NEWS RELEASE

STATISTICS & ANALYSIS DIVISION

AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – 2nd QUARTER 2022 (APRIL - JUNE)

American Samoa's local inflation for the second quarter of 2022 registers at **11.8%**. If compared to last quarter's inflation rate (11.6%) this quarter increased by only 0.2%. While the annual rise in our territory's inflation rate is starting to balance out, the impact from increases in our prices this *quarter* is still felt. The top group for the largest quarterly percentage-increase is Transportation (5.1%). The Transportation group also holds the highest percentage change on an *annual* basis.

The local rate of inflation is forecasted to remain above double digits throughout the year and will probably lower to 6-8% at the end of 2022. Inflation should finally run down to 2-4% around the end of 2023 or early 2024 unless there is another hike in crude oil prices in the near future.

ANNUAL GROUP MOVEMENTS

The Food Group was the highest expenditure category of the American Samoa CPI until recently. Now registering at 16.4%, Transportation beats the Food group by .1%. The third largest expenditure group: Education and Communication has increased by 14.3% this year. These 3 groups account for more than half the expense an average consumer would spend. Food usually being the top expenditure group except in this quarter.

Unlike the American Samoa CPI, Food is not the largest expenditure category for the US. This quarter's CPI charts also show the Energy group as the highest expenditure for the US, 34.6% as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The primary commodity contributing to the increase is Fuel Oil followed by Gasoline.

QUARTERLY GROUP MOVEMENTS

The index for the Food group this quarter is 132.3 compared to last quarter 130.4, that registers an increase of 1.5% which is a slight increase compared to Transportation. The food items with the highest increase are Eggs (up by 23%) and Chicken Wings (16%). Pork Ribs, Candies (M&M, Snickers), Potatoes, Onions and Shrimp have all increased by more than 5% this quarter.

Transportation has increased the most overall. This quarter, transportation expenses are up by 5.4%. Major household commodities like Gasoline and Electricity have been affected by external factors. Because the Fuel Oil-trade has been strained by sanctions and other political tensions, local costs of these commodities are negatively affected I.e., higher prices.

Education and Communication has risen by 2.3% this quarter. This is mostly due to the rise in prices of computers and laptops. Other components of this group like elementary, high school and community college tuition fees have remained the same.

Housing expenses such as electricity and home insurance have also increased. Home insurance increased by 5.9% and ASPA Electricity by 20%. Among the reasons for the increase in electricity, the main one is Fuel.

Apparel registered a 1.8% quarterly increase this quarter. The few items to have contributed to the increase are, women's dresses (up 4.7%), t-shirts (3.9%) and men and boys' footwear (2.9%).

Medical Care group increased by 2.4%. The overall increase was caused by a 13% increment in Non-prescription drugs since last quarter.

The Recreational group last quarter did not see much activity last quarter due to Covid-19 restrictions. This quarter, as these restrictions were loosened, businesses such as fitness gyms and the local cinema began to operate with some normalcy again. The increase however is since in items such as Bingo Papers, Fishing Equipment and Books.The quarterly index for this group increased by 1.9%.

A slight growth is observed in the Other Goods and Services group. Items included in this group are Deodorant, Hair Shampoo/Conditioner and Soap which have all increased during the quarter by less than 4%. The overall increase for this group however is 1.3%.

COMPARATIVE COST OF SELECTED GOODS AND SERVICES IN MANU'A

The following chart is a quarterly comparison of cost of selected goods/services purchased in Tutuila compared to same products/services purchased by residents in Manu'a. The objective is to identify cost differentials and the magnitude of differences between the two islands.

A sample of average commodity prices normally purchased in the regular CPI was used as the survey template with the same commodity descriptions, weights, detailed specifications, brand names, etc., to make direct comparisons. Eleven stores in Ta'u, Ofu and Olosega islands were selected and 32 commodities including Food (24 items), Housing (3 items), Alcohol (2 items), Miscellaneous (2 items) and Transportation (1 item) were priced. The overall cost differential of goods and services in Manu'a compared to Tutuila is still about 40%. Not significantly higher than the cost comparison of the last quarter which was 43.6%.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGE PRICES FOR TUTUILA AND MANU'A **Q2 2022 (May-July)**

