

# NEWS RELEASE

## STATISTICS & ANALYSIS DIVISION

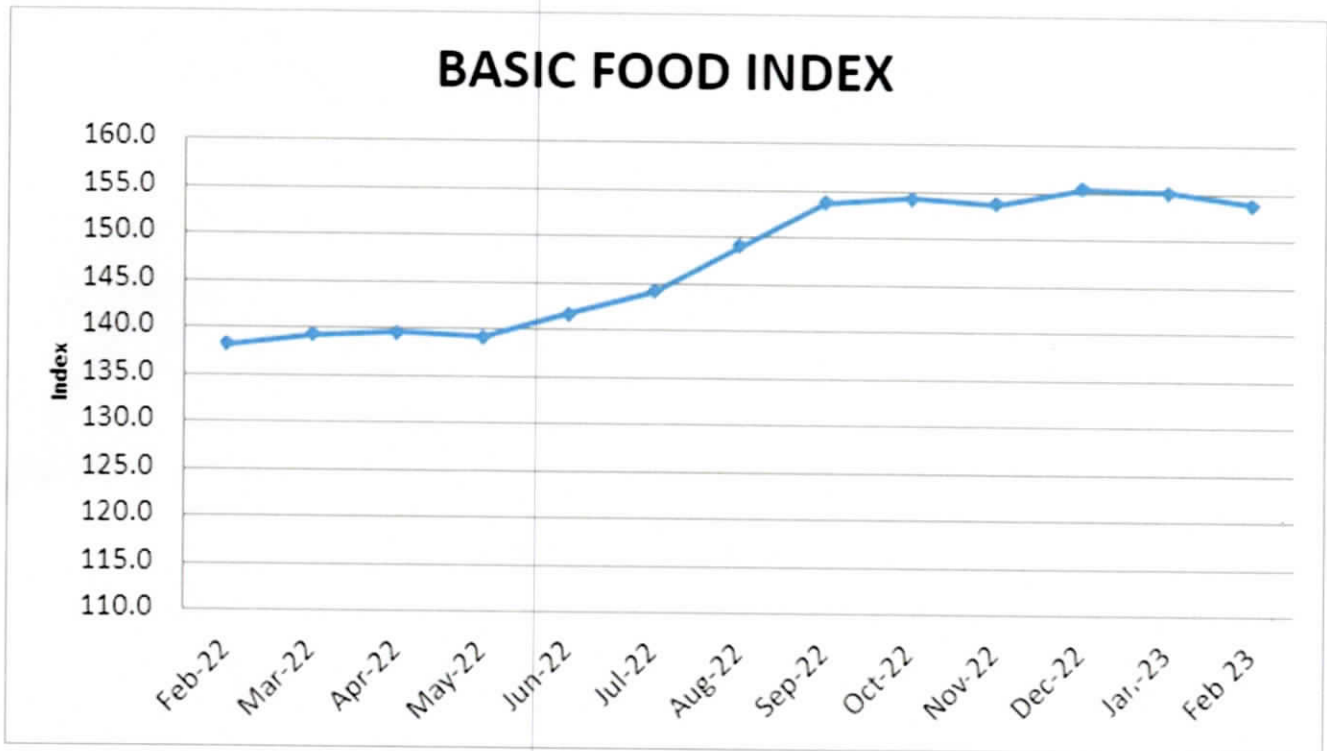
AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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### BASIC FOOD INDEX – FEBRUARY 2023

FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023, THE BASIC FOOD INDEX (BFI) REGISTERED AT 153.8 POINTS, A MONTHLY DECLINE OF -1.1% SINCE JANUARY 2023.

