

CARIBBEAN

COMMUNITY

SECRETARIAT

THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS (SCCS)

SCCS/2014/39/13

Georgetown, Guyana
27 – 29 October 2014

26 October 2014

Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Country Report



Department Of Statistics

*Prepared for the Thirty-Ninth (39th) Meeting of the Standing
Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS)*

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*The Twenty-fourth (24th) Meeting of the Regional Census
Coordinating Committee (RCCC)*

27th - 30th October, 2014

Georgetown, Guyana

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2014

- The results of the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) conducted in 2013 were finalized and completed. An Executive Summary is on the Department's website and the complete report will be mounted by November. A half day, well attended user/producer seminar took place in October to share the results. Good coverage was provided by the media.

The results of the survey will provide inputs into the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CCT) soon to be implemented in the Department of Social Services. The results, as usually the case, will also be used to revise the CPI, a project now underway.

- The GIS section has completed the GPS of the major islands of New Providence and Grand Bahama. By year's end it is hoped that they will produce poverty maps based on the results of the HES.
- Two additional Census reports were produced during the course of the year; one on Disability and the other on Migration. A third, Family and Households, which is overdue, should be completed by the end of the year.

October 24th, 2014

COUNTRY REPORT

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (Tables etc.)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	RESOURCES REQUIRED (Technical Assistance Training Applied or Required)	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
System of National Accounts Revision 1993	Produced Gross Domestic Product Years 2009 to 2013 Current & Constant Prices	Published on website May 2014	Institutional Sector Accounts	<u>Challenge:</u> Preparation of Supply and Use Tables utilizing 2012 data.	<u>Assistance with:</u> 1. Reviewing the deflators/extrapolators currently used to make constant price estimates 2. Developing Institutional Sector Accounts	1. Individual Personal Computers 2. Internet access and government email
Quarterly GDP Estimates	<p>Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center (CARTAC) is funding the development of Quarterly Accounts for The Bahamas. The initial fact-finding Mission was June 18th to 22nd, 2012 and was lead by Maureen Blokland and consultant David Hughes.</p> <p>Three additional missions were held, December 3rd to 7th, 2012, July 24th to 31st, 2013 and July 4th to 12th, 2014. The last mission was lead by David Hughes. This mission focused on further developing and finalizing the Constant Prices Production Approach methodology and the introduction of indicators for the Current Prices Production Approach methodology. Mr. Hughes also introduced the concept of BI ratios to determine the “fitness” of the indicator to track the industry changes.</p> <p>Challenge: Difficulty gathering data for the quarterly GDP estimates currently being developed.</p>					
Supply & Use Tables (SUT)	<p>Work was initiated on development of SUT for 2012.</p> <p>New and expanded data was made available in the form of Household 2013 Expenditure Survey Results and Establishment Survey details during September 2014.</p> <p>However, due to expanded work load, delay in the availability of the source data and the lost of an experienced long-term staff member the efforts to develop the tables have been very slow and it is doubtful that the planned deadline will be met.</p>					

Environmental Statistics	Produced a Environmental Statistics Report for 2013	The data was published on the website 2014 and provided by email to all who requested a copy.	There is basically no information available on Air Quality and Emissions of Green House Gases	Difficulty collecting from the various stakeholders the updated information requested by the international organizations and the FDES listed indicators.	Technical assistance, staff and funding for the various producing organizations to assist with measurement of some indicators.	
	The Bahamas is a Pilot country in an IDB, ECLAC and INEGI Public Goods Program focused on the development of a self diagnostic tool and possible indicators under the Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics that can be provided by countries under the ECLAC umbrella.					
Building Construction Statistics	Value and Number of Building Permits, Starts and Completions were published up to 2 nd Quarter 2014.	Data published on the website.				

