

# NEWSLETTER



July - Sept 2015

## Public Service Day 2015



Celebrating and recognizing the public sector's contribution and service into achieving the national development of Samoa, The Samoa Bureau of Statistics was involved in this year's theme, **Celebrating the Public Service in Samoa**. This annual event was held on the 25th September 2015, and the 4th time it commemorates.

Also on this day, commemorates and showcase the public service innovation and excellence awards ceremony, The SBS was nominated under 5 categories, but only two categories where we were awarded, such as the for individual categories Mrs. Aliimuamua Malaefono Taaloga she receives the **Organisational Development and Capacity Building Initiative**, awards and under the Team Categories, the ICT Division was awarded with the **Use of technology/ Information Management Systems Initiatives**.



ACFO Census awarded—Organisational Development & Capacity Building Initiative



ACFO ICT awarded—Use of Technology/Information Management Systems

Another important event on that special day, was the exhibition (Booths) for Government Ministries and Public Bodies which held at the TATTE Building. There were 30 agencies with SBS that par-

ticipated to raise awareness of the services they/ we provide to the public and any new development they/ we had wanted to publicized. The exhibition is an aim for the PASP under its annual activity promoting the role of Government to its citizen.

## Certificate of Official Statistics



The August session was the final Unit for the course, **Certificate of Official Statistics**, where the New Zealand Statistics and the Samoa Bureau of Statistics with assistance from the Tokelau Statistics raise awareness to conduct a formal training duration of two working weeks (10 days) to educate and train not only SBS staff but public servants from other Government Ministries and SOE's. The purpose is to give great emphasis to the crucial use of Official Statistics in the Public Service. The course invited all middle management level and analyst or advisors (Statisticians) across 20 agencies, In the beginning there were 26 participants however along the period of 6 weeks two applicants withdrew/ the course and did not attend this last Unit of the Course due to official reasons.

Two new lecturers/ tutors from the NZ stats was introduce during the Government Statistician Afioga Muagututi'a Sefuiva Reupena key note at the opening of this Final Session. Ms. Te Ao Walker and Mr Daniel Griffiths were the new lecturers by the side with Emma Mawby and Kirsti Rawstron. The course was held on 17th August to 28th August 2015.

For this course to completed, all participants must complete one major project and 2 units of assignments in order to pass and receive this certificate (NZQA).

## Business Activity Survey 2013

The **Business Activity Survey (BAS)** was the main focus of the Finance Statistics Division throughout the year 2015. With the recent completion of the other phases of the survey like the enumeration and collection of more than 50% of the questionnaires distributed, activities in the September 2015 quarter were concentrated on the Editing and Data processing phases which include the following activities:

- Final collection of questionnaires that have yet to receive

- Verified and checked in house before passed on to more stringent level of editing
- Conducted call backs where possible
- Editing/Imputation included cross checks with other data sources
- Data Entry
- Tabulation

The targeted response rate which was set at 75% was achieved; whilst special attention was given to ensure that coverage and representation were sufficiently high for the specific targeted survey group being manufacturers and commerce as to meet the data requirement of the principal users.

The high response rate was evident of the improved working relationship and trust built amongst the private sector and the Bureau in sharing information. The Finance Statistics Division with the support of the Technical Assistance, Mr Silafau Paul Meredith conducted the verification, editing and entering the responses in the system. Verification was done to the returned questionnaires before it was accepted for data processing. Imputation was also conducted using other sources available. Data entry which was conducted by the FSD was followed when all the BAS questionnaires were marked 'OK'. The questionnaire was entered twice as to reduce the risk of human errors in the data entry process.

By the end of September 2015, the tabulation was ready from the data that was entered into the system and the BAS report to be ready by October.

