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GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

File Ref: (6/4/4b)

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - December 2008

(Based Period: Average Prices March 2004 = 100)

SUMMARY

The All Items Consumer Price Index for the month of December 2008 registered an increase of 0.9 percent when compared to the previous month, and an increase of 18.5 percent when compared to the same month of last year. The 0.9 percent increase in the Overall Index is attributed mainly to an increase of 3.1 percent in the Food group index. Increases were also recorded for other groups namely Clothing and Footwear (2.4%) and Miscellaneous (0.2%). On the contrary, Housing and Household Operation, Transport and Communication and Alcohol and Tobacco group indices registered decreases of 3.9, 2.2 and 0.5 percent respectively.

The 3.1 percent increase in the Food group is primarily due to higher prices recorded for chicken leg quarter, rice, mutton flap, mutton neck, canned fish (early dawn), fresh fish (large, string, piece) and some vegetables such as tomatoes, chinese and head cabbages and green bean.

Increased prices recorded for ie solosolo (cotton print), ie faitaga and panties is reflected in the 2.4 percent increase in the Clothing and Footwear group index.

Housing and Household Operation group registered a decrease of 3.9 percent due to lower prices recorded for electricity (kwh), kerosene and bath towel.

Lower prices recorded for fuel (unleaded, diesel) has resulted in the 0.7 percent decrease in the Transport and Communication group index.

Decreased prices recorded for beer (vailima small bottle) has resulted in the 0.5 percent decrease in the Alcohol and Tobacco group index.

The local component of the Consumer Price Index registered an increase of 1.1 percent due to higher prices recorded for fresh fish (large, string, piece), some vegetables such as tomatoes, chinese and head cabbages, green beans (short), and boat fares to Savaii and Pago Pago. The imported component exhibit an increase of 0.6 percent due to higher prices recorded for rice, mutton flap, chicken leg quarter and mutton neck.

The All Items Underlying Index for December 2008 registered an increase of 2.0 percent when compared to the previous month, and an increase of 23.3 percent when compared to December 2007. The 2.0 percent increase in the Overall Underlying Index is attributed by an increase of 2.5 percent in the imported component. The local component also increased by 0.4 percent.

The twelve months ending December 2008 compared to the twelve months ending December 2007 recorded an increase of 11.5 percent.

The attached Tables and Graphs provide the user with more details.

