

Samoa

Policy responses

Containment

- Declaration of state of emergency (20 March), amendments of the Emergency Orders on May 13 and May 20 to gradually lift lockdown restrictions (e.g. businesses to resume normal operations), certain relaxations for church services and street vendors on 10 June¹
- Declaration of lockdown (26 March),² certain restrictions relaxed since 18 April
- Border closure
- International travel bans
- Port screening
- Social distancing
- Closure of public spaces
- School closures
- Fines on violations of isolation orders³
- July 28th: The government extended the State of Emergency Orders until August 30.

Lockdown measures from 6th August:⁴

- Events are partially allowed with the social distancing rule of 2 meters.
- Transport is operational.
- All shops are open.
- Tourist attractions are open.
- Restaurants and bars are open.
- September 25, 2020: Government extended state of emergency orders until October 26
- Repatriation flights scheduled continue through October, November, December
- Negative PCR test and quarantine required upon arrival
- November 23, 2020: Passengers on repatriation flight from US were required to be quarantined for three weeks instead of 14 days.⁵
- December 29, 2020: Ministry of Health stopped travellers from the United Kingdom and South Africa.⁶
- 6 January 2021, Emergency Order #37 was issued with the same provisions as #35 and in effect until 17 January 2021.
- 11 January 2021, entry of passengers from select countries will be

¹<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/418774/samoa-further-relaxes-covid-19-restrictions>

²<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/412647/samoa-officially-on-lock-down>

³<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/412587/samoa-to-fine-people-who-don-t-adhere-to-covid-19-restrictions>

⁴<https://covidcontrols.co/lockdown-status>

⁵<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/431255/samoa-raises-quarantine-period>

⁶<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/433737/samoa-new-travel-advice-stops-uk-and-south-africa-travellers>

	<p>assessed on a case-to-case basis and required negative RT-PCR tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 January 2021, Emergency Order #38 was issued extending previously issued orders until 14 February 2021.⁷ • January 14, 2021: Samoa has extended its COVID-19 State of Emergency Orders for one more month.⁸ • March 19, 2021⁹: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Travellers Banned Masks are not required Quarantine for 14 days required for all countries. Negative COVID-19 test required for all countries. -Partial lockdown in effect -Events Partially Allowed -Transport operational -All shops open -Tourist attractions are open -Restaurants and bars are open with restrictions.
Fiscal	<p>Total fiscal stimulus of SAT 66.3 million (3% of GDP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Households</i>: establishment of the Emergency Price Control Board to keep wholesale and retail prices in check and bring them down, provision of financial assistance to members of the National Provident Fund in the form of a refund of their loan payments for March 2020; and a temporary reduction of utility bills (both electricity and water) for six months through September 2020. • <i>Private sector</i>: temporary exemption on import duties on most commonly bought food items for households, duty concessions for an expanded list of agricultural and fishing materials; a grace period of three months to be applied for all loan payments; and a six-month moratorium on pension contributions for the hospitality sector. • <i>Healthcare</i>: Establishment of temporary quarantine facilities. June 30th.¹⁰ • Parliament approved the FY2021 budget, including the second phase of the fiscal and economic response package that amounts to 83.1 million Samoan tala (about 3.8 percent of GDP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides a dividend payout by Samoa National Provident Fund, a benefit of 50 tala per citizen for a national ID registration, a special one-off pension payment, unemployment benefit, financial support for utility bills, and paid training for the hospitality sector ○ Finances construction and upgrade of rural hospitals.

