



NEWSLETTER



Official launch of the HIES 2013/2014



The 2013/2014 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) is the fourth such survey conducted by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics since the first one in 1997. The 2013/14 HIES collected information on Income and Expenditure of each sampled household in order to provide information on the economic characteristics of all households in Samoa.

The main objectives of this survey are:

- **CPI re-base** [to obtain expenditure weights, review the “basket of goods and services,” understand where people purchase goods and services, and other useful data for the revision of the Consumer Price Index.]
- **Hardship Analysis** [to provide data to determine the extent of hardship and vulnerability of households in Samoa.]
- **National Accounts** [to supplement the data available for use in compiling official estimates of household accounts in the systems of national accounts.]

This undertaking was funded by the Government of Samoa, with technical assistance provided by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

(FAO). FAO provided technical assistance through the services of Mr Gene Loriga, a data processing expert and Mr Laupua Fit, National Consultant who assisted in the data cleaning, verification, production of the required statistical tables and compiling this report.

Preparations for the Census 2016



The 15th of February 2016 marks the continuation of the third phase of the Census-Survey and Demography preparations for the Population and Housing Census 2016. SBS staff and hired enumerators were divided into 3 teams. The major goal of these teams is to update the 2011 household lists and to continue to use the newest GPS (Global Positioning System) devices (Garmin 62s and Oregon 650 touchscreen) for mapping purposes when covering Upolu Island. The 3 teams were led by Taiaopo Faumuina, Junior Ah Yen and Lewis Sinclair and were allocated at different coverage areas targeted for this project. The Household list and GPS update for Upolu Island is scheduled to finish around May 2016 as Savaii household and GPS listing was completed on the 8th December 2015.



Training Programme on the SEEA



The In-person phase of the Training Programme on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework for Asia and the Pacific, jointly organized by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) with assistance of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of the Government of Japan was held in Chiba (SIAP Headquarters), Japan from the 23-26 February 2016. Senior statistician Mose Topeto from Social Statistics Division and Semo Fepuleai from Division of Census-Surveys and Demography attended this training.

The purpose of the training program: (i) to help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs for compiling environmental-economic accounts according to the SEEA Central Framework; (ii) to facilitate experience sharing among Asia and Pacific countries; and (iii) to support countries to set up a strategy and work plan for the SEEA implementation.



Public Sector Project Management Training

The course on Project Management provided with the co-operation of the Government of Australia, the Gov-

ernment of New Zealand and the Government of Samoa, under the Samoa In-Country Training Programme. It was held in March 7—11th March 2016 at level 2 of Public Services Commission (PSC) conference room. Si-laulii M Leupolu (senior staff) from the division of Economic Statistics Division attended this training.

The workshop was conducted by Susan Piket from Barbican Training Centre Ltd in Nelson, New Zealand. The main objectives of the course are to (i) describe what project management is and how to apply to their work in the Smart Performance Strategies (SPS), (ii) explain and apply the key principals of project management to the work in the SPS, (iii) explain and apply the project management life cycle to their work in the SPS, (iv) develop a framework for project management and (v) demonstrate an ability to manage the scope a project.



PSC In-country Training on Effective Leadership

The Office of the Public Service Commission (PSC) conducted four half day's workshops on Effective Leaderships. The program was designed by the PSC in response to the need for those in Leadership Level to learn and improve some aspects of being a good effective leader within workplaces. This training is recognized under the SQA framework for non-formal education. Invitations were distributed to all Government ministries and Public Enterprises and Ponifasio Vasa attended on behalf of the Bureau of Statistics.



Civil Registration & Vital Statistics in the Pacific Islands:



United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) organised the Seminar on “Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Pacific Islands: Standards, best practice, and lessons learnt” and it was held in Noumea from 22 – 25 February. The objectives were to share experiences in improving CRVS across the Pacific from the last 4 years of the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan in order to:

- Build support for CRVS across the region,
- Encourage countries to ensure CRVS is linked to national plans, and
- Share actions and strategies that may be useful for other countries in reaching their CRVS improvement targets.

To share national CRVS commitments to improving CRVS, and encourage countries those have not done so to set targets in line with the Regional Action Framework and to move forward regional actions to support CRVS such as a regional IT approaches, and legislation best practice guidelines.

Participants were from Civil Registration, National Statistics Offices and Health Offices. Deputy Civil Registrar Ponifasio Vasa from the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Division as well as the Rumanusina Maua, the ACEO of Health Information and ICT from Ministry of Health represented Samoa in this Meeting.



Recognizing the importance of Effective Communication

“Recognizing the importance of Effective Communication in various situations”, was one of the objectives of a one week course conducted by the Public Service Commission (PSC) from the 25th to the 29th of January 2016. The training aimed to improve interpersonal skills by understanding personalities and their preferred communication styles, identifying active and constructive processes, and using positive statements to lead people towards positive actions.

