



Samoa Country Profile

October 2008

[FINAL DRAFT]

Prepared by SPC Strategic Engagement, Policy and Planning Facility

Unedited Version 9.10.2008

Samoa Country Facts¹	
Country or territory official name	Samoa
Capital city	Apia
Government	Parliamentary democracy, independence gained in 1962
Head of state	His Highness, Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi
Head of government	Hon. Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi
Land area	2,935 square kilometres
Exclusive economic zone (EEZ)	120,000 square kilometres
Population (mid-2004 estimate)	182,700
Population density (mid-2004 estimate)	62 persons per square kilometre
Annual intercensal population growth rate	0.9 per cent
GDP (2004)	USD373.6 million
GDP per capita (2004)	USD2,108
Real GDP growth (2005)	5.1 per cent
CPI annual change (2006)	3.8 per cent
Exports (2006)	USD68.5 million
Imports (2006)	USD283.3 million
Trade balance (2006)	-USD214.8 million
Crude birth rate per 1,000	31.5
Crude death rate per 1,000	4.6
Total fertility rate	4.6 children per woman
Infant mortality rate per 1,000	19.1
Male life expectancy at birth (2001)	71.8 years
Female life expectancy at birth (2001)	73.8 years
Urban population	22 per cent
Dependency ratio (15-64)	83
Median age (2001)	19.7 years
Youth (15-24)	17.6 per cent
Male labour force participation rate (2001)	67.5 per cent
Female labour force participation rate (2001)	32.2 per cent
Religions	Congregationalist, Roman Catholic, other Protestant
Languages	Samoaan, English
Official currency	Tala (WST)

¹ Main source: SPC Statistics and Demography Programme (and its Pacific Regional Information System – PRISM www.spc.int/prism)

Introduction to the Country Profile

SPC country profiles document the nature and extent of the organisation's services to individual members.

This country profile presents basic country facts and a synopsis of Samoa's development background and a narrative summary of the Secretariat's assistance during the period 2006–2008. Annexes include specific country activities and human resource development activities in 2008, and a financial summary of assistance during the period 2005 to 2008.

Samoa Development Background

Samoa experienced major economic disruption in the early 1990s, owing to poor economic management and a succession of natural disasters. However, strong political leadership and pragmatic economic policies have formed the basis for solid economic growth in the economy since 1995. The current framework for the country's economic and social development is the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2005-2007. This identifies six key development priorities: the private sector, agriculture, tourism, community, education and health. The Samoan Government is committed to macroeconomic stability and a program of public sector reform, which has, for example, seen the number of ministries reduced from 28 to 14.

Traditionally, the Samoan economy has been dependent on agriculture and fishing, remittances from nationals living overseas and development aid. Manufacturing and tourism have become important sectors more recently.

Agriculture is responsible for employing approximately two-thirds of the labour force and accounts for around 90 per cent of exports, which include coconut cream, coconut oil and copra. Subsistence agriculture remains the country's principal economic activity, although its share of GDP is gradually declining. Fish catches declined during the El Niño period of 2002-2003, but had returned to normal by mid-2005.

Remittances from nationals living in New Zealand, Australia and the United States are a significant source of income. These amounted to the equivalent of more than 120 million USD in 2005-2006, and they currently constitute nearly one-quarter of Samoa's GDP. The tourism sector, which has experienced steady growth during the past few years, generated the equivalent of more than 90 million USD in 2005-2006, an increase of 15 per cent on the previous year.

The manufacturing sector mainly focuses on processing agricultural products, although the Yazaki Samoa factory in the Foreign Trade Zone employs more than 2,000 workers making automobile electrical harnesses for an assembly plant in Australia. Yazaki is Samoa's largest private sector employer.

Tourism is an expanding sector that now accounts for around 20 per cent of GDP. About 100,000 tourists visited the country in 2005.

Samoa Government policy calls for deregulation of the financial sector, encouragement of investment and continuing fiscal discipline while, at the same time, protecting the environment.



