

Why Barbados Needs a Robust and Sustainable Statistical System



Bridgetown, the Capital of Barbados



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The Role of Statistics

The importance of statistics cannot be overemphasized. Timely and accurate information is now more widely recognized as the key to progress, development and success.

Statistics informs planning, policy-making and implementation, and decision-making in all spheres of life

- Policy-making and decision-making should be based on sound information
- Official statistics represent an important source of evidence, as they provide a solid information base required for analysis, forecasting, monitoring and research
- Quality statistics inspire confidence in our programmes and projects undertaken by developing partners and donors
- Without quality statistics it is difficult to monitor the effects of policy implementation and to measure its impact on vulnerable groups of the population
- Statistics assists in the redesign of policy
- Comprehensive high quality statistics can provide a guide to Government regarding the appropriate interventions and strategies which should be made
- Statistics are needed to support the regional integration process and to monitor its progress
- Statistics are a valuable and necessary input into trade and other negotiations
- Statistics facilitate business, for example:
 - » feasibility studies and forecasting
 - » establishment survey results can provide data for measuring market share
 - » data on target groups within the general population for marketing purposes may be derived from censuses and surveys.

Barbados has recognized and accepted the need for evidence-based policy-making and implementation



A Sugar Factory



Hilton Hotel

Comprehensive statistics provide a good picture of the social, economic, demographic and environmental issues, which need to be addressed

- Data needed for analysis of Social and Economic events should be regularly produced on a timely basis
- Statistical series enables the identification of trends
- Demographic data are required and may be used for various purposes, for example: manpower planning, siting of schools, clinics, dwelling units, retail outlets, etc
- Statistics assist the public to assess the success of government's policies, allowing persons to hold government accountable
- Statistics are a basic component of good governance and efficiency and therefore help to improve the allocation of scarce resources
- Statistics facilitate the identification of resource gaps.

Vision for Barbados

It is envisioned that Barbados will be transitioned from a middle income developing country to a fully developed society by the year 2030. It is expected that Barbados would be a fully developed and people-centred society, based on high, sustainable and shared growth, free of abject poverty with a sustained high quality of life to be enjoyed by all.

Independence Square, staff of the BSS beside statue of the Rt. Excellent Errol Barrow, 1st Prime Minister and National Hero



Timely and reliable statistics inform decisions made by the public sector, the private sector and by the general public. In order to achieve the vision for Barbados, it is necessary to provide an adequate framework for the production and dissemination of statistics

It is, therefore, imperative that the statistical infrastructure is upgraded and enhanced and that adequate resources, financial and technical, are provided to ensure that the National Statistical System (NSS) is able to respond to the demands of its many and growing number of users. The NSS must be robust enough to respond to demands and to the requirements of a changing environment. Its sustainability should also be guaranteed since investment in statistics will pay for itself many times over.

