

Stats News & Views

Facts, Figures and Updates from the Statistics Section of the Caribbean Community Secretariat

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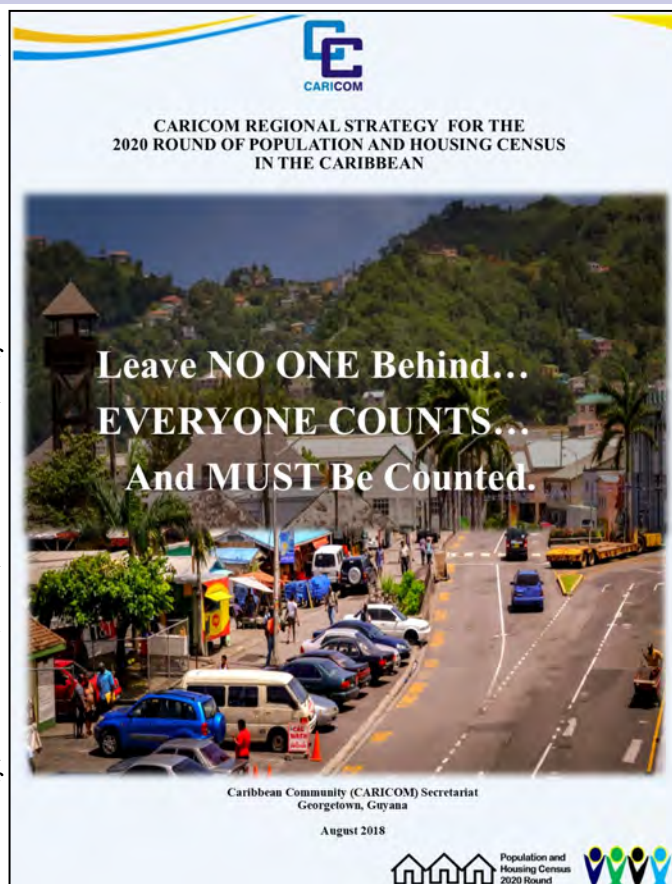
Volume 17, Issue 1

Main Events

CARICOM Advances Regional Strategy for the 2020 Census Round - passes Resolution on the Upcoming Census in the Caribbean

Preparations for the conduct of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) continues, with some CARICOM countries scheduled to undertake Census as early as 2020 and others in 2021 and 2022.

The Population and Housing Census in CARICOM which is undertaken every ten (10) years, is the largest statistical activity a country can undertake. The census plays a vital role in the National Statistical Systems (NSS) since census data are used as benchmarks for *inter alia*, statistical compilation, the calculation of indicators in economic and social statistics and Population and Household data also informs the development of sampling frames for the conduct of sample surveys.



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Census-taking in CARICOM has long been noted for the use of a regionally-coordinated approach, which is a well-established and proven strategy that provides for the use of uniform concepts and definitions and a common core of questions on the census questionnaires, by all the countries, in support of the collection of high-quality comparable census data. Continuing up to the 2010 Census Round, the use of a regionally-coordinated approach led by the CARICOM Secretariat, in the Caribbean has characterised the efforts to provide support to countries in the preparation and conduct of their census activities to facilitate successful execution of the Census exercise.

The Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) held in Curacao in October 2017 approved the Outline of the Regional

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Regional Statistics
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Developing a Sustainable Statistics Infrastructure...



Main Events

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CARICOM ADVANCES REGIONAL STRATEGY...

Census Strategy to support CARICOM Member States and Associate Members in the conduct of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census.

Elements of the Regional Census Strategy

The overall objective of the Strategy is to provide support in enabling the availability of timely, high quality and comparable Census Data for Planning and Decision-Making in the Caribbean Region.

The Strategy takes into consideration the experiences of countries in the 2010 Census Round including the challenges and best practices highlighted at the meetings of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) throughout the execution of the 2010 Census in countries and at the Second CARICOM Census Symposium which was held in Grenada in May 2014.

The RCCC is a sub-committee of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) through which the Regional Support Strategy for the conduct of the Population and Housing Census is coordinated by the CARICOM Secretariat to assist countries in the conduct of their censuses including the provision of training and technical assistance.

