

# SINSO NEWS

Your guide to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office News, Information and Events Issue No.17 July - Sept 2022



## International Arrivals in 2nd Quarter hits 1,667 story p3



PFTAC advisor conducts training for Economics Unit p7



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### Let's talk :

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Greetings and welcome to the 17th issue of our quarterly newsletter.

In this issue, we bring you some more updates on the country's International Visitor's Arrivals as the borders re-open on the 1st of July. The NSO expects the numbers to increase during the year.

We are finalising the 2019 Census and plan to release the report in early 2023.

We also had the presence of two statistical professionals who assisted us in the month of September.

One was an Advisor Mathew Powell from PFTCA/

IMF. He conducted training and provided technical advice to the Economics Unit.

The other one is Joshua Neale, a volunteer Data Analyst under the Volunteer Service Abroad, who is still with us. He is working with the Economics Section.

In addition, our Consumer Price Unit held its annual refresher course for all its Statisticians including those from the provinces.

As usual we have the Consumer Price Index bulletins for the months of May to August this year.

Feel free to read the bulletins inside this issue.

For public interest, the issue is downloadable from the SIG online portal on this address/link under documents & links: <https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-finance-and-treasury/solomon-islands-national-statistics-office/>.

The newsletter comes out at the end of every month and recently on a quarterly frequency depending on the periodic accumulation of statistical news and events.

We hope to continue bringing in interesting articles, news and facts regarding the NSO's work via this medium now and into the future.

Please feel free to also forward this issue to your colleagues and friends and also feel free to get in touch with our media team for further information.

# Second quarter records 1,667 international arrivals

The National Statistics Office has recorded a total of 1,667 international arrivals in the second quarter of this year.

The latest International Arrivals bulletin was released on Friday 18th August 2022.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi confirmed there was a total of 1,667 in the second quarter, an increase of 59.7 percent compared to the previous quarter.

“This is an increase of 59.7 percent compared to the previous quarter. But compared to the same quarter a year ago, this is an increase of 124.7 percent.”

Returning residents made up 76.6% of arrivals for the second quarter of 2022.

This was followed by Visitors with 21.6% of arrivals and the remaining 1.8% were Intending residents.

“Visitor arrivals for the second quarter increased by 30.9% to 360 visitors, compared to the first quarter 2022 figure of 275 visitors.

“There was also an increase of 103.4% in visitor arrivals compared to the same quarter in 2021.”

Arrivals by country of residence for the second quarter 2022 showed that Australia (45.8%) recorded the largest group of visitors amongst other country visitors to the Solomon Islands.

Mr Kimi said although there was 165 Australian in the second quarter 2022, this reflected a decrease of 6.3% compared to the first quarter of 2022 figure of 176.

The next largest group of visitors were from Other Asia (13.9%) followed by Japan (13.1%), China (10.8%), United States of America (6.9%), Other Country (3.3%), New Zealand (3.1%), Fiji (1.7%), Other Pacific and Other Europe recording 0.6% respectively and PNG (0.3%).

Meanwhile, visitor arrivals by month showed that April recorded the highest number of arrivals in the second quarter of 2022 with 166 visitors.

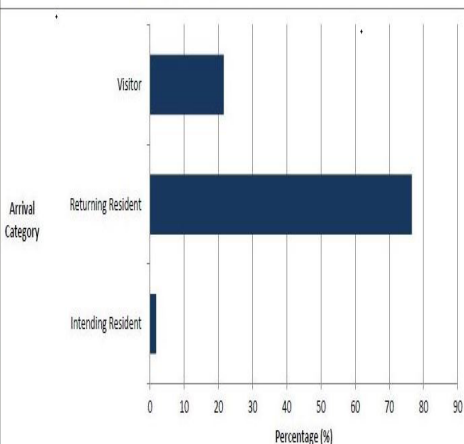
This was followed by month of May with a total of 99 visitors and June the least, with 95 visitors.

A significant decline in international arrivals was recorded since restrictions were imposed on International flights by the Solomon Islands Government towards the end of March 2020, as part of the State of Public Emergency (SOPE) response towards preventing Solomon Island residents and citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SOPE has now been lifted and from July1, 2022, international flights have slowly resumed.

