**Samoa**

- **Capital:** Apia (13°50’S 171°45’W)
- **International airport(s):** Faleolo International Airport, Faleolo
- **Official language(s):** Samoan, English
- **Currency:** Samoan Tala (WST)
- **Time:** UTC +13, Summer (DST) +14
- **Region:** Pacific

### GEOGRAPHY

Samoa lies south of the equator, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand, and consists of two main islands, Savai‘i and Upolu, and eight smaller islands. All islands have volcanic origins. Samoa’s highest peak, Mount Silisili (1853 m), is located in Savai‘i and is the only remaining active volcano. Besides the mountainous interior areas of Savai‘i and Upolu, Samoa consists mainly of coastal plains.

### CLIMATE

The tropical climate of Samoa is humid and rainy with warm temperatures year-round. Monthly average temperatures vary only between 27 and 28 °C, while nighttime temperatures remain above 20 °C. From November to April, Samoa has a rainy and warm season, while a dry and cooler season takes place from May to October. The average annual rainfall is just below 3100 mm, and in the capital area at 2800 mm, but can reach up to five meters in the region of Mount Silisili. The Samoa Islands can be exposed to severe tropical cyclones from December to February, especially. (World Bank, 2020)

### ECONOMY

Samoa has a relatively small economy that is dependent on trade. Agriculture employs two-thirds of the labour force (ILO, 2020a). The main agricultural products are coconuts, bananas, taro, yams, coffee and cocoa. Other industries mainly include the processing of agricultural products, petroleum and tourism. Remittances are important for the economy, contributing 17 per cent to GDP (UNCTAD, 2021). The tourism sector has been expanding rapidly in recent decades. Samoa received 181 thousand tourist arrivals in 2019 with an inbound tourism expenditure almost reaching 25 per cent over GDP (UNWTO, 2021). The service sector makes up three fourths of the country’s GDP. The most common destination for exports are American Samoa, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America. (UNCTAD, 2021) More than half of Samoa’s electricity comes from renewable sources and the country aspires towards total renewable energy by 2021.

### CULTURE

Fa’a Samoa, or the Samoan Way, describes the communal way of life of Samoans. Faith, family and music are the basic pillars of Samoan culture. Most activities are done together and sometimes the extended family lives together in the oval or circular shaped traditional house (fale) with wooden posts holding up a domed roof. Traditional buildings also do not have walls. Family elders are greatly respected, and they hold the highest status.

The Ava Ceremony is an important ritual performed on different occasions. It includes speeches and the formal drinking of ‘Ava, a beverage made of pepper root. ‘Ava is considered non-alcoholic but has a relaxing, euphoric effect.

Dancing has a special place in Samoan culture. Traditional Samoan dance has managed to avoid western impact.

The main sports played in Samoa are rugby union and rugby league, and it has done well in the rugby world cup. Samoa has participated in the Summer Olympic Games since 1984 and won silver medal in women’s weightlifting at the 2008 Games.
**ECONOMIC TRENDS**

**Gross domestic product**
US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP per capita**
US$4,286

**Productive Capacity Index**
2018: 31.5
2019: 28

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index**
2019: 28

**Consumer Price Index growth**
2019: 1.8%

**Unemployment rate**
2017: Total 14.5%
Female 21.3%, Male 10.6%

**Main economic sectors, 2019**
Percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tourist arrivals**
Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of tourists</th>
<th>Percent of GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**External financial resources**
Percentage of GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ODA</th>
<th>Remittances</th>
<th>FDI inflows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public debt as % of GDP**
2018: 51.4%
MARITIME TRANSPORT

**Fleet size**
Number of ships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship type</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fleet</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>1,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil tankers</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk carriers</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General cargo</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container ships</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other types of ships</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Port performance**
Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>SIDS Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of port calls</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time in port (days)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age of vessels</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size (GT) of vessels</td>
<td>11,502</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bilateral connectivity index, 2019**
Top 5 partners

- American Samoa
- Tonga
- French Polynesia
- Fiji
- Vanuatu

**Container port throughput**

2019

27,221 TEU

**Liner shipping connectivity index**
Maximum China Q1 2006=100
POPULATION

Total population
Thousands of people, share of urban population

Population development indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty headcount (% of population)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human assets index</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender inequality index</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age structure by gender, 2019
Percentage of total population

Life expectancy at birth 2019
73 years

Population density 2019
70 persons per km²

Dependency ratio 2019
Child: 66.2
Old-age: 8.6
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade
US dollars in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019 (% of GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise exports</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise imports</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services exports</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services imports</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade openness
Goods and services
2019
48% of GDP

Export concentration
index
2019
0.34

Food import
dependency
Average
2015-2019
17.29

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019
Exports in millions US dollars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Exports in millions US dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokelau</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Merchandise exports by product group, 2019

- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

Services exports by category, 2019

- Telecommunications, computer, and information services
- Transport
- Travel
- Other
### Environment

#### CO₂ emissions per capita
Kg per capita

- 2000: 0
- 2005: 1
- 2010: 2
- 2015: 2

#### CO₂ emissions per GDP
Kg per 2010 US$ of GDP

- 2000: 0.1
- 2005: 0.2
- 2010: 0.3
- 2015: 0.4

#### Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017
Percentage of total energy consumption

- Renewable energy: 
- Non-renewable energy: 

#### Material footprint per capita
16.5kg

#### Terrestrial protected area
7.4%

#### Marine protected area
0.09%

#### Disasters indicators
Data not available

### Information and Communications Technology

#### Trade in ICT goods
Exports: 0.2%
Imports: 4.1%

#### Trade in ICT services
Exports: 2.9%
Imports: 2.4%

#### Share of internet users
2017: 34%

#### Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions
Number of subscriptions per 100 people

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References