



Stats News & Views

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Special Issue

Message by H.E. Mr. Edwin W. Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the Occasion of Caribbean Statistics Day, 15 October 2010 and World Statistics Day, 20 October 2010

As Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, it is my pleasure to be involved in the activities marking **Caribbean Statistics Day**. This we will do on **15 October 2010**. That day has been chosen in keeping with the designation of **20 October 2010** as **World Statistics Day** this year, by the United Nations General Assembly in **Resolution 64/267**.

This year marks the second observance of **Caribbean Statistics Day**. It is aimed at not only raising the profile of statistics in our Community, but also at emphasising the importance and the need to encourage decision-makers, researchers and other stakeholders to make use of statistics. It is by so doing that they can contribute to the utility, improvement and strengthening of the statistical services. It is the intention to continue to mark this observance every year.

The observance of **Caribbean Statistics Day** and **World Statistics Day**, provide a very valuable opportunity to recognize the crucial role of statistics in laying the foundation for arriving at decisions based on facts rather than on conjecture. It is critical, therefore, that governments of the Region should continue to play a major role in the strengthening of the capacity of their Central Statistical Offices and the Statistics Departments of other ministries and agencies.

Statistics are at the very heart of everything we do. From issues pertaining to population –its size, the age structure; to the standard of living and the extent of poverty and other social issues; to the size and growth of national income and the status of trade in goods and services, statistics provide information to guide and monitor our development, and are particularly crucial to developing states such as ours in the Caribbean.

The observance of **Caribbean** and **World Statistics Day** seeks to enable a better understanding of this area and also attempts to counter the challenges being faced by national statistical offices in their efforts to collect, compile and disseminate statistics. This observance seeks to project an understanding of the importance of providing information to enable more effective management at every level; of facilitating good governance and ultimately targeting better development outcomes. Further, among other things, the activities surrounding these events seek to reassure respondents to statistical inquiries – be they individual, firms or households of the confidentiality of the information that they provide and of the official purposes for which they would be used.

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This year, the theme for the observance of **Caribbean** Statistics Day takes its cue from that for the observance of **World** Statistics Day: *'Celebrating the Many Achievements of Official Statistics'*, and emphasising the ideals of *Service, Professionalism and Integrity*.

Across the Region, Member States and Associate Members are observing both **Caribbean** and **World** Statistics day with a variety of activities: a testimony to the fact that there is commitment to invest in Statistics as a priority for our development. Some of these activities include: lectures and seminars on areas of importance such as on tourism and national accounts; fora in collaboration with other agencies; exhibitions (including demonstrations of adaptations of DevInfo) and "statistics fairs"; church services; presentations and visits to schools, including quiz, slogan and jingle competitions; radio addresses; public consultations live on major television and radio stations; display of banners in heavy traffic areas; distribution of posters, leaflets and brochures; and other publicity and advocacy events.

As part of our activities to mark **Caribbean** and **World** Statistics Day 2010 here at the Secretariat, the following are some of the events planned:

- Seminars on selected Social Sectors and on issues pertaining to Statistics;
- Demonstration of the Regional Statistics Online Facilities;
- Exhibition of Publications by the Regional Statistics Programme;
- Statistics Slogan and Jingle Competitions;
- Visits by schools;
- A Quiz Competition for Primary and Secondary School students;
- Production and dissemination of promotional materials.

These activities are all geared at enabling a greater awareness of statistics, leading to increased confidence and use of statistical data by the public.

While Statisticians have a lot to celebrate there is still a long way to go in the Caribbean Region to inspire the public through the production of high quality and specifically targeted statistical products. I am confident that these continuing series of engagements will contribute to an improvement in the current trend of generally weak statistical infrastructure and an increasing recognition of the critical importance of the role of statistical offices in the Community.

Finally, we must thank our Statisticians for their Professionalism, Integrity and Dedication, all leading to statistics having its rightful place in our development as we strive to improve the lives of all of the citizens of the Community.



Background– Why celebrate Caribbean Statistics Day/World Statistics Day?