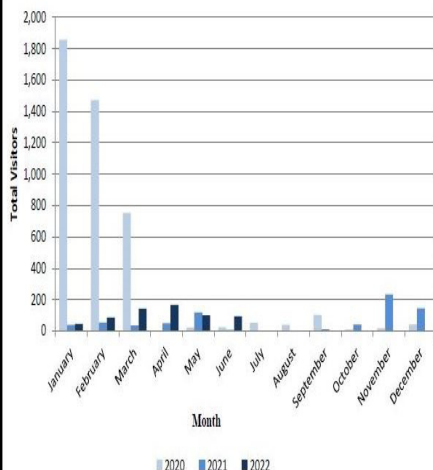
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Chart 1: Arrivals By Category 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022



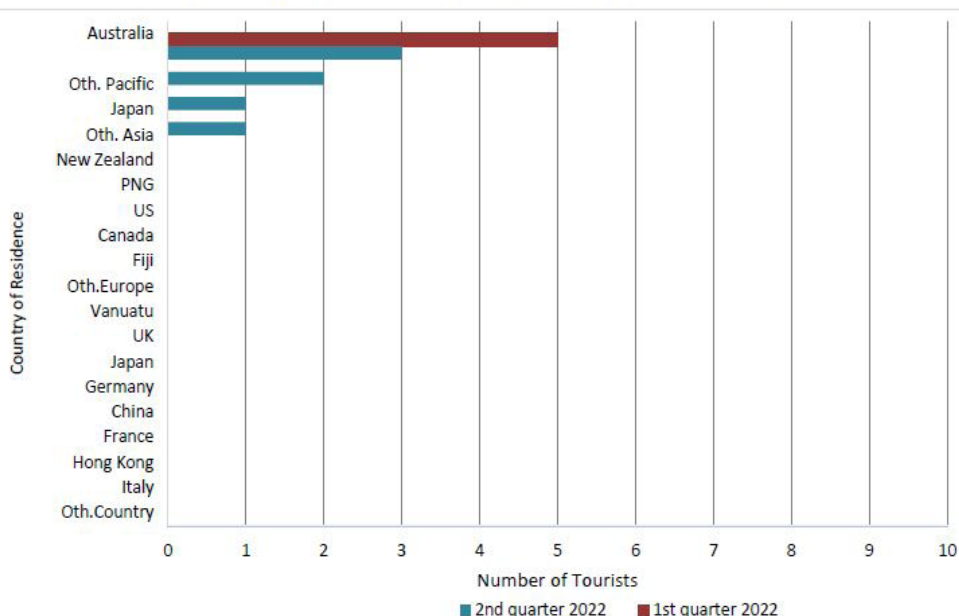
Source: Solomon Island National Statistics Office, Visitors Arrival Second Quarter 2022

Chart 2: Visitor Arrivals by Month, January 2020 – June 2022



Source: Solomon Island National Statistics Office, Visitors Arrival Second Quarter 2022

Chart 3: Tourist by Country of Residence: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022



Source: Solomon Island National Statistics Office, Visitor Arrivals Second Quarter 2022

## NSO expects an increase in international arrivals

The National Statistics Office expects a surge in the country's international arrivals after the lifting of the State of Public Emergency by the Government on July 1st 2022.

Releasing the latest international arrivals bulletin on Friday 5th August 2022, Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said international arrivals into the country in the first quarter of 2022 showed a steady trend of decline since restrictions were imposed on International flights by the Solomon Island Government towards the end of March 2020.

However Mr Kimi expects that to change with the opening of the borders and the resumption of international flights.

"Restrictions on international flights as part of the SOPE measure against Covid-19 pandemic had adverse implications on visitors travelling predominantly for tourism purposes.

"This is expected to change after July 1, 2022 with the lifting of the SOPE."

The first quarter recorded 1,044 total arrivals.

This is a decrease of 11.1% compared to the previous quarter (4th quarter 2021). Compared to the same quarter a year ago, an increase of 28.4% was recorded.

Returning residents made up 72.5% of arrivals for first quarter 2022. This was followed by Visitors with 26.3% of arrivals and the

remaining 1.1% were Intending residents.

Visitor arrivals for the first quarter decreased to 275 visitors (34.7%), compared to the fourth quarter 2021 figure of 421 visitors. However, visitor arrivals in the first quarter more than doubled (113.2%) compared to the same quarter in 2021.

Arrivals by country of residence for the first quarter 2022 showed that Australia (64.0%) recorded the largest group of visitors amongst other country visitors to the Solomon Islands.

Although there was 176 Australian visitors in the first quarter 2022, this reflected a decrease of 10.7% compared to the fourth quarter of 2021 figure of 197.

The next largest group of visitors were from Papua New Guinea (11.3%) followed by New Zealand (8.0%), China (4.4), Other Asia (3.6), Other Country (2.2%), United States of America and Japan recording 1.8% respectively, United Kingdom and Other Pacific 0.7% respectively, and Fiji, Netherland, France and Italy with 0.4% respectively.

Meanwhile, the highest number of international arrivals into the country was recorded in March 2022, with 143 visitors.

