

# AMERICAN SAMOA STATISTICS NEWS



**SUBJECT:** BASIC FOOD INDEX: FEBRUARY 2017  
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**Director's Approval:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be "L. H. Jones".

The Basic Food Index was revised in the month of January to reflect new basic food items frequently purchased by households every month. This revision resulted in replacing 5 previous food items with 7 new food items. Thirteen basic food items have been retained from the old BFI into the new BFI. A total of 18 basic food items were used in the old BFI but now a total of 20 basic food items make up the new BFI.

The Basic Food Index (BFI) for February 2017 is registered at 99.2 points, a decrease of 0.8% from the rebase month of January of 100.0 index points.

Average retail prices for ten food items (soft drinks, fresh fish, bottled water, taro, banana, ice cream, canned tuna, bread, turkey tail, and sugar) remained constant in the month of February. Four items contributed to the drop of basic food costs in February (chicken legs, sausage, saimin, eggs and mayonnaise). Food items in which average prices increased are: rice, pork spare ribs, fresh milk, corned beef, and butter.

Six major food outlets were selected for this monthly survey.

For more information, please contact the Department of Commerce, Statistics Division at 633-5155 or please visit the DOC website at [www.doc.as.gov](http://www.doc.as.gov).