The rationale for the observance of Statistics Day is to highlight statistics and its crucial role across a wide spectrum of activities – from daily decision-making faced by individuals, businesses, students etc. to planning, policy-making and analysis and research activities of governments, academia and other users. Included in these activities is the use of statistics by the media in educating and informing the population of a country. Expectations are that the observance of Caribbean Statistics Day which is now reinforced by the **United Nations General Assembly**

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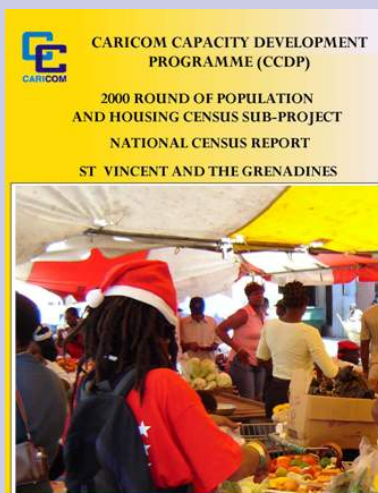
Projects/Activities

Several projects supported under the Ninth European Development Fund are currently being executed to build statistical capacity and improve the production and dissemination of data and information at the CARICOM Secretariat and Member States. Some of these projects include:-

- Organisation and Use of Statistical Databases
- Web-based Communication Infrastructure
- Statistics Help Desk Facility
- Trade in Services and Investment Statistics
- Improvement in the Production of Basic Data for National Accounts
- Statistical Programming

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Now Available!!

National Census Reports for 2000 Census



Background—Why we celebrate CSD? continued from page 2

Resolution 64/267 designating 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day would strengthen the efforts being made by statisticians of CARICOM to garner greater profile for statistics across the Community.

The Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) at its Sixth Meeting which was held in Barbados from 19-20 July also recommended that the theme for Caribbean Statistics Day be identical with that of the World Statistics Day - **“Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics”** premised on the core values of **service, professionalism and integrity**.

The proposed objectives for the observance of Caribbean and World Statistics Day are to:

- Facilitate the placement of statistics high on the development agenda in countries;
- Encourage and develop a culture of statistics among the population – respondents from households and businesses, users in the public and private sectors and in academic and other institutions, and schools and members of the media;
- Foster increased collaboration with data producing/statistical units in line ministries and other agencies and departments of governments;
- Sensitise and inform users, suppliers and producers of the importance of statistics in making informed policy decisions.

It is expected that the observance of Caribbean Statistics Day across the Region would lead to the following outputs:

- Improved awareness of statistics at the national level and across the Region;
- The highlighting of information on and insights into the process of production of statistics;
- The promotion of the use of statistics;
- Increased credibility in the statistics produced;
- Establishment of new partnerships in the development of statistics;
- Investment of resources to reposition and restructure statistical agencies.

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CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY



Caribbean Statistics Day/World Statistics Day Observance at the CARICOM Secretariat

In keeping with the theme for both **Caribbean Statistics Day and World Statistics Day, 'Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics'**, the Regional Statistics Programme of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has designed a programme of activities in the interest of highlighting the many important achievements of the Regional Statistical System. A week of activities commenced with a seminar on **Wednesday 13 October 2009** at the **CARICOM Secretariat Annex Building**, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown. The celebrations this year is two-fold as the Region undertakes the joint observance of Caribbean Statistics Day on the 15th October 2010 and World Statistics Day on the 20th October 2010. The European Union (EU) under its **Ninth (9th) European Development Fund** is providing financial assistance for several of the activities/events planned for the week. These include:-

- Seminar On Selected Social Sectors Framework And Indicators
 - Education
 - Health
 - Children and Youth
 - Gender and Development Issues
- Other Seminars
 - Overview of statistics with focus on the role of sampling in statistics compilation
 - Developmental Work in Trade in services and Investment Statistics
 - Environment Statistics– Framework and Measurement
- Demonstrations/Presentations Of The Regional Statistics Programme including Online Facilities.
 - The Statistics Online HelpDesk
 - CARICOMInfo 2.0
 - TRADSYS Online
 - Enhancement of Merchandise Trade Statistics - Phase I and II activities under the Caribbean Integration Support Programme (CISP), funded by the European Union (EU) - *Presentation by statistics Consultant*
- Exhibition Of publications by Regional Statistics.

