project will provide 3,700 affordable and energy-efficient apartments for people on low- to middle incomes.

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

On October 19, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and local company Optima signed a \$10 million loan to develop affordable and sustainable residential housing developments in the Georgian capital city of Tbilisi, the ADB reported.

According to the official statement, the loan will finance two residential complexes of 3700 affordable and energy-efficient houses for the low and middle-income populations. The loan is unprecedented as it is ADB's first private sector housing project in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The majority of buildings in Georgia were built during or before the soviet era and lack recreational areas, parking facilities, and elevators. Accessibility to public spaces for the elderly, people with disabilities, women, and children are also below the high standard. As ADB reported, in 2019, the government of Georgia presented a plan to facilitate sustainable urban development, spatial planning, and inclusive infrastructure in the capital.

"The project aims to modernize affordable housing in Tbilisi by incorporating inclusiveness into the design and adopting gender-responsive and accessibility standards. These housing devel-

Optima is a subsidiary of m2 Group and Georgia Real Estate (GRE), one of Georgia's leading residential and commercial real estate companies.

opments demonstrate how the industry can generate affordable and quality housing for low- to middle-income communities in Georgia and throughout the region," said ADB Private Sector Operations Department Director of Infrastructure Finance for South Asia, Central Asia, and West Asia Shantanu Chakraborty.

According to ADB Country

Director for Georgia Shane Rosenthal, the apartments will be affordable, energy-efficient, and well-built, providing the elderly, people with disabilities, women, and children with appropriate accommodation. "ADB's loan is part of our ongoing commitment to the development of livable cities in Georgia," he noted.

Optima is a subsidiary of m2

Group and Georgia Real Estate (GRE), one of Georgia's leading residential and commercial real estate companies. According to Nikoloz Medzmariashvili, Group Chief Executive Officer of m2, it is important to note that the design of the buildings will be aimed at introducing high standards of energy efficiency and accessibility.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Doctors Enter Rustavi 12th Penitentiary Facility to Examine Mikheil Saakashvili's Health

Doctors entered Georgia's 12th prison facility in Rustavi to assess the health of Mikheil Saakashvili, the country's third president. Before entering the prison, the medics made no comments to the media.

Weather

Wednesday, October 20

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 15°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 6°C

Thursday, October 21

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 15°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 7°C

The doctors' council, which will assess Saakashvili's health, is made up of six doctors. It will be determined at the end of the consultation if Saakashvili will need to be hospitalized due to his 19-day hunger strike.

Melia Invites Kaladze to a Face-To-Face Debate

Nika Melia, head of the United National Movement and opposition Tbilisi mayoral candidate, challenges Kakha Kaladze, Georgian Dream Tbilisi mayoral candidate, to an open debate.

"The coalition program and the multi-party team will become an important stage in the rapid development of Tbilisi.

We will talk about this in detail tomorrow - whether it is a 100 GEL supplement to the pen-

sion, or a free food program for Tbilisi high schools, economic development of the city or infrastructure. Everything that was announced and much more detail tomorrow.

In response, the incumbent mayor of Tbilisi, instead of talking about the problems of Tbilisi, went for a campaign of hatred, which is very unfortunate.

I invite Mr. Kaladze to participate in an open debate. Let us openly educate the people of Tbilisi about our ideas and how we intend to solve their concerns!

At any time, on any channel - not in a staged discussion, but in a genuine face-to-face debate! Let us discuss our capital, which is greater than politics, without anger and insults," said Nika Melia on Facebook.



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