



PRICE DEVELOPMENTS REPORT AUGUST 2023

This report is prepared on a monthly basis using monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data from the Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

Report No.2: 2023/24

August 2023

The **Headline Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for the month under review contracted by 0.9 percent when compared to the previous month but was 2.3 percent higher than its level in August 2022. Accountable for this decrease over the month was the decline in its imported component by 1.6 percent while its local component remained the same.

As a result, the **annual average headline inflation rate dropped further to 10.3 percent** from 11.5 percent in July 2023 but was at the same level when compared to the same month of last year. This was due to decreases in both imported inflation to 11.2 percent (from 13.3 percent) and local inflation went down slightly to 9.3 percent (from 9.4 percent) over the previous month.

In terms of individual subgroups, the “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” sub-index recorded a 1.7 percent drop during the month due to reductions in its imported component by 2.1 percent (mainly lower prices for chicken leg quarter, sugar, mutton flaps, cooking oil to name a few) and local component by 0.9 percent (due to fall in prices for local goods such as Chinese cabbages, bananas, coconuts and cucumbers).

The ‘Transport’ sub-index contracted by 0.2 percent, reflecting a 1.7 percent drop in its imported component (particularly lower prices for petrol and diesel).

Likewise, the ‘Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels’ sub-index declined by 0.2 percent following a 0.7 percent reduction in its imported component (lower prices for kerosene, paint high gloss and cement).

Additionally, the ‘Miscellaneous goods and services’ and ‘Furnishing, household equipment and maintenance’ sub-indices both contracted by 0.3 percent and 0.2 percent respectively. Responsible for the loss in the former was a 0.4 percent fall in its imported component (mostly lower prices of toiletries commodities) while the latter was accounted for by a decline in prices for a mosquito box.

Moreover, the ‘Recreation and Culture’ and ‘Health’ sub-indices both fell by 0.6 percent and 2.7 percent in that order. The former highlighted decrease in prices for imported amoxicillin tablets and the latter mirrored lower prices for television sets.

In contrast, the ‘Restaurants’ sub-index went up by 1.3 percent due to an increase in its local component, reflecting higher prices for meals.

The ‘Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco’, ‘Communication’, ‘Clothing and Footwear’, and ‘Education’ sub-indices all remained the same as last month.

The monthly **underlying CPI**¹ declined by 1.1 percent over the previous month but was 5.5 percent higher when compared to August 2022. Likewise, the **annual average underlying inflation rate** fell to 12.9 percent from 13.7 percent in July 2023 but was still higher than 10.4 percent in August of 2022.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
3rd October 2023

¹ Underlying CPI takes into account the effects of both external and local pressure on prices for commodities that are not subject to extreme volatility and price regulations.

Review of Price Developments
August 2023

Table 1: HEADLINE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (February 2016 = 100) **																			
	All Groups Index	Percentage change							Overall Import Component				Overall Local Component						
		Monthly Index	3 months average	12 months average	Latest month		3 mths avg		12 months	Index	Monthly Change	3mths av % chg	Annual Average 12 months	Annual Average Percent Change	Index	Monthly Change	3mths av % chg	Annual Average 12 months	Annual Average Percent Change
					over prev month	over a year earlier	over prev 3mths avg	over a year earlier											
2020	August	107.0	106.0	108.5	0.7	-2.8	-2.0	-3.2	0.9	108.8	1.1	-3.6	111.2	0.5	105.2	0.2	-0.4	105.8	1.2
2021	August	112.7	111.0	106.7	1.5	5.4	3.4	4.7	-1.7	118.3	2.2	4.1	108.7	-2.3	107.3	0.8	2.8	104.7	-1.1
2022	August	129.9	125.4	117.7	3.6	15.2	7.3	13.0	10.3	143.6	5.1	9.6	125.7	15.6	116.4	1.8	4.7	109.8	4.9
	September	130.1	128.4	119.1	0.2	15.3	8.3	14.5	11.0	143.3	-0.2	10.6	127.7	16.4	117.1	0.6	5.8	110.6	5.5
	October	127.7	129.2	120.3	-1.8	12.4	6.6	14.3	11.3	139.8	-2.4	8.5	129.5	16.6	115.9	-1.1	4.4	111.2	5.7
	November	124.6	127.4	121.2	-2.5	10.2	1.6	12.7	11.3	133.8	-4.3	1.4	130.8	16.4	115.5	-0.3	1.9	111.8	6.0
	December	124.0	125.4	122.0	-0.4	7.5	-2.3	10.0	11.0	130.7	-2.3	-4.5	131.5	15.3	117.5	1.7	0.3	112.6	6.4
	January	128.2	125.6	123.1	3.3	11.6	-2.8	9.8	11.0	137.9	5.5	-5.7	132.9	15.1	118.6	1.0	0.6	113.5	6.7
	February	129.0	127.1	124.2	0.6	11.8	-0.3	10.3	11.2	140.2	1.6	-2.0	134.3	15.1	118.0	-0.5	1.6	114.3	7.1
	March	129.8	129.0	125.3	0.6	11.7	2.8	11.7	11.5	140.7	0.4	3.6	135.8	15.2	119.1	0.9	2.0	115.1	7.5
	April	131.8	130.2	126.6	1.6	12.4	3.7	12.0	11.7	141.1	0.2	4.9	137.0	15.0	122.8	3.1	2.4	116.3	8.2
	May	131.5	131.1	127.7	-0.2	12.1	3.1	12.1	12.0	141.5	0.3	3.6	138.3	15.0	121.8	-0.8	2.7	117.4	8.7
	June	133.9	132.4	128.8	1.8	10.7	2.7	11.7	12.0	144.2	1.9	1.9	139.4	14.5	123.9	1.7	3.6	118.4	9.2
	July	134.0	133.1	129.5	0.0	6.9	2.3	9.8	11.5	143.2	-0.7	1.6	140.0	13.3	124.9	0.8	3.0	119.3	9.4
2023	August	132.8	133.6	129.8	-0.9	2.3	1.9	6.5	10.3	140.8	-1.6	1.2	139.8	11.2	125.0	0.0	2.8	120.0	9.3

Source: CPI data from February 2016 onwards are from the Samoa Bureau of Statistics.
Historical CPI figures from SBS prior to February 2016 and further spliced by the CBS to later years.
(R) - Revised due to adjustments made from Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS)
** New CPI Index reflecting the 2013/14 Household Income and Expenditures Survey

Table 2: UNDERLYING CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (February 2016 = 100) **															
	All Groups	Percent Changes					Overall Import Component				Overall Local Component				
		Monthly Index	3 months average	12 months average	Latest Month		Annual Average Percent Change	Index	Monthly Change	12 months avg	Annual Average Percent Change	Index	Monthly Change	12 months avg	Annual Average Percent Change
					over prev month	over a year earlier									
2020	August	108.3	107.7	108.4	0.3	-0.7	2.1	110.1	0.3	110.3	2.4	104.6	0.2	104.2	1.3
2021	August	112.6	110.6	106.8	1.6	4.0	-1.5	116.6	2.2	107.8	-2.3	104.0	0.1	104.6	0.3
2022	August	129.6	125.6	117.9	2.3	15.1	10.4	135.0	3.2	121.6	12.8	117.9	0.1	110.0	5.1
	September	132.7	129.7	119.6	2.4	18.2	11.4	139.0	2.9	123.5	13.7	119.2	1.1	111.2	6.4
	October	131.1	131.1	121.0	-1.2	15.5	11.9	136.4	-1.8	125.1	14.0	119.5	0.3	112.2	7.2
	November	126.0	129.9	122.1	-3.8	11.4	12.0	128.9	-5.5	126.3	13.8	119.8	0.2	113.2	7.9
	December	124.4	127.2	122.9	-1.3	7.8	11.6	126.2	-2.1	126.9	12.9	120.3	0.4	114.3	8.7
	January	130.5	127.0	124.1	4.9	13.0	11.9	135.2	7.1	128.3	13.0	120.2	-0.1	115.2	9.3
	February	134.4	129.7	125.6	3.0	15.2	12.3	140.7	4.0	130.0	13.4	120.7	0.5	116.2	9.8
	March	134.5	133.1	127.1	0.1	15.4	12.9	140.1	-0.4	131.6	13.9	122.3	1.3	117.3	10.6
	April	135.0	134.6	128.6	0.4	15.0	13.4	140.7	0.4	133.2	14.3	122.6	0.3	118.5	11.3
	May	135.2	134.9	130.0	0.1	15.2	13.9	141.0	0.2	134.9	14.8	122.4	-0.1	119.6	11.9
	June	137.7	135.9	131.5	1.9	14.2	14.2	144.4	2.4	136.5	15.1	123.2	0.6	120.5	11.9
	July	138.2	137.0	132.4	0.4	9.1	13.7	145.0	0.4	137.7	14.7	123.6	0.4	121.0	11.2
2023	August	136.7	137.5	133.0	-1.1	5.5	12.9	142.6	-1.6	138.4	13.8	124.1	0.3	121.5	10.5

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics
(R) - Revised due to adjustments made from Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS)
** New CPI Index reflecting the 2013/14 Household Income and Expenditures Survey