COMMODITY/SERVICE	UNIT	TUTUILA AVERAGE	MANU'A AVERAGE	AVAILABLE IN MANUA	% AVAILABLE	COST DIFFERENTIAL
Apple. Loosen. Per Pound. US	lb	$ 1.77	$ 1.50	1 of 11 Stores	9.1%	15.3%
Boneless Beef Chuck. Per Pound. Plastic Wrap. NZ	lb	$ 4.70	$ 4.25	2 of 11 Stores	18.2%	9.6%
Coors Light. 12oz. Can. US	12 fl oz	$ 1.56	$ 2.10	5 of 11 Stores	45.5%	34.6%
Vailima. 750ml. Glass Bottle. Samoa	750 ml	$ 2.82	$ 4.17	9 of 11 Stores	81.8%	47.8%
Small 20lb. Cylinder Tank (Cost to fill up)	20 lbs	$ 24.00	$ 43.00	3 of 11 Stores	27.3%	79.2%
Pritchards "Long Bread" Sliced Bread. Plastic Wrap. Local	Loaf	$ 2.92	$ 5.00	2 of 11 Stores	18.2%	71.2%
Anchor. Butter. 227g. NZ	227 gm	$ 3.89	$ 4.38	8 of 11 Stores	72.7%	12.5%
Chicken Legs. 22lbs. Box. US	22 lb	$ 16.35	$ 23.21	9 of 11 Stores	81.8%	42.0%
Benson & Hedges. 20 sticks. US	20's	$ 10.86	$ 13.56	9 of 11 Stores	81.8%	24.8%
Kool. Filter Kings. 20 sticks. US	20's	$ 10.86	$ 13.63	8 of 11 Stores	72.7%	25.5%

Wesson Oil. 24oz. Bottle. US	24 fl oz	$ 3.50	$ 4.62	8 of 11 Stores	72.2%	31.9%
Palm. Corned Beef. 11.5oz. Can. NZ	12 oz	$ 5.11	$ 5.78	7 of 11 Stores	63.6%	13.2%
Price of per KWHs.	per KWH	$ 0.42	N/A	None	0.0%	N/A
Nulaid. Small Eggs. Dozen. Carton.	doz	$ 2.02	$ 4.62	8 of 11 Stores	72.7%	128.9%
Green Bananas. Sold by the bunch.	lb	$ 0.43	N/A	None	0.0%	N/A
Peleiupu. 15oz. Can. Chile	15 oz	$ 2.11	$ 3.04	7 of 11 Stores	63.6%	43.9%
Fresh Milk. 1Liter. 33.8oz. Box. AUS	1 Liter	$ 1.96	$ 3.51	9 of 11 Stores	81.8%	79.1%
California Rose.Calrose Rice. 40lb. Bag. AUS	40 lbs	$ 31.56	$ 38.00	1 of 11 Stores	9.1%	20.4%
Cerebos. 700g. Plastic Bottle. NZ	700 gm	$ 2.09	$ 3.72	8 of 11 Stores	72.7%	77.9%
Hoffy Meat Franks. Per Pound. US	lb	$ 2.30	N/A	None	0.0%	N/A
Coca Cola. 12oz. Can	12 oz	$ 0.91	$ 1.11	All Stores	100%	21.9%
Campbells. Spaghetti. 14 3/4oz. Can. US	14.75 oz	$ 1.72	$ 2.64	8 of 11 Stores	72.7%	53.3%
Hormel. Spam. 12oz. Can. US	12 oz	$ 4.56	$ 5.80	10 of 11 Stores	90.9%	27.3%
Chelsea. 2kg. Plastic Bag. NZ	2 kg	$ 3.16	$ 4.73	8 of 11 Stores	72.7%	49.7%
Taro. Per Pound. Sold by a bunch.	lb	$ 2.02	N/A	None	0.0%	N/A
I'apana. Tuna in Chunk Oil. 6.5oz. Can.	6.5 oz	$ 2.27	$ 2.84	10 of 11 Stores	90.9%	25.1%
Unleaded Gas	Gallon	$ 5.12	N/A	2 of 11 Stores	9.1%	N/A

Source: DOC Statistics Division

All Items Cost Differential: 42.5%

For more information, please refer to the CPI Newsletter or contact the Department of Commerce Statistics and Analysis Division at 633-0120 or email americansamoastatistics@doc.as.gov.

Director's Approval: _____
For Petti T. Matila