



COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

PROGRESS REPORT

FOR PERIOD

NOVEMBER 2009 – OCTOBER 2010

***PREPARED FOR THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS
(SCCS)***

AND

***THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL CENSUS
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (RCCC)***

***8TH – 11TH NOVEMBER, 2010
ROSEAU, DOMINICA***

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- The final preparations and execution of the 2010 Census of Population and Housing was practically the sole focus of the department as all Supervisors became engaged in this exercise so much so that the work of some of the sections came to a halt, March through June.

Though faced with many challenges, the numerous training sessions took place as scheduled, the questionnaires arrived in time and the fieldwork began on the planned day with the exception of several enumerators who did not have identification badges. The field work took longer than expected and was not completed until end of August as opposed to mid July.

The response rate was lower than in all previous censuses, 89% as opposed to 94% in 2000. This can be attributed in part to the prevailing downturn in the economy and the discontentment associated with loss of jobs, etc. Preliminary results (population by island and sex, percentage distribution by island and island share) were released on Statistics Day. At present coding and editing continues with scanning scheduled to begin by end November.

The Census exercise was well supported by the media which is probably due to the fact that Paul Cheung, head of UNSD and four regional directors; Sonia Jackson, Ivan Sno, Edwin St. Catherine and Dave Clement visited The Bahamas as a promotional exercise.

- The GIS unit was able to produce digital maps for all areas in New Providence and Grand Bahama and two of the Family Islands. These maps assisted with any adjustments needed when the preliminary results were being calculated. The way forward for this unit and the Census is that of data dissemination using Censusinfo.
- There was no labour force survey conducted in 2010 which is in keeping with past practices. Due to shortage of staff, the census demand on staff, and the burden on households this department holds to its position that this must be the case. The difficult economic climate practically demanded a survey in order to monitor and determine whether the economy was improving but it was simply not practical to conduct one.

Since last SCCS, however, the department for the first time in its history deviated from an annual survey by conducting three surveys during the course of the year; February, May and October. This was done in order to provide planners with much needed and timely data on the state of the economy re employment.

With the new Census data, a new design will be done with the intention of conducting the survey twice yearly. Input into best practices will be greatly appreciated given the fact that we will be doing this without a permanent field staff and will therefore not likely be in the field all year round as in the case of Jamaica. Dialogue will be established with Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and St. Lucia for their valuable input.

- World Statistics Day was a great success. The two major functions were a three day exhibition at the main mall and a half day forum. The latter was well attended and guests were treated to very informative presentations by the Ministry of Tourism, the Police, Customs, Health, Education, the Central Bank and the Department of Statistics. Likewise those agencies, together with others, exhibited their work at the mall in a most colourful and interesting display.
- Progress continues to be made in the area of National Accounts and in the specific areas of TSA and Supply and Use where consultancies are being finalized with the ultimate result being the release of both hopefully by year's end.
- Establishment/business survey section is presently producing its 2008 returns. The response rate from this survey continues its downward trend which is probably fueled this time around by the state of the economy.
- The Consumer Prices Section has completed its last month of parallel collection based on the old basket and the new one. Price reporting based on the new base year will start in December. Unfortunately the new base year of 2006 is not so new. In The Bahamas, expenditure surveys are not well received and present a major challenge both to the householders who find them extremely taxing, and the interviewers who lack the level of commitment and determination needed.
- Trade indices have now been produced and effort is being made to analyze the data.
- During the course of the year, staff from most sections of the department benefitted greatly from the numerous training which took place mostly in the region in the form of workshops and seminars. CARICOM and ECLAC are mostly responsible for this and to them we express our gratitude. Appreciation is also expressed to the EDF, UNSD, IDB, ILO, CARTAC, and others who have played a tremendous role either in direct funding or in technical assistance.

**THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICANS
(SCCS)
BAHAMAS REPORT 2010**

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	RESOURCES REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
<p>NATIONAL ACCOUNTS</p> <p>- SNA 93</p>	<p>Produced Gross Domestic Product - 1997 to 2009 – current & constant prices.</p>	<p>Published May 2010</p>	<p>Institutional Sectors and Quarterly GDP not yet tabulated.</p>	<p>BEST PRACTICES:</p> <p>CHALLENGES:</p> <p>1. Currently developing the methodology for Quarterly GDP.</p> <p>2. Looking at implementing SNA 2008 revisions.</p>	<p><u>Assistance with:</u></p> <p>1. Reviewing the deflators/extrapolators currently used to make constant price estimates.</p> <p>2. Developing the Quarterly GDP methodology</p>	<p>1. Individual Personal Computers</p> <p>2. Internet access and government emails</p>
<p>- Tourism Satellite Account</p>	<p>Dept. of Statistics, the Central Bank of Bahamas and the Ministry of Tourism are in the final stages of completing the project being lead by Statistics Canada with the view to extracting the TSA from the SUT.</p>			<p>BEST PRACTICES:</p> <p>Establishing a TSA working group with all of the stakeholders that allow for efficiency in implementing necessary revisions or adjustments.</p> <p>CHALLENGES:</p>		