Some of the key concerns and recommendations from the Census Symposium held in 2014 to review the 2010 Census Round included ***the issue of planning and project Management; use of satellite imagery and the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates and Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI); which most countries have indicated they would use in the 2020 Census Round; Communication and Advocacy support; and census dissemination, analysis and promotion of the use of the results.***

The historical perspective that has laid the foundation for the current regionally-coordinated approach that has been executed by the CARICOM Secretariat since the 1980 Census Round is also included in the Strategy.



Harmonising, Coordination and Monitoring

The Coordinating Mechanism that has been established throughout the years which is the RCCC comprises National Census Officers (usually Directors of Statistics/Chief Statisticians and/or their deputies) of Member States, Associate Members and Observer countries and representatives from regional and international organisations. The RCCC reports as is customary, to the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS). The SCCS reports to the Community Council of Ministers. It is also the case that the Population and Housing Census activity is brought to the attention of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) given the huge potential for use of census data in social development.

The regional coordination of the census in CARICOM is the responsibility of the CARICOM Secretariat. The CARICOM Secretariat is the secretariat for the SCCS and the RCCC meetings. Key elements of responsibility of regional coordination entail organising the support that is required across the region relative to capacity-building, responding rapidly to emergency situations relative to census-taking, monitoring the achievement of the results, and helping countries in general where required with the census-taking activities.

The Regional Census Strategy will cater for technical assistance visits/attachments by the CARICOM Secretariat Staff or Member States representatives that can support the harmonisation of the census across the region such as contributing to the training of trainers, supervisors and enumerators in countries.

It is anticipated that a Census Coordinator will be recruited at the Secretariat to provide support to the execution of the Regional Census Strategy and to the monitoring of the census planning and conduct in countries.



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Elements of the Regional Census Strategy (Cont'd)

Census Management/Organisation

Use of Project Management was a key recommendation coming out of the 2010 Census Round. Census Management/Organisation – to enable the availability of the requisite management skills for the planning and conduct of the census training, south-south cooperation and support through the Secretariat will be made available to support the conduct of the census exercise in countries.

From the initial attempts to plan for the censuses, consideration must be given to the development of an overall programme which takes account of all stages of the census including the publication and dissemination of the census results and the use of the census data. This approach will make use of Project Management techniques in census planning and management. Analysis and dissemination are given prominence in the activity plan as contained in the Regional Census Strategy.

Common Questionnaire and Methodology

This section of the 2020 Census Strategy will focus on providing support to countries in the review of their census questionnaires and corresponding methodologies. Prior to the completion of the document for the regional strategy of support, the CARICOM Secretariat had convened in May 2017, a workshop to review the Common Census Questionnaire from the 2010 Census Round project. There was also a review of methodologies as required and also presentations and discussions on other key aspects of census-taking. The future focus of this component would be to assist/advise countries on the finalisation of the content of their questionnaires as required.

Countries are urged once they agree to include a question to follow the format as proposed by the Census Technical Working Group (TWG) in the interest of comparability, e.g., the questions on disability. The final decision on the questionnaire content is that of Member States/Associate Member States.

The 2010 Census Round attempted a more structured harmonisation of the censuses through the execution by the CARICOM Secretariat of a jointly funded IDB/UNFPA project that focused on a common census questionnaire and methodologies.

It is estimated that on average **76.1 per cent** of the 135 core questions on which consensus was achieved, were common across countries and as high as **82.5 per cent**, if specific topics that some Member States would have had

consistent information for were excluded. In the case of the methodologies, there were minor instances of a lack of commonality.

Mapping/Geographic Information System (GIS)

Support in the area of Cartography is being provided under the IDB-funded Project - Common Census Framework 2.0 – Support to CARICOM Regionally-Coordinated Census Strategy (**detailed on page 4**) of which, the Development of a Common Approach to Census Mapping is included. The objective of this activity is to improve census mapping to maximise enumeration of the population during the 2020 Round.