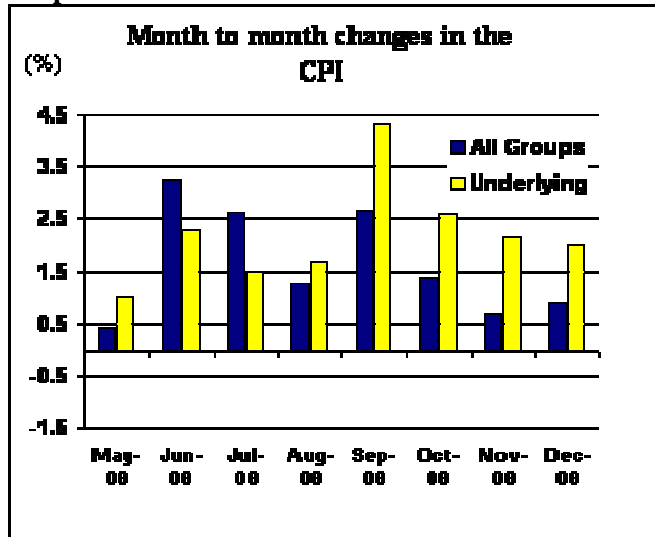


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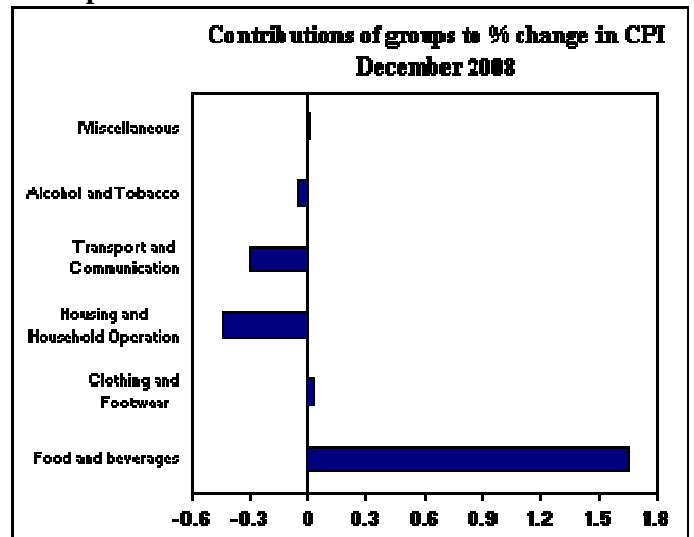
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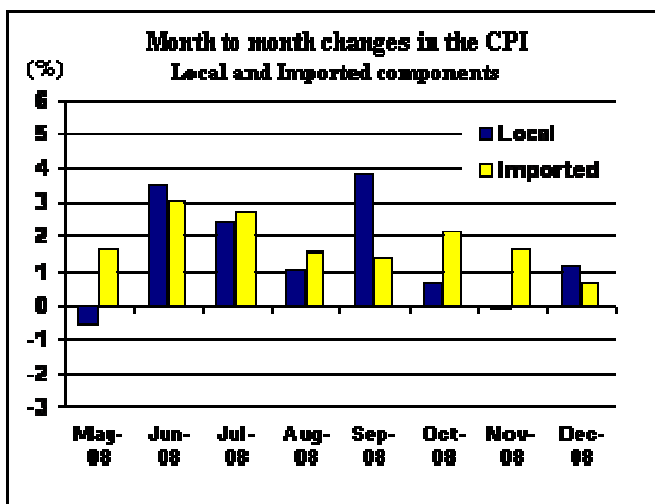
Graph.1



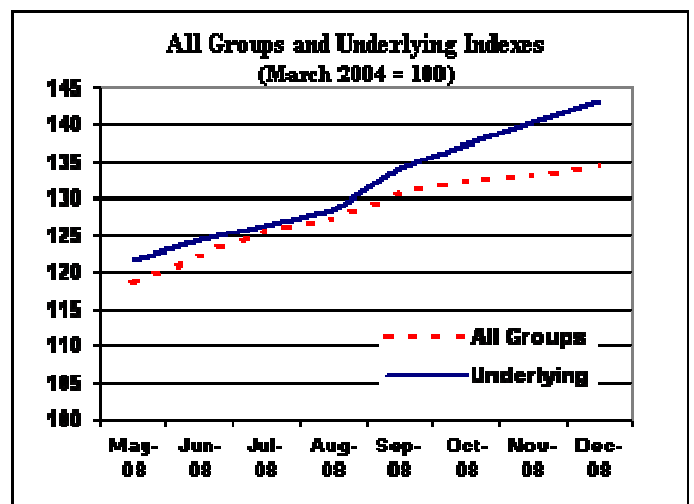
Graph.2



Graph.3



Graph.4



Graph 5

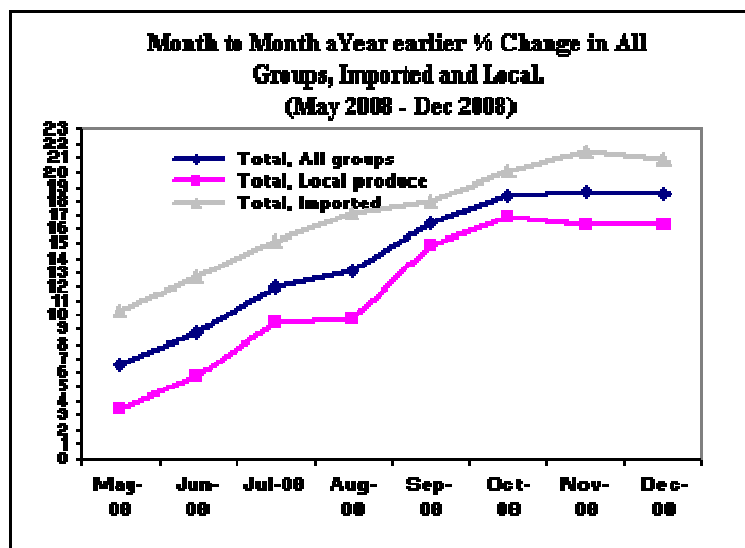


Table 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.
(Base Period : Average Prices March 2004 = 100)

