

American Samoa	
Policy responses	
Containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Mar 18) Declaration of state of emergency<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Declaration of Lockdown<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• (Mar 21) Declaration of<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Border Closure, port screening and travel bans<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Social distancing rules</li> <li>• Punishment on violation of rules</li> <li>• 1 Jun: Extended and amended declaration state of emergency, which eases some local restrictions e.g. extended operation hours for businesses, reopening of parks, permitting gatherings, including religious worship services of no more than 150 people<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• 2 Jul: Further easing of lockdown restrictions, with church services and gatherings of more than 150 people now allowed. Schools, daycare centres and community classes can also resume, and all government workers can return to full working hours. Businesses will only be allowed to open between 0500 and 2100 (with exceptions).<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• New lockdown measures from 5<sup>th</sup> August: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All international travel to and from Samoa by plane are ceased except as provided in this order or in exceptional circumstances approved by Cabinet.</li> <li>○ Limited availability of flights from American Samoa to New Zealand.</li> <li>○ Travelers are subject to be quarantined for 14 days.</li> <li>○ All boats and ships or yachts are prohibited access except for offloading petroleum and fished.</li> <li>○ New rules regarding public gatherings, funerals and hotels rules which will all follow the social distancing rule of 2 meters.</li> <li>○ Theatres are open but the 2 meter social distancing rule must be enforced.</li> <li>○ Restaurants are open with the 2 meter social distancing rule implemented.</li> <li>○ All people are prohibited from gathering at airports or wharves unless it is for permitted travel.</li> <li>○ New rules regarding public transport such that busses and ferries are operational on all days except Sunday:</li> <li>○ New rules for markets such that the markets are open on all days except Sundays:</li> <li>○ New rules for the sale of alcohol such that no sale of alcohol for</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2020-03/American%20Samoa%20DECLARATION%20OF%20PUBLIC%20HEALTH%20EMERGENCY%20AND%20STATE%20OF%20EMERGENCY%20COVID-19.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.samoanews.com/local-news/american-samoa-only-us-state-or-territory-not-under-disaster-declaration>  
<sup>3</sup><https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/491064-which-states-have-told-residents-to-stay-home>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/411111/american-samoa-tightens-entry-requirements-over-covid-19>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.samoanews.com/local-news/gov-extends-coronavirus-state-emergency-another-30-days>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/420345/american-samoa-eases-covid-19-restrictions>

	<p>individuals age below 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Schools are opened until further notice.</li> <li>○ New rules for accessing healthcare such that individuals above age of 60 are encouraged to stay indoors.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● September 16<sup>th</sup> <sup>7</sup> – restrictions between AS and USA continue; flights to Hawaii remain suspended despite repatriation demand, quarantine for essential covid-19 workers remain in place (incl. US Federal Emergency Management Agency)</li> <li>● January 21, 2021: 7800 doses of the Pfizer vaccine has arrived.<sup>8</sup></li> <li>● February 1, 2021: Travellers entering American Samoa are required to contact the Department of Health at least 10 days prior to travel; Regularly scheduled passengers flights to and from the US are suspended; Public gatherings are allowed between 5am and 12 midnight. <sup>9</sup></li> <li>● February 3, 2021: According to new COVID-19 measures, social distancing and wearing mask are required.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>
Fiscal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On March 27<sup>th</sup>.<sup>11</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The US President and Congress approved \$55 million to be made directly available to the U.S. territories and the freely associated states on Friday, March 27 via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act will address impacts of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the islands, namely, the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● September 4<sup>th</sup> – governor of American Samoa announced that country has tapped into \$175 million of federal aid creating a “tsunami of cashflow”<sup>12</sup>. Office of Insular Affairs provide breakdown of \$95 million of Covid-19 relief funds by department. Territory’s GDP expected to grow<sup>13</sup>.</li> </ul>
Monetary	-
Financial	-
SME measures (last update 22 January 2021)	<p><b>Loan support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Small Business Administration’s (SBA) COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL): Since 21 March 2020, the SBA is offering low interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses and</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/426395/flights-to-american-samoa-remain-suspended-despite-calls-for-repatriation>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/425220/american-samoa-clarifies-quarantining-of-covid-workers>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/434884/more-covid-19-vaccines-arrive-in-american-samoa>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/435542/american-samoa-updates-covid-19-declaration>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/435704/new-covid-19-measures-in-american-samoa>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/oia/press/president-and-congress-approve-covid-related-funding-bill-that-includes-millions-us>

<sup>12</sup> <https://islandtimes.org/american-samoa-experiencing-a-tsunami-of-cash-170m-in-covid-19-aid/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/oia/covid19>

	<p>non-profit organizations that are suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19. The interest rate is 3.75 per cent for small businesses. The deadline to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is December 21, 2020.<sup>14</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 25 March 2020, SBA Express Bridge Loans is effective and enables small businesses to access up to USD 25,000.<sup>15</sup></li> <li>• On April 9, the establishment of the Main Street Business Lending Program has been approved. It is run by the Federal Reserve System to support small and medium-sized businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program makes available USD 600 billion in loan facilities to employers, who must have been in good financial standing prior to the onset of the COVID-19 crisis<sup>16</sup>. On 8 June 2020, the Federal Reserve Board expanded the Program to allow more SMEs to be able to receive support.<sup>17</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Deferral of loan repayment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of March 27, the SBA will pay six months of principal, interest, and any associated fees that borrowers owe for all current loans (except for Paycheck Protection Program loans or Economic Injury Disaster loans). Borrowers do not need to apply for this assistance, it will be automatically provided.<sup>18</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Other financial support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBA's COVID-19 EIDL Advance: Since 21 March 2020, small businesses and non-profits may request, as part of their loan application, an EIDL Advance of up to USD 10,000. The EIDL Advance is designed to provide emergency economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. This advance will not have to be repaid, and small businesses may receive an advance even if they are not approved for a loan.<sup>19</sup></li> <li>• On April 24, the Paycheck Protection Program has been signed into law by President Donald Trump. This program provides small businesses with funds to pay up to eight weeks of payroll costs including benefits. Funds can also be used to pay interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities.<sup>20</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Employment support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBA's COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL): Since 21 March 2020, the SBA is offering low interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses and non-profit organizations that are suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19. The interest rate is 3.75 per cent for small businesses. The deadline to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is December 21, 2020.<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>
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<sup>14</sup> <https://doc.as/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/sba-express-bridge-loans>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/oia-covid19-wh-fact-sheet-american-samoa.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200608a.htm>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/sba-debt-relief>

<sup>19</sup> <https://doc.as/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/oia-covid19-wh-fact-sheet-american-samoa.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://doc.as/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On April 24, the Paycheck Protection Program has been signed into law by President Donald Trump. This program provides small businesses with funds to pay up to eight weeks of payroll costs including benefits. Funds can also be used to pay interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities.<sup>22</sup></li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 21, 2020: American Samoa started COVID-19 vaccinations.<sup>23</sup></li> <li>January 14, 2021: The government extended its COVID-19 State of Emergency Orders for another month due to new strain overseas.<sup>24</sup></li> <li>March 6, 2021: American Samoa has carried out 24,000 vaccinations.<sup>25</sup></li> </ul>

*Source:* IMF, Policy Responses to COVID-19, if not specified.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/oia-covid19-wh-fact-sheet-american-samoa.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/433296/american-samoa-starts-covid-19-vaccinations>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/434501/samoa-extends-soe-due-to-new-covid-strain-overseas>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/437798/close-to-24-000-covid-19-vaccines-rolled-out-in-american-samoa>