



# Samoa Bureau of Statistics

## EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

### March 2021 Quarter

25 May 2021

#### Summary Table

ISSUE #22		Dec 2020 Quarter	Mar 2021 Quarter
<b>Employment &amp; Wage Indices have been rebased from 2009 to 2013 to be inline with GDP Rebasing.</b>	Employment Number	24,214	24,220
	Total Wages (\$ mil)	\$141.8	\$141.4
	Average Wages Received (in \$)	\$5,855	\$5,838
	Employment Growth (% change over the quarter of last year)	-0.7%	-0.5%

#### Inside this issue:

#### Quarterly Review

1-4 *Employment numbers in the March 2021 quarter decreased by 0.5%, making it the sixth consecutive quarter of negative growth since December 2019. This reflects the negative impact experienced by the nation due to the ongoing global effects of Covid-19 ( Coronavirus) pandemic on the country. This negatively impacted industries such as Accommodation, Construction, Restaurants, Transport, Other Services and Business Services.*

#### Employment & Wage Index

1-2 *Wages and Salaries for the March 2021 quarter recorded an increase by 0.4% on a year on year basis from \$140.9 million in March 2020 to \$141.4 million in the year under review.*

#### Employment Levels

#### 2-4 QUARTERLY REVIEW EMPLOYMENT INDEX

*Table 1: Employment & Wage Index (2013=100)*

	Mar 20	Jun 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
Employment Index	103	103	104	102	102
% change	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.7	-0.5
Wage Index	117	117	116	118	118
% change	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.8

#### Employment by Industry

2-3 According to table 1, it indicates that formal employment index has a negative growth of 0.5% in the March 2021 quarter. This makes it the sixth consecutive quarter of negative employment growth since the December 2019 quarter.

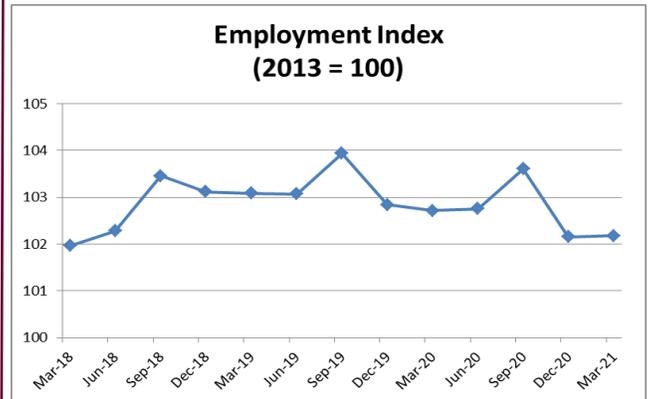
#### 12 Months Review

#### Background information

#### Annex—Employment tables

On the other hand, compared with the same period in 2020, the wage index for March 2021 quarter rose slightly by 0.8%. Wage index continues to grow positively for six consecutive years.

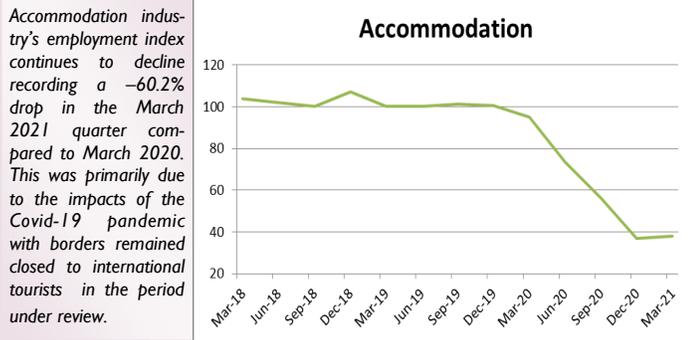
*Chart 1: Employment Index, Mar 2018 - Mar 2021*



