

WORLD ECONOMY

- The US economy noted a 1.4 percent growth in the first quarter of 2024 reflecting higher revisions in investments as well as increased exports and government spending. The New Zealand economy picked up by 0.2 percent in the March 2024 quarter while the Australian economy expanded by 0.1 percent in the last quarter of 2023.
- The international price of Crude Oil dropped by 8.9 percent to USD\$82.00 per barrel.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY

- Likewise, the Samoan economy grew by 12.3 percent in the March 2024 quarter compared to the same quarter last year. This was mostly due to improvements in various sectors such as “Personal and other services”, “Business services” and “Commerce” as well as an increase in government tax revenue collection.

INFLATION



- **The Consumer Price Index (CPI)** rose by 1.1 percent over the previous month.
- **Annual headline inflation rate** decreased further to 4.4 percent from 5.1 percent in April and 12.0 percent in May 2023.
- This was underlined by reductions in both its local and imported components.
- **Underlying inflation** also fell further to 6.1 percent from 7.0 percent in April 2024 and 13.9 percent in the same month last year.

OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES



- **Gross Foreign Reserves** increased by 1.1 percent (or \$14.7 million) to \$1,338.3 million and was 31.9 percent (or \$323.8 million) higher when compared to May last year.
- **Import cover** rose to 13.2 months, which was higher than 10.3 months in May 2023.

REMITTANCES & TOURISM



- **Total monthly remittances** went up by 8.0 percent (or \$6.0 million) to \$81.2 million and was 7.2 percent (or \$5.5 million) higher than in May 2023.
- Likewise, **visitor arrivals** increased by 11.6 percent (or 1,462 visitors) to 14,106 visitors over the previous month but declined by 10.3 percent over May 2023.
- As a result, **total tourist revenue** grew further by \$11.1 million to \$57.8 million, but was \$3.4 million lower compared to the same month last year.

EXTERNAL TRADE



- **Total export receipts** improved by 25.2 percent (or \$1.5 million) to \$7.4 million over the previous month. This was driven by a \$1.4 million increase in re-exports of fuel.
- In contrast, total **import payments** dropped significantly to \$85.0 million from \$143.6 million in April. Responsible were the absence of petroleum imports and a reduction in private imports.
- As a result, the **merchandise trade deficit** shrunk by 43.7 percent to \$77.6 million.

INTEREST RATES & MONEY SUPPLY



- **Weighted average monthly official rate** dropped 9 basis points to 0.38 percent from 0.46 percent in April 2024.
- **The commercial banks weighted average (WA) deposit rate** decreased to 1.60 percent while the **WA lending rate** remained 8.46 percent.
- **WA Interest rate margin** increased to 6.85 percent from 6.79 percent last month.
- **Broad money (M2)** expanded by \$23.0 million to \$1,677.2 million due to a \$25.9 million increase in **Net Foreign Assets**, offsetting a \$3.0 million decrease in **Net Domestic Assets**.

LIQUIDITY & CREDIT



- **Total commercial banks' liquidity** declined by 8.2 percent (or \$57.4 million) to \$659.8 million.
- This reflected a \$45.0 reduction in commercial banks' holdings of exchange settlement accounts as well as a \$3.3 million decrease in their holdings of CBS securities.
- Total **commercial banks' credit to the private sector and public institutions** increased to \$1,150.8 million.

LOCAL MARKET SURVEY

- Overall supply of agriculture commodities to the Fugalei and other domestic produce markets around Apia, fell by 4.6 percent in May 2024. This reflected lower supplies of banana, yam and vegetable items like Chinese cabbage, tomatoes and pumpkin to name a few. Correspondingly, the **overall price index** rebounded by 28.0 percent.

