

REPORT

TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS

**38th MEETING,
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Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek van Suriname (ABS)

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 System¹, hence it is explicitly stated that this report relates predominantly to the work of our Bureau and mainly covers the period October 2012 – September 2013, as far as the review is concerned. A "p" after some data indicates the provisional nature of that data! Exceptions to the reporting period regard Caribbean Statistics Day 2013 and DEVINFO/SURINFO reporting (inclusive of CENSUSINFO).

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 GDDS of the IMF.

Per 01 October 2012 the ABS had a total staff of 113 (75 female), and per 01 October 2013 this was 114 (76 female).

The period under consideration was dominated by:

- a- Advancing as much as possible regular statistics in a timely matter**
- b- Expanding scope and coverage of the statistical activities of the GBS**
- c- CARTAC missions / interventions in the fields of National Accounts**
- d- Last, but certainly not least POPULATION CENSUS activities (mainly to be reported under RCCC)**

¹ The most important 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).

PROGRESS REPORT UTILIZING CARICOM REPORTING TEMPLATE

ECONOMY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT STATISTICS

(* One of the outcomes of an initial mission during 11-14 June by Marc Prud'Homme)

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES#)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY and/or Comments
National Accounts (data for 2010 to 2012 are preliminary)	<p>NA sheets with macro economic aggregates 2008-2012 came out on 14 August 2013</p> <p>Expenditure on GDP (EGDP) Ceased, as it needs a major revision according to a CARTAC Mission</p> <p>From 8 to 12 July a CARTAC EGDG mission* (Siddiqui) was conducted to establish a baseline.</p>	<p>Same estimates as reported in previous column.</p> <p>Most of the hard copy information also available on the GBS Website</p>	<p>Expenditure on GDP needs to be revised</p> <p>Information on Sectoral Employment needs to be revised</p> <p>The Unit for employment is being reconsidered</p>	<p>GDP series revised (SNA 1993 compliant) and rebased (2007) in March 2012</p> <p>Through CARTAC intervention work on GDP by Expenditure, SUT, Quarterly GDP</p> <p>Intermediary Cost Survey conducted and continued</p> <p>Response issues</p>	<p>Follow-up hands on training, GDP by Expenditure, Quarterly GDP and SUT, as well as GDP Income approach. Training provided inter alia by CARTAC</p> <p>2-week Attachment to STATIN (to be funded by CARTAC) planned* for October/November 2013</p>	Computers with internet access
-Tourism Satellite Account	Long term planning	NA	Identification of data sources Inter-agency coordination (GBS & STS)	NA	More Training and technical assistance (TA) Required	Participated in May in Training: Travel & Tourism Stats.
Input/Output table	Work initiated in November 2008, Provisional I/O table for 2007 released in November 2010	NA			<p>Training provided by STUSECO</p> <p>More training and TA required</p>	Use of Turbo-ABS and improvement of SURYA model of the Surinamese Economy
Quarterly GDP (see National Accounts)	Delayed further, as Sectoral GDP and current prices EGDG have higher priority	NA	NA	Through CARTAC intervention work on Quarterly GDP Non-response	Training and technical assistance (TA) Required	Computers with internet access
Merchandise Trade -Trade Indices	In progress (work commenced in April 2008), no tables yet, rejected draft was still being revised when we lost our lead expert		Identify potential data sources	<p>Trained staff within Trade section</p> <p>Insufficient Inter-agency coordination</p>	Follow-up hands on assistance from CARTAC (timing to be determined) to produce Trade indices	Computers with internet access
Merchandise Trade - Trade Data Annual/ Quarterly (Annual data up to 2012 and Quarterly up to 2nd Quarter 2013)	<p>Tables (HS, SITC, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade Balance - Exports /Imports - Trade with Trade Blocks <p>Hard copy publication in July 2013</p>	Quarterly/ half year or annual tables via public relations				

