

### WORLD ECONOMY

- The US economy expanded by 2.8 percent in the September 2024 quarter, driven largely by an increase in consumer spending on goods and services. In contrast, the Australian economy grew by 0.2 percent, while the New Zealand economy contracted by 0.2 percent in the second quarter of 2024.
- The international price of Brent Blend Crude Oil declined further by 8.1 percent to USD\$74.29 per barrel.

### DOMESTIC ECONOMY

- The Samoan economy expanded by 9.4 percent in real terms during the June 2024 quarter compared to the same period last year. This was mostly due to increased output across various sectors such as “Commerce”, “Food and Beverages manufacturing” and “Communication” alongside a significant rise in government tax revenues collected during the quarter. On an annual average basis, the economy also recorded a growth rate of 9.4 percent in real terms.

#### INFLATION



- **The Consumer Price Index (CPI)** increased by 1.2 percent in September 2024 from the previous month.
- **Annual headline inflation rate** slightly edged up to 2.9 percent in September 2024, but was much lower than the 9.1 percent observed in September 2023.
- This rise was driven by an increase in the imported inflation component, despite a decline in domestic inflation pressures.
- **The underlying inflation rate** remained stable at 3.4 percent compared to the previous month, marking a significant decline from 11.4 percent in the same month last year.

#### OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES



- **Gross Foreign Reserves** saw an additional increase of 1.3 percent (or \$18.5 million), reaching \$1,396.8 million, which was 22.7 percent (or \$258.7 million) higher compared to September of the previous year.
- As a result, the **import cover** improved to 13.6 months, up from the previous month's level, and higher than the 11.5 months recorded in September 2023.

#### REMITTANCES & TOURISM



- **Total monthly remittances** for September 2024 decreased by 27.7 percent (or \$25.3 million), to \$66.0 million, and were \$1.4 million lower compared to September 2023.
- Similarly, **visitor arrivals** declined by 15.7 percent (or 2,712 visitors), totaling 14,536, a decrease of 343 visitors from the same month last year.
- In line with this, **total tourist earnings** fell by 11.5 percent (or \$6.7 million), amounting to \$51.5 million, which was roughly the same as the value recorded in September 2023.

#### EXTERNAL TRADE



- **Export receipts** rose further by 4.6 percent (or \$0.5 million) from August 2024 to \$11.5 million. Accountable were:
  - Re-exports (+\$0.8 million).
  - Locally produced exports (-\$0.4 million).
- **Total import payments** fell by 24.2 percent (or \$28.6 million) to \$89.6 million, reflecting:
  - Private sector imports (-\$15.5 million)
  - Government imports (-\$8.6 million)
  - Petroleum imports (-\$4.5 million)
- As a result, the **merchandise trade deficit** narrowed by 27.2 percent, reaching \$78.1 million in the month under review.

#### INTEREST RATES & MONEY SUPPLY



- **Weighted average (WA) monthly official interest rate** expanded by 51 basis points to 0.88 percent from 0.37 percent in August 2024.
- **The commercial banks' WA deposit rate** fell by 2 basis points to 1.49 percent while **WA lending rate** fell by 3 percentage points to 8.40 percent.
- **WA Interest rate margin** contracted to 6.91 percent from 6.92 percent last month.
- **Broad money (M2)** increased by \$12.0 million, reaching \$1,731.0 million, primarily due to a \$7.7 million rise in **Net Domestic Assets** and a \$4.3 million increase in **Net Foreign Assets**.

#### LIQUIDITY & CREDIT



- **Total commercial banks' liquidity** rose by 3.9 percent (or \$25.9 million) to \$689.8 million.
- This growth was driven by higher holdings in vault cash (up by \$12.0 million), exchange settlement accounts (up by \$9.9 million), and CBS securities (up by \$4.0 million).
- Meanwhile, total **commercial banks' credit** to the private sector and public institutions increased by 1.1 percent to \$1,208.1 million.
- Total **non-bank financial institutions loans** to the private sector and public institutions also grew by 0.6 percent to \$962.0 million.

