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File Ref: Issue 34

GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

IMPORT PRICE INDEX – March 2019 QUARTER (Base Period: March 2009 quarter = 100.0)

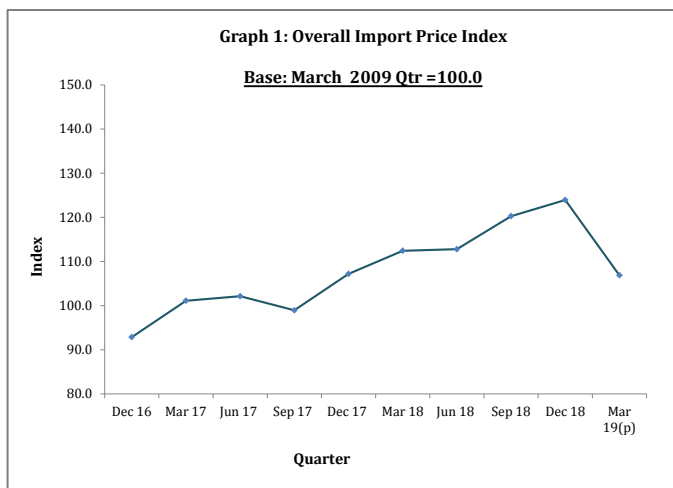
Highlights of the quarter

- Import Price Index fell 13.8 percent from the December 2018 quarter.
- Mineral Products index recorded the largest decrease (down 24.7 percent).

Overview

The Import Price Index for the March 2019 quarter showed an overall decrease of 13.8 percent from the December 2018 quarter. Mineral products index was the main driver for the current decrease (down 24.7 percent). In comparison with the March 2018 quarter, the current import price index fell 4.9 percent.

The four quarters ending March 2019 showed a 10.3 percent increase in the overall import price index compared with the four quarters ending March 2018 quarter. See table 1 and graph 1.

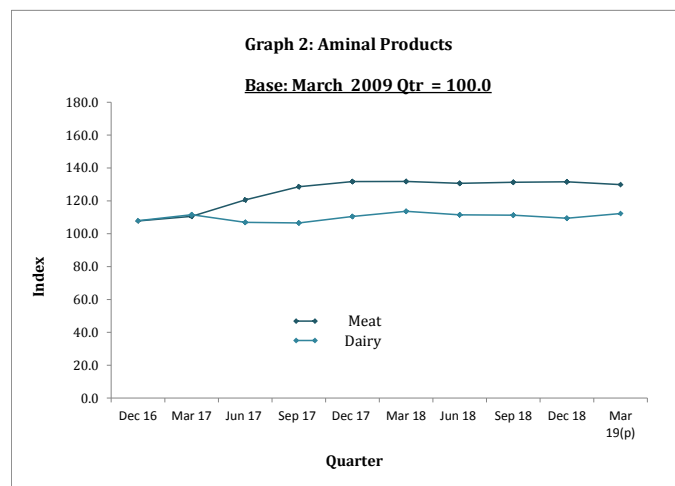


Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

HS Section 1: Live Animals; Animal Products prices fall 0.3%.

In the March 2019 quarter, 'Live animals and animal products' price fell 0.3 percent from the December 2018 quarter. This fall was influenced by lower prices of meat products (down 1.3 percent), reflecting lower prices of poultry meats (down 9 percent). When compared with the March 2018 quarter, the current live animals and animal products index decreased 1.4 percent.

Reviewing the four quarters ending March 2019 over the four quarters ending March 2018, the current overall live animals and animal products index increased 1.9 percent. See tables 1 and 2 and graph 2.



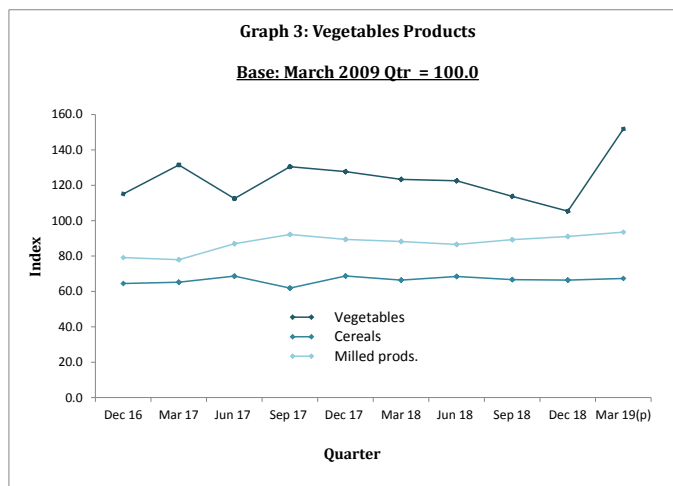
Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

HS Section 2: Vegetable Products prices rise 11.1%.

