



# REPORT

TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS

35<sup>th</sup> MEETING,  
Roseau, DOMINICA  
8-9 November 2010



**General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname (GBS)**

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## INTRODUCTION

There are many producers of data and statistics in Suriname's National Statistical System<sup>1</sup>, hence it is explicitly stated that this report relates predominantly to the work of our Bureau and mainly covers the period October 2009 – October 2010, as far as the review is concerned. A "p" after some data indicates the provisional nature of that data!

As of December 2002 a new Statistics Act is in place, in March 2003 the Bureau of Statistics obtained semi-autonomous status as a Government Foundation and since June 2004 the GBS subscribed to the GDSS of the IMF. **In April 2008 Suriname was elected a member of the UN Statistical Commission to join Jamaica as of January in representing the CARICOM (and Latin America).** Clearly, we are taking small but noticeable steps towards improvement. **In February 2009, we were elected as one of the three vice-chairs of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission, and in February 2010 we were elected Rapporteur.**

**Per 01 October 2009 the ABS had a total staff of 104 (68 female), and per 31 October 2010 this was 106 (70 female).**

**2009/2010 can be considered the period of intensified strategic alliances: In November 2009 an MOU was signed with the Suriname Business Forum (SBF), between 14 July 2010 and 10 December 2010 a series of 7 Social Statistics Seminars (4 down 3 to go) have been conducted/planned in a cooperation between ABS, SBF and UNDP Suriname to raise awareness for the use and importance of Social Statistics, and in August an international Conference on the Measurement of Poverty Statistics was held (see Raising the Profile of Statistics).**

**Per 2 September 2010 the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, where the ABS used to come under administratively was disbanded and the ABS now comes again under the Ministry of Finance. Experiences of coming under Finance (preoccupied with Monetary and Fiscal Policy) have not been positive in the past, it is hoped that the current situation is better.**

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<sup>1</sup> The most import ones are: GBS, Civil Registration Office, Central Bank, Foundation for Tourism, National Planning Office, Ministry of Health (Planning Unit and NHIS), Bureau for Public Health, Ministry of Finance (Economic Affairs), Ministry of Education (Research & Planning Section), Ministry of Labour (statistics Section), Ministry of Agriculture (Statistics Section), Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing (Planning Section), Ministry of Justice and Police (Information & Education Section of the Police Force), Suriname Debt management Office, Ministry of Home Affairs (Bureau for Gender Affairs).

## **WORK PROGRAMME** (The ABS/GBS is grateful for all CARICOM training offered also in 2010, all of which have not been archived as yet)

The period under consideration was dominated by:

- a- Producing as much as possible regular statistics in a timely matter**
- b- Expanding scope and coverage of the statistical activities of the GBS**
- c- Raising the profile of Statistics**

### **ECONOMY FINANCE AND INVESTMENT STATISTICS**

National Accounts: GDP in constant and current prices and other Macro Economic Aggregates compiled; available and disseminated up to 2009(p) since May 2010 (based on very little actual response, but at an urgent request of Central Bank). In August 2010 (the month in which we normally produce first estimates), we released a revised estimate that was 300 million SRD below the first estimate and was met unfavorably. The Section also succeeded in revising GDP estimates for 2006-2008, but again the compilation of the first Quarterly GDP estimates was not completed. However, it should be noted that after suspension since the mid nineties, in December 2008 the GBS resumed the production of Expenditure on GDP. For the classification of value added ISIC Rev. 3 is used (as recommended by SNA 93), but only at the highest level of aggregation. The complete move to SNA 93 is expected to be completed in December 2010, so that the GDP estimates for 2010 (expected in July/August 2011) will be fully SNA 93 compliant and the constant series will use 2007 as the Base year. No Satellite accounts are being produced or are envisaged in the short run by the GBS, but the Bureau is willing to collaborate with the Tourism Foundation, the Ministry Responsible for Tourism and Central Bank to produce a TSA, should this be desired. National Accounts is the main beneficiary of a CARTAC intervention, which is running since November 2007.