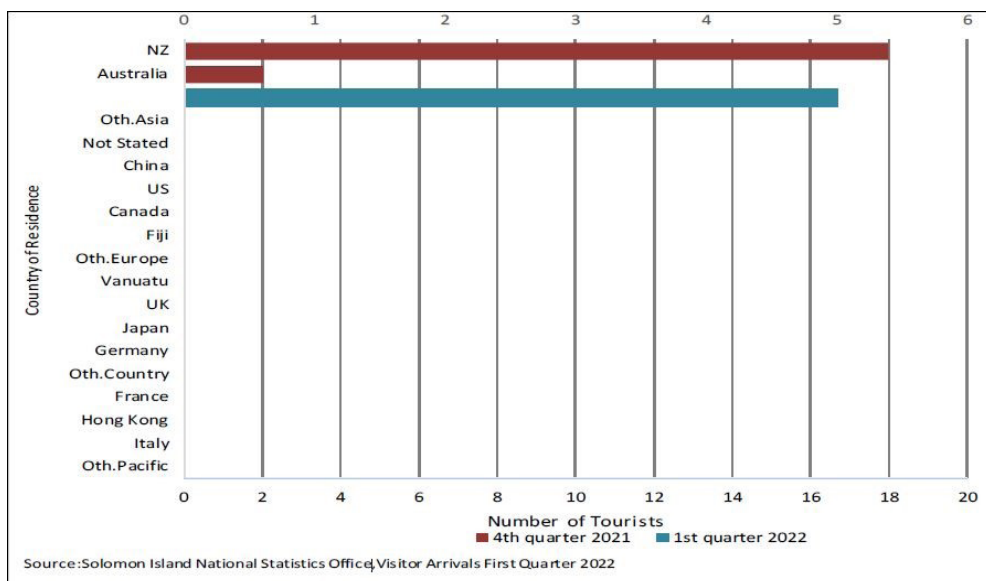
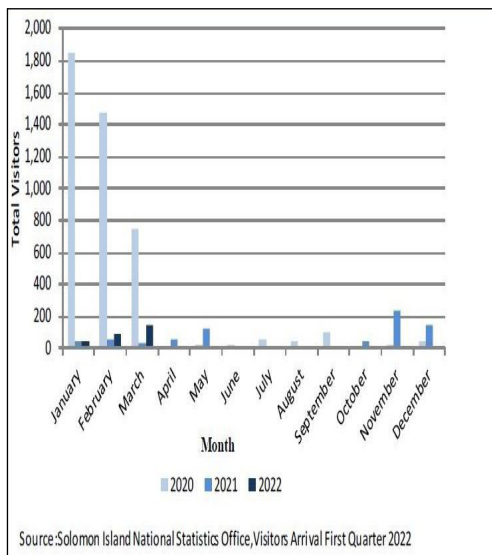
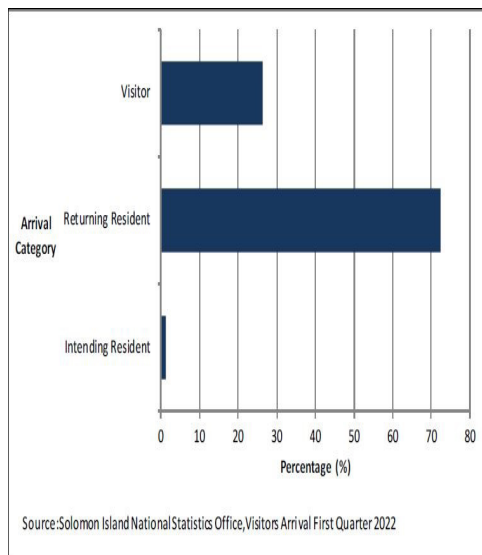
The month of February showed the second highest with a total of 86 visitors, and January with 46 visitors.

The first quarter 2022 recorded **cont.p6**

zero tourists whose specific purpose of travel was for holiday and vacation.

However, there were 5 transit-tourists who spent an average of 1.0 days in the country.

Australia made up the highest proportion of transit-tourists (100%) for the quarter.





# CPI Increases by 2 percent in May 2022

The National Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.2 percent to 113.9 in May 2022.

The National Statistics Office released the latest CPI bulletin on Friday 29th July 2022.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said through the year, compared to the same month in 2021, the National CPI rose by 4.3 percent.

He said the most significant changes by major expenditure groups from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+3.5%),
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+1.9%),
- Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels: (+2.8%)
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (+0.7%)

- Transport: (+1.5%)
- Miscellaneous good & services: (+0.1%)

Mr Kimi said the Solomon Islands inflation rate for the month of May 2022 calculated on a 3-months moving average basis was +1.0%.

“The corresponding inflation rates for imported items was +10.1%, while other (domestic) items inflation rate was -2.5%.”

“The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3-months moving average was observed between +3.6% and +4.1% for May 2022.”

The headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a 3-months moving average basis were: Honiara: (+0.5%); Auki: (+4.9%); Gizo: (+7.3%); and Noro:

(+0.9%).

