



CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA

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PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO THE GOVERNOR

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT DECEMBER 2021

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 of Customs and Revenue.

Report No.6: 2021/22

December 2021

Visitor Arrivals

The prolonged closure of Samoa’s international borders mainly for safeguarding and protecting of its people from the COVID-19 pandemic permitting scheduled repatriation flights for returning citizens only, has continued to severely affect the tourism industry. Therefore, tourist arrivals and earnings for the first six months of 2021/2022 to December 2021, remained at zero.

Remittances

Total inflow of remittances recorded a seasonal increase of 35.9 percent (or \$20.9 million) to \$79.0 million over the same month in 2020 and was 16.4 percent (or \$11.1 million) higher than the previous month in light of end of year festive season.

Despite the adverse effects of COVID-19 on Samoa’s main source markets for remittances, the boost in overall monthly remittances over the same month last year was due to hikes in funds received from all its main sources; New Zealand (up by \$8.9 million), Australia (up by \$8.8 million), American Samoa (up by \$2.1 million) and United States (up by \$1.9 million). By recipient, the increase came from higher funds for ‘Family and Households’ (up by \$20.9 million), ‘Others’ (up by \$1.1 million), ‘Hand carried cash’ (up by \$0.4 million) and ‘In Kind’ (up by 0.2 million).

Similarly, total inflow of remittances in the first six months of financial year FY2021/2022 expanded by 17.4 percent (or \$56.3 million) to \$380.3 million compared to the same period in FY2020/2021.

Accounting for this increase were higher transfers from Australia (up by \$26.5 million), New Zealand (up by \$20.3 million), United States (up by \$11.4 million) and American Samoa (up by \$3.8 million). By recipient, higher funds were recorded for ‘Families and Households’, (up by \$62.6 million), ‘In Kind’ (up by \$2.7 million) and ‘Others’ (up by \$0.04 million) offsetting reductions in “Non-profit Institutions Serving Households” (NPISH) (down by \$7.5 million) and “Hand carried cash” (down by \$1.6 million) respectively.

The monthly share of total remittances inflows received directly through Money Transfers operators (MTO’s) contracted to 85.6 percent from 90.5 percent in December 2020 whilst funds received through commercial banks rose to 14.4 percent from 9.5 percent last year.

The average monthly cost of sending NZD\$200.00 to Samoa contracted to 8.05 percent of total funds from 10.27 percent in December 2020. Similarly, the average cost of sending AUD\$200.00 to Samoa also dropped to 6.00 percent from 8.46 percent over the year.

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CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA 15 February 2022



# VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT

December 2021

Table 2.