Flexibility of the labour market is seen as a basic strength contributing to future economic development of the country. Recent retail sales have been robust and business confidence high. However, private sector investment and liquidity are low, the trade deficit is rising, and foreign debt is high. The country is also vulnerable to devastating tropical storms.

Summary of SPC Assistance to Samoa 2006 - 2008

This section provides an overview of SPC assistance to Samoa by division and programme for the period 2006-2008. A more detailed listing of activities can be found in Annex 1.

Land Resources

The Land Resources Division (LRD) continues to respond to Samoa's need to improve food and nutritional security through sustainable management and development of land, agriculture and forestry resources. Over the past three years, the division has provided technical assistance to strengthen its engagement in the international forestry policy dialogue and conducted training in the area of sheep husbandry practices for farmers and livestock officers. LRD has provided capacity building in practices promoting sustainable community based agriculture, technical training ranging from logframes, diagnosis of pest, to diseases and soil nutrition disorders.

LRD assisted Samoa to respond to a new virus disease in vanilla, by designing sustainable control practices.

Amongst the highlights of LRD activities in the past three years has been the assistance to help Samoa prepare for and manage the influx of people attending the 2007 South Pacific Games (SPG). The Programme initiated and facilitated the Pacific games "Live and Feed the Dream" project, which prepared farmers to supply crops for the games. Further support was provided for the Games Quarantine Public Awareness campaigns, training of personnel for the SPG bio-security operations, and for regional awareness on biosecurity risks associated with the influx of people for the SPG 2007.

Marine Resources

The last three years has seen the SPC's Coastal Fisheries programme (CFP) assisting Samoa through the provision of technical assistance, training, fisheries information and research. This is accompanied by funding of participants to a range of conferences and workshops. The Programme also provided ongoing advice and assistance in the area of community-based fisheries management. A resource survey is underway to assess the stocks of aquarium fish species around the island of Upolu. A range of assistance has also been provided through the EU-funded DEVFISH and PROCFish/C projects. Both SPC and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) jointly implemented the DEVFISH project by providing assistance with trialling sails on alia catamarans and assisting the local tuna fishing association. Through the PROCFish/C project, SPC in collaboration with FFA trained Samoan Fisheries Officers in finfish underwater visual census and socioeconomic survey methodologies.

The Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) provided approximately USD 90,000 in assistance to Samoa during the period 2005-2008. This assistance comprised mainly the provision of services in tuna fisheries data management, tuna fishery monitoring and training in tuna stock assessment and data management.

The Regional Maritime Programme (RMP) has provided significant assistance to Samoa to ensure that they continue to comply with international maritime requirements. It has assisted the country establish effective policy, regulatory frameworks and strong maritime institutions to allow Samoa to maximise its benefits from international trade. The Programme has undertaken follow up audits in the maritime sector, provided capacity building through workshops, attachments, secondment and on-the-job training for officers in maritime related agencies, in areas such as maritime administration, port authorities, shipping operations, safety of seafarers, small island states commercial ship management and vessel movement.

Social Resources

The Human Development Programme (HDP) continues to provide capacity building assistance to Samoa by facilitating attendance of participants for the seven months Community Education Training Centre (CETC) community development training. The Programme also enabled a participant to attend the scriptwriting workshop during the International Film Festival and other significant international meetings. Technical support was also provided to assist Samoa's effort to enhance its national cultural policy.

To develop women's capabilities in income generating activities, the Programme in partnership with Commonwealth Secretariat, provided local level training in small enterprise skills (business planning and development) for the women of Samoa

