



PRASC NEWSLETTER

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The PRASC team is pleased to present its semi-annual newsletter. This edition covers activities that took place between April and September 2017. If you wish to be added to the distribution list, please send an email to statcan.prasc-prasc.statcan@canada.ca.

Toward a greater use of administrative data

In line with many national statistics offices (NSOs) around the world, PRASC is focusing more on maximizing the use of administrative data in official statistics. Work has started with the development of a template for inventorying the data that could be available within each country. Once completed by an NSO, the inventory will be reviewed to assign a priority to the acquisition of each data source for use in producing macroeconomic accounts.

In parallel, stakeholder meetings of National Accounts Advisory Committees are being set up with different NSOs to support their data acquisition endeavours.

Work has already begun with Belize, one of the pilot countries in this PRASC initiative. Belize has completed the inventory and has initiated bilateral discussions with data providers for acquiring some data sources. Work has also started with St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The PRASC team looks forward to supporting other member states in similar endeavours. A roadmap to improve the use of administrative data was developed to support NSOs in the process of acquiring more data sources from partners. Please see the CCS website at http://www.caricomstats.org/helpdesk/documentarycentre/Dom4/PRASC_Roadmap_to_improve_the_use_of_administrative_data_final_PDF.pdf.

Sampling and estimation workshop

A sampling and estimation workshop was held in Jamaica from September 18 to 21, 2017. Participants included representatives from the NSOs of the Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. The objective of the workshop was to familiarize participants with standard statistical sampling and estimation methods in the context of household surveys. The topics included population and frames, listing, types of errors, sampling, confidence intervals, sample allocation, post-stratification, multi-stage sampling and estimation. The workshop generated very interesting discussions among the 15 participants with respect to household surveys in the Caribbean.

Our Caribbean colleagues and their families remain in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult hurricane season. –The PRASC team.

Working with the NSS of Jamaica

Statistics Canada hosted two members of the Jamaican national statistical system (NSS) in August: one from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and one from the Bank of Jamaica. The mission focused on methods and best practices for preparing and analyzing Financial Flow Accounts and Balance Sheet Accounts. Practical exposure to compilation techniques for gross external debt and the international investment position was also provided.



Ottawa, Canada, August 2017
Photo: Claudio Perez, Statistics Canada

Analytical work

PRASC continued working on data analysis with the NSOs of St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with in-country missions in August and September. In St. Kitts and Nevis, work focused on analysis of the census data and on preparing write-ups for statistical releases. The work in St. Vincent and the Grenadines focused on finalizing the gender-based analysis report scheduled for October 2017.



*St. Vincent and the Grenadines, August 2017
Photo: Elizabeth Richards, Statistics Canada*

Second pilot in the Bahamas

The Department of Statistics of the Bahamas conducted a second field test of e-collection during the May Labour Force Survey. The World Bank Survey Solutions application was used with Samsung tablets. The test was extended to include sampled units from the Abacos Islands as well as households from New Providence. The tablets were well received by the interviewers and by the Bahamian households.

Stakeholder meetings

A National Accounts Advisory Committee was established in Trinidad and Tobago. Its first meeting was held in April 2017. Stakeholders were updated on the National Accounts and economic programs of the Central Statistical Office, and discussions took place on various matters pertaining to these programs. Follow-up meetings are being planned for Saint Lucia and Belize later in 2017 or in early 2018.

Business registers

In May 2017, Statistics Canada visited the Statistics Department of Antigua and Barbuda (SDAB) to provide support in developing various design aspects of a new Business Register (BR). The covered topics included BR content, maintenance strategy and meetings with various departments to discuss the possibility of data being made available to the SDAB for updates. Discussions also included developing a data model and a record linkage strategy for maintaining accurate coverage of the business population. Conference calls are ongoing to further support this work.

Consultations to develop a Statistical Advocacy Program in the OECS

PRASC is teaming up with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission to develop a Statistical Advocacy Program. In the coming months, consultations with different types of audiences will take place in seven OECS member states to assess the current context and perception of statistics. This information will be valuable in developing an effective strategy and tools for the regional advocacy program.

Preparing the LFS of Montserrat

Communication experts from Statistics Canada, along with a representative of the OECS Commission, worked with the staff of the Statistics Department and stakeholders in developing a communications plan for the upcoming Labour Force Survey (LFS). The plan's strategy is to ensure that all communications with respondents are designed, coordinated and implemented to maximize survey participation levels.

Working with Guyana's Bureau of Statistics

This spring, PRASC and the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) teamed up to purchase and implement CPI Plus, a new Consumer Price Index software package. In June 2017, Statistics Canada and a CPI Plus representative visited the BOS to offer hands-on support for the transition to the new software and to review the implementation of recommendations made during earlier discussions. In April, Statistics Canada visited the BOS to work on defining a product and industry classification scheme for a supply and use table (SUT) to align with the System of National Accounts 2008. Current and future data holdings—including administrative data—were discussed in the context of compiling the SUT in the near future. Statistics Canada was fortunate to be present for the inauguration of new premises for the BOS.

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