⁷ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/SAM>

⁸ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/434501/samoa-extends-soe-due-to-new-covid-strain-overseas>

⁹ <https://covidcontrols.co/restrictions/samoa>

¹⁰ <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#S>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The government will continue to assist remote education services. • Debt target of 50% of GDP¹¹ • January 19, 2021: The representatives of the Paris Club Creditor Countries have accepted to provide to Samoa an extension of the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021 (No amount/estimate).¹²
Monetary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of an accommodative monetary policy • Encouraging commercial banks to reduce interest rates, and/or associated bank fees and charges • Maintaining ample liquidity in the banking system to support businesses and stands ready to activate its lending facilities for financial institutions • Payments from the government to local commercial banks to compensate for losses in interest income.
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three-month grace period for all loan payments
Trade measures ¹³	<p>Restrictive: N/A</p> <p>Liberalizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs duties for daily food products are temporarily suspended and duty concessions to all agricultural and fishing products extended.
SME measures ¹⁴ (last update 22 January 2021)	<p>Tax exemption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government exempted certain agricultural and fishery materials from customs duties. <p>Deferral of tax payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government deferred payments of pension contributions of the hospitality sector for six months. <p>Other fiscal support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government reduced utility bills until September 2020. <p>Deferral of loan repayment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government instructed banks to grant a three-month grace period for all loans, and it will compensate the banks for interest losses.
Other policy measures	<p>International Cooperation:</p> <p>March 26, 2020: World Bank \$5.1 immediate funding to support response to Covid-19 drawn from development policy operation¹⁵</p> <p>April 24, 2020: World Bank additional US\$3.4 million funding to support laboratory equipment, essential PPE, testing kits and detection machines.¹⁶</p> <p>April 24, 2020: IMF disbursed USD22.03 million in emergency financing</p>

¹¹ <https://www.imf.org/~media/Files/Publications/CR/2020/English/1WSMEA2020001.ashx>

¹² <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/SAM>

¹³ <https://www.macmap.org/covid19>

¹⁴ <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#I>

¹⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/03/27/world-bank-provides-us5-1m-for-samoa-covid-19-response>

¹⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/24/world-bank-provides-additional-3-4-million-for-samoas-fight-against-covid-19>

	<p>under Rapid Credit Facility to address balance of payments needs created by covid-19¹⁷</p> <p>May 8, 2020: Australia Government AUD10.5 million (WST18.4 million) in support to economic and health effects of pandemic ¹⁸</p> <p>May 26, 2020: USAID allocated US\$9.9 million towards covid-19 efforts in Pacific Island regions of FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. (individual breakdown unavailable)</p> <p>Reductions in utility bills until September 2020 and price controls to keep them low</p> <p>June 19, 2020: UNDP and UNICEF granted USD0.3 million of testing kits ¹⁹</p> <p>July 31, 2020: ADB \$20 million grant part of ADB Health Expenditure and Livelihood Support Program, to address Covid-19 pandemic ²⁰</p> <p>August 20, 2020: ADB \$1.5 million grant as part of Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to combat Covid-19 pandemic ²¹</p> <p>November 30, 2020: Additional repatriation flights from Europe and the US were scheduled throughout November 27 to December 11.²²</p> <p>December 12, 2020: Samoa is to get \$US2.3 million worth of laboratory equipment and medical supplies, which was jointly funded by the World Bank and the Samoan government.²³</p> <p>December 17, 2020: ADB provided USD0.30 million TASf - Supporting Recovery by Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Pacific from the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.²⁴</p> <p>April 2020, USD0.78 million - TA 9950-REG: Regional Support to Address the Outbreak of COVID-19 and Potential Outbreaks of Other Communicable Diseases. As of 29 January 2021, the amount increased to USD0.92 million.²⁵</p>
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Sources: IMF, Policy Responses to COVID-19 and Radio New Zealand, [*Tonga and Samoa declare states of emergency because of Covid-19*](#) , if not specified.

¹⁷ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SAM>

¹⁸ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SAM>

¹⁹ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SAM>

²⁰ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/54243/54243-001-grj-en.pdf>

²¹ https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/54135/54135-003-grj-en_6.pdf

²² <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/SAM>

²³ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/432696/lab-equipment-and-supplies-for-samoa-s-covid-19-response>

²⁴ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/SAM>

²⁵ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/SAM>