

**Section 11**

**CONSUMER PRICES AND EXPENDITURES**

This section presents data on the local Consumer Price Index (CPI), average prices of selected commodities normally purchased by households, and annual household expenditure.

The American Samoa Consumer Price Index is designed to measure price changes of commodities and services normally purchased by the local community. Like the U.S. CPI, it is based on the concept of representative “market basket”; a sample of goods and services the consumer purchased. The local CPI began in 1974. Weight distributions (representing relative value of commodity purchases to total expenditure) are aggregated to obtain CPI Group Indices and Sub-Group Indices. Two major revisions were done on the CPI. The first revision was done in 1982 and the second one in 1997. These revisions were necessary to reflect consumer preferences and market changes.

The CPI for the last quarters of 2003 and 2004 registered at 114.4 and 124.5 index points respectively. This is an increase of 10.1 index points between the two years. The average inflation rate in 2003 and 2004 were 4.2 percent and 7.1 percent respectively. This level of high inflation was last experienced around 1991 and 1992 after major hurricane disasters. This correlation is again seen here as more and more federal aids and additional income received by the local community after hurricane Heta. Over \$30 million of cash assistance was received locally.

Household expenditures were last collected in 1995. The Household Income & Expenditures Survey (HIES) of 1995 reported that the annual household spending in the territory amounted to \$204 million. Food and housing accounted for over 50 percent of household spending. Special expenditures such as church donations, wedding, matai title investitures, funerals, gifts, and family *fa'alavelave* accounted for 21 percent of household spending. It is worthy to note that household expenditures will be collected in the 2005 Household Income & Expenditures Survey. This data will be published as soon as it is available.

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Table 11.1 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY QUARTER: 1997 TO 2005

Year	Quarter	All items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Alcohol/Tobacco	Miscellaneous	Percent inflation
2005	4	130.6	132.0	120.4	102.7	141.4	142.6	136.1	4.9
	3	127.4	130.3	118.8	102.5	137.4	141.2	121.5	3.7
	2	125.8	128.6	115.8	102.4	135.0	143.0	121.5	4.2
	1	125.0	128.0	115.6	103.6	131.9	143.6	120.3	7.8
2004	4	124.5	127.1	112.4	103.5	135.0	142.9	120.3	8.8
	3	122.8	125.9	110.4	102.6	130.7	142.2	120.2	7.9
	2	120.7	123.7	107.1	102.5	128.9	140.8	118.3	6.3
	1	116.0	114.8	105.7	102.4	127.1	140.7	118.2	5.5
2003	4	114.4	112.3	104.9	102.4	124.7	142.8	117.8	5.3
	3	113.8	111.3	104.4	102.5	124.1	142.6	117.5	5.2
	2	113.6	110.5	105.1	102.5	125.2	142.8	117.3	2.7
	1	110.0	102.8	103.6	102.2	127.5	143.5	117.0	3.7
2002	4	108.6	102.5	103.1	102.2	124.5	143.8	116.8	2.7
	3	108.2	102.9	102.7	102.1	119.7	145.1	109.5	2.7
	2	107.7	103.0	101.0	101.9	118.4	144.1	110.0	2.5
	1	106.1	102.1	103.0	101.7	110.3	141.7	106.9	1.3
2001	4	106.5	102.9	103.1	101.7	111.5	141.7	105.9	1.0
	3	105.5	101.6	103.4	101.2	109.9	139.0	105.7	1.2
	2	105.1	100.2	103.7	103.2	110.9	138.6	105.5	1.3
	1	104.8	99.5	103.9	102.2	110.5	140.1	105.1	1.7
2000	4	105.2	100.9	101.7	102.0	110.8	140.2	106.5	2.9
	3	104.5	100.0	101.9	101.8	108.5	141.3	106.2	2.4
	2	103.8	99.3	101.0	101.7	107.2	140.6	105.7	1.7
	1	103.1	99.1	100.6	101.7	105.7	140.9	102.6	0.6
1999	4	102.2	98.7	98.5	102.0	104.8	137.7	101.9	-
	3	102.1	99.6	97.1	100.9	103.1	135.0	103.2	0.5
	2	102.1	100.0	97.4	101.0	101.9	134.6	103.2	1.5
	1	102.5	101.3	97.5	101.9	100.5	134.9	101.6	1.9
1998	4	102.2	101.3	97.3	102.0	101.0	128.1	102.0	1.3
	3	101.6	101.0	98.0	102.0	101.0	116.1	102.1	2.0
	2	100.8	100.2	97.9	102.6	101.3	111.4	100.5	2.6
	1	100.6	100.8	99.1	103.0	99.6	103.9	100.3	5.3
1997	4	100.9	101.1	100.8	98.8	100.6	104.1	100.4	2.8
	3	156.6	139.5	148.0	181.5	200.9	100.0	169.3	2.2
	2	156.1	140.4	147.9	176.8	201.4	..	164.8	2.6
	1	155.1	140.3	147.8	175.3	194.6	..	165.4	2.8