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	RESOURCES REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT	<p>Business Establishment basic tables</p> <p>Production Accounts for various sectors</p>	<p>College and High School Students</p> <p>Domestic Investors</p> <p>National Accounts</p> <p>General Public</p> <p>Other Government Agencies</p>		<p>BEST PRACTICES: Completed Business Establishment 2013 Surveys</p> <p>Production of 2012 Production Accounts (estimates)</p> <p>CHALLENGES: The country's preparation for VAT affected the response rate</p> <p>Low and no response for some ISIC Codes and employment classes</p> <p>Software package needed to capture data and produce survey estimates</p>	<p>Training is needed for the following areas:</p> <p>Microsoft office Suite</p> <p>Analyzing and interpreting statistical data</p> <p>Statistical practices for Business Establishment</p> <p>Estimation techniques</p>	
BUSINESS REGISTER	<p>Business Establishment basic tables-</p> <p>Number of Establishments by Islands</p> <p>Number of Establishments by Sectors</p> <p>Number of Establishment by Supervisory Districts</p> <p>Number of employees by industry</p>	<p>College and High School Students</p> <p>Domestic Investors</p> <p>National Accounts</p> <p>Government Agencies</p> <p>General Public</p>		<p>BEST PRACTICES: Produced a 2013 businesses register for New Providence and Grand Bahama</p> <p>CHALLENGES: Some businesses status is not known. They cannot be contacted due to their telephone being out of service and they are no longer at the address listed on the frame.</p> <p>Businesses relocating and new addresses not known</p> <p>Businesses refusing to give information on their businesses because they are disgruntle over the implementation of VAT</p> <p>New software to house register</p>	<p>Training needed for the following areas:</p> <p>Microsoft office Suite</p> <p>GIS techniques and equipments</p> <p>Research techniques</p> <p>Survey analysis</p>	

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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-September'14)</p> <p>CPI monthly report (Sept. 2014)</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION QTRLY REPORT (3rd qtr 2014)</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION ANNUAL REPORT (4th qtr '09 – 1st qtr '11)</p> <p>Currently in the process of updating the base year from Feb 2010</p>	<p>The Central Bank's website</p> <p>The Department's Website</p> <p>Trade Unions</p> <p>National Accounts</p>		<p>BEST PRACTISES: Timely production of monthly tables and reports</p> <p>CHALLENGES:</p> <p>Finding adequate replacement for discontinued items and closed stores</p> <p>Verification of price fluctuations</p> <p>The software (PIPs) does not allow for the production of some of the necessary required tables</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 Prices Index Processing System (PIP) or a more appropriate prices system software</p> <p>Hand held devices for the collection of price data</p>	<p>Price Index Processing System (PIP)</p>

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Merchandise Trade:						
Annual	2013 Annual Report Produced	2013 Report was produced & disseminated via DOS Website in July 2014. Also 2013 data 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 periodically internally. Look-up table is being updated to reflect 2012 & 2013 Revisions of HS Codes. Major update was done to reflect changes to tariff in July 2014.	Regional Training in Compilation of Trade Statistics needed in light of new recommendations from the UNSD ITMS 2010.	Crystal Report is used to retrieve data from Customs TIMS System but has been experiencing some problems recently.
Quarterly	2014 1 st Quarter Tables Produced. Finalizing 2 nd Quarter 2014	Data provided to internal users & Central Bank.	Same as above	Currently using UN country codes. It was agreed to implement this in 2014	Training & further Consultancy in Eurotrace needed given the challenges experienced in using Eurotrace.	CSPPro is used for data capture & IMPS is used to edit and process data. Currently exploring Eurotrace and experiencing difficulties; preparing Data Entry Screen & Dictionary to move to CSPPro in 2014.
Trade Price Indices	Conducted initiation for new sample based on 2012 data. 2 rd Qtr. 2014 collected.	Indices were Reviewed by National Accounts and are currently being used for GDP. XMPI for the years 2008 -2011 were presented in 2012 Trade publication.	Some companies in the new sample are proving to be a challenge. Having problems collecting from some companies.	Data received from customs does not have an importer ID number. Customs unable to require it due to legality. Re-sampling completed.	Technical Assistance in updating of weights & a review of the resample was conducted. Additional training & sharing of best practices still needed in the Region for those countries compiling XMPI.	Currently using mail merger & excel spreadsheet for index calculation. Hope to explore TIMS Module of Eurotrace for calculating Indices.