Given the extent of natural disasters in the Region, GIS, specifically geo-referencing of buildings can assist in the mapping of disaster-prone areas and of vulnerable groups relative to poverty, the ageing population and other vulnerable areas and persons/groups of persons.

Census Data Collection/Data Processing

Census Data Processing forms part of the regionally-coordinated strategy to provide support in this area including the planning/design framework, data capture framework, and data editing as well as the production of toolkits. Manuals and guidelines from the previous census round can be made available where the corresponding data capture approach is being used.

Training/sensitisation on Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) was undertaken at a collaborative workshop conducted by Statistics Canada under the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC), the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), the CARICOM Secretariat and Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

Census Data Analysis, Use and Dissemination

Census Data Analysis and Dissemination will focus on strengthening the capabilities of countries to produce comparable national analytical census reports, to support the production of special regional topic monographs such as on Gender, Youth and the Elderly, to assist countries in organising their census databases for dissemination and support to the regional census e-portal that is web-based. Data dissemination equipment /software will also form part of this component.

Technical Working Group Functioning

The Strategy also caters for support to a Technical Working Group to provide technical support to the SCCS and the RCCC relative to the 2020 Census Round. This support will entail participation in at least six (6) face-to-face meetings in specific technical areas such as analysis, processing and preparing GIS as required.

Main Events

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Elements of the Regional Census Strategy (Cont'd)

Communication and Advocacy

In the area of Communication and Advocacy, a regional advocacy/communication census product will be produced which countries can use to target different groups, such as, schools, households and businesses. As highlighted below, advocacy will be sought at the political levels of the Community to ensure support for the census operations.

Benefits to Countries through the Regional Strategy

The Regional Census Strategy was prepared by the CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with Member States and Associate Member States.

Although Member States are solely responsible for funding the conduct of the Census in their respective countries, the Regional Strategy seeks to alleviate the burden pertaining to certain elements of the Census activity.

The benefits for countries to be derived from the Regional Approach in this regard will include:

- ♦ Census Management and organisation training including the development of a Project Management Framework conducted and prepared;
- ♦ Mapping preparation and GIS, making use of available satellite imagery undertaken;
- ♦ Data Capture and Processing training including the preparation of a management framework in the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing completed;
- ♦ Upgrading of web-based census-e-portal to incorporate existing data sets/GIS enabled system conducted;
- ♦ Preparation of census dissemination products including user-friendly briefs and analytical products, national census reports and regional special topic monographs prepared;
- ♦ Census data dissemination seminars for sharing census results with policy makers and other users conducted;
- ♦ A Communication and Advocacy framework for the 2020 census round produced and adapted by countries as required.

The CARICOM Secretariat has already received some funding support from one International Development Partner, namely, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through a **Common Census Framework 2.0 Project – Support to Regionally-Coordinated Census in CARICOM**.

Similar to the 2010 Round, it is hoped that additional support can be provided to the regional office to assist in implementation and monitoring through project financing.

Support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) - Common Census Framework 2.0 Project

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the Inter-American Development Bank have entered into a non-reimbursable technical cooperation, 2018-2021, to build and reinforce the common census framework in the CARICOM region to enable the production of regional public goods that can achieve a robust 2020 population census strategy and outcomes.

The framework will enhance the production of basic socio-demographic statistics that are comparable across countries and data aggregation from the population and household censuses will support the regional integration process.

The Project entails three (3) components, under which three individual consultancies will be undertaken to achieve the project objectives. The IDB Support also makes provision for the hiring of a Project Assistant to ensure the efficient execution of the project. The Project Assistant will be based in the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat.

The 3 Individual Consultancies for the various components are expected to commence soon and will provide the following:

Development of a Common Framework for the Conduct of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)

The general support under this consultancy will be towards the use of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology to collect data in the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census. Several countries of CARICOM have indicated their intention to use Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) method in their census enumeration for the 2020 Round.

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Main Events

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Support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) - (Cont'd)

To achieve this objective, the activities will include the preparation of methodology and work plan for the consultancy, the gathering of information and lessons learnt on the use of CAPI technology in the region for the conduct of recent surveys and censuses and the development of a management system/framework for the implementation of a paperless census in CARICOM in the 2020 Round.