It is also worth noting that the commission Input/Output table for Suriname (comprising: GBS, Planning Office, Ministry of Finance and Central Bank), produced an almost complete Input/Output table for Suriname pertaining to the year 2007 (envisaged Base Year) per March 2010. Intermediate Consumption turns out a bottleneck in finishing the table.

Trade Statistics: Imports, Exports and Re-exports by various points of view, (e.g. SITC; Country/Region of Origin and Destination) compiled up to 1995 (according to our old system) and as of 1996, up to June 2010 data produced in the new format. There are still some problems with the data. The problems are the familiar ones: Customs not filling out the special measures (liters, pairs, number etc.) so we end up with kilos of shoes or cars or even beer! There also some unfamiliar / new problems originating from the obsolete version of ASUYCUDA in use at Customs, as well as from our own ABSAS and from some large data providers allowed to use an own system. These surfaced to such an extent that the GBS was unable to submit Trade data to CARICIM in April this year and was forced to issue an Official statement on Trade Statistics in August this year (published in two leading Dailies: De Ware Tijd and Dagblad Suriname) and displayed in the Guest section of our Counter, as well as on the walls of the PR Section.

The GBS is only responsible for Merchandise Trade Statistics and Trade in Services is the responsibility of Central Bank. However, because of the previously mentioned CARTAC intervention, the GBS and Central Bank work closer together to deliver the required results. Also because of problems with response, the XMPI publication will be issued in three separate Volumes: Export Price Index; Import Price Index and Terms of Trade. **The monthly compiler's meeting (ABS, Central bank, Ministry of Trade, SDMO nd NPO) is still taking place.**

Suriname Debt Management Office reports directly (on Domestic and Foreign Debt) to CARICOM, with copy to the GBS.

Consumer Price Index: CPI compiled and disseminated up to September 2010. From October 2009 to October 2010, the section succeeded in releasing the CPI-information (5 sheets) within at most 21 days after the end of the reference month. Because of very high costs for advertising, the frequency of paid advertisements is still Quarterly, instead of Monthly, and for the other months we rely on Press releases, which are not always truthfully reported. The biases in the reports were to such an extent that a former employee of the GBS (nowadays functioning as independent consultant) has sent numerous letters to the editor to complain.

Enterprises Statistics: Besides the annual survey conducted for the benefit of National Accounts; Enterprises Statistics is engaged in compiling inter alia: Selected, Indicators from Large Enterprises (SifLE, comprises: Turnover, Labour Cost and Number of employees in ISIC 2-9). The section has partial data available up to August 2010 (p). A draft publication that jumped the queue was sent to WOP for detailed vetting, because of defects. For Statistics of Wages and Prices in the Construction Industry; (self-explanatory) data is available up to August 2010(p). Agricultural Statistics is mainly a matter of the Ministry of Agriculture and the GBS supports.

## **POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND LIVING CONDITIONS STATISTICS**

Population and Demographic Statistics: Since the GBS has instated a permanent Census Office (since June 2005), a proper division of labour between Population Statistics and the Census Office resulted in a more efficient and effective operation of both units. Population Statistics is also crucial in assisting the Household Surveys section with producing inflation factors for the Household Survey estimates. The Section also took the lead in producing life tables for 2004-2007 for Suriname, and in 2008 ably assisted the director in making Population Projections up to 2024 for the Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation. In November 2009 a publication with data from 2000-2008 was made available.

