

NEWSLETTER



Oct - Dec 2015

Statistical Literacy Workshop



The Division of Census-Surveys and Demography in collaboration with UNICEF coordinated a Data Literacy workshop from the 14th – 15th December 2015 in Apia at the Central Bank conference which invited representatives from other ministries and staff from the Census-Surveys and Demography Division. The 2 day workshop aimed to build capacity in statistical literacy and use the data to support child-relevant planning, decision making and advocacy for Samoa.

In addition, the Samoa Bureau of Statistics to have an idea of creating its Equity Atlas and Liquidation from selected indicators in the published Demographic and Health Survey 2014. The workshop was conducted by Asenaca Vakacegu and Luse Uluitavuki from UNICEF Pacific.



Official launch of the 2013 BAS Report



This 2013 Business Activity Survey (BAS) was conducted from March – October 2015, it was a joint initiative between the Ministry of Commerce Industry & Labour (MCIL) and the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS). Following the completion of the tabulation of the BAS results in September, the last phase of the survey was implemented; the report. The report was drafted and put together mainly by the survey

Technical Advisor, Mr Silafau Paul Meredith and ACEO, Mr Leota Aliielua Salani with the assistance from the Finance Statistics Division (FSD).

On 12th November 2015, Minister for the Bureau, His Honourable Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell delivered the keynote address during the launch of the 2013 Business Activity Survey Report held at the Samoa Traditional Resort, Ululoloa. Reverend Kirisimasi Sani blessed the occasion with a prayer and words of wisdom. This great milestone was witnessed by stakeholders, the Trade Commerce and Manufacturing Sector, the business community as well as government ministries & corporations who were involved in the survey and interested in the results. Hard copies of the report were distributed during the launching and an e-copy was uploaded on the website on the same day. The intention was to widely disseminate the results to the Business Community as an acknowledgement of their cooperation throughout the survey because without their support these statistics would not have been possible.

The results obtained from the BAS now provide:

- 1) Baseline data for the Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing Sector
- 2) Essential data and crucial economic ratios on the structure of the economy for the review and update of National Accounts Benchmarks.
- 3) Benchmarks for the Industrial Production Index

His Honourable thanked the Enhance Integrated Framework (EIF) on behalf of the Government of Samoa for providing the financial support for the 2013 Business Activity Survey. He also congratulated the Government Statistician and his staff who were involved in the planning and implementation of this vital survey. The BAS is conducted every five years and it heavily depends on the availability of funds in order for it to be carried out.



Civil Registration Vital Workshop



Training of Sui Tamaitai o Nuu (STN) and Sui o le Malo (SM) on New Birth Advise Form (B10). The purpose of Report provides the update on the "Training of STN and SM on New Birth Advise Form (B10)" held from 14th - 16th for Upolu and 22nd - 23rd October, 2015 for Savaii.

The Civil Registration Vital Statistics relies heavily on the information provided by informants. The final registration is the important part which ensures that the information is registered by the office of the registrar. Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS), Health Sector thru Ministry of Health (MOH) and National Health Services (NHS), Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO) are all key stakeholders of the CRVS system. The close collaboration of these stakeholders secures the information in CRVS.

Training Objectives:

- To explain the newly design B10 (birth advise form) to STN and SM to improve registration
- To encourage STN and SM to continue to work together with informant (Traditional Birth Attendant) to provide relevant and accurate information needed for registration;

Training was conducted from 14th - 16th October, for Upolu and 22nd to 23rd October for Savaii. The training was a collaborative effort between SBS-BDM and MWCSO. This programme was made possible thru financial support from WHO thru MOH (CRVS Steering Committee Key member)

MWCSO provided an informative presentation on the mandated role of Sui o le Malo in relations to birth notification. SBS - BDM presented on the newly design birth notification form (B10). The participants consists of 95 % of STN from Savaii and 90% of SM as well as STN from Upolu.

Follow up training is schedule for next year and are part of on-going community awareness program when new members are registered as informants of CRVS.

Debriefing sessions was also held amongst the coordination ministries to ensure that minor changes suggested to the newly designed B10 are taken into consideration.

Note the report for reference of the use of funding allocated under CRVS initiatives; Continuous collaboration amongst the stakeholders to support and strengthen CRVS.

2nd Regional Training course on Sampling Methods

The training on Sample Methods was held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia from the 9th - 20th November 2015, and was funded by Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). Principal statistician from Division of Census-Surveys and Demography, Lewis Sinclair attended this training. The main objective of the course was to provide technical guidance on the selection and application of appropriate sampling methods for producing the minimum set of core data items for agricultural and rural statistics.



