

### WORLD ECONOMY

- The US economy noted a slower growth of 1.6 percent in the first quarter of 2024 where consumer spending experienced a slowdown. The Australian economy also expanded by 0.2 percent in the last quarter of 2023 while the New Zealand economy shrank by 0.1 percent reflecting declines in wholesale trade and retail trade activity.
- The International price of Crude oil increased further by 4.4 percent to USD\$83.76 per barrel.

### DOMESTIC ECONOMY

#### INFLATION



- **The Consumer Price Index (CPI)** increased by 0.1 percent over January 2024.
- **Annual headline inflation rate** continued to fall to 6.6 percent from 7.3 percent over the previous month.
- This was due to decreases in both the local inflation and imported inflation.
- **Underlying inflation** dropped to 8.8 percent from 9.7 percent in January 2024 and 12.3 percent in the same month last year.

#### OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES



- **Gross Foreign Reserves** noted a slight decline of 0.2 percent (or \$2.2 million) to \$1,305.3 million. On the other hand, when compared to the same month last year, it was 41.0 percent (or \$380.6 million) higher.
- This was sufficient to cover around **13.1 months' worth of imports** (or import cover), compared to 13.4 months in January 2024 and 9.9 months in February 2023.

#### REMITTANCES & TOURISM



- **Total monthly remittances** contracted further by 7.4 percent (or \$5.0 million) to \$62.0 million.
- **Visitor arrivals** fell by 33.7 percent (or 4,890 visitors) to 9,630 visitors over January 2024 but was 25 percent higher than in February 2023.
- As a result, **total tourist receipts** stood at \$33.2 million.

#### EXTERNAL TRADE



- **Total export receipts** increased by 26.7 percent (or \$1.7 million) to \$8.0 million. This was driven by a \$1.9 million in locally produced exports (mainly fish, taro, and coconut exports to name a few) while re-exports recorded a decline of \$0.2 million.
- Total **import payments** dropped further to \$92.2 million.
- The **merchandise trade deficit** reduced further by 8.7 percent to \$84.2 million.

#### INTEREST RATES & MONEY SUPPLY



- **Weighted average monthly official rate** fell by 1 point to 0.23 percent from 0.24 percent in January 2024.
- **The commercial banks weighted average deposit rate** significantly dropped by 14 basis points to 1.63 percent while the **lending rate** went up to 8.46 percent from the previous month.
- **Interest rate spread** widened to 6.83 percent from 6.67 percent in January 2024.
- **Broad money (M2)** rose further to \$1,648.6 million.

#### LIQUIDITY & CREDIT



- **Total commercial banks' liquidity** rose by 2.1 percent (or \$14.8 million) to \$711.9 million.
- This increase was primarily due to higher commercial banks' holdings of CBS securities (up by \$29.6 million) while their vault cash holdings and exchange settlement accounts (ESA) both declined by \$13.1 million and \$1.7 million respectively.
- Moreover, total **commercial banks' credit to the private sector and public institutions** rebounded to \$1,131.9 million.

#### LOCAL MARKET SURVEY

- Overall supply of agriculture commodities to the Fugalei and other domestic produce markets around Apia, recovered by 0.6 percent in January 2024. This was due to higher supplies of taamu, banana and vegetable items like cucumber and pumpkin to name a few. Accordingly, the **overall price index** reduced by 7.2 percent.