Group	All Items	Food	Clothing and Footwear	Housing and Household Operations	Transport and Communications	Alcohol and Tobacco	Miscellaneous
<i>Weights</i>	1000	503	20	111	144	122	100
2005	101.9	99.9	88.8	107.7	108.1	100.2	101.0
2006	105.7	103.9	85.0	111.0	113.5	104.8	102.8
2007	111.6	111.9	82.3	117.1	109.7	117.4	105.2
2007							
December	113.4	113.1	83.0	120.2	113.2	119.8	106.3
2008							
January	117.7	120.1	82.9	121.0	113.7	119.9	111.5
February	116.6	117.8	82.3	121.6	114.3	119.9	111.5
March	117.0	117.6	82.5	122.0	117.4	119.9	111.5
April	117.9	117.7	82.8	125.4	119.4	121.0	111.5
May	118.4	119.1	82.8	124.9	120.3	119.2	111.6
June	122.3	124.4	83.5	127.6	123.8	120.4	113.8
July	125.5	127.9	83.5	130.9	128.1	124.1	114.1
August	127.1	128.4	83.5	138.5	130.5	124.4	114.7
September	130.5	134.4	84.2	137.7	133.5	125.0	114.7
October	132.3	138.7	83.8	134.6	132.5	125.4	115.3
November	133.2	(b) 140.7	(b) 86.5	133.1	(b) 130.4	127.9	115.3
December (a)	134.4	145.1	88.6	127.9	127.5	127.3	115.5
<u>Percentage Change (a)</u>							
Dec 2008 over Nov 2008	0.9	3.1	2.4	-3.9	-2.2	-0.5	0.2
Dec 2008 over Dec 2007	18.5	28.3	6.7	6.4	12.6	6.3	8.7
ALL ITEMS UNDERLYING INDEX							
Group	All Items	Food	Clothing and Footwear	Housing and Household Operations	Transport and Communications	Alcohol and Tobacco	Miscellaneous
<i>Weights</i>	514	387	20	55	4	n.a.	48
2005	102.9	103.5	88.8	104.1	103.4		102.1
2006	106.3	107.8	85.0	104.3	107.3		105.8
2007	113.6	116.4	82.3	107.5	117.7		110.7
2007							
December	116.2	119.2	83.0	109.7	124.9		113.0

2008							
January	117.5	120.8	82.9	110.3		129.8	112.7
February	118.1	121.4	82.3	111.6		132.0	112.7
March	119.9	123.5	82.5	113.2		132.4	112.7
April	120.5	124.2	82.8	112.9		144.0	112.6
May	121.7	126.4	82.8	109.6		141.8	112.8
June	124.5	129.4	83.5	110.1		145.1	117.5
July	126.3	131.5	83.5	112.1		144.8	118.0
August	128.5	134.2	83.5	112.5		144.8	118.0
September	134.0	141.4	84.2	114.0		145.2	118.0
October	137.5	145.7	83.8	115.2		145.2	119.2
November	140.5	(b) 149.5	(b) 86.5	115.1	(b)	145.2	119.4
December (a)	143.3	152.7	88.6	117.2		150.9	119.6
<u>Percentage Change (a)</u>							
Dec 2008 over Nov 2008	2.0	2.1	2.4	1.8		3.9	0.2
Dec 2008 over Dec 2007	23.3	28.1	6.7	6.8		20.8	5.8

(a): Provisional figures

(b): Revised figures

Note: n.a. Not applicable

Table 2. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED COMMODITIES

Commodities		Unit	2007			2008		
			Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec (a)
1	Flour	1 lb	0.93	0.94	0.98	1.49	1.61	1.61
2	Bread (white)	loaf	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.93	1.93	1.94
3	Rice	1 lb	1.02	1.07	1.09	1.89	2.13	2.22
4	Brown sugar	1 lb	0.90	0.87	0.87	1.05	1.07	1.07
5	Taamu	1 lb	1.21	0.92	1.15	1.69	2.04	1.88
6	Breadfruit	1 lb	0.62	0.37	0.53	0.50	0.63	0.23
7	Potatoes	1 lb	1.33	1.34	1.33	1.61	1.60	1.61
8	Taro	1 lb	1.10	1.04	1.02	1.74	1.71	1.48
9	Yam	1 lb	1.12	1.21	1.19	1.50	1.44	1.53
10	Green Beans	1 lb	1.88	1.29	2.58	4.46	2.23	4.58
11	Chinese Cabbage	1 lb	1.40	1.52	2.32	1.50	1.81	2.49
12	Head Cabbage	1 lb	1.51	2.29	3.83	2.11	1.75	4.57
13	Cucumbers	1 lb	1.06	0.87	0.95	1.58	0.80	1.08
14	Pumpkins	1 lb	0.62	0.64	0.61	1.03	1.02	1.04
15	Water Cress	1 lb	2.46	2.34	2.49	4.14	2.41	3.08
16	Tomatoes	1 lb	1.95	2.79	3.06	2.05	1.53	3.22
17	Bananas	1 lb	0.50	0.40	0.45	0.56	0.61	0.56
18	Coconuts	1 lb	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.21	0.25	0.26
19	String Fish	1 lb	3.12	3.46	3.32	4.16	3.43	3.93
20	Large Fish	1lb	5.86	6.39	5.16	7.43	6.26	7.65
21	Fish (piece)	1lb	3.38	5.01	4.30	5.57	4.92	5.79
22	Canned fish (early dawn tomato sauce)	15 oz	3.04	3.04	3.04	3.84	3.85	4.09
23	Canned fish (early dawn natural oil)	15 oz	2.86	2.84	2.84	3.64	3.96	4.15
24	Mutton Flaps	1 lb	3.30	3.38	3.52	3.94	4.00	4.45
25	Mutton Neck	1 lb	3.48	3.45	3.35	3.43	3.46	3.69
26	Turkey Wings	1 lb	2.59	2.59	2.54	2.81	2.88	3.01
27	Chicken leg quarters	1 lb	2.30	2.26	2.20	2.64	2.70	2.77
28	Bra (Woman)	36A	7.46	7.16	7.16	7.50	7.66	7.91
29	le faitaga	size 38	34.50	34.50	34.50	31.67	31.67	35.15
30	Dressing Material (poplin 45inch)	1yard	3.29	3.28	3.23	3.42	3.76	3.48
31	le Solosolo	2yds	5.35	5.35	5.35	5.68	5.68	6.10
32	Shirt short sleeve (white)	size 16.5	19.05	19.39	19.39	19.68	20.30	20.30
33	Panties	medium	3.98	4.32	4.32	4.53	4.78	5.06
34	Electricity	kwh	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.96	0.96	0.87

