

An IMF mission visited SM in June

At the request of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, an IMF mission comprising Alexandre Chailloux (lead) and Mr Mark de Haan visited SM during 17-21 June 2019. During their visit, the mission had meetings with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Bank of Mauritius, Financial Services Commission and Mauritius Revenue Authority.

The mission made the following recommendations:

1. Implementing a 'measuring global production' strategy
2. Develop a Supply-Use balancing strategy, which will include the use of the five-year benchmark revision to investigate balancing differences at product group level and focus 'in between' annual and quarterly estimates on the best possible 'change' estimates from one period to another. To be able to create space for annual rebalancing exercises, IMF has proposed to reduce the frequency of Annual National Accounts revisions from four times to two
3. Improve the accounts of the household sector by using tax records to cross-check household income survey-based data and by investigating potential other data source such as census data on age of population, employment status, sector and hours worked to prepare estimates of incomes for workers below the income tax declaration threshold
4. Complete the separation of the household sector and NPISH in National Accounts
5. Complete the transition to 2008 SNA concept for the measurement of intangible investment in Gross Fixed Capital Formation, including the capitalisation of Research and Development
6. Use annual Supply and Use compilations to improve deflators for changes in inventories
7. Use annual Supply and Use compilations to expand data collection on services related Producer Price Indices

SM is sponsoring its officers to follow a training course in Advanced Statistics

In line with the Scheme of Service of Senior Statistical Officers, Statistics Mauritius has mounted a training course in Advanced Statistics with the collaboration of the University of Mauritius (UoM). The training is being run through an agreement under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2016 between the two institutions.

The training started in September 2019 and covers six modules to be run for two semesters, each of 15 weeks. At the end of the training, a certificate of successful completion will be awarded by UoM and SM. Forty-eight statistical officers are taking advantage of SM sponsorship to follow the course.

Upon invitation, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has sent one Statistical Officer from Rodrigues Statistics Unit (RSU) to follow the training course. A temporary posting at SM has been given to the Officer to facilitate his participation. The Officer is hence benefiting from 'hands on' training in units relevant to the RSU.

SM visited RRA Statistical Unit at the request of the Island Chief Commissioner (ICE)

At the request of the ICE, a high-level mission comprising the Director, a Principal Statistician and an advisor from Afritac-South visited the RRA Statistical Unit with the objective to further develop the statistical system in Rodrigues. The mission focused on issues most relevant to the island, the main ones being:

- Merchandise trade between Island of Mauritius and Rodrigues
- Agricultural sector statistics
- Production of the main activities
- Core environment indicators
- Review of the data collection in the tourism sector
- Business register
- Informal Sector

At the end of the mission, the ICE and the mission agreed on the following:

- Signing of MOU between SM and RRA defining areas of collaboration and assistance, capacity building and responsibilities
- Preparation of an annual work programme based on priorities of RRA
- Improving the visibility of the Unit through dissemination of statistics, creation of a Website for Statistics Unit, and workshops in Rodrigues.

2018 Census of Economic Activities Online Survey

For the first time, SM is conducting the second phase of its seventh Census of Economic Activities (CEA) in Mauritius and Rodrigues through an online questionnaire.

This online system is a web based, multi module, multi user and role based access control system which provides functionalities for SM officers to administer the system and for enterprises to respond to the questionnaires. The system is hosted on the secured g-cloud, of the Government Online Centre.

The system generates a unique user name and one-time password for each respondent. It allows protection of data against unauthorised access and maintains the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data within the system.

The user interfaces are user friendly. The respondents are guided throughout the questionnaires by explanatory notes and are allowed to print or save partially filled-in questionnaires should they wish to complete at a later stage. Consistency checks are inbuilt, and respondents are prompted to check their data before submission.

Besides being paperless and eco-friendly, this system will allow quick processing and timely dissemination of information.