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CPI (data available and disseminated up to August 2013, September release scheduled for 22 October 2013)	- exchange rates - consumer price indices and inflation - information on fuel prices	Monthly via public relations to all Mass Media, also disseminated via the GBS website	For quite a while only the Districts of Paramaribo and Wanica were published. The GBS now reports information for 4 domains: Paramaribo/Wanica Nickerie, Coronie/Saramacca Commewijne (Rural interior Districts still excluded and this situation is repeatedly criticized in Parliament)	-HBS(Oct.2007- April 2008) next HBS scheduled for 2013/2014 (to commence on 4 Nov., and coverage will be expanded with 1 more district to total 7) CPI usually disseminated within 3 weeks of the reference month As of May 2011, not only 11 major groups but also 32 Sub groups (classes) are reported	Advanced Index Number Theory and Practice	Medium term plan to use hand helds for price /outlet observations <u>Remark:</u> Members of Parliament increasingly complain about the fact that there is no "national coverage"
Enterprises Statistics (Annual data up to 2012 and Quarterly data up to 2nd Quarter 2013)	Turnover, Labour Cost and Number of employees, <u>Wages and Prices in the Construction Industry (LPB)</u> Hard copy LPB publication in June 2013	Annual data up to 2012 Quarterly data up to 2 nd Quarter 2013	Differential non-response, causing some estimates to become suspect	Non-response, causing some estimates to become suspect Census 2007 information used for register. Both unweighted and weighted response rates are being studied	Also benefits from CARTAC national accounts intervention Two-week Attachment to STATIN (to be funded by CARTAC) planned* (see page 4) for October/November 2013	Use of computers with internet access A Database Matching Operation is being conducted involving: Census Listings, Register of Establishments and Agricultural Census Database.

Actually: Tables and Graphs

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 and/or Comments
Population and Demographic Statistics 8th Population Census (Field work, inclusive of PES: 13 August 2012 up to 3 November 2012)	Population estimates up to mid-year 2012 Population projections up to 2024 Life tables up to 2009 Selected vital statistics and indicators up to 2011; Provisional Census results (Jan '13) and Final Census results Vol. I (Sept '13)	Same as previous column, plus incidental data requests.	Census undercount (estimated at 3.5%). Particularly perceived under-enumeration of Brazilians and Chinese has sparked a lot of criticism. (Is it majority rules or minority rules?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Late availability of most vital statistics - Selected local practices at variance with international standards 	Capture/ Recapture when some of the assumptions are violated.	Use of computers with internet access Use of UNMORTPAK-IV
Social and Living Conditions Statistics - Continuous HHS - Statistical Yearbook 2011 (Dec 2012); the 2012 YB planned for November 2013 - Traffic and Transport Statistics	Selected data up to first half of 2012 (remaining data expected from Census Volume II) Annual and Monthly data. Monthly and Annual data (e.g. air traffic, road traffic, arrivals and departures, etc.)	NA Contribution to financial notes to the 2014 Budget Annual data up to 2011 and monthly up to October 2012 Previous publication December 2011, next scheduled for February 2014	Identification of data sources Inter-agency coordination (GBS & Tourism Foundation) From 2009 to date only Arrivals and no Departures registered.	NA Geographic coverage expanded to the District of Nickerie and shortly also Commewijne will be surveyed continuously (In May 2011 GBS opened a Branch Office in Commewijne) A new border management system was initiated recently	Applied Sampling (especially Sampling of very mobile populations)	NA Use of computers with internet access
Gender Statistics	Selected data up to 2012	Publication "Selected Gender Statistics" produced in September 2013, launched on CSD (observed in Suriname 14-10-2013), next issue scheduled for September 2015	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 all relevant CARICOM training activities More Training required	Use of computers with internet access

Actually: Tables and Graphs

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS, ICT STATISTICS & OTHER MULTI-DOMAIN AREAS

