



CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA

PO Box Private Bag, Apia, Samoa Ph: 685-34100 | Fax: 685-20293/24058 E-mail: centralbank@cbs.gov.ws Web: www.cbs.gov.ws

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE GOVERNOR

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT APRIL 2020

This report is a monthly release of the latest available indicators on the tourism sector and private remittances, with information sourced from the Central Bank, Samoa Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry for Revenue.

Report No.10: 2019/20

April 2020

Visitor Arrivals

In preparation for the protection and safeguarding of its people from the infectious and deadliest global pandemic - coronavirus (COVID-19), Samoa's international borders have been closed indefinitely with the priority now given first to the repatriation of Samoan residents before any further consideration. This has resulted in the month of April 2020 registering for the first time in the history of international travelling that we have absolutely no visitors and subsequently no visitors' earnings

The first ten months of 2019/20 is now the same as its first nine months for total visitor arrivals and earnings. The tourism price index dropped by 14.7 percent lower than in April 2019 as a result of the reduction in the 'Accommodation' sub-index.

Private Remittances

Total Private Remittances recorded a drop of 8.7 percent (or \$3.5 million) to \$36.7 million when compared to the same month last year and was 21.6 percent (or \$10.1 million) lower than the previous month.

The reduction in private remittances was accounted for by the decreases in funds from 'others' (down \$5.0 million), New Zealand (down \$1.6 million) and Australia (down by \$1.4 million) whereas by recipient, reductions were also recorded for 'Hand carried cash' (down by \$3.9 million), and Non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH), (down by \$2.0 million) and 'In Kind' (down by \$0.07 million).

However, total private remittances for the first ten months of 2019/20 grew by 0.9 percent (or \$4.1 million) to \$453.4 million over the same period of 2018/19. By country, increases were recorded for New Zealand (up \$16.0 million) and American Samoa (up \$4.1 million). The increase for American Samoa is partially aided by the 3.1 percent depreciation of the Samoa Tala against the US dollar. In terms of recipients, total funds for 'Family and Households', 'In Kind' and 'others' all rose by \$16.1 million, \$3.0 million and \$0.7 million respectively.

The share of remittance inflows received through Money Transfer Operators (MTO's) recorded a slight improvement of 82.8 percent from 82.6 percent in April 2019 while those received directly through commercial banks fell to 17.2 percent from 17.4 percent in the same month last year.

The average monthly cost for sending NZD\$200.00 to Samoa contracted to 11.12 percent from 12.50 percent while the average cost of sending AUD\$200.00 fell to 6.19 percent from 7.81 percent.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
28th May 2020

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT

April 2020

Table 2.

