

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT

MAY 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.11: 2019/20

May 2020

Visitor Arrivals

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread globally taking the lives of more than 500,000 people, Samoa remains COVID free which is the result of the closure of our international borders and only opening for the repatriation of Samoan residents abroad. On that account, tourist arrivals for the month of May remained nought like the previous month and hence no visitors' earnings.

Total tourist arrivals and earnings in the first eleven months of 2019/20 remained constant at 124,399 people and \$375.26 million respectively over the same period last year, stationed way below 23.4 percent and 23.9 percent in that order. The tourism price index dropped further by 18.5 percent compared to May 2019 as a result of the significant reduction of the 'Accommodation' sub index.

Private Remittances

Total Private Remittances for May 2020 improved significantly; recording a 23.0 percent increase (or \$10.9 million) to \$58.4 million when compared to the same month last year and was 58.8 percent higher (or \$21.6 million) than last month.

Largely underpinning this overall expansion over the year were increases in funds received from Australia (up by \$7.2 million), American Samoa (up by \$3.6 million), USA (up by \$1.6 million) and New Zealand (up by \$1.4 million) which compensates the \$2.8 million decrease from 'Others'. By recipient, an increase was recorded for 'Family and Households' (up by \$19.1 million) offsetting the decreases in

'Hand carried cash', 'Others', 'NPISH' (non-profit institutions serving households) and In Kind.

Correspondingly, total private remittances for the first eleven months of 2019/20 grew by 3.0 percent (or \$15.0 million) to \$511.7 million over the same period of 2018/19. By country, increases were recorded for New Zealand (up \$17.4 million) and American Samoa (up \$7.7 million) respectively. Partially responsible for the increase is the strengthening of the US dollar against the Tala. Increases were also recorded for funds received from 'Family and Households' (up \$35.2 million) and 'In Kind' (up \$2.7 million) accordingly.

The share of remittances inflows received through Money Transfer Operators (MTO's) increased to 92.5 percent from 81.5 percent in May 2019 while those received directly through commercial banks fell to 7.5 percent from 18.5 percent in the same month last year.

The average monthly cost for sending NZD\$200.00 to Samoa increased to 12.80 percent from 10.88 percent while the average cost of sending AUD\$200.00 also rose to 9.63 percent from 8.66 percent.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
30 June 2020

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Table 2.

INFLOW OF PRIVATE REMITTANCES

AMOUNTS IN TALA MILLION

Amount in Tala Millions	May-18	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20
By Recipient (Tala Millions)	49.34	47.45	40.66	53.45	47.06	38.34	42.24	42.56	57.24	46.89	41.97	46.87	36.75	58.37
Banknotes	8.16	4.09	2.94	9.47	4.85	4.40	2.85	2.79	11.03	12.36	4.30	3.21	0.13	0.09
Churches, school, Charities	6.44	4.14	4.74	8.78	4.73	2.22	5.03	5.07	5.98	3.13	5.85	2.70	2.94	2.46
Individual/Family/Households	33.57	35.22	28.31	33.00	35.66	28.57	32.28	32.76	37.99	28.95	29.12	35.12	30.75	54.28
In Kind	0.58	0.71	0.63	0.59	0.68	0.58	0.70	0.74	0.74	0.50	1.50	2.50	0.46	0.39
Others	0.59	3.29	4.03	1.60	1.14	2.58	1.37	1.19	1.51	1.95	1.21	3.34	2.48	1.15
By Country (Tala Millions)	49.34	47.45	40.66	53.45	47.06	38.34	42.24	42.56	57.24	46.89	41.97	46.87	36.75	58.37
USA	9.72	6.75	8.10	11.41	8.03	6.00	8.86	5.66	9.03	6.67	8.60	9.84	7.74	8.38
New Zealand	20.90	21.95	16.98	19.96	19.20	16.89	17.11	19.66	25.02	21.30	16.49	21.44	15.60	23.30
Australia	14.08	13.02	11.71	16.30	15.52	12.04	13.21	12.87	17.44	13.35	10.52	10.46	9.34	20.19
American Samoa	2.24	1.92	1.83	2.00	1.94	1.62	1.86	2.27	2.69	1.56	1.76	2.70	3.00	5.50
Others	2.39	3.81	2.04	3.77	2.37	1.78	1.19	2.10	3.06	4.01	4.60	2.44	1.07	1.00
By Channel (%)														
Banks	17.3%	18.5%	23.7%	21.3%	15.3%	15.1%	17.9%	16.7%	15.5%	14.2%	23.5%	20.5%	17.2%	7.5%
Non Banks (1)	82.7%	81.5%	76.3%	78.7%	84.7%	84.9%	82.1%	83.3%	84.5%	85.8%	76.5%	79.5%	82.8%	92.5%
Total Remittances (Tala Millions)	49.34	47.45	40.66	53.45	47.06	38.34	42.24	42.56	57.24	46.89	41.97	46.87	36.75	58.37
First Number of Months up to	11 months to May 18	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 Apr 20	11 months to May 20
Total Remittances (Tala Millions)	448.08	496.76	537.42	53.45	100.51	138.85	181.09	223.65	280.89	327.78	369.75	416.62	453.37	511.74
Percentage Change (over same period last 3 year average (%))	22.2%	10.9%	10.1%	31.8%	13.4%	10.2%	8.5%	7.1%	2.1%	4.0%	4.3%	1.8%	0.9%	3.0%
5 year average (%)	0.7%	5.8%	5.9%	6.7%	9.9%	8.6%	7.9%	8.7%	10.1%	10.6%	10.5%	11.9%	11.7%	11.6%
	-1.0%	3.5%	3.6%	1.0%	3.5%	3.7%	4.0%	4.0%	5.3%	5.4%	5.8%	7.0%	6.9%	7.0%
By Recipient (Tala Millions)														
Banknotes	59.47	70.41	73.35	9.47	14.33	18.73	21.58	24.36	35.39	47.75	52.05	55.25	55.38	55.47
Churches, school, Charities	46.97	55.40	60.14	8.78	13.52	15.73	20.77	25.84	31.82	34.94	40.79	43.49	46.43	48.88
Individual/Family/Households	321.27	343.30	371.61	33.00	68.66	97.22	129.51	162.27	200.26	229.21	258.33	293.45	324.20	378.48
In Kind	6.16	6.69	7.32	0.59	1.27	1.85	2.55	3.29	4.03	4.53	6.03	8.53	8.99	9.38
Others	14.21	20.96	24.99	1.60	2.74	5.32	6.69	7.88	9.40	11.34	12.56	15.90	18.37	19.52
By Country (Tala Millions)														
USA	79.30	95.05	103.15	11.41	19.45	25.45	34.31	39.97	49.00	55.67	64.27	74.11	81.85	90.23
New Zealand	183.92	198.60	215.59	19.96	39.16	56.05	73.16	92.83	117.85	139.15	155.64	177.08	192.69	215.98
Australia	145.96	152.96	164.67	16.30	31.82	43.86	57.08	69.94	87.38	100.74	111.26	121.72	131.05	151.24
American Samoa	15.90	19.20	21.02	2.00	3.95	5.56	7.42	9.69	12.38	13.94	15.70	18.40	21.39	26.90
Others	23.00	30.94	32.98	3.77	6.14	7.92	9.11	11.21	14.27	18.29	22.88	25.32	26.39	27.39

(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.