



## PRICE DEVELOPMENTS REPORT NOVEMBER 2018

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

*Report No.5: 2017/18*

*November 2018*

The **Headline Consumer Price index (CPI)** narrowed by 2.2 percent over the preceding month but was 1.5 percent higher compared to November 2017. Underpinning this drop were reductions in both its local component (by 2.5 percent) and imported component (by 1.9 percent).

As a result, the **annual average headline inflation rate** dropped to 4.4 percent from 4.7 percent in October 2018 although it was considerably above 1.5 percent in November 2017. This reflected a drop in imported inflation to 5.0 percent from 5.5 percent in the previous month while local inflation remained stable at 3.8 percent from the previous month.

By individual subgroups, the *“Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages”* sun-index narrowed by 3.9 percent due to reductions of 4.3 percent and 2.9 percent in its imported component (lower prices for chicken leg quarters and sugar to name a few) and local component (mainly fish, banana, cucumbers, taamu and koko Samoa). At the Local Produce Markets, the overall volume agricultural supplies (main source of local food) declined by 20.7 percent but due to lower demand, the overall price index fell by 7.0 percent.

The *“Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels”* and *“Recreation and Culture”* subgroups both contracted by 5.8 percent and 1.6 percent in that order. The drop in the former was due to an 8.2 percent decrease in its local component (reflecting a 17.1 percent drop in electricity prices) despite an increase in its imported component by 1.1 percent. The contraction in the latter was accounted for by

a 1.7 percent drop in imported component (lower prices for exercise books and laptops).

In addition, the *“Furnishing, Household equipment and Maintenance”* and *“Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco”* sub-indexes both edged down by 0.3 percent and 0.1 percent in that order.

On the other hand, the *“Restaurant”*, *“Transport”* and *“Clothing and Footwear”* subgroups all expanded by 2.0 percent, 0.3 percent and 0.2 percent respectively. The increase in the *“Restaurant”* resulted from a 2.0 percent hike in its local component (mainly meal prices) whereas the improvement in *“Transport”* was due to a 3.7 percent gain in its local component (petrol and diesel prices both edging up by 3.1 percent).

The *“Health”*, *“Communication”*, *“Education”* and *“Miscellaneous goods & services”* sub-indexes were unchanged in the reviewed month.

The **underlying CPI**<sup>1</sup> narrowed by 2.0 percent and was also 1.6 percent lower compared to November 2017. As a result, the **annual average underlying** inflation fell further to 3.0 percent from 3.6 percent but was well above 2.1 percent in the same month last year.

**CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA**  
**7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019**

<sup>1</sup> 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**  
**November 2018**