NOTE: New Base, Third Quarter 1997 = 100

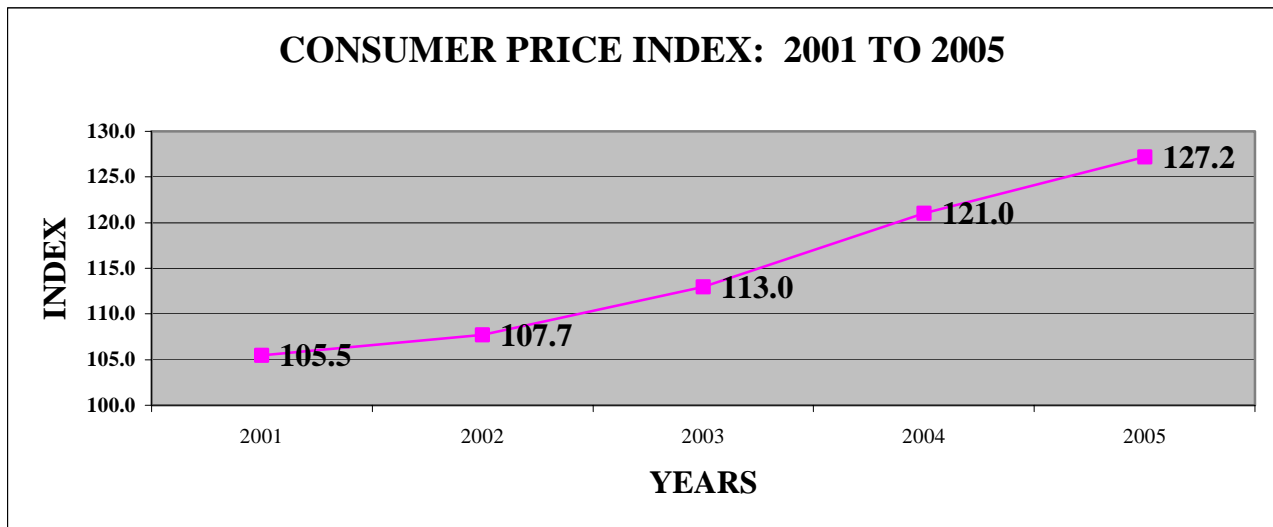
SOURCE: ASG Department of Commerce.

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Table 11.2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAJOR GROUP: 2001 TO 2005

Group	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
<b>Annual Averages</b>					
All Groups	127.2	121.0	113.0	107.7	105.5
Food	129.7	122.9	109.2	102.6	101.1
Housing	117.7	108.9	109.2	102.5	103.5
Clothing	102.8	102.8	128.0	102.0	102.1
Transportation	136.4	130.4	123.4	118.2	110.7
Alcohol & Tobacco	142.6	141.7	142.9	143.7	139.9
Miscellaneous	142.8	148.7	117.4	110.8	105.6
<b>Annual Percent change</b>					
All Groups	5.1	7.1	4.9	2.1	1.2
Food	5.5	12.5	6.4	1.5	1.3
Housing	8.1	-0.3	6.5	-1.0	2.2
Clothing	0.0	-19.7	25.5	-0.1	0.3
Transportation	4.6	5.7	4.4	6.8	2.4
Miscellaneous	-4.0	-0.8	-0.6	4.9	-0.6

SOURCE: ASG Department of Commerce, Statistics Division.



