SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS REPORT FOR MAY 2009

This report is a monthly release of the latest available key macro indicators on the Samoan economy, with information sourced from the Central Bank, commercial banks, Ministry of Finance, Samoa Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Revenue.

Report No. SEI 5/09 ***May 2009***

SUMMARY

While the latest available data showed mixed outcomes for the main economic indicators in May 2009, it pointed more towards the upside.

Samoa's external reserves strengthened further in May 2009, reflecting a significant overall monthly surplus in the balance of payments. And, with decreased import payments during the month, the current level of gross official international reserves was equivalent to 5.1 months of imports, up from 4.7 months of imports in April 2009. The current level was also higher than the 5.0 months cover in May 2008.

On the domestic front, the seasonal increase in demand for the month of May saw local food supplies improve at the Fugalei Market and pushed up the overall price index. These increased local food prices more than outweighed the continued reductions in energy prices for electricity, kerosene and natural gas, exerting further pressure on inflation with the year-on-year rate reverting up to 12.9 percent, from 12.3 percent at end April 2009. As a result, the annual average headline inflation accelerated to 14.2 percent, from 13.7 percent in the previous month. On the monetary side, demand for commercial bank credit to the private sector and public institutions combined appeared to level out despite a reduction in the cost of borrowing during the month under review. The overall nominal value of the Tala depreciated in May 2009 after weakening against the Australasian currencies in the Samoan exchange rate basket.

EXTERNAL TRADE

Exports[1]

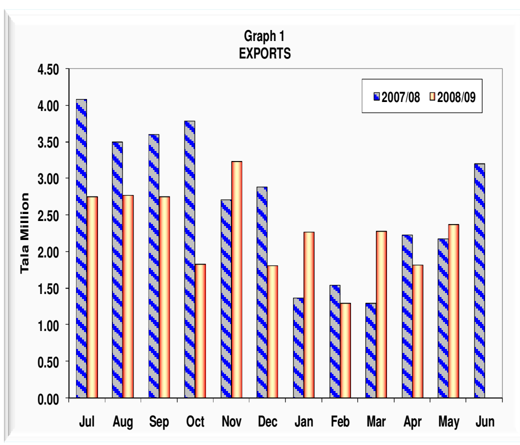
Proceeds from exports in May 2009 rebounded 30 percent ($0.6 million) to $2.4 million following a 20 percent drop in the previous month. At the current level, export receipts were also 9 percent higher than in May 2008. When accounting for the first eleven months of 2008/2009, however, total export revenues dropped 14 percent to $25.2 million from $29.2 million in the same period of 2007/2008. *(See Table 1 and Graph 1.)*

The higher level of export earnings in the month under review was largely underpinned by a significant (more than two fold) increase in fish exports, which improved to $1.6 million. This was consequent to a rebound in fish export volumes reflecting the onset of the seasonal 'high' catch months, in contrast to a reduction in its unit price. Likewise, after tumbling in the previous month, re-exports expanded in May 2009, up 58 percent ($79 thousand) to $215 thousand following increased scrap metal shipments to New Zealand, Indonesia, China and Taiwan as well as improved trading with Tokelau. At smaller magnitudes, were increased proceeds from coconuts (up $9 thousand to $44 thousand), nonu juice (up $6 thousand to $284 thousand) and Samoan cocoa (up $3 thousand to $7 thousand), with a slight improvement in nonu fruit exports (to $17 thousand). And, after their absence from the export scene in April 2009, consignments of desiccated coconut, drinking coconuts and handicrafts valued at $39 thousand, $19 thousand and $1 thousand respectively were traded in the month under review. On the other hand, partially offsetting these increased exports in May 2009 were significant reductions in exports to American Samoa. In particular, decreased earnings

[1] Export earnings were revised from April 2008 to December 2008 following revisions on re-export data.

were recorded for beer (down $171 thousand to $484), coconut cream (down $151 thousand to $8 thousand) and taro exports (down $56 thousand to $67 thousand). Recording smaller declines in the month under review were soft drinks (down $5 thousand to $23 thousand) and vegetables (down $1 thousand to $2 thousand). Coconut oil and taamu, on the other hand, were not traded in the month under review after shipments worth $75 thousand and $3 thousand in that order in April 2009.

Table 1 : EXPORTS, fob			
Period	2007/08 Tala Mn	2008/09 Tala Mn	%change over prev.year
Total (July - May)	29.19	25.23	-14
Average per month	2.65	2.29	-14
March	1.29	2.28	77
April	2.23	1.83	-18
May	2.18	2.38	9

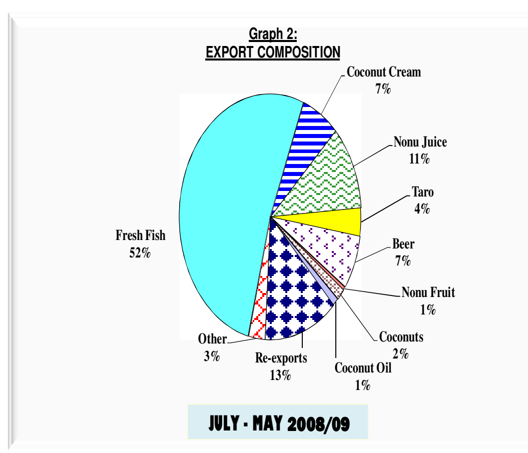


Whereas total exports in the first eleven months of 2008/2009 were lower than the previous year, the recent figures in 2009 pointed to a 17 percent ($1.4 million) increase in total export revenue compared to the first five months of 2008.

