Due to this situation with Coronavirus, most businesses are operating from home-office. In case of need, please contact us through our Key Personnel mobile phones on our website (williams.com.br)

BRAZIL TRADE BALANCE HAS BIGGEST FEBRUARY SURPLUS IN FIVE YEARS

Brazil recorded a US$ 4.050 billion trade surplus in February, the strongest performance for the month in 5 years, said the Ministry of Economy on Thursday 3. The monthly result was 108.9% above that of February 2021, when the trade surplus recorded 1.8 billion dollars. Exports surged 32% from February last year to US$22.913 billion. Imports increased by 22.9% to US$18.864 billion. The two indicators are the highest for the month in the historical series that started in 1997. Agriculture registered the highest growth by sector in February, rising 114.2% in the daily exports average. Brazil had a trade surplus of US$61.2 billion in 2021, the highest value in the historical series that started in 1989. The government projected in January a new record of US$79.4 billion this year.
Sources: Reuters/Globo Rural Magazine (*Translated by Ia Niani)

BRAZIL'S GDP GREW 4.6%, OVERCAME PANDEMIC LOSSES

Brazil's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ended 2021 with a 4.6% growth, totaling BRL 8.7 trillion (about USD 1.7 trillion at the current rate). This advance recovered the losses of 2020 when the Brazilian economy shrank 3.9% due to the pandemic. The per capita GDP reached BRL 40,688 (about USD 8,060); a 3.9% increase relative to the previous year (-4.6%). Data are from Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). According to the survey, economic growth was driven by expansion in services (4.7%) and industry (4.5%). All services activities thrived in 2021, particularly transport, storage, and shipping (11.4%). Agriculture, which expanded in 2020, dropped 0.2% in 2021 due to drought and frost. "Despite the annual growth in soybean production (11.0%), important crops recorded a decline in estimated production and loss of productivity in 2021, such as sugarcane (-10.1%), maize (-15.0%), and coffee (-21.1%)," said Palis.
Sources: ANBA – Brazil-Arab News Agency/Datamar News

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE CONFIRMS THAT RUSSIA SHIPPED FERTILIZERS TO BRAZIL ON THE 4TH

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply (Mapa) confirmed that the Russian company Acron shipped a load of fertilizer bound for Brazil last Friday (4). However, the governmental body did not inform the cargo volume or give further specifications. The Ministry's announcement occurred after the Russian government advised enterprises in the country to halt fertilizer exports. Acron is interested in purchasing the Nitrogen Fertilizer Unit (UFN-III), located in the municipality of Três Lagoas, from Petrobras. The contract's signing was contingent solely on the permission of Petrobras' governance area. Although the companies did not inform the figures involved in the transaction, the government of Mato Grosso do Sul reported that Petrobras spent more than R$ 3 billion to build the factory. However, part of that money was lost with the deterioration of the equipment over the years, since the suspension of the work in 2014.
Sources: Canal Rural/Datamar News

BUNKER OIL PRICES RISE AND PUT EXTRA PRESSURE ON MARITIME FREIGHT

Despite Petrobras' efforts to avoid passing on the costs of rising oil quotas in gas and diesel prices, sea freight is already feeling the effects of the Ukraine war as bunker oil prices rise. According to S&P Global Platts, these products reached a historic record in Latin America. In the Port of Santos prices are approaching US$ 1,000 (R$ 5,000) per tonne. Unlike gasoline and diesel, whose prices are defined by an internal Petrobras committee that assesses the evolution of market conditions, the prices of navigation fuel are changed daily. On Tuesday (1st), according to S&P Global Platts, the bunker with 0.5% sulfur, most used in the engines of large vessels, hit US$ 798 (about R$ 4,000) per tonne in Santos. According to Abac (Brazilian Association of Cabotage Shipowners), the price reached US$ 900 (R$ 4,500) this Thursday (3). Marine diesel, reached US$893 a tonne on Tuesday. The president of Abac, Luiz Resano, says that the large ships usually have large fuel stocks, but they will soon start buying products with the highest prices.
Sources: Folha de S. Paulo/Datamar News

MBAGRO EXPECTS RECOVERY IN SUGARCANE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR

The managing partner of the MBAgro consultancy, José Carlos Hausknecht, said that Brazil's sugarcane production is likely to recover this year, despite downward trends. "The sugar-alcohol sector was affected by the drought, but only to some extent, for sugarcane production is more concentrated in São Paulo where weather conditions were better than last year. This year, we have a recovery in production", said Hausknecht during a live broadcast by Broadcast Agro on Thursday, 3. He recalled that sugarcane production in Brazil dropped significantly last year due to drought and frost. "Since the crop is still under the effects of the drought, the production will not return to normal levels yet. So there will be restriction. Although better than last year, sugarcane production will be lower than normal," he said. He also pointed out that prices are still at good levels because Brazil is producing below its potential and because oil prices have soared. "With higher ethanol prices, sugar production and exports tend to decline," he said.
Sources: Agência Estado/Nova Cana (*Translated by Ia Niani)

