

NEWS RELEASE

STATISTICS & ANALYSIS DIVISION

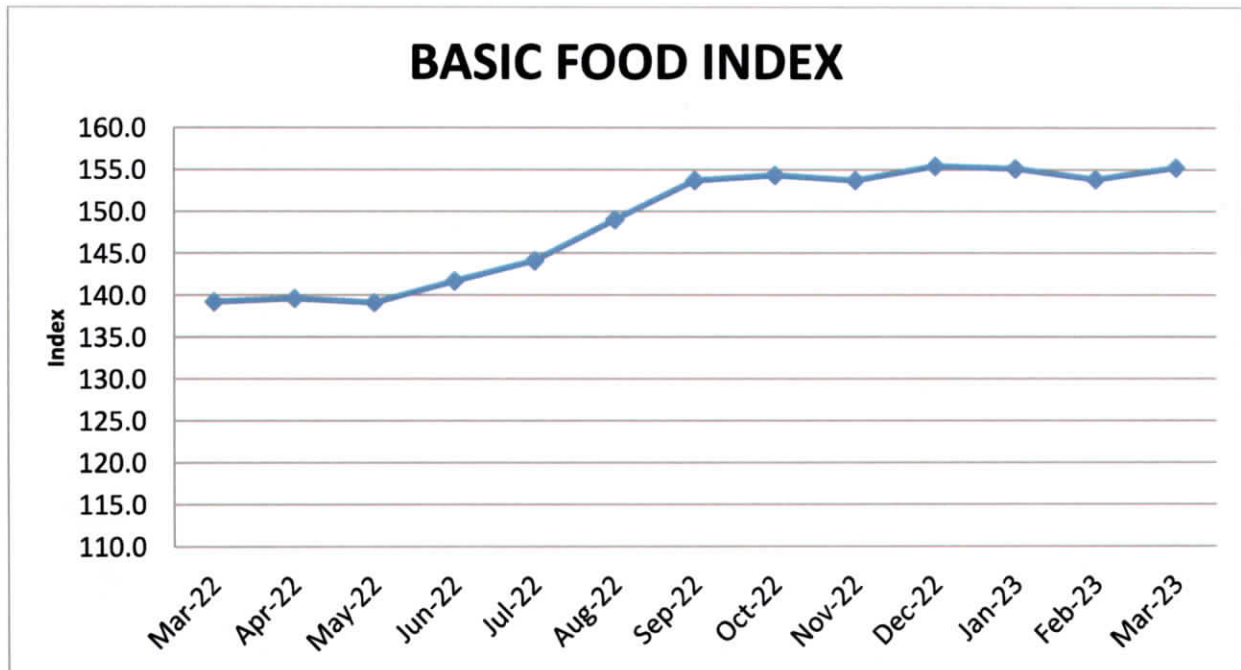
AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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BASIC FOOD INDEX – MARCH 2023

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2023, THE BASIC FOOD INDEX (BFI) REGISTERED AT 155.2 POINTS; A MONTHLY INCREASE OF 0.9% SINCE FEBRUARY 2023.

