NEWS RELEASE

STATISTICS & ANALYSIS DIVISION

AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – 4th QUARTER 2022 (October-December)

For the past three quarters, inflation in American Samoa has been in the double digits, peaking in the 3rd quarter at 13.5%. This quarter, inflation declined by 3.8 and is now measured at 9.7%. Following the influx of a new supply of money, i.e., tax credits, P.E.B.T., and other stimulus checks, consumer purchasing power seem more sufficient to meet the increase in local retail prices. As a result, the Territory technically experienced a period of deflation this past quarter.

AMERICAN SAMOA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX Q4 2022					
	4th Quarter 2022	3rd Quarter 2022	4th Quarter 2021	Quarterly Percent Change	Annual Percent Change
All Items	124.7	123.6	113.7	0.9	9.7
Food	140.8	137.8	124.6	2.2	13.0
Alcoholic Beverages	114.7	113.1	107.1	1.5	7.1
Housing	125.5	124.2	112.1	1.0	12.0
Apparel	109.6	108.0	104.1	1.5	5.3
Transportation	122.8	126.3	112.9	-2.7	8.8
Medical Care	109.9	109.0	105.4	0.9	4.3
Entertainment (Recreation)	107.3	107.0	102.9	0.3	4.3
Education and Communications	115.9	115.1	105.4	0.7	9.9
Other Goods and Services	106.1	106.0	103.3	0.1	2.7

ANNUAL GROUP MOVEMENTS

The group with the highest annual percentage change, as usual, is Food. Food has increased by 13% compared to the previous year's quarter. Following Food is the Housing group which grew by 12%. The third highest expenditure group is Education and Communication (up by 9.9%). The three major groups that hold the most weight are (1) Food, (2) Housing, and (3) Transportation. Movement in these three groups will greatly influence inflation. Because transportation did not significantly increase this quarter, it did not reflect in the inflation rate. The Education group had a higher increase than the Transportation group.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics also reports that the drop in gasoline prices contributed to the overall decrease in inflation. The mainland inflation for all items in the fourth quarter is reported at 6.5, a fall from 8.5 last quarter. Most items observed in the local CPI are imported or outsourced. Prices in the territory are therefore expected to reflect the cost of freight and to fluctuate with the cost when it was purchased from suppliers.

Along with unleaded gas, another item that also decreased was electricity. Fuel surcharges by ASPA were: (Per KWH)
Q1 2022: $0.35
Q2 2022: $0.41
Q3 2022: $0.51
Q4 2022: $0.49

QUARTERLY GROUP MOVEMENTS

The Food group again has the highest quarterly increase at 2.2% this quarter. Items that have increased by over 10% include Apples, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Cat food, and Mayonnaise. Some items that have not changed include Bottled water, Butter, Coffee creamer, Bananas, and Breadfruit. Items that have decreased only slightly are Assortment cookies, Boneless beef, Candies, Mackerel, and Cake mix.

Alcohol and Apparel increased by 1.5%, coming in second after the Food group. Items that have contributed to the increase are T-shirts, Women's undergarments, and Beer.

Changes will heavily influence the Transportation index in unleaded gas and diesel prices. Because the gas price has decreased, this group's quarterly growth dropped by 2.7%. The average gas and diesel prices over the quarters were:

	Gas:	Diesel:
Q1:	$4.58	$4.44
Q2:	$5.12	$5.25
Q3:	$5.67	$6.37
Q4:	$4.91	$5.35

Education and Communication increased this quarter by 0.7%. The main reason for its increase is the rise in smartphone prices (4%) and some school supplies. Technological items such as smartphones and laptops ultimately change annually when new versions or updates are released. For this reason, you can expect this group to increase, with all other factors remaining constant.

The Medical Care group increased by less than 1%. Since the beginning of this year, non-prescription drugs have continued to be the main contributor to this group's increase.

The Recreational group did not significantly change, only up by 0.3% this quarter. However, an item included in this group worth noting is a Puletasi/Tailoring, which has increased by almost 2% since last quarter.

Other Goods and Services only increased by 0.1%. Items contributing to the minute increase is Soap (up 5%).

COMPARATIVE COST OF SELECTED GOODS AND SERVICES IN MANU'A

The following chart is a quarterly comparison of the cost of selected goods/services purchased in Tutuila compared to the 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 29 commodities, including Food (22 items), Housing (2 items), Alcohol (2 items), Miscellaneous (2 items), and Transportation (1 item), were priced.

At the year-end, there is about a 43% difference in average cost between Tutuila and Manu'a. This quarter again had fewer stores operating during the survey month due to resident relocation and holiday visits.