SOUTH AMERICA'S 2021/22 SOYBEAN OUTPUT FORECAST AT 181.84 MILLION TONS

South America's soybean output is expected to reach 181.84 million tons in 2021/22, 8% below last season (198.35mt). A new historical record is expected for the planted area of 62.71 million hectares, which is slightly above the 62.66 million hectares projected in the previous report, released in November by DATAGRO, and 2% higher than the 61.43 million hectares harvested in the 2020/21 season. "Despite the good level of use of inputs, the new projection for the average productivity takes into account the severe losses caused by scarce and irregular rains during the months of November to January in the producing region, including the Center-South of Brazil, Paraguay and part of Argentina and Uruguay", said Flávio Roberto de França Junior, grain coordinator at DATAGRO. For Brazil, the world's largest soybean producer, production is estimated at 130.26 million tons, with an area forecast at 40.87 million hectares, compared to 39.18 million hectares in 2020/21.
Source: DATAGRO (*Translated by Ia Niani)

BRAZIL'S NORTHEAST TO CONSOLIDATE BIOGAS AND BIOMETHANE SUPPLY

As a diverse source of clean and renewable energy, sugarcane has succeeded in the trajectory of the sugarcane industry. In addition to sugar, ethanol and bioelectricity, the production portfolio of the plants in Brazil's Northeast will soon include the supply of biogas and biomethane. According to Renato Augusto Pontes Cunha, president of Novabio and Sindaçucar (PE), the initiative brings important improvements to the country's energy security, as well as greenhouse gas emissions reduction in the electricity and transport sectors. "Biogas is a renewable alternative to replace natural gas of fossil origin. In the electricity sector, in terms of logistics and production costs, the new version of the gas has several advantages. Unlike its competitor extracted from oil, biogas can be produced by using agricultural and urban waste as raw materials", said Cunha.
Source: Jornal Cana (*Translated by Ia Niani)

MINISTER SAYS BRAZIL HAS FERTILIZERS UNTIL OCTOBER

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, Tereza Cristina, said on Wednesday, 2, that Brazil has enough fertilizers for planting until October and that the government has been working since last year with alternatives to ensure supply for the sector. "The second crop of corn is already happening, so needed fertilizers are already guaranteed. The summer harvest, which will be at the end of September, October, is a

concern, but we also have confirmation from the private sector that there is enough transit stock to arrive by October", said the minister. Brazil is already working on the search of new partners in the event of a decrease in the receipt of fertilizers from Russia and Belarus. Mapa has a monitoring group that constantly talks with industries, producers, logistics and infrastructure. Embrapa is studying alternatives to increase planting efficiency with less use of fertilizers. The government will launch in the coming days the National Fertilizer Plan developed to reduce Brazil's dependence on fertilizer imports. Currently, Brazil is the fourth global consumer of fertilizers, responsible for about 8% of this volume and is the largest importer in the world. Russia is responsible for supplying about 25% of fertilizers to Brazil.
Sources: Brasilagro/União Nacional de Bioenergia – UDOP (*Translated by Ia Niani)

BRAZIL'S VERDE AGRITECH TO EXPAND POTASH PRODUCTION
Verde Agritech announced on Thursday (3) it will accelerate investments to expand potash production in the state of Minas Gerais. Verde's founder, Cristiano Veloso, aims to be decisive for Brazil's self-sufficiency in potash production, explaining that Verde also offers a sustainable product due to its production process. The company's potash mine in Brazil has 777.28 million tons in reserve, and 1.4 billion tons in resources, which is important for meeting the targets. "The mine's resources are capable of making Brazil self-sufficient for more than 60 years", said the CEO. The company said that the second production facility should start production in the third quarter, with an operational capacity of 1.2 million tons per year and should have its capacity increased to 2.4 million tons by the fourth quarter, raising the total output to 3 million tons per year. Verde Agritech said it should be the largest producer of potash in Brazil.
Source: Reuters (*Translated by Ia Niani)