Specifically, the objectives of the course are to (i) examine the minimum set of core data items for agricultural and rural statistics in the context of the application of sampling methods for data collection and production of associated statistics and indicators and, (ii) increase capability of participants in designing sample surveys for production of agricultural and rural statistics.



Census 2016 Preparation

The Division of Census-Surveys and Demography continued its preparation for the upcoming Census 2016 and was able to complete its second phase from the 16th November to the 8th December in updating the 2011 household lists and GPS (Global Positioning System) for the remaining Savaii districts. The 3 teams were allocated at different coverage areas and they were able to use the newest GPS devices Garmin 62s and Oregon 650 (touchscreen) for mapping purposes. The third phase will commence in February 2016 covering the whole of Upolu Island.



Training Brief Report

Three participants from the Samoa Bureau of Statistics attended a two week training that was held at Tanoa Hotel in Suva Fiji. It was funded by the Government of Japan in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The two weeks training was a chance for the Samoan participants to enhance their capacity in compiling fiscal statistics using the new Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014.

Furthermore, it was to provide them with comprehensive skills suitable for analyzing and evaluating fiscal statistics and able to report on the performance of the central government using the GFSM 2001 framework. The main focus and objectives of the training were to:

- Provide participants with sound knowledge on compiling Government Finance Statistics in compliance with the new GFSM 2014
- Harmonize GFS classifications with other macroeconomic framework guidelines
- Introduce the new IMF standardised questionnaire (in excel format) to participants for ease of future correspondence

There were 5 participating regional countries namely Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Fiji. It was a chance for all participants to raise concerns or questions on the newly introduced framework and how it can be implemented within each country using the existing statistical systems. Samoa gave a presentation on its GFS status on the second day of the training. It was highlighted that, the close collaborations and strong networks between the Bureau and its major stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Samoa with assistance provided by many IMF experts were the main drivers to Samoa's success.

Registered BDM Events by Gender 2015

Table 1 depicts the total number of all registered events in 2015 regardless of the occurrence date, month and year. It is normal in birth registration every year that January and April recorded the highest numbers due to the start of the School calendar year as well as the due date for NZ Quota Scheme.

Table 1. Total Number of Registered BDM Events by Gender, 2015

2015	Births			Deaths			Marriages
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
January	1286	674	612	73	35	38	151
February	666	370	296	79	53	26	106
March	721	377	344	114	63	51	165
April	1542	812	730	68	33	35	251
May	490	243	247	112	73	39	151
June	503	250	253	151	95	56	151
July	688	334	354	99	52	47	202
August	405	202	203	102	54	48	200
September	422	205	217	77	39	38	222
October	491	241	250	87	45	42	197
November	546	276	270	90	48	42	210
December	329	169	160	60	35	25	116
Total	8089	4153	3936	1112	625	487	2122

Source: BDM Life Data System

Table 2 shows the recorded number of all BDM events in 2015 by month of occurrence. This table accounts for only the ordinary records.

Table 2. Total Number of Registered BDM events by Gender and Month of Occurrence, 2015

2015	Births			Deaths			Marriages
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
January	202	107	95	57	34	23	87
February	229	119	110	68	37	31	56
March	234	118	116	68	36	32	63
April	237	126	111	53	27	26	72
May	208	104	104	59	36	23	58
June	197	106	91	74	42	32	65
July	170	79	91	64	35	29	85
August	157	88	69	71	37	34	79
September	157	77	80	66	36	30	85
October	108	54	54	61	28	33	70
November	129	64	65	59	27	32	66
December	118	61	57	61	36	25	79
Total	2146	1103	1043	761	411	350	865

Source: BDM Life Data System

Induction Training for New Recruit

The Annual Induction Program was held on the 26th November 2015, took place on our office conference room level 2, whereas four (4) staff attended this training, David Uaine, Baby Tavita, Atulia Lavea and John Talavou. The training session focuses on briefing new staff to have a sound knowledge in the PSC Working and Entitlement Manual 2009 and also delivering mandatory functions of the Bureau itself, which covers the Vision and Mission, Principles and guiding Values from the Corporate Plan 2012-2016.

Certificate were presented to them at the end of the session, all 4(four) participants sign oath of secrecy as requirements. We hope for more staff to be inducted this year and once again Welcome to the Bureau of Statistics, to the new recruits.

AGRICULTURE SURVEY 2015

Enumerators Training

The Agriculture survey training for enumerators was conducted on the 13th to 23rd October 2015. There were 30 enumerators hired for this activity. This training was to teach them of the concepts, know how to fill in the questionnaires and practiced their interviewing skills.

Field work

The Agriculture survey field work took place on the following week after the two weeks training which lasted four weeks (26th October—20th November 2015). There were four teams of 1 supervisor, 2 team leaders and 8 enumerators covering all four regions simultaneously.

