



PRICE DEVELOPMENTS REPORT

MARCH 2023

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

Report No.9: 2022/23

March 2023

The **Headline Consumer Price Index (CPI)** grew further by 0.6 percent over the previous month due to increases in both its local and imported components by 0.9 percent and 0.4 percent respectively. Similarly, the headline CPI was 11.7 percent higher than its level in the same month last year.

The **annual average inflation rate accelerated further to 11.5 percent** from 11.2 percent in February 2023 and way higher than 6.7 percent in the same month last year. Mainly accounting for this overall increase over the month were gains in both local inflation (up to 7.5 percent from 7.1 percent) and imported inflation (up to 15.2 percent from 15.1 percent).

By individual sub-groups, the ‘Transport’ sub-index increased by 2.5 percent due to a 4.1 percent hike in its imported component (mirroring increases in petrol, diesel and car tyre prices) despite a 0.5 percent drop in its local component.

Similarly, the ‘Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco’ and ‘Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels’ sub-groups both went up by 1.2 percent and 0.5 percent respectively. The increase in the former reflected hikes in both its local and imported components by 1.4 and 0.3 percent (reflecting increase prices for local beer and imported whiskey). The hike in the latter was due to a 1.6 percent gain in its imported component mainly the house paint and kerosene.

Additionally, the ‘Miscellaneous goods and services’ sub-group increased by 3.5 percent reflecting expansions in both its local component by 4.6 percent and imported component by 3.2 percent.

With rising local agricultural prices, the ‘Restaurants’ sub-group expanded by 3.7 percent, mainly driven by local meal prices. Also, the ‘Clothing and Footwear’ sub-group grew by 2.5 percent due to gains in both its local component by 2.5 percent and imported component by 2.4 percent.

On the other hand, the ‘Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages’ sub-group contracted by 0.3 percent due to a 1.0 percent decrease in its imported component (mainly lower prices for chicken leg quarter, sugar, mutton flaps, cooking oil to name a few) despite a 1.1 percent growth in its local component (mainly agricultural produce).

Likewise, the ‘Furnishing, household equipment and maintenance’ and ‘Health’ sub-groups both recorded reductions of 0.3 percent and 2.4 percent in that order. Responsible for the drop in the former was a 0.4 percent decline in its imported component reflecting lower prices for washing powder and bush knives while the latter was due to a decrease in its imported component by 4.7 percent (mainly a drop in prices for amoxicillin tablets).

All other subgroups including ‘Communication’, ‘Education’ and ‘Recreation and Culture’ had remained the same as last month in the month under review.

The monthly **underlying CPI¹** edged up slightly by 0.1 percent over February 2023 and was 15.4 percent higher than the same period last year. As a result, the **annual average underlying inflation rate** also jumped to 12.9

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

March 2023

percent from 12.3 percent in the previous month and was much higher than 6.2 percent in March last year.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA

9th May 2023

Review of Price Developments
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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	March	111.0	110.4	109.5	0.5	3.7	0.8	4.5	2.0	114.8	0.9	0.1	112.6	1.2	107.3	0.0	1.5	106.4	2.9
2021	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
2022	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
	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
2023	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

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	March	110.3	108.9	108.3	1.1	3.5	1.8	113.0	1.6	110.3	1.8	104.4	-0.1	104.0	1.8
2021	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
2022	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
	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
2023	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

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