NEWS RELEASE

STATISTICS & ANALYSIS DIVISION

AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – 3rd Quarter 2021 (July – September)

The current inflation is increasing and now registered at 5.1% at the end of the Third Quarter of 2021. Cost of goods and services normally purchased by the residents measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) registered at 108.9 points: a 1.8% increase from the second quarter of 2021. Food alone went up over 2% over the quarter, but over 8% since a year ago. Housing also went up by 2% in the quarter and 3.4% yearly. Transportation though slightly increased by 0.9% quarterly but had another yearly increase of about 6%.

Quarterly Movements of Major CPI Groups

The **Food Group** recorded a quarterly increase of 2.3%. Food items reflected various quarterly increases of major food groups: bread, flour, cake/pancake mix, crackers, rice, noodles and spaghetti from the **Grains Group;** steak, boneless/salt beef, sausage, ham, pork ribs, pigs' feet, chicken legs/wings, whole turkey, turkey tails/wings, lamb neck, mussels, sardines/mackerel and fish from the **Meat and Poultry Group;** eggs, milk and ice cream from the **Dairy Group;** and apples, oranges, potatoes, cabbage, cucumber, taro and onions from the **Fruits and Vegetable Group.** Other food items with increases included cookies, soft drinks/juices, coffee/creamer, sugar, mayonnaise, spam, corned beef, chips/candies and restaurant meals.

Alcoholic Beverage Group registered a 1.8 percent increase in wine, beer and distilled spirits.

Housing Group recorded a 2.2% quarterly increase due to high cost of construction materials and tools, water, electricity, kitchen and household appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, electric stoves and rice cookers.

Apparel Group went up by 0.3% in costs of women's undergarments and infant clothing.

Transportation Group slightly increased by 0.9% due to high costs of unleaded gas and diesel, automotive purchases, tune ups and tires.

Medical Care Group measured an increase by 0.2% caused by a raise in prices in non-prescription drugs and children's gripe water on-the-counter medicine.

Recreation Group went up by 1.8% this quarter due to high costs of video game systems, cat food, health/exercise equipment, dressmaking/tailoring and bingo paper.

Education and Communication Group recorded the largest quarterly increase of 3.6% in college, primary and secondary school tuition and registration along with the cost of postal service charge fees.

Other Goods and Services Group slightly went up by 0.7% in costs of cigarettes, soap and laundry detergents.

AMERICAN SAMOA
CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES
3RD QUARTER 2021

MAJOR CPI GROUPS	3RD Quarter 2021	2ND Quarter 2021	3RD Quarter 2020	Quarterly Percent Change	Annual Percent Change
All Items	108.9	107.0	103.6	1.8	5.1
Food	116.4	113.8	107.4	2.3	8.4
Alcoholic Beverages	106.9	105.0	103.6	1.8	3.2
Housing	106.3	104.0	102.8	2.2	3.4
Apparel	102.0	101.7	101.3	0.3	0.7
Transportation	106.7	105.8	101.1	0.9	5.5
Medical Care	104.4	104.2	100.5	0.2	3.9
Entertainment (Recreation)	102.4	100.6	100.9	1.8	1.5
Education and Communications	104.4	100.8	100.1	3.6	4.3
Other Goods and Services	103.4	102.7	100.4	0.7	3.0

SPECIAL INQUIRY ON COST OF GENERAL GOODS AND SERVICES IN MANU'A

This is a special report on a special inquiry to compare prices of goods and services normally purchased by consumers both in Tutuila and Manu'a.

The objective of the inquiry was to find out if the difference in costs of goods and services between Manu'a and Tutuila and how significant these variations are. The inquiry was not meant to find reasons and contributing factors to these cost differentials.

A sample of average commodity prices normally purchased in the regular CPI was used as the sample template with exactly the same descriptions, weights, detailed specifications, brand name, etc., to make sure that the same items priced in Tutuila are priced in Manu'a. Eleven stores throughout Manu'a were selected for inclusion, and 34 commodities were included; namely Food (26 items), Housing (3 items), Alcohol (2 items), Miscellaneous (2 items) and Transport (1 item).

