

REPORT ON THE 1985 AMERICAN SAMOA
HOUSEHOLD SAMPLE SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

Although American Samoa has had a census program which has given it an important data set for gauging social, economic, and demographic changes, a need has arisen for current and additional social, economic, and demographic data for development planning. In response to this need the Economic Development Planning Office (DPO) conducted a household sample survey in April/May 1985. The survey also asked health and transportation questions requested by the Health Planning Agency and the Office of Manpower Resources. Both of these agencies provided financial support for the survey.

The survey contacted a 20 percent systematic sample of households on Tutuila. In each selected housing unit, all persons were interviewed, giving a total of 6,434 individual responses. This means that the total population on Tutuila about April/May 1985 was close to 32,200. The reason for limiting the survey to the population of Tutuila is that this is where the majority of the population lives, and where the need for new economic development data is most apparent.

In order to draw the sample from a suitable reference frame, a comprehensive mapping program was undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Public Works. The mapping program entailed mapping of all housing units on Tutuila. From these maps, a listing of housing units was prepared from which each 5th house was selected in each village. These houses were then contacted by a crew of enumerators which was recruited and supervised by the DPO. The questionnaire employed in the survey is given in the Appendix.

In view of the present demand for the survey information, the report gives a selection of preliminary statistical tables and commentaries. These tables have been produced from a set of edited data. A more detailed analysis of the data has been requested from the South Pacific Commission. This report is now in progress. Supplementary tabulations from the survey data are available upon request from the DPO.

Several of the tables presented in the report contain a large number of not stated or not applicable cases. In order to draw correct conclusions from the tables these categories should not be overlooked. Because the primary objective of the report is to bring a selection of main tables to the users, it does not give a detailed analysis of each table.

To some extent the survey is of an exploratory nature. For instance, when planning the survey, it was not known how responsive people would be to answering a large number of questions concerning migration and income. The collected data suggest that the environment in American Samoa is suitable for survey taking, and that a broad spectrum of important statistics could be collected by means of probability sampling.

1. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Age and sex structure of the population

American Samoa has a young population structure in that close to half the population is below 20 years of age, and only about 3.5 percent are above age 65. In the future, when it is expected that fertility and mortality will decline, the population of American Samoa will see a relatively rapid increase over time in the proportion of people at retirement age, and a similarly rapid decrease in the proportion of young people. In the long run, this demographic change will lead to different requirements and objectives for development planning in American Samoa.

Consequently, most of the demographic statistics brought out in the present report are not stationary in the sense that they will remain the same during the next decades. Continuous monitoring of demographic

changes is therefore necessary in order to achieve rational and efficient social and economic planning in American Samoa.

Table 1.1 gives the enumerated population and the percentage distribution by age for Tutuila obtained from the present survey and from the 1980 population census.

Table 1.1 Population of Tutuila: 1980 and 1985

Age group	1985 Survey		1980 Census	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0	30,538	100.0
0 to 4	845	13.1	4,558	14.9
5 to 9	826	12.8	3,957	13.0
10 to 14	726	11.3	3,880	12.7
15 to 19	789	12.3	3,652	12.0
20 to 24	713	11.1	2,980	9.8
25 to 29	537	8.3	2,329	7.6
30 to 34	444	6.9	2,005	6.6
35 to 39	332	5.2	1,559	5.1
40 to 44	288	4.5	1,431	4.7
45 to 49	272	4.2	1,107	3.6
50 to 54	174	2.7	980	3.2
55 to 59	160	2.5	702	2.3
60 to 64	114	1.8	562	1.8
65 to 69	89	1.4	365	1.2
70 to 74	58	0.9	219	0.7
75 and over	67	1.0	252	0.8

Sources: 1980 census and 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

It is clear (see Table 1.1) that there is some difference between the age distributions for the survey and the census. When considering the differences between the two age distributions, it should be borne in mind that the census was taken five years before the survey, and that there has been considerable migration during this period. Ongoing demographic changes may also account for the difference which, by and large, are marginal. On the whole, the distributions are sufficiently close to confirm that the survey has contacted a part of the population which may be seen as an adequate representation of the total population. Table 1.2 gives the survey population by age and sex, and Table 1.3 the marital status distribution for both sexes aged 15 and over.