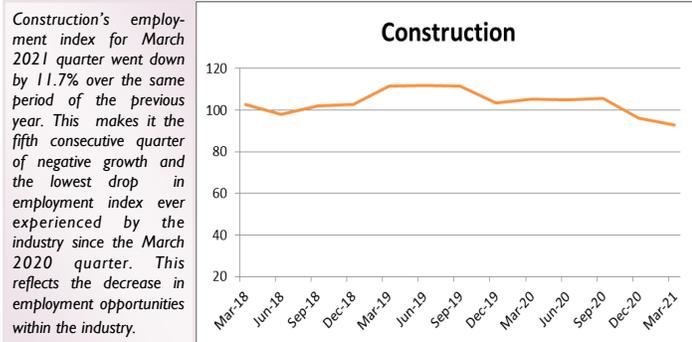
Depicted in Chart 1 is the trend in the quarterly employment index which fluctuates from the March 2018 to the March 2021 quarter. The Employment Index experienced negative growths in the previous years and has continued on until the quarter under review which makes it the sixth consecutive decline after the highest positive growth rate recorded in September 2019. The disruption caused by the significant effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on normal business operations continues to yield job losses and layoffs in some of the hardest-hit economic sectors of the country's economy. The industries driving March 2021 quarter's index decrease includes Accommodations, Construction, Restaurants, Transport, Other Services, Other manufacturing, Business Services with their contributions of -60.2%, -25.7%, -11.7%, -8.2%, -4.0%, -2.0%, -1.4% and -0.2% respectively.

Some industries which contributed largely to the decline in employment in the March 2021 quarter includes:

**Chart 2: Accommodation Employment Index**



**Chart 3: Construction Employment Index**



**WAGE INDEX**

**Chart 4: Wage Index, Mar 2018 - Mar 2021**



Chart 4 shows the trend in the wage index from March 2018 to March 2021. The trend in wage index also follows the usual pattern seen in the same quarter in previous years as indicated in above chart. The growth in wage index attributed mainly through the increase in wages paid out to employees working in industries such as Water, Food and Manufacturing, Accommodation, Restaurants,

Other manufacturing, Electricity, Business Services, Commerce, Transport, Education, Finance Services and Construction with increases of 33.1%, 20.5%, 16.7%, 15.8%, 14.7%, 14.7%, 14.1%, 8.0%, 7.7%, 5.6%, 2.8%, 1.5%, and 0.3% respectively.

**EMPLOYMENT LEVELS**

**Table 2: Employment & Wages, March 2021 Quarter**

Employed Persons, Total Wages & Average Quarterly Wages						
March 2021						
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total Employed	24, 220	100.0	13,679	56.5	10,441	43.1
Total Wages (\$ mil)	141.4	100.0	76.7	54.2	64.7	45.8
Quarterly Average Wages (\$)	5,838		5,607		6,135	

According to Table 2, the total number of employees in the formal sector in the March 2021 quarter was 20,220; of which 56.5% were males and 43.1% were females. Total wages amounted to \$141.1 million. Males received the biggest share (54.2%) of total wages in the March 2021 quarter with females receiving the remaining 45.8%.

The quarterly average wages for March 2021 quarter amounted to \$5,838. Males may have received the largest share of total wages but their average wage was much less compared to females. Male quarterly average wages amounted to \$5,607 whereas females quarterly average wages amounted to \$6,135.

**Table 3: Distribution of Employment by Sector, Mar 2021**

Year	(No.) (%)	Total	Sector			
			Primary	Secondary	Services	Public Admin
Mar-20	(No.)	24,347	274	2,825	15,370	5,879
	(%)	100.0	1.1	11.6	63.1	24.1
Jun-20	(No.)	24,358	267	2,848	15,334	5,909
	(%)	100.0	1.1	11.7	63.0	24.3
Sep-20	(No.)	24,560	303	2,921	15,349	5,986
	(%)	100.0	1.2	11.9	62.5	24.4
Dec-20	(No.)	24,214	297	2,811	14,988	6,118
	(%)	100.0	1.2	11.6	61.9	25.3
Mar-21	(No.)	24,220	288	2,785	15,002	6,146
	(%)	100.0	1.2	11.5	61.9	25.4

Table 3 above shows the employed population by sector, Primary, Secondary, Services and the Public Sector from March 2020 to March 2021. In March 2021, the Services

sector remains the biggest employer accounting for 61.9% of the total formal population. Public Administration as well remains the second biggest employer employing about 25.4%; Secondary sector is the third biggest employer with 11.5% followed by only 1.2% being employed within the Primary Sector.

