



CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA

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PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO THE GOVERNOR

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

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.8: 2021/22

February 2022

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 citizens, has continued to adversely affect the tourism sector. On that account, both monthly tourist arrivals and earnings continue to remain at zero.

Remittances

Total inflow of remittances jumped by 27.1 percent (or \$11.4 million) to \$53.4 million over February last year and was also 21.1 percent (or \$9.3 million) higher than the previous month.

The boost in remittances over the same month last year were due to hikes in funds received from Australia (up by \$7.4 million), United States (up by \$4.5 million) and New Zealand (up by \$2.1 million). By recipient, higher transfers were recorded for ‘Family and Households’ (up by \$11.5 million) and ‘Non-profit Institutions Serving Households’ (up by \$0.8 million) and ‘In Kind’ transfers (up by \$0.3 million).

For the first eight months of FY2021/22, total inflow of remittances leapt by 17.5 percent (or \$71.3 million) to \$477.8 million, when compared to the same period of 2020/21. This was mainly due to increases in transfers from Samoa’s main sources markets as such Australia, New Zealand, United

States and American Samoa, by \$37.1 million, \$22.8 million, \$15.0 million and \$2.6 million in that order. This upward trend was partially supported by the strengthening of the USD and AUD against the Samoan Tala. In addition, total funds for ‘Family and Households’, ‘Others’ and ‘In Kind’ all rose by \$74.8 million, \$3.0 million and \$2.1 million respectively.

The monthly share of total remittances inflows received directly through Money Transfers Operators (MTO’s) increased to 79.2 percent from 76.5 percent in February 2021, whilst funds received directly through commercial banks decreased to 20.8 percent from 23.5 percent in the same month last year.

The average monthly cost of sending NZD\$200.00 to Samoa narrowed to 8.6 percent of total funds from 10.48 percent in February 2021. Similarly, the average cost of sending AUD\$200.00 to Samoa also decreased to 6.60 percent of total funds, from 8.90 percent over the year.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA 07th April 2022

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT

February 2022

Table 1. TOURISM EARNINGS, AVERAGE EXPENDITURE AND TOURISM PRICE INDEX

	Feb-20	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Total arrivals (persons)	7,053	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total arrivals incl. cruise ships (1)	7,053	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arrivals, by market (persons)														
American Samoa	414	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	1,757	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Europe	307	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New Zealand	2,919	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
USA	479	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Countries	1,177	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cruise ships	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arrivals, by purpose (persons)														
Holiday	2,071	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
VFR	2,993	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business & Conference	551	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport	95	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	1,343	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cruise ships	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total earnings (tala million)	20.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Earnings, by market (tala million)														
American Samoa	0.47	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	6.80	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Europe	0.28	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New Zealand	7.76	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
USA	1.73	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Countries	3.83	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cruise ships	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Earnings, by purpose (tala million)														
Holiday	6.03	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
VFR	8.63	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business & Conference	2.04	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport	0.22	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.94	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cruise ships	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average expenditure (tala,per person)	2,958	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tourism Price Index	149.2	127.8	129.5	129.4	130.0	131.0	132.9	134.8	134.8	135.5	135.6	136.3	137.4	137.6
First Number of Months up to	8months to Feb 20	8 months to Feb 21	9 months to Mar 21	10 months to Apr 21	11 months to May 21	12 months to June 21	1st month	2 months to Aug 21	3 months to Sept 21	4 months to Oct 21	5 months to Nov 21	6 months to Dec 21	7 months to Jan 22	8 months to Feb 22
Total Visitor Arrivals (persons)	120,235	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Over the past year (%)	-2.4%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Past 3 year average	5.3%	4.9%	3.5%	1.3%	-0.4%	-2.4%	-16.8%	-18.5%	-18.8%	-19.1%	-20.2%	-21.9%	-22.7%	-22.9%
Past 5 year average	7.4%	5.5%	4.5%	3.0%	1.5%	0.1%	-9.7%	-11.4%	-12.6%	-13.2%	-13.5%	-14.8%	-15.7%	-16.2%
Arrivals, by market (persons)														
American Samoa	8,744	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	27,344	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Europe	4,012	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New Zealand	51,915	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
USA	8,648	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Countries	19,572	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cruise ships	1,283	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arrivals, by purpose (persons)														
Holiday	46,262	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
VFR	42,567	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business & Conference	8,781	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport	5,723	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	16,902	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cruise ships	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Visitor Earnings (tala million)	362.65	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Over the past year (%)	-1.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Past 3 year average	4.7%	0.9%	-6.3%	-15.3%	-15.5%	-19.4%	-12.6%	-19.1%	-17.8%	-19.5%	-24.0%	-26.1%	-27.9%	-26.3%
Past 5 year average	7.8%	3.5%	-2.5%	-7.2%	-11.6%	-8.4%	-4.7%	-10.0%	-11.9%	-11.5%	-11.2%	-15.8%	-19.8%	-19.5%
Earnings, by market (tala million)														
American Samoa	15.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	98.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Europe	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New Zealand	154.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
USA	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Countries	64.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cruise ships	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Earnings, by purpose (tala million)														
Holiday	137.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
VFR	144.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business & Conference	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport	19.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	31.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cruise ships	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT

February 2022

Table 2.