COMPARATIVE PRICES FOR TUTUILA AND MANU'A

AVERAGE PRICES FOR TUTUILA AND MANU'A **Q4 (October-December 2022)**

COMMODITY/SERVICE	UNIT	TUTUILA AVERAGE	MANU'A AVERAGE	AVAILABLE IN MANUA	% AVAILABLE	COST DIFFERENTIAL
Apple. Loosen. Per Pound. US	lb	$2.15	n/a	0 of 11 Stores	0.00%	N/A
Boneless Beef Chuck. Per Pound. Plastic Wrap. NZ	lb	$4.89	$4.88	2 of 11 Stores	18.18%	0.36%
Coors Light. 12oz. Can. US	12 fl oz	$1.66	$2.00	2 of 11 Stores	18.18%	20.69%
Vailima. 750ml. Glass Bottle. Samoa	750 ml	$2.86	$4.30	5 of 11 Stores	45.45%	50.58%
Small 20lb. Cylinder Tank (Cost to fill up)	20 lbs	$25.90	$40.00	1 of 11 Stores	9.09%	54.44%
Pritchards "Long Bread" Sliced Bread. Plastic Wrap. Local	Loaf	$2.87	$4.00	1 of 11 Stores	9.09%	39.53%
Anchor. Butter. 227g. NZ	227 gm	$3.91	$4.75	4 of 11 Stores	36.36%	21.35%
Chicken Legs. 22lbs. Box. US	22 lb	$20.05	$26.20	5 of 11 Stores	45.45%	30.69%
Whole Chicken. Per Pound. Plastic Wrap. US	lb	$2.58	$3.00	2 of 11 Stores	18.18%	16.34%
Benson & Hedges. 20 sticks. US	20's	$10.89	$14.00	5 of 11 Stores	45.45%	28.52%
Kool. Filter Kings. 20 sticks. US	20's	$10.86	$13.75	4 of 11 Stores	36.36%	26.64%
Wesson Oil. 24oz. Bottle. US	24 fl oz	$4.06	$4.75	4 of 11 Stores	36.36%	16.81%
Palm. Corned Beef. 11.5oz. Can. NZ	12 oz	$5.66	$6.05	6 of 11 Stores	54.55%	6.94%
Price of per KWHs.	per KWH	$0.49	$0.49	0 of 11 Stores	0.00%	0.00%
Nulaid. Small Eggs. Dozen. Carton.	doz	$2.58	$4.39	5 of 11 Stores	45.45%	66.29%
Green Bananas. Sold by the bunch.	lb	$0.61	n/a	0 of 11	0.00%	N/A

				Stores		
Peleiupu. 15oz. Can. Chile	15 oz	$1.86	$3.42	3 of 11 Stores	27.27%	83.27%
Fresh Milk. 1Liter. 33.8oz. Box. AUS	1 Liter	$2.08	$3.66	6 of 11 Stores	54.55%	75.64%
California Rose.Calrose Rice. 40lb. Bag. AUS	40 lbs	$32.15	n/a	0 of 11 Stores	0.00%	N/A
Cerebos. 700g. Plastic Bottle. NZ	700 gm	$2.17	$4.15	3 of 11 Stores	27.27%	91.12%
Hoffy Meat Franks. Per Pound. US	lb	n/a	n/a	0 of 11 Stores	0.00%	N/A
Coca Cola. 12oz. Can	12 oz	$1.00	$1.20	5 of 11 Stores	45.45%	20.00%
Campbells. Spaghetti. 14 3/4oz. Can. US	14.75 oz	$1.68	$3.11	5 of 11 Stores	45.45%	84.77%
Hormel. Spam. 12oz. Can. US	12 oz	$4.42	$5.94	4 of 11 Stores	45.45%	34.35%
Chelsea. 2kg. Plastic Bag. NZ	2 kg	$3.25	$4.83	3 of 11 Stores	27.27%	48.72%
Taro. Per Pound. Sold by a bunch.	lb	$2.03	n/a	0 of 11 Stores	0.00%	N/A
I'apana. Tuna in Chunk Oil. 6.5oz. Can.	6.5 oz	$2.30	$2.84	5 of 11 Stores	45.45%	23.48%
Turkey Tail. Per Pound. Plastic Wrap. NZ	lb	$2.13	$3.95	2 of 11 Stores	18.18%	85.07%
Unleaded Gas	Gallon	$4.91	*	*	0.00%	N/A

**Insufficient data to report*

All Items Cost Differential: **43.10%**

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: _____

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