Export Composition

The increased fish exports in May 2009 maintained this commodity's role as the main export earner in the first eleven months of 2008/2009, with a share of 52 percent that was similar to that of the same period in 2007/2008. Likewise, a higher re-exports in May 2009 retained its share of total exports at 13 percent from a year ago, while the export share for nonu juice edged up to 11 percent in the first eleven months of the current fiscal year from 10 percent in 2007/2008. While coconut cream also recorded a steady share of 7 percent in the period under review, those for taro exports doubled to 4 percent in the eleven months to May 2009. Likewise, whereas "other" exports were steady at 3 percent from a year ago, the share of coconut exports climbed to 2 percent from its 1 percent share in the comparable period. The remaining 1 percent each in the first eleven months of 2008/2009 was accounted for by nonu fruit and coconut oil exports. *(See Table 2 and Graph 2.)*

Table 2 : EXPORT COMPOSITION					
Composition	2007/08 July - May Tala Mn	2008/09 July - May Tala Mn	% change over prev. year	2007/08 July - May % shares	2008/09 July - May % shares
Fresh Fish	15.09	13.12	-13	52	52
Coconut Cream	2.09	1.68	-20	7	7
Nonu Juice	3.06	2.81	-8	10	11
Taro	0.54	0.94	73	2	4
Beer	2.86	1.80	-37	10	7
Nonu Fruit	0.42	0.13	-69	1	1
Coconuts	0.39	0.39	-2	1	2
Coconut Oil	0.05	0.28	453	0	1
Re-exports	3.92	3.34	-15	13	13
Other	0.75	0.74	-1	3	3
TOTAL	29.19	25.23	-14	100	100



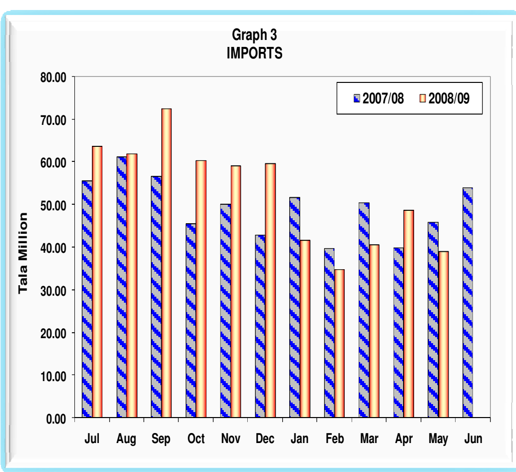
Imports

After increasing in the previous month, imports in May 2009 decreased 20 percent ($9.6 million) to $39.1 million, a level that was 15 percent lower than that of a year ago. When accounting for the first eleven months of 2008/2009, however, the total value of imports (at $582.7 million) was 8 percent higher than the same period in 2007/2008. (*See Table 3 and Graph 3.)*

The lower level of imports in the month under review reflected reduced payments for 'non-petroleum' commodities of the private sector (down $4.8 million), Government imports (down $4.3 million) and petroleum products (down $0.5 million). These reductions followed huge imports of construction materials consigned to the Ministry of Finance for the Convention Centre, food products for wholesale companies as well as electricity generating equipments for the EPC in April 2009.

Table 3 : IMPORTS, fob

Period	2007/08 Tala Mn	2008/09 Tala Mn	%change over prev. year
Total (July - May)	539.41	582.68	8
Average per month	49.04	52.97	8
March	50.43	40.70	-19
April	39.88	48.69	22
May	45.82	39.11	-15



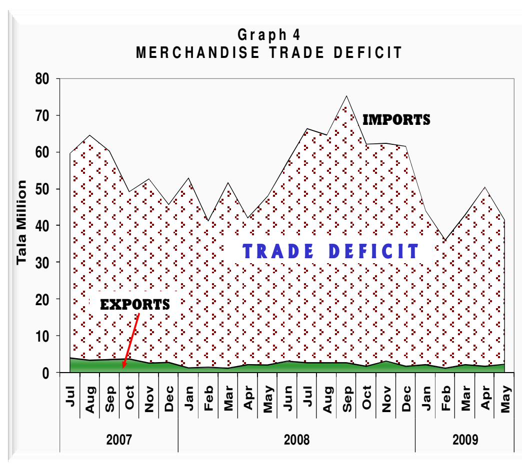
Despite the increased total imports in the first eleven months of the current fiscal year 2008/2009, the latest available data indicate that imports so far in the five months to May 2009 were 10 percent ($22.4 million) lower than the same period in 2008.

Merchandise Trade Deficit

After deteriorating in the previous month, the merchandise trade balance improved in May 2009 compliments of higher export revenues and lower import payments during the month under review. Decreasing 22 percent ($10.1 million) from April 2009, the merchandise trade deficit in May 2009 was recorded at $36.7 million, a level that was 16 percent ($6.9 million) lower than that of a year ago. And, for the first eleven months of 2008/2009, the overall merchandise trade deficit of $557.5 million was 9 percent higher than the trade deficit in the same period of 2007/2008. *(See Table 4 and Graph 4.)*

Table 4 : MERCHANDISE TRADE DEFICIT

Period	Exports Tala Mn	Imports Tala Mn	Trade Deficit Tala Mn
Total (July - May) 2007/08	29.19	539.41	510.2
Total (July - May) 2008/09	25.23	582.68	557.5
Average per month to May 2008	2.65	49.04	46.4
Average per month to May 2009	2.29	52.97	50.7
May 2008	2.18	45.82	43.6
April 2009	1.83	48.69	46.9
May 2009	2.38	39.11	36.7



