



- SPC-ABS workshop on updating the weight reference period of the Consumer Price Index
- Solomon Islands children suffer stunted growth from malnutrition
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SPC-ABS workshop on updating the weight reference period of the Consumer Price Index

Between 29 May and 1 June 2017, statisticians from Pacific Island countries and territories came together in Noumea, New Caledonia for a workshop on updating the weight reference period of the consumer price index (CPI). The workshop was organised by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and aimed at training price index compilers on the use of data from expenditure surveys and other sources to rebase their CPI.



The Consumer Price Index is among the most important statistics compiled by national statistical institutes. Together with economic growth, it is the most widely used statistic for monitoring economic development and for developing economic policy. It is an essential tool to evaluate the evolution of the purchasing power of personal income, and is often used for indexation purposes for various social benefits.

For the calculation of inflation, the price changes of specific items are given weights, which correspond to the relative importance of each item in total consumer spending at a specific period in time. In reality, however, as incomes change and new products and services enter the market, consumers change their consumption patterns. Because of this, in order to ensure that the CPI remains representative of what consumers actually purchase, it is important that the basket of goods and services, as well as their weights, are periodically updated.

The workshop aimed at training statisticians in the use of internationally recommended methods and techniques for implementing a CPI rebase, and to

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SPC has not edited the externally sourced articles.

provide them with practical examples of how to apply them in practice. The workshop's aim was in line with the goals specified in the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, and sought to further harmonise the definitions, methods and classifications used in the Pacific region. It built on important work done in this area, such as the adoption and implementation of the Pacific Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) classification. Adoption of recommended methods by statisticians will lead to improvement in the reliability and comparability of consumer price indices in the Pacific region.

Author: Rens Hendriks, SPC

Solomon Islands children suffer stunted growth from malnutrition

Poor nutritional intake by children resulting in stunting remains one of the top development challenges in the country.

This was revealed during the double launching of the Solomon Islands national statistics development strategy (NSDS) report and the 2015 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) report in Honiara, where it was revealed that poor child nutrition resulting in stunting was alarmingly high in the country.

Presenting the details was government statistician, Mr Douglas Kimie, who said that 32 percent of children under five years were stunted, which 10 percent of them were severely stunted.

1 out of 3

children under 5 in Solomon Is. is **too short for his (her) age**



Mr Kimie said this was one of the major findings that was increasing at an alarming rate.

He also said this issue may have future implications on the national economy and labor force capability.

"This is a result of poor health and nutritional factors resulting from the country's poor socioeconomic conditions", he said.

"This will have implications on reduced work capacity, which will further impede our national economic productivity."

Source: HONIARA, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation

<http://www.pireport.org/articles/2017/06/06/nearly-13-solomon-islands-children-suffer-stunted-growth-malnutrition>

Short Films from the Vanuatu National Statistics Office

The Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO) has released a series of short films comprising of stories with information from thematic areas collected during the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) conducted in 2013. The thematic areas include reproductive health, fertility and family planning, child health, nutrition, HIV and Aids and Malaria.



According to the Government Statistician, Mr Simil Johnson, the idea of producing short films is to raise awareness and statistical literacy on issues affecting the population. The production is the first of its kind and produced locally by a youth group with funding from UNFPA. Mr Johnson reiterated that with the current access and use of information and communication technology, such production is expected to become a new way of disseminating statistical information, apart from traditional reports contain tables, maps, charts and texts. "We are improving the quality of our dissemination strategy and we hope the public can absorb a lot from these films", Mr Johnson said.

The short films have narration in Bislama with English subtitles to suit most targeted audience in the country.

The films series can be accessed at the VNSO YouTube channel in the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe-1fX3N6GUm4Xf2FTM05Sg>

Source: Vanuatu National Statistics Office - <http://www.vnsso.gov.vu>

Samoa implements the International Monetary Fund's Enhanced General Data Dissemination System

In April 2017, Samoa has launched a new National Summary Data Page (NSDP) in implementing the recommendations of the Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS). The NSDP is a national "data portal" that serves as a one-stop vehicle for publishing essential macroeconomic data in both human and machine-readable formats. Samoa is the first country in the Asia and Pacific region to implement the e-GDDS.