The main percentage changes in index by CPI town and expenditure group from the previous month include:

## Honiara: (+1.2%)

The most significant changes in movements include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.5%)
- Alcohol Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+3.5%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.6%)
- household maintenance: (-1.2%)
- Transport: (+1.5%)

## Auki: (+2.0%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+2.8%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+0.1%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and

other fuels: (+4.2%)

- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.4%)
- Transport: (+0.4%)

## Gizo: (4.1%)

The main drivers to this movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (6.7%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: cont.p
- Housing, water, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.6%)
- Transport: (+2.4%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+1.5%)

## Noro: (0.9%)

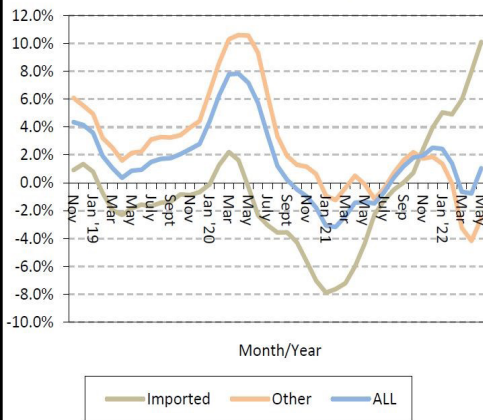
The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.2%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+0.2%)
- Housing, water, electricity, **cont.p8**

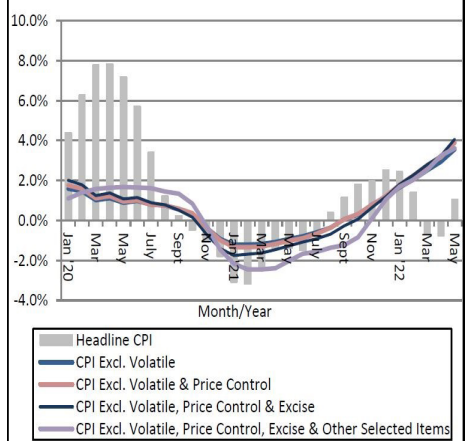
(+1.8%)

- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+4.3%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+1.6%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+2.2%)

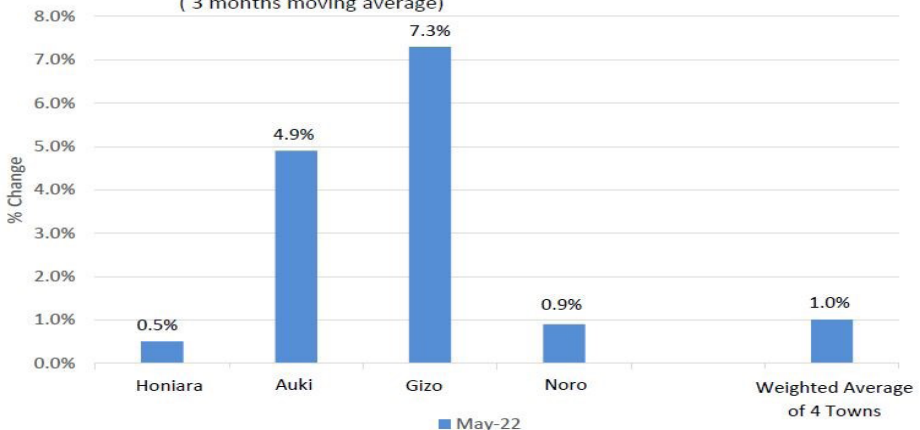
**Graph 1: Solomon Islands Annual Inflation Rates**  
(3 months moving average)



**Graph 2: Solomon Islands Annual Headline and Underlying Inflation Rates**  
(3 months moving average)



**Graph 3: All Groups Percentage Changes by CPI Towns**  
( 3 months moving average)





## Country's CPI declines by 1 percent in June

The National Consumer Price Index (CPI) has dropped 1.1 percent to 112.7 in June 2022.

Releasing the bulletin on Friday 26th August 2022, Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said through the year, compared to the same month in 2021, the National CPI rose by 5.7 percent.

He said the most significant changes by major expenditure groups from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-0.9%),
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+2.0%),
- Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels: (-6.0%)
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (-0.3%)
- Transport: (+1.2%)
- Education: (-7.1%)
- Miscellaneous good & services: (+0.1)

Mr Kimi said the Solomon Islands inflation rate for the month of June 2022 calculated on a 3-months moving average basis was +3.9%.

"The corresponding inflation rates for imported items was +11.1%, while other (domestic) items inflation rate was +0.9%.

"The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3-months moving average was observed between +3.6% and +4.1% for June 2022."

The headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a

3-months moving average basis were: Honiara: (+3.1%); Auki: (+6.7%); Gizo: (+8.1%); and Noro: (+1.6%).