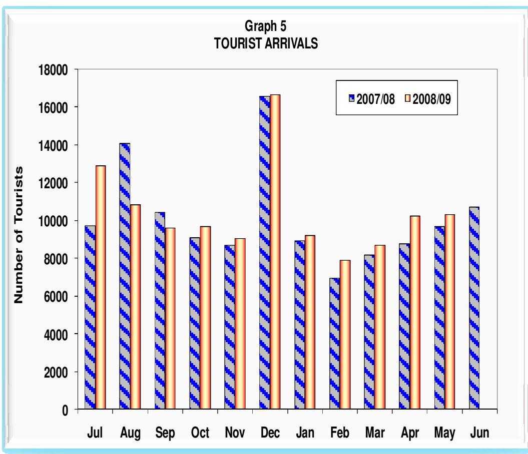
TOURISM

Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals were seasonally higher in May 2009, although its 1 percent increase to 10,330 was small compared to historical trends. And, when compared to May 2008, tourist arrivals in the month under review were 7 percent higher, contributing to a 4 percent jump to 115,376 in total arrivals for the first eleven months of 2008/2009. *(See Table 5 and Graph 5.)*

Table 5 : TOURIST ARRIVALS

Period	2007/08 No of persons*	2008/09 No of persons*	% change over prev. year
Total (July - May)	111,166	115,376	4
March	8,165	8,728	7
April	8,792	10,263	17
May	9,697	10,330	7
* In thousands			



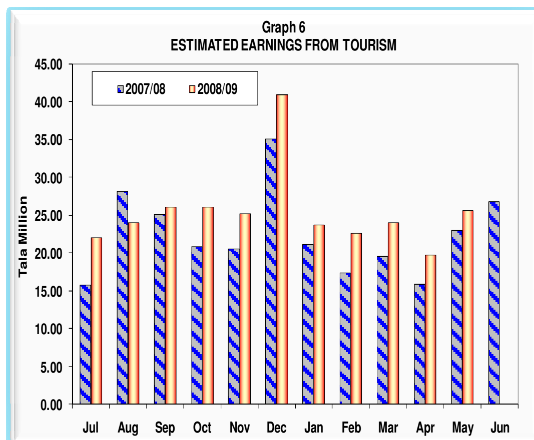
This month's higher number of tourists reflected increased travelers from Australia (up 8 percent) and 'other countries' (up 33 percent) that more than offset the lower number of tourists from Europe (down 14 percent), American Samoa (down 11 percent), USA (down 2 percent) and New Zealand (down 1 percent). These tourists largely represented those arriving for business (up 74 percent), sports (up 72 percent) and 'other purposes' (up 48 percent), with the latter reflecting the seasonal influx of those arriving for annual church conferences.

Tourism Earnings

Tourism revenue increased 29 percent ($5.8 million) to $25.6 million in the month under review following increased arrivals and a 29 percent expansion in average tourist expenditure. And, at this current level, it was 11 percent ($2.6 million) higher than the tourism earnings of a year ago. Therefore, in the first eleven months of 2008/2009, total receipts from tourists were 16 percent ($37.7 million) higher at $280.4 million compared to $242.7 million in the same period of 2007/2008. *(See Table 6 and Graph 6.)*

Table 6 : ESTIMATED EARNINGS FROM TOURISM

Period	2007/08 Tala Mn	2008/09 Tala Mn	% change over prev.year
Total (July - May)	242.72	280.41	16
March	19.54	24.08	30
April	15.91	19.77	23
May	23.02	25.59	11



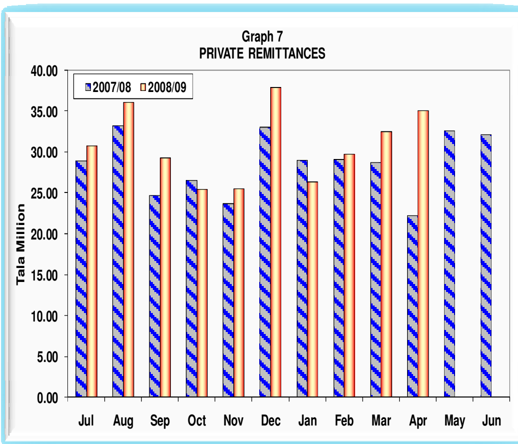
The increased proceeds from tourism in May 2009 mainly reflected increased revenue of tourists from New Zealand and Australia, particularly those arriving for holidays, 'visiting friends and relatives', business, sports and 'other purposes'.

PRIVATE REMITTANCES

Private Remittances

Actual figures for May 2009 are not yet available. However, the latest remittances data for April 2009 indicated that an 8 percent ($2.6 million) increase to $35.1 million was recorded on top of another 9 percent expansion in March 2009. Gross inflow of private transfers in April 2009 was boosted by increased cash and in kind remittances mainly for family support, which partially offset a drop in transfers in the form of motor vehicles. At this current level, it was 58 percent higher than in April 2008, with the total inflow of private transfers in the first ten months of 2008/09 growing by 11 percent to $309.3 million from $279.6 million in the same period of 2007/08. (See Table 7 and Graph 7.)