35	Bath towel	each	17.90	17.90	17.90	15.90	15.90	12.67
36	Timber 1x2 (rough)	per bd ft	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.88	0.87	0.87
37	Timber 2x4 (rough)	per bd ft	2.14	1.82	1.82	1.67	1.73	1.75
38	PVC pipe (20 ft)	0.5 inch	12.13	11.73	12.13	11.24	10.18	10.18
39	Beer (Vailima)	350 mls	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.74	3.83	3.80
40	Samoan kava	100 grm	6.58	6.58	6.58	6.88	7.88	7.88
41	Petrol (unleaded)	1 ltr	2.40	2.46	2.63	3.11	2.91	2.39
42	Diesel	1 ltr	2.54	2.58	2.72	3.34	3.06	2.64
43	Kerosene	1 ltr	2.35	2.39	2.61	3.26	2.95	2.59
44	Boat Fares (Mulifanua-Salelologa)	one way	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	12.00
45	Boat Fares (Apia-Pago)	one way	75.00	75.00	75.00	100.00	100.00	120.00

(a) : Provisional figures

Table 3. IMPORTED GOODS COMPONENT OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**(Base Period : Average Prices March 2004 = 100)**

Group	All Items	Food	Clothing and Footwear	Housing and Household Operations	Transport and Communications	Alcohol and Tobacco	Miscell- aneous
<i>Weights</i>	437	288	20	48	30	17	35
2005	104.5	103.1	88.8	110.8	122.6	98.9	102.9
2006	109.2	107.3	85.0	113.9	140.1	104.8	108.0
2007	116.7	116.7	82.3	115.7	145.2	115.2	114.4
2007							
December	120.4	119.4	83.0	120.6	159.0	119.6	117.0
2008							
January	122.1	121.3	82.9	121.7	164.4	120.2	116.5
February	122.6	121.9	82.3	121.5	167.1	120.2	116.5
March	124.4	122.8	82.5	122.3	182.5	120.2	116.5
April	125.9	123.7	82.8	124.4	192.0	120.2	116.5
May	127.9	126.0	82.8	127.2	196.4	114.4	117.7
June	131.8	129.2	83.5	129.8	207.4	120.1	124.2
July	135.4	131.8	83.5	137.6	221.9	120.1	125.0
August	137.5	134.4	83.5	138.4	226.4	120.1	125.0
September	139.4	139.3	84.2	136.6	210.1	118.6	125.0
October	142.4	144.6	83.8	134.6	204.1	119.0	126.7
November	144.7 (b)	149.5	86.5	131.0	193.9 (b)	119.0	126.8
December (a)	145.6	153.7	88.6	129.3	168.8	119.0	127.1
September (a)	109.5	106.7	83.9	114.9	152.2	103.7	106.1
<u>Percentage Change (a)</u>							
Dec 2008 over Nov 2008	0.6	2.8	2.4	-1.3	-12.9	0.0	0.2
Dec 2008 over Dec 2007	20.9	28.7	6.7	7.2	6.2	-0.5	8.6
IMPORTED ITEMS UNDERLYING INDEX							
Group	All Items	Food	Clothing and Footwear	Housing and Household Operations	Transport and Communications	Alcohol and Tobacco	Miscell- aneous
<i>Weights</i>	385	288	20	40	2	n.a.	35
2005	102.6	103.1	88.8	105.4	107.0		102.9
2006	105.9	107.3	85.0	104.3	107.8		108.0
2007	113.7	116.7	82.3	106.8	113.1		114.4
2007							
December	116.1	119.4	83.0	108.0	125.2		117.0
2008							