Import prices for 'Vegetable Products' in the March 2019 quarter rose 11.1 percent from the December 2018 quarter. This was mainly led by higher prices of vegetable products (up 44.1 percent). Prices for cereals and milled products

were also increased. In comparison with the corresponding quarter of 2018, the current vegetable products index increased 9.1 percent.

Reviewing the four quarters ending March 2019 over the four quarters ending March 2018, the current overall vegetable products index increased 0.8 percent. See tables 1 & 2 and graph 3.

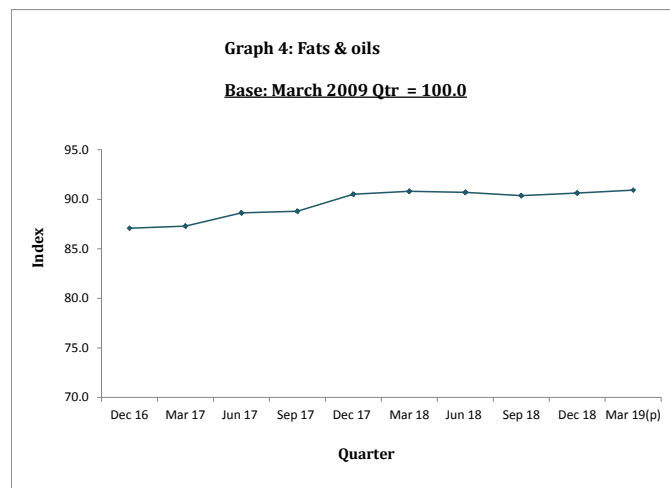


Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

HS Section 3: Animal or Vegetable fats & oils prices rise 0.3%.

Animal or Vegetable fats & oils price rose 0.3 percent in the March 2019 quarter from the previous quarter. The current increase was driven by higher prices for margarine (up 2.3 percent). In comparison with the March 2018 quarter, the current animal or vegetable fats and oils index increased 0.1 percent.

The four quarters ending March 2019 showed a 1.1 percent increase in the overall animal or vegetable fats and oils index over the four quarters ending March 2018. See tables 1 & 2 and graph 4.

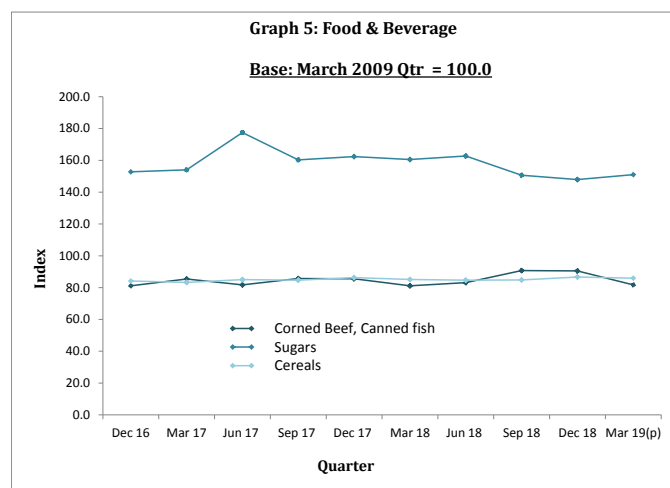


Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

HS Section 4: Food and Beverages prices fall 3.3 %.

'Food and Beverages' import prices fell 3.3 percent in the March 2019 quarter. This fall was mainly driven by lower prices for canned fish (down 12.1 percent) and corned beef (down 6.0 percent). In comparison with the March 2018 quarter, the current food and beverages index decreased 1.8 percent.

In comparing the four quarters ending March 2019 over the four quarters ending March 2018, the overall food and beverages index decreased 1.5 percent. See tables 1 & 2 and graph 5.