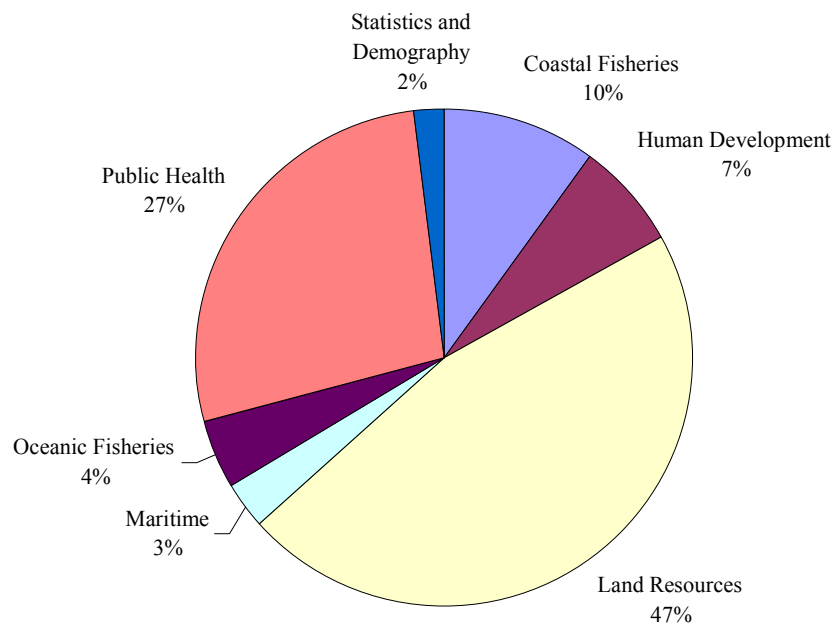
SPC's Public Health Programme (PHP) has assisted in strengthening Samoa's response capability to an influenza pandemic. The avian and pandemic influenza surveillance programme is updated, immuno-fluorescence testing for influenza has been introduced, and antiviral rapid test kits for diagnosis of avian influenza in bird stocks and personal protective equipment has been procured and delivered.

The Statistics and Demography Programme assisted Samoa in the development of a Household Income and Expenditure Survey. To enhance effective utilisation of data for policy and planning purposes, technical assistance was also provided to support the existing PopGIS to ensure ongoing use by local staff, and to progress the integration of GID/GPD application to census planning and Samoa's Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

Other Assistance, human resources development and financial highlights

In 2008, 170 persons from Samoa have participated in SPC training activities, organised by SPC's Land Resources, Marine Resources (Fisheries), Maritime programme and Social Resources (Statistics and Demography) Divisions. Annex 2 provides further details.

Annex 3 indicates the dollar value of assistance provided for Samoa by the various programmes in SPC. The pie chart, below, depicts the assistance from 2005 to 2008 by programme area, a total of USD 2,052,042 was utilised to support technical assistance, training activities, workshop participation, direct grants and research activities. As depicted, SPC's Land Resources programme which constituted 47% of overall funds expended, provided the most support to Samoa.



ANNEX 1: 2008 Notable Activities in Samoa by SPC Programmes

Land Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The derris pesticide has been prepared and used on the DSAP sites in Samoa and promising results were gathered. There is concern in the promotion of derris, as it is used as fish poison by some fishermen locally. • Supporting the maintenance of bamboo trials established under the Bamboo Crop Development Project • One officer participated in a study tour in Tasmania to look at forestry code implementation. • One participant attended the Pacific Regional CDM Forestry Awareness Workshop. • Training of staff at the Ministry tissue culture laboratory; awarding of Masters scholarship to a Ministry staff member. • Re-development of SQUID – additional of more tables, forms and reports. • Continued systems support and servicing of the SQUID. • National PCE evaluation completed. • SQUID user manual written and refresher training of SQUID users. • Attachment training of the SQUID supervisor with LRD. • Two officers attended the regional training on the use of the PCE tool in Tonga. • One officer regional refresher training for IPP editors and introduction to the BIF in Suva. • Facilitated market access submission of <i>Citrus spp</i> to New Zealand and breadfruit to Australia. • Audit of sea port facilities as part of the PEST scoping study • Purchase and supply of two computers and accessories.
Marine Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ran inter-Samoa refresher course for both staff of American Fisheries and Samoa Fisheries in Apia on community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management • Provided scientific support for their FFA Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries workshop • Visited and reviewed needs for SPC aquaculture assistance in Samoa and agreed indicative programme • “Start Your Fishing Business” training workshop held in Samoa for 12 participants • Follow-up ISPS Designated Authority audit on Samoa maritime admin. • RMP hosted a secondment from the Samoa maritime administration • 4 participants to the Ecosystems Approach (EACFA) and Aquatic Biosecurity meeting in Noumea • 2 participants in 2008 fisheries Ecological Risk Assessment workshop • Two participants in practical training course on finfish underwater visual census methodologies in Noumea • A total of 49 people participated/trained in various maritime areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Substandard shipping seminar ○ Small Island States ship management training course ○ Advanced maritime auditors course ○ Basic maritime auditors course ○ PacMA subcommittee and Executive Committee meetings ○ Search and rescue conference ○ Security drills and exercises workshop ○ Port management and engineering seminar ○ Sub-regional surveyors course

