

Vision and Policy Intent

The Samoa Government [National Statistics Strategy \(NSS\) 2022–2026](#) has a vision that by 2026, Samoa will have an efficient statistical system that provides trusted and valued statistics to inform policy and decision-making for the benefit of Samoa.

The Samoa NSS 2022–2026 identifies two key strategic objectives with six sub-objectives:

1. Meet the needs of users

- Produce priority statistics.
- Make statistics easy to access and use.

2. Strengthen statistical capacity

- Environment.
- Statistics infrastructure.
- ICT and physical infrastructure.
- People: Human resource.

Other important policy documents include:

- [pathway for the Development of Samoa \(PDS\) 2021/22–2025/26](#),
- [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework](#) for the PDS (2021/22–2025/26), and
- [Samoa 2040: Transforming Samoa to a higher growth path](#).

National Statistical System

The [Samoa Bureau of Statistics \(SBS\)](#) is the lead statistical agency, managed by the Government Statistician.

The Samoa Department of Statistics existed prior to the commencement of the [Samoa Statistics Act 2015](#) and was re-established as the SBS under this Act.

Under the Samoa Statistics Act 2015, the SBS is the principal authority in Samoa for the:

- collection, analysis, and publication of official statistics, and
- coordination of statistical operations in Samoa.

Other important producers of official statistics as highlighted in the Samoa NSS 2022–2026 include: [Central Bank of Samoa](#), Ministry of Education, Agriculture, Health, Samoa Tourism Authority and a few government agencies.

Key users of official statistics are:

- Government,
- the business community,
- international donors and other agencies, and
- researchers and the general public.

Key Features

The SBS, guided under the Samoa Statistics Act 2015, is responsible for the collection, recording, analysis and dissemination of official statistics and related purposes.

Data collection – most recent: [population and housing census 2021](#), [Samoa HIES 2023](#), [labour force survey 2022](#).

Dissemination – [main publications](#): economics, population and demography, social and environment.

SBS has a general data dissemination system in [SDMX](#) that hosts a number of statistics files and is linked to the [Samoa Summary Data Page](#).

ICT Statistical Infrastructure – SBS has developed its own [website](#) with web pages on [media](#) and an advanced [calendar-of-releases](#) that shows official statistics published and upcoming releases on a real-time basis.

The website includes links to [infographics](#) including gender and youth monographs and other reports.

Coordination

The SBS leads coordination, collection, analysis, and publication of official statistics in accordance with best practices.

The Samoa NSS 2022–2026:

- provides a framework for statistical activity coordination within the independent state of Samoa, and
- develops a co-ordinated approach that will enable all statistical producers to better meet the needs of its users through relevant, impartial and accurate statistics.

A Steering Committee for the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) was established in 2021 to:

- provide guidance on the process for the development of the Samoa Statistics Strategy (SSS) 2022–2026,
- provide suggestions for the new NSDS,
- review the draft SSS, and
- encourage participation in SSS development process

Challenges, priorities and opportunities

Key challenges affecting SBS performance as outlined in the SSS 2022–2026 include:

- Statistics Advisory Board has not yet been implemented that would have promoted coordination and co-operation across the NSS,
- scope to improve access, standardisation, and integration of administrative data,
- capacity and data infrastructure to accommodate the growing use of administrative data, and
- limited office space is an impediment to staff productivity and satisfaction.

Priorities and opportunities as specified in the SSS include:

- Statistics Advisory Board an opportunity to strengthen governance of the NSS,
- strategy for implementation of a National Digital Identity an opportunity for integration of data,
- advances in technology and increasing digitisation of business and social activities, and
- strengthen partnerships and working relationships with regional and global organisations.