



#### Land area

2,830 km<sup>2</sup>



#### Population

Total (2017): 196,440

Density (per km<sup>2</sup>, 2017): 69

Urban (% of total, 2017): 18

Life expectancy (years, 2016, male/female): 72/78



#### Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GDP (million, current USD, 2017): 840.9

GDP per capita (current USD, 2017): 4281

GDP growth rate (% , average 2010-2017 ): 2.2



#### Human Development

Human Development Index (HDI<sup>1</sup>) 2017: 0.713

(high human development group)

HDI rank: 104

Population below income poverty line<sup>2</sup> (% , 2013):

1.1

Gini Index<sup>3</sup> (2013): 38.7

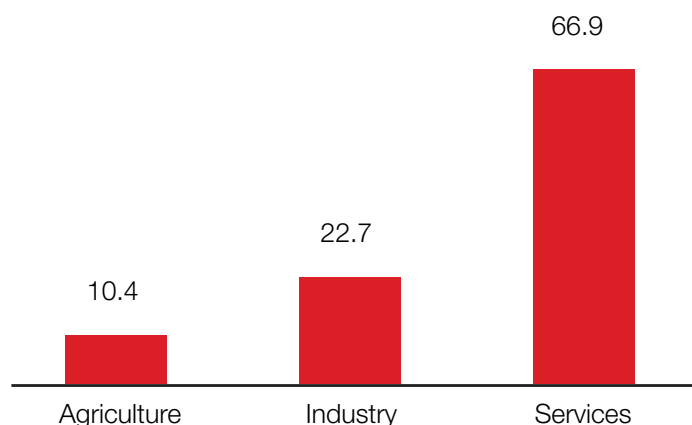
UN LDC group: No

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database for all the indicators except HDI value and rank, which come from UNDP (2018).

### KEY FACTS

- The services sector remains the main source of employment in Samoa.
- As in the other 9PICs<sup>4</sup>, Samoa's small market prevents it from enjoying the potential benefits of economies of scale. This, combined with geographical remoteness, creates difficulties for the country to integrate into international markets.

### Samoa's sectoral structure of economic activity (share of GDP in per cent, 2016)



Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

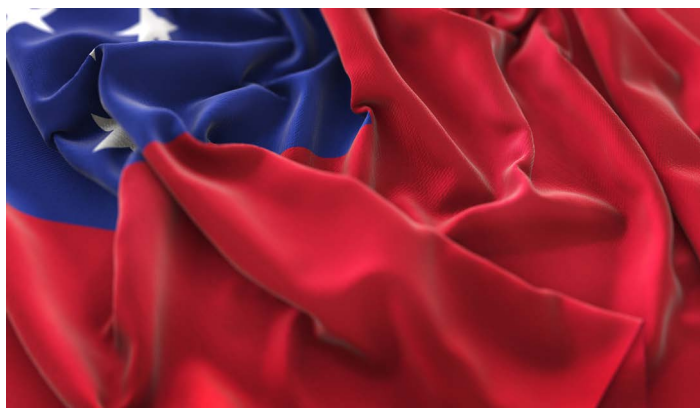
Note:

<sup>1</sup> HDI is a composite index that integrates three basic dimensions of human development: life expectancy at birth as a proxy of the ability to live a long and healthy life; mean of years of schooling and expected years of schooling as a proxy of acquired knowledge; and gross national income per capita as a proxy of the ability to achieve a decent standard of living. An HDI close to zero indicates greater distance from the maximum that can be achieved on the factors entering the HDI and vice versa. For technical details, see <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>.

<sup>2</sup> Based on USD (PPP) 1.90 per day.

<sup>3</sup> The Gini coefficient measures the deviation of the distribution of income among individuals or households from a perfectly equal distribution. A coefficient of 0 represents perfect income equality (all persons or households have the same income) and a value of 1, perfect income inequality (all income is concentrated by one person or one household).

<sup>4</sup> Nine Pacific Island Countries Signatories of the PACER Plus (9PICs).