COMPANHIA DAS DOCAS IN RIO DE JANEIRO GROW 55.4% IN JANUARY
The Port Authority that manages the Ports of Rio de Janeiro, Itaguaí, Niterói, and Angra dos Reis, Companhia Docas do Rio de Janeiro (CDRJ), started 2022 with a good financial and operational performance. The company ended the month of January with revenues of BRL 64.3 million, an increase of BRL 22.9 million when compared to December 2021, 55.4%. January 2022 revenues were boosted by iron ore export terminals, which provided BRL 40.5 million (63.0%) to the total of the month. Figures show that the Port of Rio de Janeiro had significant revenues of BRL 17.8 million, surpassing by 3.9% the average billed for the whole year of 2021, a direct reflection of the growth in container handling, the main cargo at the port. Other highlights can be attributed to the movement of crude iron, with an increase of 0.094 million tons (183.4%), and to steel products, which reached 0.086 million tons (142.6%), compared to January last year.
Source: Portos e Navios (*Translated by Ia Niani)

NEW IRON ORE PROJECT IS CONFIRMED FEASIBLE IN BAHIA
Tombador Iron, listed on the Australian stock exchange, announced the Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) results of its Tombador iron ore project, in the municipality of Sento Sé, in the state of Bahia, controlled by its subsidiary Tombador Iron Mineração. The PFS, which was prepared by the consultancy GE21, confirms the project's ability to produce high-grade ore and generate strong returns over the mine's lifetime, according to the company. According to the study, ore reserves amount to 5.590mt of ore with 65.5%Fe, which would allow the production of 1.2mt/y over five years. "PFS confirms that we have a great project, capable of delivering strong financial returns," said Gabriel Oliva, CEO of Tombador Iron. He also added that the company's current focus is "to increase sales volumes in the domestic and export markets to have sales compatible with the desired production volumes," which are based solely on proven and probable reserves.
Sources: Brasil Mineral/Datamar News

THE PORT OF SANTOS SAW A 16% INCREASE IN CARGO HANDLING IN 2022
The Port of Santos began the year with a 16% increase in cargo handling (10.6 million tonnes), setting a new high for the month of January, owing primarily to shipments of cellulose, corn, and soybeans. Solid bulk increased 29.8% over the same period in 2021, thanks to the shipments of soybeans and corn. Liquid bulk also performed well, rising 8.6% with emphasis on fuel oil and caustic soda operations. Finally, loose general cargo grew 63% due to the increase in pulp, iron, and steel shipments. In terms of exports, the shipment of 655 thousand tonnes of pulp (+72%), 1 million tonnes of corn (+67%), as well as 1.3 million tonnes of soybeans (+51.2%) stood out in the month. In terms of imports, the highlight was the unloading of 767 thousand tonnes of fertilizers, a growth of 9.8%. The participation of the Port of Santos in the Brazilian Trade Balance reached 28.3% in January 2022.
Source: Datamar News

A GRAIN TERMINAL IN THE PORT OF SANTOS WILL BE PUT UP FOR BID ON THE 30TH
The National Waterway Transportation Agency (Antaq) recently approved, on the 4th, the notice of the leasing of terminal STS 11, used for handling solid vegetal bulk. The terminal is located in the Paquetá region, on the right bank of the Port of Santos. The auction is expected to take place on March 30th at B3, São Paulo's stock exchange. The STS11 shall receive total investments worth R$ 764.8 million, according to the latest values issued by the Federal Audit Court (TCU). These funds will be used to modernize agribusiness operations in the region by increasing the terminal's capacity to handle soybeans and soy bran, corn, sugar, and wheat. After construction, the terminal will feature two exclusive mooring berths and will be able to store 490 thousand tonnes and handle 14.5 million tonnes per year. The lease will be valid for 25 years.
Source: Datamar News

THE NUMBER OF VESSELS REFUELING AT THE PORT OF PARANAGUÁ IS INCREASING
The number of vessels docking at the Portos do Paraná-controlled area to replenish their fuel stood in the month. The service has increased both in volume and number of procedures. Last January, a total of 27,737 tonnes refueled 50 vessels at the Port of Paranaguá. In the same period the previous year, the port supplied 16 thousand tonnes for 30 ships. This upward trend is expected to linger a little longer. According to the Operations Director, Luiz Teixeira da Silva Júnior, only Paranaguá and Rio Grande supply VLSFO 0.5% (Fuel oil with a low sulfur content of 0.5%) in the southern part of Brazil. The vessels that request calls at the Port of Parangua for refueling are ships that operate at Paranguá terminals and vessels that arrive only for fuel. In the ports of Paraná, Petrobrás is the only supplier of vessel fuel.
Source: Datamar News

IMPORTANT NOTICE: In order to facilitate the documents issuance all messages related to Documentation (Documentary Instructions/BsL /Mate's Receipt /Others) for the vessels in Santos Port, should be sent to the new e-mail doc.santos@williams.com.br

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