### Social and Living Conditions Statistics / Household Surveys (HHS) and Household Budget Surveys (HBS):

Apart from Population Censuses, Social and Living Conditions Statistics in Suriname are mainly obtained through Household Surveys, in general and Household Budget Surveys in particular. Regular household surveys take place continuously on a Quarterly basis, albeit the results are released mainly on an annual basis. This is done for reasons of attaining the target response rate of at least 75% and to achieve a sufficient number of unweighted cases to have accurate and reliable estimates. In September 2009 a publication was issued with data 2005-2008, but annual data normally is available in July of the next year. From October 2009 to date, the ABS/GBS is also conducting its HHS, Quarterly in the District of Nickerie. Interestingly, in Paramaribo and Wanica we have to work very hard to meet the 75% response rate target, while the response rates in Nickerie are over 90%

## **GENDER STATISTICS (falls within the mandate of Scientific Research and Planning / WOP)**

As regards Gender Statistics the following holds. The first publication was issued in April 2002; it was then decided that it should be issued in odd years. The second publication for this topic, with most data up to 2004 (and some e.g. on election results, even up to 2005) was indeed released in early December 2005. The third publication was released in November 2007 and the fourth publication originally scheduled for September 2009, was produced in December 2009, but presented at a Press Conference 11 January 2010.

## **OTHER AREAS IN SOCIAL/DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS**

Traffic and Transport Statistics: Compiled statistics about International Passenger traffic (mainly Arrivals and Departures, each according to various relevant characteristics); Road, Air and Water traffic and transport; Infrastructure and Communication. Because of a problem with the Processing System at the Foundation for tourism in Suriname (STS), we have had to fall back on our old method of collecting and compiling information from a myriad of sources. Data for most series is available, but some (whether STS based or not) are known to have (serious) defects and cannot be issued.

Social and Cultural Statistics: The Statistical Yearbook for 2008 with a variety of statistics ranging from Area and number of inhabitants to Government Finance was issued in November 2009. A draft publication: Statistical Yearbook 2009 is presently being finalized and will be issued, as usual, in November 2010 at the Annual Trade Fair of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

### **MICS-4 (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey)**

After Training the Fieldworkers from 5 to 17 July 2010, the Fieldwork for the MICS was conducted during 20 July 2010 to 17 September 2010. For MICS-3, the GBS was responsible for the complete survey cycle, from Design to Reporting. For the present round the GBS drafted the plan, designed and drew the sample and was also responsible for the data collection. The data processing is the responsibility of the Social Research Institute (IMWO) of the University of Suriname and the reporting will be a joint undertaking between IMWO and the Ministry of Social Affairs & housing, supported by a MICS TC.

## **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING (=WOP)**

This Section is the “Methodology Watch Dog”, and is responsible for some cross-cutting statistics: Environment Statistics, gender Statistics and ICT Statistics. As regards the methodology alleviating the problem of (unintended) disclosure when disseminating information, given Suriname's small Economy and Society, WOP advised to opt for existing software. No choice has been made as yet. WOP also plays a leading role in the activities towards implementation of SNA 93, and collaborates with subject-matter sections in carrying out special studies. WOP spearheaded the half-yearly publication: Basic Indicators, issued in December 2002 for the first time. In January 2010 the latest issue was released. This (intended semi-annual) publication contains information on Economic, Financial, Monetary and Social Indicators. Statistical Papers 9/10 (double Volume) planned to be released on 6 December 2010. At the request of the Director, WOP is presently thoroughly reviewing Selected Indicators from Large Enterprises, because some defects were noted in a draft publication submitted.

## **ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS**

In November 2002, in collaboration with Conservation International Suriname: Selected Environmental Statistics was produced. This publication was scheduled for even years hence it should have come out in November 2004. Because of the paucity of environmental data it was cancelled for 2004 and all efforts were made to improve the data availability. In May 2006 (after a consultation 1-day Workshop was held 31 March 2006) the second issue of Selected Environmental Statistics was produced and disseminated. After the usual 1-day Workshop (conducted in May 2008), the third issue was released only in December 2008. On 11 and 12 May the familiar Workshop was held, with support from UNSD which provided Reena Shah as resource person. The latest (i.e. fourth joint GBS/CI-Suriname) publication on Environment Statistics, with as much as possible information up to 2009, was issued in September 2010.