The main percentage changes in index by CPI town and expenditure group from the previous month include:

### Honiara: (-1.2%)

The most significant changes in movements include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-1.1%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+2.5%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (-5.9%)
- Transport: (+1.1%)
- Education: (-7.9%)

### Auki: (+0.4%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+5.4%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-7.0%)
- Clothing & footwear: (-0.2%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (-10.0%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.5%)
- Transport: (+7.0%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+0.5%)

### Gizo: (-1.8%)

The main drivers to this movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-2.5%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+4.5%)
- Clothing & footwear: (-0.3%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas

cont.p10

and other fuels: (-7.7%)

- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.1%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+1.8%)

### **Noro: (-2.2%)**

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.4%)

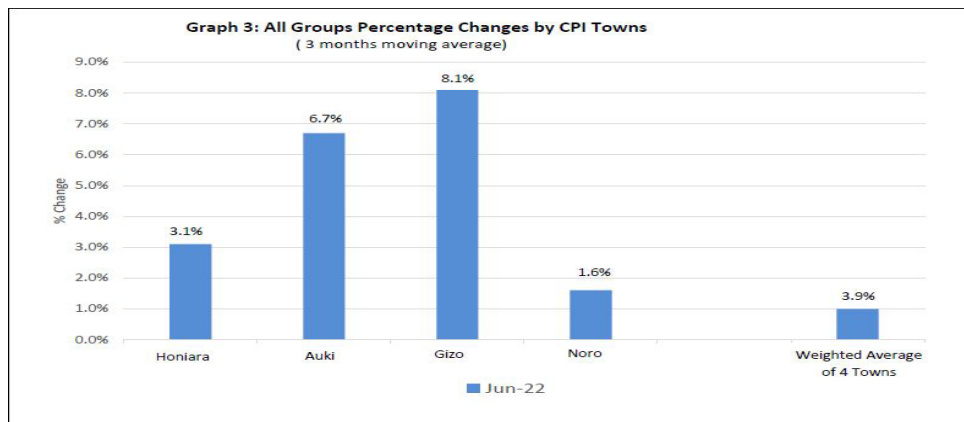
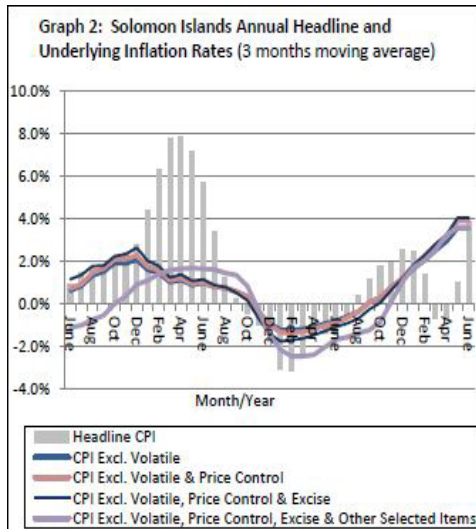
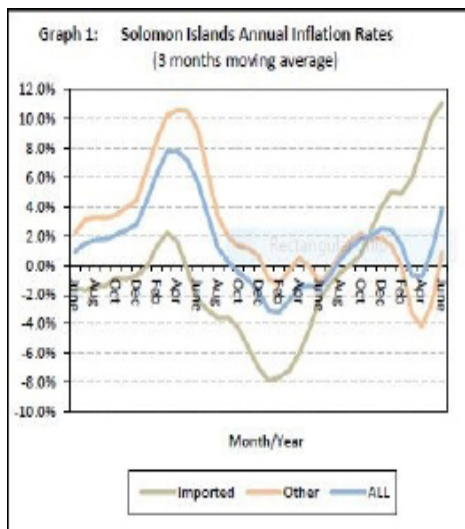
• Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+0.2%)

• Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (-7.4%)

• Transport: (+0.4%)

• Education: (-2.1%)

• Miscellaneous goods & services: (+1.6%)



# CPI increases to 1.1 percent in July 2022

The National Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.1 percent to 115.4 in July 2022.

Releasing the bulletin on 4th October 2022, Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said through the year, compared to the same month in 2021, the National CPI rose by 8.8 percent.

The most significant changes by major expenditure groups from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-0.8%),
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+6.2%),
- Clothing & Footwear: (+0.1%)
- Transport: (+3.0%)
- Education: (-0.4%)
- Miscellaneous good & services: (+0.1)

Mr Kimi said the Solomon Islands inflation rate for the month of July 2022 calculated on a 3-months moving average basis was +6.7%.

“The corresponding inflation rates for imported items was +12.1%, while other (domestic) items inflation rate was +4.4%.

“The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3-months moving average was observed between +3.6% and +5.4% for July 2022.”

The headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a 3-months moving average basis were: Honiara: (+5.8%); Auki: (+10.0%); Gizo: (+9.6%); and Noro: (+1.9%).