Development of a Common Approach to Census Mapping

The improvement of Census Mapping to maximise enumeration of the CARICOM Population during the 2020 Census Round is the main objective under this component.

In addition to the preparation of a methodology and requisite work plan other activities will include an assessment of the status of Mapping/GIS preparation for the 2020 Census Round in CARICOM Countries and the preparation of a Manual for the development

of Mapping/GIS Infrastructure for the 2020 Round including obtaining/using the maps from different sources such as Lands and Surveys Units/Divisions, Satellite Imagery, how to overcome problems in mapping, obtaining information at the building level etc.

The facilitation of the use of the mapping template developed/upgraded under the 2010 Round will also be undertaken under this component of the project.

Development of a Project Management Framework for Census Planning and Execution

The overall objective of this consultancy is to improve the conduct of the 2020 Census Round by incorporating project management techniques and a management for results framework into the census planning.

The main activities will include the preparation of a methodology and work plan for the consultancy, the development of a CARICOM Census Project Management/Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) which can include Management/Project Management Teams; Systems of reporting progress-tracking mechanism; early warning system; Gantt Chart and other relevant elements as well as the development of relevant documentation/training manual for staff of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs).

CARICOM Member States pass Resolution on the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census in the Caribbean – Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics, February 2019

At the Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics (HLF) that was held on 22 February 2019 in St. George's, Grenada, the call was made for all CARICOM countries to provide adequate financial resources and in a timely manner, to the National Statistical Offices for the conduct of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census in the Caribbean.

The Forum which was convened under the theme *“Investing in Statistics to Build Resilience and to Achieve Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in the Caribbean Community”* was hosted by the Government of Grenada.

In addition to the HLF, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat also convened a High Level Seminar on the 21 February 2019 as well as an ICT Fair during the two-day period, 21-22 February 2019.

The 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census was one of the core areas addressed at the High Level Seminar.

The role of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) in addressing the challenges and concerns that can arise during the various stages of the census taking process including Census Management and Planning, Data Collection, Data Processing and Dissemination of Census results were examined.

In the Resolution, CARICOM countries emphasised the importance of the Population and Housing Census as an integrated programme of the CARICOM Statistical System, which will be implemented as part of the CARICOM RSDS and specifically through the CARICOM Regional Census Strategy for the 2020 Census Round.

The complete Resolution is contained in Vol. 1, Issue II of *What's New* (the CARICOM RSDS Quarterly Newsletter) available on our website <http://statistics.caricom.org/what'snewpub.html>.



Main Events

Statistical Capacity-Building underway in CARICOM Member States: IDB, Italy and CARICOM



Participants at a Country Assessment in Suriname, April 2019

CARICOM has received support under the Project, ***Capacity-Building for Statistics*** which is being funded by the Government of Italy through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. This project is also supported through a complementary project ***Support to Statistical Capacity in CARICOM countries*** funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The Italian project is being implemented through the Italian Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) while the CARICOM Secretariat is implementing the IDB Project.

The objective of the project is to provide the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in Member States and the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat with a range of complete and reliable statistics needed to guide the development process of CARICOM. Specifically, the focus of the project is to provide complete and reliable statistics on Gender, Environment and Agricultural and Rural Development.

The launch of the project took place in December 2018 in Barbados and was attended by some Member States, ISTAT, the CARICOM Secretariat, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and remotely by the IDB.

In each of the three (3) areas of Statistics, assessments will be undertaken in two (2) Member States by ISTAT and CARICOM.

At these assessments, at least one additional country will be invited to attend and present on the status of the respective areas of statistics. Key administrative registers will be identified and assessed. The assessments will be followed by technical assistance that would seek to improve the exchange of data from administrative sources such as registers, as well as streamline existing surveys where these exists.

The Database Consultant being provided under the IDB funding will support the integration of the administrative registers within the official statistics by way of data sharing agreements and pilot matching of the registers to the databases of the NSOs.

