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'I FANOA 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 (50 seats)

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

as of October 2021

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) $1.25 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $6,300 (2020 est.)
Industries - food processing, building materials, auto parts
Agricultural products - coconuts, taro, bananas, yams, tropical fruit, roots/tubers, pork
Exports $27.5 million (2014 est.)
  refined petroleum, fish, fruit juice, coconut oil, beer (2019)
  partners: American Samoa 21%, US 13%, NZ 12%, Australia 10%, Tokelau 6%, Taiwan 5% (2019)
Imports $89.29 billion (2018 est.)
  refined petroleum, iron products, poultry meats, cars, insulated wiring (2019)
  partners: NZ 22%, China 16%, Singapore 13%, US 10%, Australia 9%, South Korea 8%, Fiji 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
204,900 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.61% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Samoan 96%, Samoan/New Zealander 2%, other 1.9% (2011 est.)
Language
Samoan (Polynesian) (official) 91.1%, Samoan/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: 17.7% of total population (2021)
  rate of urbanization: -0.03% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)