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY and/or Comments
Environment Statistics	Data and indicators on different environmental topics and sectors	Every two years, Last publication October 2012	Identify potential data sources	<u>Best practices</u> Output rhythm for “even” years maintained <u>Challenge</u> Sufficient Inter-agency Cooperation, but insufficient Inter-agency Coordination	GBS Participates in all CARICOM training activities and had a representative in the UN Expert group on FDES Revision.	Use of computers with internet access
ICT Statistics	Data obtained on” ICT establishments, Cyber café’s, Internet uses, Fixed lines and mobile users	Same as previous column	Minor information is obtained from the continuous HHS and has to be supplemented with registration data.	Administrative 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
BASIC INDICATORS	Monthly and Quarterly data on: Economic, Financial, Monetary and Social Indicators, up to	Quarterly data up to 1 st Quarter of 2013 and monthly data up to May 2013, disseminated in July 2013		Quick way to produce and disseminate simple data quite fast. <u>Networking</u>		Use of computers with internet access
STATISTICAL PAPERS OF THE GBS	Statistical Papers 12 with 3 contributions Statistical Papers 13 (a Monograph), planned for November 2013	Publication issued in October 2012 Statistical Papers 13 (a Monograph), planned for November 2013		At least one paper produced annually.		GBS Work in progress and/or academic papers of young staff who would have no other possibilities to publish their work
Human Development Atlas 2012)	Mainly data, disaggregated by Sex and District, for 2004 and 2009	Publication with 251 pages and many tables, graphs and thematic maps (All 10 Districts)	MDG-8 information lacking.	National Coverage Repeating the exercise in 2015		Suriname followed a great example given by CSO Trinidad The HDA underscored the importance of Population Censuses!

Actually: Tables and Graphs

PUBLIC RELATIONS & DATA DISSEMINATION; ETHICAL AND QUALITY ISSUES

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES #)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY and/or Comments
Public Relations and Data Dissemination I - General	Information Requests, Information requesters and Information seekers (website Statistics)	From 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013 ten (10) publications (4 in 2012 and 6 in 2013) have been issued and During the same period, the PR section dealt with 1960 requests from 1681 requesters. (For 2013: 1541/1348)	Customer Satisfaction Surveys abolished after 2010.	At least fortnightly reports submitted to Management to monitor what users are mainly interested in. However, we always have to rank and prioritize users as well	Joomla Training in May 2013 (to give the GBS more control over its own website) and UN Regional Workshop on Data Dissemination and Communication in June (Brazil)	Internet (inclusive of DATAZOA tool)
Public Relations and Data Dissemination II – DEVINFO & SURINFO	Tables and Maps for the Human Development Atlas and for CSD Promo materials	Same as previous column PLUS Launch on 17 Oct 2013 of MDGSuriname database##	For selected Social and environmental indicators data still missing	MDA's persistently trained by UNICEF, UNDP, CARICOM and ABS and coached by ABS	Censuinfo Nov '12 Devinfo 7.0 March and Oct 2013 and Surinfo database in June 2013	Use of computers with internet access
PR and Data Dissemination III – International Year of Statistics and Caribbean Statistics Day 2013	SEE DEVINFO above	Promo Materials regarding IYOS2013 and CSD2013 and regarding ABS/GBS activities (e.g. upcoming HBS 2013/2014)	N.A.	Annual participation in activities to observe Caribbean Statistics Day.	DEVINFO activities utilized	Use of computers with internet access
CODE OF ETHICS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORKS		CARICOM CODE SHARED WITH selected Data producers (others to follow) CARICOM CODE to be uploaded on the GBS website	Customer Satisfaction Surveys abolished after 2010. Only selected operations are fully "Quality Assured"	Adherence to Fundamental Principles repeated to such an extent that it becomes some sort of a mantra	Participated in CARICOM online Self Assessment on Good Statistical Practice Participated in SCA/ECLAC July 2013 workshop in Columbia on Code of Good Practice Socialization	LAC Code and CARICOM Code look very much alike. Periodic inventories of WOP to check on processes of Statistics producing sections and periodic samples of output inspected of the same sections HBS used as pilot. Bottom line: This is Work in Progress and there is much left to be done.

Actually: Tables and Graphs

Link: <http://www.devinfo.org/devinfosuriname/libraries.aspx/Home.aspx>