Table 7 : PRIVATE REMITTANCES, gross			
Period	*2007/08* Tala Mn	*2008/09* Tala Mn	*%change* over prev. year
Total (July - April)	279.59	309.28	11
March	28.82	32.59	13
April	22.22	35.14 ®	58
(R) - Revised			

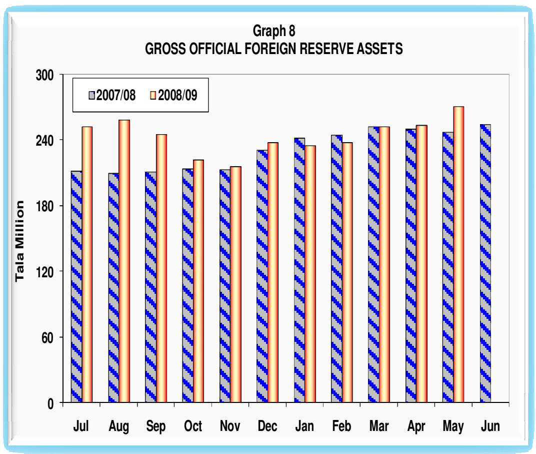


EXTERNAL ASSETS

Gross Official Foreign Reserve Assets

Despite the recessionary pressures in the global economy, the gross level of official foreign reserves remained strong in May 2009 with another 7 percent increase to $270.5 million. This was reflected by a significant overall monthly surplus of $17.0 million in the balance of payments, on top of a $1.7 million surplus in April 2009. And, with import payments decreasing in the month under review, the current level of gross external assets was equivalent to 5.1 months of imports at end May 2009, up from its 4.7 months cover at end April 2009 and 5.0 months cover at end May 2008. ***The current import cover was higher than the 4.0 months of imports targeted by the Central Bank in its 2008/09 Monetary Policy Statement.*** (*See Table 8 and Graph 8.)*

Table 8 : GROSS OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVE ASSETS					
Period	*2007/08* Tala Mn	*2008/09* Tala Mn	*%change* over prev. year	Import Coverage 2007/08	Import Coverage 2008/09
March	252.21	251.84	-0.1	5.0	4.8
April	249.91	253.51 (p)	1.4	5.0	4.7
May	247.35	270.54 (p)	9.4	5.0	5.1
(p) - provisional					



PRICES

Headline CPI

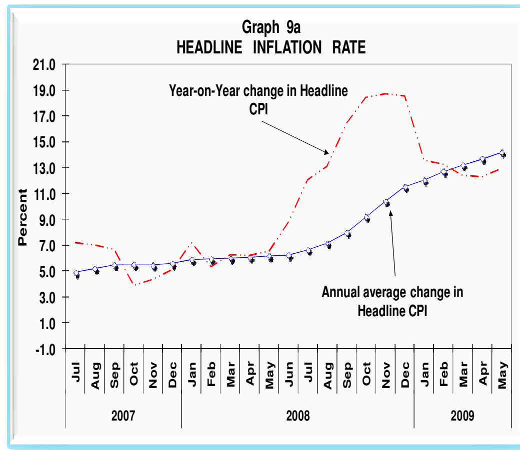
The inflationary trend in May 2009 reverted upwards after easing gradually in the previous month. Increasing 1.0 percent from April 2009, the headline CPI also expanded 12.9 percent on a year-on-year basis at end May 2009 compared to 12.3 percent at end of the previous month.

The major contributing factor to this month's higher headline CPI was a 4.2 percent increase in the local food price level, which took the overall "food" commodity group up 1.9 percent from its level in April 2009. Moderate price expansions were also recorded in the "transport and communications" (up 0.6 percent) and "clothing and footwear" (up 0.3 percent) sub-groups reflecting increased prices of imported clothing such as men's white long sleeved shirt (up 7.3 percent to $23.08 for a 16.5 size shirt), children's short sleeved shirt (up 7 percent to $14.67 for a 32 size shirt) as well as imported fuel such as unleaded petrol (up 2.6 percent to $2.36 per litre) and diesel (up 7.0 percent to $2.28 per litre). On the other hand, reduced price levels were recorded in the "housing and household operations" (down 1.3 percent) and "miscellaneous" (down 0.3 percent) sub-indices. Representing these movements were lower prices for natural gas (down 6.3 percent to $68.70 for a 20 pound cylinder), electricity (down 1.2 percent to $0.80 per kilowatt due to a further reduction in the fuel surcharge rate), kerosene (down 3.2 percent to $2.12 per litre) and imported paracetamol medicine (down 15.7 percent to $1.83 per 20 tablet packet). The "alcohol and tobacco" sub-group remained steady from its' level in the previous month.

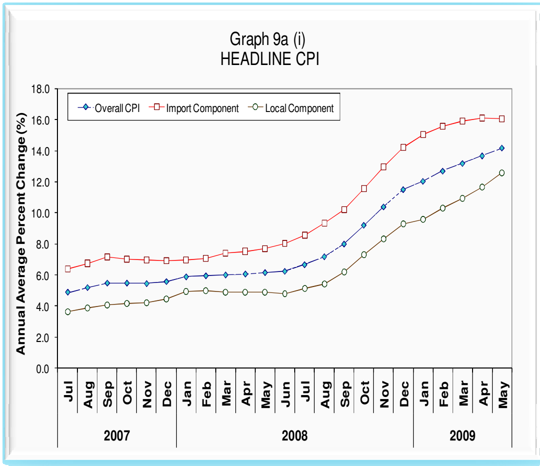
On an annual average basis, the jump in the year-on-year rate following a gradual slide in previous month, contributed to the headline inflation rate soaring to 14.2 percent, from 13.7 percent in April 2009. Likewise, the annual average headline inflation rate was notably higher than the 6.1 percent inflation in May 2008. (*See Table 9a and Graph 9a*.)

