



THE STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

Challenges with the Compilation and Dissemination of National Accounts Data

Lunch Time Seminar -49th Session of the UNSC
Statistical Institute of Jamaica



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Introduction

The Jamaican System of National Accounts includes the following:

1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by
 - Product at current and constant prices – produced on an annual and quarterly basis
 - Expenditure at current and constant prices
 - Income at current prices
2. Generation and use of disposable income
3. Capital accounts
4. Rest of the world accounts
5. Supply and use tables and input/output tables
6. Tourism satellite account (TSA)



Dissemination of National Accounts

- Data are published on the website of the NSO; *statinja.gov.jm*
- Advance release calendar
- Data are provided in open data format
- Publication with analysis of the findings also released
- Jamaica currently submits 18 tables to UNSD
- Tables not submitted are due to the fact that these estimates are not currently being compiled
- Plans to expand into institutional accounts starting with the Government and Financial sectors



Dissemination of National Accounts

- Dissemination is primarily through the web site of the NSO
- Over the last two years, priority was placed on improving the dissemination of all statistics including the national accounts
- The web site was redesign aimed at improving the functionality, navigation and ease of finding information
- Special focus was
 - to release as much data as possible
 - to ensure that the data are in open data format



Dissemination of National Accounts

- The UNSD questionnaire is linked directly to the NA accounts database - to allow for ease of completion
- Questionnaire is automatically updated once the estimates are finalized
- The CARICOM Secretariat and UNSD have collaborated in utilising the UNSD NA questionnaire



Challenges in Compiling National Accounts

- Challenge for Jamaica is not with dissemination but with compilation of the national accounts
- The NSO is faced with challenges that are similar to many developing countries
- Inadequate resources to compile statistics especially in light of the increasing demand. Forced to prioritise among competing priorities
- Inadequate resources impact the ability to convert quickly to SNA 2008 while ensuring at the same time that current programme remains on track



Challenges in Compiling National Accounts

- Fragmented production of statistics as there is little or no coordination in the national statistical system
- Small size of country (SIDS) limits the ability to expand the national accounts programme
- Business surveys experiencing declining response rate
- High staff turnover, this has been especially critical in national accounts. Retention of qualified staff is difficult and challenging as the remuneration of our professional staff is uncompetitive



Overcoming the Challenges

- Issues facing NA are common to the production of statistics generally
- Strengthening of the legal framework for the production and dissemination of statistics, including creation of the NSS
- Increased use of administrative data. Partnered with a number of public sector agencies to get access to their databases
- Proven to be cost effective, this should reduced the need for surveys, reduce respondent fatigue
- Strengthening statistical programmes that feed into the national accounts



Overcoming the Challenges

- Reduce/eliminate the inefficiencies in the production process
- Capacity building especially through training, through regional and international partnerships such as:
 - CARICOM Secretariat
 - Caribbean Regional Training Centre - CARTAC
 - Project for the Regional Advancement for Statistics in CARICOM (PRASC) – Statistics Canada
- Advocacy to ensure greater levels of investment in statistics by government



Thank You