Table 1.2 Survey population by Age and Sex: 1985

Age group	Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,259	50.7	3,175	10.4
0 to 4	427	6.6	418	1.4
5 to 9	454	7.1	372	1.2
10 to 14	392	6.1	334	1.1
15 to 19	412	6.4	377	1.2
20 to 24	323	5.0	390	1.3
25 to 29	246	3.8	291	1.0
30 to 34	207	3.2	237	0.8
35 to 39	163	2.5	169	0.6
40 to 44	149	2.3	139	0.5
45 to 49	159	2.5	113	0.4
50 to 54	84	1.3	90	0.3
55 to 59	79	1.2	81	0.3
60 to 64	50	0.8	64	0.2
65 to 69	50	0.8	39	0.1
70 to 74	33	0.5	25	0.1
75 and over	31	0.5	36	0.1

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

It will be noted that consensual marriage is rather uncommon and that as a statistical category it plays a marginal role. Nonetheless, in future surveys as well as in the census in 1990, it is important to retain the category consensually married since non-marital cohabitational unions are likely to become increasingly frequent with modernization of society.

Table 1.3 Marital status: 1985

Marital status	Number	Percent
Total 15 years and over	4,037	100.0
Married	2,134	52.9
Never married	1,701	42.1
Consensually married	8	0.2
Separated	28	0.7
Widowed	113	2.8
Divorced	53	1.3

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

The totals in Table 1.4 are obtained by multiplying the survey figures by 5. Throughout, the reader may make estimates of total populations by multiplying the relevant survey figures with this factor.

Table 1.4 Ethnicity: 1985

Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
Samoan	5,858	91.0
Caucasian	157	2.4
Tongan	108	1.7
Niuean	68	1.1
Filipino	54	0.8
Tokelauan	32	0.5
Korean	13	0.2
Other	124	1.9
Not stated	20	0.3

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

2. MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 show that American Samoa has received a large proportion of its population from Western Samoa. For example, for a person living in American Samoa, it is likely that his/her mother is born here as in Western Samoa. About 20 percent of the American Samoa population is born in Western Samoa (see Table 2.2)

Table 2.1. Mother's Birthplace: 1985

Mother's Birthplace	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
United States	225	3.5
American Samoa	2,931	45.6
Western Samoa	2,954	45.9
Other	322	5.0
Not stated	2	0.0

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.2. Own Birthplace: 1985

Own Birthplace	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
United States	509	7.9
American Samoa	3,751	58.3
Western Samoa	1,908	29.7
Other	266	4.1
Not stated	-	0.0

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.3 supplements tables 2.1 and 2.2 in that it reflects when those who were not born in American Samoa came to stay in American Samoa. Although the question is somewhat ambiguous, it will be seen that the vast majority of persons who have migrated to American Samoa have done so during the past 15 years, i.e., between 1970 and 1985.

Table 2.3. Year of arrival for foreign born: 1985

Year of arrival	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
1920 to 1929	21	0.8
1930 to 1959	235	8.8
1960 to 1969	394	14.7
1970 to 1979	872	32.5
1980 to 1985	1,162	43.3
Not stated or not applicable	3,750	...

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.4 gives responses to the question when the person most recently arrived in American Samoa. Persons who never left American Samoa are included in the category not applicable. Tables 2.5 and 2.6 reflect the responses to the questions where the respondent stayed 1 and 5 years ago.

Table 2.4. Year of most recent arrival for foreign born: 1985

Year of arrival	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
1920 to 1929	23	0.7
1930 to 1959	94	3.1
1960 to 1969	182	5.9
1970 to 1979	587	19.1
1980 to 1985	2,184	71.1
Not stated or not applicable	3,364	...

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.5. Country of residence in 1984: 1985

Residence in 1984	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
United States	264	4.2
American Samoa	5,645	90.9
Western Samoa	253	4.1
Other	51	0.8
Not stated or not applicable	221	...

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.6. Country of residence in 1980: 1985

Residence in 1980	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
United States	417	6.7
American Samoa	4,461	71.8
Western Samoa	507	8.2
Other	143	2.3
Not stated or not applicable	906	...

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.7 Purpose of most recent arrival: 1985

Purpose of arrival	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
Returning from business trip	145	4.6
Returning from family visit	975	31.1
To look for a job	157	5.0
To take a job	167	5.3
To visit family/friends here	379	12.1
To have a baby here	3	0.1
To get medical treatment	40	1.3
Accompanied parents	599	19.1
Education	129	4.1
Other	540	17.2
Not stated or not applicable	3,300	...