- 2008 RMP planning meeting
- PacMA 12 conference
- Pacific maritime security conference
- Senior auditors practicum
- IMO Long Range Identification and Tracking Conference
- Basic security auditors training course
- Australian Certificate IV in workplace assessment and training
- Business Excellence training course
- Maritime administrators secondment
- Maritime policy and legislative drafting workshop
- PacWIMA Executive Committee meeting 4
- Third Annual General meeting of PIMLA
- 4 participants in Apia-based short course on fisheries statistics and stock assessment
- 6 participants in Apia-based high level fisheries Policy and Planning Workshop
- 1 participant in subregional practical workshop on implementation and analysis of socioeconomic fisheries surveys
- 2 participants in special Heads of Fisheries Meeting to develop the Regional Coastal Fisheries Management Strategies
- 2 participants in 2008 Tuna Fisheries Stock Assessment Workshops in Noumea
- 1 participant to the second Tuna Data Workshop

Social Resources

Public Health Programme

- HIV/STI
- Assist in the development of GFATM R7 submission for HIV
- Adolescent Health Development (AHD)
- Information and Education
- Life skills based Peer Education
 - Community outreach education
- Youth Friendly Services
- Youth Clinic Centres
 - Integrated primary health Care
- Innovative Activities
- YFS with NGO
- TB
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Follow up of MDR-TB case
- PHPS & CDC
- Support for in country surveillance activities for influenza with immune – fluorescence testing, with sentinel surveillance activities
 - PRIPPP – Procurement of antiviral and supplies for Rapid Containment
 - Orientation to planning process and planned testing exercises processes
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- GFATM
- Undertook grant preparation and successfully concluded grant negotiations for two round seven HIV and TB proposals submitted to the global Fund with phase 1, 2 year combined value of \$16.34 Million. Grants commenced 1st July 2008
 - Technical, logistical and financial support to conduct the repeat second generation behavior, STI and HIV prevalence surveys

Human Development Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical assistance was provided to the Government Culture Department to review the national culture policy.• Business enterprise trainings in July 2008 (approx USD 11, 780)
Statistics and Demography Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HIES Planning and Field work preparation• HIES Data Process