- Supply & Use Tables	1. Balanced SUT tables for 2002 & 2005 2. Working on balancing 2007 SUT.		Refining the results and methodology used to ensure that all of the resulting ratios make logical and economic sense within the context of the Bahamian economy.		Assistance with creating Input/Output tables and the analysis and utilization of the tables for running of various economic scenarios.	
- Environmental Statistics	Preparing a report for publication by the end of 2010.		Attempting to collect outstanding information.			
- Building Construction Statistics	Value and Number of Building Permits, Starts and Completions	Published 2 nd quarter 2010 data.				
AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION	DATA DESSEMINATION	DATA GAPS	BEST/ PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	RESOURCES REQUIRED Technical Training Applied or Required	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
Merchandise Trade:						
Annual	2009 Annual Report Produced & Published.	2009 Report was published & disseminated in June 2010. Also sent to Caricom.	Time lapse in receipt of data from Customs Dept.	Use of internal edit programme to edit data received from customs; programme produced & updated internally.	Regional Training in Compilation of Trade Statistics needed in light of new recommendations from the UNSD to be implemented in 2010.	Crystal Report is used to retrieve data from Customs TIMS System
Quarterly	2010 1 st Quarter Tables Produced. Finalizing 2 nd Quarter	Data provided to internal users & Central Bank.	Same as above	Look-up table was updated in July 2009 to reflect 2007 Revisions of HS Codes.		IMPS is used to capture, edit and process data.
Trade Price Indices	Presently collecting 2010 3 rd Quarter Prices.	None as yet.	Some companies in the sample have discontinued some items.	Data received from customs does not have an importer ID number. Customs unable to require it due to legality. Now have to look at re-sampling.	Technical Assistance in producing Trade Price Indices completed. Now need assistance in data analysis.	Currently exploring how Eurotrace can be utilized. Same as above Currently using mail merger & excel spreadsheet for index calculation.

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	RESOURCES REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT	Business Establishment basic tables Production Accounts for various sectors	College and High School Students Domestic Investors International Investors National Accounts General Public Other Government Agencies		BEST PRACTICES: Completed Business Establishment 2008 Surveys CHALLENGES: Low and no response for some ISIC Codes and employment classes Utilizing the new Register and ES-System software	Training is needed for the following areas: Microsoft office Suite Analyzing and interpreting statistical data Statistical practices for Business Establishment Estimation techniques	Customized software (SIMMS) – currently in progress
BUSINESS REGISTER	Business Establishment basic tables- Number of establishments by islands Number of establishments by sectors Number of establishment by supervisory districts	College and High School Students Domestic Investors International Investors National Accounts Government Agencies General Public		BEST PRACTICES: Complete businesses register for the Bahamas CHALLENGES: Frame clean up in regards to deaths and births of businesses. Some businesses status is not known. They can not be contacted due to their telephone being out of service and they are no longer at the address listed on the frame. Coding businesses The slow speed of the ESS System Software	Training needed for the following areas: Microsoft office Suite GIS techniques and equipments	Customized software (SIMMS) – currently in progress

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<p>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) <i>(Construction Building Materials Price Index included)</i></p>	<p>CPI Basic tables – <i>CPI, Monthly and annual percent changes, inflation rate</i> (1966 – Jul’10)</p> <p>CPI monthly report (Jul. 2010)</p> <p>QUARTERLY REPORT – AVG. PRICES (4th QTR ’08)</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION QTRLY REPORT (2nd qtr 2010)</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION ANNUAL REPORT (4th qtr ’07 – 1st qtr ’09)</p> <p>MONTHLY REPORT OF AVERAGE FAMILY ISLAND PRICES (June 2008-May 2009; Collected on 6 major islands ; Commenced June 2008)</p> <p>Currently in the process of updating the base year from Oct./Nov. 1995- Feb. 2010</p>	<p>Local newspapers</p> <p>The Central Bank’s website</p> <p>US Census Bureau</p> <p>ILO</p> <p>The Department’s Website</p>	<p>Jul’10 - Sep’10</p>	<p>BEST PRACTICES: Timely production of monthly tables & reports</p> <p>CHALLENGES: Finding adequate replacement for discontinued items and closed stores</p> <p>Verification of price fluctuations</p>	<p>Training Assistance needed in the following areas:</p> <p>Analyzing and interpreting pricing statistics</p> <p>Estimation techniques for out-of-stock items</p> <p>Continued Training in the Price Index Processing System (PIPS)</p>	<p>Price Index Processing System (PIPS)</p>

AREA OF STATISTICS	TRAINING COMPLETED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY	TECHNICAL CHALLENGES	NEW ACQUISITION	RESOURCES REQUIRED Technical Assistance Training Applied or Required	
Data Processing Section	1. One (1) Officer attended an International Household Survey Network (IHSN) Workshop in Trinidad, (April 26 – April 30, 2010)	1. Used CSPRO 3.3 to update Data Entry Application for Establishment Survey 2010, and to create Data Entry Application, Edit Programs, and Tabulation Tables for Census of Population and Housing Survey 2010. 2. Used MS SQL 2000 to update database for customized application.	1. Malfunctioning of UPS that supports Network Servers due to electrical inefficiency. 2. Static IP Address Conflicts with other Departments within the Building.	1. TeleForm V10.X Scanning (Data Capture) System for The Population and Housing Census 2010. Additional License modules— Scan Station (2), Readers (2), and Verifiers (10), and Scanners (2). 2. InFocus Learn Big IN2102EP – DLP projector 3. Eight (8) HP Compaq Business Notebooks 4. Twenty-one (21) replacement HP LCD Monitors 5. HP Design Jet T620 – 24” large-format printer – color –ink-jet 6. HP LaserJet P4015N Printer	1. An Internet Server for the main (Nassau) Office.	