

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistical Office is charged with the responsibility for administering the Statistics Act, Chapter 19:02 of the Revised Laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago 1982.

The Core Functions of the CSO derive from the provisions of the Statistics Act under which the Director of Statistics has responsibility for conducting Population, Agricultural and Industrial Surveys and Censuses; collecting, compiling, analyzing and publishing high quality, timely and relevant statistical information relating to the different sectors of the Economy of Trinidad and Tobago; collaborating with other Government Departments in the collection, compilation, analysis and publication of statistical data on a continuous and timely basis; and organizing and maintaining a coordinated set of economic and social statistics relating to Trinidad and Tobago consistent with International Standards.

Core Functions

- Data Collection – collecting accurate primary and secondary data in a timely and efficient manner;
- Data Processing – transforming raw data into information;
- Data Analysis – analyzing and evaluating of statistical data;
- Data Dissemination – providing publications and information to a wide range of users;
- Improvement and Development of Products – conducting methodological revisions of existing products and development of new products;
- Consultancy – providing technical assistance in sample design and conduct of surveys and in the provision of geographic information services.

Achievements

The Economic Statistics Division has continued to work towards the improvement of the timeliness of the statistics prepared within the Division and to disseminate this data in a format that satisfies the requirements of the key stakeholders.

The officer-in-charge and staff of the Trade Section at Customs House must be commended for their determination in eliminating the backlog, which existed in the editing of the C-82 Customs Declaration documents. Notwithstanding this achievement, problems in other parts of the production chain have continued to affect the release dates of the Monthly Trade Bulletin.

During the year under review the Economic Statistics Division was reorganized for greater effectiveness and cohesion and to re-align related functional areas. The Travel Statistics was separated from the Trade Section and integrated into a Travel and Tourism Statistics Section, which for the moment is directly supervised by the Head of Division.

The work schedule of the Index of Retail Prices has been separated from the Economic Indicators Section and a new Prices Section has been created. The Section is now under the supervision of a Statistician I who reports directly to the Statistician 11 in the division. These organizational arrangements are tentative and still under review. At the appropriate time, the Index of Producer Prices and the Index of Retail Prices of Building Materials will be integrated into the Prices Section.

The CSO received approval from the Chief Personnel Officer for the payment of Price Intelligence Officers on contract to service the section. The approval was given after the expiry of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CSO and the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. A new note for Cabinet is being drafted to seek approval for the recruitment of Price Intelligence Officers on contract for a term of two (2) to three (3) years, pending the restructuring of the Central Statistical Office.

The Management Information System for Tourism (MIST) application used in the processing of the

Available from: http://www.planning.gov.tt/divisions/central_statistical.html
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Immigration Embarkation/Dis-embarkation (E/D) Cards was upgraded through technical support from an independent consultant recruited on the recommendation of the Caribbean Tourism Organization. The upgrade would improve the accuracy of the statistics obtained from the Performance Module of the MIST and when completed would ensure timely responses to data users.

During the period under review with the assistance from Qure Enterprises Limited, a SPSS syntax was developed for the processing, analysis and preparation for tables of the Carnival Survey of Departing Visitors. The project would allow subsequent surveys to be analyzed faster following the receipt of a 'clean' data file after scanning.