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Contents

1	260	1
1.1	260.guide	1
1.2	260.guide/Western Samoa	1
1.3	260.guide/Geography (Western Samoa)	2
1.4	260.guide/People (Western Samoa)	3
1.5	260.guide/Government (Western Samoa)	4
1.6	260.guide/Government (Western Samoa 2. usage)	5
1.7	260.guide/Economy (Western Samoa)	5
1.8	260.guide/Communications (Western Samoa)	6
1.9	260.guide/Defense Forces (Western Samoa)	7

Chapter 1

260

1.1 260.guide

Texified version of data for Western Samoa.

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Western Samoa

1.2 260.guide/Western Samoa

Western Samoa

Geography (Western Samoa)
 People (Western Samoa)
 Government (Western Samoa)
 Government (Western Samoa 2. usage)
 Economy (Western Samoa)
 Communications (Western Samoa)
 Defense Forces (Western Samoa)

1.3 260.guide/Geography (Western Samoa)

Geography (Western Samoa)

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Location:

Oceania, 4,300 km southwest of Honolulu in the South Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand

Map references:

Oceania, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

2,860 km² land area:

2,850 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Rhode Island

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

403 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

none

Climate:

tropical; rainy season (October to March), dry season (May to October)

Terrain:

narrow coastal plain with volcanic, rocky, rugged mountains in interior

Natural resources:

hardwood forests, fish

Land use:

arable land:

19%

permanent crops:

24%

meadows and pastures:

0%

forest and woodland:

47%

other:

10%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km2
 Environment:
 subject to occasional typhoons; active volcanism

1.4 260.guide/People (Western Samoa)

People (Western Samoa)

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Population:
 199,652 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.37% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 33 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.17 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -3.14 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 38.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 67.58 years male:
 65.19 years
 female:
 70.08 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 4.28 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Western Samoan(s)
 adjective:
 Western Samoan
 Ethnic divisions:
 Samoan 92.6%, Euronians 7% (persons of European and Polynesian blood),
 Europeans 0.4%
 Religions:
 Christian 99.7% (about half of population associated with the London
 Missionary Society; includes Congregational, Roman Catholic, Methodist,
 Latter Day Saints, Seventh-Day Adventist)
 Languages:
 Samoan (Polynesian), English
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1971)
 total population:
 97%
 male:
 97%
 female:
 97%

Labor force:
 38,000
 by occupation:
 agriculture 22,000 (1987 est.)

1.5 260.guide/Government (Western Samoa)

Government (Western Samoa)

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Names:

conventional long form:
 Independent State of Western Samoa
 conventional short form:
 Western Samoa

Digraph:

WS

Type:

constitutional monarchy under native chief

Capital:

Apia

Administrative divisions:

11 districts; A'ana, Aiga-i-le-Tai, Atua, Fa'asaleleaga, Gaga'emauga, Gagaifomauga, Palauli, Satupa'itea, Tuamasaga, Va'a-o-Fonoti, Vaisigano

Independence:

1 January 1962 (from UN trusteeship administered by New Zealand)

Constitution:

1 January 1962

Legal system: based on English common law and local customs; judicial review of

legislative acts with respect to fundamental rights of the citizen; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

National Day, 1 June

Political parties and leaders:

Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP), TOFILAU Eti, chairman; Samoan National

Development Party (SNDP), TAPUA Tamasese Efi, chairman

Suffrage:

21 years of age; universal, but only matai (head of family) are able to run for the Legislative Assembly

Elections:

Legislative Assembly:

last held 5 April 1991 (next to be held by NA 1996); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (47 total) HRPP 28, SNDP 18, independents 1

Executive branch:

chief, Executive Council, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

unicameral Legislative Assembly (Fono)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court, Court of Appeal

Leaders:

Chief of State:

Chief Susuga Malietoa TANUMAFILI II (Co-Chief of State from 1 January 1962 until becoming sole Chief of State on 5 April 1963)
 Head of Government:
 Prime Minister TOFILAU Eti Alesana (since 7 April 1988)
 Member of:
 ACP, AsDB, C, ESCAP, FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IMF, IOC, ITU, LORCS, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UPU, WHO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador-designate Neroni SLADE
 chancery:
 (temporary) suite 510, 1155 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005
 telephone:
 (202) 833-1743
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 the ambassador to New Zealand is accredited to Western Samoa

1.6 260.guide/Government (Western Samoa 2. usage)

Government (Western Samoa 2. usage)

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embassy:
 address NA, Apia
 mailing address:
 P.O. Box 3430, Apia
 telephone:
 (685) 21-631
 FAX:
 (685) 22-030
 Flag:
 red with a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side quadrant bearing five white five-pointed stars representing the Southern Cross constellation

1.7 260.guide/Economy (Western Samoa)

Economy (Western Samoa)

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Overview:
 Agriculture employs more than half of the labor force, contributes 50% to GDP, and furnishes 90% of exports. The bulk of export earnings comes from the sale of coconut oil and copra. The economy depends on emigrant remittances and foreign aid to support a level of imports several times export earnings. Tourism has become the most important growth industry, and construction of the first international hotel is under way.
 National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$115 million (1990)

National product real growth rate:
-4.5% (1990 est.)

National product per capita:
\$690 (1990)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
15% (1990)

Unemployment rate:
NA%

Budget:
revenues \$95.3 million; expenditures \$95.4 million, including capital expenditures of \$41 million (FY92)

Exports:
\$9 million (f.o.b., 1990)
commodities:
coconut oil and cream 54%, taro 12%, copra 9%, cocoa 3%
partners:
NZ 28%, American Samoa 23%, Germany 22%, US 6% (1990)

Imports:
\$75 million (c.i.f., 1990)
commodities:
intermediate goods 58%, food 17%, capital goods 12%
partners:
New Zealand 41%, Australia 18%, Japan 13%, UK 6%, US 6%

External debt:
\$83 million (December 1990 est.)

Industrial production:
growth rate -4% (1990 est.); accounts for 14% of GDP

Electricity:
29,000 kW capacity; 45 million kWh produced, 240 kWh per capita (1990)

Industries:
timber, tourism, food processing, fishing

Agriculture:
accounts for 50% of GDP; coconuts, fruit (including bananas, taro, yams)

Economic aid:
US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$18 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$306 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$4 million

Currency:
1 tala (WS\$) = 100 sene

Exchange rates:
tala (WS\$) per US\$1 - 2.5681 (January 1993), 2.4655 (1992), 2.3975 (1991), 2.3095 (1990), 2.2686 (1989), 2.0790 (1988)

Fiscal year:
calendar year

1.8 260.guide/Communications (Western Samoa)

Communications (Western Samoa)

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Highways:
2,042 km total; 375 km sealed; 1,667 km mostly gravel, crushed stone, or

earth
 Ports:
 Apia
 Merchant marine:
 1 roll-on/roll-off ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 3,838 GRT/5,536 DWT
 Airports:
 total:
 3
 usable:
 3
 with permanent-surface runways:
 1
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 1
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 0
 Telecommunications:
 7,500 telephones; 70,000 radios; broadcast stations - 1 AM, no FM, no TV; 1
 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT ground station

1.9 260.guide/Defense Forces (Western Samoa)

Defense Forces (Western Samoa)

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Branches:
 Department of Police and Prisons
 Manpower availability:
 males age 15-49 NA; fit for military service NA
 Defense expenditures:
 exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP