

Samoa Bureau of Statistics

Newsletter

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SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Scanning Technology** that the Samoa Bureau of Statistics will adopt for the 2011 Census
- **Business Activity Survey 2008/2009**
- **FAI MEA FIAFIA**

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Agricultural Census 2009

The last and only Agricultural census for Samoa was conducted ten years ago in 1999.

No doubt, it provided vital information not only on the status of the sector at the time, but also assisted in policy formulation for the improvement of the sector.

However, changes in the sector must have occurred in the last ten year brought about by developments that have been undertaken, improvements in technology and natural disasters. Hence this information needs to be updated and an Agricultural Census is therefore necessary to collect such

information.

The data to be collected relates to the following:

At the Household level

- A. Household composition
- B. Level of agricultural activity of the household
- C. Livestock, Poultry and Domestic Animals
- D. Fisheries
- E. Agriculture Equipments
- F. Consumption of major crops
- G. Forestry

At the Holding Level

- A. Number of Holdings and Method of Operation

B. Area of Holdings and Land Tenure

- C. Labor Inputs
- D. Household agricultural income and credit
- E. Use of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals
- F. Crops grown and Crop Use



The consultation with the village mayors on the execution of the Agricultural Census

Government Finance Statistics

Gross Domestic Product estimates for the September quarter 2009 has been released and is available on the SBS website. December Quarter 2009 together with the annual estimates for 2009 will be released on the 30th of March. A presentation will be held to disseminate the accounts, and key stakeholders will be invited to this workshop.

Government Finance Statistics for the 1st quarter 2009/10 is now available on the website, with the first six months analysis coming out before the end of March

GDP compiled using the Expenditure approach (GDP(E)) for information is of significant importance in providing an alternative measure of GDP. This

gives data users an opportunity to assess reliability and accuracy of the GDP data when compared to published GDP production. FSD, under its developments is working on refining and improving the GDP (E) framework, to enable the provision of this important indicator in the very near future.

Census and Households Surveys



Consultation during the Demographic and Health Survey

“The Report will feature a lot of health statistics pertaining to fertility, mortality, reproductive health...”

DHS 2009-2010

The Census and Household Survey (CHS) division worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, World Bank, UNFPA and Macro-

International in the conduct and implementation of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) from June—December 2009. As of January 2010, all partners continued this partnership on the analysis of the DHS results and writing of the final survey report.

Dr Gulnara Semenov who is the International Health Specialist of Macro International is in Apia (8-19th February 2010) and is currently working with selected staffs of MOH and CHS staffs in the compilation of the DHS report. The report will feature a lot of health statistics pertaining to fertility, mortality, reproductive health, family planning, immunization

coverage and a lot more. Ruilin Ren who is the Sampling Statistician of Macro International will also conduct the training on the DHS Sampling Weights on the 15th -26th of March 2010 at SBS. This training will greatly improve the knowledge and skills of the CHS division in the implementation of their sampling selection techniques

Samoa Labour Mobility Survey (SLMS) 2008—2009

In October 2008, the CHS division signed a partnership with the University of Waikato under the leadership of Professor John Gibson of the Department of Economics in the conduct and implementation of the SLMS. The preliminary report was released this week to SBS (15/02/2010) from Professor Gibson showing interesting results of the impact of seasonal and offshore employment in New Zealand. Professor Richard Bedford of Waikato University also visited on the 16/02/2010

and briefly discussed the report with the Government Statistician and ACEO of CHS.

A request was also made to follow up offshore employment in the up-coming Population & Housing Census in November 2011.

Installment of the SPSSv18/PASW software for data analysis in February 2010

In an effort to improve and strengthen the capacity of data analysis of census and household survey data, the CHS division committed a huge amount of funds to purchase a very powerful PASW (Predictive Analysis Software) to carry out its data processing work. The software is on SBS network so that any one of the SBS staffs will have access to its use. Since a lot of statistical offices worldwide and research organizations are using this software, SBS staffs will

Snippets during the Agricultural Census. Coco-nuts and Cattle Farm



Agricultural Census from front page

At the Parcel level

A. Details of individual plots such as area of the crops grown, crops grown, method of sowing, proportion

of mixed crops, number of

scattered plants or trees and age in years of Tree crops

B. Crops planted and harvested during the twelve months 2009.

We are in the data entry phase of the Agricultural Census and we were encouraged by the response by the

general public, hence the people were very supportive of this government initiative.

We will publish the results once the final analysis and reporting phase is complete and it will be posted on both our Office's Newsletter and also on our Website.