The training was offered by the commission for various Government Ministries and Corporations as part of the ongoing process of managing and prioritizing effective communications within the workplace. Mr David Uaine of the Social Statistics Division attended this one week training and was awarded a certificate of completion. In relation to implementing and putting outcomes of the training into use, Mr. Uaine presented in front of the Bureau on the 17th of March and was considered to be a very fruitful and informative presentation which not only informed new recruits on the issues, but also served as a refresher for most of the staff.



Registered BDM Events

Table 1. Total Number of Registered BDM events by Month and Sex, 2016

2016	Births			Deaths			Marriages
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Month							
January	1454	759	695	115	63	52	240
February	916	464	452	225	117	108	186
March	562	291	271	310	191	119	199
Total	2932	1514	1418	650	371	279	625

Source: BDM Lifedata System

Table 1 depicts the total number of registration from January to March this year regardless of when the events occurred. The number of registered births increase in January as the School calendar year normally starts towards the end of January to early February; so as the Marriage recorded number whereby most of that events happening during the festive season.

Table 2. Total Number of Registered BDM events by Sex and Month of Occurrence, 2016

2016	Births			Deaths			Marriages
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Month							
January	123	58	65	76	36	39	92
February	100	57	43	74	35	39	52
March	48	29	19	76	41	35	52
Total	271	144	127	226	112	113	196

Source: BDM Lifedata System

Table 2 shows the total number of registration on the same month of its occurrence. In comparison with Table 1, it shows the high rate of late registration and ignorance mindset of our people to prioritize other things over the registration of these vital events; and they only come to register them only when there's a need. It still shows the same pattern as Table 1 in terms of Births and Marriages registrations on the month of January despite the number have gone down.

Internal Office Presentation on Training outcomes



Mose Topeto (Social Stats-I) & Semo Fepulea'i (Census Survey-R) presentation on System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) David Uaine (Social Stats-M) presentation on Effective Communication.

On the 17th of March, three of our staff members presented and shared their knowledge in front of the Bureau based on the trainings they have participated. This was held at the Government Building MFMMII, Level 4.

Upcoming Events

The **Certificate in Official Statistics programme** which was conducted the 1st Unit in March and 2nd Unit in August and mid-May for tutor session will complete next month. The proposed overall commitment time to deliver was six weeks and the duration of three months for individual and group assignment and major project of the Course.

So far we have received 12 certificates courier from the Statistics NZ in Wellington for recognition. The National Statistics of Tokelau Islands show appreciation and appreciation to both the Samoa Bureau and NZ Statistics for carrying out this course tremendously. Our hopes by next month in April the Samoa Bureau will organise a small ceremony to invite government ministries, State Own Enterprises and Corporations through Line Managers and Candidates who were ambassadors in this important event.

CPI, Trade, IPI & Volume Indicators

CPI JANUARY 2016

- Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels increased by 9.4 percent
- The Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages index also increased by 5.6 percent
- The Average Annual Inflation for the year ended January 2016 was 0.6 percent.

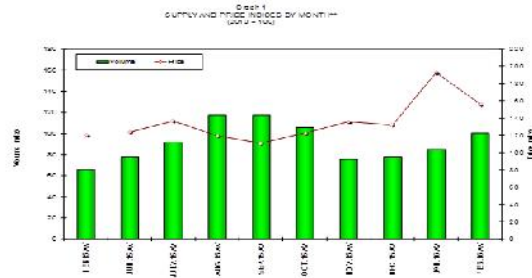
CPI MARCH 2016

- The Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages index increased by 0.9 percent
- Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels decreased by 4.9 percent.
- Transport index also increase by 0.7 percent.
- The Average Annual Inflation for the year ended

March 2016 was 0.3 percent

LOCAL MARKET

The monthly survey of Agriculture food supplies at the Local Markets by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics in February 2016 showed an 18 percent increase in overall volume from January 2016. Significant increase for most local produce like taro, Chinese cabbages and pumpkin supplies contributed positively to the rise in the volume index. When compared with the same month last year, current supply was 53 percent higher.



MERCHANDISE TRADE

February 2016

- Exports were valued at \$8.5 million
- Imports were valued at \$75.5 million
- There was a trade deficit of \$66.9 million

January 2016

- Exports were valued at \$11.1 million
- Imports were valued at \$74.5 million
- There was a trade deficit of \$63.6 million

The graph below shows the monthly changes for the February 2016 over the January 2016.



For more information:

LOCATION & CONTACT

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info.stats@sbs.gov.ws

Website address:

www.sbs.gov.ws

BDM, Ground Floor
Development Bank of Samoa
Phone: (685) 32157/51532
Apia/Savaii, SAMOA

Staff Appointment:

The SBS WELCOMES the new staff:

Corporate Services Division

Suisami Faamanu Tanielu: Senior Human Resource Officer
Afioga Latuivai: Receptionist
Veta Tasolo: Tea Lady

Economics Division

Litala Talaifono: Statistical Clerk—Trade
Legatasia Auvae—Statistical Officer—Price

ICT & Data Processing Division

Taofi Akeripa—Key Punch Operator

Social Statistics Division

Faigalotu Taamilosaga: Senior Statistician—Migration
Baby Tavita: Statistical Officer
Nili Faaua Alo: Statistical Clerk