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS													
INDICATORS	2022	2023	2024					Average Eleven Months			Average levels in the previous		
	May	May	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul21 - May22	Jul22 - May23	Jul23 - May24	2-years	3-years	5-years
CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA: (%)													
Official rate	0.15	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.46	0.46	0.38	0.15	0.19	0.28	0.19	0.18	0.17
COMMERCIAL BANKS' INTEREST RATES: (%)													
Average lending rate	8.30	8.30	8.44	8.46	8.44	8.46	8.46	8.40	8.29	8.39	8.31	8.39	8.60
Average deposit rate	1.78	1.81	1.68	1.69	1.71	1.67	1.60	1.84	1.80	1.75	1.75	1.90	2.24
COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS (Tala million)	1172.9	1146.3	1131.9	1139.1	1144.5	1143.8	1150.8	1188.3	1170.0	1143.0	1172.0	1173.5	1167.0
GOVERNMENT NET POSITION (Tala million)	-306.6	-352.6	-533.3	-503.6	-484.3	-553.4	-559.7	-323.1	-327.9	-487.4	-335.8	-331.2	-285.5
MONEY SUPPLY (Tala million)	1375.3	1564.1	1630.1	1648.6	1641.5	1654.2	1677.2	1322.2	1437.0	1613.7	1422.6	1386.4	1327.5
Currency outside banks	124.9	155.8	156.9	150.6	157.9	149.0	160.1	122.4	141.0	159.8	135.5	130.7	116.0
Demand deposits	440.6	531.9	598.1	591.2	579.7	603.7	613.8	413.6	462.3	568.6	464.4	449.7	425.0
FCD residents	66.1	103.0	110.3	111.9	109.6	105.0	112.9	61.5	90.7	108.3	78.0	68.4	68.0
Save deposits	205.1	237.6	241.1	236.2	238.8	246.5	249.5	196.2	224.0	243.7	218.8	208.2	185.3
Time deposits	538.6	535.7	523.7	558.8	555.5	549.9	540.8	528.5	519.0	533.3	525.9	529.4	533.3
NOMINAL EXCHANGE RATE (Index)	99.8	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.8	99.9	99.7	99.7	99.8	99.9
HEADLINE CPI (2)	117.3	131.5	133.4	133.5	133.8	134.4	135.8	114.5	128.4	133.3	124.5	118.7	114.2
Annual average inflation (%)	8.2	12.0	7.3	6.6	5.9	5.1	4.4	3.0	11.1	7.7	9.6	5.1	4.1
LOCAL MARKET SURVEY: (2)											0.0	0.0	0.0
Volume	89.7	71.4	90.0	90.6	78.3	72.9	69.5	96.9	97.7	90.5	88.7	85.8	82.8
Price	115.7	190.4	181.7	168.7	172.6	173.4	222.1	104.4	140.4	177.8	143.3	133.5	132.6
EXPORTS (Tala million)	10.6	10.5	6.3	8.0	7.5	5.9	7.4	6.8	9.4	8.9	6.8	6.0	7.1
IMPORTS (Tala million)	87.1	98.9	98.6	92.2	78.9	143.6	85.0	74.6	100.3	101.1	89.1	80.9	73.4
REMITTANCES (Tala million)	67.6	75.7	67.0	62.0	72.3	75.2	81.2	60.0	68.9	73.6	54.2	50.6	45.8
TOURISM: (1)&(4)											0.0	0.0	0.0
Arrivals	0.0	15719.0	14520.0	9630.0	11242.0	12644.0	14106.0	-	9,694	14,501	6,860	4,573	5,627
Earnings (Tala million)	0.0	61.2	47.2	33.2	41.3	46.7	57.8	0.0	33.0	51.4	24	16	19
GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (3) (5)	777.8	1014.5	1307.5	1305.3	1269.4	1323.6	1338.3	760.4	876.1	1228.1	868.0	818.9	692.3
BOP Position (+/-) (Surplus/Deficit)	17.9	38.6	100.4	-2.2	-35.9	54.2	14.6	4.1	18.3	21.8	32.5	22.5	25.0
Import Cover	10.6	10.3	13.4	13.1	12.9	12.9	13.2	10.8	9.7	12.3	10.2	10.5	9.0

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 US\$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
9th July 2024

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS CHART PACK