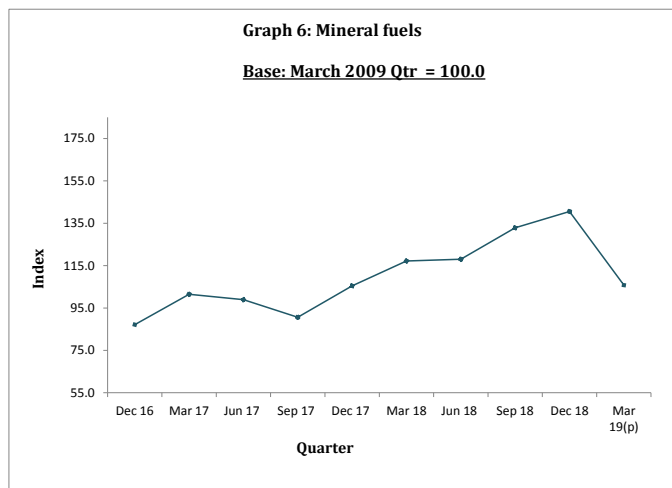


Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

HS Section 5: Mineral Products price rise 24.7%.

In the March 2019 quarter, mineral products import prices recorded a 24.7 percent decrease from the previous quarter. In comparison with the March 2018 quarter, the current mineral products index decreased 9.7 percent.

The overall mineral products index in the four quarters ending March 2019 was 20.6 percent higher than the four quarters ending March 2018. See tables 1 & 2 and graph 6.



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

Technical Notes

The Import Price Index (MPI) measures changes in the cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) prices of imports of merchandise into Samoa. It is a fixed weight index with March 2009 quarter = 100.0 and is calculated on a quarterly basis using the International Harmonized System of Trade Classification (HS). The items included in the index were selected on the basis of their importance to the total import.

The scope of the MPI relates to the following sections of the International Harmonized System of Trade Classification (HS): 1. Live Animals: Animal Products, 2. Vegetable Products, 3. Animal or Vegetable fats and oils, 4. Food and Beverages and 5. Mineral Products, The index represents 50 percent of total Imports.

The June 2019 quarter MPI report is expected to be available on 9th August 2019.

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN/(CEO)

IMPORT PRICE INDEX

Base: March 2009 Quarter = 100.0

Table 1

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Weight	2016	2017				2018				2019	% Change	
			Dec 16	Mar 17	Jun 17	Sep 17	Dec 17	Mar 18	Jun 18	Sep 18	Dec 18	Mar 19(p)	Mar 19 / Dec 18	Mar 19 / Mar 18
I	ANIMAL PRODUCTS	18.9	107.9	110.9	116.7	122.3	125.6	126.6	125.1	125.5	125.2	124.8	-0.3	-1.4
2	Meat	71.2	107.8	110.6	120.6	128.6	131.7	131.8	130.7	131.3	131.6	129.9	-1.3	-1.5
4	Dairy	28.8	107.9	111.6	106.9	106.6	110.5	113.7	111.5	111.3	109.4	112.3	2.6	-1.2
II.	VEGETABLE PRODUCTS	9.7	80.6	83.0	85.5	89.1	89.4	87.2	86.9	86.2	85.7	95.1	11.1	9.1
7	Vegetables	17.0	115.2	131.5	112.5	130.5	127.7	123.3	122.5	113.7	105.4	151.9	44.1	23.1
10	Cereals	31.7	64.5	65.2	68.7	62.0	68.8	66.4	68.4	66.7	66.4	67.3	1.4	1.5
11	Milled prods.	51.3	79.1	77.9	87.0	92.1	89.4	88.2	86.5	89.2	91.0	93.5	2.7	6.1
III.	FATS & OILS	1.9	87.1	87.3	88.6	88.8	90.5	90.8	90.7	90.4	90.6	90.9	0.3	0.1
15	Fats & oils	100.0	87.1	87.3	88.6	88.8	90.5	90.8	90.7	90.4	90.6	90.9	0.3	0.1
IV.	FOOD & BEVERAGE	19.8	99.4	101.2	105.8	103.3	104.2	101.5	102.7	103.2	103.0	99.7	-3.3	-1.8
16	Corned Beef, Canned fish	43.6	81.3	85.4	81.7	85.7	85.6	81.2	83.1	90.8	90.5	81.7	-9.7	0.7
17	Sugars	24.0	152.8	154.0	177.5	160.3	162.4	160.5	162.7	150.7	147.9	151.0	2.1	-5.9
19	Cereals	32.4	84.1	83.3	85.0	84.7	86.3	85.1	84.7	84.8	86.7	85.9	-0.9	1.0
V.	MINERAL PRODUCTS	49.6	87.2	101.4	98.9	90.6	105.5	117.2	118.0	132.9	140.6	105.8	-24.7	-9.7
27	Mineral fuels	100	87.2	101.4	98.9	90.6	105.5	117.2	118.0	132.9	140.6	105.8	-24.7	-9.7
	Total, All groups	100	92.9	101.1	102.1	99.0	107.2	112.4	112.8	120.3	123.9	106.9	-13.8	-4.9