**Table 4: Distribution of Employment by Industry, Mar 2021**

Industry	Male No.	%	Female No.	%	Total No.	%
Public Admini	2,852	20.8	3,294	31.2	6,146	25.4
Commerce	2,230	16.3	1,547	14.7	3,777	15.6
Other services	1,435	10.5	1,281	12.2	2,716	11.2
Transport	1,371	10.0	459	4.4	1,830	7.6
Personal servi	842	6.2	568	5.4	1,410	5.8
Finance servic	509	3.7	723	6.9	1,232	5.1
Health	481	3.5	623	5.9	1,104	4.6
Cosntruction	865	6.3	87	0.8	952	3.9
Education	277	2.0	437	4.1	714	2.9
Business servi	454	3.3	255	2.4	709	2.9
Food manufac	434	3.2	200	1.9	635	2.6
Accommodati	290	2.1	280	2.7	569	2.4
Communicatio	305	2.2	198	1.9	504	2.1
Other manufa	330	2.4	166	1.6	496	2.0
Restaurants	230	1.7	205	1.9	435	1.8
Electricity	288	2.1	69	0.7	357	1.5
Water	262	1.9	83	0.8	345	1.4
Agriculture	153	1.1	45	0.4	198	0.8
Fishing	71	0.5	19	0.2	90	0.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,679</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>10,541</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>24,220</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4 shows the distribution of employment by industry. At the industry level, the majority of formal employment was in the Public Administration which made up about 25.4% of the total, of which 46.4% were males and 53.6% were females. Commerce was the second biggest employer comprising 15.6% of the number of people employed; 59.0% of which were males and 41.0% were females. Other Services was the third biggest employer employing about 11.2% of the total, consisting of 52.8% males and 47.2% of females. Transport, Personal services, Finance service and Health were the next biggest employers with shares of 7.6%, 5.8%, 5.1% and 4.6% respectively of the total. The lowest number of employees worked in the Agriculture and Fishing industries accounting for only 0.8% and 0.4% respectively of the total employed population respectively in the March 2021 quarter.

In terms of employment composition by sex, Communication topped the average quarterly male earnings list recording its highest average wages of \$10,552 as indicated in Table 5. The Communication industry accounted for

only 3.2% of the total number of male employed in the period. Public administration employed 20.8% of the total male employment and has the highest total wages paid out of \$21.3 million. However, this sector placed sixth in terms of average wages which amounted to \$7,476. Commerce, the second biggest employer for Males recorded an average quarterly wage of \$4,109.

**Table 5: Male wages and average wages, March 2021**

Industries	% of Employed Males to total	Male Wages (\$ million)	Male Average Quarterly Wage (\$)
Communication	2.2	3.2	10,552
Finance services	3.7	5.1	10,058
Health	3.5	4.3	9,016
Electricity	2.1	2.3	8,090
Water	1.9	2.0	7,797
Public administration	20.8	21.3	7,476
Personal services	6.2	5.0	6,000
Transport	10.0	6.6	4,856
Other manufacturing	2.4	1.6	4,803
Food manufacturing	3.2	2.1	4,720
Fishing	0.5	0.3	4,473
Construction	6.3	3.6	4,180
Commerce	16.3	9.2	4,109
Business services	3.3	1.8	3,986
Education	2.0	1.1	3,931
Other services	10.5	5.0	3,497
Restaurants	1.7	0.7	3,239
Accommodation	2.1	0.9	3,237
Agriculture	1.1	0.4	2,756
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>5,607</b>

Table 6 below shows the Female wages and its average wages for the March 2021 quarter. Similar to males, Public Administration was the biggest employer for females (employing 31.2% of employed female) and also had the highest total wages paid (\$26.1 million), however it was not the highest in terms of average wages which stood at \$7,933 ranking the industry fourth highest in female average quarterly wages. Electricity recorded the highest average quarterly wages of \$10,440; employing about 0.7% of the total employed females. Water recorded the second highest average quarterly wage of \$9,481. The lowest average quarterly wage for females were reported in Other services, Accommodation, Agriculture and Restaurant industries with average quarterly wages of \$3,904, \$3,510, \$3,178 and \$2,800 respectively.