The total cost differential of goods and services in Manu'a is about 53%. Commodities and services sold in Manu'a are 53% higher than the same products in Tutuila. Distribution and availability of these selected commodities in Manu'a varied. Of all selected commodities, 2 items were not considered for commercial sales in Manu'a; over 40% of commodities were available on less than half of all stores; and no commodity is available in all 11 stores. Turkey tail was not found in Manu'a. Cost differential by commodity or service varied as well. Three items were selling at or over 100% differentials (All Purpose Flour, Bottled Water and a Dozen of Eggs). The majority of items (53%) were selling at above 50 but less than 100% cost differentials. Sin items i.e., Alcohol and Cigarettes cost were about 50% higher in Manu'a.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGE PRICES FOR TUTUILA AND MANU'A		3RD QTR 2021				Aug-21
COMMODITY/SERVICE	UNIT	TUTUILA AVG.	MANU'A AVG.	AVAILABLE IN MANU'A	% AVAILABLE	COST DIFFERENTIAL
Apple. Loosen. Per Pound. US	Lb	1.60	1.25	2 of 11 stores	18.2%	-21.9%
Boneless Beef Chuck. Per Pound. Plastic Wrap. NZ	Lb	3.90	3.97	3 of 11 stores	27.3%	1.8%
Coors Light. 12oz. Can. US	12 fl oz	1.44	2.08	3 of 11 stores	27.3%	44.4%
Vailima. 750ml. Glass Bottle. Samoa	750 ml	2.63	3.93	7 of 11 stores	63.6%	49.4%
Small 20lb. Cylinder Tank (Cost to fill up)	20 lbs	21.75	42.25	4 of 11 stores	36.4%	94.3%
Pritchards "Long Bread" Sliced Bread. Plastic Wrap. Local	Loaf	2.61	4.13	4 of 11 stores	36.4%	58.2%
Anchor. Butter. 227g. NZ	227 gm	3.19	3.76	7 of 11 stores	63.6%	17.9%
Chicken Legs. 22lbs. Box. US	22 lb	14.77	20.34	8 of 11 stores	72.7%	37.7%
Whole Chicken. Per Pound. Plastic Wrap. US	Lb	1.85	1.80	3 of 11 stores	27.3%	-2.7%
Benson & Hedges. 20 sticks. US	20's	10.82	13.38	8 of 11 stores	72.7%	23.7%
Kool. Filter Kings. 20 sticks. US	20's	7.02	13.43	7 of 11 stores	63.6%	91.3%
Wesson Oil. 24oz. Bottle. US	24 fl oz	3.20	4.31	6 of 11 stores	54.5%	34.7%
Palm. Corned Beef. 11.5oz. Can. NZ	12 oz	4.57	5.71	8 of 11 stores	72.7%	24.9%
Price of per KWHs.	per KWH	0.32	0.32	1 outlet	**0.0%**	0.0%
Nulaid. Small Eggs. Dozen. Carton.	Doz	1.44	3.64	7 of 11 stores	63.6%	152.8%
Green Bananas. Sold by the bunch.	Lb	0.47	n.a.	not sold	**n.a.**	n.a.
Peleiupu. 15oz. Can. Chile	15 oz	1.80	2.58	3 of 11 stores	27.3%	43.3%
Fresh Milk. 1Liter. 33.8oz. Box. AUS	1 Liter	1.90	3.34	7 of 11 stores	63.6%	75.8%
California Rose.Calrose Rice. 40lb. Bag. AUS	40 lbs	25.23	45.00	1 of 11 stores	9.1%	78.4%
Cerebos. 700g. Plastic Bottle. NZ	700 gm	1.96	3.65	8 of 11 stores	72.7%	86.2%
Hoffy Meat Franks. Per Pound. US	Lb	2.05	2.78	3 of 11 stores	27.3%	35.6%
Coca Cola. 12oz. Can	12 oz	0.80	1.00	9 of 11 stores	81.8%	25.0%
Campbells. Spaghetti. 14 3/4oz. Can. US	14.75 oz	1.63	2.92	3 of 11 stores	27.3%	79.1%
Hormel. Spam. 12oz. Can. US	12 oz	4.34	5.55	8 of 11 stores	72.7%	27.9%
Chelsea. 2kg. Plastic Bag. NZ	2 kg	2.69	4.65	7 of 11 stores	63.6%	72.9%
Taro. Per Pound. Sold by a bunch.	Lb	1.50	n.a.	0 of 11 stores	**0.0%**	not sold
I'apana. Tuna in Chunk Oil. 6.5oz. Can.	6.5 oz	2.11	2.74	7 of 11 stores	63.6%	29.9%

Turkey Tail. Per Pound. Plastic Wrap. NZ	Lb	1.55	n.a.	0 of 11 stores	0.0%	n.a.
Unleaded Gas	Gallon	3.87	7.00	1 outlet	9.1%	80.9%
Niagara. 16.9fl.oz. Bottled Water. US	16.9 fl oz	0.49	1.00	9 of 11 stores	81.8%	104.1%
Nongshim. Bowl Noodle. Hot n Spicy. 12ct. Case	Case	9.84	19.17	9 of 11 stores	81.8%	94.8%
Hunt's. 20oz. Plastic Bottle. US	20 oz	2.26	3.95	6 of 11 stores	54.5%	74.8%
Springfield "All Purpose Flour" 10lb. US	10 lb	4.08	9.23	4 of 11 stores	36.4%	126.2%
Scott Toilet Tissues. Per Roll. 1000 sheets. US	Roll	1.05	1.56	9 of 11 stores	81.8%	48.6%
Gain. Liquid Detergent. Original. 50 fl.oz. Plastic Bottle. US	50 fl oz	11.18	11.38	4 of 11 stores	36.4%	1.8%
All Items Cost Differential						52.9%
Source: DOC Statistics Division						

For more information, please contact the Department of Commerce – Statistics Division at 633-0120 or email americansamoastatistics@doc.as.

Director's Approval: _____
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