ANNEX 2: 2008 SPC Human Resource Development Activities for Samoa

SPC Programme/ Section	Training subject area (or course title)	Month	Year	Duration	Type: Workshop (course) Attachment at SPC or On-the-job (in-country)	Location (city/town, country)	Number Samoa Participants	Male	Female	Number person days
LRD- Forests and Trees	Regional Awareness Workshop on CDM Forestry	January	2008	4 days	Workshop	Nadi, Fiji	1	1	0	4
LRD - Forests and Trees	Implementation of the Code of Harvesting Practice	April	2008	6 days	Study Tour	Tasmania, Australia	1	1	0	6
LRD-Animal Health	IATA Training	June	2008	3 days	Workshop course	Nadi, Fiji	1	0	1	3
LRD-Animal Health	Paravet Training	April	2008	7 days	Workshop course	Nadi, Fiji	20	14	6	140
LRD-Animal Health	Paravet Trainers Training	April	2008	2 days	Workshop course	Nadi, Fiji	2	2	0	4
LRD-Animal Health	IATA TRAINING	April/May	2008	3 days	Workshop course	Nadi, Fiji	1	1	0	3
LRD- Developing Sustainable Agricultural Policies	DSAP Strategies	April	2008	5 days	Workshop	Nadi, Fiji	2	1	1	10
SRD – Pacific Health Lifestyles	Workshop on Nutrition, Diet and Lifestyle: Upscaling Action in the Pacific	February	2008	5 days	Workshop	Nadi, Fiji	3	1	2	15
SRD – HIV & STI	Syndromes Management Training	March	2008	3 days	Training	Apia, Samoa	20	10	10	60
SRD – HIV & STI	SGS Training	April	2008	3 days	Training	Apia, Samoa	28	19	9	140
SRD - HIV & STI	Behaviour Change Communication Training	September	2008	5 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	1	0	1	5
SRD – Public Health Surveillance & Communicable Disease Control	CDC Influenza Surveillance Lab Training	August	2008		Attachment	Melbourne, Australia	1	0	1	
SRD Statistics Demography Programme	UNSD-SPC Census 2010 Technical Workshop	February	2008	5 days	Workshop	Noumea, New Caledonia	1	1	0	5
SRD Statistics Demography Programme	ABS-PGSP-SPC Phase 2 planning meeting	February	2008	2 days	Workshop	Noumea, New Caledonia	1	1	0	2
SRD Statistics	ABS-PGSP-SPC Project	March (Part	2008	8 days	Workshop	Samoa	1	0	1	8

Demography Programme	Planning	1)								
SRD - Statistics & Demography Programme	ABS-PGSP-SPC Project Planning	July (Part 2)	2008	4 days	Workshop	Samoa	12	8	4	48
SRD - Regional Media Centre	Graphics and Design	March/April	2008	1 week	Workshop	Suva, Fiji	1	0	1	5
SRD - Human Development Programme	Community Development	March - Oct	2008	7 Months	Training - Cert in CD	Suva, Fiji	1	0	1	140
SRD - Human Development Programme	CEFE - Module 1-4	June	2008	2 weeks	Cert in CEFE	Apia, Samoa	33	15	18	330
SRD - Regional Rights Resource Team	Monitoring Civic Education & HIV and Human Rights	August	2008	5 days	Workshop	Suva, Fiji	1	1	0	5
SRD - Regional Media Centre	Communication	September	2008	1 day	Workshop	Suva Fiji	1	0	1	1
SRD - Regional Media Centre	Multi-media: GD/Radio Broadcast/DV Production	April	2008	1 week	Workshop	Suva, Fiji	1	0	1	5
SRD - Regional Media Centre	Media and Communications	April	2008	1 day	Workshop	Suva, Fiji	1	0	1	1
SRD - Regional Media Centre	Graphics and Design	August	2008	1 day	Workshop	Suva Fiji	1	0	1	1
MRD - Regional Maritime Programme	Business Excellence Training	July	2008	5 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	2	2	0	10
MRD - Regional Maritime Programme	Maritime Law Seminar	July	2008	4 days	Seminar	Suva, Fiji	3	1	2	12
MRD - Regional Maritime Programme	Security Auditor Training	July	2008	5 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	2	1	1	10
MRD - Regional Maritime Programme	Senior Auditors Practicum	May	2008	2 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	1	1	0	2
MRD - Regional Maritime Programme	Pacific Maritime Security Conference	May	2008	3 days	Training	Nadi, Fiji	5	4	1	15
MRD - Regional Maritime Programme	Australian Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment & Training	July	2008	5 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	2	2	0	10