## INFLOW OF PRIVATE REMITTANCES

### AMOUNTS IN TALA MILLION

Amount in Tala Millions	Dec-19	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
<b>By Recipient (Tala Millions)</b>	<b>57.24</b>	<b>58.16</b>	<b>40.46</b>	<b>42.02</b>	<b>51.90</b>	<b>43.37</b>	<b>53.34</b>	<b>51.59</b>	<b>53.42</b>	<b>57.54</b>	<b>53.47</b>	<b>68.92</b>	<b>67.93</b>	<b>79.04</b>
Banknotes	11.03	0.50	0.09	0.20	0.38	0.16	0.29	0.52	0.47	0.25	0.12	0.47	0.53	0.94
Churches, school, Charities	5.98	4.28	2.99	3.17	3.17	2.21	6.31	3.30	2.55	0.67	0.28	4.66	2.50	2.52
Individual/Family/Households	37.99	51.75	36.28	37.39	42.94	37.32	45.43	45.76	46.47	55.19	51.99	61.92	63.45	72.65
In Kind	0.74	0.62	0.52	0.45	0.68	0.51	0.64	0.48	2.86	0.57	0.55	0.56	0.68	0.79
Others	1.51	1.01	0.58	0.81	4.74	3.17	0.67	1.54	1.07	0.85	0.52	1.31	0.76	2.14
<b>By Country (Tala Millions)</b>	<b>57.24</b>	<b>58.16</b>	<b>40.46</b>	<b>42.02</b>	<b>51.90</b>	<b>43.37</b>	<b>53.34</b>	<b>51.59</b>	<b>53.42</b>	<b>57.54</b>	<b>53.47</b>	<b>68.92</b>	<b>67.93</b>	<b>79.04</b>
USA	9.03	8.16	7.47	5.63	11.65	6.63	9.23	8.83	6.82	8.51	6.09	10.55	8.56	10.10
New Zealand	25.02	25.49	17.51	17.11	22.61	20.35	24.23	22.70	23.09	20.85	22.32	25.61	28.10	34.34
Australia	17.44	17.64	11.94	11.80	13.05	10.93	11.08	13.93	16.86	23.49	21.28	27.13	24.52	26.46
American Samoa	2.69	3.80	2.34	4.37	3.95	3.22	8.19	4.15	4.21	3.93	3.30	4.90	3.75	5.86
Others	3.06	3.08	1.19	3.11	0.65	2.23	0.61	1.99	2.44	0.76	0.48	0.73	3.00	2.28
<b>By Channel (%)</b>														
Banks	15.5%	9.5%	10.0%	10.9%	9.4%	7.5%	13.6%	19.3%	8.1%	17.4%	16.6%	21.5%	18.2%	14.4%
Non Banks (1)	84.5%	90.5%	90.0%	89.1%	90.6%	92.5%	86.4%	80.7%	91.9%	82.6%	83.4%	78.5%	81.8%	85.6%
<b>Total Remittances (Tala Millions)</b>	<b>57.24</b>	<b>58.16</b>	<b>40.46</b>	<b>42.02</b>	<b>51.90</b>	<b>43.37</b>	<b>53.34</b>	<b>51.59</b>	<b>53.42</b>	<b>57.54</b>	<b>53.47</b>	<b>68.92</b>	<b>67.93</b>	<b>79.04</b>
<b>First Number of Months up to</b>	<b>6 months to Dec 19</b>	<b>6 months to Dec 20</b>	<b>7 months to Jan 21</b>	<b>8 months to Feb 21</b>	<b>9 months to Mar 21</b>	<b>10 months to April 21</b>	<b>11 months to May 21</b>	<b>12 months to June 21</b>	<b>1st month to Aug 21</b>	<b>2 months to Sep 21</b>	<b>3 months to Oct 21</b>	<b>4 months to Nov 21</b>	<b>5 months to Dec 21</b>	<b>6 months to Dec 21</b>
<b>Total Remittances (Tala Millions)</b>	<b>284.59</b>	<b>324.04</b>	<b>364.49</b>	<b>406.51</b>	<b>458.42</b>	<b>501.79</b>	<b>555.13</b>	<b>606.72</b>	<b>53.42</b>	<b>110.96</b>	<b>164.43</b>	<b>233.35</b>	<b>301.28</b>	<b>380.31</b>
Percentage Change (over same period last year)	3.5%	13.9%	10.0%	8.9%	9.1%	9.8%	7.7%	6.9%	-6.1%	-0.5%	1.5%	6.9%	13.3%	17.4%
3 year average (%)	10.1%	10.3%	10.9%	11.5%	11.8%	11.5%	12.3%	12.2%	19.4%	16.7%	15.9%	15.2%	13.4%	11.5%
5 year average (%)	5.3%	5.8%	6.1%	6.1%	6.4%	5.9%	6.4%	6.7%	11.7%	10.8%	10.5%	10.5%	10.4%	9.5%
<b>By Recipient (Tala Millions)</b>														
Banknotes	35.17	4.38	4.47	4.66	5.04	5.20	5.49	6.01	0.47	0.73	0.85	1.32	1.86	2.79
Churches, school, Charities	30.86	20.63	23.62	26.80	29.96	32.17	38.49	41.78	2.55	3.21	3.50	8.16	10.65	13.17
Individual/Family/Households	200.36	289.11	325.39	362.79	405.73	443.04	488.47	534.23	46.47	101.66	153.65	215.57	279.02	351.66
In Kind	4.03	3.28	3.80	4.26	4.93	5.45	6.09	6.57	2.86	3.43	3.99	4.55	5.23	6.02
Others	14.16	6.63	7.21	8.01	12.75	15.92	16.59	18.13	1.07	1.93	2.45	3.76	4.52	6.67
<b>By Country (Tala Millions)</b>														
USA	48.99	39.20	46.67	52.30	63.95	70.58	79.81	88.64	6.82	15.33	21.42	31.97	40.54	50.64
New Zealand	117.82	134.06	151.57	168.68	191.30	211.65	235.88	258.58	23.09	43.94	66.26	91.88	119.98	154.32
Australia	87.37	113.27	125.21	137.02	150.07	160.99	172.08	186.01	16.86	40.35	61.63	88.76	113.27	139.73
American Samoa	12.38	22.15	24.49	28.86	32.81	36.03	44.22	48.36	4.21	8.14	11.44	16.34	20.09	25.94
Others	18.03	15.36	16.55	19.65	20.30	22.54	23.14	25.13	2.44	3.20	3.68	4.41	7.41	9.69

(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.