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AMERICAN SAMOA  
STATISTICAL DIGEST  
1987

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AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT  
PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799

In reply refer to:


FOREWORD

The ASG Development Planning Office (DPO) is very pleased to present the tenth annual publication of the Territory's official statistical abstract, The 1987 Statistical Digest of American Samoa.

As readers may notice, the 1987 Digest includes some significant changes in scope, organization and format from prior editions. DPO believes these changes may substantially enhance the usefulness of the Digest as a general and convenient source of accurate and meaningful information and database on American Samoa and its dynamic community for both, the trained-researcher and curious layperson. The range and disaggregation of statistical series have been substantively expanded and reorganized into sixteen concise sections embodying much of the organization and format of the State of Hawaii Data/Book and the U.S. Abstract. Other improvements include an orderly index coding system of sections and tables for quick location of specific data; the standardization of format for all tables and source documentation with information on data qualification; the identification of general and significant trends in all section narratives; the greater use of graphs and charts to selectively highlight significant trends; and finally, a self-addressed suggestion and comment sheet is provided, as the last page, for those wanting to recommend improvements in the Digest.

The DPO wishes to warmly thank the many ASG agencies and private sector participants who contributed mightily in the provision of data and tables for without their unwavering annual cooperation past, present and future Digests would not be possible. Although these contributors are too numerous to mention here, they are acknowledged in the text. I especially wish to acknowledge DPO's Statistics and Research Division and Vai Filiga, Chief Statistician and, the advice of Dr. Michael Levin of the U.S. Census Bureau for their tremendous work on this year's Digest.

We sincerely hope the community approves of the on-going improvements in its Statistical Digest and encourage suggestions for its improvement. The more informed we, as a community, become, the greater opportunity that sound decisions that will responsibly assure the enhancement and protection of the quality of life in American Samoa will be made.

  
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Alfonso "Pete" Galea'i  
DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING OFFICE



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# POPULATION

The 1987 mid-year population estimate for American Samoa stands at 36,960 persons, an increase of 1.9% since 1986 and 14.0% since 1980. The population is expected to add around 2,700 persons by 1990, and 11,000 by the year 2,000, for an overall increase of about 30%.

The population growth in American Samoa has occurred in the face of a continuous out-migration trend of about 382 net out-migrations per year since 1974.

Population density is 77% higher in the Eastern District than in the Western District, and Manu'a has about one-tenth as many persons per square mile as the Eastern District.

Figures on population distribution show that while there has been a general trend in favor of the Western District during the last three decades, there has actually been a slight shift towards the Eastern District from 1980 to 1985.

The population is young but is getting gradually older, with the median age being only 17 in 1974, increasing to 20 by 1985. The men continue to outnumber the women by 50.7% to 49.3%, a figure that has remained relatively constant over the last decade.

The percentage of the population born in American Samoa has decreased from around 75% in 1970 to about 60% in 1985. The ethnic distribution of population in 1985 was 91% Samoan, 2% Caucasian, 2% Tongan, and 5% Others.