Notes: We are experiencing some real challenges with the Eurotrace Software: (a) the validation rules are incorrect & are changing the quantity in every record; (b) some revisions to HS is necessary (c) unable to process the extracted file from Eurotrace; (d) Insufficient training for staff in the actual use of Eurotrace as much of the time was spent building the domain; (e) unable to make revisions to tariff in Eurotrace; (f) response to queries from Consultant is slow

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VITAL EVENTS	registered livebirths, deaths, including infant & stillbirths, age-specific fertility rates, marriages, and divorces.	annual and semi-annual reports, web page.	year, 2002. Detailed divorce data from 2001 to 2013	liaise with: Ministry of Health (reconcile causes of death codes). Civil Registry-late receipt of registered births. Access of registered births, deaths & marriages via computer. Family Registry of Supreme Court.	challenged in compiling Decree Absolutes on a consistent basis. Registration of divorces with the Family Registry lags behind for years. Amendment to the divorce Act seem to be the only solution. Software that is able to produce publish-ready tables. More time is spent adjusting tables to meet publication requirements than the coding, editing and tables producing phases.	IMPS & Excel software packages. MMDS*

* Medical Mortality System software was implemented in 2010 to produce the underlying causes of death.

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LABOUR FORCE SECTION	<p><u>TABLES:</u> LABOUR FORCE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX;LABOUR FORCE BY HIGHEST EXAMINATION PASSED AND SEX; LABOUR FORCE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND SEX;EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND CITIZENSHIP;EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY AND CITIZENSHIP;EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION AND OCCUPATION AND CITIZENSHIP;NEW ENTRANTS IN THE LABOUR FORCE BY AGE GROUP; INFORMAL SECTOR AND SEX;UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE-GROUP AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT; HOUSEHOLDS BY ISLAND INDICATING ACCESS TO AMENITIES, ALL BAHAMAS, NEW PROVIDENCE AND GRAND BAHAMA; HOUSEHOLDS WITH TELEVISION LINKED TO CABLE, SATELLITE, CABLE & SATELLITE BY ISLAND.</p>	SUMMARY TABLES OF PRELIMINARY 2014 MAY LABOUR FORCE RESULT ON WEBSITE; ELECTRONIC TABLES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.	LABOUR FORCE DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE CENSUS YEAR. THE MAJORITY OF THE FAMILY ISLAND NOT COVERED IN THE SURVEY ROUNDS.	<p><u>BEST PRACTICES:</u> SINCE THE FINALIZATION OF CENSUS DATA, A NEW SAMPLE HAS BEEN DESIGNED. SAMPLES WERE DRAWN FROM NEW PROVIDENCE, GRAND BAHAMA AND THREE FAMILY ISLANDS. THE FAMILY ISLANDS COVERED IN EACH CYCLE OF THE LFS ARE ROTATED IN AND OUT OF THE SAMPLE TO ENSURE THAT OVER TIME THE MORE POPULATED ISLANDS ARE REPRESENTED. ADDITIONALLY, USING THE CENSUS DATA, LFS HAD TO BE REBASED AND THE REPORTS FROM 2012 IS IN PROCESS OF BEING RE-CALCULATED</p>	LFS IS NOW COLLECTING DATA SEMI-ANNUALLY.	IMPS, EXCEL SPSS CSPRO STATA

				<u>CHALLENGES</u> DUE TO THE ARCHIPELAGIC MAKE UP OF THE BAHAMAS WITH ITS POPULATION WIDELY AND UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED SAMPLE AND COVERAGE PRESENT A CHALLENGE		
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AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (Tables etc.)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	RESOURCES REQUIRED Technical Assistance Training Applied or Required	USE OF TECHNOLOGY
<p>Labour Market Information Unit</p>	<p>Occupation Wage Survey Report:</p> <p>Occupations and Wages 2003-2004 and 2007 are available. The 2011 report should be released by the end of 2014. Main data produced are: Average wages; by industry, occupational groups; detailed occupation and sex.</p> <p>Wages in the Hotel Industry:</p> <p>The latest available report is 2012.</p> <p>The report for 2013 is expected to be released by the</p>	<p>General public, Government, International agencies, Labour Unions, students, etc. Data are available in hardcopies, electronically and on the governments and statistics website</p>	<p>Labour Market Information Newsletter: data on industrial disputes, Man hours lost in strikes and lockouts.</p>	<p>Challenges: Timely response from most of the selected establishments in the Occupational Wage Survey;</p> <p>Best Practice: A good response from the establishments.</p> <p>Good working relationship with educational institutions which send the information in the required format.</p>	<p>Additional qualified staff</p>	<p>CSPRO is used to analyze collected data, along with other software packages.</p>