Assessments have been undertaken in Suriname and Dominica in the area of Gender Statistics, Guyana in Agricultural and Rural Development and is expected to be undertaken in this same area in Trinidad and Tobago. These events serve to facilitate engagement with stakeholders including statisticians from the National Statistical Offices and officials from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as key public corporations that may operate in these areas. The project also includes training on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) which is an international standard developed for the purposes of data/metadata exchange.

Main Events



Status of Work on the CARICOM Core Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators for the Region

Following the approval by the 34th Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) in May 2018, of the 125 Core Indicators for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the CARICOM Secretariat has been working with Member States and Associate Members to advance the work in this area.

The CARICOM Technical Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (TWG-SDG) convened their Second Meeting on 12th June 2018 after the approval by COHSOD.

The objective of that Second Meeting was to continue the momentum to assist in the development of the core set of SDG indicators in the CARICOM Region after its approval. During this meeting, the draft work plan to enable the production of the SDGs included the following actions:

- Establish a priority list of activities to be implemented by Member States;
- Validate/Revise the data availability of the 125 indicators to be produced by countries;
- Commence preparatory work in support of the production and dissemination of high quality SDGs indicators.

Establish a priority list of activities to be implemented by Member States

Work is ongoing in this area.

Validate/Revise the data availability of the 125 indicators to be produced by countries



This work was completed in late 2018, the result of which was presented in a Publication entitled *CARICOM Core Indicators for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Assessment of Data Availability in Member States and Associate Members*. The publication was disseminated by the CARICOM Secretariat in February 2019 and is available on the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) website www.statistics.caricom.org.

Commence preparatory work in support of the production and dissemination of high quality SDGs indicators

Work is ongoing in this area.

The next meeting of the TWG-SDG is scheduled for the third quarter of 2019 to further the work in this area.



ESRI and CARICOM Agreement - Empowering Data-Driven Policy Initiatives using Location Intelligence

The Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), the global leader in location intelligence, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat for an initial term of three (3) years.

Under the Agreement, ESRI will help CARICOM to develop a foundational geospatial information platform to better understand and solve societal problems related to the region's economy, sustainability and quality of life, as well as manage and respond to disasters.

The Caribbean region is particularly susceptible to natural disasters and many of the Member States of CARICOM were severely impacted by hurricanes in the last two (2) years. Some Member States suffered major socio-economic impacts and also face challenges related to understanding where services need to be established to aid citizens.

The organisations will collaborate to create a regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) as well as foster the understanding and progress toward

reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the community.

In addition to the design and implementation of a Regional Geoportal that delivers trusted, authoritative data for the region, the collaboration will include, *inter alia*:

- Establishing a platform for emerging needs such as disaster risk assessment and vulnerability management, food security, climate change, health and public safety and economic development;
- Transitioning existing Member States DevInfo data to a geodatabase and create a centralised SDG portal for the region;
- Supporting Census 2020 work across the region;
- Working in collaboration to develop and host capacity building workshop (s);
- Collaborating to promote the use of analytical GIS tools that would measure the socio-economic impact of events (e.g., hurricane or floods) on infrastructure, people, agriculture and the economy.

"CARICOM recognises the significant impact of the support by ESRI given the need to make operational the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) that was endorsed by the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, which requires the strengthening of statistical systems to enable the production of geographic-based data that can ensure that development reaches all CARICOM people."

Philomen Harrison
Project Director, Regional Statistics
CARICOM Secretariat

CARICOM is dedicated to understanding how to best grapple with sustainability and resilience specifically as it pertains to the economy and disaster response, the complex challenges faced by Caribbean region require deep geographic insight and we are happy to assist by providing the tools necessary to address these issues"

Linda Peters
Manager
ESRI Global Business Development



Regional Statistics
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Developing a Sustainable Statistics Infrastructure...



Past Events

Launch of CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) in Statistics– Phase I



Participants from St. Kitts and Nevis during the remote meeting

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat convened the First Remote Meeting on the **CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework on Friday, 21st June 2019**.

The CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) is the supporting framework of the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP).

The goal of this Meeting was to begin the process of implementation of a quality assurance framework in a few pilot countries.