The NSDP is hosted by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) on its website, utilizing the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX). A link to Samoa's NSDP is available on the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board at: <http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/GDDS/CtyCtgList.aspx?ctycode=WSM>

Publication of essential macroeconomic data through the new NSDP will provide national policy makers, a broad range of domestic and international stakeholders, including investors and rating agencies, with easy access to information that the IMF's Executive Board has identified as critical for monitoring economic conditions and policies. Making this information simultaneously available to all users will bring greater data transparency.

Samoa's Minister of Statistics, Sala Fata Pinati, noted: "Samoa is committed to using the e-GDDS to continue developing the national statistical system consistent with the best international practices. Samoa's implementation of the e-GDDS will also lead to the production and dissemination of more reliable and timely statistics."

Louis Marc Ducharme, Director of the IMF's Statistics

Department, welcomed this major milestone in the country's statistical development. "I congratulate Samoa for being the first country in the Asia and Pacific region to adopt the e-GDDS National Summary Data Page. I am confident that Samoa will benefit from using the e-GDDS as a framework for further development of its statistical system."

"I congratulate Samoa for being the first country in the Asia and Pacific region to adopt the e-GDDS National Summary Data Page".

Background

The e-GDDS was endorsed by the IMF's Executive Board in May 2015 to support improved data transparency, encourage statistical development, and help create synergies between data dissemination and surveillance. The e-GDDS supersedes the GDDS, which was established in 1997.

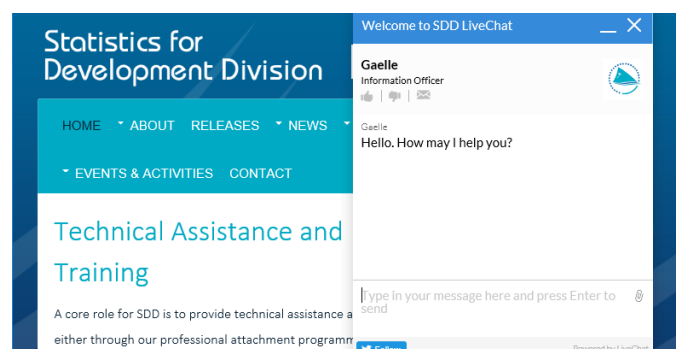
Source: Article from IMF Communications Department, Press Release No. 17/133

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/04/13/pr17133-samoa-implements-the-international-monetary-fund-enhanced-general-data-dissemination-system>

Any questions about data in the Pacific?
Chat with us.



SDD has gone live.
ASK US.



Upcoming events



(1) First meeting of the Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics; and (2) 'Expert Meeting on Data that leaves no one behind' – Bangkok, Thailand



5th Regional Conference of Heads of Statistics and Planning (HOPS) 2017 – Noumea, New Caledonia

Work on-the-go

Census

- Fiji – September 17th has been fixed as the Census night and the data collection period will last 7 to 10 days.
- Tuvalu – Household listing is being finalised – census planned for late 2017.
- Vanuatu – Mini Census data is being processed.

Education Management Information System (EMIS)

- Tonga – Ministry of Education and training (MoET) 2014 Annual Statistical Digest – Report to be released third quarter of 2017.

Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)

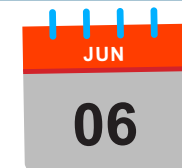
- Cook Islands – Enumeration completed and data being compiled for phase 1 of cleaning.
- Kiribati – Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) HIES scheduled to begin October 2017.
- Marshall Islands – First Pacific CAPI HIES scheduled to begin mid-2017 (collaboration with World Bank and ADB).

- Niue – Final report to be released last quarter of 2017.
- RMI – Survey planned for late 2017/18.
- Tokelau – First HIES completed and survey report to be officially released shortly.
- Tonga – Data being compiled for release and reporting.
- Tuvalu – Final report to be released in the last quarter of 2017.

Around the region



Solomon Islands has released their 2015 Performance Assessment Report (PAR)



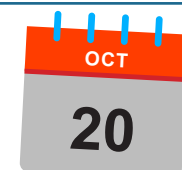
Double launch of the Solomon Islands NSDS report and the 2015 DHS report



6th International Conference on Tourism Statistics: Measuring Sustainable Tourism – Manila, Philippines



Fiji CENSUS NIGHT



World Statistics Day



ASEAN-UN Summit – Manila, Philippines



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



13th Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific – Tokyo, Japan

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Useful links:

<https://sdd.spc.int/en/>

<http://sdd.spc.int/en/resources/document-library>