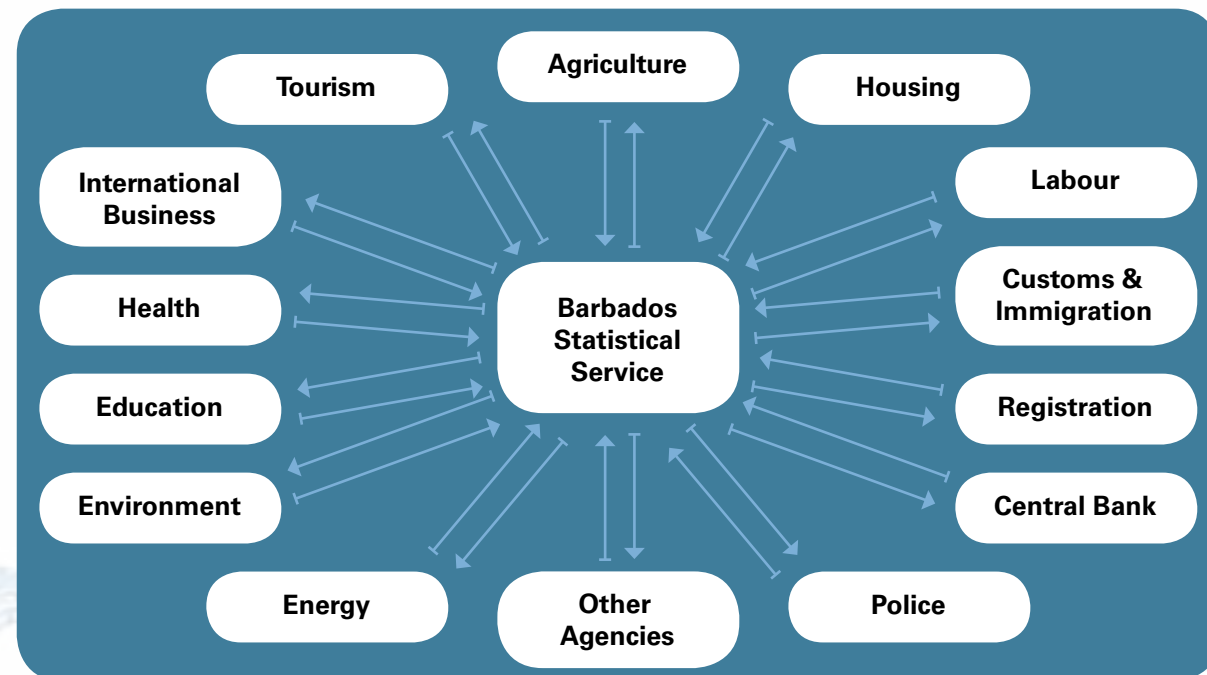
- The availability and retention of technical skills is a major issue that must be addressed to strengthen statistical capacity in Barbados
- Every opportunity for capacity building and enhancement of skills should be undertaken to equip all staff within the NSS
- An adequate structure for the management and production of statistics needs to be provided
- Technology within the NSS should be at the cutting edge in order to ensure timely delivery of service to users
- Continuous improvement is necessary to meet changing economic, social, demographic and environmental conditions
- A well planned and coordinated NSS will need to align itself with statistical strategic planning.



Staff of the BSS, working on the development of "BimInfo", a statistical database

- Moreover, the Barbados Statistical Service must play an important central role as:
 - » the main repository of essential statistics on all aspects of development in the country.
 - » the coordinator of the NSS

NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM



A Graphical Representation of the National Statistical System Identifying the Main Players in the System.

The Modernisation Project for the Barbados Statistical Service (BSS) & other statistics producing units in agencies and ministries

- General Objective:
 - » To strengthen the ability of the BSS to provide relevant, timely and quality Economic and Social Statistics
 - » To establish the leadership of the BSS in the area of Statistics within the Public Sector
- Components :
 1. Legal Framework – new or revised legal framework
 2. Statistics Network:
 - to improve cooperation
 - to enhance and harmonise data across the System
 - to coordinate the national statistics programme
 3. Institutional Reengineering – managerial and administrative reform
 4. Enhancement of Statistical Products – to improve the production and dissemination of key Social and Economic Statistics
 5. Human Capacity- training of personnel
 6. Technical Infrastructure and Public Outreach :
 - upgrade of hardware & software
 - establishment of an Intranet & network with agencies which provide data to the BSS
 - to facilitate dissemination of statistics to the public
- Development Partner: Inter-American Development Bank

Statistics

Life Expectancy

Males	72.7	Females	78.6
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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population (,000)	272.7	273.4	274.0	274.7	275.3
Males	131.5	131.9	132.3	132.7	133.0
Females	141.2	141.5	141.7	142.0	142.3

Rates

Population Growth %	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Birth (per 1000)	12.7	12.8	12.4	12.9	12.9
Death (per 1000)	8.9	7.9	8.5	8.1	9.0
Inflation	1.4	6.6	7.3	4.3	8.0

Labour Force

Participation Rate %	69.5	69.6	67.8	67.8	67.6
Male	75.3	75.2	73.4	74.3	73.3
Female	64.2	64.5	62.8	61.9	62.5
Unemployment Rate %	9.8	9.7	8.7	7.4	8.1
Male	9.0	8.0	7.7	6.4	6.9
Female	10.6	9.4	9.8	8.5	9.5