The Forty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), held in Cayman Islands in October 2017, endorsed the recommendation of the Twentieth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) that was held in Paramaribo, Suriname in June 2017, that is, the CQAF should commence with a small subset of the principles of the CGSP. This approach has been published in a document detailing Phase one of the CQAF and includes the following CGSP Principles:

- Quality Commitment (4);
- Statistical Confidentiality (5);
- Sound Methodology (7);
- Relevance (11); and
- Timeliness and Punctuality (13).

The volunteering Member States were encouraged to undertake activities relative to **Principle 4: Quality Commitment** as the first step. Some of the initial activities to be undertaken under this step include:

- An **overarching statement** or **declaration** of commitment to quality and specific **statements where required** which should all be made public and should be agreed/signed on to by all managers/supervisors within the NSO;

- Incorporation within the Organisational Structure of the NSO of a function/ position (s) for Quality Assurance. Ideally, there should be a **unit/part of a division** that advises on the **development and management of quality** within the NSO;

- There should be a **dedicated staff-member** to coordinate the development and management of the process. In the absence of either scenario, time should be allotted from key staff-members at set times during each week for the implementation of the QAF.

At the 43rd Meeting of the SCCS held in Montserrat, October 2018, four (4) Member States volunteered to pilot Phase One of the CQAF, namely, The Bahamas; Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and Suriname.

During the 43rd SCCS, Member States were informed of the development of the CQAF including its goal and linkages with the CGSP. It was noted that the preoccupation with the development of a quality assurance framework represented a concerted effort by the SCCS to address statistical quality as a major outcome to be achieved in Member States and within the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP). The goal of the CQAF is to ensure that the statistics produced are **fit for purpose** while at the same time being a manageable framework to implement across countries.

The categorisation of the CQAF is based on the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP) relative to the principles that are incorporated in both frameworks: In the case of Phase I of the CQAF the following are the principles agreed to by the SCCS:

- **Institutional Environment:** Quality Commitment and Statistical Confidentiality;
- **Statistical Processes:** Sound Methodology;
- **Statistical Outputs:** Relevance; Timeliness and Punctuality.



Past Events

Technical Meeting in the Framework of the 2017 Round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP)



Participants at the ICP Technical Meeting at the CARICOM Secretariat

The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat organised a Technical Meeting in the Framework of the 2017 Round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) at the CARICOM Secretariat, Georgetown, Guyana on 10-14 June 2019.

ECLAC is the Regional Coordinator of the ICP for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The objective of the Meeting was to advance the completion of the work for the 2017 Round, and discuss with participating countries, challenges and problems encountered in the implementation of the Programme.

The Meeting targeted statisticians working in the areas of Prices relative to Food, Clothing and other items that required specialised surveys such as construction, rental and education as well as National Accounts Statisticians.

Statisticians from over six (6) Member States participated in this Meeting. During the meeting, technical assistance was provided to these countries to assist them in completing where possible the special price survey forms that were not submitted by them prior to the technical meeting. However, it was noted that several of these countries are experiencing resource challenges both human and financial that have significantly impacted their ability to effectively participate in the 2017 Round of ICP.

What are PPPs?

PPPs stand for Purchasing Power Parities. It measures the total amount of goods and services that a single unit of an economy's currency can buy in another economy.

The calculation is undertaken in three (3) stages. The first stage is at the product level, where price relatives are calculated for individual goods and services. A simple example would be a litre of Coca-Cola. If it costs 2.3 BDS\$ in Barbados and 2.00 TT\$ in Trinidad and Tobago, then the PPP for Coca-Cola between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago is $2.3/2.00$, or 1.15.

This means that for every dollar spent on a litre of Coca-Cola in Trinidad and Tobago, 1.15 Barbados \$ would have to be spent in Barbados to obtain the same quantity and quality - or, in other words, the purchasing power of the identical product.

The second stage is at the product group level, where the price relatives calculated for the products in the group are averaged to obtain unweighted PPPs for the group. Coca-Cola is for example included in the product group "Softdrinks and Concentrates".

The third stage is at the aggregation levels, where the PPPs for the product groups covered by the aggregation level are weighted and averaged to obtain weighted PPPs for the aggregation level up to GDP (in our example, aggregated levels are Non-alcoholic beverages, Food...).

