

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT

JUNE 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 for Revenue.

Report No.12: 2020/21

June 2021

Visitor Arrivals

The ongoing closure of Samoa's international borders for the purpose of safeguarding and protecting of its people from the deadly Covid-19 pandemic with the exception of intermittent repatriation flights for returning residents, has continued to adversely affect the tourism sector. On that account, both monthly tourist arrivals and earnings continue to remain at zero.

Remittances

Total monthly private remittances decreased by 1.0 percent (or \$0.5 million) to \$51.6 million when compared to the previous year and was also 3.3 percent (or \$1.8 million) lower than the previous month.

The drop in private remittances over the same month last year was accounted for by reductions in funds from Australia (down by \$2.7 million) and American Samoa (down by \$1.3 million) against gains from other countries such as New Zealand and USA. By recipients, reductions came from 'Family and Households' (down by \$1.4 million), offsetting minimal gains in all other recipients.

However, total inflow of private remittances in the twelve months of 2020/21 increased by 6.9 percent (or \$39.2 million) to \$606.7 million when compared to the same period last year. Underpinning this

expansion were higher transfers from New Zealand (up by \$20.9 million), Australia (up by \$18.2 million) and American Samoa (up by \$16.0 million) to name a few. Partially responsible for this expansion was the depreciation of the Samoan Tala against both the Australian dollar (by 5.8 percent) and New Zealand dollar (by 3.9 percent). By recipients, higher funds were recorded for 'Families and Households' (up by \$108.5 million) offsetting reductions in all other categories of recipients.

The monthly share of total remittances inflows received directly through Money Transfer operators (MTO's) fell to 80.7 percent from 90.9 percent in June 2020, whereas funds received directly through commercial banks rose to 19.3 percent from 9.1 percent last year.

The shift of SendMoneyPacific from a free website to a paid one has led to our inability for the fourth month to publish the costs of sending both AUD and NZD to Samoa. The Bank will inform you accordingly, once possible.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
11th August 2021

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Table 2.

INFLOW OF PRIVATE REMITTANCES

AMOUNTS IN TALA MILLION

Amount in Tala Millions	Jun-19	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21
By Recipient (Tala Millions)	40.66	52.09	56.92	54.55	50.46	56.32	47.61	58.16	40.46	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59
Banknotes	2.94	0.35	1.58	1.03	0.18	0.79	0.30	0.50	0.09	0.20	0.38	0.16	0.29	0.52
Churches, school, Charities	4.74	2.97	2.95	3.44	3.58	4.05	2.34	4.28	2.99	3.17	3.17	2.21	6.31	3.30
Individual/Family/Households	28.31	47.17	50.54	48.45	45.39	49.60	43.38	51.75	36.28	37.39	42.94	37.32	45.43	45.76
In Kind	0.63	0.43	0.51	0.54	0.48	0.66	0.47	0.62	0.52	0.45	0.68	0.51	0.64	0.48
Others	4.03	1.17	1.35	1.10	0.84	1.21	1.12	1.01	0.58	0.81	4.74	3.17	0.67	1.54
By Country (Tala Millions)	40.66	52.09	56.92	54.55	50.46	56.32	47.61	58.16	40.46	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59
USA	8.10	7.27	5.92	6.41	5.51	6.47	6.73	8.16	7.47	5.63	11.65	6.63	9.23	8.83
New Zealand	16.98	21.66	22.39	21.12	20.58	24.32	20.17	25.49	17.51	17.11	22.61	20.35	24.23	22.70
Australia	11.71	16.60	22.16	20.64	18.00	19.17	15.65	17.64	11.94	11.80	13.05	10.93	11.08	13.93
American Samoa	1.83	5.46	3.59	3.82	3.46	4.24	3.24	3.80	2.34	4.37	3.95	3.22	8.19	4.15
Others	2.04	1.10	2.85	2.56	2.92	2.12	1.83	3.08	1.19	3.11	0.65	2.23	0.61	1.99
By Channel (%)														
Banks	23.7%	9.1%	9.8%	10.0%	10.1%	10.7%	8.8%	9.5%	10.0%	10.9%	9.4%	7.5%	13.6%	19.3%
Non Banks (1)	76.3%	90.9%	90.2%	90.0%	89.9%	89.3%	91.2%	90.5%	90.0%	89.1%	90.6%	92.5%	86.4%	80.7%
Total Remittances (Tala Millions)	40.66	52.09	56.92	54.55	50.46	56.32	47.61	58.16	40.46	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59
First Number of Months up to	12 months to Jun 19	12 months to Jun 20	1st month to Jul 20	2 months to Aug 20	3 months to Sep 20	4 months to Oct 20	5 months to Nov 20	6 months to Dec 20	7 months to Jan 21	8 months to Feb 21	9 months to Mar 21	10 months to Apr 21	11 months to May 21	12 months to Jun 21
Total Remittances (Tala Millions)	537.42	567.53	56.92	111.47	161.94	218.26	265.87	324.04	364.49	406.51	458.42	501.79	555.13	606.72
Percentage Change (over same period last year)	10.1%	5.6%	6.5%	10.9%	16.6%	21.1%	16.9%	13.9%	10.0%	8.9%	9.1%	9.8%	7.7%	6.9%
3 year average (%)	5.9%	11.4%	17.3%	13.2%	10.7%	10.1%	10.4%	10.3%	10.9%	11.5%	11.8%	11.5%	12.3%	12.2%
5 year average (%)	3.6%	6.9%	11.6%	8.5%	7.4%	6.5%	6.7%	5.8%	6.1%	6.1%	6.4%	5.9%	6.4%	6.7%
By Recipient (Tala Millions)														
Banknotes	73.35	55.61	1.58	2.61	2.79	3.58	3.88	4.38	4.47	4.66	5.04	5.20	5.49	6.01
Churches, school, Charities	60.14	50.91	2.95	6.38	9.96	14.01	16.36	20.63	23.62	26.80	29.96	32.17	38.49	41.78
Individual/Family/Households	371.61	425.75	50.54	98.99	144.38	193.98	237.36	289.11	325.39	362.79	405.73	443.04	488.47	534.23
In Kind	7.32	6.83	0.51	1.05	1.53	2.19	2.66	3.28	3.80	4.26	4.93	5.45	6.09	6.57
Others	24.99	28.44	1.35	2.44	3.28	4.49	5.62	6.63	7.21	8.01	12.75	15.92	16.59	18.13
By Country (Tala Millions)														
USA	103.15	97.49	5.92	12.33	17.84	24.31	31.04	39.20	46.67	52.30	63.95	70.58	79.81	88.64
New Zealand	215.59	237.62	22.39	43.51	64.09	88.41	108.57	134.06	151.57	168.68	191.30	211.65	235.88	258.58
Australia	164.67	167.83	22.16	42.80	60.81	79.98	95.63	113.27	125.21	137.02	150.07	160.99	172.08	186.01
American Samoa	21.02	32.36	3.59	7.42	10.88	15.11	18.35	22.15	24.49	28.86	32.81	36.03	44.22	48.36
Others	32.98	32.24	2.85	5.41	8.33	10.45	12.28	15.36	16.55	19.65	20.30	22.54	23.14	25.13

(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.