### LOCAL MARKET SURVEY

- The total supply of agriculture commodities to selected local markets around the country, rose by 9.2 percent in September 2024. This was a reflection of higher supplies of vegetable items like pumpkin, tomatoes and head cabbage. As a result, the **overall price index** decreased by 5.8 percent.

| SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS                  |               |                |                |                |                |                      |                |                |                                |               |               |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| INDICATORS                                    | 2022          | 2023           | 2024           |                |                | Average Three Months |                |                | Average levels in the previous |               |               |
|   | Sep           | Sep            | July           | Aug            | Sep            | Jul22 - Sep22        | Jul23 - Sep23  | Jul24 - Sep24  | 2-years                        | 3-years       | 5-years       |
| <b>CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA: (%)</b>             |               |                |                |                |                |                      |                |                |                                |               |               |
| Official rate                                 | 0.20          | 0.21           | 0.27           | 0.37           | 0.88           | 0.17                 | 0.21           | 0.51           | 0.18                           | 0.17          | 0.16          |
| <b>COMMERCIAL BANKS' INTEREST RATES: (%)</b>  |               |                |                |                |                |                      |                |                |                                |               |               |
| Average lending rate                          | 8.27          | 8.32           | 8.41           | 8.44           | 8.40           | 8.28                 | 8.31           | 8.42           | 8.30                           | 8.36          | 8.52          |
| Average deposit rate                          | 1.79          | 1.84           | 1.54           | 1.52           | 1.49           | 1.83                 | 1.80           | 1.52           | 1.81                           | 1.85          | 2.17          |
| <b>COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS (Tala million)</b>   | <b>1179.0</b> | <b>1142.8</b>  | <b>1189.8</b>  | <b>1195.0</b>  | <b>1208.1</b>  | <b>1178.4</b>        | <b>1146.0</b>  | <b>1197.6</b>  | <b>1162.4</b>                  | <b>1170.8</b> | <b>1162.4</b> |
| <b>GOVERNMENT NET POSITION (Tala million)</b> | <b>-287.7</b> | <b>-422.1</b>  | <b>-614.1</b>  | <b>-615.3</b>  | <b>-592.7</b>  | <b>-311.7</b>        | <b>-450.7</b>  | <b>-607.4</b>  | <b>-386.1</b>                  | <b>-371.8</b> | <b>-339.6</b> |
| <b>MONEY SUPPLY (Tala million)</b>            | <b>1389.1</b> | <b>1576.0</b>  | <b>1673.9</b>  | <b>1834.7</b>  | <b>1814.4</b>  | <b>1368.7</b>        | <b>1559.5</b>  | <b>1774.3</b>  | <b>1473.0</b>                  | <b>1417.7</b> | <b>1344.0</b> |
| Currency outside banks                        | 137.4         | 161.5          | 164.3          | 171.8          | 164.6          | 133.0                | 159.6          | 166.9          | 145.2                          | 136.2         | 123.9         |
| Demand deposits                               | 434.4         | 532.8          | 626.1          | 778.9          | 771.9          | 422.0                | 536.2          | 725.6          | 486.6                          | 461.4         | 428.8         |
| FCD residents                                 | 77.3          | 99.8           | 110.3          | 105.0          | 106.0          | 73.5                 | 96.8           | 107.1          | 87.5                           | 78.4          | 66.6          |
| Save deposits                                 | 220.6         | 247.3          | 268.6          | 269.5          | 269.5          | 221.2                | 245.9          | 269.2          | 235.0                          | 221.5         | 199.6         |
| Time deposits                                 | 519.4         | 534.6          | 504.6          | 509.4          | 502.4          | 519.0                | 521.1          | 505.4          | 518.6                          | 520.2         | 525.0         |
