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General

American Samoa, an unincorporated territory of the United States, consists of those islands of the Samoan group located in the South Pacific Ocean, E of 171°W.

The administrative center is Pago Pago on the main island of Tutuila. There are six other islands: Aunuu, Tau, Ofu, Olosega, Swain's, and the small isolated double-island, Rose Island, which is uninhabited. Swain's Island, 210 miles N of Tutuila, was made part of American Samoa in 1925.

The island of Tutuila is about 19 miles long and 4 miles wide. A broken jungle-covered mountain range runs almost the length of the island. There are many fertile valleys.

Mount Matafao, 702m, is the highest peak. Mount Pioa, known as the "Rainmaker," is 563m high. The whole island is thickly wooded and richly green.

The climate is tropical marine, moderated by SE trade winds. Annual rainfall averages 124 inches. The rainy season is from November to April and the dry season runs from May to October. There is little temperature variation.

The terrain is volcanic with rugged peaks and limited coastal plains. Rose Island and Swains Island are coral atolls.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the United States dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

Government

Samoa is an unincorporated and unorganized territory of the United States. It is administered by the Department of Interior, Office of Territorial and International Affairs.

The legislature of American Samoa consists of an 18-member Senate and a 21-member House of Representatives.

The Governor, elected by popular vote, is the chief executive. There is a system of local government with the Office of Local Government, which is also the Office of Samoan Affairs, supervising operations at the district, county, and village level.

The Chief Justice is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and the associate judges by the governor on the recommendation of the chief justice.

The capital is Pago Pago.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; third Monday in February, Washington's Birthday; Good Friday; Easter Monday; April 17, Flag Day; last Monday in May, Memorial Day; July 4, Independence Day; first Monday in September, Labor Day; second Sunday in October, White Sunday; November 11, Veterans' Day; fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day; and December 25, Christmas Day.

Industries

The main industries are based on tuna canneries, meat canning, and handicrafts.

The largest single employer in American Samoa is the government.

In the private sector, fishing is considered to be the main industry.

There are two tuna-canning companies operating factories in Pago Pago.

Chief exports include canned tuna, watches, pet foods, and handicraft.

The major imports comprise cement, lumber, rice, flour, fish, meat, fuel oil, and sugar.

Most of American Samoa's trade is with the United States, New Zealand, and Japan.

Languages

The official language of American Samoa is Samoan.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is XRAY (+11).

U.S. Embassy

There are no U.S. diplomatic offices in American Samoa.