



# Community Information Summary

## Samoa-born

### Historical Background

Polynesians settled in the Samoan archipelago of three islands around 1000 BC.

Germany, Britain and the United States of America all competed for control of the archipelago until 1899, when the western part of Samoa passed to Germany and the eastern islands became American Samoa. Following World War II, New Zealand administered Western Samoa as a League of Nations Mandate and then as a United Nations trusteeship until its independence in 1962. In 1997, Western Samoa changed its name to Samoa.

During the early part of the twentieth century, Australia established trading companies in Samoa that led to a small intake of Samoan migrants to Australia. The migrants came to Australia for commerce, education and missionary purposes. The 1921 Census recorded 110 Samoa-born people in Australia.

During the 1970s the number of Samoans coming to Australia increased as a result of educational programs sponsored by Australia. By 1981 there were 780 Samoans in Australia and this number rose to 2200 people in 1986. By 1996 there were around 10 000 Samoa-born in Australia.

### Today

#### *Geographic Distribution*

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 19 092 Samoa-born people in Australia, an increase of 25.3 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 7877 followed by Queensland (6473), Victoria (4022) and Western Australia (364).

Refer to Figure 1.

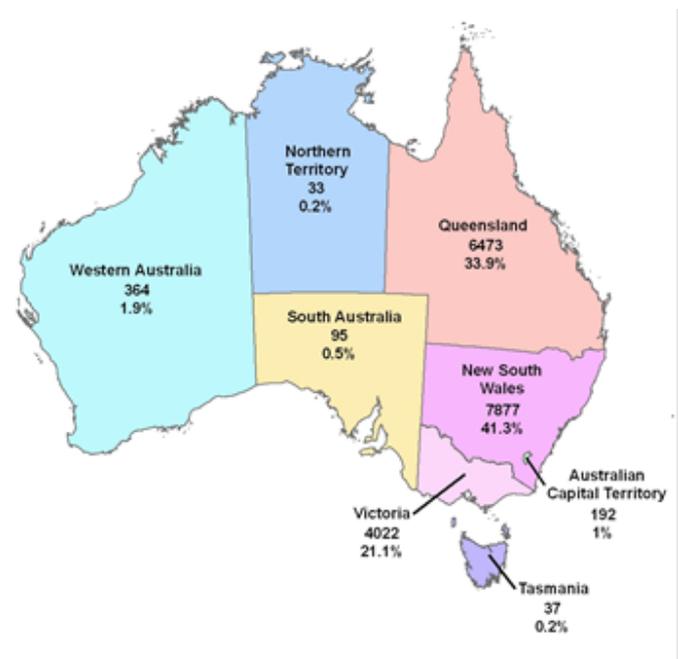


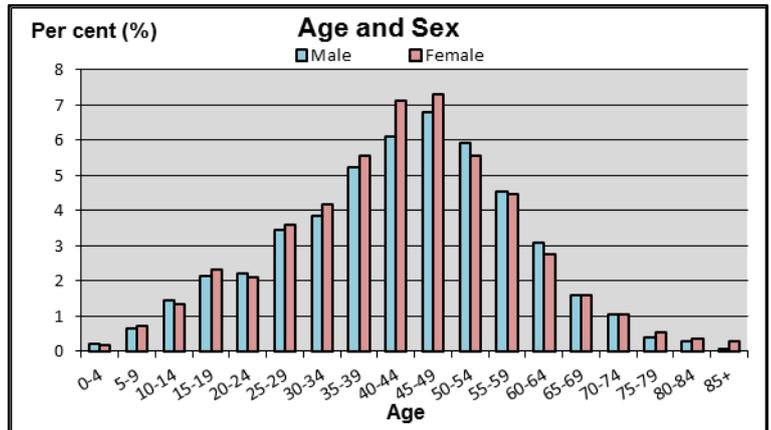
Figure 1

### Age and Sex

The median age of the Samoa-born in 2011 was 44 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 4.6 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 8.8 per cent were 15-24 years, 39 per cent were 25-44 years, 40.4 per cent were 45-64 years and 7.2 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Samoa-born in Australia, there were 9355 males (49 per cent) and 9737 females (51 per cent). The sex ratio was 96.1 males per 100 females.