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Recent Meetings and Workshop

The year 2010 marked the commencement of another round of an important statistical activity, the Population and Housing Census. The Regional Statistics Programme organised several workshops/meetings during this year aimed at building capacity in CARICOM countries to ensure the completion of a successful censuses. Some of the meetings and workshops included:-

- Workshop on Census Mapping and Geographic Information System (GIS) funded by the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the Department for International Development (DFID) and the EU
- Eighteenth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee– funded by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), DFID, and the EU.
- Second Regional Workshop on Census Data Processing – 2010 Population and Housing Censuses— funded by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), DFID and the EU.

Other Workshops

- CARICOM Training Workshop On Data Processing Of Merchandise Trade Statistics Using The New Eurotrace Software Package— Funded by the EU

Other Workshops

- CARICOM/UNSD Workshop on the Implementation of SNA 2008 Technical Working Group—Funded by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the EU
- Training Workshop in Sampling Design and Applications facilitated United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNELAC) and Chilean National Statistical Institute (INE) funded by the EU.
- Workshop on Social/ Gender and Environmental Statistics and Indicators—funded by the EU



STATS facts

Test your knowledge about the classification systems used in the preparation of key statistical Indicators. Turn to page 8 to find the answers.

1. Name one classification system commonly used in the production of Gross domestic product by Industry.
2. Name one classification system used for the production of labour force by occupation.
3. Name two classification systems commonly used in the production of Merchandise Trade data.



Observance at the CARICOM Secretariat continued from page 4

- Statistics Got Talent Display
- Visits to Regional Statistics By Several Schools
- Quiz Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools
- Slogan Competition for CCS Staff and Schools
- Jingle Competition for CCS Staff and Schools



Excerpt from the Speech by Mr. Ban Ki- Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Occasion of World Statistics Day, 20 October 2010

Statistics permeate modern life. They are the basis for many governmental, business and community decisions. They provide information and insight about the trends and forces that affect our lives. Collected in surveys and censuses – three billion people will participate in population and housing censuses this year alone – statistics affect the planning of schools, hospitals, roads and much else.

Statistics are a vital tool for economic and social development, including our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. For development to succeed, we need data collection and statistical analysis of poverty levels, access to education and the incidence of disease. Statistics are a central consideration in justifying almost every aspect of budgets and programmes that enable hungry children to be fed or that provide shelter and emergency health care for victims of natural disasters.

The United Nations Statistical Commission, established in 1947, has created international methodological standards and guidelines in virtually every area of statistics. It has played a key role in helping governments strengthen their statistical reporting, making data more available and comparable across countries and regions than ever before.

I commend the dedication that many statistical experts bring to their reports and publications . They carry out an essential public service -- one that promotes peace and democracy by giving citizens reliable and impartial public information about their communities. Their core values -- service, integrity and professionalism -- deserve full support in all nations.

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However, as in so many other areas, developing countries often find themselves at a disadvantage, lacking funds to pay salaries, train staff and collect data. On this first World Statistics Day I encourage the international community to work with the United Nations to enable all countries to meet their statistical needs. Let us all acknowledge the crucial role of statistics in fulfilling our global mission of development and peace.



Highlighting observances of Caribbean Statistics Day/World Statistics Day in Member States and Associate Members

Even as countries around the world will be celebrating World Statistics Day on the 20th October 2010, CARICOM Member States and Associate Members will be starting their celebrations a few days earlier as activities have been organised to observe Caribbean Statistics Day on the 15th October 2010. Below, we highlighted how some countries have chosen to observe these days.

Barbados

The Barbados Statistical Service has observed a Statistics Week for several years now. For the 2010 celebrations similar to 2009, this office will also be celebrating Caribbean Statistics Day on the 15th October 2010 during this week. The week has also been adjusted this year to incorporate World Statistics Day on the 20th October 2010. Statistics Week in Barbados will span the period 15th –22nd October 2010 and will highlight some of the achievements of the Barbados Statistical Service. Some of the proposed list of activities for the week include:-

- Lecture to Staff by Mr. Winfield Griffith, Caribbean Tourism Organisation
- Presentation for Schools
- Awards Luncheon (Staff)

The office has also prepared a booklet describing the development of official Statistics in Barbados. The booklet details the origin of the statistical department, its first publications, its first census undertaking and also traces the development of other areas of statistics over the years.