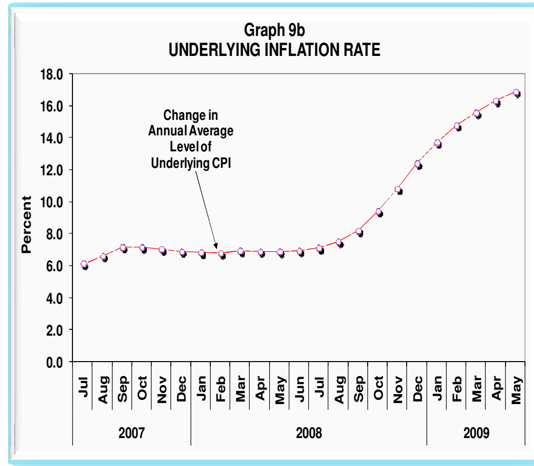
Table 9a : HEADLINE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Period	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*% change over prev. year*
Annual average to May	114.48	130.73	14.2
March	117.0	131.5	12.4
April	117.9	132.4	12.3
May	118.4	133.7	12.9
Base period: March 2004 = 100			



The strong acceleration of the headline inflation rate in May 2009 reflected the strong pressure from domestic inflation, which edged up 1.0 percentage point to 12.6 percent (from 11.6 percent in April 2009) compared to a 0.1 percent easing of the imported inflation to 16.0 percent (from 16.1 percent in the previous month). *(See Graph 9a (i).)*





Underlying CPI

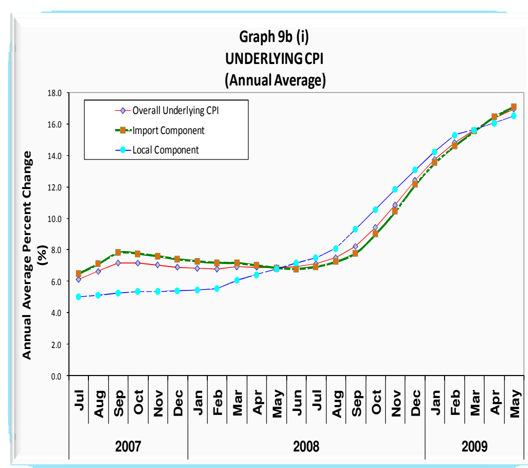
The headline CPI, after excluding the price of regulated and seasonally volatile items, recorded an underlying increase of 0.1 percent in May 2009.

This month's expansion constituted higher food and clothing prices, which more than offset decreased prices of commodities in the "housing and household", "transport and communications" and "miscellaneous" sub-indices. Reflecting higher food prices in May 2009 were increased costs of imported foodstuffs such as brown sugar, turkey wings and chicken leg quarters.

On a year-on-year basis, the underlying CPI slowed down further to 15.4 percent, from 16.4 percent at end April 2009. However, when measured on an annual average basis, the underlying inflation rate climbed to 16.9 percent from 16.3 percent in the previous month. *(See Table 9b and Graph 9b.)*

Table 9b : UNDERLYING CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
Period	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*%change over prev. year*
Annual average to May	116.77	136.52	16.9
March	119.9	140.6	17.3
April	120.5	140.3	16.4
May	121.7	140.4	15.4
Base period: March 2004 = 100			

The main determinant behind the current high underlying inflation rate was the 0.7 percentage point rise in imported inflation (to 17.1 percent), surpassing the domestic rate of inflation (which rose 0.5 percentage points to 16.5 percent). This strong external pressure came after domestic inflationary factors dominated the underlying inflation for the most part of 2008/09. *(See Graph 9b (i).)*

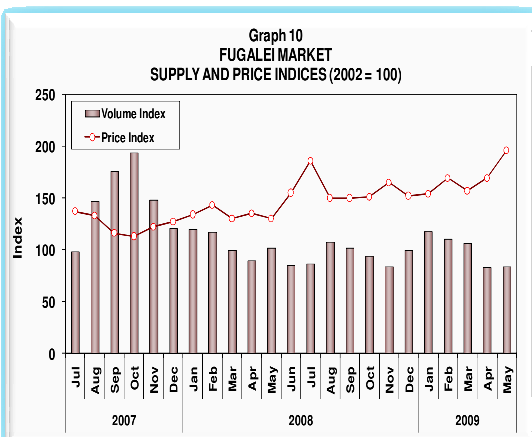


FUGALEI MARKET SURVEY

The annual hosting of the Congregational Christian Church Conference at Malua and the Mother's Day holiday saw increased seasonal demand for agricultural produce at the Market in May 2009. As a result, the overall volume of agricultural produce rose 1 percent from its level in April 2009, a seasonal trend that was barely up to normal production levels for May when compared to those of previous years. This month's rebound in local food supplies to the Fugalei Market mainly reflected considerable improvement in vegetable supplies (such as head cabbage, Chinese cabbage and cucumber) as well as increased availability of banana, taamu, breadfruit, yam and coconut supplies. Reflecting the seasonal demand in the month under review, the overall price level at the Fugalei Market increased 16 percent. When compared to a year ago, the current volume of agricultural produce at the Market was 17 percent lower with prices consequently higher by 52 percent over the year. *(See Table 10 and Graph 10.)*