## **ICT-STATISTICS**

It should be mentioned that ICT information is weak but improving. We had some questions on ICT in Census-6 (2003) but they were all left out for Census-7 (2004). We added an extra sheet (on ICT and publicity) to the PES 2004 Questionnaire. Processing and releasing information regarding ICT

has only not been given priority until the beginning of this year. It should also be noted that in Suriname legal provisions for a Telecommunications Authority (TAS) were made since 1998. TAS became operational in late 2004 when competition was introduced in the Telecom market in Suriname. TAS has a young and energetic director whom we met in May last year and who only started to show her teeth since midyear 2009. It paid off because as of August last year we are receiving some interesting information through TAS, not enough, but quite an improvement.

### **CENSUS OFFICE:**

Please see the Report to The RCCC (18<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Rousseau, Dominica), which will be available from the GBS Manager Census Office later.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND DATA DISSEMINATION**

The Bureau issued: 12 book format publications in 2009, most of which were presented at well—attended Press Conferences. The Bureau also had to deal with 1910 information requests in 2009, up 10.9% compared with 2008 (2008 was up 36% compared with 2007, but 2007 was an exceptionally low year)

<b>Maand</b>	<b>2005 (1610)</b>	<b>2006 (1507)</b>	<b>2007 (1262)</b>	<b>2008 (1722)</b>	<b>2009 (1910)</b>
<i>januari</i>	<b>137</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>164</b>
<i>februari</i>	<b>173</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>175</b>
<i>maart</i>	<b>180</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>149</b>
<i>april</i>	<b>140</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>161</b>
<i>mei</i>	<b>125</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>170</b>
<i>juni</i>	<b>123</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>175</b>
<i>juli</i>	<b>91</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>177</b>
<i>augustus</i>	<b>89</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>135</b>
<i>september</i>	<b>157</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>108</b>
<i>oktober</i>	<b>102</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>154</b>
<i>november</i>	<b>138</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>177</b>
<i>december</i>	<b>155</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>165</b>

Figures in the column headings, between brackets are annual totals.

## RAISING THE PROFILE OF STATISTICS

Activities hereunder include: 1-The Launch of ABS info 1.0 in May 2010, 2-The series of seven Social Data seminars, organized together with Suriname Business Forum (SBF) and UNDP Suriname (14 July 2010 – 10 December 2010), 3-The International Conference on measuring Poverty in Suriname in August 2010 (ABS, CARICOM and UNDP-Suriname) and 4-the Observance of CARICOM and World Statistics Day in October 2010.

1- ABS INFO 1.0 was launched in May 2010 and got good publicity. It also inspired other (Social) Data Producers to request additional training and support, which is supposed to lead to SURINFO 1.0 early next year. It should also be noted that thanks to CARIOM and UNICEF a DEVINFO 6.0 Training of Trainers was conducted (by Ms. Kareen Bhagwandin and Ms. Anjali Kisoensingh) in Suriname during 27 September – 2 October 2010.

2- Seven Seminars (not necessarily in the order stated) with the topics:

- Population: Composition & change, Human settlements, Housing & geographical distribution of population
- Health and health services, impairment and disability, nutrition / Social security and welfare services
- Households and families, marital status and fertility
- Socio-economic groups and social mobility / Income, consumption and wealth
- Economic activity and population not economically active
- Learning and education services / Leisure, culture and communications
- Public order and safety

Have been or will be conducted between 14 July 2010 and 10 December 2010. The seminars have been quite successful so far and we even had the Speaker of Parliament and several MP's attend and actively participating!

3- The International Conference on Measuring Poverty was a joint: ABS-CARICOM-UNDP\_Suriname undertaking and brought together experts from International (ILO, IDB, UNICEF, UNDP, EUROSTAT), Regional (CARICOM, CEDLAS, ECLAC, CFNI ) and national (Suriname, Jamaica, St. Lucia) for two days (24 and 25 August) together with the Business community, Academics, Politicians, Policy Officers, etc. to discuss uni-dimensional and multi-dimensional measurement of Poverty)

**4- The general idea was to ask their attention for statistics and statisticians and the work of the General Bureau of Statistics and other Major Data Producers in Suriname. This happened:**

- ✓ through banners, flyers, posters and an information booklet distributed via the principals of the schools in Paramaribo en Wanica.
- ✓ through a two-day Publicity and Advocacy Event in the District of Nickerie (we reached approximately 850 students and teachers)
- ✓ through an Open House followed by a meeting of the total staff of the ABS (CARICOM Statistics Day, October 15<sup>th</sup>)
- ✓ through a two-day "Statistics Fair" (20 and 21 October 2010), involving other major data producers.

