



Vision and Policy Intent

The American Samoa Government is currently developing its first national strategy for development of statistics with territory-wide consultation and documentation undertaken in 2023.

The Government [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\) 2018–2022](#) had a key objective (#7) relating to data and statistics, specifically to **capture data more effectively**.

To achieve this, the strategy emphasises the need to:

- **conduct an in-depth process improvement review of the Statistical Act (ASCA Title 13 Chapter 21)** to ensure that the Department of Commerce Statistics Division has capacity and resources to collect, tabulate, compile, analyze, publish and report all official statistics.



National Statistical System

The American Samoa Statistics Division (ASSD), operating under the American Samoa [Statistical Act of 2003 Chapter 21](#), is the lead statistics agency, managed by the Chief Statistician.

Under the Statistical Act of 2003 Chapter 21, the ASSD of the [Department of Commerce](#) is headed by the Chief Statistician and is responsible for:

- collecting, tabulating, compiling, analyzing, publishing and reporting all official statistics covering social, economic and demographic fields for making policy decisions;
- ensuring the accuracy of statistics and efficiency of the statistical system.

Other data providers under the [Statistical Act of 2003](#) include:

- all department and agency heads, government employees, private individuals and businesses which are required to provide required information to the Statistics Division without delay



Key Features

The ASSD, guided by the Statistical Act of 2003 Chapter 21, is enacted to undertake:

- the collection, tabulation, compilation, publication, and reporting of official statistics
- conduct pertinent censuses and surveys

Data collection – most recent, [Census of Agriculture 2017](#) published in 2020.

Dissemination – main publications, the Annual Statistical Yearbook ([latest 2022](#)), and various surveys (Agriculture, Economic, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, and Population Census).

The Statistics Division has a [Statistical and Information Management unit](#) with duties specified by the Chief Statistician.

ICT – American Samoa Data and Statistics [weblink](#) published and disseminated statistical analysis new releases relating to basic food index, CPI, GDP, population estimates, census agriculture.



Coordination

The ASSD, mandated by the Statistical Act of 2003 and led by the Chief Statistician, is responsible for:

- comprehensive coordination of statistical activities;
- realignment of statistical operations in American Samoa;
- effective coordination of all censuses, including American Samoa Government and the United States Federal censuses.

The Statistics Division has a [Statistical Planning and Coordination unit](#).

The Statistical Act of 2003 established a [Statistical Advisory Council](#) as a consultative body to the Statistics Division on matters of statistical activities. The Council can recommend policies, programs and procedures for statistical activities. The Council is chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and its members are leaders from government and private sector agencies.



Challenges, priorities and opportunities

Key challenges affecting American Samoa and the ASSD performance as outlined in the CEDS 2018–2022 include:

- **Government inefficiencies from**
 - poor coordination
 - outdated process or technology
 - lack of resources.

Priorities for American Samoa and the ASSD as specified in the CEDS 2018–2022 include:

- **capturing data more effectively** via real-time, reliable and readily available data and information
- **eliminating outdated laws or regulations** (e.g., Statistical Act)
- **improving the territory's capacity** to secure additional federal support grants
- **improving coordination**, communication, and cooperation between Federal and Local governments
- **promoting use of technology.**