



National Accounts Workshop for SADC countries

16-19 June 2009, Windhoek, Namibia

Strengthening statistical capacity-building in support of progress
towards the Internationally Agreed Developments Goals in the
Southern African Development Community region

Country presentation

Malawi

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS FOR MALAWI

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Structure of presentation

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- National Accounts Section
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- Old National Accounts Series for Malawi
- New Approach to National Accounts compilation
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Historical background of National Accounts compilation

- First calculated for the year 1938
 - Published in "The Measurement of Colonial National Income", 1948
- 1954 to 1963: CSO, Salisbury
- After Independence in 1964: NSO, Zomba
 - 1964-1970 was released in November 1972
 - Followed by five publications covering the period up to 1994
 - SNA 1968 introduced in the 1973 to 1978 series

Historical background of National Accounts compilation, cont...

- Before 2008, the last National Accounts publication published by NSO, Zomba was “Malawi National Accounts Report 1990-1994”,
- after which reports were being produced but not published
- Now we have a new report compiled using a new approach, “Malawi National Accounts Report 2002 – 2005”

National Accounts Section

- NA is compiled by the National Accounts Section of the Economic Statistics Division of NSO.
- Based at the Regional Office (Centre) in Lilongwe
- There are currently only 5 professionals
 - Chief Statistician (Head of NA-BOP, Regional Officer)
 - Principal Statistician (Head of NA)
 - Senior Statistician and
 - Statisticians (2)
- No support staff

National Accounts and Balance of Payments Technical Committee

- NA-BOP membership comprises of:
 - National Statistical Office (NSO)
 - Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM)
 - Ministry of Economic Planning & Development (MEPD)
 - Ministry of Finance (MoF)
 - Other (minor) members include:
 - Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT)
 - Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- Mandated to come up with preliminary estimates and projections of National Accounts and BOP
- Conducts Business Interviews Surveys among other functions

Old National Accounts Series

- Date back to 1964 under NSO just after attaining independence
- This year was chosen to be the benchmark year for National Accounts series
- After this, there have been two base years, 1978 and 1994.
- Until March 2007, the Malawi National Accounts constant price series have been valued at 1994 prices

New National Accounts Estimates

- United Nations' SNA 1993 implemented
- Compiled using Supply and Use Tables (SUT)
- Compiled in current and previous year's prices
- Covering a period of four years from 2002 to 2005 (published)
- 2006 currently in final stages awaiting release
- Preliminary estimates for 2007 and 2008 are also available

Data Sources

- Annual Economic Surveys (AES)
- Medium Business Economic Survey (MBES 1998)
- Integrated Household Survey (IHS-2, 2004)
- Crop Estimate Surveys by Ministry of Agriculture
- Government Accounts from Ministry of Finance and the Accountant General
- Foreign Trade Statistics
- National Census of Agricultural and Livestock (NACAL 2007)
- Malawi Revenue Authority
- Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM)
- Tobacco Control Commission (TCC)

Methods

- Compiled on annual (calendar year) basis
 - No quarterly National Accounts
- Using Supply and Use Tables (SUT)
- Benchmarked in 2002
- Uses the Systems of National Accounts – Norwegian Technology (SNA-NT) software
- Compiled on current and previous year's prices (chaining process)
- For purposes of dissemination, currently 2005 is used as the **reference year** because most data users are not familiar with the chaining process

Publication

- First preliminary estimates published three months (March) after the end of reference year
- Three revised provisional versions before final version
 - 9, 15 and 21 months after end of reference year
 - Mainly based on Business Interviews Surveys
 - Compiled by the NA-BOP Technical Committee
- Final version compiled by NSO based on annual economic statistics and other more disaggregated data and methods
 - Published about 27 months after the end of the reference year

Publications, cont...

- National Accounts are published by NSO in:
 - The Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
 - The Statistical Yearbook
 - Flyers (Malawi in figures)
 - National Accounts Report (Latest 2002 - 2005)
 - Soon to be placed on NSO's website: www.nso.malawi.net
- Economic Report of MEPD
- Financial and Economic Review of RBM
- Also reported to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

Challenges

- Delay in getting some of the source data both from within and outside NSO
 - Most of the input surveys to NA are conducted by other sections of Economic Statistics Division and other divisions of NSO based at the head office in Zomba
- Some data not detailed enough, therefore has to be reworked manually
- Inadequate human resource and capacity
- Unreliable estimates based on very old source data

Way Forward

- Need for basic and specialized training in National Accounts compilation
- Need to conduct new surveys to have an updated basis for estimation
- Need training in basic and specific principals of National Accounts compilation
- Need improved timeliness in getting source data from most sources



Thank you very much for your
attention