	<p>end of September 2014. Main data produced are, wages by sex and occupation in the hotel industry.</p> <p>Labour Market Information Newsletter:</p> <p>A newsletter was produced bi-annually it will be Produced once a year as of 2014.</p> <p>The latest available edition is December 2013.</p>					
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Tables

Area of Statistics	Data Production (Tables etc.)	Data Disseminated	Data Gaps	Best Practices/Challenges	Resources Required Technical Assistance Training Applied or required	Use of Technology
<p>The Department of Statistics, 2013 Household Expenditure Survey.</p> <p>Coverage: Expenditure on: -Food, alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages -clothing and footwear -Household Durables -education -personal goods and services -entertainment</p> <p>-National and regional poverty indicators</p> <p>-poverty and inequality</p> <p>-demographic features of the population</p>		<p>The final report will be published in the format of hard copy (expected date Dec, 2014)</p> <p>An executive summary is presently available</p> <p>Information on the preliminary results (July, 2014) is available on the website</p>	<p>The Household Expenditure Survey is conducted every five years.</p>	<p>Best practices</p> <p>Face to face interviews The use of household dairies Pricing Questionnaires Intensive Training Avoid administrating the survey at peak seasons or when shoppers are more likely to be doing things out of the ordinary. E.g. Christmas. Pay close attention to length of recall periods. Don't burden the questionnaire with information which can be collected in other surveys.</p> <p>Challenges</p> <p>The fieldwork was unduly burdensome for both enumerators and householders and the response rate was in the vicinity of 80%. During the data collection phase there were a number of challenges which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much time and effort exerted to ensure that the main shopper was available to be interviewed. • Householders in many instances not prepared for the interview 	<p>Consultations was provided by Inter-American Development bank to construct the nutritional cost basket and to assist with the writing of the technical report</p> <p>Partnered with The Ministry of Social Development to implement its new CCT programs</p> <p>Technical support from The Ministry of Health And Education</p> <p>Received some training in Poverty Mapping</p>	<p>Two main software packages used. The data was entered using census and Survey Processing (CSPro) While Stata was used to edit, clean, and perform consistency checks and identify outliers. It was also used to produce the tables for the Survey</p>

<p>-labour market characteristics</p> <p>-employment and unemployment rates</p> <p>-social programmes</p> <p>-Health services use and expenditure</p> <p>-Life style</p> <p>-physical activity</p> <p>Housing conditions and access to infrastructure services</p> <p>-transportation and durable goods ownership.</p>				<p>despite publicity campaign informing them of the survey and how to prepare for the interviewer's visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to gated communities was a labourious process. Letters sent to managers of these properties had to be relentlessly followed up. Once this access was obtained it did not guarantee the householder's cooperation. Many of them did not cooperate as they considered their gated community off limits because they were paying a monthly fee to guarantee that they are not bothered by any uninvited guests. Response from most of these areas was well below that of other areas. • There were also households which did not live in gated • In some Family Islands some of the households falling into the sample were owned by persons who were off the island for the entire time of the fieldwork and therefore the roving teams were not able to obtain their information. This lowered the response rate for these areas for 		
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				<p>which the expected returns were small due to the sample size.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the course of the fieldwork it was realized that minimum expenditure was being obtained on clothing and shoes. It appears as if the time period for this should have been longer, perhaps six months or even twelve months as opposed to three.• Edit checks were cumbersome and required much consultation re the treatment of outliers.		
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