

Samoa



Samoa

Independent State of Samoa
Pacific

Geography

Area 2,831 sq km. Two large volcanic islands, Savai'i and Upolu, and seven small islands covered by lush tropical rainforest.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010 178,943	0.00%	63/sq km
2020 183,903	0.30%	65/sq km
2030 191,354	0.39%	68/sq km

Over 200,000 Samoans live in American Samoa, USA, New Zealand and Australia.

Capital Apia 36,100. **Urbanites** 23.4%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 39%. **Life expectancy** 71.4 yrs.

Peoples

Indigenous Polynesian 99%. Samoan 89%; Euronesian (mixed) 10%.

Other 1%. Other Polynesian, European, Chinese.

Literacy 99%. **Official languages** Samoan, English. **All languages** 2. **Languages with Scriptures** 2Bi.

Economy

Growing population, limited and decreasing resources and the communal land system strain the economy. Large-scale emigration and remittances mitigate the strain. Moving away from agriculture toward a service economy focused on tourism. The 2009 earthquake and tsunami caused 150 deaths, destroyed several villages and damaged much infrastructure – causing a significant economic setback.

HDI Rank 94th/182. **Public debt** 55% of GDP. **Income/person** \$2,608 (5% of USA).

Politics

German rule 1900-1914; thereafter, New Zealand UN trusteeship until independence in 1962. First Pacific island nation to win post-colonial independence.

Religion

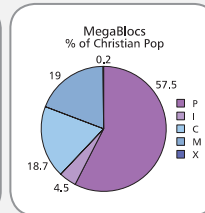
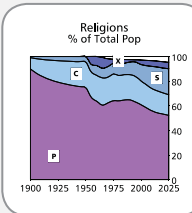
Constitutional freedom of religion is occasionally contravened by intimidation on the local level.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	96.60	172,859	0.0%
Baha'i	1.90	3,400	0.0%
Non-religious	1.50	2,684	2.9%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	16	57.53	103,000	-0.7%
Independent	6	4.55	8,000	1.9%
Anglican	1	0.21	<400	0.8%
Catholic	1	18.72	34,000	-0.4%
Marginal	6	19.03	34,000	3.6%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-3.44	-6,000	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Congregational Chr Ch	P	194	13,584	52,300
Catholic Church	C	29	16,750	33,500
Latter Day Saints	M	75	22,378	32,000
Methodist Church	P	98	9,500	23,700
Assemblies of God	P	54	6,532	14,500
Seventh-day Adventist	P	30	5,600	7,250
Worship Centre	I	4	1,120	2,800
Samoan Full Gospel Ch	I	55	1,100	2,200
Cong Ch of Jesus Christ	I	10	1,000	2,000
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	10	440	1,570
Other denominations[20]		84	3,807	1,050
Total Christians[30]		643	81,811	172,870

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	18.0	32,263	0.7%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	13.8	24,766	1.7%
Pentecostals	12.4	22,150	1.5%



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Challenges for Prayer

- 1 Samoans have been Christian** for over a century, and every village has at least one church. But the traditional class structure and pre-Christian cultural standards were not necessarily transformed by the gospel. Much of the Church suffers from nominalism, and rivalry among denominations does not generate a good spiritual atmosphere. Pride and politics influence church life too much, and the financial demands on a poorer population are heavy. These, coupled with the modern challenges of domestic strife and imported moral vice, make for a society in need of prayer.
- 2 Mormonism** is a point of contention; it is growing quickly, but the numbers they claim and the census results are hugely divergent. Mormons receive and send more missionaries to/from Samoa than any other denomination. Pray for all seeking to win Mormons to Jesus and to enlighten Samoan Christians of Mormonism's errors. Pray for renewal and revival within churches that will safeguard against further Mormon growth.
- 3 The growth of evangelicals** is encouraging – through renewal movements in mainline churches as well as through newer groups, especially Pentecostals/charismatics. This growth parallels a major decline in traditional denominations. Pentecostals/charismatics and other evangelical agencies, such as Youth for Christ, are met with opposition, particularly from some mainline denominations. Pray for harmony between the newer and the more traditional branches of the Church.
- 4 Unity among evangelicals** needs developing. Pray that the Samoan Evangelical Alliance, formed in 1991, may be a means to overcome the prevailing nominalism, to underscore personal commitment to Christ and to further the cause of the gospel. In a small constituency, the spirit of competition is too easily manifest. Pray that the birth of Graceland Broadcasting Network (90% Trinity Broadcasting Network content, 10% local content) might be a bridge between evangelical groups.
- 5 Samoan missionaries** played a major role in evangelizing the Pacific in the last century. Today, most Samoans who serve outside of Samoa are pastoring the many Samoan migrant congregations abroad. An exception to this is the contingent of around 50 Samoan YWAMers serving around the world. Pray for them, and pray for their ongoing influence on their home churches.