

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT **SEPTEMBER 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.3: 2021/22

September 2021

Visitor Arrivals

The prolonged closure of Samoa's international borders for the eighteenth consecutive month for the safeguarding and protection of its people from the deadly Covid-19 pandemic, with the exception of repatriation flights for returning Samoan citizens only. This has continued to adversely affect the tourism industry and its related activities with no tourist arrivals and earnings recorded to date.

Remittances

Total remittances for the month recorded an increase of 6.0 percent (or \$3.0 million) to \$53.5 million when compared to the same month last year, but was 7.1 percent (or \$4.1 million) lower than the previous month.

This improvement over the year was accounted for by increases in funds received from Australia (up by \$3.2 million), New Zealand (up by \$1.7 million) and USA (up by \$0.5 million). In terms of recipients, increased funds were recorded for 'Family and Households' and 'In Kind', by \$6.6 million and \$0.1 million respectively.

In the first three months of financial year (FY) 2021/22, total remittances increased by 1.5 percent (or \$2.5 million) to \$164.4 million over the same period of 2020/21. Accounting for this increase were gains in transfers from USA, New Zealand, Australia and American Samoa by \$3.5 million, \$2.2

million, \$0.8 million and \$0.5 million in that order. Partially responsible for this increase was the appreciation of the Samoan Tala against both US dollar (by 0.5 percent) and Australian dollar (by 0.2 percent) over last year. By recipients, total funds for 'Family and Households', 'In Kind' and 'Hand carried cash' all grew by \$9.3 million, \$2.5 million and \$0.7 million respectively.

The monthly share of total remittances inflows received directly through Money Transfers operators (MTO's) narrowed to 83.4 percent from 89.9 percent in September 2020 while those received directly through commercial banks edged up to 16.6 percent from 10.1 percent in the same month last year.

The average monthly cost of sending NZD\$200.00 to Samoa fell to 7.67 percent from 9.64 percent in September 2020 whereas the average cost of sending AUD\$200.00 to Samoa also decreased to 5.96 percent from 8.81 percent over the year.

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
01st November 2021

VISITOR EARNINGS & REMITTANCES REPORT

September 2021

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

	Sep-19	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21
Total arrivals (persons)	16,212	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total arrivals incl. cruise ships (1)	16,212	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrivals, by market (persons)														
American Samoa	990	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	4,112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Europe	491	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	7,579	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USA	702	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Countries	2,338	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
Arrivals, by purpose (persons)														
Holiday	7,167	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VFR	5,674	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business & Conference	1,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sport	260	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1,711	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	1
Total earnings (tala million)	48.81	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	1.29	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
Australia	13.82	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
Europe	0.51	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
New Zealand	23.69	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
USA	2.76	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
Other Countries	6.74	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
Cruise ships	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	0.00
Earnings, by purpose (tala million)														
Holiday	23.30	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
VFR	17.54	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
Business & Conference	4.74	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
Sport	0.92	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
Other	2.30	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
Cruise ships	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	0.00
Average expenditure (tala,per person)	3,011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tourism Price Index	159.0	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
First Number of Months up to	3 months to Sep 19	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 Feb 22	10 months to Feb 23	11 months to Feb 24	12 months to Feb 25	13 months to Feb 26	2 months to Aug 21	3 months to Sep 21
Total Visitor Arrivals (persons)	58,348	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over the past year (%)	15.8%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Past 3 year average	5.3%	9.5%	8.8%	8.5%	6.6%	5.5%	4.9%	3.5%	1.3%	-0.4%	-2.4%	-16.8%	-18.5%	0.0%
Past 5 year average	7.1%	9.2%	8.7%	8.0%	6.8%	6.0%	5.5%	4.5%	3.0%	1.5%	0.1%	-9.7%	-11.4%	0.0%
Arrivals, by market (persons)														
American Samoa	5,248	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	11,835	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Europe	2,172	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	24,262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USA	4,216	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Countries	10,615	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	1
Arrivals, by purpose (persons)														
Holiday	22,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VFR	18,643	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business & Conference	4,733	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sport	5,454	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	6,718	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
Total Visitor Earnings (tala million)	169.25	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
Over the past year (%)	16.5%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Past 3 year average	8.4%	11.5%	11.1%	12.7%	4.6%	1.3%	0.9%	-6.3%	-15.3%	-15.5%	-19.4%	-12.6%	-19.1%	0.0%
Past 5 year average	9.6%	11.1%	10.6%	7.6%	6.2%	3.2%	3.5%	-2.5%	-7.2%	-11.6%	-8.4%	-4.7%	-10.0%	0.0%
Earnings, by market (tala million)														
American Samoa	10.1	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
Australia	37.8	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	2.2	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
New Zealand	71.5	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
USA	12.6	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
Other Countries	35.1	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
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
Earnings, by purpose (tala million)														
Holiday	67.4	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	58.5	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
Business & Conference	14.7	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
Sport	19.0	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	9.5	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
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

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Table 2.