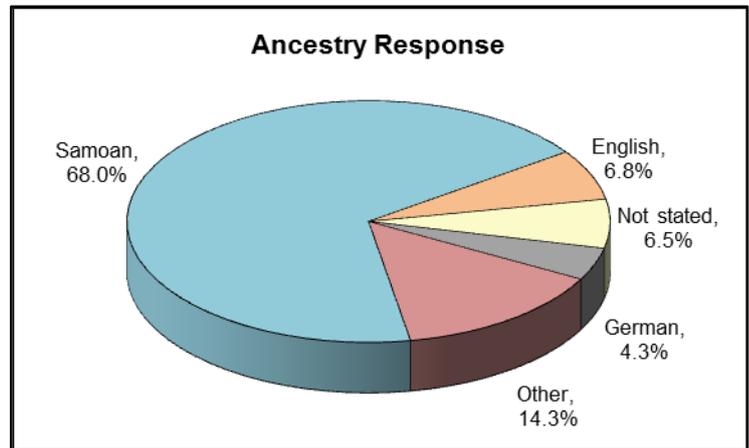


### Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Samoa-born people reported were, Samoan (15 310), English (1529) and German (979).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\*, 55 843 responses were towards Samoan ancestry.

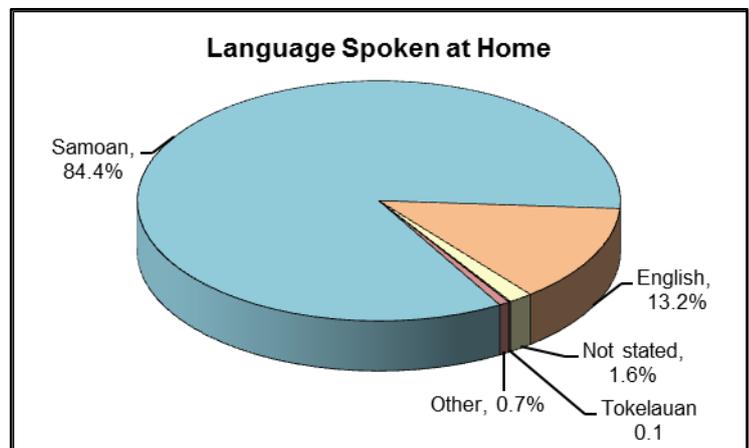
\*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



### Language

The main languages spoken at home by Samoa-born people in Australia were Samoan (16 109), English (2517) and Tokelauan (25).

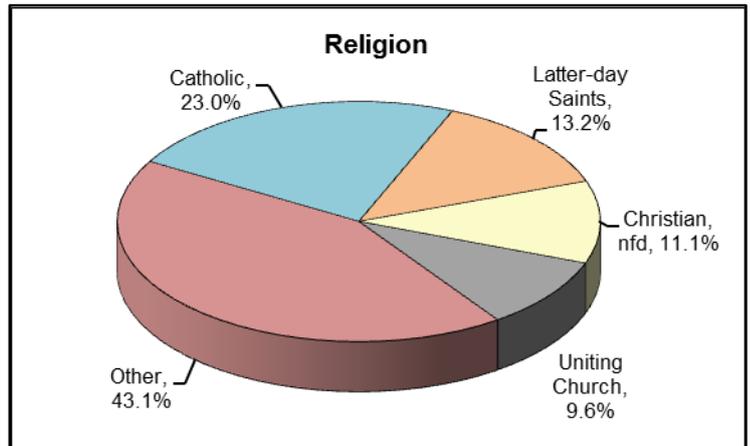
Of the 16 573 Samoa-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 85.7 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 11.9 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Samoa-born were Catholic (4391), Latter day Saints (2522), Christian, nfd (2122) and Uniting Church (1835).