January	117.5	121.3	82.9	107.9		135.4	116.5
February	117.9	121.9	82.3	107.8		139.9	116.5
March	118.8	122.8	82.5	109.9		140.6	116.5
April	119.6	123.7	82.8	109.4		164.6	116.5
May	121.4	126.0	82.8	109.6		160.1	117.7
June	124.5	129.2	83.5	110.1		159.1	124.2
July	126.8	131.8	83.5	112.9		158.4	125.0
August	128.7	134.4	83.5	112.9		158.4	125.0
September	132.7	139.3	84.2	114.8		159.1	125.0
October	136.9	144.6	83.8	115.9		159.1	126.7
November	140.6	149.5	86.5	115.7	(b)	159.1	126.8
December (a)	144.2	153.7	88.6	118.5		159.1	127.1
<u>Percentage Change (a)</u>							
Dec 2008 over Nov 2008	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.4		0.0	0.2
Dec 2008 over Dec 2007	24.2	28.7	6.7	9.7		27.1	8.6

(a): Provisional figures

(b): Revised figures

Note: n.a. Not applicable

Table 4. LOCAL GOODS COMPONENT OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base Period : Average Prices March 2004 = 100)

Group	All Items	Food	Housing and Household Operations	Transport and Communications	Alcohol and Tobacco	Miscellaneous
<i>Weights</i>	563	215	64	114	105	65
2005	99.9	95.7	105.4	104.3	100.4	100.0
2006	103.0	99.4	108.9	106.5	104.8	100.0
2007	107.6	105.5	118.1	100.4	117.8	100.3
2007						
December	108.1	104.7	120.0	101.2	119.9	100.6
2008						
January	114.2	118.6	120.5	100.3	119.9	108.8
February	112.0	112.3	121.7	100.5	119.9	108.8
March	111.4	110.8	121.8	100.3	119.9	108.8
April	111.7	109.7	126.2	100.3	121.2	108.8
May	111.1	109.9	123.2	100.3	119.9	108.3
June	115.0	118.1	126.0	101.9	120.4	108.3
July	117.8	122.6	125.9	103.4	124.7	108.3
August	119.0	120.5	138.5	105.3	125.1	109.2
September	123.6	127.8	138.6	113.3	126.1	109.2
October	124.4	130.8	134.6	113.6	126.4	109.2
November	124.3 (b)	128.9 (b)	134.6	113.6	129.3	109.2
December (a)	125.7	133.6	126.8	116.7	128.6	109.2
<u>Percentage Change (a)</u>						
Dec 2008 over Nov 2008	1.1	3.6	-5.8	2.7	-0.5	0.0
Dec 2008 over Dec 2007	16.3	27.6	5.7	15.3	7.3	8.5
LOCAL ITEMS UNDERLYING INDEX						
Group	All Items	Food	Housing and Household Operations	Transport and Communications	Alcohol and Tobacco	Miscellaneous
<i>Weights</i>	129	99	15	2	<i>n.a.</i>	13
2005	103.7	104.7	100.8	100.0		100.0
2006	107.7	109.3	104.3	106.8		100.0
2007	113.5	115.5	109.6	122.0		101.3
2007						

December 2008	116.5	118.5	114.4	124.5	102.7
January	117.5	119.5	116.7	124.5	102.7
February	118.6	120.1	121.8	124.5	102.7
March	123.0	125.8	122.1	124.5	102.7
April	122.9	125.7	122.3	124.5	102.7
May	122.5	127.5	109.5	124.5	100.0
June	124.6	130.0	110.1	131.9	100.0
July	125.0	130.5	109.9	131.9	100.0
August	127.7	133.8	111.6	131.9	100.0
September	138.1	147.4	111.8	131.9	100.0
October	139.3	148.7	113.4	131.9	100.0
November	140.0 (b)	149.5 (b)	113.5	131.9	100.0
December (a)	140.6	150.1	113.8	143.1	100.0
<u>Percentage Change (a)</u>					
Dec 2008 over Nov 2008	0.4	0.4	0.3	8.5	0.0
Dec 2008 over Dec 2007	20.7	26.7	-0.5	14.9	-2.6

(a): Provisional figures

(b): Revised figures

Note: n.a. Not applicable