Source: Samoa Bureau Statistics (Economics Division)

(P) Provisional figures

IMPORT PRICE INDEX
Base: March 2009 Quarter = 100.0

Table 2

	2016	2017				2018				2019	%Change
	Dec 2016	Mar 2017	Jun 2017	Sep 2017	Dec 2017	Mar 2018	Jun 2018	Sep 2018	Dec 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 19/Dec 18
I. ANIMAL PRODUCTS											
02 Meat	107.8	110.6	120.6	128.6	131.7	131.8	130.7	131.3	131.6	129.9	-1.3
0204 Sheep	174.4	182.5	198.7	209.0	212.9	224.6	221.4	220.6	227.3	237.0	4.3
0207 Poultry	74.0	74.0	80.9	87.7	90.5	84.7	84.5	85.9	82.9	75.5	-9.0
04 Dairy	107.9	111.6	106.9	106.6	110.5	113.7	111.5	111.3	109.4	112.3	2.6
0401 Milk	91.1	93.6	92.9	92.6	95.2	100.2	96.6	96.7	93.7	95.9	2.4
0402 Milk, conc.	122.3	127.1	122.8	131.2	124.9	128.7	125.2	125.1	123.2	127.4	3.4
0405 Butter	90.1	96.4	96.5	100.9	96.0	99.0	98.2	96.1	94.6	97.9	3.4
0407 Eggs	162.9	164.2	141.6	124.4	156.2	154.4	155.3	156.8	157.7	160.1	1.5
II. VEGETABLE PRODUCTS											
07 Vegetables	115.2	131.5	112.5	130.5	127.7	123.3	122.5	113.7	105.4	151.9	44.1
0701 Potatoes	89.5	125.7	123.1	153.8	151.8	134.5	135.9	131.1	101.6	158.6	56.1
0703 Onions	148.5	139.0	98.7	100.3	96.5	108.8	105.1	91.2	110.4	143.1	29.6
10 Cereals	64.5	65.2	68.7	62.0	68.8	66.4	68.4	66.7	66.4	67.3	1.4
1006 Rice	64.5	65.2	68.7	62.0	68.8	66.4	68.4	66.7	66.4	67.3	1.4
11 Milled prods.	79.1	77.9	87.0	92.1	89.4	88.2	86.5	89.2	91.0	93.5	2.7
1101 Wheat	79.1	77.9	87.0	92.1	89.4	88.2	86.5	89.2	91.0	93.5	2.7
III. FATS & OILS											
15 Fats & oils	87.1	87.3	88.6	88.8	90.5	90.8	90.7	90.4	90.6	90.9	0.3
1507 Soya-bean	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
1516 Hydrogenated	76.0	75.9	80.7	78.5	85.8	84.2	85.8	86.1	87.8	86.7	-1.3
1517 Margarine	88.5	89.1	87.9	90.6	88.0	90.4	88.5	87.3	86.2	88.2	2.3
IV. FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO											
16 Meat, fish	81.3	85.4	81.7	85.7	85.6	81.2	83.1	90.8	90.5	81.7	-9.7
1602 Corned Beef	118.1	119.7	113.6	117.2	113.0	113.4	112.6	120.7	112.6	105.8	-6.0
1604 Canned fish	64.8	70.1	67.4	71.6	73.3	66.7	69.8	77.3	80.6	70.8	-12.1
17 Sugars	152.8	154.0	177.5	160.3	162.4	160.5	162.7	150.7	147.9	151.0	2.1
1701 Cane, beet	152.8	154.0	177.5	160.3	162.4	160.5	162.7	150.7	147.9	151.0	2.1
19 Cereals	84.1	83.3	85.0	84.7	86.3	85.1	84.7	84.8	86.7	85.9	-0.9
1902 Pasta	82.0	82.0	82.6	79.0	82.0	80.1	79.7	79.8	83.0	80.4	-3.2
1905 Bread	86.9	84.9	88.0	91.9	91.8	91.5	90.9	91.2	91.4	93.0	1.7
V. MINERAL PRODUCTS											
27 Mineral fuels	87.2	101.4	98.9	90.6	105.5	117.2	118.0	132.9	140.6	105.8	-24.7
2710 Petroleum oils	87.2	101.4	98.9	90.6	105.5	117.2	118.0	132.9	140.6	105.8	-24.7

Sources: Samoa Bureau Statistics (Economics Division)

(P) Provisional figures