The main percentage changes in index by CPI town and expenditure group from the previous month include:

## Honiara: (+1.1%)

The most significant changes in movements include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-0.6%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+7.7%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.2%)
- Transport: (+1.4%)

## Auki: (-0.2%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-1.8%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+1.7%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+0.3%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+2.8%)
- Transport: (+3.0%)

## Gizo: (-0.6%)

The main drivers to this movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-1.3%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+5.0%)
- Clothing & footwear: (-0.4%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (-1.6%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (-0.5%)
- Education: (-8.6%),
- Restaurants & hotels: (-3.1%),
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+0.6%)

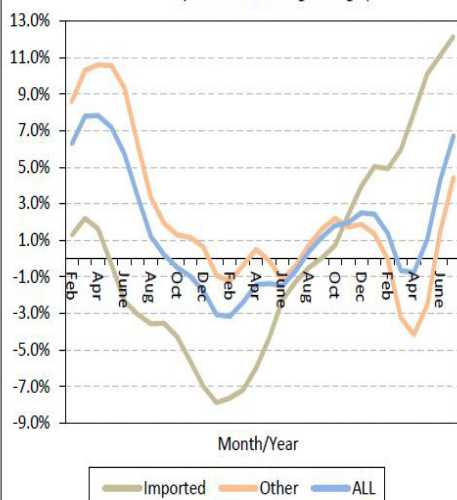
## Noro: (+1.2%)

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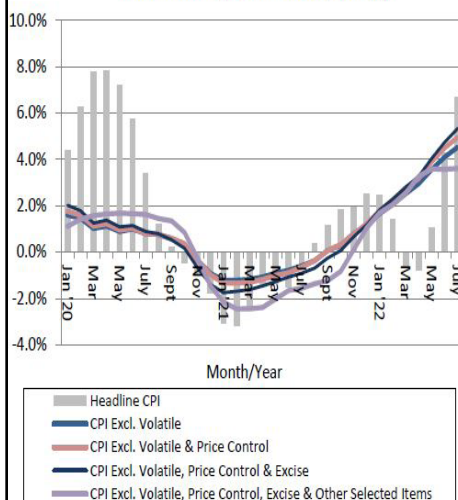
The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.9%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-5.6%)
- Clothing & footwear: (+3.3%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+0.1%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.4%)
- Transport: (+2.1%)

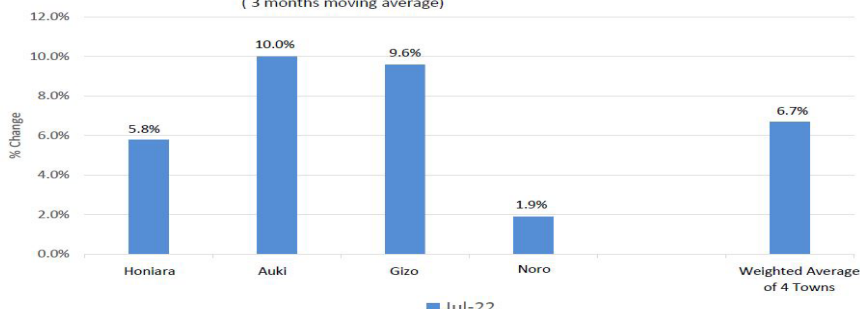
**Graph 1: Solomon Islands Annual Inflation Rates**  
(3 months moving average)



**Graph 2: Solomon Islands Annual Headline and Underlying Inflation Rates**  
(3 months moving average)



**Graph 3: All Groups Percentage Changes by CPI Towns**  
(3 months moving average)



# CPI rises from 1.5 percent in August

The National Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased from 1.5 percent to 117.1 in August 2022.

Releasing the latest CPI statistical bulletin on Thursday 27th October 2022, the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said through the year, compared to the same month in 2021, the National CPI rose by 9.8 percent.

The most significant changes by major expenditure groups from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.9%),
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-3.2%),
- Clothing & Footwear: (+0.5%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+0.6%)
- Health: (+0.1%)
- Transport: (+7.9%)
- Recreation & culture: (+5.5%)

- Miscellaneous good & services: (+1.6%)

Mr Kimi said the Solomon Islands inflation rate for the month of August 2022 calculated on a 3-months moving average basis was +8.5%.

"The corresponding inflation rates for imported items was +12.7%, while other (domestic) items inflation rate was +6.8%.

"The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3-months moving average was observed between +3.8% and +5.6% for August 2022."

He said the headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a 3-months moving average basis were: Honiara: (+8.0%); Auki: (+10.3%); Gizo: (+8.2%); and Noro:

(+3.0%).

