

WORLD ECONOMY

In the December 2024 quarter, the United States economy grew by 2.4%, while Australia and New Zealand recorded growth rates of 0.6% and 0.7%, respectively. Over the same period, the international price of Brent Blend Crude Oil declined by 5.1% to USD 75.16 per barrel.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY

The December 2024 quarter GDP figures are not yet available. However, Samoa's economy expanded by 5.5% in real terms during the September 2024 quarter compared to the same period in 2023. This growth was driven by positive performances across key sectors, including Commerce, Food and Beverages Manufacturing, and Agriculture, alongside an increase in government tax revenue collections. Meanwhile, the annual average real GDP grew by 7.5% in the year up to September 2024 quarter, moderating from the 9.4% growth recorded in the previous quarter.

INFLATION



- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** declined by 0.8% compared to the previous month, but was 1.8% higher than February 2024.
- Annual average headline inflation rate** continued to ease, falling to 1.9% in February 2025.
- This decline was primarily attributed to a reduction in imported inflation to 1.3%, while domestic inflation increased to 2.7%.
- Similarly, **underlying inflation** dropped significantly to 2.1%, down from 2.4% in January 2025 and 8.8% in February 2024.

OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES



- Gross Foreign Reserves** increased by 1.8% (\$26.6 million) to \$1,492.9 million. This represented a 14.4% (\$187.6 million) increase compared to February 2024.
- As a result, the country's **import cover** rose to 14.3 months, up from 14.1 months in January 2025 and 13.1 months in February 2024.

REMITTANCES & TOURISM



- In February 2025, total monthly **remittances** recorded a seasonal decline of 9.8% (\$6.7 million) to \$61.4 million.
- Similarly, **visitor arrivals** fell by 45.3% to 8,070 visitors, which was 16.2% lower than the same month in 2024.
- Consequently, total **tourism earnings** decreased by 42.0% (\$20.6 million) to \$28.5 million, which was larger than the average seasonal drop for this month, and subsequently \$4.7 million lower than the level recorded in February 2024.

EXTERNAL TRADE



- Export receipts** rebounded by 22.0% to \$4.5 million in February 2025, driven by:
 - \$0.6 million increase in re-exports.
 - \$0.2 million rise in locally produced exports.
- Total import payments declined by 13.7% to \$90.8 million in February 2025, driven by the following trends:
 - A \$14.2 million decrease in non-petroleum imports.
 - A \$0.8 million drop in government imports.
 - A \$13.6 million increase in petroleum imports.
- Accordingly, the merchandise trade deficit contracted by 15.0% to \$86.4 million in February 2025.

INTEREST RATES & MONEY SUPPLY



- The **weighted average (WA) monthly official interest rate** increased by 2 basis points, reaching 0.94% in February 2025, up from 0.92% in the previous month.
- The WA deposit rate for commercial banks also rose by 2 basis points to 1.56%, while the WA lending rate declined by 2 basis points to 8.37%. As a result, the WA interest rate margin narrowed by 4 basis points to 6.81% during the review period.
- Broad money (M2) contracted by 1.7% (\$30.5 million) to \$1,726.0 million, primarily due to a \$50.2 million decline in Net Domestic Assets, which outweighed a \$19.7 million increase in Net Foreign Assets.

LIQUIDITY & CREDIT



- Total liquidity of commercial banks rebounded by 4.5% (\$30.5 million) to \$709.9 million, driven by:
 - A \$27.1 million increase in exchange settlement accounts (ESA).
 - A \$13.0 million rise in CBS securities.
 - A \$9.7 million decline in vault cash.
- Total **credit** extended by **commercial banks to the private sector and public institutions** continued to decline, falling by 0.2% to \$1,205.8 million.
- In contrast, total **loans issued by non-bank financial institutions (NFIs) to the private sector and public institutions** increased further to \$992.2 million.

LOCAL MARKET SURVEY

The total supply of agricultural commodities to selected local markets across the country declined by 5.9% in February 2025. This decrease was primarily due to reduced availability of key products, including banana, taamu, breadfruit, coconut, and various vegetables such as pumpkin, head cabbage, and cucumber. On the other hand, the **overall price index** dropped by 3.0% due to lower demand.