INDUSTRIES	TOTALS	Working Proprietor	Regular / Full Time	Casual / Part Time	Unpaid Family Worker	Expatriate Worker
Food & Beverage Manufacturing	1,014	38	928	40	3	5
Other Manufacturing	563	58	470	26	8	1
Construction	1,432	47	1,286	87	2	10
Commerce	4,860	1,159	3,142	153	383	23
Hotels, Restaurants	1,776	126	1,526	64	42	18
Transport & Storage	820	82	666	55	16	1
Information & Communication	424	6	362	50	0	6
Finance & Insurance	262	4	246	8	0	4
Technical & other Professional Services	713	95	555	34	22	7
Personal & Other Services	395	57	284	36	13	5
All Industries	12,259	1,672	9,465	553	489	80

Hotels & Restaurants and Construction was the next highest employer with 14.5% and 11.7% respectively.

## Estimating National Poverty Lines for Samoa HIES 2013/14



The Estimating National Poverty Lines for Samoa HIES 2013/14 workshop was held on the 25th August 2015 to 4th September 2015. The purpose of the workshop was a Basic Data and Poverty/Hardship Measurement and also how do we estimate poverty incidence and indicators of poverty and hardship. The training was conducted by Mr David Abbot, UNDP Consultant. Thanks to the UNDP for its generous support in this training.

## Environment Statistics

The **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting** was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) as central framework for compilation of data on environment/economic interface. Given Samoa's concern for the emerging impacts of climate change and natural disasters on the environment and the economy, it is very important that we begin to develop the necessary statistical systems to effectively monitor developments in these areas. Samoa Bureau of Statistics has been in close collaboration with ESCAP Pacific Office and the Australian National University (ANU) in developing a Water Accounting System, a first of its kind for Samoa and the whole Pacific Region.

The Bureau facilitated a range of consultations in August 2015, with key ministries and corporations which included the *Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa Water Authority, Electric Power Corporation, Independent Water Scheme Association and the Ministry of Finance* for this exercise. This was followed by a seminar linking Environmental Statistics to Decision-making with a focus on Water Policy on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August. The seminar presented the current status on the Water Sector Accounts as well as discussing the way forward of this initiative, ensuring that the framework will assist in the alignment and generation of indicators for the water sector. Mr. Mose Topeto (Senior Statistician – Environment Statistics Unit) and Mr. Benjamin Nanai (Senior Statistician – National Accounts Unit) were the main counterparts for this exercise.

It is anticipated a 'Draft' Water Accounting System will be uploaded on the Bureau's website in early December 2015. It is with the hope that our stakeholders will provide any feedback to further improve on the reporting of this 'Draft' Water Accounting System.

## Water Accounting in Samoa

The United Nation Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific in their efforts to attain their Millennium Development Goals through sustainable development for Pacific Island countries was able to fund a Technical Assistance in August 2015, on a mission to create a Water Account for Samoa. Mr Michael Vardon, a current lecturer at the Australia National University and a former director of the Environment and Water Accounts Division of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) was successfully nominated for the job.

The initiative to conduct a Water Account for Samoa was led by the UN through the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA); a framework developed to produce internationally comparable statistics on the environment and its relationship with the economy, in which Samoa is a member.

Water accounts have been identified to have the highest feasibility and policy relevance based on an assessment conducted by Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (ESCAP), the ABS and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) back in 2013. A draft Water account has been developed with strong collaboration amongst the Samoa Water Authority and the Bureau of Statistics and will be refined and improved before it is officially release.

## Samoa Human Rights Survey (HRS) 2015



One of the major activities of the Division of Census-Survey and Demography, (DCSD) in the month of July 2015 was the implementation of the **Human Rights Survey (HRS) 2015** for the **Office of the Ombudsman**. The main purpose of the HRS 2015 was to assess the people's awareness of the Office of the Ombudsman and its role as the National Human Rights Institution for the protection and promotion of human rights in Samoa. It also collected information on individual's knowledge about human-rights issues that are most prevalent in Samoa.

