



PRICE DEVELOPMENTS REPORT JANUARY 2023

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

Report No.7: 2022/23

January 2023

The **Headline Consumer Price Index (CPI)** rebounded by 3.3 percent over the previous month due to increases in both its imported component by 5.5 percent and local component by 1.0 percent. Moreover, the headline CPI was 11.6 percent higher compared to January 2022.

Despite this monthly increase, the **annual average inflation rate remained at 11.0 percent** from December 2022 but was much higher than 4.5 percent in January last year. This was due to slight reduction in imported inflation (down to 15.1 percent from 15.3 percent) while local inflation rose to 6.7 percent from 6.4 percent in the previous month.

Underpinning the jump in January 2023 was a 7.4 percent expansion in the ‘Food and non-alcoholic beverages’ sub-group as a result of a 9.8 percent hike in its imported component (driven mainly by higher prices for chicken leg quarter, brown sugar, milk, turkey wings to name a few). In addition, the local component went up by 2.8 percent (reflecting higher prices for fish, Chinese cabbages and koko Samoa to name a few).

The ‘Alcoholic beverage and tobacco’ sub-group also increased by 0.4 percent due to gains in both its local component by 0.5 percent (higher prices for taula beer) and its imported component by 0.3 percent (mainly higher prices for Jim Beam bottle).

Likewise, the ‘Clothing and footwear’ and ‘Recreation and culture’ sub-groups both recorded gains of 0.2 percent and 1.5 percent respectively. The hike in the former reflected increases in both its local component by 0.6 percent (increase in prices for sandals) and imported component by 0.1 percent (higher price for an exercise book and laptops) while

the latter was accounted for by a 1.6 percent rise in its imported component.

Additionally, the ‘Miscellaneous goods and services’ and ‘Furnishing, household equipment and maintenance’ sub-groups both edged up by 1.0 percent and 0.1 percent, reflecting higher prices for gel, soap and toothpaste for the former, as well as locally made cabinets and washing powder for the latter.

On the other hand, the ‘Transport’ and ‘Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels’ sub-groups both contracted by 0.1 percent each as a result of lower prices for diesel for the former and a drop in kerosene prices for the latter.

The ‘Communication’, ‘Restaurants’, ‘Education’, and ‘Health’ sub-groups remained at the same level for the month under review.

The monthly **underlying CPI¹** went up by 4.9 percent in the month under review and was 13.0 percent higher when compared to the same period last year. As a result, the **annual average underlying inflation rate** edged up slightly to 11.9 percent from 11.6 percent in December 2022 but was higher than 4.3 percent in January 2023.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
7th March 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
January 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 over prev	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	January	109.7	109.5	108.7	0.8	4.9	-0.5	3.5	1.5	111.5	-0.8	-0.7	111.6	0.1	108.0	2.5	-0.3	105.8	2.9
2021	January	103.7	103.4	106.1	0.3	-5.5	-1.9	-5.5	-2.4	104.6	1.8	-2.2	107.3	-3.9	102.8	-1.2	-1.5	104.8	-0.9
2022	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
	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
2023	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

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									
2020	January	107.2	108.2	107.6	-1.1	5.1	1.2	108.4	-1.6	109.4	1.0	104.6	-0.1	103.8	1.7
2021	January	104.7	103.6	106.4	1.4	-2.3	-1.1	104.5	2.1	107.3	-1.9	105.2	0.0	104.6	0.8
2022	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
	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
2023	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

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