**Table 6: Female wages and average wages, Dec 2020**

Industries	% of Employed Female to total	Female Wages (\$ million)	Female Average Quarterly Wage
Electricity	0.7	0.7	10,440
Water	0.8	0.8	9,481
Health	5.9	5.6	8,945
Public Administrati	31.2	26.1	7,933
Communication	1.9	1.6	7,921
Finance Services	6.9	5.5	7,590
Food Manufacturin	1.9	1.3	6,282
Construction	0.8	0.5	6,225
Business services	2.4	1.6	6,196
Fishing	0.2	0.1	5,995
Personal services	5.4	3.4	5,904
Other manufacturin	1.6	0.8	4,728
Transport	4.4	2.2	4,721
Commerce	14.7	6.2	3,984
Education	4.1	1.7	3,954
Other services	12.2	5.0	3,904
Accommodation	2.7	1.0	3,510
Agriculture	0.4	0.1	3,178
Restaurants	1.9	0.6	2,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>6,135</b>

**TWELVE MONTHS REVIEW:**  
**(April 2020 - March 2021)**

**Table 7: Employment & Wage Index**

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Employment Index	104	102	103	103	103
% change	1.2	-1.9	1.2	0.2	-0.5
Wage Index	112	116	118	119	120
% change	2.6	3.7	1.8	1.3	0.7

According to Table 7 above, it indicates that the number of employed persons decreased by 0.5% in the fiscal year ending March 2021 compared to the year ending March 2020. Wage Index went up by 0.7%. Employment Index has experienced fluctuation within the five-year period as indicated above due to economic crisis and other factors directly affecting employment opportunities within the country.

The fiscal year under review experienced negative growth throughout the four quarters within the period. This reverse effect was triggered by the Covid-19 outbreak which initiated State of Emergencies. Restrictions were enforced on a national level as preventative measures for the Covid-19 pandemic which started from March right through to

the December quarter. Although restrictions were slightly relaxed in the December 2020 quarter, it did not reverse the existing effect it imposed on the economy in terms of employment opportunities as the world still faces extremities of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The negative growth in employment numbers within the reviewed fiscal year ending March 2021 were mainly influenced by the decline in employment opportunities and job losses in industries such as Accommodation, Restaurants, Construction, Transport and Other services with respective growths of -48.5%, -12.2%, -12.2%, -7.5%, -3.5% and -1.0%.

**Table 8: Employment and Wage: April 2020 - March 2021**

Employed Persons, Total Wages & Average Annual Wages						
Year April 2020 - March 2021						
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total Employed	24,338	100.0	13,806	56.7	10,532	43.3
Total Wages (\$ million)	566.4	100.0	306.5	54.1	259.9	45.9
Average Annual Wages (\$)	23,273		22,203		24,675	

In the year ended March 2021, total employed formal sector amounted to 24,338; 56.7% being males and 43.3% being females. Total wages paid amounted to \$566.4 million. Males received the biggest share of total wages with 54.1% of the total and 45.9% being female wages.

Total average yearly wages received in the year ended March 2021 was \$23,273. Females was recorded to have had the highest average yearly wage of \$24,675 while males average yearly wage amounted to \$22,203.

# Background Information and New Developments

## Scope and Coverage

Employment covers all formally registered employees to the Samoa National Provident Fund. This includes all industries in the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Sectors and the Public Administration (Private and Public Sectors).

## Classification

The International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC), Revision 3.1 is used to classify the economic activity of businesses in the SNPF Register. Classification of economic activity is important in the determination of the extent and nature of the information collected and the quality of the data compiled. The employees through employers are then classified into various industries using the ISIC Rev 3.1.

## Employment and Formal Employment

### Employment

- ◆ Employment is the total number of persons who are engaged in paid work.
- ◆ It includes all persons who are either part timers or full time workers and are employed either in the public or private sectors (working for wages).

### Formal Employment

- ◆ Employment that is government regulated, such that workers are ensured a wage and certain employment rights.
- ◆ It **includes** all employees and employers in the formal sectors who have registered under the SNPF.
- ◆ It does **not include** the informal sectors and individual contributors such as proprietors, self-employed workers, unpaid family or volunteer workers, farm workers, and domestic workers.

### Employment Index

- ◆ Is a measure of change on the employment numbers, with 2013 now implemented to replace 2009 as the base year in this current report.

### Wage Index

- ◆ Is a measure of change on the wages and salaries, it was compiled using the base year of 2013 replacing 2009 base year as indicated in other previous Employment Reports such as Issue 1 - 12.

### Revisions

Employment Data is supplied by the SNPF on a quarterly basis. This data is input manually by the Finance Statistics Division (FSD) in to the system and is used for compiling and monitoring

employment trend by industry. In some cases where there may be a delay in receiving this data, estimates are then used until the actual numbers are available. Revisions are made later on when actual data are made available to the Bureau.

Revisions for previous Quarterly Employment Report data are made herewith to account for the lag in business submission of information to data provider.

Aliimuamua Malaefono Taua - T Faasalaina

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN / CEO