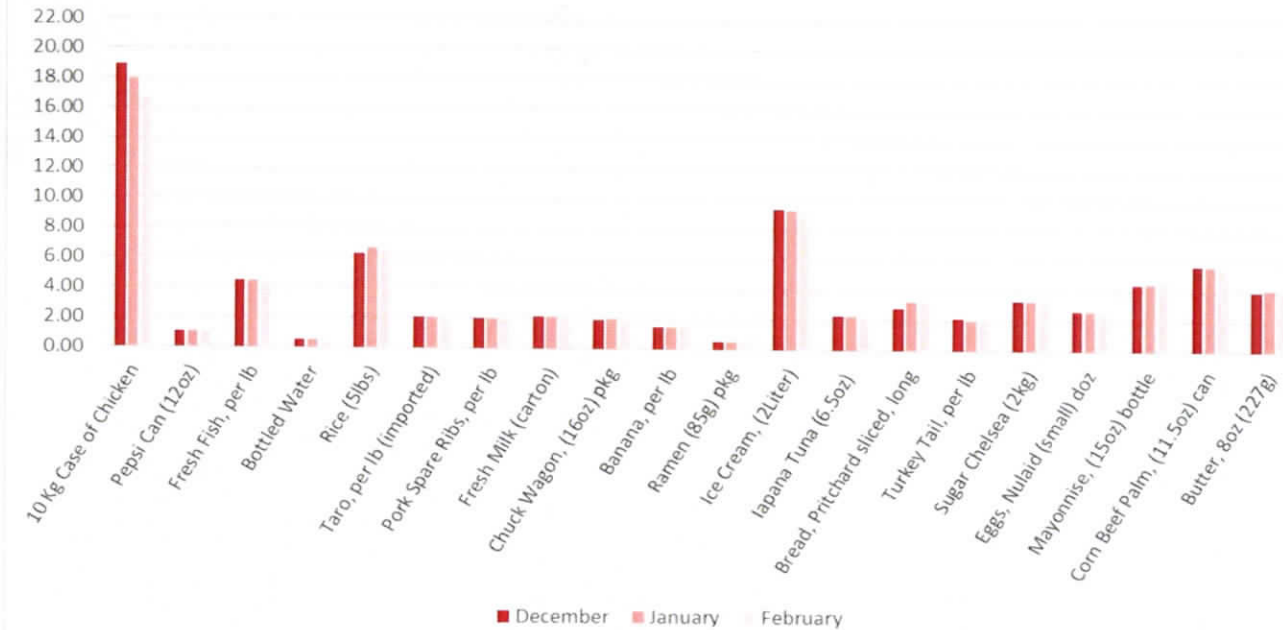


The Basic Food Index (BFI) is a monthly rapid food assessment of basic food items to monitor the cost and availability of these twenty (20) food products throughout the community. The BFI is not to be confused with the Quarterly Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a comprehensive standard measure of inflation and the cost of living in American Samoa. A major upgrade to the survey coverage was implemented at the beginning of 2022, when seven (7) additional stores were included in the data collection process, extending coverage from Se’etaga in the West to Amouli in the East. In total, fourteen (14) major to mid-size retail stores have been selected for monitoring basic food costs.

The Basic Food Index has experienced a monthly decline of -1.1%, lying below the 155-index point line. Eight (8) food commodities contributed to this month’s decrease, namely, chicken legs (-7.1%), eggs (-2.5%), turkey tail (-2.3%), fish (-1.6%), sausage (-1.5%), rice (-1.1%), ice cream (-0.9%), and butter (-0.2%).

Although there is an overall decrease in the BFI, some food commodities such as ramen, spare ribs, soda, bread, mayonnaise, and milk have shown an increase this past month. However, other common commodities such as water (bottles), taro, banana, canned tuna, sugar, and corned beef remain the same.

### Average Prices per Item



The following chart includes the annual average prices of each item from previous years. The annual averages were calculated using prices collected from the original seven stores. Recently, seven (7) more stores have been added to the Basic Food Index (total of 14 stores), which is reflected in the monthly averages posted below in pink.

Items	7 Stores			14 Stores		
	2020	2021	2022	December	January	February
10 Kg Case of Chicken	10.85	15.31	18.21	18.91	17.92	16.65
Pepsi Can (12oz)	0.80	0.83	0.95	1.07	1.07	1.09
Fresh Fish, per lb	4.13	4.21	4.20	4.44	4.44	4.37
Bottled Water	0.49	0.50	0.51	0.50	0.50	0.50
Rice (5lbs)	4.07	4.32	5.37	6.33	6.68	6.61
Taro, per lb (imported)	1.84	1.84	2.02	2.07	2.05	2.05
Pork Spare Ribs, per lb	1.42	1.59	1.91	1.97	2.00	2.04
Fresh Milk (carton)	1.86	1.91	2.04	2.16	2.13	2.14
Chuck Wagon, (16oz) pkg	1.46	1.52	1.84	1.96	2.01	1.98
Banana, per lb	1.00	1.00	1.53	1.48	1.52	1.52
Ramen (85g) pkg	0.26	0.28	0.41	0.52	0.51	0.54
Ice Cream, (2Liter)	7.03	7.23	8.91	9.40	9.31	9.23
Iapana Tuna (6.5oz)	2.08	2.15	2.27	2.28	2.28	2.28
Bread, Pritchard sliced, long	2.23	2.58	2.84	2.84	3.23	3.26
Turkey Tail, per lb	1.04	1.82	2.21	2.14	2.03	1.98
Sugar Chelsea (2kg)	2.34	2.71	3.19	3.35	3.35	3.35
Eggs, Nulaid (small) doz	1.33	1.42	2.21	2.67	2.65	2.58
Mayonnaise, (15oz) bottle	3.43	3.63	4.26	4.45	4.50	4.54
Corn Beef Palm, (11.5oz) can	4.09	4.50	5.37	5.68	5.71	5.71
Butter, 8oz (227g)	3.06	3.21	3.85	3.99	4.14	4.13

For more information, please contact the Department of Commerce Statistics & Analysis Division at 633-0120 or email [americansamoastatistics@doc.as.gov](mailto:americansamoastatistics@doc.as.gov).

Director's Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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