



Consumer Price Index Newsletter 2006

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CPI Rebase: 4th qtr 1997 = 100

Volume 1, Issue 56

Current Inflation Rate

Rate of inflation measured at the end of the Fourth Quarter 2006 is 0.3 percent
The overall index registered at 131.0 index points; a decrease of 0.7 percentage point from the previous quarter.

4TH QUARTER (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2006) COMPARATIVE INDEX ANALYSIS.

Food Group: 0.5%

An increase of 0.5 percent in the food group due to high cost of: Fish, Fruits & Vegetables, Dairy Produce, Cereals & Bakery Products, Sugar & Sweets, Non-Alcohol Beverages and Other Prepared Food.

Housing Group: -0.5%

Housing Group recorded a slight decrease of 0.5 percent in this quarter due to the cost of Household Supplies and Construction Materials such as Lumber, Cement, Roofing Iron, Paint, Masonite and Plywood.

Clothing Group: -0.3%

There was a decrease of 0.3 percent for this group in this quarter due to a drop in cost of Dress Materials and Baby clothing.

Transportation Group: -4.3%

The price of gasoline such as Diesel and Unleaded Fuel caused a decrease of 4.3 percent in the Transportation Group.

Alcohol & Tobacco Group: 0.1%

Alcohol and Tobacco Group increased by 0.1 percent in this quarter.

Miscellaneous Group: 0.1%

On the counter medicine and Toiletries contributed to an increase of 0.1 percent in the miscellaneous group.

Copies of this newsletter can be picked up at Department of Commerce, Statistics Division or call (684)633-5155

CHART 1: FOOD & ALCOHOL TOBACCO

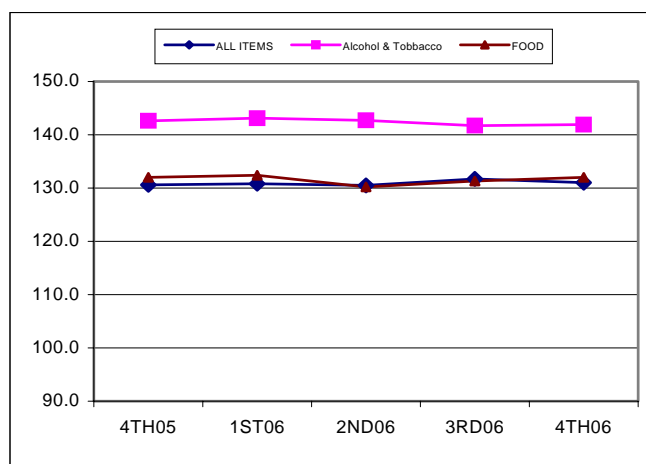
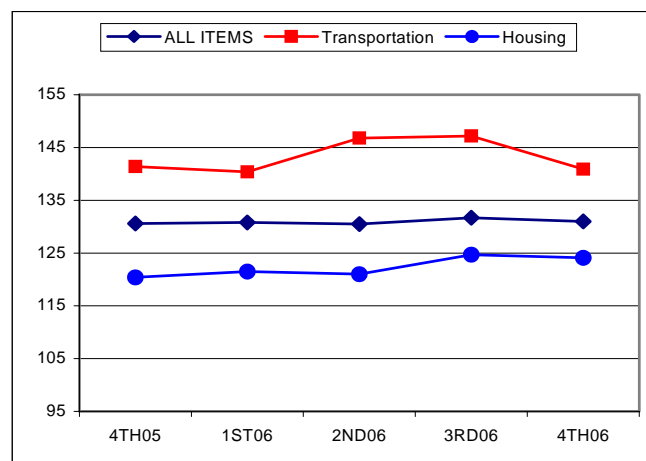


CHART 2: TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING



COMPARATIVE INDEX ANALYSIS

Year	Quarter	All Items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Alcohol	Misc.
2006	4	131.0	132.0	124.1	102.0	140.9	141.9	135.5
	3	131.7	131.3	124.7	102.3	147.2	141.7	135.4
	2	130.5	130.2	121.0	102.7	146.8	142.7	135.0
	1	130.8	132.4	121.5	102.7	140.4	143.1	136.0
2005	4	130.6	132.0	120.4	102.7	141.4	142.6	136.1