MRD Regional Maritime Programme	-	Australian Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment & Training	July	2008	5 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	2	2	0	10
MRD Regional Maritime Programme	-	Australian Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment & Training	July	2008	5 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	2	2	0	10
MRD Regional Maritime Programme	-	Practical Attachment	June	2008	5 days	SPC Attachment	Suva, Fiji	1	1	0	5
MRD Regional Maritime Programme	-	Australian Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment & Training	July	2008	5 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	2	2	0	10
MRD Regional Maritime Programme	-	IMO LRIT	June	2008	2 days	Training	Suva, Fiji	1	1	0	2
MRD Oceanic Fisheries Programme	-	Stock Assessment	June/July	2008	5 days	Workshop	Noumea, New Caledonia	2	2	0	10
MRD Oceanic Fisheries Programme	-	Ecological Risk Assessment	June/July	2008	2 days	Workshop	Noumea, New Caledonia	2	2	0	4
MRD PROCFISH	-	UVC4 - Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Underwater Visual Census (Uvc) Methodologies for the Assessment of Reef Fish Resources	August	2008	1 week	Training	Noumea, New Caledonia	2	2	0	10
MRD Nearshore Fisheries	-	Competent Authority Inspectors (CA Training)	April	2008	2-weeks	Training	Nelson, NZ	2	2	0	20
MRD Nearshore Fisheries	-	Start and Improve Your Fisheries Business (SIYFB) Programme - Refresher (R-TOT) Seminar	August	2008	1 week	Training	Apia, Samoa	3	3	0	15
MRD Coastal Fisheries	-	Training for Heads of Fisheries on Fisheries Policy		2008	td	Training	td	1	1	0	
							Total	170	106	64	1081

ANNEX 3: Summary of SPC Assistance to Samoa for the Period 2005-2008

Sector/Type of Assistance	Cost by Year (USD)				Total Cost (USD)
	2005	2006	2007*	2008**	
Coastal Fisheries					
Technical assistance	0	3,000	35,454	0	38,454
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	12,980	23,085	38,190	8,500	82,755
Research activities	70,000	0	0	4,500	74,500
Direct financial grants	0	0	0	0	0
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	0	3,000	6,000	3,000	12,000
Sector Total	82,980	29,085	79,644	16,000	207,709
Human Development					
Technical assistance	11,125	3,540	7,040	0	21,705
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	38,475	19,110	12,600	14,460	84,645
Research activities	0	0	1,360	0	1,360
Direct financial grants	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	7,690	3,490	13,660	2,350	27,190
Sector Total	57,290	26,140	39,660	16,810	139,900
Land Resources					
Technical assistance	27,220	96,518	115,853	56,600	296,192
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	5,133	11,557	61,483	35,435	113,608
Research activities	71,489	71,780	81,793	30,690	255,751
Direct financial grants	37,834	36,550	22,959	25,345	122,687
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	24,194	30,846	82,203	29,366	166,608
Sector Total	165,869	247,251	364,291	177,436	954,847
Maritime					
Technical assistance	2,762	1,140	0	2,455	6,357
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	16,941	13,017	6,227	1,228	37,412
Research activities	0	0	0	0	0
Direct financial grants	0	0	0	0	0
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	8,593	1,974	7,957	0	18,524
Sector Total	28,296	16,130	14,184	3,683	62,293

Oceanic Fisheries

Technical assistance	15,054	14,875	0	28,581	58,510
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	4,049	0	0	8,003	12,052
Research activities	0	0	0	0	0
Direct financial grants	0	0	0	0	0
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	0	8,377	3,261	6,859	18,497
Sector Total	19,103	23,252	3,261	43,443	89,058

Public Health

Technical assistance	20,587	75,226	23,716	12,606	132,136
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	15,959	23,118	38,391	33,920	111,388
Research activities	1,498	2,000	13,093	4,500	21,091
Direct financial grants	47,381	21,587	80,504	59,012	208,484
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	14,252	42,785	14,538	16,500	88,075
Other assistance	0	0	0	0	0
Sector Total	99,676	164,716	170,243	126,539	561,174

Statistics and Demography

Technical assistance	4,836	0	5,078	3,444	13,359
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	0	0	0	0	0
Research activities	0	0	0	0	0
Direct financial grants	0	0	0	0	0
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	8,302	7,657	7,744	0	23,703
Sector Total	13,138	7,657	12,822	3,444	37,062
Grand Total	466,353	514,231	684,104	387,355	2,052,043

Please note that this table includes only the direct cost of SPC assistance. It does not include major expense items such as the cost of SPC personnel (e.g. salaries). The total financial value of SPC assistance is therefore significantly higher than shown in this table.