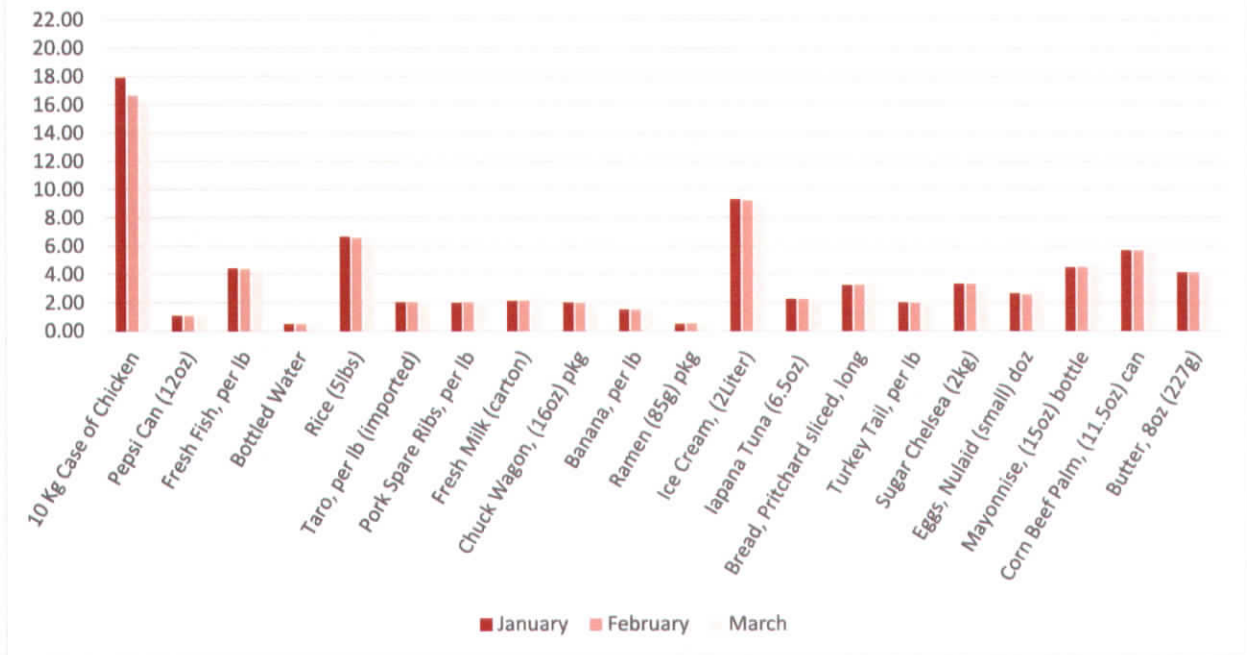


The Basic Food Index is a monthly rapid food assessment of basic food items, to monitor the cost and availability of these 20 food products throughout the community. The BFI is not to be confused with the Quarterly Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a comprehensive standard measure of inflation and the cost of living in American Samoa. A major upgrade to the survey coverage was implemented at the beginning of 2022, when 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, 14 majors to mid-size retail stores have been selected for the monitoring of basic food costs.

The Basic Food Index increased this month by 0.9%, now slightly past the 155-index point line. Eleven (11) of the 20 food commodities contributed to this month’s growth. The two commodities that have significantly increased are eggs (22%) and milk (13.5%). The usual cause of the increase in retail price is freight. Other items that have increased are bread (7.7%), mayonnaise (4.4%), ribs (3.8%), soda (3.0%), turkey tail (1.9%), sausage (1.4%), rice (1.4%), butter (1.1%), and corned beef (1.0%).

Even with an overall increase in the BFI, some food commodities have decreased this past month, such as chicken legs, fish, ramen, ice cream, and sugar. Other common commodities such as water (bottles), taro, banana, and canned tuna have remained the same.

Average Prices per Item



Items	January	February	March
10 Kg Case of Chicken	17.92	16.65	16.34
Pepsi Can (12oz)	1.07	1.09	1.12
Fresh Fish, per lb	4.44	4.37	4.31
Bottled Water	0.50	0.50	0.50
Rice (5lbs)	6.68	6.61	6.70
Taro, per lb (imported)	2.05	2.05	2.05
Pork Spare Ribs, per lb	2.00	2.04	2.11
Fresh Milk (carton)	2.13	2.14	2.43
Chuck Wagon, (16oz) pkg	2.01	1.98	2.01
Banana, per lb	1.52	1.52	1.52
Ramen (85g) pkg	0.51	0.54	0.49
Ice Cream, (2Liter)	9.31	9.23	9.10
Iapana Tuna (6.5oz)	2.28	2.28	2.28
Bread, Pritchard sliced, long	3.23	3.26	3.51
Turkey Tail, per lb	2.03	1.98	2.02
Sugar Chelsea (2kg)	3.35	3.35	3.34
Eggs, Nulaid (small) doz	2.65	2.58	3.15
Mayonnaise, (15oz) bottle	4.50	4.54	4.74
Corn Beef Palm, (11.5oz) can	5.71	5.71	5.76
Butter, 8oz (227g)	4.14	4.13	4.18

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

Director's Approval: _____

Petti T. Matila