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS																				
INDICATORS	2022			2023									2024		Average Eight Months			Average levels in the previous		
	Feb	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jul21 - Feb22	Jul22 - Feb23	Jul23 - Feb24	2-years	3-years	5-years
<b>CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA: (%)</b>																				
Official rate	0.15	0.15	0.22	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.18	0.25	0.27	0.24	0.23	0.15	0.17	0.22	0.17	0.16	0.16
<b>COMMERCIAL BANKS' INTEREST RATES: (%)</b>																				
Average lending rate	8.32	8.26	8.32	8.33	8.30	8.31	8.30	8.30	8.32	8.35	8.35	8.43	8.44	8.46	8.44	8.27	8.37	8.30	8.38	8.60
Average deposit rate	1.81	1.77	1.82	1.73	1.81	1.76	1.77	1.80	1.84	1.81	1.81	1.83	1.77	1.63	1.87	1.81	1.78	1.76	2.03	2.26
<b>COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS (Tala million)</b>	<b>1183.5</b>	<b>1169.5</b>	<b>1157.4</b>	<b>1164.6</b>	<b>1146.3</b>	<b>1140.1</b>	<b>1149.2</b>	<b>1146.0</b>	<b>1142.8</b>	<b>1141.0</b>	<b>1142.0</b>	<b>1141.6</b>	<b>1131.9</b>	<b>1139.1</b>	<b>1191.6</b>	<b>1175.2</b>	<b>1141.7</b>	<b>1185.4</b>	<b>1183.3</b>	<b>1170.0</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT NET POSITION (Tala million)</b>	<b>-301.3</b>	<b>-329.2</b>	<b>-353.4</b>	<b>-363.3</b>	<b>-352.6</b>	<b>-395.4</b>	<b>-475.8</b>	<b>-454.3</b>	<b>-422.1</b>	<b>-437.1</b>	<b>-453.6</b>	<b>-484.3</b>	<b>-533.3</b>	<b>-503.6</b>	<b>-333.5</b>	<b>-317.3</b>	<b>-470.5</b>	<b>-326.9</b>	<b>-328.2</b>	<b>-293.1</b>
<b>MONEY SUPPLY (Tala million)</b>	<b>1300.6</b>	<b>1485.3</b>	<b>1471.1</b>	<b>1501.8</b>	<b>1564.1</b>	<b>1575.4</b>	<b>1529.1</b>	<b>1573.6</b>	<b>1576.0</b>	<b>1587.8</b>	<b>1606.9</b>	<b>1625.3</b>	<b>1630.1</b>	<b>1648.6</b>	<b>1314.5</b>	<b>1408.8</b>	<b>1597.2</b>	<b>1392.4</b>	<b>1358.3</b>	<b>1302.5</b>
Currency outside banks	116.7	137.4	140.8	145.0	155.8	162.7	158.3	158.8	161.5	159.2	155.1	190.4	156.9	150.6	121.1	138.7	161.4	132.5	126.7	113.4
Demand deposits	422.2	510.9	487.5	506.8	531.9	548.9	526.4	549.3	532.8	536.7	570.8	552.3	598.1	591.2	410.1	444.9	557.2	449.4	429.2	409.3
FCD residents	52.9	106.4	99.7	101.4	103.0	114.3	93.7	97.1	99.8	108.2	121.8	120.9	110.3	111.9	62.6	86.7	107.9	87.5	72.1	69.8
Save deposits	188.5	224.1	224.8	232.7	237.6	242.3	243.4	247.0	247.3	254.1	239.7	236.8	241.1	236.2	194.5	221.1	243.2	206.6	196.5	176.8
Time deposits	520.2	506.5	518.3	515.9	535.7	507.3	507.3	521.4	534.6	529.6	519.5	524.9	523.7	558.8	526.1	517.4	527.5	516.3	533.7	533.3
<b>NOMINAL EXCHANGE RATE (Index)</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.9</b>
<b>HEADLINE CPI (2)</b>	<b>115.3</b>	<b>129.0</b>	<b>129.8</b>	<b>131.8</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>133.9</b>	<b>134.0</b>	<b>132.8</b>	<b>131.8</b>	<b>132.3</b>	<b>132.4</b>	<b>132.0</b>	<b>133.4</b>	<b>133.5</b>	<b>113.6</b>	<b>127.3</b>	<b>132.8</b>	<b>121.5</b>	<b>115.6</b>	<b>112.2</b>
Annual average inflation (%)	5.7	11.2	11.5	11.7	12.0	12.0	11.5	10.3	9.1	8.3	8.0	7.9	7.3	6.6	1.3	10.8	8.6	7.8	4.4	3.7
<b>LOCAL MARKET SURVEY: (2)</b>																		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Volume	113.0	79.1	80.1	83.1	71.4	52.2	82.1	91.3	100.4	125.6	97.8	97.2	90.0	90.6	93.0	105.0	96.9	95.2	90.2	102.4
Price	100.0	133.6	159.3	174.8	190.4	219.7	222.6	193.1	173.6	137.0	152.4	158.9	181.7	168.7	102.4	127.5	173.5	134.5	122.1	120.1
<b>EXPORTS (Tala million)</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>IMPORTS (Tala million)</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>98.9</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>101.6</b>	<b>105.7</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>110.3</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>101.8</b>	<b>100.6</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>66.7</b>
<b>REMITTANCES (Tala million)</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>45.3</b>
<b>TOURISM: (1)&amp;(4)</b>																				
Arrivals	0.0	7687.0	10128.0	13720.0	15719.0	18021.0	17270.0	16471.0	14879.0	13383.0	12856.0	22512.0	14520.0	9630.0	-	8,383	15,190	6,161	4,107	7,306
Earnings (Tala million)	0.0	24.6	34.5	48.7	61.2	57.7	52.3	55.5	51.5	47.8	51.1	81.1	47.2	33.2	0.0	27.4	52.5	18	12	20
<b>GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (3) (5)</b>	<b>757.1</b>	<b>924.7</b>	<b>947.9</b>	<b>976.2</b>	<b>1014.5</b>	<b>1098.1</b>	<b>1145.3</b>	<b>1164.3</b>	<b>1138.1</b>	<b>1150.5</b>	<b>1160.1</b>	<b>1207.0</b>	<b>1307.5</b>	<b>1305.3</b>	<b>762.9</b>	<b>837.4</b>	<b>1197.3</b>	<b>831.7</b>	<b>798.6</b>	<b>669.5</b>
BOP Position (+/-) (Surplus/Deficit)	-11.7	29.9	23.2	28.2	38.6	83.6	47.2	18.9	-26.1	12.4	9.6	46.9	100.4	-2.2	3.0	14.0	25.9	14.2	10.6	18.4
Import Cover	10.3	9.9	9.8	10.0	10.3	10.9	11.4	11.7	11.5	11.6	11.7	12.3	13.4	13.1	10.9	9.6	12.1	10.2	10.6	8.9

Source: Central Bank of Samoa  
1. Revised Total Earnings from Feb-12 to Mar-16  
2. Rebase Base Period February 2016=100  
3. Significant increases in official reserves since March 2020, reflected the inflows of funds for COVID-19 assistance and the usual government inflows for budget support from Samoa's international partners. In April 2020, Samoa received a loan of USD\$20.03 million from International Monetary Fund to address the COVID-19 pandemic.  
4. Starting from April 2020, tourists arrivals and earnings recorded zero value due to the closure of international borders for the safeguarding of our people during the pandemic.  
n/a: not available  
5. Samoa received the IMF-Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) allocation of SDR15.5 million, an equivalent of around \$55.5 million Tala in August 2021

# SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS CHART PACK