Dominica

The Central Statistics Office in Dominica will be celebrating World Statistics Day on the 20th October 2010 with a formal opening ceremony at 9 a.m. in the morning. On this first observance of World Statistics Day, the Honorable Prime Minister of Dominica, Mr. Roosevelt Skerrit, will also be giving a radio address to highlight the important contributions of Statistics. Additionally, there will be public consultations on the proposed topic, “Economic and Social Strategy (Development Plan) in context of the effective use of Statistics in National Planning” to be carried live on major television and radio stations. The day will closed with a formal reception for specially invited guests. Other activities planned for the day include:-

- Visit to Secondary Schools: Discussion on Statistics Day, the MDGs and the 2011 Population Census. This will include a quiz for the winning schools.
- World Statistics Day Banner in main entrance of city and heavy traffic areas.
- Distribution of posters. Leaflets, brochures,
- Exhibition - Statistical Reports, Publications, demonstration of NatureIsle Info, etc.

Suriname

In Suriname, the General Bureau of Statistics has set a goal for its celebrations of Caribbean Statistics Day/World Statistics Day and will be completing various activities aimed at achieving this goal. The goal for these days is to promote statistics and the work of statisticians, national and international, and all others who are responsible for providing data so as to make those who use the data including politicians aware of the meaning and contribution of official statistics. This year the office has chosen to target mainly the youth, especially the students of the exam classes of the High schools, the statisticians and policy makers. Activities for these days include:-

- Banners placed on seven strategic places throughout Suriname, six of which are in the capital Paramaribo
- Posters and information booklets sent out to several high schools: with information regarding statistics in general and the General Bureau of Statistics (ABS).
- Two-Day Publicity, Promotion and Advocacy Event in Nickerie, Suriname
- Statistics Fair – Two day fair making the general public aware of the activities of all statistical sections of the ABS.
- Radio and TV appearances by key statistics office staff, etc.

Trinidad and Tobago

Celebrations for Caribbean Statistics Day/World Statistics Day began on the 15th October 2010 in the twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Every day until the 23rd of October 2010, the Statistical Office of Trinidad and Tobago has planned various activities in the observance of the theme designed for these days, **“Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics.”** The Statistical Office has segmented their activities over three broad areas namely:- Education Awareness Programme, Highlighting the relevance and importance of statistics in today’s society and Acknowledging the important contribution of the National Statistical Office. Under these three broad areas, activities have been organized as follows:-

- Educational Awareness Programme:
 - Library Displays
 - Statistical Display Booths
 - Youth Outreach Programme
- Highlighting the relevance and importance of statistics in today’s society:
 - Newspaper Supplement
 - Launch of Census 2011
- Acknowledging the important contribution of the National Statistical Office:
 - Staff Appreciation Function

Anguilla

In Anguilla, the Central Statistical Office has completed pre-statistics week activities in preparation for Caribbean Statistics Day/World Statistics Day. The first set of pre-activities was launched on the 13th September 2010 targeting school age children. In recognition of the

Continued on page 8

Population and Housing Census slated to commence next year in Anguilla, these activities included a poetry writing competition and a word creation competition on the topics, “Anguilla Population & Housing Census 2011 – It All Adds Up” and “Census 2011 – It All Adds Up” respectively. Additionally, primary school students were asked to produce a family tree based on the past principal who bears the name of the school along with a written project. For the general public, the office sought to raise awareness on the kind of data available on Anguilla by airing short statistical facts about Anguilla intuitively called STATIPS. These STATIPS for both the listening and reading audience were to continue during the period 1st—21st October, 2010.