The two-day Statistics Fair was the culmination of activities that started in the first week of October and drew well over 500 visitors of which 482 registered and 176 filled out and submitted the simple evaluation Form. Please note that a special publication on sub-national population projection was also released at the Statistics Fair.

## CARICOM REPORTING FORMAT (ECONOMIC STATISTICS)

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
<b>National Accounts</b>	<p>NA sheets with macro economic aggregates 2005-2009 since August 2010</p> <p>First estimates in may 2010 (Highly aggregated data)</p> <p>Expenditure on GDP 2003-2007 since December 2008</p>	<p>Annual, first estimates in July or August &amp; "final" estimates in October via Public Relations</p> <p>Sectoral GDP 2005-2009</p> <p>Expenditure on GDP data 2004-2008</p>	<p>Data collection: eg production, construction</p> <p>Recent base year (1990)</p> <p>Rebasing needed for year 2007</p> <p>Quarterly GDP SUTs</p>	<p>Through CARTAC intervention work on GDP by Expenditure, SUTs and Quarterly GDP</p> <p>Several missions between Feb.- 2008 and Oct. 2009 // Non-response and Late response to surveys</p> <p>Pressure to release early estimates</p>	<p>Follow-up hands on training, GDP by Expenditure, Quarterly GDP and SUTs</p>	<p>Computers with internet access</p>
<b>-Tourism Satellite Account</b>	<p>Long term planning</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Identification of data sources</p> <p>Inter-agency coordination (GBS CBOS &amp; Tourism Foundation)</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Training and TA Required (first mission of CARICOM consultant in October 2010)</p>	<p>NA</p>
<b>Input/Output tables</b>	<p>Work initiated in November 2008, tables expected in December 2009</p>	<p>Work more or less finished in March 2010</p>	<p>Intermediate Consumption in the I/O Table</p>		<p>Training provided by STUSECO</p>	<p>Use of Turbo-ABS and improvement of SURYA model of the Surinamese Economy</p>
<b>Quarterly GDP (see National Accounts)</b>	<p>In progress (Delayed from End 2009 to mid 2010 and further to Mid 2011)</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Through CARTAC intervention work on Quarterly GDP</p> <p>Non-response</p>	<p>Training and technical assistance Required</p>	<p>Computers with internet access</p>
<p><b>Merchandise Trade -Trade Indices</b></p> <p><b>Annual/ Quarterly</b></p>	<p>In progress ( already started in April 2008, no tables yet)</p> <p>Tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trade Balance</li> <li>- Exports and Imports</li> <li>- Trade with Trade Blocks by (HS,SITC,BEC)</li> </ul>	<p>Quarterly/ half year or annual tables via public relations</p>	<p>Response on import items is poor.</p>	<p>Two missions of XMPI consultant;</p> <p>A sample for Services (tourism) has been drawn</p> <p>Trained staff within Trade section</p> <p>Insufficient Inter-agency coordination and Processing problems</p>	<p>Follow-up hands on assistance from CARTAC (timing to be determined)</p> <p>Training (Basic, Intermediate and Advanced) in EUROTRACE and comparable processing systems</p>	<p>Computers with internet access</p> <p>Computers with internet access</p>

