

Samoa: 2003 Article IV Consultation—Staff Report; Staff Statement; Public Information Notice on the Executive Board Discussion; and Statement by the Executive Director for Samoa

Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. In the context of the 2003 Article IV consultation with Samoa, the following documents have been released and are included in this package:

- the staff report for the 2003 Article IV consultation, prepared by a staff team of the IMF, following discussions that ended on **March 17, 2003**, with the officials of Samoa on economic developments and policies. **Based on information available at the time of these discussions, the staff report was completed on May 16, 2003.** The views expressed in the staff report are those of the staff team and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Executive Board of the IMF.
- a Public Information Notice (PIN) summarizing the views of the Executive Board as expressed during its **June 2, 2003** discussion of the staff report that concluded the Article IV consultation.
- a statement by the Executive Director for Samoa.

The document(s) listed below have been or will be separately released.

Selected Issues Paper and Statistical Appendix

The policy of publication of staff reports and other documents allows for the deletion of market-sensitive information.

To assist the IMF in evaluating the publication policy, reader comments are invited and may be sent by e-mail to publicationpolicy@imf.org.

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SAMOA

Staff Report for the 2003 Article IV Consultation

*Prepared by Staff Representatives for
the 2003 Consultation with Samoa*

Approved by Daniel Citrin and Michael Hadjimichael

May 16, 2003

- The 2003 Article IV consultation discussions were held in Apia from March 3–17, 2003. The staff team comprised Mr. Bingham (head), Ms. Richter Hume and Ms. Fujita (all APD). Ms. Davidson (Office of the Executive Director) participated in the discussions.
- The mission met with Prime Minister Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, Minister of Finance Retzlaff, Financial Secretary Petana, Central Bank of Samoa Governor Scanlan, as well as representatives from other government ministries, the private sector, and major donors.
- Samoa is on a biennial consultation cycle. At the conclusion of the last Article IV consultation on May 9, 2001, Directors commended Samoa's strong economic performance, while urging the authorities to maintain prudent macroeconomic policies and move ahead with structural reforms to improve public sector efficiency and reduce barriers to private investment.
- Samoa accepted the obligations of Article VIII in 1994 and maintains an exchange system that is free of restrictions on current international transactions.
- The principal authors of this report are Mr. Bingham and Ms. Richter Hume.