



PRICE DEVELOPMENTS REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

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

Report No.8: 2021/22

February 2022

The **Headline Consumer Price Index (CPI)** rebounded by 0.4 percent in February 2022 due to increases in both its imported and local components by 0.7 percent and 0.2 percent respectively. At this level, the headline CPI was also 9.2 percent higher than its level in the same month last year.

Strong inflationary pressures in the past few months from higher imported commodity prices, had seen the **annual average headline inflation rate** rise further to 5.7 percent (highest level since August 2012), from 4.5 percent in the previous month and -3.2 percent in February of last year. The main driver of the current hike was a 9.3 percent (from 7.6 percent) spike in imported inflation coupled with a further increase of 2.0 percent (from 1.4 percent) in local inflation.

Underpinning the overall increase in the month under review was a 1.3 percent expansion in the “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” sub-index. This was underpinned by a 1.7 percent gain in its imported component (mainly higher prices for onions, potatoes, sugars, rice and to name a few) as well as a 0.3 percent hike in its local component (due to higher prices for round cabbages, fish, tomatoes, taro to name a few).

Furthermore, the “Clothing and Footwear” and “Health” sub-indexes both went up by 2.1 percent and 2.7 percent respectively. The hike in the former was due to a 2.8 percent increase in its imported component in light of higher prices of selected school uniforms (such as pa’ave and pocket sulu) while the latter was also due to a hike in its imported component (reflecting a 10.6 percent jump in the price of amoxicillin tablets).

Additionally, the “Miscellaneous goods and services” and “Furnishing, household equipment and maintenance” sub-indexes both edged up by 0.4 percent and 1.3 percent respectively. The former’s expansion was solely driven by imported toiletries while that of the latter was due to increase in both of its imported and local components by 1.4 percent and 0.1 percent in that order. The “Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco” sub-index also registered a gain of 0.4 percent stemming from an increase in both its imported component (whisky) and local component (Samoan ava).

In contrast, the “Transport” sub-index contracted by 1.7 percent due to a 2.5 percent decrease in its imported component as a result of reductions in petrol and diesel prices by 3.3 percent and 3.1 percent respectively.

The “Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels”, “Communication”, “Restaurants” “Education” and “Recreation and Culture” sub-indexes continued to remain steady in the reviewed month.

The **underlying CPI**¹ also increased by 1.0 percent in the month under review and was 9.9 percent higher compared to the same month of 2021. Consequently, the **annual average underlying inflation rate** rose further to 5.3 percent from 4.3 percent in the previous month and was significantly above the -1.7 percent in February 2021.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
18th March 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
February 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	Index	Monthly Change	3mths av % chg	Annual	Annual	Index	Monthly Change	3mths av % chg	Annual	Annual
					over prev month	over a year earlier	over prev 3mths avg	over a year earlier	over prev 12 months (AnnAvg)				Average 12 months	Average Percent Change				Average 12 months	Average Percent Change
2019	February	105.3	105.4	107.1	0.7	0.4	-2.5	0.2	3.5	107.4	2.1	-5.4	111.3	2.8	103.2	-0.7	0.6	103.0	4.1
2020	February	110.5	109.7	109.1	0.7	5.0	-0.3	4.1	1.9	113.8	2.0	-1.0	112.2	0.8	107.3	-0.7	0.5	106.2	3.1
2021	February	105.6	104.2	105.7	1.9	-4.4	0.1	-5.0	-3.2	107.3	2.6	1.3	106.8	-4.8	104.0	1.2	-1.0	104.6	-1.5
	March	107.1	105.5	105.3	1.4	-3.5	2.0	-4.5	-3.8	109.9	2.5	4.7	106.4	-5.5	104.3	0.3	-0.6	104.3	-1.9
	April	107.1	106.6	105.3	0.0	-0.8	3.1	-2.9	-3.9	110.7	0.7	5.9	106.3	-5.8	103.5	-0.8	0.4	104.3	-2.0
	May	107.7	107.3	105.4	0.6	1.8	2.9	-0.9	-3.6	112.1	1.3	5.8	106.7	-5.2	103.4	-0.2	0.1	104.2	-1.9
	June	109.2	108.0	105.8	1.4	4.1	2.4	1.7	-3.0	112.4	0.2	4.2	107.2	-4.3	106.1	2.6	0.6	104.4	-1.7
	July	111.0	109.3	106.2	1.7	4.5	2.5	3.5	-2.4	115.7	2.9	3.7	107.9	-3.3	106.5	0.4	1.3	104.5	-1.4
	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
2022	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

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 Index	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	February	104.8	103.3	106.2	2.7	-0.9	1.5	105.9	3.9	108.2	1.3	102.4	0.2	102.1	1.9
2020	February	109.1	108.2	108.0	1.8	4.1	1.6	111.3	2.7	109.8	1.5	104.5	-0.2	103.9	1.9
2021	February	106.1	104.7	106.2	1.3	-2.8	-1.7	106.8	2.2	106.9	-2.7	104.5	-0.6	104.6	0.6
	March	107.8	106.2	106.0	1.6	-2.3	-2.1	109.3	2.3	106.6	-3.3	104.6	0.1	104.6	0.6
	April	107.8	107.2	105.9	0.0	-0.5	-2.3	109.2	-0.1	106.5	-3.6	104.7	0.1	104.7	0.5
	May	108.1	107.9	106.0	0.3	1.3	-2.3	110.2	0.9	106.7	-3.5	103.7	-0.9	104.7	0.5
	June	108.4	108.1	106.2	0.3	1.6	-2.1	110.5	0.3	106.9	-3.3	103.9	0.2	104.7	0.5
	July	110.9	109.1	106.4	2.3	2.6	-1.9	114.1	3.3	107.2	-2.9	104.0	0.1	104.6	0.4
	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
2022	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

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