



# NEWSLETTER



## Launching of the Population & Housing Census (PHC) 2016; Village Directory 2016—Preliminary Count of Census 2016



The official launching of the PHC 2016 Village Directory was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2016 at the DBS conference room. The opening remarks was given by the Government Statistician Afioga Muagututia Sefuiva Reupena. The programme officially started with a thanksgiving prayer by Reverend Taumafai Komiti and the keynote address was delivered by the Honourable Prime Minister Afioga Tuilaepa Fatialofa Auelua Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi. More than 100 participants from different government ministries, corporations and non-governmental organisations participated in the launching in which copies of the report were distributed to all participants.

The Village Directory 2016 report presented the 2016 census preliminary count of all villages and political districts in Samoa by male and female. The total preliminary count of Samoa in the report is 192,342 persons in which 98,838 are males and 93, 501 females.



## Population & Housing Census 2016 Trainings

The Division of Census, Survey and Demography, conducted the first census training for the SBS staff whom were employed as the census supervisors at the Central Bank conference room on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2016. The training involved detailed discussions of the importance of each question asked in the census. The training was followed by the pilot test of the census questionnaire which was conducted at the village of Toamua in the North West Upolu region.



The training for the 1,042 enumerators for the islands of Upolu, Manono and Apolima were conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at the EFKS Hall comprising about 100 enumerators per day. For the 319 enumerators selected for the island of Savaii, the trainings were held at Apita o Pisaga Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The last training was held at the Development Bank's Conference room on the 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 for the 65 hired staff. The three trainers were ACEO Census, Afioga Aliimuamua Malaefono Tauga Taaloga and the two Principal Officers Taiapo Faumui-na and Lewis Sinclair.



## Population & Housing Census 2016 Fieldwork

The PHC 2016 preliminary enumeration started 14 days (24th October-6th November) prior to census date (7th November) in order to give enumerators sufficient time to identify, list and enumerate their allocated households.

In previous censuses, the school inspectors from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) assisted with the overall supervision of the census enumeration across the country. They played a significant role by ensuring that the teachers do not pull out during the enumeration period and to ensure that the enumeration is completed on time. Unfortunately in the 2016 census, the school inspector positions no longer exist at MESC and SBS had to deploy its own staffs from all divisions making up 21 supervisors with teams of 4-5 each to supervise the census across the country. In addition, 65 part-time workers were hired to assist SBS with the workload mainly in areas where enumerators were not found. A total of 1361 census enumerators were hired to conduct the enumeration which comprised 90% of full-time teachers.

The census enumerators were given an average of 30 households to complete by the census date. In terms of transportation a special arrangement was made with Government vehicles to assist in the supervisors work after normal working hours. Extra vehicles were also hired to assist with the staff workload.



## GDP Compilation & Forecasting Workshop

Two officers from the Bureau attended a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Forecasting Workshop in Suva, Fiji. Several other delegates from government ministries and public bodies attended the workshop which included representatives from the Central Bank of Samoa (CBS), The Ministry for Revenue (MfR) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF).

The scope of this workshop focused mainly at enhancing the quality of the measurement of GDP and forecasting through knowledge sharing; as well as giving GDP compilers, stakeholders and users a better understanding and appreciation of the GDP numbers. The workshop lasted for one week; it commenced on the 17th and ended on the 21st of October 2016.



Gross Domestic Product Forecasting Workshop  
17-21 October, 2016, Suva, Fiji

## National Accounts Technical Advisor (TA) Mission

A mission by Mr Richard Wild, the new Technical Advisor on Economics Statistics from the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre who was here for two weeks and worked alongside the staff at the Bureau in reviewing the sources and methodologies in measuring Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as part of the Rebasing Exercise conducted by the staff of the Bureau. It was an opportunity for the staff to gain from his experiences and to share ideas on how to further enhance the quality of economic statistics. During his mission, Mr Wild was able to meet with the Government Statistician (Mr Muagutu-tia Sefuiva Reupena) as well as other stakeholders who are willing to cooperate and assist in supplying of data for the compilation of GDP estimates. Phase two of this mission is scheduled to take place in the second quarter of 2017.

