

Evaluation of the use of the Classifications in Belize

At present the Statistical Institute of Belize is using two of the five Classifications that will be covered in the seminar. These are the International Standard Classification of Occupation (1988), (ISCO-88) and the International Standard Industrial Classifications (ISIC)(Rev. 3).

Use of ISCO-88 at the SIB

The Statistical Institute of Belize uses ISCO-88 to code occupation data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and other surveys and censuses that collect information on occupation.

The LFS questionnaire includes questions to determine the economic status of persons in the working age population and to gather detailed information on the employed persons including: type of worker, occupation, industry and hour of work and income.

The questionnaire also includes questions to determine, training occupation for persons who have received training for a particular occupation, future occupation for persons who are not working but want to work and for those persons who are not working but intend to look for work or start their own business within six months. Present occupation for persons who have a job or their own business or persons who have more than one job or business. Previous occupation for persons who have worked before and are not presently working. Additional occupation for persons who are working less than 35 hours per week and are interested in additional work.

Use of ISIC in establishing related national classification

ISIC is used to provide a set of economic activity categories that can be utilized for the collection and presentation of statistics according to such activities.

ISIC has been used in many countries as a guide in developing national classification of economic activities. ISIC provides basic guidelines that are required for its adaption to national classification. These include categories that may be aggregated or disaggregated to better reflect the structure of the national economy. Also categories should coincide with, or be sub-divided of, the individual classes of ISIC.

In 1997, the then CSO developed and adopted the Belize Classification of Economic Activity (BCEA) using ISIC Rev3. The guiding principles in designing the BCEA were that it should reflect the structure of the Belizean economy, provide scope for showing potential changes in the structure of the economy and serve as a check list of productive activity.

The structure of the BCEA comprises of 19 producing sectors (two-digit level), 91 Sub-sector (three-digit level) and 292 industries (four-digit level). The BCEA places emphasis on the producing sectors and industries, (two and four digit level).

Every ISIC Rev. 3 item is reflected in the BCEA at some level. The BCEA correspondence with ISIC Rev.3 is mainly at the Industry/Class level and in a few cases at the Group or Division levels. The BCEA industries can be arranged in the ISIC format. There are cases where ISIC groupings have been split for BCEA purposes.

Use of ISIC and BCEA at the SIB

SIB applies both BCEA and ISIC when coding economic activities for the System of National Accounts (SNA) and for labour force statistics on employed person.

The data compiled for an establishment relate to its production activities. They include the following: revenues from the sale of goods and services, and all associated cost including, employee remuneration, taxes on production import, subsidies, depreciation. Statistics on number of employees, type of employee and hours worked. Estimates of stock of capital and land used. Estimates of changes in inventories and gross fixed capital formation undertaken.

For the labour force survey, the questionnaire includes questions to determine future industry for person who are not working but want to work, and for those people who are not working but intend to look for work or start their own business within six months. Present industry for persons who have worked before and are not presently working. Additional industry for persons who are working less than 35 hours per week and are interested in additional work.

Common errors in applying ISIC and BCEA codes are economic activity defined by the occupation (task and duties) of the employed person industry rather than the activity of the business and insufficient description of economic activities.