



The PRASC team is pleased to present the second edition of its semi-annual newsletter. This edition covers activities that took place between April 2016 and September 2016. If you wish to be added to the distribution list of the newsletter, please send an email to [statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca](mailto:statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca).

## Work on Montserrat demographic estimates

PRASC is working with the Statistical Department of Montserrat to develop a new method for producing annual mid-year population estimates and to assess the feasibility of producing sub-annual and subnational population estimates. Virtual work is ongoing. A mission tailored to the Montserrat Demography Program was carried out in April 2016 and included topics such as base population, births, deaths, international migration, cohort component method, rebasing and intercensal estimates.



Montserrat, April 2016.  
Photo: Patrick Charbonneau, Statistics Canada.

## Upcoming regional conference

Following a request from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, PRASC will be holding a regional workshop to draft a **Regional Quality Assurance Framework**. The workshop is tentatively planned for **December 5 to 9, 2016**.

Invitations are forthcoming.



Guyana, August 2016.  
Photo: Marc Prud'homme, Statistics Canada.

## Work with the BOS of Guyana on CPI

A PRASC technical mission pertaining to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was held at the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) of Guyana at the end of September 2016. The main objectives of the mission were to develop various strategies for expanding the geographical coverage of the CPI, revise the current CPI basket of goods and services, and propose modifications to the CPI estimation process to improve the timeliness of the index. The project will support the BOS of Guyana in the coming years with the implementation of these changes to the CPI.

## Update on work with the Statistical Institute of Belize

Work with the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) on the upcoming Business Establishment Survey continued throughout the data collection and processing stages. A mission at the end of April reviewed the process of developing decision tables intended to document and specify the edit and imputation strategy. Support in this area continued during the exchange of documents and comments as well as via conference calls. At the end of October, members of SIB will visit Ottawa for assistance in producing aggregate estimates and a Supply and Use table.

## Piloting e-collection in the Bahamas

Since April 2016, PRASC has been working with the Department of Statistics of the Bahamas (DSB) on implementing electronic collection for the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Regular virtual meetings have taken place and a mission was undertaken in September 2016. Work is now well under way on questionnaire review and the building of an application in Survey Solutions (World Bank product) in preparation for a pilot survey in November.



*The Bahamas, September 2016.  
Photo: Lecily Hunter, Statistics Canada.*

## Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics Conference

In September, PRASC attended this conference, which targeted heads of national statistical offices and international or regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners, as well as other stakeholders. Participants discussed five thematic areas of the Transformative Agenda, which are at the core of the modernization of official statistics. A summary, including considerations for action, was prepared by the Caribbean Community Secretariat. The PRASC objectives and planned activities align well with the conference's conclusions and the offer of PRASC support was reiterated to the heads of the NSOs.

## Work on National Accounts

PRASC supported the work of several NSOs on the System of National Accounts (SNA). Most notable is the work focusing on the development of Supply and Use tables for a number of countries. Ongoing conference calls with selected member states have moved toward the establishment of product and industry classification schemes that are consistent across the region at a high level and meet each country's specific needs. The PRASC team has been working on the development of a generic SNA tool that can be used to create table dimensions, and load, analyze and balance data for a number of SNA products. A first version of this tool was discussed with Saint Lucia. The tool will also be used in the SNA work with the NSOs of Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Montserrat and Guyana, and will be available for other NSOs in the region.

## Business Registers

As a well-developed business register (BR) lays a strong foundation for business surveys, PRASC is working with a number of NSOs to improve BRs. Saint Lucia is leading the way with a comprehensive BR redesign that will allow administrative data to be used in an automated fashion to maintain the register and a fully redesigned user interface. Jamaica is redesigning the questionnaire on the collection of new business information. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is profiting from Jamaica's work by using the new questionnaire as the starting point for their work in this area. The questionnaire will be available to other NSOs that are scheduled to work on business registers this year.

## Statistical Governance Committees

The need to establish statistical governance committees to support the NSO and the NSS has been identified by NSOs and regional organizations. To address this need, PRASC will be working with NSOs over the course of the project to establish such committees. PRASC is currently working with the NSO of Grenada to establish a National Statistics Council. The terms of reference for this council are being developed and could be used as a starting point for other countries wishing to take on a similar initiative.

## PRASC documents on CARICOM

You can now access key PRASC documents (workshop presentations, templates and guidelines) on CARICOM's website under the Meetings section and the Document Centre of the Help Desk. You can access the site at <http://caricomstats.org/>.



## Follow PRASC on LinkedIn

You can now follow more news from PRASC on LinkedIn. A LinkedIn PRASC group was launched in June 2016, and we regularly post news to keep you up to date. If you are not already part of our PRASC group, please join us! Go to <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/PRASC-Project-Regional-Advancement-Statistics-8532414/about> to register.