



PRICE DEVELOPMENTS REPORT OCTOBER 2021

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

Report No.4: 2021/22

October 2021

The **Headline Consumer Price Index (CPI)** rose by 0.7 percent over the previous month and was 9.7 percent higher when compared to October 2020. The current expansion was underpinned by an increase of 1.7 percent in its imported component while its local component recorded a decrease of 0.1 percent from the preceding month.

As a result, the **annual average headline inflation rate** edged up to 0.5 percent in October 2021 from -0.8 percent in the previous month and -0.2 percent in October 2020. This reflected further hikes in both imported inflation (up to 1.3 percent from -0.8 percent) and local inflation (up to -0.4 percent from -0.8 percent).

By individual subgroups, the “Communication” sub-index rose by 11.2 percent during the month due to an 11.2 percent increase in its local component (reflecting higher prices for internet). The “Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels” subgroup also rose further by 2.1 percent following gains of 2.8 percent and 1.9 percent in its imported component (higher prices for cement, timber and liquid gas) and local component (increased cash power prices) respectively.

Furthermore, the “Recreation and Culture” sub-index increased by 0.8 percent in light of a 0.9 percent rise in its imported component (due to higher prices for stationeries).

Similarly, the “Clothing and footwear” and “Food and non-alcoholic beverages” sub-indices grew by 0.4 percent and 0.2 percent respectively. The increase in the former was due to a 0.5 percent hike in its imported component (due to higher cargo shirt prices for

men) while the latter was due to a 0.8 percent gain in its local component (mainly higher prices for fish, bananas, coconuts and Chinese cabbage) despite a 0.1 percent reduction in its imported component.

On the other hand, the “Transport” and “Furnishings, household equipment and maintenance” sub-indices both recorded reductions of 0.7 percent and 0.3 percent in that order. Responsible for the contraction in the former was a 1.0 percent decrease in its imported component (mostly lower prices of diesel and petrol) while the reduction in the latter was due to a 0.3 percent drop in its imported component.

The “Alcoholic beverage and tobacco”, “Health”, “Education”, “Restaurants” and “Miscellaneous goods and services” subgroups all remained unchanged in the reviewed month.

The monthly **underlying CPI**¹ also expanded by 1.0 percent and was 10.6 percent higher when compared to the same month last year. As a result, the **annual average underlying inflation rate** also grew to 0.6 percent from -0.8 percent in the previous month but was lower than 1.0 percent in October 2020.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
30th November 2021

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
October 2021

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	over prev 12 months (AnnAvg)										
2018	October	108.9	109.0	106.9	0.2	4.4	0.4	4.7	4.7	113.8	-0.1	-0.1	112.1	5.5	104.1	0.4	1.0	102.0	3.8
2019	October	109.9	110.0	107.8	-0.2	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	113.5	-0.3	1.3	110.6	-1.3	106.4	-0.1	0.9	105.0	3.0
2020	October	103.6	105.4	107.6	-1.9	-5.8	-0.2	-4.2	-0.2	102.2	-3.5	-1.3	109.6	-0.9	105.0	-0.3	0.8	105.6	0.5
	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
	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
2021	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

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									
2018	October	107.7	108.1	107.0	-0.2	0.7	3.6	110.3	-0.3	109.6	4.4	102.0	0.0	101.6	1.7
2019	October	109.3	109.3	106.4	-0.2	1.5	-0.6	111.8	-0.2	107.9	-1.5	103.8	-0.1	103.2	1.6
2020	October	102.6	105.7	107.6	-3.2	-6.1	1.0	101.4	-4.7	109.0	1.0	105.2	0.1	104.4	1.1
	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
	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
2021	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

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