



PRASC NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, no. 2, September 2018

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Government
of Canada



The PRASC team is pleased to present its semi-annual newsletter. This edition covers activities that took place between April and September 2018. If you wish to be added to the distribution list, please send an email to statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca.



Census Management and Planning Workshop, Guyana, July 2018
Photo: Inter-American Development Bank

Census workshop

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the Inter-American Development Bank and PRASC co-organized the Census Management and Planning Workshop in Guyana from July 24 to 27, 2018. Participants from 13 CARICOM national statistical offices (NSOs), Curaçao and international organizations discussed census management and planning activities, geographic information systems, and electronic collection in preparation for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses. The workshop followed a meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee.

Work on websites

PRASC is working with the NSOs of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and St. Kitts and Nevis to develop a new website, and with the NSOs of Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to modernize the existing website. Work continues to advance on these projects both virtually and via in-country missions. The teams reviewed best practices in terms of design and content; took inventory of the statistical products to be disseminated on the websites; documented data table standards, website management processes and dissemination processes; and developed a website prototype. PRASC also provided basic training and an instruction manual to NSO staff to support the offices in updating their own website. PRASC continues to work with the NSOs in preparation for the launch of their new improved websites.

Work on supply and use tables

Following a multi-country sprint meeting on supply and use tables (SUTs) in Ottawa in January 2018, in-country missions were held to advance the work in Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Belize, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The PRASC team collaborated with several employees from each NSO on hands-on compilation work to advance the SUTs being developed. The work will continue both virtually and through other face-to-face discussions. The goal is to reach fully balanced tables that comply with the 2008 System of National Accounts and that can be used as a benchmark for macroeconomics tables.



Website mission, Grenada, April 2018
Photo: Rhodz Lamarre, Statistics Canada

Business registers

In April 2018, PRASC initiated Business Register (BR) development with Barbados through a mission that allowed the review of key information. The following month, members of PRASC visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines to supply training on an Excel-based BR that will house the business population and provide a mechanism for incoming national insurance data, which will be used to identify potential BR updates. This will form the foundation of an Excel-based generalized BR, which will be a useful tool for countries with small business populations. Additionally, work is well underway to develop a Structured Query Language version of a relational database to facilitate BR development in countries with larger and more complex business populations. The project is scheduled to have a preliminary version ready for testing in December 2018 and the final version ready for implementation in April 2019.

Leadership workshop

From September 10 to 12, 18 people from the NSOs of 13 member states and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) participated in Module 1 of the leadership workshop in Barbados. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Lois Parkes of the Caribbean Leadership Project, another regional initiative funded by the Government of Canada. Topics included 110% listening, leadership styles, delegation, crucial conversation and stakeholder mapping. A few participants will attend a virtual makeup session, as they had to leave a day early because of Tropical Storm Isaac. Module 2 is scheduled from April 1 to 4, 2019, in Jamaica.



*Closing ceremony, leadership workshop, Module 1
Barbados, September 2018*

Photo: Caribbean Centre for Development Administration

Consumer Price Index for Guyana

PRASC has completed the work to assist the Guyana Bureau of Statistics (BOS) in transitioning to a new Consumer Price Index software (CPI Plus). Features available in the software have allowed the BOS to release its CPI figures in a timelier fashion, even though additional cities have been included. Additionally, the Household Budget Survey questionnaire was reviewed to ensure that it will meet collection requirements while minimizing respondent burden.

Statistical advocacy strategy for OECS member states

Based on reports from the consultations conducted in six OECS member states to assess the current context and perception of statistics, PRASC and the OECS Commission have developed a regional statistical communication and advocacy strategy. The reports and the strategy were presented to OECS member states in September and received positive feedback. As part of this strategy, the commission has created a statistical communication and advocacy group, comprising one focal point per NSO and other partners as required. Its main objective is to enhance capacity, synchronize activities and standardize materials to help implement the OECS statistical communication and advocacy strategy.

National accounts training

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the Statistics Department of St. Kitts and Nevis participated in a four-day training session on national accounts in April 2018. It covered production, consumption, stocks and flows, as well as the three approaches to gross domestic product compilation (production, expenditure and income). The concepts also extended to the current and capital accounts. Immediately after, Montserrat benefitted from a more practical module using its own data.

Preparing communications for the census

The next census round is fast approaching, and PRASC has been working with the CARICOM Secretariat (CCS) on developing a regional communication plan. It has also been working with the Statistical Institute of Belize on developing a communication plan to support census activities through their different stages: recruitment, collection and dissemination. PRASC will continue to provide technical assistance through the implementation of the plan and the development of various communication material, both to the CCS and to individual countries.