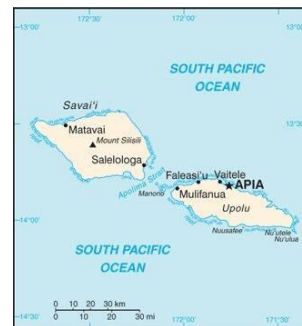
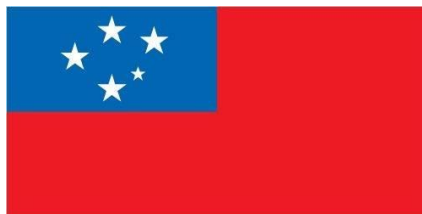




SAMOA



INTRODUCTION

New Zealand occupied the German protectorate of Western Samoa at the outbreak of World War I in 1914. It continued to administer the islands as a mandate and then as a trust territory until 1962, when the islands became the first Polynesian nation to reestablish independence in the 20th century. The country dropped the "Western" from its name in 1997. In the late 2000s, Samoa began making efforts to more closely align with Australia and New Zealand.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

TUIMALEALI'IFANO Va'aletoa Sualauvi II

Head of Government

Prime Minister FIAME Naomi Mata'afa

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Apia

Legislature

unicameral Legislative Assembly or Fono (53 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Pa'olelei LUTERU

US Ambassador

the US Ambassador to New Zealand, Thomas Stewart UDALL, is accredited to Samoa

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 2,831 sq km
Land: 2,821 sq km
Water: 10 sq km

Climate

tropical; rainy season (November to April), dry season (May to October)

Natural Resources

hardwood forests, fish, hydropower

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

lower middle-income Pacific island economy; enormous fishing and agriculture industries; significant remittances; growing offshore financial hub; recently hosted Pacific Games to drive tourism and infrastructure growth

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.211 billion (2021)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$5,500 (2021)

Industries - food processing, building materials, auto parts

Agricultural products - coconuts, taro, bananas, yams, tropical fruit, pineapples, mangoes/guavas, papayas, roots/tuber, pork

Exports \$97.77 million (2021 est.)

coconut oil, insulated wiring, refined petroleum, integrated circuits, sardines, air pumps, tuna, lemons, beer (2021)

partners: US 20%, New Zealand 16%, American Samoa 11%, Brazil 8%, Australia 7% (2021)

Imports \$430 million (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, poultry meats, iron, lumber, processed fish, cars (2021)

partners: New Zealand 24%, China 19%, Singapore 11%, US 8%, Australia 7% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

207,500 (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.65% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Samoaan 96%, Samoaan/New Zealander 2%, other 1.9% (2011 est.)

Language

Samoaan (Polynesian) (official) 91.1%, Samoaan/English 6.7%, English (official) 0.5%, other 0.2%, unspecified 1.6% (2006 est.)

Religion

Protestant 54.9%, Roman Catholic 18.8%, Church of Jesus Christ 16.9%, Worship Centre 2.8%, other Christian 3.6%, other 2.9% (includes Baha'i, Muslim), none 0.2% (2016 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 17.5% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: -0.03% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)