INFLOW OF PRIVATE REMITTANCES

AMOUNTS IN TALA MILLION

Amount in Tala Millions	Sep-19	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21
By Recipient (Tala Millions)	38.34	50.46	56.32	47.61	58.16	40.46	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59	53.42	57.54	53.47
Banknotes	4.40	0.18	0.79	0.30	0.50	0.09	0.20	0.38	0.16	0.29	0.52	0.47	0.25	0.12
Churches, school, Charities	2.22	3.58	4.05	2.34	4.28	2.99	3.17	3.17	2.21	6.31	3.30	2.55	0.67	0.28
Individual/Family/Households	28.57	45.39	49.60	43.38	51.75	36.28	37.39	42.94	37.32	45.43	45.76	46.47	55.19	51.99
In Kind	0.58	0.48	0.66	0.47	0.62	0.52	0.45	0.68	0.51	0.64	0.48	2.86	0.57	0.55
Others	2.58	0.84	1.21	1.12	1.01	0.58	0.81	4.74	3.17	0.67	1.54	1.07	0.85	0.52
By Country (Tala Millions)	38.34	50.46	56.32	47.61	58.16	40.46	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59	53.42	57.54	53.47
USA	6.00	5.51	6.47	6.73	8.16	7.47	5.63	11.65	6.63	9.23	8.83	6.82	8.51	6.09
New Zealand	16.89	20.58	24.32	20.17	25.49	17.51	17.11	22.61	20.35	24.23	22.70	23.09	20.85	22.32
Australia	12.04	18.00	19.17	15.65	17.64	11.94	11.80	13.05	10.93	11.08	13.93	16.86	23.49	21.28
American Samoa	1.62	3.46	4.24	3.24	3.80	2.34	4.37	3.95	3.22	8.19	4.15	4.21	3.93	3.30
Others	1.78	2.92	2.12	1.83	3.08	1.19	3.11	0.65	2.23	0.61	1.99	2.44	0.76	0.48
By Channel (%)														
Banks	15.1%	10.1%	10.7%	8.8%	9.5%	10.0%	10.9%	9.4%	7.5%	13.6%	19.3%	8.1%	17.4%	16.6%
Non Banks (1)	84.9%	89.9%	89.3%	91.2%	90.5%	90.0%	89.1%	90.6%	92.5%	86.4%	80.7%	91.9%	82.6%	83.4%
Total Remittances (Tala Millions)	38.34	50.46	56.32	47.61	58.16	40.46	42.02	51.90	43.37	53.34	51.59	53.42	57.54	53.47
First Number of Months up to	3 months to Sep 19	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 June 21	1st month to Aug 21	2 months to Aug 21	3 months to Sep 21
Total Remittances (Tala Millions)	138.85	161.94	218.26	265.87	324.04	364.49	406.51	458.42	501.79	555.13	606.72	53.42	110.96	164.43
Percentage Change (over same period last year)	10.2%	16.6%	21.1%	16.9%	13.9%	10.0%	8.9%	9.1%	9.8%	7.7%	6.9%	-6.1%	-0.5%	1.5%
3 year average (%)	8.6%	10.7%	10.1%	10.4%	10.3%	10.9%	11.5%	11.8%	11.5%	12.3%	12.2%	19.4%	16.7%	15.9%
5 year average (%)	3.7%	7.4%	6.5%	6.7%	5.8%	6.1%	6.1%	6.4%	5.9%	6.4%	6.7%	11.7%	10.8%	10.5%
By Recipient (Tala Millions)														
Banknotes	18.73	2.79	3.58	3.88	4.38	4.47	4.66	5.04	5.20	5.49	6.01	2.55	3.21	3.50
Churches, school, Charities	15.73	9.96	14.01	16.36	20.63	23.62	26.80	29.96	32.17	38.49	41.78	0.47	0.73	0.85
Individual/Family/Households	97.22	144.38	193.98	237.36	289.11	325.39	362.79	405.73	443.04	488.47	534.23	46.47	101.66	153.65
In Kind	1.85	1.53	2.19	2.66	3.28	3.80	4.26	4.93	5.45	6.09	6.57	2.86	3.43	3.99
Others	5.32	3.28	4.49	5.62	6.63	7.21	8.01	12.75	15.92	16.59	18.13	1.07	1.93	2.45
By Country (Tala Millions)														
USA	25.45	17.84	24.31	31.04	39.20	46.67	52.30	63.95	70.58	79.81	88.64	6.82	15.33	21.42
New Zealand	56.05	64.09	88.41	108.57	134.06	151.57	168.68	191.30	211.65	235.88	258.58	23.09	43.94	66.26
Australia	43.86	60.81	79.98	95.63	113.27	125.21	137.02	150.07	160.99	172.08	186.01	16.86	40.35	61.63
American Samoa	5.56	10.88	15.11	18.35	22.15	24.49	28.86	32.81	36.03	44.22	48.36	4.21	8.14	11.44
Others	7.92	8.33	10.45	12.28	15.36	16.55	19.65	20.30	22.54	23.14	25.13	2.44	3.20	3.68

(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.