The main percentage changes in index by CPI town and expenditure group from the previous month include:

## Honiara: (+1.7%)

The most significant changes in movements include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+1.4%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-3.8%)
- Clothing & footwear: (+0.7%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+0.5%)
- Transport: (+9.1%)
- Recreation & Culture: (+6.4%)
- Restaurants & hotels: (+0.5%),
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+1.9%)

## Auki: (-0.2%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-0.8%)
- Clothing & footwear: (-1.0%)

- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+1.1%)

## Gizo: (-0.3%)

The main drivers to this movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-1.9%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+2.9%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+0.9%)

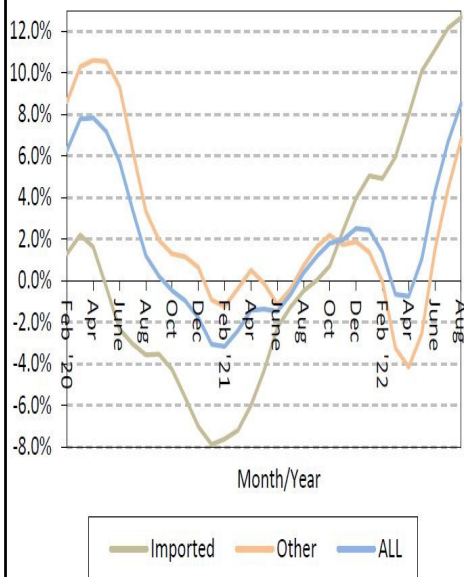
## Noro: (-0.1%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

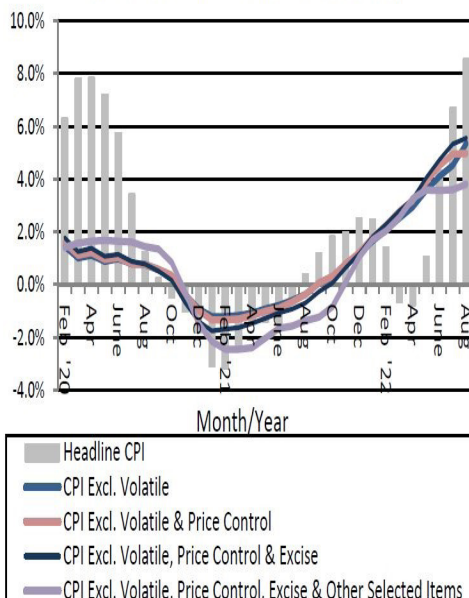
- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-0.6%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-0.1%)
- Clothing & footwear: (+0.4%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+1.0%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+1.8%)

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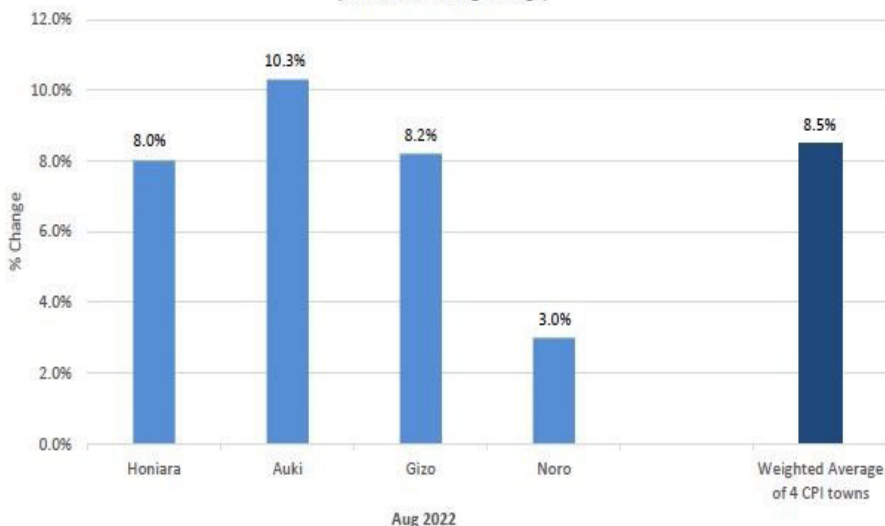
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(3-months moving average)





## PFTAC advisor conducts training for Economics Unit



*Center Mathew Powell and Chief Statistician Economics Andrew Kakate with his staff after their training.*

The Economics Unit within the National Statistics Office participated in a two-day training with Mathew Powell, a Real Sector Advisor with the Pacific Financial Technical Assistant Cooperation (PFTAC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) branch based in Suva, Fiji.

Earlier, the Economics Unit staff met briefly with Mr Powell where the Economics Chief Statistician Andrew Kakate and Head of Consumer Price Index Anna Luvu introduced their staff, helping him put names to faces.

Mr Powell told the staff that this is not his first time here in the Solomon Islands having been posted in the country from 1988 to 1990 as an ODI fellow.

He assisted the NSO in providing capacity building in economics statistics such as improvements to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) compilations, consumer prices, especially price deflators, and merchandise trade statistics.

The training also provided basic trainings on topics relating to producing these statistics and issues and challenges faced including simplifying the current GDP compilation model.

“We want a simple and straightforward GDP system that is easier to follow.”