NOTE: New Re-Base was done in Third Quarter 1997 = 100.

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Table 11.3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED COMMODITIES: 2004 AND 2005

Commodity	Unit	Average		Per- cent change	Quarters							
		2005	2004		1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
					2005	2005	2005	2005	2004	2004	2004	2004
Boneless chuck	pound	1.93	1.65	16.97	1.87	1.91	1.95	1.97	1.58	1.64	1.65	1.71
Sausages	pound	2.65	2.45	8.16	2.55	2.61	2.69	2.73	2.40	2.36	2.50	2.53
Chicken whole	pound	1.18	1.10	7.27	1.14	1.12	1.23	1.21	0.95	1.07	1.19	1.19
Turkey tail	pound	0.58	0.59	-1.69	0.57	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.56	0.59	0.61	0.61
Corned beef, cnd.	pound	4.45	4.28	3.97	4.40	4.46	4.46	4.46	4.12	4.24	4.39	4.38
Spam	12 oz.	2.52	2.31	9.09	2.45	2.45	2.61	2.57	2.26	2.26	2.28	2.43
Fresh fish	pound	2.37	2.36	0.42	2.37	2.37	2.37	2.37	2.37	2.34	2.37	2.37
Mackerel, cnd.	15 oz.	0.67	0.68	-1.47	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.69	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.66
Tuna, cnd.	6.5 oz.	1.24	1.24	0.00	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24
Green banana	pound	0.71	0.76	-6.58	0.73	0.73	0.68	0.68	0.71	0.78	0.78	0.76
Mature coconut	pound	0.31	0.30	3.33	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Apple	pound	1.10	0.98	12.24	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.93	0.95	0.98	1.07
Taro	pound	2.38	2.16	10.19	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	1.88	2.18	2.18	2.38
Cabbage	pound	0.76	0.69	10.14	0.73	0.72	0.75	0.83	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.72
Milk, fresh	litre	1.16	1.08	7.41	1.14	1.12	1.18	1.21	1.04	1.06	1.10	1.10
Butter	227 g	1.02	0.85	20.00	0.97	1.03	1.04	1.02	0.81	0.80	0.85	0.94
Ice cream	2 ltr.	3.99	3.76	6.12	3.75	3.87	4.07	4.28	3.77	3.75	3.75	3.75
Rice	25 kg	16.56	15.88	4.28	17.02	17.02	16.17	16.04	14.46	15.28	16.84	16.93
Bread	loaf	0.75	0.74	1.35	0.74	0.74	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
Sugar	2 kg	1.57	1.41	11.35	1.45	1.58	1.61	1.65	1.38	1.38	1.43	1.46
Coffee, cnd.	pound	2.95	2.69	9.67	2.86	2.88	3.13	2.92	2.47	2.57	2.81	2.89
Pepsi-cola	12 oz	0.65	0.65	0.00	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
Soy sauce	40 oz.	3.67	3.62	1.38	3.71	3.70	3.61	3.64	3.52	3.64	3.66	3.67
Salt	700g	1.07	0.93	15.05	1.03	1.09	1.08	1.06	0.87	0.91	0.94	1.01
Cooking oil	16 fl.oz.	1.57	1.28	22.66	1.51	1.57	1.60	1.61	1.23	1.21	1.28	1.40
Fresh eggs	dozen	1.03	1.15	-10.43	1.14	1.12	0.96	0.89	1.09	1.20	1.13	1.17
Spaghetti, cnd	14.75 oz.	0.90	0.84	7.14	0.87	0.89	0.91	0.91	0.81	0.81	0.85	0.87
Hamburger	sandwich	1.98	1.98	0.00	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.95	1.95	1.98	2.03
Kerosene	gal.	2.67	2.08	28.37	2.27	2.50	2.82	3.09	1.95	1.98	2.05	2.34
Bottle gas	91 lbs.	90.00	86.25	4.35	86.25	86.25	91.50	96.00	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25
Beer, Budweiser	12 oz	1.48	1.45	2.07	1.47	1.47	1.47	1.52	1.44	1.44	1.47	1.46
Beer, Vailima	75 ml	2.55	2.55	0.00	2.53	2.56	2.53	2.58	2.50	2.50	2.59	2.61
Beer, Coors Light	12 fl.oz.	1.41	1.41	0.00	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41
Cigarette-Benson	20's	4.23	4.17	1.44	4.27	4.27	4.21	4.17	4.18	4.18	4.15	4.17
Cigarette-Kools	20's	4.11	4.03	1.99	4.17	4.17	4.06	4.04	4.01	4.05	3.99	4.05
Gasoline	gallon	2.71	2.24	20.98	2.34	2.59	2.73	3.17	2.06	2.12	2.23	2.54
Electricity	300 kWh	70.41	59.40	18.54	68.42	65.94	71.06	76.22	54.73	58.76	60.67	63.42