CHART 3: CLOTHING & MISCELLANEOUS

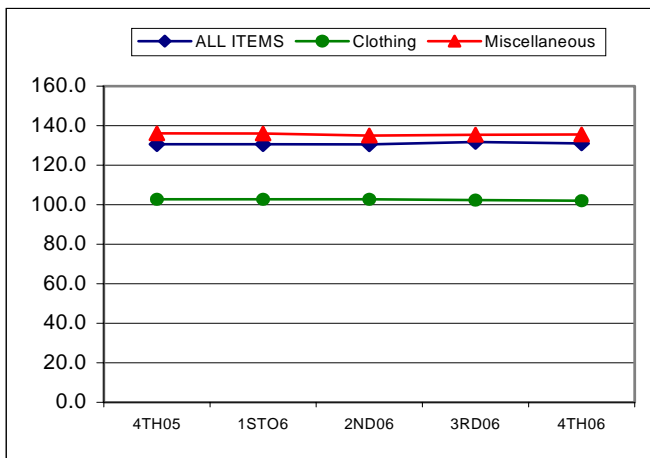
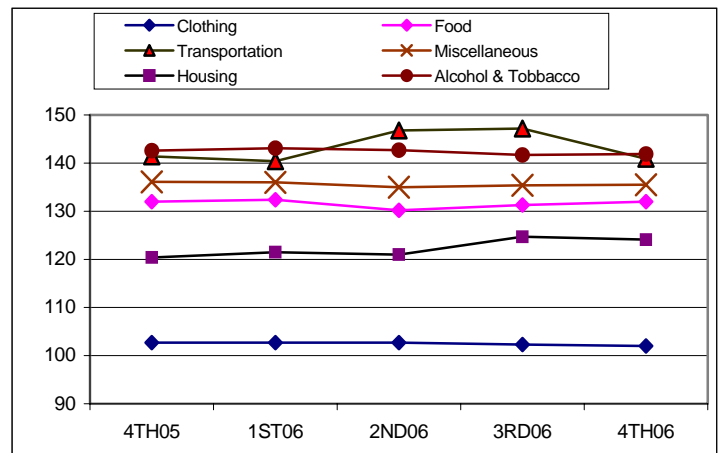
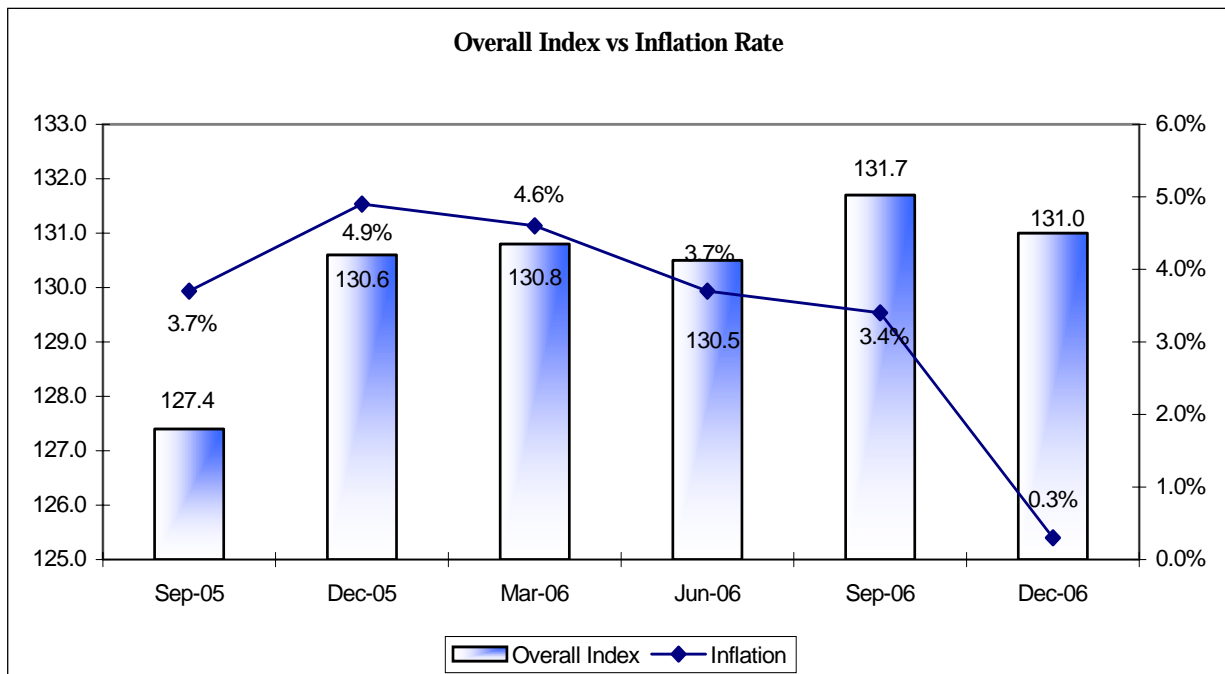


CHART 4: SUB GROUP INDICES



INDEX & INFLATION PERCENT CHANGE BY QUARTER



AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED COMMODITIES: 1ST QTR 2006 TO 4TH QTR 2006