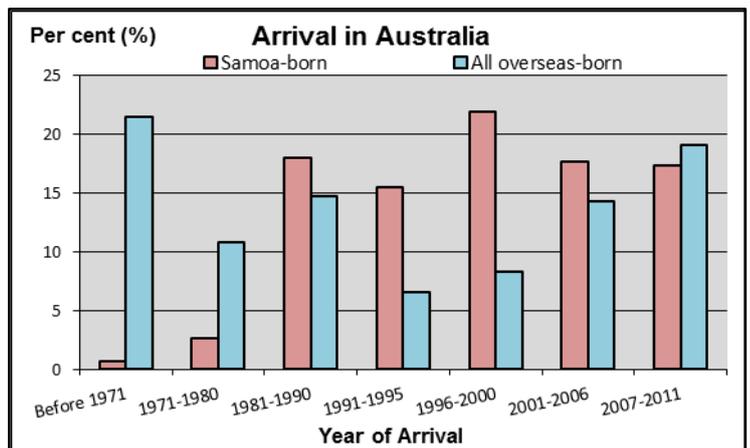
Of the Samoa-born, 2.8 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 4.1 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 58.8 per cent of the Samoa-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Samoa-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 17.7 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 17.4 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



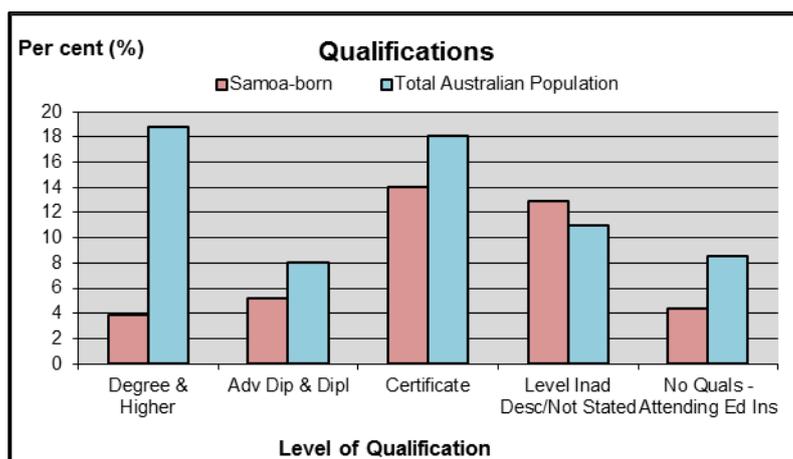
## Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Samoa-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$540, compared with \$538 for all overseas-born and \$597 for all Australia-born. The total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of \$577.

## Qualifications

At the 2011 Census, 36.1 per cent of the Samoa-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non-school qualifications compared to 55.9 per cent of the Australian population.

Of the Samoa-born aged 15 years and over, 4.4 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

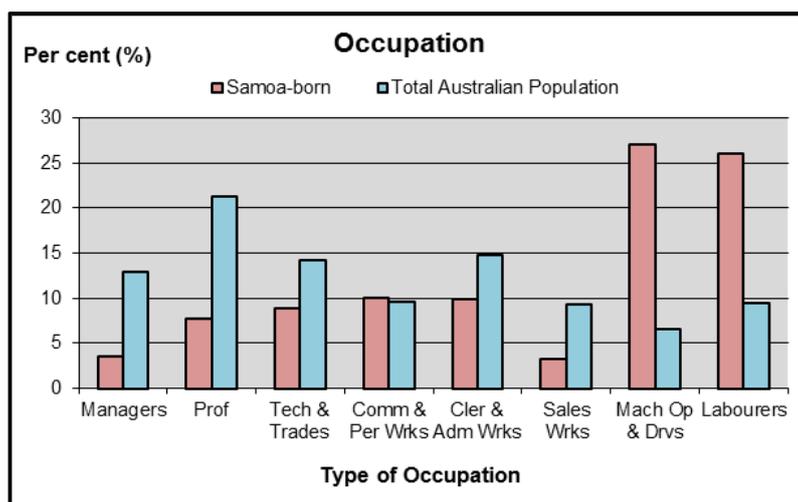


*Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated  
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution*

## Employment

Among Samoa-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 63.5 per cent and the unemployment rate was 10.2 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 9905 Samoa-born who were employed, 20.2 per cent were employed in either a skilled managerial, professional or trade occupation. The corresponding rate in the total Australian population was 48.4 per cent.



*Comm & Per Wrks = Community & Personal Service Workers*

**Produced by the Community Relations Section of DIAC**

All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. Sources for the Historical Background available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/source.htm>