



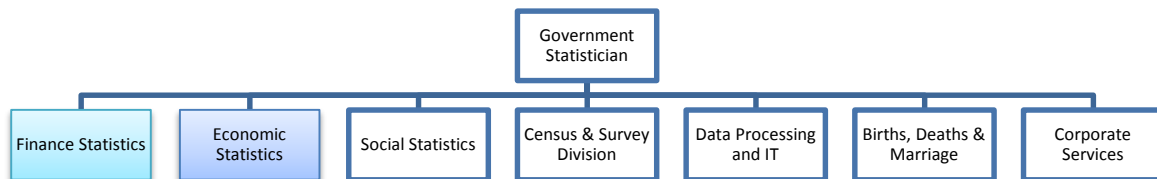
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Regional Workshop on Short term economic indicators and service statistics to support 2008 SNA implementation

1. Introduction:

Samoa Bureau of Statistics is an autonomous Government Ministry. It is comprised of 6 technical divisions plus the Corporate Services Division. The work of the Bureau is mandated by the Statistics Act 2015, with its core activities being guided by the Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011 – 2021, as well as its Corporate Plan that reviews every 3 -4 years.

Samoa Bureau of Statistics Structure:



The Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics identifies the production leading/short term indicators as one of its measurable indicators under the improvements in Macro-economic and Finance statistics. This was translated into outputs of the key division of the Bureau highlighted in the figure above.

The core outputs of the Finance Statistics Division include the compilation of quarterly GDP estimates, quarterly Government Finance statistics as well as formal employment statistics. Economic Statistics core activities include the compilation of Consumer Price Index, Trade Statistics, Agriculture Statistics, HIES as well as Shipping Statistics.

2. Leading / Short term Indicators and collection method

There have been a few leading indicators published by the Bureau. These include monthly bulletin published for the **volume of fresh produce supply** to the domestic market, **trade statistics** as well as **visitor arrival** collected using the Immigration office. In addition, formal employment reported on a quarterly basis is made available two months after period ahead of the GDP quarterly bulletin.

All these indicators are collected from administrative records except for the volume supply of fresh produce supplied to the market, collected on weekly surveys at the domestic market. Apart from these the Industrial Production Index is a work in progress with more datasets collected on a monthly basis, that have been used as input data for the compilation of GDP that will eventually become available as leading indicators.

3. Issues

Collection of the information always deals with the issue of co-operation of respondents. In most case, it is either reporting wrong information, delay in submitting schedules or even declined to respond. Secondly for the Administrative data, the data is always not collected for statistical purpose and requires a lot of resources, in which most SIDS countries don't have.

4. Solutions

In Samoa's case, we have been working on improving co-ordination and co-operation with our data providers for improved access to the data. Integrate statistical classification into financial systems used by Ministries and SOEs of the Government. This is through establishment of Integrated Business Information Database that would harmonise dataset using a single identifier as well as incorporating statistical classifications like ISIC into these files. This can easily monitor the business cycle more on a short term to medium term.

These data sources not only that it will be well established data sources for the implementation of the SNA 2008, they will consequently be well established indicators for themselves.

Integrated Business Information Databases:

