



PRICE DEVELOPMENTS REPORT AUGUST 2022

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

Report No.2: 2022/23

August 2022

The **Headline Consumer Price Index (CPI)** grew further by 3.6 percent over the previous month or 15.2 percent higher when compared to the same month of last year. This monthly increase was due to hikes in both its imported component (up by 5.1 percent) and local component (up by 1.8 percent).

Strong inflationary pressures in the past few months from high imported commodity prices, saw the **annual average headline inflation rate jump to 10.3 percent** in August 2022 from 9.5 percent in the previous month and way higher than -1.7 percent in August last year. This was the highest inflation rate since September 2009. The was mainly driven by a 15.6 percent (from 14.5 percent) spike in its imported inflation coupled with a 4.9 percent growth (from 4.4 percent) in local inflation.

The ‘Food and Non-alcoholic beverages’ sub-index rose by 4.0 percent due to increases in both its local component by 4.5 percent (mainly higher prices for fish, taro, green banana to name a few) and imported component by 3.8 percent (particularly chicken leg quarter, ramen noodle and rice amongst others).

The ‘Transport’ sub-index leapt by 8.7 percent due to hikes in both its imported component by 11.5 percent (mirroring jumps in both petrol and diesel prices) and local component by 2.5 percent (reflecting an increase in Apia-Auckland-Apia return airfare).

Similarly, the ‘Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels’ and ‘Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco’ subgroups both went up by 2.6 percent and 0.3 percent respectively. The increase in the former reflected hikes in both its imported and local components by 6.2 percent and 1.0 percent in that order while the latter

was due to a 0.4 percent gain in its local component.

Additionally, the ‘Miscellaneous goods and services’ and ‘Furnishing, household equipment and maintenance’ sub-indices edged up by 2.2 percent and 1.2 percent respectively due to gains in both their imported components. The ‘Restaurants’ sub-index recorded a 0.5 percent gain due to a hike in local meal prices. Likewise, the ‘Clothing and footwear’ sub-index increased by 0.3 percent underpinned by increases in both its imported and local components.

Furthermore, the ‘Recreation and Culture’ and ‘Health’ sub-indices both noted expansions of 1.9 percent and 4.6 percent in that order. The increase in the former was accounted for by a 2.1 percent growth in its imported component while the improvement in the latter was driven by an 8.6 percent hike in its imported component reflecting higher prices for amoxicillin tablets.

The monthly **underlying CPI¹** also edged up by 2.3 percent and was 15.1 percent higher than the same month of last year. As a result, the **annual average underlying inflation** also leapt to **10.4 percent** from 9.4 percent in the previous month and was much higher than -1.5 percent in August 2021.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
22 September 2022

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 2022

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 (AnnAvg)	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											
2019	August	110.1	109.6	107.6	-0.1	0.6	2.1	0.3	1.4	112.8	-0.5	2.7	110.7	-0.6	107.4	0.4	1.5	104.6	3.4
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
	September	112.8	112.2	107.3	0.0	6.8	3.9	5.6	-0.8	118.4	0.1	5.1	109.7	-0.8	107.3	0.0	2.6	104.8	-0.8
	October	113.6	113.0	108.1	0.7	9.7	3.4	7.3	0.5	118.2	-0.1	4.3	111.1	1.3	109.1	1.7	2.5	105.2	-0.4
	November	113.0	113.1	108.9	-0.5	9.5	1.9	8.6	1.8	118.1	-0.1	2.4	112.4	3.4	108.1	-0.9	1.4	105.5	0.2
	December	115.3	114.0	109.9	2.1	11.6	1.6	10.3	3.1	122.7	3.9	1.9	114.0	5.7	108.2	0.0	1.3	105.9	0.6
	January	114.8	114.4	110.8	-0.4	10.7	1.2	10.6	4.5	121.6	-0.9	2.1	115.4	7.6	108.3	0.1	0.2	106.3	1.4
	February	115.3	115.2	111.6	0.4	9.2	1.8	10.5	5.7	122.4	0.7	3.4	116.7	9.3	108.4	0.2	0.1	106.7	2.0
	March	116.2	115.5	112.4	0.7	8.5	1.3	9.5	6.7	123.6	1.0	2.4	117.8	10.8	108.9	0.4	0.1	107.1	2.7
	April	117.2	116.3	113.2	0.9	9.5	1.6	9.1	7.6	126.0	2.0	2.7	119.1	12.1	108.6	-0.3	0.4	107.5	3.1
	May	117.3	116.9	114.1	0.1	8.9	1.5	9.0	8.2	125.8	-0.2	2.4	120.2	12.7	109.0	0.4	0.5	108.0	3.6
	June	121.0	118.5	115.0	3.2	10.9	2.7	9.8	8.8	131.1	4.2	4.2	121.8	13.6	111.2	2.0	1.0	108.4	3.9
	July	125.3	121.2	116.2	3.6	12.9	4.3	10.9	9.5	136.6	4.2	5.8	123.5	14.5	114.4	2.8	2.6	109.1	4.4
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

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									
2019	August	109.1	108.1	106.2	0.6	0.3	-0.6	111.5	0.9	107.7	-1.5	103.9	0.0	102.9	1.6
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
2022	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
	September	112.3	111.9	107.3	-0.3	5.9	-0.8	116.1	-0.4	108.6	-1.2	104.1	0.1	104.5	0.2
	October	113.5	112.8	108.2	1.0	10.6	0.6	116.2	0.1	109.8	0.7	107.5	3.2	104.7	0.3
	November	113.1	113.0	109.0	-0.3	9.8	1.9	115.6	-0.6	111.0	2.5	107.7	0.2	104.9	0.4
	December	115.4	114.0	110.1	2.0	11.7	3.2	118.9	2.8	112.3	4.4	107.8	0.1	105.1	0.6
	January	115.4	114.6	110.9	0.1	10.3	4.3	118.5	-0.3	113.5	5.8	108.9	1.0	105.4	0.8
	February	116.6	115.8	111.8	1.0	9.9	5.3	120.3	1.5	114.6	7.2	108.7	-0.2	105.8	1.1
	March	116.6	116.2	112.6	0.0	8.2	6.2	120.2	0.0	115.5	8.4	108.7	0.0	106.1	1.4
	April	117.4	116.9	113.4	0.7	8.9	7.0	121.4	1.0	116.6	9.4	108.7	0.0	106.5	1.7
	May	117.3	117.1	114.1	-0.1	8.5	7.6	121.4	0.0	117.5	10.1	109.0	0.3	106.9	2.1
	June	120.5	118.4	115.1	2.7	11.2	8.4	124.1	2.2	118.6	11.0	112.7	3.4	107.6	2.8
	July	126.7	121.5	116.5	5.2	14.3	9.4	130.9	5.4	120.0	11.9	117.8	4.5	108.8	4.0
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

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