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.8 Purpose of most recent arrival for adults: 1985

Purpose of arrival	Number	Percent
Total 15 years and over	4,037	100.0
Returning from business trip	138	5.7
Returning from family visit	856	35.3
To look for a job	156	6.4
To take a job	155	6.4
To visit family/friends here	331	13.7
To have a baby here	3	0.1
To get medical treatment	36	1.5
Accompanied parents	188	7.8
Education	93	3.8
Other	466	19.2
Not stated or not applicable	1,615	...

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.9 Purpose of most recent arrival for Male Adults: 1985

Purpose of arrival	Number	Percent
Males 15 years and over	1,986	100.0
Returning from business trip	88	7.3
Returning from family visit	388	32.1
To look for a job	100	8.3
To take a job	78	6.4
To visit family/friends here	167	13.8
To have a baby here	1	0.1
To get medical treatment	14	1.2
Accompanied parents	90	7.4
Education	51	4.2
Other	233	19.3
Not stated or not applicable	776	...

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 2.10 Purpose of most recent arrival for Female Adults: 1985

Purpose of arrival	Number	Percent
Females 15 years and over	2,051	100.0
Returning from business trip	50	4.1
Returning from family visit	468	38.6
To look for a job	56	4.6
To take a job	77	6.4
To visit family/friends here	164	13.5
To have a baby here	2	0.2
To get medical treatment	22	1.8
Accompanied parents	98	8.1
Education	42	3.5
Other	233	19.2
Not stated or not applicable	839	...

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

3. EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1

Table 3.1 Educational Attainment: 1985

Educational attainment	Number	Percent
Total	6,434	100.0
Kindergarten	344	5.3
Grade 1	165	2.6
Grade 2	182	2.8
Grade 3	170	2.6
Grade 4	190	3.0
Grade 5	179	2.8
Grade 6	246	3.8
Grade 7	211	3.3
Grade 8	343	5.3
Grade 9	488	7.6
Grade 10	306	4.8
Grade 11	320	5.0
Grade 12	1,737	27.0
Above grade 12	643	10.0
Never in school	468	7.3
Not stated or not applicable	442	6.9

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 3.2 confirms the general tendency for women to leave the education system earlier than men. Notice, for instance, that while 18.3 percent of the men have gone beyond grade 12 the similar percentage for women is 13.6.

Table 3.2 Educational Attainment of persons 15 and over by sex: 1985

Educational attainment	Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,986	100.0	2,051	100.0
Kindergarten	-	0.0	-	0.0
Grade 1	-	0.0	-	0.0
Grade 2	-	0.0	7	0.3
Grade 3	-	0.0	-	0.0
Grade 4	19	1.0	30	1.5
Grade 5	19	1.0	25	1.2
Grade 6	38	1.9	64	3.1
Grade 7	29	1.5	45	2.2
Grade 8	101	5.1	96	4.7
Grade 9	210	10.6	215	10.5
Grade 10	150	7.6	135	6.6
Grade 11	164	8.3	155	7.6
Grade 12	814	41.0	920	44.9
Above grade 12	363	18.3	279	13.6
Never in school	16	0.8	15	0.7
Not stated or not applicable	63	3.2	65	3.2

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Table 3.3 builds on 1,580 males with 105 missing responses and 1,406 females with 95 missing responses. The rather high proportions between ages 15 and 19 not attending school are somewhat at odds with the stated proportions having completed grade 12 in Table 3.2. There is, therefore, probably some overstatement of educational achievement in Table 3.2.

Table 3.3 School attendance for persons ages 0 to 19: 1985

Age	Males			Females		
	Total	In school	Not in	Total	In school	Not in
Total	1,580	1,160	420	1,406	1,000	406
0 to 4	342	73	269	332	76	256
5 to 9	444	407	37	367	343	24
10 to 14	386	377	9	331	319	12
15 to 19	408	303	105	376	262	114
Percentages:						
Total	100.0	73.4	26.6	100.0	71.1	28.9
0 to 4	100.0	21.3	78.7	100.0	22.9	77.1
5 to 9	100.0	91.7	8.3	100.0	93.5	6.5
10 to 14	100.0	97.7	2.3	100.0	96.4	3.6
15 to 19	100.0	74.3	25.7	100.0	69.7	30.3

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

4. LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

During the past two decades, American Samoa has become increasingly important as an employer for the Western Samoa labor force. Higher salaries and the better social and industrial environments have been strong incentives for Western Samoans to seek employment in American Samoa. Table 4.1, which is based on economically active men and women, confirms the tendency for Western Samoans to seek employment in American Samoa. While 13 percent of the labor force which lived in American Samoa one year ago declared themselves as unemployed, nearly 50 percent (48.7 percent) of the labor force which lived in Western Samoa one year ago reported themselves as unemployed.