Tourism

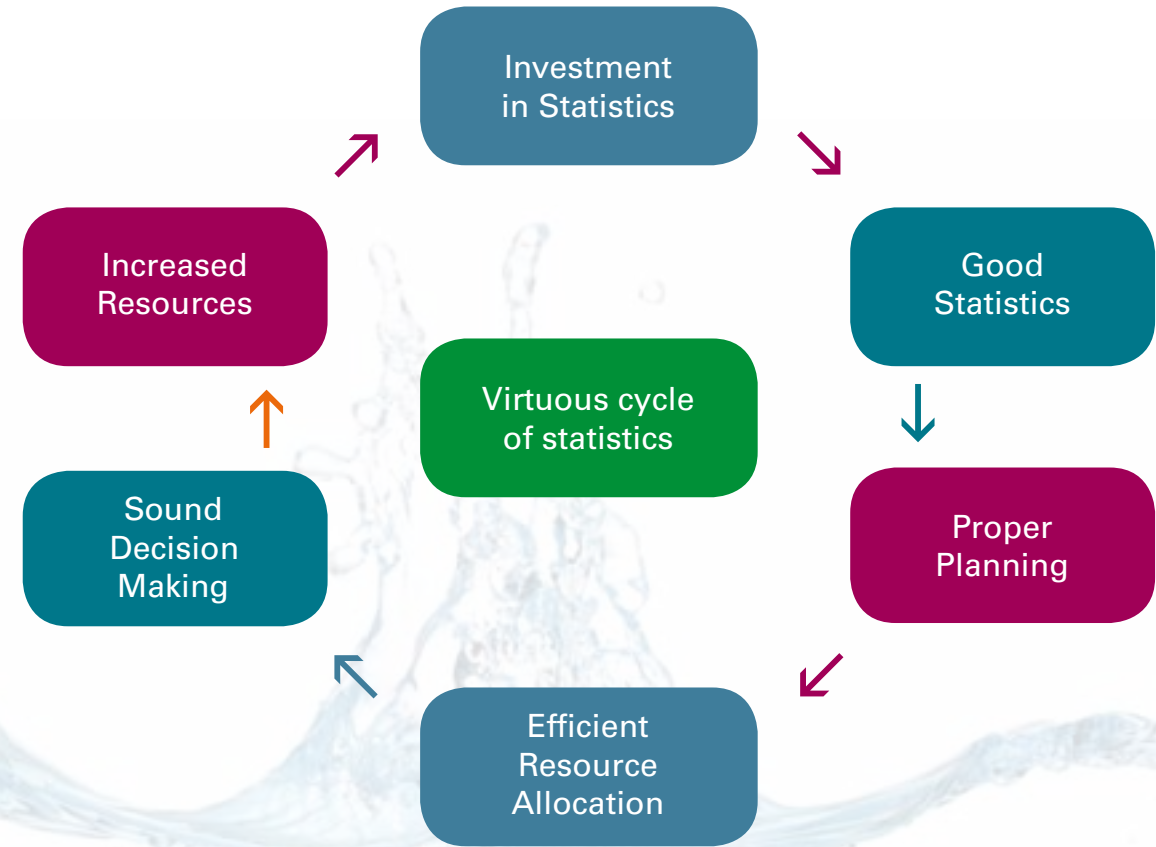
Arrivals (,000)	551.5	547.5	562.5	572.9	567.7
GDP Growth Rate %	4.8	3.9	3.2	3.4	0.7



Fishing Boat



Representative of the Informal Sector:
Snowcone Vendor





The BSS Vision

"To be the leading provider of adequate timely and reliable statistics in the Caribbean Region."

The BSS Mission:

"To provide reliable and timely key economic and social statistics which decision makers and other users need."

Core Values:

*Professionalism
Integrity
Quality Service
Accountability
Team Spirit*

Surveys conducted by the BSS

Barbados National Accounts Survey
Continuous Household Labour Force Survey
Household Budget Survey
Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours
Survey of Export/ Import Prices
Survey of Industrial Establishments
Survey of Production and Sales
Population and Housing Census
Census of Economic Activity

Statistics compiled by the BSS

Index of Industrial Production
Industrial Statistics
International Trade
Labour Force Statistics
National Accounts
Population and Vital Statistics
Retail Price Index
Tourism Statistics

Data collected/statistics compiled by other agencies

Agriculture Statistics—Ministry of Agriculture
Balance of Payments—Central Bank of Barbados
Education Statistics—Ministry of Education
Environment Statistics—Ministry of the Environment
Financial Statistics—Central Bank of Barbados
Health Statistics—Ministry of Health
Housing Statistics—Ministry of Housing
National Survey of Productivity—National Productivity Council
Other Data /Statistics—Other Agencies within the National Statistical System



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