## CPI, VOLUME Indicators & TRADE

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN DECEMBER 2016

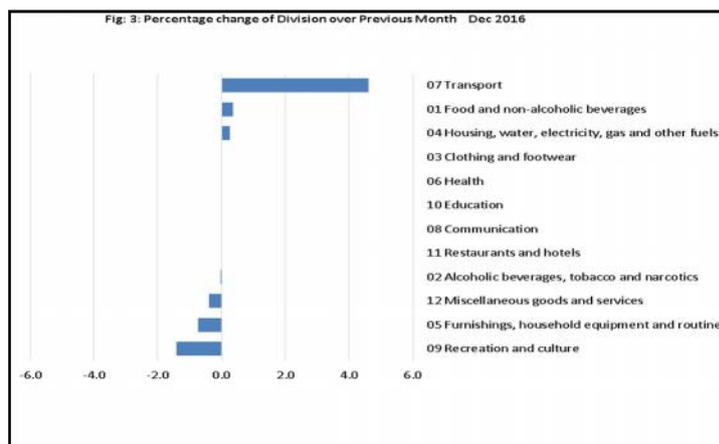
The latest CPI data released by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics showed a 0.8 percent increase in the overall CPI in December 2016 following a 0.3 percent decrease in the previous month. This increase in division for December 2016 was mainly by:

- Transport index increased by 4.6 percent (recorded for fuel petrol & diesel and airline fare Apia/Auckland/Apia) from the previous month.
- Food & Non Alcoholic Beverages index increased by 0.4 percent from the November 2016 (which comprises the fresh fish, chinese cabbage, koko samoa, cucumber and tomato).
- Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other fuels increased 0.3 percent from the previous month.

On the down sides for CPI in December 2016

- Recreation and culture index decreased by 1.4 percent from November 2016 (mostly for LCD television item).
- Furnishings, Household equipment, and maintenance dropped by 0.7 percent
- Miscellaneous goods and services decreased by 0.4 percent

On the other hand, alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics, clothing and footwear, health, communication, education and restaurants were remaining unchanged during the month under review. **(See Fig: 3: below)**. However, the average annual inflation rate for the year ended December 2016 was 1.3 percent from 1.0 percent in November 2016. For the twelve months ending December 2015 the inflation rate was 0.7 %



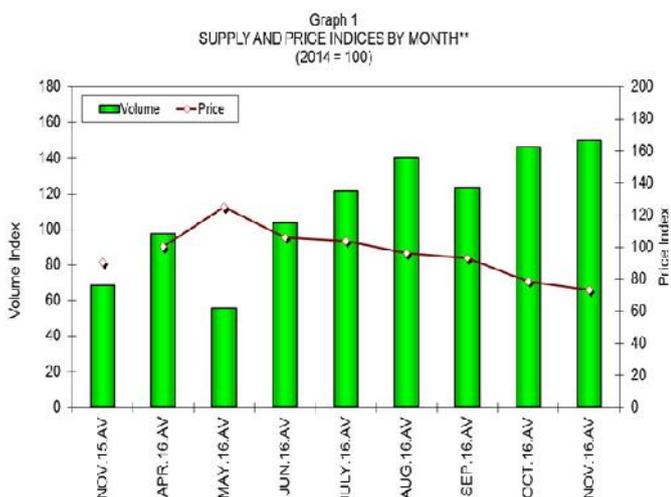
## Highlights Local Market Survey

We are delighted to release our rebase for the Local Market. There are few commodities that have been detached from the series like taro palagi due to its insignificant weight in the overall compilation of the data; so its weight is omitted however we still collect the data for taro palagi. This change is due to the fact that farmers are tend to use the land to grow taro because its only takes four months to harvest.

