

WORLD ECONOMY

In the March 2025 quarter, the United States economy expanded by 2.0%, while Australia reported a 1.3% growth in the December 2024 quarter. In contrast, New Zealand experienced a 1.1% contraction. Meanwhile, the international price of Brent Blend Crude Oil declined further by 3.4% to USD \$72.57 per barrel.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY

The latest GDP figures reflect revisions by SBS to improve accuracy, using better data, updated methods, and broader coverage. Samoa's economy grew by 6.8% in real terms during the December 2024 quarter compared to the same period in 2023, driven by strong performances in key sectors such as Business Services, Commerce, Construction, Agriculture, Fishing, Other Manufacturing, and increased tax collections. Meanwhile, real GDP declined by 6.8% compared to the previous quarter.

INFLATION



- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** increased by 0.8% from the previous month and was 2.4% higher than in March 2024.
- The **annual average headline inflation rate** remained steady at 1.9%, unchanged from February 2025.
- Imported inflation declined to 0.9% offsetting a rise in domestic inflation to 3.0%.
- Underlying inflation rate** dropped to 1.8%, down from 2.1% in February 2025 and significantly lower than 7.9% recorded in March 2024.

OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES



- Gross Foreign Reserves** rose by 0.14% (\$2.1 million) over the month, reaching \$1,479.95 million. This reflects a notable year-on-year growth of 16.6% (\$210.5 million) compared to March 2024.
- Consequently, the country's **import cover** declined slightly to 14.2 months, compared to 14.3 months in February 2025, though still higher than 12.9 months recorded in March 2024.

REMITTANCES & TOURISM



- Total monthly **remittances** rose by 10.4% (\$6.4 million), totaling \$67.8 million in March 2025, but was 6.2 percent (or \$4.5 million) lower than March 2024.
- Visitor arrivals** also rebounded by 43.8% to 11,605 visitors, which was 3.2% higher than the same month in 2024.
- As a result, **tourism earnings** surged by 51.1% (\$14.5 million) to \$43.0 million, which was \$1.7 million more than its level in March 2024.

EXTERNAL TRADE



- Export earnings** grew by 22.2 percent or \$1.0 million in March 2025, driven by a:
 - \$1.2 million increase in domestic exports.
 - \$0.2 million decline in re-exports.
- Total **import payments** rose by 5.0% to \$95.3 million in March 2025, supported by:
 - A \$3.4 million increase in non-petroleum imports.
 - A \$3.2 million rise in petroleum imports.
 - A \$2.1 million drop in government imports.
- Accordingly, the **merchandise trade deficit** widened by 4.1% to \$89.8 million in March 2025.

INTEREST RATES & MONEY SUPPLY



- The **weighted average (WA) monthly official interest rate** increased by 9 basis points to 1.03% in March 2025, over the previous month, way above 0.46% last year.
- The commercial banks' WA deposit rate edged up by 2 basis points to 1.60%, while the WA lending rate fell by 2 basis points to 8.39%, keeping the overall WA interest rate unchanged at 6.79% during the review period.
- Broad money (M2) rose by 0.6% (\$10.9 million) to \$1,736.9 million, largely attributed to a \$19.6 million increase in Net Domestic Assets, which more than offset an \$8.6 million decline in Net Foreign Assets.

LIQUIDITY & CREDIT



- Total liquidity of the commercial banks decreased by 0.3% (\$2.2 million) to \$707.7 million, mainly driven by:
 - A \$15.2 million reduction in exchange settlement accounts (ESA).
 - A \$0.5 million decline in vault cash.
 - A \$13.5 million increase in holdings of CBS securities.
- Total **commercial banks' credit to the private sector and public institutions** rose slightly by 0.3% to \$1,208.9 million.
- Conversely, **total loans by non-bank financial institutions (NFIs)** to the private sector and public institutions grew further to \$997.3 million

LOCAL MARKET SURVEY

The total supply of agricultural commodities to selected local produce markets nationwide declined by a further 10.0% in March 2025. This reduction was mainly attributed to decreased availability of key produce such as banana, taro, taamu, yam, coconut, and a range of vegetables including head cabbage, tomatoes and cucumber. Conversely, the **overall price index**, expanded by 6.2%.