**Table 1: HEADLINE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (February 2016 = 100) \*\***

	All Groups Index	Percentage change								Overall Import Component					Overall Local Component					
		Index	3 months average	12 months average	Latest month		3 mths avg		12 months (AnnAvg)	Index	3 months avg	3mths av % chg	Monthly Change	Annual Average 12 months	Annual Average Percent Change	Index	3mths av % chg	Monthly Change	Annual Average 12 months	Annual Average Percent Change
					over prev month	over a year earlier	over prev 3mths avg	over a year earlier												
<b>2016 November</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>100.7</b>	<b>101.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>104.1</b>	<b>103.8</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	
<b>2017 November</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>104.3</b>	<b>102.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	
December	105.0	104.7	102.9	0.0	3.9	0.9	4.2	1.8	110.9	110.9	2.4	-0.4	107.3	4.7	99.2	-0.6	0.4	98.6	-1.1	
<b>2018 January</b>	<b>105.7</b>	<b>105.2</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>110.3</b>	<b>110.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>107.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>101.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	
February	104.9	105.2	103.5	-0.8	3.2	0.9	3.8	2.5	110.0	110.4	0.2	-0.3	108.2	4.9	100.7	1.8	-0.6	99.0	0.1	
March	104.7	105.1	103.8	-0.2	3.6	0.3	3.7	2.7	108.8	109.7	-1.1	-1.0	108.6	4.7	100.6	2.1	-0.2	99.3	0.6	
April	105.3	105.0	104.2	0.6	4.6	-0.3	3.8	2.9	108.4	109.1	-1.6	-0.4	108.9	4.6	102.3	1.4	1.7	99.7	1.3	
May	107.4	105.8	104.7	1.9	5.6	0.5	4.6	3.3	111.6	109.6	-0.7	2.9	109.5	4.8	103.2	1.6	1.0	100.1	1.8	
June	108.6	107.1	105.2	1.1	5.8	1.9	5.3	3.7	115.5	111.9	2.0	3.5	110.2	5.2	101.8	1.5	-1.4	100.4	2.1	
July	109.7	108.5	105.7	1.0	6.1	3.4	5.8	4.2	115.6	114.2	4.7	0.1	110.8	5.6	103.9	1.8	2.1	100.7	2.8	
August	109.4	109.2	106.1	-0.3	4.9	3.3	5.6	4.4	114.7	115.3	5.2	-0.8	111.3	5.8	104.2	1.3	0.3	101.1	3.0	
September	108.7	109.3	106.5	-0.6	4.9	2.0	5.3	4.6	113.9	114.7	2.6	-0.7	111.8	5.8	103.6	1.4	-0.5	101.5	3.4	
October	108.9	109.0	106.9	0.2	4.4	0.4	4.7	4.7	113.8	114.2	-0.1	-0.1	112.1	5.5	104.1	1.0	0.4	102.0	3.8	
<b>November</b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>107.1</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>111.7</b>	<b>113.2</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>112.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	

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				
		Index	2 months average	12 months average	Latest Month		Annual Average Percent Change	Index	12 months avg	Monthly Change	Annual Average Percent Change	Index	12 months avg	Monthly Change	Annual Average Percent Change
					over prev month	over a year earlier									
<b>2016 November</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>102.6</b>	<b>101.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>103.4</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>100.3</b>	<b>100.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	
<b>2017 November</b>	<b>107.2</b>	<b>107.1</b>	<b>103.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>110.3</b>	<b>105.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>100.6</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	
December	106.7	107.0	104.1	-0.5	4.4	2.3	109.5	106.0	-0.7	3.6	100.5	99.9	-0.1	-0.4	
<b>2018 January</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>106.1</b>	<b>104.4</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>107.7</b>	<b>106.4</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>100.6</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	
February	105.8	105.6	104.7	0.3	3.8	2.6	107.5	106.8	-0.1	3.8	102.0	100.1	1.4	-0.2	
March	104.7	105.2	104.9	-1.1	2.8	2.7	105.9	107.1	-1.5	3.9	102.0	100.3	-0.1	0.0	
April	104.6	104.6	105.2	0.0	3.4	2.9	105.9	107.4	0.0	4.1	101.9	100.5	-0.1	0.2	
May	106.9	105.7	105.6	2.1	4.9	3.2	109.2	107.9	3.1	4.5	101.8	100.6	-0.1	0.4	
June	109.7	108.3	106.1	2.6	5.8	3.7	113.2	108.6	3.7	5.0	102.0	100.9	0.2	0.7	
July	109.2	109.4	106.5	-0.4	4.5	3.9	112.6	109.0	-0.5	5.2	101.9	101.1	-0.1	1.1	
August	108.8	109.0	106.8	-0.4	3.1	3.9	112.0	109.3	-0.5	5.1	101.9	101.3	0.0	1.4	
September	107.9	108.3	107.0	-0.9	2.2	3.9	110.6	109.5	-1.3	4.9	102.0	101.5	0.1	1.6	
October	107.7	107.8	107.0	-0.2	0.7	3.6	110.3	109.6	-0.3	4.4	102.0	101.6	0.0	1.7	
<b>November</b>	<b>105.5</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>106.9</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>106.9</b>	<b>109.3</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>101.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	

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