On Caribbean Statistics Day, the office has organized among other events a workshop on ‘The Value of Data and its Presentation’ for invited persons from government departments in Anguilla. The Central Statistics Office has also chosen the 20th of October 2010, World Statistics Day, to officially launch their Population and Housing Census 2011 and to present the prizes related to the census competitions launched as pre-statistics week activities. Additionally, on various days throughout the Statistics Week of activities, pre-recorded radio remarks will be aired by several governmental leaders including HE. The Governor, Mr. Alister Harrison, Deputy Governor, Mr. Stanley Reid, Honorable Chief Minister, Mr. Hubert Hughes, Honorable Opposition leader, Mr. McNeil Rogers and Permanent Secretary responsible for Anguilla Statistical Department, Dr. Aidan Harrigan. Other events during this Statistics Week include:-

- Statistics Exhibition—to start October 15, 2010 and end October 21, 2010
- Press Release – Caribbean Statistics Day
- Primary School Fun Day
- Press Release – World Statistics Day
- Workshop on The Production of Environment Statistics



Answers to STATS facts on page 5

1. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) - provides a set of activity categories that can be utilized for the collection and reporting of statistics according to such activities. ISIC is used in many statistical programmes and essentially, all that make reference to “industries” and group data accordingly.
2. International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)—Occupations are arranged into groups according to skill level and skill specialisation. Most countries use national occupation classifications related to ISCO-88. National Occupation Classifications are used for statistics from censuses, household surveys, employer surveys and other sources.
3. Harmonized System (HS) and Standardized International Trade Classification (SITC) - The HS is a multipurpose international product nomenclature developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO). It is used by more than 200 countries and economies as a basis for their Customs tariffs and for the collection of international trade statistics. The SITC was developed by the United Nations Secretariat as a way to ensure greater international comparability of trade data. It is also useful because it allows aggregation of traded commodities into classes more suitable for economic analysis.

For more information on Caribbean Statistics Day, please visit our website at www.caricomstats.org/caribbean-statistics-day.htm

REGIONAL STATISTICIAN HONOURED!!!!



On October 18, Sonia Jackson will receive the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander (CD), for public service and outstanding voluntary work in the development of mentally challenged persons. "It is good to be acknowledged during your life," she told **Flair** while humbly adding, "I do it because I do it." Jackson, the current director general of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, has always been volunteering her time and skills through various service clubs "When I was in school, I was involved in everything," she told **Flair**.

But Jackson never works for awards, and when the late executive director of Jamaica Association on Intellectual Disabilities (JAID) Grace Duncan, told her she had nominated her, "I told her she was crazy. My friends are more excited, they are elated," she noted calmly.

She has been volunteering with JAID since the mid '80s - first as treasurer, and is currently the first vice-president. "I was born to be busy," she notes. Jackson explains that no matter how demanding her life became, she always found time to volunteer. "I always had demanding jobs, and even when I was doing my master's degree and working I was still doing volunteer work. It was reduced, but I still did it."

She notes that she doesn't think volunteerism is encouraged. However, she encourages everyone she meets to volunteer. "I do it all the time, telling people they have to give back some of what they have received. I don't think people see the benefits. For me, I get to practise some of the skills that I have acquired."

She notes that one of the greatest disservice to persons who are intellectually challenged, is not allowing them to develop to their fullest potential. "They are hidden away because of the stigma associated with developmental disabilities and they are sometimes called 'mad people'. Intellectual disability is not an illness it is a condition." She continued, "They can develop to their full potential. They can do things that are repetitive, and earn." She notes that identifying the problem early is very important in their level of development. "Identifying the condition early in life and not the doctors telling parents things like, 'your child is going to be slow'. Get them assessed, then early stimulation is important. Get them into a school, the environment where they will be properly trained."

However, she notes that, currently, across the island there is a shortage of classroom space for these children. "The demand for placement in these schools is greater than our ability to supply. There are more than 1,000 children in schools islandwide, but there are several others waiting to be placed." Over the years, Jackson has been instrumental in the development of some of these schools. She notes that all the schools have a garden, which the children learn to take care of as they love water, and are very affectionate, so society should not shun them. "They are extremely affectionate, so we should not brush them off. If you are afraid, just be gentle and calm with them."

For more than 10 years, Jackson has also volunteered with the Jamaica Boxing Board of Control. In all her voluntary work she has never been a member of Rotary or Kiwanis clubs. She stresses that you don't have to be a member of these organisations to help. "We can do it in so many ways; there are so many children who need our assistance. Do it through your church, supply some support to somebody."

Source: The Gleaner, published Monday, October 4, 2010

The Regional Statistics Programme offers its heartiest congratulations to Ms Jackson on the receipt of this national award.



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