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS											
INDICATORS	2023	2024	2025			Average Nine Months			Average levels in the previous		
	Mar	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul22 - Mar23	Jul23 - Mar24	Jul24 - Mar25	2-years	3-years	5-years
CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA: (%)											
Official rate	0.22	0.46	0.92	0.94	1.03	0.17	0.25	0.74	0.19	0.18	0.18
COMMERCIAL BANKS' INTEREST RATES: (%)											
Average lending rate	8.32	8.44	8.39	8.37	8.39	8.28	8.38	8.40	8.36	8.35	8.50
Average deposit rate	1.82	1.71	1.56	1.58	1.60	1.81	1.77	1.55	1.73	1.75	2.02
COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS (Tala million)	1157.4	1144.5	1208.1	1205.8	1208.9	1173.26	1142.03	1206.39	1154.27	1164.01	1168.45
GOVERNMENT NET POSITION (Tala million)	-353.4	-484.3	-653.4	-653.4	-652.4	-321.29	-472.04	-621.31	-416.41	-378.06	-339.82
MONEY SUPPLY (Tala million)	1471.1	1641.5	1756.5	1726.0	1736.9	1415.67	1602.08	1733.72	1566.95	1478.16	1386.74
Currency outside banks	140.8	157.9	188.2	179.4	174.8	138.90	160.98	175.67	143.96	134.88	123.05
Demand deposits	487.5	579.7	646.4	620.7	640.3	449.66	559.71	653.54	551.08	508.11	455.82
FCD residents	99.7	109.6	116.9	122.8	112.7	88.15	108.12	114.14	109.13	90.40	74.99
Save deposits	224.8	238.8	268.3	259.7	255.9	221.49	242.70	265.26	230.15	216.28	195.92
Time deposits	518.3	555.5	536.7	543.4	553.2	517.47	530.57	525.12	532.63	528.50	536.96
NOMINAL EXCHANGE RATE (Index)	99.7	99.7	100.4	100.3	100.3	99.99	99.72	99.95	99.80	99.79	99.89
HEADLINE CPI (2)	129.8	133.8	137.1	136.0	137.0	127.61	132.90	135.32	131.25	125.95	118.79
Annual average inflation (%)	11.5	5.9	2.1	1.9	1.9	10.91	8.34	2.42	8.94	7.85	4.45
LOCAL MARKET SURVEY: (2)											
Volume Index	80.1	78.3	96.7	91.0	81.8	102.27	94.80	99.22	84.83	94.22	87.87
Price Index	159.3	172.6	188.2	182.5	193.8	131.02	173.39	179.85	151.15	134.10	130.43
EXPORTS (Tala million)	10.7	7.5	3.7	4.5	5.5	9.52	9.44	9.86	7.77	8.59	7.80
IMPORTS (Tala million)	96.9	78.9	105.3	90.8	95.3	101.24	98.18	102.52	80.34	84.13	75.56
REMITTANCES (Tala million)	64.7	72.3	68.1	61.4	67.8	70.29	72.58	74.96	59.30	57.75	51.42
TOURISM: (1)&(4)											
Arrivals (number of persons)	10,128.0	11,242.0	14,746.0	8,070.0	11,605.0	8577.22	14751.44	15080.67	8658.50	5772.33	4874.00
Earnings (Tala million)	34.5	41.3	49.1	28.5	43.0	28.15	51.23	53.09	28.90	19.27	15.73
GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (3) (5)											
(Tala Million)	947.9	1,269.4	1,456.8	1,477.8	1,480.0	849.66	1205.29	1421.68	1115.00	995.70	836.77
BOP Position (+/-) (Surplus/Deficit)	23.2	-35.9	12.3	21.0	2.1	15.00	19.04	13.99	13.87	5.35	-1.80
Import Cover (months of current goods only)	9.8	12.9	14.1	14.3	14.2	9.63	12.18	13.74	11.50	11.11	10.15
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

