

American Samoa is one of the territories collectively referred to as the “U.S. Outlying Areas”. For statistical purposes, it is recorded as a separate entity in the World Census of Agriculture Database (in the Oceania Region). Consequently, results related to the United States of America bear only upon the continental territory of the country.

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The U.S. Bureau of the Census conducted the first Census of Agriculture (CA) in American Samoa in 1920, as part of the decennial Population and Housing Census (PHC). Subsequent agricultural censuses were carried out every ten years.¹ Since 1998, American Samoa was included in the Five-Year Agriculture Census Program. The next census was carried out in 2003. The 2008 CA is the eleventh agricultural census to be conducted in American Samoa, and the third to be conducted strictly as an independent CA since the one undertaken in 1998.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The CA is required by law under the Census of Agriculture Act of 2002, Public Law 105-113 (Title 7, United States Code, Section 2204g). The law directs the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a census of agriculture every five years, covering the previous year. The 2008 American Samoa CA was conducted in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement approved by the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, and the American Samoa Department of Commerce (DC).

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The USDA/NASS was responsible for conducting the CA 2008. The CA 2008 was conducted with the cooperation and assistance of the American Samoa Department of Agriculture (DA) and the American Samoa Community College – Land Grant. The NASS provided technical assistance at various levels, while the American Samoa DA was responsible for recruiting and training local officers and field staff, and for supervising local administrative matters. The census was funded by the United States federal budget.

Census staff

One NASS staff was assigned to the American Samoa CA. The project manager, crew leaders and enumerators employed for the census in the American Samoa received special training, in accordance with instructions prepared by NASS and the American Samoa DC.²

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: the day of enumeration, for inventory items such as livestock, machinery, equipment.

Reference period: the calendar year (from 1 January to 31 December 2008), for crop production, crop and livestock sales, expense data, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Data collection was conducted from January to July 2009.

5. SCOPE OF THE CENSUS AND DEFINITION OF THE STATISTICAL UNIT

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production). Information on capture fisheries and aquaculture activities carried out by the agricultural holdings was also collected.

The **statistical unit** was the farm, defined as any place that raised or produced any agricultural products for sale or consumption by family members. Farms were classified as: (a) commercial farms, defined as those with sales of USD 100 or more; or (b) non-commercial farms, which are those with less than USD 100 in sales.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The census covered the entire territory of American Samoa.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

No threshold was applied.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the CA 2008.

Frame

The universe was the totality of households engaged in agricultural activities. A sampled area frame component covered the household sector. All commercial farms were enumerated on the basis of the list prepared by the American Samoa DA. A list frame

¹ The first nine agriculture censuses in American Samoa were taken in conjunction with the decennial PHC. Agriculture information was collected only for those households that answered affirmatively to questions about agricultural activities asked in the decennial questionnaire.

² The training included practice in interviewing and filling out the report form, in addition to detailed discussion of the enumerator's instructions.

including farms with juridical status was used for the commercial farm sector. The DA made available detailed maps of all the islands in the territory, which enabled up-to-date map-spotting (location on a map) of all households in the territory.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The CA 2008 combined complete and sample enumeration methods. All commercial farms were completely enumerated. The remaining households were enumerated on the basis of an area sample survey. The commercial farms were excluded from the universe used to select the area sample selected for surveying the non-commercial farms.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Area frame sampling was used to collect data from non-commercial farms. A serpentine selection methodology with systematic random sampling was used to select the area sample. The sampling rate was 20 percent.

Data collection method(s)

Data collection was done by means of traditional face-to-face interviews and the information was collected in paper forms (Paper and Pen Interviewing, or PAPI, method).

