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Official Release of the Economic Census Results for American Samoa: Highlighting Growth Trends

On June 4, 2024, Michael Sprung, Economic Census Assistant Survey Director, and Bobby Nusz, Economic Census Assistant Survey Director Staff Chief, met with Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga and held a press conference at the Department of Commerce's Conference room to officially announce the release of the Economic Census. Their presentation revealed economic trends from 2007 to 2022, highlighting significant growth in several key sectors since 2017.

The Economic Census, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, collects data on every business in the United States with paid employees, including those in American Samoa.

Key Findings:

Increase in Establishments and Employment: Combined data for all sectors reveals an increase in the number of business establishments, revenue, payroll, and employees. This growth highlights the resilience and expanding capacity of American Samoa's economy.

Construction Sector Growth: There has been notable growth in the construction sector. However, it was emphasized that the revenue increases should be viewed with consideration of inflation factors.

Manufacturing Sector Challenges: While there has been overall economic growth, the manufacturing sector has experienced a decrease in the number of businesses with five or more employees. This highlights ongoing challenges within the sector that need to be addressed.

Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga expressed optimism about the future of American Samoa's economy, stating, "The positive trends highlighted in the Economic Census reflect our

community's hard work and dedication. We will continue to build on this growth by supporting local businesses and addressing the challenges identified in sectors like manufacturing."

The comprehensive data from the Economic Census will serve as a critical resource for policymakers, business leaders, and researchers aiming to understand and further develop the economic potential of American Samoa.

For more information on the Economic Census of Island Areas and detailed economic data, please visit <https://data.census.gov>.

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