



PRICE DEVELOPMENTS REPORT MAY 2020

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

Report No.11: 2019/20

May 2020

The **Headline Consumer Price Index (CPI)** fell further by 2.6 percent from the preceding month and was also 2.7 percent lower when compared to May 2019. This was due to reductions in both its imported component (by 4.7 percent) and local component (by 0.4 percent).

The **annual average headline inflation rate** edged down to 1.7 percent from 2.0 percent a month ago and was well below a 2.6 percent in May 2019. This current performance of annual inflation was accounted for by both reductions in local component to 2.4 percent from 2.7 percent and the imported component to 1.0 percent from 1.3 percent in the previous month.

By individual subgroups, the *“Transport”* subgroup fell moderately by 6.8 percent as a result of 10.2 percent decline in its imported component (mainly prices for petrol, diesel and Toyota mini vans) and its local component by 0.9 percent (lower prices for car registrations).

The *“Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages”* subgroup narrowed by 3.7 percent due to reductions of 5.0 percent in its imported component (lower prices for chicken leg quarter, butter and potatoes to name a few) and 1.0 percent in its local component (mainly prices for fish, cucumbers, Chinese cabbage, taamu and koko Samoa). Similarly, the *“Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels”* subgroup decreased by 0.3 percent as a result of 1.3 percent drop in kerosene prices.

At the Local Produce Markets, the overall volume of supplies (main source of local food) rose by 8.5 percent, which pushed down the overall price index by 9.0 percent.

On the other hand, the *“Miscellaneous goods and services”* and *“Furnishing, Household equipment and Maintenance”* subgroups both increased by 0.9 percent and 0.7 percent in that order. The gain in the former reflected a 1.1

percent increase in prices for toiletries while the latter reflected a 0.8 percent rise in the prices of refrigerator and mosquito coil.

The *“Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics”, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Health”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education”* and *“Restaurant”* subgroups remained steady.

The **underlying CPI**¹ tumbled further by 2.4 percent and was also 0.6 percent lower than that of May 2019. For the third consecutive month, the annual average underlying CPI remained unchanged at 1.8 percent and was well above 0.8 percent in May 2019.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
30th June 2020

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 May 2020

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 over prev 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												
2017	May	101.7	101.1	101.4	1.0	1.5	-0.2	1.4	1.4	104.6	104.8	0.1	0.0	104.4	2.9	98.9	-0.6	2.0	98.3	-0.6
2018	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
2019	May	108.0	107.3	107.5	1.1	0.6	1.8	1.4	2.6	110.6	109.7	2.4	1.2	111.3	1.7	105.5	1.2	1.0	103.7	3.7
	June	108.5	107.8	107.5	0.4	-0.1	2.1	0.7	2.2	111.9	110.6	3.1	1.1	111.0	0.8	105.2	1.0	-0.3	104.0	3.7
	July	110.1	108.9	107.5	1.5	0.4	2.4	0.3	1.7	113.4	112.0	3.1	1.4	110.8	0.0	107.0	1.6	1.7	104.3	3.5
	August	110.1	109.6	107.6	-0.1	0.6	2.1	0.3	1.4	112.8	112.7	2.7	-0.5	110.7	-0.6	107.4	1.5	0.4	104.6	3.4
	September	110.1	110.1	107.7	0.1	1.3	2.2	0.8	1.0	113.8	113.3	2.5	0.9	110.6	-1.0	106.6	1.9	-0.8	104.8	3.3
	October	109.9	110.0	107.8	-0.2	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	113.5	113.4	1.3	-0.3	110.6	-1.3	106.4	0.9	-0.1	105.0	3.0
	November	109.8	110.0	108.0	-0.1	3.1	0.4	1.8	0.9	113.7	113.7	0.9	0.2	110.8	-1.2	106.0	-0.2	-0.4	105.4	3.1
	December	108.9	109.5	108.3	-0.9	2.4	-0.5	2.1	1.0	112.4	113.2	-0.1	-1.1	111.1	-0.7	105.4	-1.0	-0.6	105.5	2.8
2020	January	109.7	109.5	108.7	0.8	4.9	-0.5	3.5	1.5	111.5	112.5	-0.7	-0.8	111.6	0.1	108.0	-0.3	2.5	105.8	2.9
	February	110.5	109.7	109.1	0.7	5.0	-0.3	4.1	1.9	113.8	112.6	-1.0	2.0	112.2	0.8	107.3	0.5	-0.7	106.2	3.1
	March	111.0	110.4	109.5	0.5	3.8	0.8	4.5	2.0	114.8	113.4	0.1	0.9	112.6	1.2	107.3	1.5	0.0	106.4	2.9
	April	107.9	109.8	109.6	-2.8	4.8	0.3	3.2	2.0	111.6	113.4	0.8	-2.8	112.8	1.3	104.3	-0.2	-2.8	106.4	2.7
	May	105.2	108.0	109.3	-2.6	5.8	-1.5	0.7	1.7	106.4	111.0	-1.4	-4.7	112.5	1.0	103.9	-1.6	-0.4	106.2	2.4

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 Index	Percent Changes					Overall Import Component				Overall Local Component				
		Index	3 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									
2017	May	101.9	101.6	102.3	0.7	1.4	1.6	102.9	103.3	0.9	2.4	99.7	100.2	0.2	-0.2
2018	May	106.9	105.4	105.6	2.1	4.9	3.2	109.2	107.9	3.1	4.5	101.8	100.6	-0.1	0.4
2019	May	106.4	106.3	106.5	0.2	-0.5	0.8	107.6	108.3	0.1	0.4	103.8	102.5	0.5	1.8
	June	106.7	106.4	106.2	0.3	-2.7	0.1	108.2	107.9	0.6	-0.6	103.6	102.6	-0.2	1.7
	July	108.4	107.2	106.2	1.6	-0.7	-0.3	110.5	107.7	2.2	-1.2	103.9	102.8	0.3	1.7
	August	109.1	108.1	106.2	0.6	0.3	-0.6	111.5	107.7	0.9	-1.5	103.9	102.9	0.0	1.6
	September	109.4	109.0	106.3	0.3	1.5	-0.6	111.9	107.8	0.4	-1.6	104.0	103.1	0.1	1.6
	October	109.3	109.3	106.4	-0.2	1.5	-0.6	111.8	107.9	-0.2	-1.5	103.8	103.2	-0.1	1.6
	November	109.0	109.2	106.7	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	111.4	108.3	-0.4	-0.9	103.9	103.4	0.0	1.6
	December	108.4	108.9	107.2	-0.5	5.1	0.5	110.1	108.9	-1.1	0.1	104.7	103.6	0.8	1.6
2020	January	107.2	108.2	107.6	-1.1	5.1	1.2	108.4	109.4	-1.6	1.0	104.6	103.8	-0.1	1.7
	February	109.1	108.2	108.0	1.8	4.1	1.6	111.3	109.8	2.7	1.5	104.5	103.9	-0.2	1.9
	March	110.3	108.9	108.3	1.1	3.5	1.8	113.0	110.3	1.6	1.8	104.4	104.0	-0.1	1.8
	April	108.3	109.2	108.5	-1.8	4.5	1.8	110.2	110.5	-2.5	1.9	104.2	104.1	-0.1	1.8
	May	105.7	108.1	108.4	-2.4	5.5	1.8	106.5	110.4	-3.3	1.9	103.8	104.1	-0.4	1.6

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