Table 4.1 Economically active population by Labor Force Status and Residence in 1984: 1985

Labor Force Status	Total	American Samoa	Western Samoa	United States	Other
Total	2,127	1,931	76	105	15
Employer	124	108	4	12	-
Self employed	89	78	2	8	1
Wage or salary worker	1,399	1,314	24	52	9
Family worker	21	17	3	1	-
Unemployed	277	217	37	19	4
Others	217	197	6	13	1
Percentages:					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employer	5.8	5.6	5.3	11.4	0.0
Self employed	4.2	4.0	2.6	7.6	6.7
Wage or salary worker	65.8	68.0	31.6	49.5	60.0
Family worker	1.0	0.9	3.9	1.0	0.0
Unemployed	13.0	11.2	48.7	18.1	26.7
Others	10.2	10.2	7.9	12.4	6.7

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

When interpreting these unemployment figures, one should bear in mind that they do not reflect the correct unemployment figures for that part of the labor force which lived in Western Samoa one year ago; for while migrants who entered American Samoa may be looking for work, they may, in fact, not have residence and work permits and for, these reasons, cannot always be considered legitimately unemployed.

Table 4.2 Reason for not working for persons 15 and over by sex: 1985

Reason for not working	Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,986	100.0	2,051	100.0
Sick	79	4.0	125	6.1
Vacation	29	1.5	15	0.7
Looking for work	167	8.4	132	6.4
Laid off	5	0.3	1	0.0
In school	274	13.8	237	11.6
Retired	70	3.5	15	0.7
Other	303	15.3	686	33.4
Not stated or not applicable	1,059	53.3	840	41.0

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

In the survey, questions concerning residence and work permits were not asked because it was believed that many persons would avoid answering this nature of questions. It should be noted, however, that the Office of the Attorney General currently is devoting attention to collecting relevant statistics on work and residence permits among immigrants.

5. INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

Table 5.1 gives reported income figures for the survey population aged 15 years and over and which was working full time. The two large not stated categories (55 percent for males and 66 percent for females) make this table somewhat uncertain. The median income for males is about \$5,000 while for females it is about \$4,000. According to the 1980 population census, the median income for persons aged 15 years and over with income was about \$4,200 for males and \$3,500 for females (Census of Population, 1980, Bureau of the Census, PC80-1-C/D56, p. 35).

Table 5.1 Wage income for full time workers 15 years and over by sex: 1985

Wage income	Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,986	100.0	2,051	100.0
\$0 to \$999	52	2.6	53	2.6
\$1,000 to \$1,999	33	1.7	33	1.6
\$2,000 to \$2,999	58	2.9	53	2.6
\$3,000 to \$3,999	62	3.1	80	3.9
\$4,000 to \$4,999	116	5.8	134	6.5
\$5,000 to \$5,999	105	5.3	110	5.4
\$6,000 to \$6,999	88	4.4	46	2.2
\$7,000 to \$7,999	69	3.5	36	1.8
\$8,000 to \$8,999	61	3.1	41	2.0
\$9,000 to \$9,999	37	1.9	19	0.9
\$10,000 to \$14,999	97	4.9	63	3.1
\$15,000 to \$19,999	59	3.0	17	0.8
\$20,000 to \$24,999	16	0.8	5	0.2
\$25,000 and over	38	1.9	5	0.2
Not stated or not applicable	1,095	55.1	1,356	66.1

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey

Despite the large group of not stated, the income figures from the survey are in good agreement with the ones from the population census. It should be noted, however, that the census and survey figures could be biased by the same factors, and that the estimated median incomes in the census and in the survey most likely are about 10 percent too high if they are interpreted as measures of income for all working people some of whom may not receive a cash income.

6. REMITTANCES

The relatively low proportions of not stated in Table 6.1 suggest that reliable responses can be obtained on whether a person sent money overseas. The table confirms one expectation that men are more likely to send money overseas than women. However, with respect to the amounts sent overseas, the survey produced data with not stated categories of the order of 90 percent. Consequently, we are not producing tables on the values of remittances in this report.

Table 6.1 Remittances for persons 15 years and over by sex: 1985

Remittances	Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,986	100.0	2,051	100.0
Remitted money	241	12.1	180	8.8
Did not remit money	1,523	76.7	1,622	79.1
Not stated	222	11.2	249	12.1

Source: 1985 American Samoa Household Survey