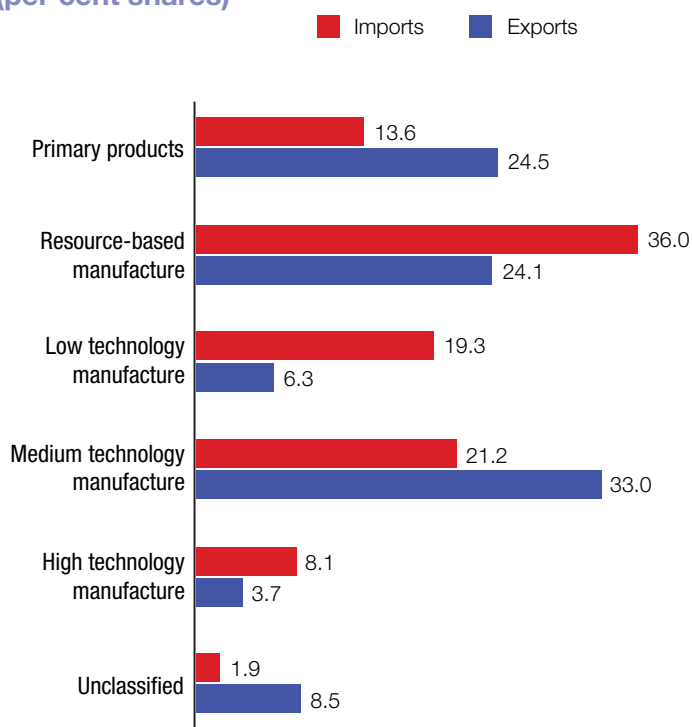
## Trade profile

### Samoa's membership in trade agreements

| Agreement  | Scope   |
|--|---|
| South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA) | Duty free access to the markets of Australia and New Zealand  |
| The Cotonou Agreement  | Development; political; economic and trade cooperation. From "non-reciprocal" trade preferences in favour of ACP countries to reciprocal trade preferences through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) |
| The Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)                       | Progressive reduction/elimination of tariffs among member countries   |
| Pacific Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)                               | Trade in Goods (duty-free, quota-free access into the EU), asymmetric and gradual opening of Fiji and PNG markets to EU goods; trade facilitation; development assistance                                 |
| PICTA Trade in Services Protocol (PICTA-TIS)                               | Preferential trade among the parties on a range of services   |
| Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus                | Trade in goods and services, temporary movement of skilled workers, investment, development and economic cooperation  |
| Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)                                    | Beneficiaries have duty free or preferential access to the donor country markets  |
| Everything But Arms (EBA)  | Beneficiaries enjoy full duty free and quota free access to the EU market for all products (except arms and armaments)  |
| WTO membership   | Trade in goods and services; IPRs, trade remedies; implementation and monitoring; dispute settlement; capacity building   |

Source: UNCTAD Secretariat

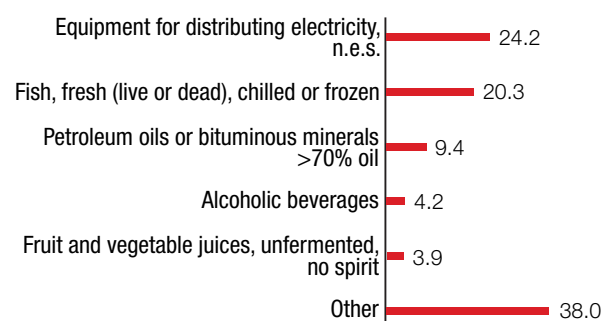
### Samoa's trade composition by product group between 2015–2017 (per cent shares)



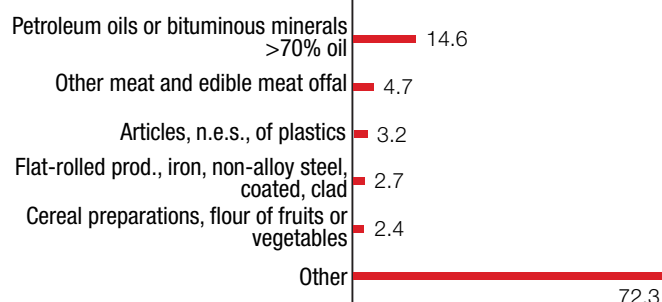
Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

### Samoa's main export and import products (2015–2017 average)

#### EXPORTS (share of total)



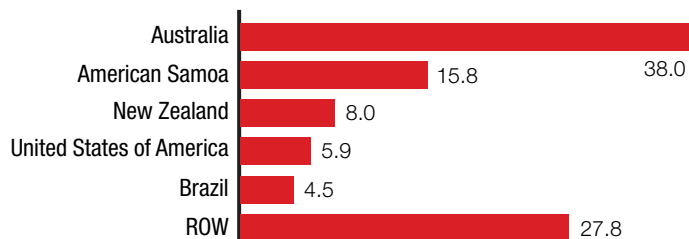
#### IMPORTS (share of total)



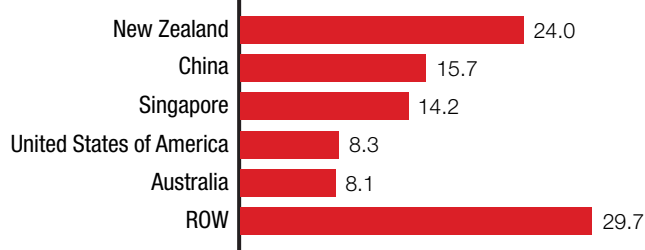
Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

