



SBS NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th, November 2011

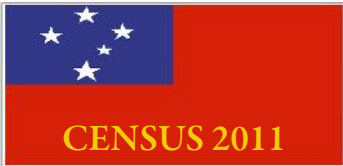
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GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS



Census 2011 : EVERYONE COUNTS



Census last 2011 activity

As planned the preliminary count of the population as of the 7th of November 2011 was compiled in the Village Directory Report 2011 and had been officially launched on the 16th of December 2011 by the Acting Prime Minister Honorable Tolofuavalelei Falemoe. This report showed a new total of **186,340** persons with 96,137 males and 90,203 females. In the census 2006, the total population arrived at **180,741** persons with 93,552 males and 86,962 females. The 2011 figures showed an over-



all population growth of 3 percent in the last 5 years. We acknowledged again the great contribution by all the enumerators, supervisors and especially the statistical staffs in this massive national data collection. This was made possible by employing the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture large workforce of more than 1,000 teachers and inspectors to assist with the small number of SBS staffs. On the financial side, AusAID, UNFPA and the Government of Samoa all contributed to the funding of this project.



Institutional Strengthening Project

The Bureau of Statistics Institutional Strengthening Programme continues its capacity building work.

Development of the Births Deaths and Marriages statistics

Good vital statistics are a key input to national planning particularly for health services and education. These statistics are dependent on the registration of all births, deaths and marriages. The Institutional Strengthening Programme has been working with the Bureau's Births Deaths and Marriages Division, Ministry of Health and the National Health Service to find ways to improve the registration processes and to evaluate the options for the IT systems involved. This work has been complemented by a visit from the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs experts in Births, Deaths and Marriages registrations in late November/early December. The visit will add to the ISP's knowledge of the area and enable more improvements to the processes and

systems. As New Zealand is the biggest community of Samoan's outside Samoa, the information from the registrations is also used in New Zealand and a good relationship between the two registration agencies will help both countries.

Development of Migration statistics

Migration Statistics are core to planning in Samoa's tourism industry. The Institutional Strengthening Programme has been working with the Bureau's Social Statistics Division, Samoa Tourism Authority and the Immigration Division of the Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet to review the processes for the collection of these statistics to improve their quality and accuracy. These statistics are based on the Arrival and Departure cards that are completed by people arriving in or departing from Samoa. The main issues with the statistics arise from cards that are missing or incomplete. Team members visited the Faleolo Airport to view the process at the largest point of collection, and talked to staff from the Immigration Division, Customs and the Ministry of Agriculture's Quarantine Division to understand what happens to the cards and how people might be encouraged to complete the cards more accurately.

Dissemination of Statistics

The ISP Statistical Management Advisor carried out further training on good statistical reporting and disseminating statistics. The Samoa National Statistics System Policy on Dissemination of Statistics is currently being translated into Samoan and should be available for all users and producers of statistics shortly.

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Institutional Strengthening Program Cont'd

IT Systems for the Bureau

The Bureau is critically dependent on its IT systems to ensure both the availability and the security of the data which is collected in census and surveys and through the BDM processes. During December the ISP IT Specialist worked with the IT team to develop a Five-year IT strategy for the Bureau. Hardware, software and network system needs were identified and a procurement plan was prepared, funding for this is expected to come partly from the ISP and other development partners and partly from the government.

SBS advice on statistical activities

The Bureau of Statistics has a mandate to support statistical activities and services in Samoa. In this role we can sometimes offer help in various aspects of the design and carrying out of activities being undertaken by other agencies, and in providing information about best practise and international standards. If you or your agency are involved in the development or use of statistics

about Samoa, contact us to see if we can help. Even if we can't help now, we would like to hear from you, to help us understand your needs and how we can develop our services in the future.

Agriculture Census Analytical Report Writing Workshop

The Economic Statistics division with the assistance of the ISP team held a one week workshop for the Agriculture Census report write up which involved staff from the Ministries of Agriculture & Fisheries (MAF), Finance (MOF) and Women (MWCSD) as well as senior officers of the Bureau. Seven groups were appointed each with a chapter to analyze which were then put together to produce the final report.

Introduction of the ICP (International Comparison Program) in Samoa

The ICP aims to develop purchasing power parity (PPP's) measures that allow robust comparisons of

GDP, for example, between countries

- The ACEO and Principal Officer of the Economic division attended the ICP workshop in Suva Fiji.
- The week long workshop aimed to gather together 18 island countries from the Pacific region to discuss and agree on a list of products and services to be priced quarterly in each individual country.
- Preparations have been well under way in Samoa laying the ground work for actual price collection for the 1st quarter, which is to begin February 13th 2012.
- A validation workshop will be held in late March where the 18 Pacific island countries will meet again to validate the 1st quarter data collected to ensure accuracy moving forward.

Government Statistician Reappointed



“A genuine leader is not a searcher of consensus but a molder of consensus”

Muagututia Sefuiva Reupena was officially reappointed by cabinet as Government Statistician for another term of three years.

In Brief...

Findings and Indicators disseminated in November and December 2011 includes:

International Arrival Statistics

(December 2011 compared with December 2010)

- Total Arrivals (18,400) decreased by 19%
- Total Visitor Arrivals (15,300) also decreased by 16%
- 6,400 visitors from New Zealand, down 12%
- 4,000 visitors from Australia, down 20%
- 700 visitors from USA, down 33%
- 3,200 visitors from American Samoa, down 17%

Consumer Price Index

- The All Items Consumer Price Index in December registered an increase of 2.3 % from November but was 11.4 % higher compared to December 2010.
- The All Items Underlying Index in December decreased by 0.1 % from November but was 1.9 % higher than December 2010.

Fugalei Market Survey

- Due to limited rainfall and hot weather condition in November, overall supply to the market decreased 52% while average prices increased 64 %.
- In December, a slight increase of 9 % was recorded when compared to November but was 39 % lower when compared to December 2010.



Graph 1
SUPPLY AND PRICE INDICES BY MONTH**
(2010 = 100)