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
<b>CPI</b>	- exchange rates - consumer price indices and inflation - fuel price index	Monthly via public relations to all Mass Media	For quite a while only the districts of Paramaribo, and Wanica were published. Information is now published for 6 Districts grouped in 4 Domains: 1- Paramaribo & Wanica; 2-Nickerie & 3-Coronie & Saramacca and 4- Commewijne Users still complain	-HBS(Oct.2007- May 2008)  CPI usually disseminated within 3 weeks of the reference month	CARTAC CPI training in St. Lucia (June 2009)  CARTAC/CARICOM PPI training in Jamaica (2010)	Medium term plan to use hand helds for price /outlet observations
<b>Enterprises Statistics</b>	Turnover, Labour Cost and Number of employees, <u>Wages and Prices in the Construction Industry</u>	Annual data up to 2009 Quarterly data up to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010 Monthly – August 2010	Differential non-response, causing the estimates to become suspect	Non-response, causing the estimates to become suspect Census information used for Register.	Also benefits from CARTAC national accounts intervention	Use of computers with internet access

## CARICOM REPORTING FORMAT (POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS)

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
<b>Population and Demographic Statistics</b>	Population estimates up to mid-year 2009 Population projections up to 2024 Life tables up to 2008 Selected vital indicators and statistics up to 2007	Same as previous column, plus incidental data requests.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Late availability of most vital statistics</li> <li>- Selected local practices at variance with international standards</li> </ul>	More training for the staff that completed the Demographic Analysis Course in Indirect Estimation Techniques.	Use of computers with internet access
<b>Social and Living Conditions Statistics</b> - <b>Continuous HHS</b>  - <b>Household Budget Survey 2007/2008</b>	Publication 2005-2008 Information available up to 2009  Three bi-lingual Volumes with at least 22 tables in each during 2009	Publication information, plus contribution to financial notes to the 2011 Budget  3 Volumes (Vol 1 all strata, Vol 2 under the median & at and above the median, Vol 3 results per stratum), plus additional info on request	No information available for the interior (logistical constraints)  No information available for the interior (logistical constraints)	Information produced for below the Median and for at and above the median.  Disparities in response and nonresponse	More Training in Sampling required, albeit CARICOM 2-week Training in Antigua & Barbuda received with thanks in 2010	Use of computers with internet access  Use of GPS and GIS  Use of computers with internet access
<b>Gender Statistics</b>	Yes, Selected data up to August 2009	Yes, publication "Selected Gender Statistics" issued in November 2007, next publication produced in December 2009, but presented at Press Conference on 11 January 2010	Data from the interior missing, so geographic coverage not optimal	<u>Best practices</u> Output rhythm for odd years maintained  <u>Challenges</u> Late response Format problems	Participated in CARICOM training in Antigua (2009) and ECLAC Training (2010)  More Training required for progressing with "genderizing" statistics increasingly.	Use of computers with internet access

## CARICOM REPORTING FORMAT (ENVIRONMENT AND ICT STATISTICS)

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
<b>Environment Statistics</b>	Data and indicators on different environmental topics and sectors	Every two years, Previous publication December 2008 Last publication September 2010	Identify potential data sources  Insufficient Inter-agency coordination	Output rhythm for even years maintained	GBS Participates in all relevant Regional training activities	Use of computers with internet access
<b>ICT Statistics</b>	Data obtained on ICT establishments, Cyber café's, Internet uses, Fixed lines and mobile users	Same as previous column	Data are not always what they seem and sometimes the explanation of anomalies is strikingly simple.	Data obtained through the TAS; Data not covered by TAS mandate still problematic	The GBS participated in the first Training course on Information Society Measurement in the Caribbean., February 2009  Follow-up training is required.	Use of computers with internet access

## CARICOM REPORTING FORMAT (PUBLIC RELATIONS AND DATA DISSEMINATION)

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
<b>Public Relations and Data Dissemination</b>		12 publications produced in 2009 and 1910 info requests dealt with	Not all data producers provide a publications schedule to ABS	Most publications are released at a Press Conference, most of which are well-attended and well-reported.  Not all data producers provide a publications schedule to ABS	Making more and better use of the Internet for dissemination purposes	Use of computers with internet access