“It should be an improvable system.”

The training also included national accounts, prices, especially deflators and the linkages to national accounts estimates.

Mr Powell conducted the training for the Economics Unit on Monday 26th and Wednesday 27th September 2022.

## Census consultant assists with Data Processing and training



*Dr. Mike Levins with the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi*

On 15th September 2022, the National Statistics Office welcomed the 2019 Census Data Processing Consultant Dr. Mike Levins to the office.

Dr. Levins has assisted the NSO with the 2019 Census and his visit was to spend some time with the staff and work with



*Conducting a training on population pyramids.*

them on the progress of the 2019 census analysis.

He spent two weeks with them, helping out with the analysis and conducted in-house trainings at the same time.

He left the country on 4th October for Hawaii, in the United States of America.

## CPI conducts annual refresher course

The Consumer Price Index unit held its annual refresher training for its statisticians from 26th to the 30th of September 2022.

Mrs Luvu said the training was to maintain the capability in producing and maintaining the leading inflation measure for the Solomon Islands. "To ensure producing is fit for purpose, representative and accurate statistics. To make sure CPI field operations and regional compilation are still intact and still follow the internationally accepted



*Head of CPI Unit Anna Luvu in front, Principal Statistician Moffat Sanau standing, and the CPI staff from Honiara, Auki, Noro and Gizo.*

standards.

The refresher is also to keep them motivated and engaged so that outcomes 1 and 2 are achieved and maintained."

## NSO welcomes new data volunteer

The National Statistics Office has welcomed Joshua Neale, a Data Analyst under the Volunteer Service Abroad, VSA, Program within New Zealand's volunteering development assistance, with an introductory meeting.

The Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi, took the opportunity to welcome Joshua and the VSA Team who visited the NSO. Mr Neale arrived in Honiara on August 17th after arrangements were conducted and completed earlier this year.

The NSO advised that it took over 4 years to progress such technical assistance needs with VSA and that the NSO was very excited and pleased to have Joshua agree to take up this post and placement here with the NSO and in the Solomon Islands.

He will be with the NSO for nine months only. He will be working closely with the Economics section, focusing mainly on data analysis and data validation work including capacity building efforts.

Mr Neale has expressed his appreciation to the NSO for accepting him.



*Joshua Neale is flanked by the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi and Deputy Government Statistician Samson Kanamoli. Standing is the NSO Advisor Dr. Willie Lahari, and Chief Statistician Social Section Anterlyn Tuzakana with other VSA members.*

# The Pay-day cycle \$\$\$

Monday is the beginning of 'The Week'. The Week also known as 'The Pay Week'.

So Monday's a fine day, even if it starts off slowly.

Tuesday? Well we're getting there right? Tuesday is good, still good.

Now here comes Wednesday. Even better! Wednesday is just one day before Thursday.

So Wednesday is all smiles with cheerful laughter.

Then Thursday arrives. Oh Thursday you are beautiful! There's a spring in my step, my shoulders feel light and I've got a huge smile on my face.

Nothing's gonna get to me today. Everybody I meet is my best friend.

We hear laughter and happy voices, as jokes are being thrown around. We can forget about everything for a moment, as all the worries and problems disappear.

Yes, we're anticipating the entry of the SA-LA-RY into our bank accounts...

In the midst of our joy bubble we're thinking "Hem go in na?"

Because we're not the only one waiting; the spouse is waiting, the children are waiting, we're mentally ticking off school fees, bag rice, cash power and the water bill, School uniforms, contributions and the list goes on...

And so once it's in, we're going on full speed. We're running around to the schools, the shops, the market, Solomon Power, Solomon Water. The phones are ringing, the wantoks are calling, "we want to borrow some money from you".

And then there are the kaons to pay up. The lenders are waiting with their list and pen.

By the end of the day we're tired physically,

and mentally. And we're dreading that awful feeling of "where has all the money gone?" Again we're starting to feel the pressure that comes, the pressure that is always present, that we can never quite totally shake off.

When Friday comes, all is quiet again. The joys and ease of yesterday just a fleeting memory.

Now we start counting the days again before the next fortnight. But why oh why? It seems so far away!

We decide to just get through the days as they come, making whatever money we have last, while thinking when we can approach the lenders again, "Hao eniting lo dea?"

It's a never-ending cycle that goes on and on. A cycle most of us are all too familiar with. It's a

cycle we wish we could break. We wish we had saved some money, we wish we don't have to worry about the same things all over again. But it's gone, all gone!

Some of us may have broken the cycle, a very small minority perhaps. Some of us have accepted it as just the way things are. And yet most of us want to get out of it. It's like a trap, a hole we keep falling into and we can't get out.

The question is, can we?  
Can we break the cycle?  
Can we?

**Note: These are the thoughts of the author and do not in any way represent the NSO.**



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