

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. Similarly, 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 went back up by 1.8 percent to USD\$75.66 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. For the whole year up to the June 2024 quarter, the economy also recorded a growth rate of 9.4 percent in real terms.

INFLATION



- In October 2024, the **Consumer Price Index** (CPI) rose by 1.0 percent compared to the previous month.
- The **annual average headline inflation rate** went back down to 2.8 percent, a significant reduction from the 9.3 percent recorded in October 2023.
- This drop was primarily influenced by a reduction in the local inflation component, despite an increase in imported inflation.
- Meanwhile, the **underlying inflation rate** remained steady at 3.4 percent over the month, reflecting a notable drop from 10.4 percent in the corresponding period last year.

OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES



- **Gross Foreign Reserves** recorded a further increase of 0.2 percent (equivalent to \$2.7 million), reaching a total of \$1,399.5 million. This represents a 21.6 percent rise (\$249.0 million) compared to October 2023.
- Despite this growth, the **import cover** decreased to 13.4 months, from 13.6 months in September 2024, but still higher than the 11.6 months in October 2023.

REMITTANCES & TOURISM



- **Total monthly remittances** for October 2024 rebounded by 3.6 percent (or \$2.5 million), to \$70.0 million.
- **Visitor arrivals** recorded a modest increase of 122 visitors, to a total of 14,658 visitors in October 2024, a growth of 1,275 visitors compared to the same period last year.
- Consequently, **total tourist earnings** rose by 3.1 percent (or \$1.6 million), to \$53.1 million, up from \$47.8 million in October 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** rose significantly by 38.2 percent (or \$34.2 million) to \$123.8 million in October 2024, reflecting:
 - Private sector imports (+\$37.5 million)
 - Petroleum imports (-\$2.4 million)
 - Government imports (-\$0.8 million)
- As a result, the **merchandise trade deficit** expanded by 50.8 percent, to \$117.8 million in October 2024.

INTEREST RATES & MONEY SUPPLY



- **Weighted average (WA) monthly official interest rate** contracted by 15 basis points to 0.72 percent from 0.88 percent in September 2024.
- **The commercial banks' WA deposit rate** rose by 2 basis points to 1.51 percent while **WA lending rate** edged up by 1 basis point to 8.41 percent.
- As a result, **WA interest rate margin** narrowed to 6.90 percent from 6.91 percent last month.
- **Broad money (M2)** increased by \$1.8 million, reaching \$1,762.7 million, primarily due to a \$26.2 million rise in **Net Foreign Assets** and a \$5.5 million increase in **Net Domestic Assets**.

LIQUIDITY & CREDIT



- **Total commercial banks' liquidity** declined by 1.5 percent (or \$10.4 million) to \$679.4 million. This decrease was primarily attributed to a \$21.8 million reduction in the banks' exchange settlement account balances, partially offset by increased holdings of \$10.0 million in CBS securities and \$1.4 million in vault cash.
- Total **commercial banks' credit** to the private sector and public institutions rose by 0.3 percent to \$1,211.6 million.
- Similarly, total loans issued by **non-bank financial institutions** to the private sector and public institutions grew by 1.1%, to \$973.1 million.

LOCAL MARKET SURVEY

- The total supply of agriculture commodities to selected local markets around the country fell by 25.1 percent in October 2024. This decline was driven by lower supplies of key items such as taro, taamu, and vegetables, including pumpkins, tomatoes, and Chinese cabbages. As a result, the **overall price index** increased by 5.3 percent.

| SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| INDICATORS | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | | | | | | | | | | Average Four Months | | | Average levels in the previous | | |
| | Oct | Oct | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Jul22 - Oct22 | Jul23 - Oct23 | Jul24 - Oct24 | 2-years | 3-years | 5-years |
| CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA: (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Official rate | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.38 | 0.23 | 0.27 | 0.37 | 0.88 | 0.72 | 0.17 | 0.20 | 0.56 | 0.21 | 0.19 | 0.17 |
| COMMERCIAL BANKS' INTEREST RATES: (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average lending rate | 8.28 | 8.35 | 8.44 | 8.46 | 8.44 | 8.46 | 8.46 | 8.43 | 8.41 | 8.44 | 8.40 | 8.41 | 8.28 | 8.32 | 8.41 | 8.30 | 8.36 | 8.52 |
| Average deposit rate | 1.85 | 1.81 | 1.68 | 1.69 | 1.71 | 1.67 | 1.60 | 1.57 | 1.54 | 1.52 | 1.49 | 1.51 | 1.83 | 1.80 | 1.52 | 1.81 | 1.85 | 2.21 |
| COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS (Tala million) | 1174.7 | 1141.0 | 1131.9 | 1139.1 | 1144.5 | 1143.8 | 1150.8 | 1173.5 | 1189.8 | 1195.0 | 1208.1 | 1211.6 | 1177.5 | 1144.8 | 1201.1 | 1160.9 | 1172.0 | 1167.4 |
| GOVERNMENT NET POSITION (Tala million) | -296.1 | -437.1 | -533.3 | -503.6 | -484.3 | -553.4 | -559.7 | -610.4 | -614.1 | -615.3 | -581.6 | -594.8 | -307.8 | -447.3 | -601.5 | -354.9 | -355.3 | -327.6 |
| MONEY SUPPLY (Tala million) | 1396.9 | 1587.8 | 1630.1 | 1648.6 | 1641.5 | 1654.2 | 1677.2 | 1697.4 | 1673.9 | 1834.7 | 1814.4 | 1870.7 | 1375.7 | 1566.6 | 1798.4 | 1482.5 | 1422.3 | 1344.9 |
| Currency outside banks | 132.3 | 159.2 | 156.9 | 150.6 | 157.9 | 149.0 | 160.1 | 162.4 | 164.3 | 171.8 | 164.6 | 166.8 | 132.8 | 159.5 | 166.9 | 149.4 | 139.4 | 124.9 |
| Demand deposits | 424.6 | 536.7 | 598.1 | 591.2 | 579.7 | 603.7 | 613.8 | 661.8 | 626.1 | 778.9 | 771.9 | 788.0 | 422.6 | 536.3 | 741.2 | 483.6 | 455.0 | 424.3 |
| FCD residents | 84.4 | 108.2 | 110.3 | 111.9 | 109.6 | 105.0 | 112.9 | 110.0 | 110.3 | 105.0 | 106.0 | 127.9 | 76.2 | 99.7 | 112.3 | 88.5 | 79.4 | 67.5 |
| Save deposits | 220.9 | 254.1 | 241.1 | 236.2 | 238.8 | 246.5 | 249.5 | 257.0 | 268.6 | 269.5 | 269.5 | 273.4 | 221.1 | 247.9 | 270.3 | 233.9 | 221.7 | 200.5 |
| Time deposits | 534.6 | 529.6 | 523.7 | 558.8 | 555.5 | 549.9 | 540.8 | 506.4 | 504.6 | 509.4 | 502.4 | 514.6 | 522.9 | 523.2 | 507.7 | 527.0 | 526.8 | 527.6 |
| NOMINAL EXCHANGE RATE (Index) | 100.4 | 99.8 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.8 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 100.1 | 99.8 | 99.7 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 99.9 |
| HEADLINE CPI (2) | 127.7 | 132.3 | 133.4 | 133.5 | 133.8 | 134.3 | 135.8 | 135.1 | 132.9 | 133.2 | 134.8 | 136.2 | 128.2 | 132.7 | 134.3 | 130.9 | 124.9 | 118.1 |
| Annual average inflation (%) | 11.3 | 8.3 | 7.3 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 10.5 | 9.8 | 2.8 | 10.1 | 6.4 | 4.1 |
| LOCAL MARKET SURVEY: (2) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Volume Index | 160.6 | 125.6 | 90.0 | 90.6 | 78.3 | 72.9 | 69.5 | 65.2 | 90.9 | 123.4 | 134.8 | 100.9 | 114.0 | 99.8 | 112.5 | 116.5 | 107.4 | 114.3 |
| Price Index | 114.4 | 137.0 | 181.7 | 168.7 | 172.6 | 173.4 | 222.1 | 217.7 | 193.8 | 181.2 | 170.7 | 179.7 | 120.2 | 181.6 | 181.4 | 147.5 | 133.4 | 120.4 |
| EXPORTS (Tala million) | 9.5 | 9.6 | 6.3 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 5.9 | 7.4 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 11.0 | 11.5 | | 10.8 | 10.2 | 9.6 | 12.2 | 10.3 | 10.0 |
| IMPORTS (Tala million) | 110.8 | 104.6 | 98.6 | 92.2 | 78.9 | 143.6 | 85.0 | 103.5 | 104.2 | 118.2 | 89.6 | 123.8 | 105.0 | 99.9 | 109.0 | 106.3 | 94.0 | 82.7 |
| REMITTANCES (Tala million) | 62.6 | 66.2 | 67.0 | 62.0 | 72.3 | 75.2 | 81.3 | 67.2 | 81.5 | 91.3 | 67.6 | 70.0 | 71.8 | 72.0 | 77.6 | 68.3 | 63.4 | 55.8 |
| TOURISM: (1)&(4) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arrivals (number of persons) | 7,171.0 | 13,383.0 | 14,520.0 | 9,630.0 | 11,242.0 | 12,644.0 | 14,106.0 | 16,143.0 | 19,039.0 | 17,248.0 | 14,536.0 | 14,658.0 | 5,437.5 | 15,500.8 | 16,370.3 | 11,570.0 | 7,713.3 | 7,870.4 |
| Earnings (Tala million) | 23.4 | 47.8 | 47.2 | 33.2 | 41.3 | 46.7 | 57.8 | 52.8 | 56.9 | 58.0 | 51.5 | 53.1 | 17.9 | 51.8 | 54.9 | 40 | 26 | 26 |
| GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (3) (5) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (Tala Million) | 785.3 | 1,150.5 | 1,307.5 | 1,305.3 | 1,269.4 | 1,323.6 | 1,338.3 | 1,354.1 | 1,356.8 | 1,378.3 | 1,396.8 | 1,399.5 | 796.7 | 1,149.6 | 1,382.9 | 963.8 | 900.7 | 769.7 |
| BOP Position (+/-) (Surplus/Deficit) | -4.2 | 12.4 | 100.4 | -2.2 | -35.9 | 54.2 | 14.7 | 15.7 | 2.8 | 21.5 | 18.5 | 2.6 | -6.8 | 13.1 | 11.4 | -18.4 | -16.1 | -11.7 |
| Import Cover (months of current goods only) | 9.0 | 11.6 | 13.4 | 13.1 | 12.9 | 12.9 | 13.2 | 13.4 | 13.2 | 13.2 | 13.6 | 13.4 | 9.7 | 11.5 | 13.4 | 10.4 | 10.7 | 9.6 |

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
20th December 2024

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS CHART PACK