International Arrival Statistics

December 2015 compared with **December 2014**:

- Total Arrivals (21,898) increased by 11.6 percent
- Total Visitors (17,686) increased by 9.6 percent
- 7,365 visitors from New Zealand, up by 18.7%
- 5,304 visitors from Australia, up by 8.9%
- 2,508 visitors from American Samoa, down by 11.8%
- 986 visitors from USA, up by 29.4%

CPI, Trade, IPI & Volume Indicators

CPI December 2015

- Special prices for Christmas holiday for airline fare (Apia-Pago-Apia) and lower prices for petrol are reflected in the 1.1 percent decrease in the Transport index.
- The Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages index also increase by 3.0 percent.
- Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco index increased by 0.1 percent. The Average Annual Inflation for the year ended December 2015 was 0.7 percent

CPI November 2015

- The Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages index increased by 1.6 percent
- Transport index decline by 4.7 percent. The Average Annual Inflation for the year ended November 2015 was 2.1 percent.

LOCAL MARKET

The monthly survey of Agricultural food supplies at the Local Markets by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics in December 2015 showed overall volume increase by 1 percent from November. Significant increases were recorded for all agricultural produce with the exception of taro, ta'amu, Chinese cabbage and cucumber supplies. When compared to December 2014, current supply was 32 percent lower.

MERCHANDISE TRADE

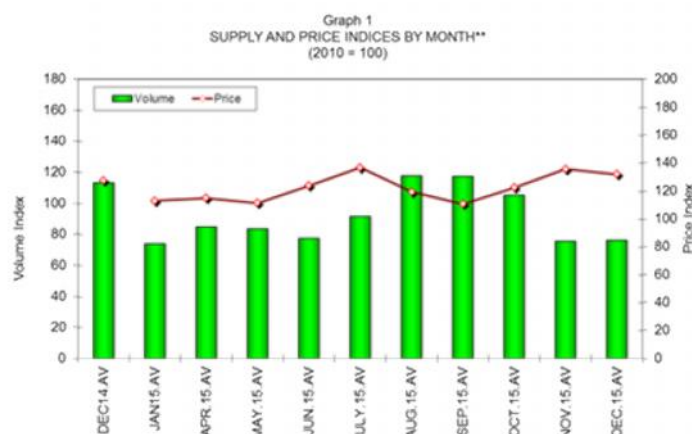
Highlights of the December quarter 2015

- ◆ Exports value fell 13.5 percent to \$38.8 million from the September 2015 quarter.
- ◆ Imports value rose 2 percent to \$227.4 million from the September 2015 quarter
- ◆ There was a trade deficit of \$188.6 million.

IMPORT PRICE INDEX

Highlights of the December quarter 2015

- ◆ Import price index fell 4.9 percent from the September 2015 quarter
- ◆ Mineral Products prices recorded the largest decrease (down 14.9 percent).



The table below shows the percentage changes for the December 2015 quarter over the September 2015 quarter.

IMPORT PRICE INDEX			
Base Quarter: March Quarter 2009 = 100.0			
Descriptions	Quarter		% Change
	Sep-15	Dec-15	Dec 15 / Sep 15
Animal Products	111.4	107.5	-3.5%
Vegetable Products	78.1	79.0	1.2%
Fats & Oils	88.1	84.3	-4.3%
Food and Beverages	92.9	93.8	1.0%
Mineral Products	121.9	103.7	-14.9%
TOTAL, ALL GROUPS	98.5	93.7	-4.9%

For more info:

LOCATION & CONTACT

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Visit us on our website for more detailed data needs/send us an email:

Email address: info.stats@sbs.gov.ws
Website address: www.sbs.gov.ws

Staff Appointments:

The SBS WELCOMES the new/promoted staff:

Corporate Services Division:

Faava Lineta Gasolo—Executive Assistant

BDM Savaii Office:

Ofeira Tooala—Cashier
Mataio Lotovale—Registry Officer

Social Statistics Division:

David Nomerreta Uaine—Statistical Clerk
Shammah Luteru—Statistical Officer
Tanielu Isara—Principal Statistician Migration Officer

Economics Statistics Division:

Laveaina Loia—Statistical Officer (CPI & ICP)
Siata Ulu Faamoe—Senior Statistician (Prices)

Census Statistics Division:

Ken Faafo—Census & Survey Officer
Lewis Sinclair—Principal Statistician Census & Survey

IT Division:

Alesana Ioane—Senior IT Officer
Teutele Banse—Information System Officer
Lise Vaioulu—Webmaster & Dissemination Officer