

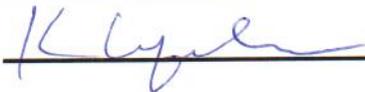
AMERICAN SAMOA STATISTICS NEWS



Subject: 4th, Quarter 2015 Consumer Price Index

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Director's Approval: 

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the final quarter of 2015 once again dropped by 0.2 percent. The All Items Index of cost of Goods and Services purchased by local consumers as measured by the CPI for the fourth quarter of 2015 (Oct - Dec) registered at 132.7 points: 0.2 percent lower than the 3rd Quarter, and an annual inflation of -0.5 percent. Quarterly inflations throughout 2015 turned negative; -1.3%, -1.6%, -0.9%, -0.5% due to substantial drop in oil prices driving Housing, Transportation and somewhat Food cost down.

Quarterly movements of major CPI Groups: **Food Group** dropped by 0.1 percent due to lower cost of whole chicken/legs, lamb necks, lamb flaps, whole turkey/tails, flour, ham, veg. oil, onion, lettuce, fruits, salt, corned beef, mackerel, spare ribs & pigs feet. **Alcoholic Beverages** declined by 0.3 percent due to lower prices of beer and rum. **Housing** registered a 0.7 percent drop. Electric/water bills, rugs, carpets, building materials and paper products dropped. **Apparel Group** went up 0.8 percent due to increases in cost of men's dress shirts, t/shirts, other infant clothing's and jewelry. **Transportation** drop by 1.5 percent due to lower prices of unleaded and diesel fuel. **Medical Care** with a slight increase of 0.1 percent due to higher prices of non-prescription drugs. **Recreation Group** rose by 0.3 percent due to higher prices of pet food and bicycles. **Education and Communication Group** increase by 1.1 percent due to an increase in school tuition. **Other Goods and Services** recorded the highest quarterly increase of 1.2 percent due to higher prices of cigarettes (cigarette tax hike in June 2015), shampoo, tooth paste, soap.

Groups	4th Qtr 2015	3rd Qtr 2015	4th Qtr 2014	Quarterly Percent Chg frm Q-3 '15 to Q4- '15	Annual Percent Chg frm Q4 - '14 to Q-4 '15
All Items Index	132.7	133.0	133.4	-0.2	-0.5
Food	156.7	156.9	157.4	-0.1	-0.5
Alcoholic Beverages	127.7	128.2	128.4	-0.3	-0.5
Housing	126.1	127.0	132.7	-0.7	-5.0
Apparel	120.7	119.8	119.6	0.8	0.9
Transportation	128.5	130.4	130.1	-1.5	-1.2
Medical Care	127.1	127.0	127.1	0.1	0.0
Recreation	113.4	113.1	113.0	0.3	0.4
Education and Communication	111.1	109.8	107.4	1.1	3.4
Other Goods and Services	132.7	131.1	120.9	1.2	9.7