INFLOW OF PRIVATE REMITTANCES

AMOUNTS IN TALA MILLION

Amount in Tala Millions	Feb-20	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
By Recipient (Tala Millions)	41.97	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59	53.42	57.54	53.47	68.92	67.93	79.04	44.09	53.42
Banknotes	4.30	0.20	0.38	0.16	0.29	0.52	0.47	0.25	0.12	0.47	0.53	0.94	0.48	0.16
Churches, school, Charities	5.85	3.17	3.17	2.21	6.31	3.30	2.55	0.67	0.28	4.66	2.50	2.52	2.30	3.93
Individual/Family/Households	29.12	37.39	42.94	37.32	45.43	45.76	46.47	55.19	51.99	61.92	63.45	72.65	37.04	48.87
In Kind	0.55	0.45	0.68	0.51	0.64	0.48	2.86	0.57	0.55	0.56	0.68	0.79	0.38	0.73
Others	2.16	0.81	4.74	3.17	0.67	1.54	1.07	0.85	0.52	1.31	0.76	2.14	3.90	-0.28
By Country (Tala Millions)	41.97	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59	53.42	57.54	53.47	68.92	67.93	79.04	44.09	53.42
USA	8.60	5.63	11.65	6.63	9.23	8.83	6.82	8.51	6.09	10.55	8.56	10.10	6.58	10.09
New Zealand	16.49	17.11	22.61	20.35	24.23	22.70	23.09	20.85	22.32	25.61	28.10	34.34	17.92	19.21
Australia	10.52	11.80	13.05	10.93	11.08	13.93	16.86	23.49	21.28	27.13	24.52	26.46	15.15	19.24
American Samoa	1.76	4.37	3.95	3.22	8.19	4.15	4.21	3.93	3.30	4.90	3.75	5.86	2.60	2.89
Others	4.60	3.11	0.65	2.23	0.61	1.99	2.44	0.76	0.48	0.73	3.00	2.28	1.84	1.99
By Channel (%)														
Banks	23.5%	10.9%	9.4%	7.5%	13.6%	19.3%	8.1%	17.4%	16.6%	21.5%	18.2%	14.4%	19.5%	20.8%
Non Banks (1)	76.5%	89.1%	90.6%	92.5%	86.4%	80.7%	91.9%	82.6%	83.4%	78.5%	81.8%	85.6%	80.5%	79.2%
Total Remittances (Tala Millions)	41.97	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59	53.42	57.54	53.47	68.92	67.93	79.04	44.09	53.42
First Number of Months up to	8 months to Feb 20	8 months to Feb 21	9 months to Mar 21	10 months to April 21	11 months to May 21	12 months to June 21	1st month to Aug 21	2 months to Aug 21	3 months to Sep 21	4 months to Oct 21	5 months to Nov 21	6 months to Dec 21	7 months to Jan 22	8 months to Feb 22
Total Remittances (Tala Millions)	373.45	406.51	458.42	501.79	555.13	606.72	53.42	110.96	164.43	233.35	301.28	380.31	424.41	477.83
Percentage Change (over same period last year)	5.4%	8.9%	9.1%	9.8%	7.7%	6.9%	-6.1%	-0.5%	1.5%	6.9%	13.3%	17.4%	16.4%	17.5%
3 year average (%)	10.5%	11.5%	11.8%	11.5%	12.3%	12.2%	19.4%	16.7%	15.9%	15.2%	13.4%	11.5%	9.9%	9.2%
5 year average (%)	5.8%	6.1%	6.4%	5.9%	6.4%	6.7%	11.7%	10.8%	10.5%	10.5%	10.4%	9.5%	9.4%	9.2%
By Recipient (Tala Millions)														
Banknotes	51.83	4.66	5.04	5.20	5.49	6.01	0.47	0.73	0.85	1.32	1.86	2.79	3.28	3.44
Churches, school, Charities	39.84	26.80	29.96	32.17	38.49	41.78	2.55	3.21	3.50	8.16	10.65	13.17	15.47	19.41
Individual/Family/Households	258.43	362.79	405.73	443.04	488.47	534.23	46.47	101.66	153.65	215.57	279.02	351.66	388.70	437.57
In Kind	4.98	4.26	4.93	5.45	6.09	6.57	2.86	3.43	3.99	4.55	5.23	6.02	6.39	7.13
Others	18.37	8.01	12.75	15.92	16.59	18.13	1.07	1.93	2.45	3.76	4.52	6.67	10.56	10.28
By Country (Tala Millions)														
USA	64.26	52.30	63.95	70.58	79.81	88.64	6.82	15.33	21.42	31.97	40.54	50.64	57.22	67.30
New Zealand	155.61	168.68	191.30	211.65	235.88	258.58	23.09	43.94	66.26	91.88	119.98	154.32	172.24	191.44
Australia	111.24	137.02	150.07	160.99	172.08	186.01	16.86	40.35	61.63	88.76	113.27	139.73	154.88	174.12
American Samoa	15.70	28.86	32.81	36.03	44.22	48.36	4.21	8.14	11.44	16.34	20.09	25.94	28.55	31.44
Others	26.64	19.65	20.30	22.54	23.14	25.13	2.44	3.20	3.68	4.41	7.41	9.69	11.53	13.52

(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.