Commodity	Unit	Ave. 2003	Ave. 2004	Ave. 2005	Ave. 2006	1qtr06	2qtr06	3qtr06	4qtr06
Boneless chuck	Pound	1.58	1.65	1.93	1.81	1.93	1.71	1.78	1.81
Sausage	Pound	2.41	2.45	2.65	2.67	2.78	2.58	2.64	2.67
Chicken-whole	Pound	1.04	1.10	1.18	1.16	1.23	1.17	1.17	1.08
Turkey tail	Pound	0.57	0.59	0.58	0.62	0.62	0.58	0.62	0.66
Corned beef cnd.	Pound	4.21	4.28	4.45	4.16	4.46	4.46	4.46	3.27
Spam	12 oz	2.27	2.31	2.52	2.65	2.59	2.60	2.67	2.72
Fresh fish	Pound	2.35	2.36	2.37	2.46	2.43	2.41	2.48	2.50
Mackerel, cnd.	15 oz	0.69	0.68	0.67	0.77	0.72	0.74	0.78	0.82
Tuna, cnd.	6.5 oz	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.25	1.24	1.24	1.26	1.26
Green banana	Pound	0.73	0.76	0.71	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Matured coconut	Each	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.33
Apple	Pound	0.95	0.98	1.10	1.12	1.02	1.10	1.14	1.21
Taro	Pound	2.03	2.16	2.38	2.16	2.38	2.38	2.18	1.70
Cabbage	Pound	0.67	0.69	0.76	0.83	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.87
Milk, fresh	Liter	1.05	1.08	1.16	1.20	1.15	1.19	1.22	1.25
Butter	227 gm	0.81	0.85	1.02	1.02	1.03	1.01	1.01	1.01
Ice cream	2 liter	3.70	3.76	3.99	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28
Rice	22.5 kg	15.26	15.88	16.56	16.97	16.32	16.42	17.34	17.80
Bread	Loaf	0.74	0.74	0.75	0.81	0.79	0.82	0.82	0.82
Sugar	2 kg	1.38	1.41	1.57	1.70	1.63	1.69	1.73	1.76
Coffee, cnd.	13 oz	2.56	2.69	2.95	3.27	3.04	3.04	3.33	3.65
Pepsi cola	12 oz	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
Soy sauce	40 oz	3.57	3.62	3.67	3.75	3.63	3.62	3.83	3.90
Salt	700 gm	0.90	0.93	1.07	1.06	1.11	1.04	1.04	1.06
Cooking oil	16 fl oz	1.23	1.28	1.57	1.61	1.60	1.58	1.60	1.64
Fresh eggs	Dozen	1.12	1.15	1.03	1.09	1.10	1.05	1.06	1.13
Spaghetti, cnd.	14.75 oz	0.82	0.84	0.90	0.91	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.88
Hamburger	Sandwich	1.96	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98
Kerosene	Gallon	1.97	2.08	2.67	3.19	3.06	3.30	3.30	3.10
Bottle gas	91 pounds	86.25	86.25	90.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beer, Budweiser	12 fl oz	1.45	1.45	1.48	1.50	1.52	1.50	1.50	1.48
Beer, Vailima	750 ml	2.53	2.55	2.55	2.65	2.64	2.66	2.65	2.65
Beer, Coors Light	12 fl oz	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.42
Cigarettes-Benson	20's	4.17	4.17	4.23	4.11	4.17	4.15	4.05	4.06
Cigarettes-Kools	20's	4.10	4.03	4.11	3.94	4.03	3.98	3.88	3.88
Gasoline	Gallon	2.07	2.24	2.71	3.07	2.93	3.37	3.28	2.7
Electricity	300 kWh	56.90	59.40	70.41	81.27	77.48	76.62	85.36	85.63



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GENERAL INFORMATION

The American Samoa Consumer Price Index (CPI) is designed to measure changes in prices of commodities and services normally purchased by the consuming community. The American Samoa CPI (like the U.S. CPI) is based on the concept of representative "market basket," a sample of goods and services that the consumer purchases. The CPI was first developed during the early part of 1974. The selection of weight distribution was based on "General Statement of Articles of Import of Merchandise into American Samoa from July 1970 - June 1971". The weight distributions was later updated using household expenditure patterns derived from a household income and expenditure survey conducted by EDPO in 1982.

A total of approximately 268 items are divided into 6 major groups and sub-groups, and indices are computed at different levels of aggregations..

CPI GROUPS AND WEIGHTS

Food	470	118
Housing	170	47
Clothing	60	24
Transportation	140	22
Miscellaneous	105	47
Alcohol/Tobacco	55	10
	1000	268

The index uses a system, which is known as Modified Laspeyres. This gives exactly the same result as an ordinary Laspeyres index, but the method of calculation is different. The formula for the Modified Laspeyres Index can be written as: $I_n = \sum (W_{n-1} \times P_n / P_{n-1})$ where I_n is the value of the index in the current period (i.e. period 'n'), W_{n-1} is the weight (or index value) of each item in the previous period (i.e. in period 'n-1'), and the fraction P_n/P_{n-1} is the price relative for each item, between the current price (P_n) and the price in the previous quarter (P_{n-1}).

Closes to 800 price quotations are collected during the middle month of each quarter for computing the CPI. The total number of business and government outlets included in the collection and construction of the CPI is approximately 51, ranging from major retail outlets and grocery stores to a variety of services establishments such as gas stations, snack bar and government utility offices.

Interpreting index changes.

In compiling the CPI, price movements for the different component items are combined using WEIGHTS, which represent the relative importance of each of the components to total expenditure of the population.

In determining price relatives, average prices of the selected consumer basket are matched to previous prices to get actual movements. These price relatives are then multiplied by the previous expenditure weights to derive new expenditure weights. These weights are then combined into composite expenditure groups and sub-groups.