In addition, we expand our data collection to other markets at the west side of Upolu including Vaitete, Afega, Saleimoa and Savaia Lefaga. Weekly sample collection highlight that's expanding the local market survey has improve the data analysis of the data, some agriculture product are not found in one market but commonly found in another market. The data slightly different compared with the data collection at Fugalei and Taufusi Market.

### LOCAL MARKET SURVEY IN NOVEMBER 2016

At the main produce local market survey, the volume of agricultural supplies rebounded by 3 percent while the overall price index fell by 7 percent when compared to October 2016. **(See Graph below).**



- Despite the decrease in volume of most agricultural produce, there were significant positive contributions in the supply of coconut, ta'amu, cucumber and pumpkin that pushed the volume index up.
- The value of supplies declined 7 percent to \$66,400 from the previous month.
- The total number of sellers fell 8 percent to 362 from 396 in October 2016.

## Merchandise Trade September 2016 Quarter

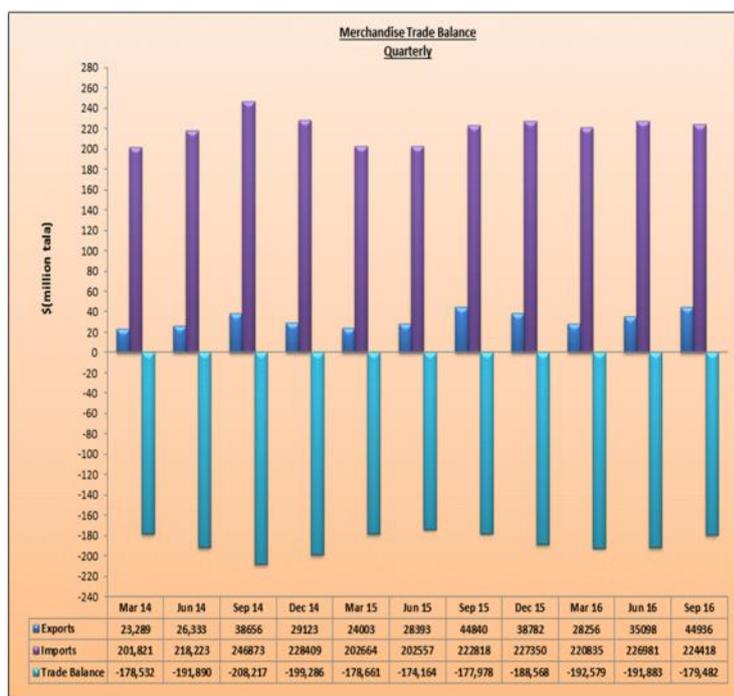
The merchandise trade deficit decreased significantly as a result of a 1.1 percent reduces in import payments despite a 28.0 percent hike in exports earnings. However, when compared to the same month of 2015, the current merchandise trade deficit was 0.8 percent higher. **(See Graph below).**

### EXPORTS REVENUE RECOVERS

Exports value recovered by 28.0 percent (\$9.8 million) to \$44.9 million and was 0.2 percent higher than in September 2015 quarter. Largely responsible for the current increase were higher values of fish, petroleum oils exports and ignition wiring sets, other wiring sets for vehicles aircraft exports. Resulted in higher country of destination for exports such as Australia, USA, Taiwan, Tokelau and Singapore from June 2016 quarter.

### IMPORT PAYMENTS DECREASES

The total value of imports in September 2016 quarter decreased by 1.1 percent (or \$2.5 million) to \$224.4 million, but was 0.7 percent higher than September 2015 quarter. Mainly responsible for the current decrease were lower values of composition of imports such as machinery & mechanical & electrical appliances & parts thereof, mineral products, live animals; animals' products and base metal & articles thereof products imports. Due to the lower imports from major source markets such as New Zealand, Australia, USA and Singapore from the previous quarter.



For more information:

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