NOTE: Due to the rebase on the Third quarter of 1997, new commodities were added to the above table.

SOURCE: ASG Department Of Commerce, Statistics Division, Consumer Price Index (CPI) Quarterly Surveys

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Table 11.4. ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES BY ITEM: 1982, 1988 AND 1995

Item	1995	% of total	1988 Survey	1982 Survey
Total	203,623,059	100.0	80,931,997	55,028,624
Food	57,508,308	28.2	26,260,449	22,106,586
Housing	52,626,745	25.8	16,844,517	12,382,223
Transportation	19,187,765	9.4	12,449,813	5,784,087
Overseas travel 1/	..	..	2,188,307	1,113,378
Clothing	5,880,836	2.9	4,297,716	2,857,462
Recreation	2,055,253	1.0	906,903	878,034
Services	2,892,712	1.4	3,440,491	388,981
Special	42,175,852	20.7	12,502,564	7,008,524
Church donation	..	..	6,403,752	3,006,197
Gifts	..	..	4,827,345	3,193,642
Remittances	5,670,230	2.8	854,221	513,450
Others	..	..	417,246	295,235
Miscellaneous	10,067,134	4.9	2,041,237	2,509,349
School fees/Education	3,420,248	1.7	150,706	694,112
Alcoholic beverages	5,456,152	2.7	852,257	849,264
Tobacco 2/	..	..	1,038,274	965,973
Medical/Health	2,352,054	1.2	..	..

NOTE: 1/ 'Overseas travel' is included in 'Transportation.

2/ 'Tobacco' is included in 'Alcoholic beverages'.

SOURCE: 1982 and 1988 Household Income and Expenditure Survey; Report of the 1995 Population, Housing and Expenditure Survey, ASG Department of Commerce

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Table 11.5. GENERAL REGULAR HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES: 1995

Expenditures	Households	Percent	Amount	Annual Average
Total	8,366	100.0	\$88,575,001	\$10,586
Housing	2,917	34.9	\$14,328,548	\$4,912
Mortgage/loan payment	1,789	21.4	\$10,537,051	\$5,890
Rent	837	10.0	\$3,412,781	\$4,077
Insurance	603	7.2	\$378,716	\$628
Vehicles	3,708	44.3	\$10,061,953	\$2,714
Loan repayments	1,550	18.5	\$7,994,688	\$16,113
Registration & insurance	3,635	43.4	\$2,067,265	\$1,530
Driver's licenses	3,739	44.7	\$104,130	\$28
Utility costs	8,330	99.6	\$21,095,505	\$2,532
Electricity	8,159	97.5	\$7,692,110	\$2,509
Water	4,919	58.8	\$3,462,576	\$10,720
Telephone	5,897	70.5	\$7,378,363	\$3,598
Gas/kerosene	4,534	54.2	\$2,562,456	\$1,879
Membership fees	1,227	14.7	\$809,011	\$659
Social clubs	530	6.3	\$255,242	\$1,934
Sporting clubs	515	6.2	\$89,856	\$400
Credit cards	291	3.5	\$282,074	\$2,072
Others	208	2.5	\$181,839	\$2,026
Church-related expenses	7,561	90.4	\$13,917,914	\$1,841
Special regular expenses	7,613	91.0	\$22,587,708	\$3,712
Wedding	4,670	55.8	\$6,185,192	\$3,544
Funerals	6,734	80.5	\$11,696,620	\$5,160
Matai titles	4,233	50.6	\$4,705,896	\$3,137

SOURCE: ASG Department of Commerce, Report of the 1995 Population, Housing and Expenditure Survey