Table 10 : FUGALEI MARKET SURVEY
Volume and Price Indices (2002 =100)*

Produce	Weights	Volume Index May-08	Volume Index Apr-09	Volume Index May-09	Price Index May-08	Price Index Apr-09	Price Index May-09
Taro	0.31	81	101	78	124	155	181
Banana	0.14	93	71	78	116	1823	161
Taro Palagi	0.02	44	56	16	150	262	233
Ta'amu	0.10	180	78	152	159	235	261
Coconut	0.06	88	63	83	182	200	218
Breadfruit	0.01	75	10	22	137	207	220
Yam	0.01	101	42	77	155	165	171
H.Cabbage	0.10	107	24	40	109	160	226
Tomatoes	0.04	91	51	23	147	159	208
Ch.Cabbage	0.03	198	63	152	95	187	183
Cucumber	0.03	138	74	115	106	170	179
Pumpkin	0.15	82	131	95	129	117	183
Total	*1.00*	*102*	*83*	*84*	*130*	*169*	*196*



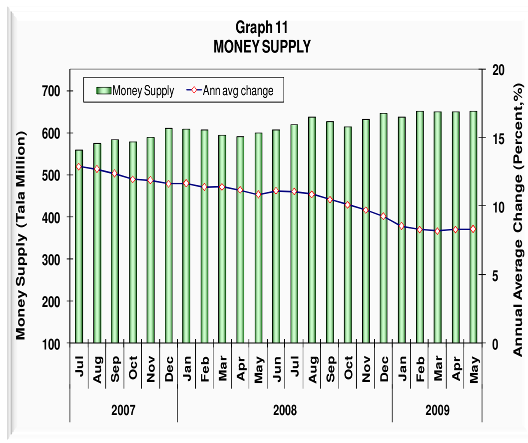
MONEY AND CREDIT

Money Supply (M2)

Money supply (M2) expanded a further 0.3 percent to $652.7 million in May 2009 after a 0.1 percent rise in the previous month. The $2.2 million boost in M2 from April 2009 was due largely to a $14.6 million growth in net foreign assets, which more than offset a $12.4 million reduction in net domestic assets. And, while money supply rose 9 percent from May 2008, its' annual average level grew 8.34 percent in May 2009, from 8.30 percent in April 2009. *(See Table 11 and Graph 11.)*

Table 11 : MONEY SUPPLY (M2)

Period	2007/08 Tala Mn	2008/09 Tala Mn	%change over prev. year
Annual average to May	586.96	635.89	8.34
March	595.40	650.20	9.2
April	590.64	650.50	10.1
May	599.93	652.73	8.8



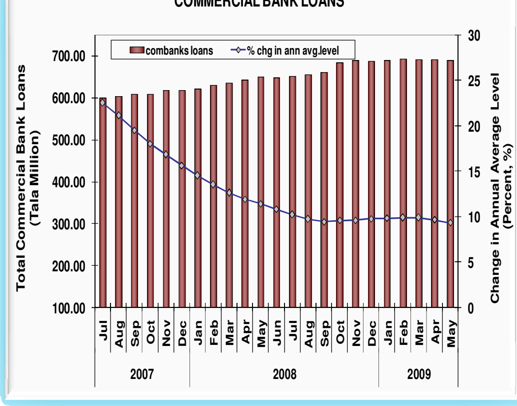
Bank Credit to the Private Sector and Public Institutions

Despite a drop in the cost of borrowing in the month under review, demand for bank credit by the private sector and public institutions combined appeared to be leveling out. After a slight rise of $0.1 million in the previous month, the total outstanding amount of commercial bank loans to both groups of borrowers combined dropped $0.4 million to $690.15 million in May 2009. At this current level, it was 6 percent higher than a year ago.

The lower level of commercial banks credit to the private sector and public institutions combined in the month under review reflected decreased claims by the "transportation and communication" (down $7.9 million), "other activities" (down $2.6 million) and "manufacturing" (down $1.1 million) sectors. These were partially offset by increased credit extended to the "building and construction" (up $4.6 million), "trade" (up $4.4 million), "professional and business services" (up $1.0 million), "agriculture and fisheries" (up $0.8 million) and "electricity" (up $0.4 million) industries. On average, total commercial bank credit to the private sector and public institutions combined slowed down to 9.3 percent, from 9.6 percent in April 2009 and 11.4 percent in May 2008. (See Table 12 and Graph 12.)

Table 12 : COMMERCIAL BANK CREDIT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Period	2007/08 Tala Mn	2008/09 Tala Mn	%change over prev. year
Annual average to May	619.77	677.49	9.31
March	634.84	690.48	8.8
April	643.03	690.54	7.4
May	650.49	690.15	6.1



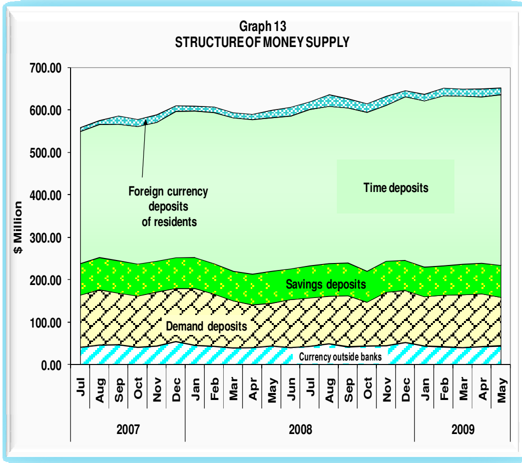
Graph 12
COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS

Structure of Money Supply

The monetary growth in May 2009 reflected a $10.7 million increase in quasi-money, which was partially offset by an $8.5 million reduction in narrow money (M1). The higher level of quasi-money in the month under review was driven by increases of $10.0 million and $3.5 million respectively for time deposits and savings deposit, both stemming a $2.9 million decline in foreign currency deposits of residents. Narrow money, on the other hand, was reduced by a $10.7 million decline in demand deposits in contrast to a $2.2 million rise in currency outside banks. While these movements in the month under review consequently changed the individual shares of each monetary component, the overall composition of money supply did not change from April 2009. In particular, time deposits accounted for the bulk of broad money (M2) with its share increasing to 62 percent, from 60 percent in the previous month. Demand deposits and savings deposits comprised of 17 percent and 12 percent respectively of the total money supply in May 2009 compared to their shares of 19 percent and 11 percent in that order in April 2009. Recording a 7 percent share in May 2009 was currency outside banks while the remaining 2 percent of total money supply was attributed to foreign currency deposits of residents. (See Table 13 and Graph 13.)