The weights used to aggregate the PPPs in the third stage are the expenditures on the product groups as established in the national accounts.

Visit: <https://www.oecd.org> for more information.

You can also find detailed information on the calculation in the "[EUROSTAT-OECD Methodological manual on purchasing power parities \(PPPs\)](#)", Chapter 12.



Past Events

Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 2.a.1—Agriculture Orientation Index for Government Expenditures



Participants at the Regional Workshop on SDG Indicator 2.a.1 at the CARICOM Secretariat

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) convened the Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicator 2.a.1—Agriculture Orientation Index for Government Expenditures during the period 22-24 May 2019 at the Secretariat Headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana.

The overall goal of the workshop was to train national experts of Caribbean countries in compiling Government Expenditure on Agriculture (GEA) data and SDG 2.a.1 and reporting to the international agencies. Although the training targeted Member States that required training to enable reporting on this indicator, other Member States that were identified as having good practices in submitting the Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) were also included in the workshop to facilitate the sharing of these practices among countries.

This Regional Workshop was made possible through an Agreement between the CARICOM Secretariat and FAO for the provision of certain services towards the organisation of the Workshop in support of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 2.a - *Increase investment, including through enhanced*

international cooperation, in Rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.

The FAO is the custodian UN agency for twenty-one (21) SDG indicators including the SDG indicator 2.a.1 - the Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government Expenditures and is a contributing agency for a further four (4). The FAO contributes to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal 2, to “*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.*”

In particular, the SDG indicator 2.a.1 refers to domestic public flows to agriculture and compares central government relative to its contribution to the agricultural sector with the sector’s contribution to the overall economy.

Over twenty-two (22) government officials of Member States including statisticians and personnel from the Ministry of Finance of Member States as well as staff members of the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat received training at this activity.



Past Events

Second CARICOM Training Workshop on Merchandise Trade Data Processing



Participants at the Training Workshop on Merchandise Trade Data Processing at the CARICOM Secretariat

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat convened, in collaboration with the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), a **Second CARICOM Training Workshop on the Processing of Merchandise Trade Statistics Using the New Eurotrace Software** from 8-11 January 2019 at the **CARICOM Secretariat Headquarters** in **Georgetown, Guyana**.

The main objective of the workshop was to improve the trade data processing systems of CARICOM countries that are using the Eurotrace Software. The Workshop sought to convert to more robust trade data processing systems through facilitating the conversion of countries that are currently using the Microsoft Access program to Structured Query Language (SQL) Server program.

The Workshop targeted Merchandise Trade Statisticians/IT Personnel from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in Member States who are responsible for the production and dissemination of Merchandise Trade Data and are in charge of the trade data processing.

EUROTRACE is used by almost all CARICOM Member States (12 of 15 countries) and by the CARICOM Secretariat to produce merchandise trade statistics. This advanced training focused on the

technical aspect of the domain conversion. More specifically, it was to build the capacity of experts in charge of international merchandise trade statistics in the CARICOM Member States to convert their EUROTRACE MS ACCESS production domain into a EUROTRACE SQL Server production domain.

The process of installing the SQL Server was presented by the trainer. To this end, a step-by-step installation process was demonstrated, explaining each step and its configuration/selection where relevant.

This presentation aimed at providing the participants with an overview of the practical steps they would have to go through on their own computers.

The last day of the training was dedicated to reviewing of all the steps and procedures demonstrated in the beginning of the training and practice by the participants. At the end of this session, all of the participants indicated that they felt confident with the process to convert their country's production domain from MS Access to SQL.



Questions and Answers



To help our readers to better understand key Statistical Terms and Concepts as well as the Statistical work being undertaken in the Region, we are pleased to re-introduce our *Questions and Answers* segment in our bi-annual Newsletter starting with the current Issue. The questions featured will be those related to work being undertaken as well as those that are frequently asked by persons.

In this Issue, we will answer 2 questions pertaining to 2 substantive areas of work, namely, Economic Statistics and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with regards to Indicator 2.a.1—Agriculture Orientation

Index for Government Expenditures. Page 10 of this Newsletter also contains a brief explanation of the Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) and how it is measured.