Government Finance Statistics from front page



Gov-
ernment Finance Statistics is one of the macroeconomic set of accounts used to assess the performance of the Fiscal Sector. Whilst the framework (GFS Manual 1986) that we are currently using is still viable, it lacks a substantial amount of detail information that is needed by most of our users especially the Ministry of Finance and International Institutions like the International Monetary Fund and others for budget monitoring, fiscal analysis in comparability with other countries and also the development of expenditure based GDP estimates. FSD in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance

have been working closely with experts from the IMF PFTAC in trying to compile Government Finance Statistics using the GFS 2001 Manual during the financial year 2009/10. The framework is in its final stage, and is likely to release the first set of data as provisional (GFSM2001) in the December quarter.

Industrial Production Survey is now one of the core activities of the FSD. FSD staffs have been working together with the CBS staff during the transition period (last 6 months). It is a new experience and would give the staff a lot of challenges and at the same time a lot of opportunities to learn more about statistics and its related activities. Questionnaires were dispatched on the 16th February for the month of January 2010 and expected to be received after 10 working days

FSD will be conducting the **Business**

Activity Survey 2008/09 in April – May 2009. The main purpose of this survey is:

1. To provide new benchmark data for the National Accounts
2. To provide basic data for the redevelopment of the Industrial Production Index
3. To provide data for

a partial measure of the contribution of tourism to the Samoan economy

The survey will cover all businesses except for Government Ministries. This very important exercise has been started, and consultations with the major stakeholders will be conducted from the 22nd to 28th of February 2010. Enumeration is planned to start in April and completed in May 2010.

“...would give the staff a lot of challenges and at the same time a lot of opportunities to learn...”

enjoy the same software knowledge.

The training on the application of the software is scheduled to the last week of March 2010 and will be carried out by the SPSS Trainer from New Zealand with the ACEO of CHS as the local counterpart.

Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2011

The CHS division is currently in preparation for the up-coming PHC in November 7th 2011 and working very closely with the Secretariat for Pacific Communities in Noumea (SPC). For the first time in history, SBS will join other statistical organizations in the use of the **Scanning technology** to capture and process questionnaire data hence moving away from manual data entry and coding to scan data processing. The

main goal is to reduce the usual 12 months data entry and edits for census and survey data by more than 50 percent.

The new technology is no doubt very costly but the availability of timely data for policy and decision making is higher priority. For instance, in times of natural disaster like the tsunami in September 29 last year, SBS was the main provider of household information in the villages to policy-makers not only for distribution of aid and help but also registration of births and deaths. It is vital that such information are always available on also up-to-date.

The first training by SPC in relation to the Scanning technology and digital mapping will be conducted on the 8th – 12th of March 2010 at SBS. The visiting TA is Mr Scott Pontifex who is the GIS

Specialist of Census and Surveys at SPC. The CHS division is hosting this training.

The Computer Manager (Ponifasio Vasa) and the Senior IT Officer (Livigisitone Nuusila) are also scheduled to travel to Vanuatu in the first week of March 2010, to observe the Scanning technology which had been used by the Statistics Office of Vanuatu in their census in November last year. This trip is funded by SBS in the hope that it will expose our local staff to the new technology and learn how to use it in Samoa.



Consultation phase in preparation for the Agricultural Census, 2009.



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

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TO STRENGTHEN THE STATISTICAL SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAMOA

MANDATE:

1. THE STATISTICS ACT 1971
2. MINISTERIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL ACT 2003
3. BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGES ACT 2002
4. PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT 2001 AND AMENDMENT 2005
5. STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SAMOA
6. CABINET DIRECTIVES
7. PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES
8. PSC ACT 2004 AND AMENDMENT 2007



CAPACITY BUILDING

The **Economic Statistician** from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Mr Alick Nyasulu has been in country for his first visit since the appointment. The visit was more on scoping, and to conduct a general assessment of the economic statistics development and needs for Samoa. The visit would provide the SPC an inside of the statistical needs of the Bureau, though a road map for training and technical assistance. During the visit, SBS staffs of the Economic and Finance Statistics divisions also benefitted from the one day training on Price and Volume indices. More trainings are expected as part of the bureaus capacity building.

Talaimalo Simanu and Folavale Soomalii of the Census and Households Survey Division are

in Japan on a six months training under the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

The participants will;

1.Acquire knowledge and techniques in statistical survey methods, economic statistics, demographic and social statistics including Millennium Development Goals through lectures, practical exercises and interactions.

2.Acquire training skills and develop and action plan to impart their acquired knowledge to colleagues in their organization upon returning to their home countries



SBS Social Committee's Corner

Social Committee Members

- Leota Aliielua Salani
- Tofilau Lae Siliva
- Lewis Sinclair
- Siaumau Misela
- Seemu Aii
- Toese Ue-lese

President Leota Aliielua Salani and his team is prioritizing selecting a new uniform for the Bureau and also setting social activities the office to employ during celebrated dates on the calendar such as the National Health Day (as Lakena indicates in the photo) and also noted dates in the Government Calendar.



The newly elected Social Committee for 2010 has begun its activities for the year. The theme for the year is **"FAI MEA FIAFIA"**.