

Bermuda Government
Department of Statistics
National Statistics Day

In October 2009, Bermuda celebrated its first National Statistics Day in collaboration with Member and Associate Member States of the CARICOM region. On October 13th a full day of activities was planned under the theme “Celebrating the Vital Role of Statistics for Better Management and Better Development Outcomes”.

Three information sessions were held targeting specific population groups. The opening session was directed towards business stakeholders who provide vital economic and business related data through business surveys. Government Heads of Departments were invited to attend the second session while students of senior high schools were invited to attend the final session of the day.

Opening Session

1. The first session commenced at 8:30 am. A light continental breakfast accompanied by tea and coffee was served to guests of the business community. Guests spent time interacting with Statistics staff and had the opportunity to view poster board displays presenting the work programme of each of the Statistics Divisions in the Department.
2. The Honorary Premier, officially opened National Statistics Day and welcomed guests. He also took the opportunity to honor the Government’s first Chief Statistician who was appointed in 1970, Mr. Calvin Smith.
3. The Chief Statistician followed by sharing the importance of statistics, its vital role in policy making and highlighted how statistics benefits the growth and development of the Island. A brief audio-visual video about the mission and work programme of the Department was shown highlighting the outputs of each statistical division.
4. Guest speakers/stakeholders gave brief remarks on their experiences working with the Department of Statistics and the research and statistical consultancy services received. Guest speakers included a senior lecturer in Economics from the Bermuda College; a former Research Statistician of the Department and current Managing Director of a research consultancy firm; and, the Executive Director of Age Concern Bermuda.
5. Following the opening session, two round table discussions were held simultaneously. The Business Statistician presented on Employment and Price Inflation while the Economic Statistician presented on Economic Surveys.
6. A question & answer session provided for stimulating discussion amongst participants as key stakeholders provided comments, input and feedback on the data they provide, how it is used and how the Department of Statistics could better serve their statistical needs.

Early Afternoon Session

1. The afternoon session commenced at 12 noon with a light lunch. Government Heads of Departments were invited and engaged into interaction with Department staff while viewing the statistical poster board displays.
2. The afternoon address was given by the Permanent Secretary for Statistics; who spoke to the importance of statistics and its link to the Government's national development agenda. In summary, Department Heads were encouraged to seek the services of the Statistics Department as statistics should be viewed as the eyes of good policy and decision-making.
3. The audio-visual video about the work of the Department was presented again for Heads of Departments not able to support the opening ceremony. Following this, the Designate Research Statistician gave an informative presentation outlining the extensive statistical and consultancy services offered by the Department to its internal stakeholders.
4. It highlighted the basic steps involved in requesting statistical assistance in the areas of sampling and survey design services. Examples of statistical outputs produced were shared for various Government Departments with testimonials attesting to the services provided and the timely and efficient delivery of expected outputs received.

Late Afternoon Session

1. National Statistics Day ended with a forum targeting senior-year students from all secondary schools. This session was highly subscribed as teachers made requests to bring their entire mathematics and statistics classes. The students were very much interested in the poster board displays on the statistics work programme and obtained several copies of statistical pamphlets and handouts prepared, while interacting with the office staff.
2. The Permanent Secretary for Statistics addressed the students on the possibility of pursuing statistics as a career. This was followed by the showing of the audio-visual video which detailed the mission and work programme of the Department of Statistics.
3. Two members of staff, an Assistant Statistician in the Economic Division, and the Designate Research Statistician, shared with the students how they progressed the corporate ladder within the Department of Statistics to reach their current positions.
4. The session concluded with a presentation by the Social Statistician on Bermuda's Changing Demographics. The power point presentation was highly interactive involving the sharing of statistical facts and information on demographic changes in Bermuda over time. Students were challenged with choosing the correct answer from a number of multiple choice questions. The students were very much engaged in the presentation and their participation and enthusiasm was very encouraging.

In the end, Bermuda's first National Statistics Day proved to be a resounding success. Objectives were achieved in promoting awareness and sharing the vital importance of statistics for better management and better development outcomes.