

# American Samoa

(territory of the US)

## Geography

Location: Oceania, group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean, about one-half of the way from Hawaii to New Zealand.

Map references: Oceania.

Area:

total area: 199 sq km.

land area: 199 sq km.

Land boundaries: 0 km.

Coastline: 116 km.

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm.

territorial sea: 12 nm.

Climate: tropical marine, moderated by southeast trade winds; annual rainfall averages 124 inches; rainy season from November to April, dry season from May to October; little seasonal temperature variation.

Terrain: five volcanic islands with rugged peaks and limited coastal plains, two coral atolls (Rose Island, Swains Island).

Natural resources: pumice, pumicite.

Land use:

arable land: 10%.

permanent crops: 5%.

meadows and pastures: 0%.

forest and woodland: 75%.

other: 10%.

Environment:

current issues: limited natural fresh water resources; in many areas of the island water supplies come from roof catchments.

natural hazards: typhoons common from December to March.

Note: Pago Pago has one of the best natural deepwater harbors in the South Pacific Ocean, sheltered by shape from rough seas and

protected by peripheral mountains from high winds; strategic location in the South Pacific Ocean.

## People

Population: 57,366 (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 3.82% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 36.21 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 4.01 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 6 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 18.78 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:  
total population: 72.91 years.  
male: 71.03 years.  
female: 74.85 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 4.3 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: American Samoan(s).

adjective: American Samoan.

Ethnic divisions: Samoan (Polynesian) 89%, Caucasian 2%,  
Tongan 4%, other 5%.

Religions: Christian Congregationalist 50%, Roman Catholic 20%,  
Protestant denominations and other 30%.

Languages: Samoan (closely related to Hawaiian and other  
Polynesian languages), English; most people are bilingual.

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1980)

total population: 97%.

male: 98%.

female: 97%.

Labor force: 14,400 (1990).

by occupation: government 33%, tuna canneries 34%, other 33%  
(1990).

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Territory of American Samoa.

conventional short form: American Samoa.

Type: unincorporated and unorganized territory of the US;  
administered by the US Department of Interior, Office of Territorial  
and International Affairs.

Capital: Pago Pago.

Administrative divisions: none (territory of the US).

Independence: none (territory of the US).

National holiday: Territorial Flag Day, 17 April (1900).

Constitution: ratified 1966, in effect 1967.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal.

Flag: blue with a white triangle edged in red that is based on the fly side and extends to the hoist side; a brown and white American bald eagle flying toward the hoist side is carrying two traditional Samoan symbols of authority, a staff and a war club.

# Economy

Overview: Economic activity is strongly linked to the US, with which American Samoa conducts 80%-90% of its foreign trade. Tuna fishing and tuna processing plants are the backbone of the private sector, with canned tuna the primary export. The tuna canneries and the government are by far the two largest employers. Other economic activities include a slowly developing tourist industry. Transfers from the US Government add substantially to American Samoa's economic well-being.

## Transportation

Railroads: 0 km.

Highways:  
total: 350 km.

Ports: Aanu'u (new construction), Auasi, Faleosao, Ofu, Pago Pago, Ta'u.

Airports:  
total: 4.