

NEWSLETTER OF STATISTICS MAURITIUS

IMF Statistics Department fields a mission at Stats M

Further to a request from the Government of Mauritius, a multi sector statistics mission was undertaken by the IMF Statistics Department from 23 January to 5 February 2013. The mission team comprised Marco Martínez, Alicia Hierro, Todor Todorov, Kirsten Balling, Helen Shanks and Francis Bobadilla, headed by Florina Tanase.

The main objective of the mission was to assess Mauritius' macroeconomic statistics and identify key issues and priorities that need to be addressed over the next two to three years.

The mission covered external sector statistics (ESS), balance of payments (BOP) and international investment position (IIP), monetary and financial statistics (MFS), government finance statistics (GFS), national accounts, and price statistics.

Three of the consultants, T. Todorov, K. Balling and H. Shanks, worked with staff of Stats M on national accounts, prices and government finance statistics respectively. The mission also looked into inter sectoral data consistency, which the statistics department of the IMF has recently started to pursue more intensively to facilitate economic analysis and surveillance of member countries.

At the request of the Mauritius authorities, the mission also advised on the new requirements and the steps needed to adhere to the new IMF data dissemination standard – SDDS Plus.

The Census of Economic Activities (CEA) is on

Statistics Mauritius launched its sixth Census of Economic Activities (CEA) in the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues in January 2013. Previous censuses were carried out in 1985, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007.

The primary objective of the CEA is to collect up-to-date data on the operating characteristics and structure of all types of economic activities, except agriculture, to obtain benchmark data for updating National Accounts estimates. The CEA is being conducted in two phases.

Phase I, spreading evenly over the period January to December 2013, will cover some 3,600 "small" establishments (employing less than 10 persons) and itinerants units. Data collection is being done by through face-to-face interviews.

The second phase, covering all large establishments employing 10 or more workers, will be conducted from April to December 2014 with respect to 2013 or the nearest accounting year. Data will be collected by mail questionnaires.

The whole project, covering data collection, processing and analysis, and publication of results is estimated at 12.2 million rupees.

Stats M uses tablet PCs for for the Survey of Inbound Tourism

The Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications carries, during two weeks of each month, a survey of Inbound Tourism at the departure lounge of SSR International Airport. Around 5 to 8 Interviewers collect information from a representative sample of tourists. The primary objective of this survey is to obtain comprehensive statistical information on tourists who

visit the country in order to supplement data on tourism statistics compiled from embarkation and disembarkation cards and from other sources.

As from January 2013, the interviewers are using tablet PCs instead of the pen-and-paper method when conducting interviews. With an inbuilt validation system within each tablet, the quality of data collected on field has immensely improved. Moreover, processing of the data collected (editing, coding, validating) is less lengthy. This will allow the release of SIT reports on a quarterly basis as from this year.



Yashvin Tackoory using a tablet PC to conduct an interview at the SSR International Airport

Staffing Development

The following officers have been appointed as Statistical Officers in a temporary capacity during the month of January 2013:

1. Mrs. Savena KOWLESSUR
2. Mrs. Leena BHOWON
3. Mr. Bhimsing HARNAMSING
4. Mrs. Marie Ursula JOELLE
5. Mrs. Bibi Adilah GOODA-SAHIB MULUNG