The Secretariat recently held a Training Workshop in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to train national experts of Caribbean countries in compiling Government Expenditure on Agriculture (GEA) data and SDG 2.a.1 and reporting to the international agencies.

If there are any questions regarding Regional Statistics that you would like answered in the next Issue, write us at www.stats1@caricom.org with caption *STATSNEWS Q&A* and we will be sure to answer all questions in order of receipt.

Question 1: What is the difference between a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Income (GNI)?

Answer: One of the approaches of measuring Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is by the Income Approach in which case, GDP is equal to the sum of primary incomes distributed by resident producer units e.g. Compensation to Employees.

Gross National Income (GNI) is equal to GDP less primary incomes payable to non-resident units plus primary incomes receivable from non-resident units.

In other words, GNI *is equal* to GDP

Less

- taxes (less subsidies) on production and imports, compensation of employees and property income payable to the rest of the world

Plus

corresponding items receivable from the rest of the world- taxes (less subsidies) on production and imports, compensation of employees and property income receivable from the rest of the world.

Question 2: What is the AOI and what does it tell you about Agriculture?

Answer: The Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) for Government Expenditures* is defined as the Agriculture share of Government Expenditure, divided by the Agriculture value added share of GDP, where Agriculture refers to the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector.

*Government Expenditure are all expense and acquisition of non-financial assets associated with supporting a particular sector.

What does AOI say about Agriculture?

An Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) greater than 1 reflects a higher orientation towards the agriculture sector, that is, the sector receives a higher share of government spending relative to its contribution to economic value-added. An AOI of less than 1 reflects a lower orientation to agriculture, while an AOI equal to 1 reflects neutrality in a government's orientation to the agriculture sector.

Upcoming Events

Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS)

The Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) is scheduled to take place on 31st July 2019 in Trinidad and Tobago (back-to-back with the Thirtieth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC)).

The Meeting will seek to build on the progress made at the Twenty-Third Meeting of the AGS that was held in Montserrat in October 2018 and the decisions and outcomes as determined by the 43rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS).

Working with a sub-Group of Directors of Statistics/Chief Statisticians, the AGS enables the implementation of the decisions of the SCCS relative to the improvement and harmonisation of the range and quality of statistics to contribute to the development of Member States.

Key emphasis will be placed on advancing the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS), the approval of which, was led by the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. the Rt. Honourable Keith C. Mitchell who continues to show active interest through the hosting of the Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics in February this year.

The AGS will review the Implementation Plan of the CARICOM RSDS relative to the development of a Resource Mobilisation Strategy for Statistics. Additionally, this 24th AGS Meeting is expected to commence work on the RSDS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework; the development of Centres of Excellence in Member States and other statistical initiatives that are in progress/to commence soon.

Forthcoming Publications

- National Accounts Digest; 2010—2017 Vol. I
- CARICOM Intra-Regional Trade: 2012-2017

Thirtieth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC)

The Thirtieth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) is scheduled to be held in Trinidad and Tobago on 29-30 July 2019.

Specific focus will be to review the status of implementation of the CARICOM Regional Census Strategy relative to its support to countries and funding received. Specifically, the Communication and Advocacy Plan will be reviewed. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the CARICOM Secretariat have also collaborated in enabling a number of demos of Software Applications that countries can consider using for their census, data collection, processing and dissemination. Included in these demos and presentations are lessons learnt from one organisation that has been engaged in the use of CAPI for its data collection for approximately 15 years.

Regional and international organisations that are supporting the 2020 Census Round would have an opportunity to interface with the Member States/Associate Members during at this Meeting. Potential Donor support and collaboration to assist the region in the conduct of the 2020 Round will also be explored during the Meeting.

Other Future Events – July—December 2019

- Mini Workshops on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX)
- Regional Workshop on the use of CAPI in the 2020 Round of Censuses
- Caribbean Statistics Day (week of activities)
- Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Advisory Group on Statistics
- Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians
- Thirty-First Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee
- Twelfth Regional Statistical Research Seminar

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