

Evaluation of the use of the classifications in the Cayman Islands

In principle, the Cayman Islands national statistics office (ESO) adheres to the international classification standards, although in practice not all of them have been used. It is our intention to optimise the use of all these classification systems as we are cognisant of the importance of doing so.

While there is no established national statistical system in the Cayman Islands, the Economics and Statistics Office has served as the national statistical office with its mandate provided by the Statistics Law (1996 revision). It is presently a fledging office which has over the last three years started to build capacity, and to bring awareness to the role of statistics in nation-building. Last year it hosted the first Statistics Week with the aim of bringing together all the compilers and users of data to stress the need for statistics and more so quality statistics that are in line with the recommended international standards.

The levels at which the different classification systems are utilized are in some cases below that of other countries in the region. However, there is awareness of the various classification systems and how they can benefit the country. Gradual integration of each at the level most appropriate to the country is foreseen and some of these will be employed more than others. Also the levels at which the most updated standards are employed varies from time to time depending on the availability of resources.

The ISIC rev 3.1 is used for the national accounts with minor adaptation to the international system. It is also used for the labour market surveys and to classify firms in the business register that is being developed. There is also limited use by other departments of government such as the Department of Employment Relations. The system of national accounts is a new programme and only this September the ESO produced and published its first set of GDP estimates by sector of origin in line with international standards. The ESO is planning to adapt to ISIC rev 4 to Cayman's needs with the compilation of the Cayman Islands ISIC.

The ISCO 88 is currently being used in Labour Market surveys and census with no modifications to the international system. The Survey of Living Conditions/Household Budget Survey also uses the ISCO 88 and ISIC rev 3.1.

There is limited use of CPC v 1.1 and ISCED-97 currently. ICSE-93 is not presently used in the Cayman Islands.

As was mentioned before the Economics and Statistics Office is expanding and improving the quality its statistical outputs. The ESO current work programme includes the improvement in the trade system which will incorporate more fully the use of the CPC. The expansion of the national accounts will also incorporate the use of the CPC.