## Samoa's main export and import partners (2015-2017 average)

### EXPORTS (share of total)



### IMPORTS (share of total)



Source: Calculations based on UNCTADstat Database

## KEY FACTS

- Merchandise exports as a percentage of GDP in Samoa decreased from 16.6 to 6.5 per cent between 2005–2007 and 2015–2017, while merchandise imports decreased from 52 to almost 44 per cent for the same periods. Services exports and imports also decreased their share with respect to GDP during those periods (from 29 to 26 per cent in the case of exports and from 14 to 10 in the case of imports).
- The technological classification of trade<sup>6</sup> for the period 2015–2017 shows that 33 per cent of Samoa's exports are medium technology manufactures, followed by primary products and resource-based manufactures (both around 24 per cent). Most imports are resource-based manufactures (36 per cent) as well as medium and low technology manufactures (21 and 19 per cent, respectively).
- Samoa has reduced its dependence on few export products as shown by its concentration index<sup>7</sup> (which decreased from 0.66 for the period 1995-1997 to 0.31 for 2015-2017). Its concentration index of imports decreased slightly for the same periods too (from 0.20 to 0.13).
- Samoa's exports primarily concentrate in developing Oceania and developed Oceania, these account for 19 and 46 per cent, respectively, of the county's total exports. Developing Asia has gained importance, this concentrates 9 per cent of

Samoa's exports. At the country level, Australia and America Samoa retain the highest shares of Samoa's exports.

- Samoa has increased its imports from developing Asia and developing Oceania during the period 1995–1997 and 2015–2017<sup>8</sup> (from 9 to 45 per cent, and from 0.15 to 7 per cent, respectively). In contrast, imports from developed Oceania have significantly decreased, from more than 56 per cent of imports in 1995–1997 to about 32 per cent for 2015–2017. New Zealand, China and Singapore are the country's main import partners.
- Samoa has been a member of the WTO since 2012.
- Samoa is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).<sup>9</sup>

## Gender profile

### KEY FACTS

- Gender gaps in school enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels in Samoa favour women (UNFPA Pacific Sub-regional Office, 2014).
- Youth (15–24 years old) literacy in Samoa is high (more than 90 per cent) for both the male and female population.
- The Labour Force Participation rate in 2014 was 42 per cent for men and 26 per cent for women; among the youth (15–24 years old) it was 27 per cent for men and 16 per cent for women.
- 89 per cent of employed women work in the services sector; 8 per cent in industry and 3 per cent in agriculture
- Women are mainly employed in the following services sectors: Public administration, community, social, personal and similar services (49 per cent); Finance (16 per cent); Trade including wholesale, retail trade and repair (14 per cent); and tourism including accommodation and food services (7 per cent).

Note:

<sup>6</sup> Lall (2000).

<sup>7</sup> The Concentration Index or Herfindahl-Hirschmann Index is a measure of the degree of product concentration of exports (or imports). Values close to 1 indicate that exports (or imports) are highly concentrated in a few products while values close to 0 indicate a more homogeneous distribution of exports (or imports) among a wider range of products (UNCTADstat).

<sup>8</sup> These periods have been chosen to consider whether there have been significant changes after two decades.

<sup>9</sup> PIF is the region's premier political and economic policy organization.

- Samoa’s Constitution includes the right to equality before the law and freedom from discrimination based on sex. It also instructs that women must hold a minimum of 10 per cent of parliament seats. The country development strategy and labour laws include gender specific objectives and protection against violence.
- The Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013 prohibits sex discrimination and sexual harassment in employment and provides for equal pay and maternity leave.
- The Samoa National Policy for Gender Equality 2016–2021 recognises the importance of women participation in public leadership and decision-making, and in equality access to economic opportunities, education, health, and to community resilience and disaster preparedness. It also sets as a priority enhancing institutional mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality.

**Number of women and men in Parliament, 2018**



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (2018 )

**Samoa's gender inputs:**

| Ratified International Conventions or Commitments   | Gender in trade policy  | Other Gender Programmes   |
|---|---|---|
| Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW (1992)<br>Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)<br>Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1994)<br>Optional Protocol CEDAW (2002)<br>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2008)<br>Agenda 2030 (2015) | Samoa recognizes gender considerations in its development strategy and in its trade, commerce, and manufacturing sector plan, though without sufficient detail. | Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW, UN Women)<br>Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE, UN Women)<br>Increasing Community Resilience through Empowerment of Women to Address Climate Change and Natural Hazards Programme (IREACH, UN Women) |

Sources: Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute; University of the South Pacific’s School of Law; UN Women – Asia-Pacific (2018).