INFLOW OF PRIVATE REMITTANCES

AMOUNTS IN TALA MILLION

| Amount in Tala Millions | Apr-18 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | Sep-19 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 | Dec-19 | Jan-20 | Feb-20 | Mar-20 | Apr-20 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| By Recipient (Tala Millions) | 41.88 | 40.25 | 47.45 | 40.66 | 53.45 | 47.06 | 38.34 | 42.24 | 42.56 | 57.24 | 46.89 | 41.97 | 46.87 | 36.74 |
| Banknotes | 6.28 | 4.04 | 4.09 | 2.94 | 9.47 | 4.85 | 4.40 | 2.85 | 2.79 | 11.03 | 12.36 | 4.30 | 3.21 | 0.13 |
| Churches, school, Charities | 7.06 | 4.91 | 4.14 | 4.74 | 8.78 | 4.73 | 2.22 | 5.03 | 5.07 | 5.98 | 3.13 | 5.85 | 2.70 | 2.94 |
| Individual/Family/Households | 27.29 | 30.09 | 35.22 | 28.31 | 33.00 | 35.66 | 28.57 | 32.28 | 32.76 | 37.99 | 28.95 | 29.12 | 35.12 | 30.75 |
| In Kind | 0.62 | 0.53 | 0.71 | 0.63 | 0.59 | 0.68 | 0.58 | 0.70 | 0.74 | 0.74 | 0.50 | 1.50 | 2.50 | 0.00 |
| Others | 0.63 | 0.68 | 3.29 | 4.03 | 1.60 | 1.14 | 2.58 | 1.37 | 1.19 | 1.51 | 1.95 | 1.21 | 3.34 | 2.93 |
| By Country (Tala Millions) | 41.88 | 40.25 | 47.45 | 40.66 | 53.45 | 47.06 | 38.34 | 42.24 | 42.56 | 57.24 | 46.89 | 41.97 | 46.87 | 36.74 |
| USA | 9.35 | 4.51 | 6.75 | 8.10 | 11.41 | 8.03 | 6.00 | 8.86 | 5.66 | 9.03 | 6.67 | 8.60 | 9.84 | 7.74 |
| New Zealand | 16.27 | 17.22 | 21.95 | 16.98 | 19.96 | 19.20 | 16.89 | 17.11 | 19.66 | 25.02 | 21.30 | 16.49 | 21.44 | 15.60 |
| Australia | 13.86 | 10.74 | 13.02 | 11.71 | 16.30 | 15.52 | 12.04 | 13.21 | 12.87 | 17.44 | 13.35 | 10.52 | 10.46 | 9.34 |
| American Samoa | 1.56 | 1.73 | 1.92 | 1.83 | 2.00 | 1.94 | 1.62 | 1.86 | 2.27 | 2.69 | 1.56 | 1.76 | 2.70 | 3.00 |
| Others | 0.84 | 6.04 | 3.81 | 2.04 | 3.77 | 2.37 | 1.78 | 1.19 | 2.10 | 3.06 | 4.01 | 4.60 | 2.44 | 1.07 |
| By Channel (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banks | 22.5% | 17.4% | 18.5% | 23.7% | 21.3% | 15.3% | 15.1% | 17.9% | 16.7% | 15.5% | 14.2% | 23.5% | 20.5% | 17.2% |
| Non Banks (1) | 77.5% | 82.6% | 81.5% | 76.3% | 78.7% | 84.7% | 84.9% | 82.1% | 83.3% | 84.5% | 85.8% | 76.5% | 79.5% | 82.8% |
| Total Remittances (Tala Millions) | 41.88 | 40.25 | 47.45 | 40.66 | 53.45 | 47.06 | 38.34 | 42.24 | 42.56 | 57.24 | 46.89 | 41.97 | 46.87 | 36.74 |
| First Number of Months up to | 10 months to Apr 18 | 10 months to Apr 19 | 11 months to May 19 | 12 months to Jun 19 | 1st month to Jul 19 | 2 months to Aug 19 | 3 months to Sep 19 | 4 months to Oct 19 | 5 months to Nov 19 | 6 months to Dec 19 | 7 months to Jan 20 | 8 months to Feb 20 | 9 months to Mar 20 | 10 months to Mar 21 |
| Total Remittances (Tala Millions) | 398.74 | 449.31 | 496.76 | 537.42 | 53.45 | 100.51 | 138.85 | 181.09 | 223.65 | 280.89 | 327.78 | 369.75 | 416.62 | 453.36 |
| Percentage Change (over same period last 3 year average (%)) | 20.0% | 12.7% | 10.9% | 10.1% | 31.8% | 13.4% | 10.2% | 8.5% | 7.1% | 2.1% | 4.0% | 4.3% | 1.8% | 0.9% |
| 5 year average (%) | 0.6% | 5.1% | 5.8% | 5.9% | 6.7% | 9.9% | 8.6% | 7.9% | 8.7% | 10.1% | 10.6% | 10.5% | 11.9% | 11.7% |
| Others | -0.9% | 3.3% | 3.5% | 3.6% | 1.0% | 3.5% | 3.7% | 4.0% | 4.0% | 5.3% | 5.4% | 5.8% | 7.0% | 6.9% |
| By Recipient (Tala Millions) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banknotes | 51.30 | 66.32 | 70.41 | 73.35 | 9.47 | 14.33 | 18.73 | 21.58 | 24.36 | 35.39 | 47.75 | 52.05 | 55.25 | 55.38 |
| Churches, school, Charities | 40.53 | 51.27 | 55.40 | 60.14 | 8.78 | 13.52 | 15.73 | 20.77 | 25.84 | 31.82 | 34.94 | 40.79 | 43.49 | 46.43 |
| Individual/Family/Households | 287.69 | 308.08 | 343.30 | 371.61 | 33.00 | 68.66 | 97.22 | 129.51 | 162.27 | 200.26 | 229.21 | 258.33 | 293.45 | 324.20 |
| In Kind | 5.58 | 5.97 | 6.69 | 7.32 | 0.59 | 1.27 | 1.85 | 2.55 | 3.29 | 4.03 | 4.53 | 6.03 | 8.53 | 8.53 |
| Others | 13.63 | 17.67 | 20.96 | 24.99 | 1.60 | 2.74 | 5.32 | 6.69 | 7.88 | 9.40 | 11.34 | 12.56 | 15.90 | 18.83 |
| By Country (Tala Millions) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USA | 69.58 | 88.31 | 95.05 | 103.15 | 11.41 | 19.45 | 25.45 | 34.31 | 39.97 | 49.00 | 55.67 | 64.27 | 74.11 | 81.85 |
| New Zealand | 163.02 | 176.66 | 198.60 | 215.59 | 19.96 | 39.16 | 56.05 | 73.16 | 92.83 | 117.85 | 139.15 | 155.64 | 177.08 | 192.69 |
| Australia | 131.88 | 139.94 | 152.96 | 164.67 | 16.30 | 31.82 | 43.86 | 57.08 | 69.94 | 87.38 | 100.74 | 111.26 | 121.72 | 131.05 |
| American Samoa | 13.66 | 17.27 | 19.20 | 21.02 | 2.00 | 3.95 | 5.56 | 7.42 | 9.69 | 12.38 | 13.94 | 15.70 | 18.40 | 21.39 |
| Others | 20.60 | 27.14 | 30.94 | 32.98 | 3.77 | 6.14 | 7.92 | 9.11 | 11.21 | 14.27 | 18.29 | 22.88 | 25.32 | 26.38 |

(1) Includes Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) and Foreign Exchange Dealers (FEDs)

(rev) - Remittances data starting from May 2017 up to December 2018 have been revised to reflect updates and amendments to the international transactions reported by commercial banks and money transfer operators.