Questionnaire(s)

Only one questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire covered 14 of the 16 items recommended by FAO for the WCA 2010 core module.³

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Detailed maps of all islands in the territory and up-to-date map-spotting (location on a map) of all households in the territory were used for frame building, and to support field data collection. The maps were supplied by the American Samoa DC. Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The processing of the CA 2008 was done by both the American Samoa DC and the NASS in Washington, D.C. Each report form was reviewed and coded prior to data keying. Report forms not meeting the census definition of “farm” were voided. After review and coding of all report forms, the data were keyed. These functions were performed in American Samoa. After the review and keying operations were completed, the electronic files and the report forms were sent to Washington, D.C., where the data were subjected to a thorough computer edit. The corrected data were then tabulated by the computer and reviewed by analysts.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Quality checks included strict field supervision, clerical screening for farm activity, follow-up of non-respondents, keying and transmittal of completed report forms, computerized editing of inconsistent and missing data, review and correction of individual records referred from the computer edit, review and correction of tabulated data, and electronic data processing.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The final results of the CA 2008 were released in April 2011. The census report published statistics for the territory, districts and counties. It included methodological notes and a questionnaire. The census report and other materials are available on the NASS website.⁴

13. DATA SOURCES

United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2008. *2007 Census of Agriculture: American Samoa (2008). Territory, District, and County Data. Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 55.* (also available at https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2007/Full_Report/Outlying_Areas/AmericanSamoa.pdf).

14. CONTACTS

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Website: <https://www.nass.usda.gov>

³ Two items were not included in the questionnaire: (i) “Presence of irrigation on the holding”; and (ii) “Other economic production activities of the holding’s enterprise”.

⁴ The census results are available at https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2007/Guide_to_Census_Products/

AMERICAN SAMOA – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2008 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	5 840	7 690
Commercial farms	1 968	4 291
Non-commercial farms	3 872	3 399

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	5 840	7 690
Full owner	5 650	7 548
Part owner	16	32
Tenant	174	111

LAND FRAGMENTATION		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	5 840	7 690
1 parcel	4 637	n.a.
2 parcels	873	n.a.
3 parcels	330	n.a.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	5 840	7 691
Less than 0,40 ha	1 283	190
0,40–0,81 ha	2 589	1 637
0,81–1,62 ha	858	1 176
1,62–2,83 ha	699	1 571
2,83–3,64 ha	103	335
3,64–7,69 ha	241	1 096
7,69–15,78 ha	52	531
15,78 ha and over	15	1 155

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	5 840	7 690
Cropland	5 650	5 378
Land under crops	5 816	4 825
Cropland used for other purpose	665	553
Permanent meadows and pastures	137	28
Woodland, except woodland pastured	588	1 321
Other land	3 023	964

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDERS, BY SEX AND AGE		Number
Total		5 840
Male		4 707
Female		1 133
Under 35 years		457
35–44 years		1 186
45–54 years		1 729
55–64 years		1 302
65 years and over		1 166

EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THE HOLDING		Number
Total employees		1 063

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Pigs	1 547	16 904
Chickens (1 000 head)	732	36
Other animals	3	

HOLDINGS, BY MAIN PURPOSE OF PRODUCTION		Holdings
Total producing mainly for		5 840
Home consumption		5 827
Sale		1 999

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT USED ON THE HOLDING		Units
Total tractors of all kind		16
Other (machine-powered)		
Motortrucks		1 209
Automobiles		2 294
Tillers of all kinds		129
Chain saws		1 993
Weed eaters		3 795
Mist blowers		624

TEMPORARY CROPS HARVESTED		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.	n.a.
Cereals	n.a.	n.a.
Maize	86	12
Vegetables and melons	n.a.	n.a.
Cabbages	184	36
Cucumbers	334	61
Eggplants	257	27
Green beans	256	37
Green onions	43	8
Melons	53	9
Tomatoes	214	24
Root/tuber crops	n.a.	n.a.
Cassava	670	126
Yams	1 677	284
Taro	4 228	1 638
Giant taro	2 770	571
Sugar crops	n.a.	n.a.
Sugar cane	550	66
Other temporary crops	294	65