| <b>NOMINAL EXCHANGE RATE (Index)</b>          | <b>100.2</b>  | <b>99.8</b>    | <b>99.7</b>    | <b>99.7</b>    | <b>99.7</b>    | <b>100.0</b>         | <b>99.7</b>    | <b>99.7</b>    | <b>99.8</b>                    | <b>99.8</b>   | <b>99.9</b>   |
| <b>HEADLINE CPI (2)</b>                       | <b>130.1</b>  | <b>131.8</b>   | <b>132.9</b>   | <b>133.2</b>   | <b>134.8</b>   | <b>128.4</b>         | <b>132.9</b>   | <b>133.6</b>   | <b>131.3</b>                   | <b>125.1</b>  | <b>118.5</b>  |
| Annual average inflation (%)                  | 11.0          | 9.1            | 2.9            | 2.8            | 2.9            | 10.3                 | 10.3           | 2.9            | 10.3                           | 6.3           | 4.2           |
| <b>LOCAL MARKET SURVEY: (2)</b>               |               |                |                |                |                |                      |                |                |                                |               |               |
| Volume Index                                  | 132.7         | 100.4          | 90.9           | 123.4          | 134.8          | 98.4                 | 91.2           | 116.3          | 88.8                           | 88.5          | 92.1          |
| Price Index                                   | 121.4         | 173.6          | 193.8          | 181.2          | 170.7          | 122.2                | 196.4          | 181.9          | 159.4                          | 140.6         | 131.8         |
| <b>EXPORTS (Tala million)</b>                 | <b>12.5</b>   | <b>12.0</b>    | <b>6.3</b>     | <b>11.0</b>    | <b>11.5</b>    | <b>11.2</b>          | <b>10.3</b>    | <b>9.6</b>     | <b>10.5</b>                    | <b>8.7</b>    | <b>9.5</b>    |
| <b>IMPORTS (Tala million)</b>                 | <b>106.9</b>  | <b>105.7</b>   | <b>104.2</b>   | <b>118.2</b>   | <b>89.6</b>    | <b>103.0</b>         | <b>98.3</b>    | <b>104.0</b>   | <b>109.5</b>                   | <b>96.7</b>   | <b>88.5</b>   |
| <b>REMITTANCES (Tala million)</b>             | <b>69.2</b>   | <b>67.4</b>    | <b>81.0</b>    | <b>91.3</b>    | <b>66.0</b>    | <b>74.9</b>          | <b>74.0</b>    | <b>79.4</b>    | <b>76.2</b>                    | <b>70.0</b>   | <b>62.3</b>   |
| <b>TOURISM: (1)&amp;(4)</b>                   |               |                |                |                |                |                      |                |                |                                |               |               |
| Arrivals (number of persons)                  | 8,261.0       | 14,879.0       | 19,039.0       | 17,248.0       | 14,536.0       | 4,859.7              | 16,206.7       | 16,941.0       | 11,394.5                       | 7,596.3       | 8,055.6       |
| Earnings (Tala million)                       | 27.7          | 51.5           | 56.9           | 58.2           | 51.5           | 16.1                 | 53.1           | 55.5           | 38                             | 25            | 25            |
| <b>GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (3) (5)</b>   |               |                |                |                |                |                      |                |                |                                |               |               |
| (Tala Million)                                | <b>789.6</b>  | <b>1,138.1</b> | <b>1,356.8</b> | <b>1,378.3</b> | <b>1,396.8</b> | <b>800.5</b>         | <b>1,149.2</b> | <b>1,377.3</b> | <b>982.3</b>                   | <b>916.8</b>  | <b>781.4</b>  |
| BOP Position (+/-) (Surplus/Deficit)          | -10.7         | -26.1          | 2.8            | 21.5           | 18.5           | -7.7                 | 13.3           | 14.3           | 3.8                            | 26.8          | 30.5          |
| Import Cover (months of current goods only)   | 9.4           | 11.5           | 13.2           | 13.2           | 13.6           | 9.9                  | 11.5           | 13.4           | 10.8                           | 11.0          | 9.8           |

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

**CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA**  
**7<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

# SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS CHART PACK