The training was held from July 13-17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Samoa Central Bank Conference room level 6 for the total of 12 hired enumerators and the staffs of the Division of Census-Surveys and Demography. The data collection was conducted from July 20<sup>th</sup> to August 08<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The division also conducted manual editing and coding of questionnaires while data entry and processing were conducted by the Division of IT and Data Processing. All the - activities were completed before September the 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 and the final dataset was sent to the NHRI team in October the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 for data analysis and report writing.

The HRS 2015 was successful due to combined efforts of the survey team from SBS and the team from the Office of the Ombudsman. The continuous support from the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development through the Division of Internal Affairs for the survey community awareness was also an advantage



## Samoa Salt Repeat Monitoring Survey 2015

In August 2015, the Division of Census-Surveys and Demography also assisted the Ministry of Health in the sampling design and the implementation of the **Samoa Salt Repeat Monitoring Survey**

2015

The data collection began from September 14<sup>th</sup> and it will be completed at the end of November 2015. Since the division was also loaded with other work, only 2 staff members were able to assist in the survey namely Mr Ken Faafo and Mr Talaimalo Simanu. The MOH team will be responsible for data entry, analysis and report writing and results will be shared at the end of this project.

## Population and Housing Census 2016— Household Listing and Mapping update 1st Phase

In preparation for the upcoming Population and Housing Census 2016, the Division of, Census -Surveys and Demography conducted the first phase of the household listing and mapping update from September 21<sup>st</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 in the two islands of Manono and Apolima and part of Savaii island. For Savaii, the field work was able to complete the districts of Vaisigano East, Vaisigano West, Falealupo and Alataua West. The second phase in November to December will cover all of Savaii.



## Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2016—Questionnaire Scanning Workshop

Through the Secretariat for Pacific Communities (SPC, Noumea) South-South cooperation support, Mr Roro of the Statistics Office of Vanuatu conducted a two weeks hands-on technical training for the SBS Scanning team from October 19<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Statistics Vanuatu is quite ahead in the Pacific islands in the application of scanning in data processing in which Samoa was first introduced to in the census 2011. The hands-on training by Mr Roro not only helped to update the technical knowledge and skills of older staffs but also provided first-hand experience for new staffs who will be responsible for this task when we conduct the census pilot test next year.

## International Arrival Statistics

### September 2015 compared with September 2014:

- Total Arrivals (15,592) increased by 6.6 percent
- Total Visitors (12,196) increased by 5.8 percent
- 5,376 visitors from New Zealand, up by 5%
- 2,551 visitors from Australia, down by 16%
- 698 visitors from American Samoa, down by 37%
- 983 visitors from USA, up by 72%

- Imports were valued at \$76.7 million
- There was a trade deficit of \$61.9 million

### August 2015

- Exports were valued at \$13.6 million
- Imports were valued at \$58.3 million
- There was a trade deficit of \$44.7 million

### IMPORT PRICE INDEX

The Import Price Index for the September 2015 quarter showed an overall increase of 2.0 percent when compared to the June 2015 quarter. The table below shows the percentage changes for the September 2015 quarter over the June 2015 quarter.

## CPI, Trade, IPI & Volume Indicators:

### CPI September 2015

- Increase in the global price of oil has pushed local prices up for fuel reflected in the 1.6 percent increase in the Transport index and contributed the most to the increase of the All Item Index.
- The Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages index also decreased by 3.0 percent.
- Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco index increased by 2.6 percent.
- The Average Annual Inflation for the year ended September 2015 was 2.1 percent

### CPI August 2015

- The Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages index decreased by 2.8 percent, driven down by lower prices for market staples
- Transport index decline by 4.4 percent.
- The Average Annual Inflation for the year ended May 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 September 2015 showed overall volume remains unchanged. Significant increases were recorded for all agricultural produce with the exception of banana, coconut, yam, and pumpkin supplies. When compared with the same month last year, current supply was 20 percent lower.

### TRADE

#### September 2015

- Exports were valued at \$14.7 million

## Photo Gallery



## For more information on SBS:

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