Table 13 : STRUCTURE OF MONEY SUPPLY (Tala Million)

End Month	May 2008	April 2009	May 2009	%change between May '09 and... May 2008	April 2009
1. Money (M1)	**144.23**	**166.59**	**158.14**	**10**	**-5**
Currency outside banks	43.90	42.22	44.43	1	5
Demand deposits	100.33	124.37	113.71	13	-9
2. Quasi Money	**455.70**	**483.91**	**494.59**	**9**	**2**
Savings deposits	76.52	73.18	76.72	0	5
Time deposits	361.87	392.14	402.13	11	3
Foreign currency deposits of residents	17.31	18.59	15.74	-9	-15
3. Money Supply (M2)	**599.93**	**650.50**	**652.73**	**9**	**0.3**



INTEREST RATES

The official interest rate fell another 3 basis points to 2.98 percent in May 2009 after a significant 36 basis drop in the previous month. Reflecting this month's lower interest rate was a larger increase of new short-term CBS securities issued during the month (worth $21.0 million) compared to those in April 2009 (of $17.5 million). While these new CBS securities all recorded lower yields, it was mainly the 14-day paper and the benchmark 91-day paper that drove the overall level of the official interest rate down. *(See Table 14 and Graph 14.)* And, in line with the current easing stance of monetary policy, the current official interest rate was lower than the level in June 2008 (down 164 basis points) and May 2008 (down 210 basis points).

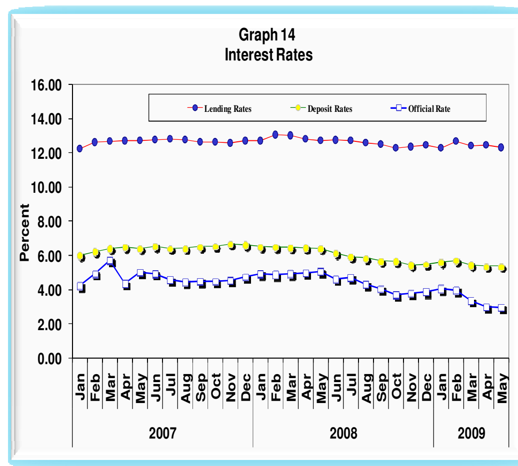
And, in line with the official rate trend, the commercial banks' weighted average interest rates were reduced in May 2009. In particular, the weighted average interest rate on lending decreased 15 basis points to 12.30 percent while those on deposits fell 1 basis point to 5.38 percent. The larger drop in lending rates reflected the interest rate cuts by ANZ and SCB during the month corresponding to the easing monetary policy stance of the Central Bank for the current fiscal year 2008/2009. Consequent to these interest rate movements during the month under review, the commercial banks' interest rate spread[2] narrowed 14 basis points to 6.92 percent from 7.06 percent in April 2009.

Table 14 : Average Interest Rates

Commercial Banks' Interst Rates	May-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09
Average Lending Rate *	12.73	12.29	12.68	12.41	12.45	12.30
Average Deposit Rate *	6.41	5.62	5.71	5.44	5.39	5.38
Interest Rate Spread	*6.32*	*6.67*	*6.97*	*6.97*	*7.06*	*6.92*
CBS Securities**						
Overall rate	**5.08**	**4.04**	**3.95**	**3.37**	**3.01**	**2.98**
14-Day	4.08	3.90	3.00	2.50	2.50	2.00
28-Day	4.08	3.80	3.00	2.60	2.60	2.29
56-Day	5.46	3.85	3.70	3.30	3.30	2.90
91-Day	5.96	4.80	4.50	4.30	4.30	3.80
182-Day	-	-	-	-	-	-
365-Day	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Commercial Banks weighted average interest rates

** Weighted average interest rate



EXCHANGE RATES

The US dollar weakened against all the major currencies in Samoa's exchange rate basket in May 2009. The greenback's declining value reflected the lower demand for safe haven currencies after positive statistics were

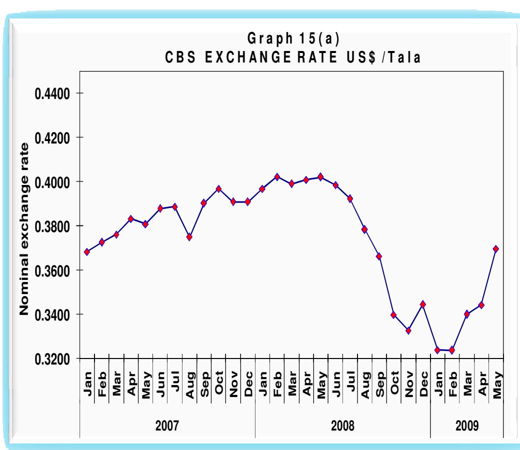
[2] This weighted interest rate spread is the difference between the interest rates on private sector deposits and private sector credit. Taken on its own, it does not accurately reflect the profitability of the banking system since it does not take into account losses due to non-performing loans, regulatory costs and other revenues.