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS																
INDICATORS	2023		2024						2025		Average Eight Months			Average levels in the previous		
	Feb	Feb	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jul22 - Feb23	Jul23 - Feb24	Jul24 - Feb25	2-years	3-years	5-years
CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA: (%)																
Official rate	0.15	0.23	0.27	0.37	0.88	0.72	0.64	0.90	0.92	0.94	0.17	0.22	0.70	0.22	0.20	0.18
COMMERCIAL BANKS' INTEREST RATES: (%)																
Average lending rate	8.26	8.46	8.41	8.44	8.40	8.41	8.40	8.41	8.39	8.37	8.27	8.37	8.40	8.35	8.34	8.49
Average deposit rate	1.77	1.69	1.54	1.52	1.49	1.51	1.57	1.55	1.54	1.56	1.81	1.78	1.54	1.72	1.73	2.04
COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS (Tala million)	1169.5	1139.1	1189.7	1195.0	1208.1	1211.6	1212.6	1217.7	1208.1	1205.8	1175.24	1141.71	1206.08	1154.67	1167.61	1173.93
GOVERNMENT NET POSITION (Tala million)	-329.2	-503.6	-614.1	-615.3	-581.6	-594.8	-596.8	-630.1	-653.4	-653.4	-317.28	-470.51	-617.43	-434.87	-395.68	-356.07
MONEY SUPPLY (Tala million)	1485.3	1648.6	1673.9	1719.1	1731.0	1762.7	1727.7	1769.6	1756.5	1726.0	1408.75	1597.16	1733.32	1544.91	1471.60	1387.17
Currency outside banks	137.4	150.6	164.3	171.8	164.6	166.8	171.2	199.9	188.2	179.4	138.66	161.37	175.77	150.45	140.66	127.13
Demand deposits	510.9	591.2	626.1	663.3	688.5	680.0	657.4	659.1	646.4	620.7	444.94	557.22	655.19	537.30	498.98	451.72
FCD residents	106.4	111.9	110.3	105.0	106.0	127.9	110.8	114.8	116.9	122.8	86.71	107.93	114.32	110.77	95.10	78.08
Save deposits	224.1	236.2	268.6	269.5	269.5	273.4	261.1	261.3	268.3	259.7	221.08	243.19	266.43	232.41	218.12	196.36
Time deposits	506.5	558.8	504.6	509.4	502.4	514.6	527.2	534.5	536.7	543.4	517.36	527.46	521.60	513.98	518.74	533.89
NOMINAL EXCHANGE RATE (Index)	99.9	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.8	100.1	100.4	100.3	100.03	99.73	99.91	99.76	99.76	99.87
HEADLINE CPI (2)	129.0	133.5	132.8	133.1	134.8	136.2	135.1	135.8	137.1	136.0	127.34	132.79	135.11	130.80	125.48	117.97
Annual average inflation (%)	11.2	6.6	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9	10.83	8.64	2.49	9.18	7.62	4.39
LOCAL MARKET SURVEY: (2)														0.00	0.00	0.00
Volume Index	79.1	90.6	90.9	123.4	134.8	100.9	86.1	87.6	96.7	91.0	105.05	96.86	101.40	91.27	93.48	97.55
Price Index	133.6	168.7	193.8	181.2	170.7	179.7	163.8	164.9	188.2	182.5	127.50	173.50	178.10	171.96	150.20	133.42
EXPORTS (Tala million)	7.5	8.0	6.3	11.0	11.5	31.9	8.0	6.5	3.7	4.5	9.38	9.68	10.41	6.86	6.08	6.56
IMPORTS (Tala million)	68.4	92.2	104.2	118.2	89.6	123.8	102.5	92.9	105.3	90.8	101.77	100.58	103.42	100.25	82.52	72.67
REMITTANCES (Tala million)	56.5	62.0	81.5	91.3	67.6	70.1	73.6	93.4	68.1	61.4	70.99	72.62	75.86	61.06	55.40	50.71
TOURISM: (1)&(4)														0.00	0.00	0.00
Arrivals (number of persons)	7,687.0	9,630.0	19,039.0	17,248.0	14,536.0	14,658.0	12,996.0	22,828.0	14,746.0	8,070.0	8383.38	15190.13	15515.13	13420.50	8947.00	7459.40
Earnings (Tala million)	24.6	33.2	56.9	58.0	51.5	53.1	53.4	84.4	49.1	28.5	27.35	52.46	54.35	42.04	28.03	22.72
GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (3) (5)																
(Tala Million)	924.7	1,305.3	1,356.8	1,378.3	1,396.8	1,399.5	1,404.5	1,444.5	1,466.3	1,492.9	837.38	1197.27	1417.47	1101.00	990.27	838.39
BOP Position (+/-) (Surplus/Deficit)	29.9	-2.2	2.8	21.5	18.5	2.6	5.0	40.0	12.3	21.0	13.98	25.90	15.47	63.62	42.92	31.08
Import Cover (months of current goods only)	9.9	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.6	13.4	13.5	14.1	14.1	14.3	9.60	12.08	13.69	11.38	11.23	10.27

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