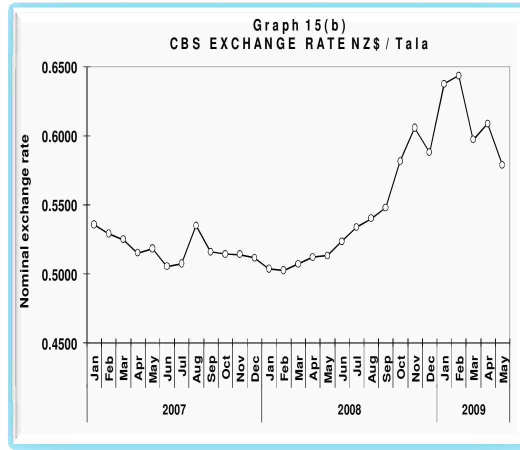
released during the month, which fueled speculations of an earlier than expected revival in the global economy. In the event, the value of the Tala weakened against the New Zealand dollar (down 5.0 percent) and Australian dollar (down 2.5 percent) but strengthened against the US dollar (up 7.4 percent) and European Euro (up 0.6 percent). Against other currencies outside the Samoa exchange rate basket, the Tala strengthened against the Japanese Yen (up 3.7 percent) and the Fijian dollar (up 3.2 percent in the month under review. (*See Table 15 and Graph 15 (a-f).*)

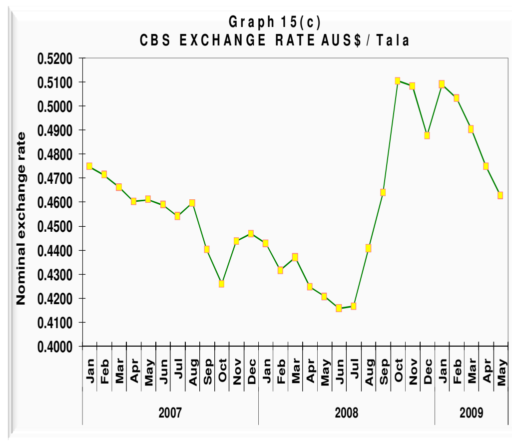
Table 15 : CBS Exchange Rates

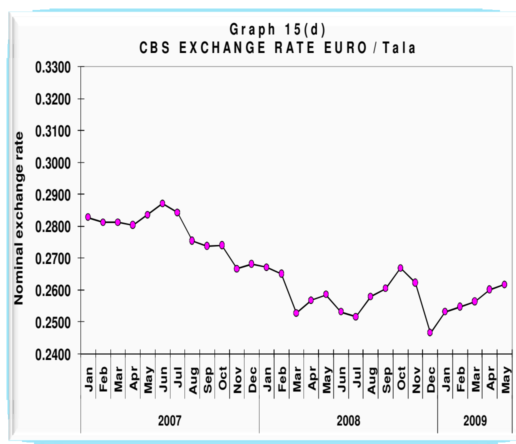
(Foreign Currency per Tala : End month midrates)	May 2008	April 2009	May 2009	% Appreciation (+)/Depreciation(-) of Tala between May 2009 and .... May 2008	April 2009
USD	0.4021	0.3442	0.3696	-8.1	7.4
NZD	0.5131	0.609	0.57888	12.8	-4.9
AUD	0.4205	0.4748	0.4627	10.0	-2.5
EURO	0.2585	0.2601	0.2616	1.2	0.6
YEN	42.3850	33.8991	35.1628	-17.0	3.7
FJD	0.5956	0.7582	0.7828	31.4	3.2
Nominal Index	*100.08*	*101.42*	*101.41*	*1.3*	*-0.01*

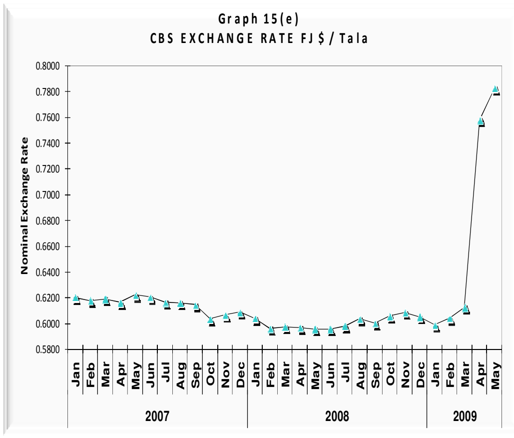
Consequently, the overall nominal value of the Tala depreciated 0.01 percent at end May 2009.

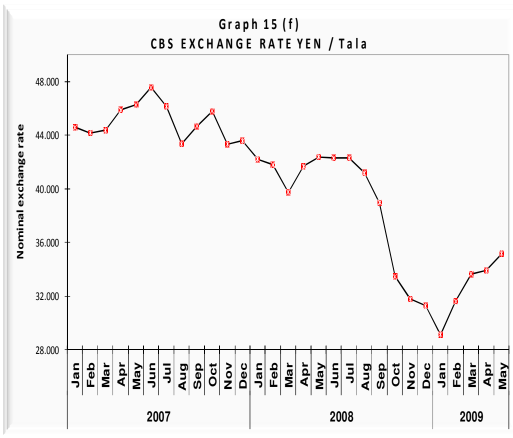












CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA
23rd June 2009

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