

SINSO NEWS

Your monthly guide to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office News, Information and Events

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Government Statistician Douglas Kimi's welcome message to readers

On behalf of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO), I take this opportunity to welcome you to the fifth issue of our monthly E-newsletter. This is a wonderful opportunity for the SINSO to embrace this communication medium and to fully maximize its capacity to disseminate statistical news, stories and information to meet the needs of its readers. This is our 5th edition thus we're grateful that you're taking your time to read it.

As the central statistical agency of government, the SINSO through this newsletter will ensure that information is disseminated widely to inform the public of the activities and developments that are happening within the SINSO. In this issue, we share with you the National Statistics Office realisations over the month of March to April 2018, general news stories including the NSO's meeting with the Makira-Ulawa Province Platform leaders, NSO's meeting with the Makira-Ulawa Province Premier and stakeholders, soaring prices as recorded in February, International arrivals hit 16k in 2017 fourth quota, Australia still tops visitors' record in Solomon Islands, inflation slumps in March, update on the current Village Resource Survey (VRS) and more with accompanying photos.

Now that the internet is increasingly becoming a channel for disseminating news and information, SINSO is very glad that through this network (monthly newsletter), its readers can be better and easily informed online through this fact file on its active website. Feel free to read the bulletins inside this issue. For public interest, the issue is downloadable on our website: www.statistics.gov.sb The newsletter comes out at the end of every month. We hope to continue bringing in interesting articles, news and facts via this medium now and into the future. Please feel free to also forward this issue to your colleagues and friends and also feel free to get in touch with our media team for further information.

NSO meets with Makira-Ulawa Platform leaders

The National Statistics Office (NSO) has made a breakthrough after having a fruitful consultation with the leaders of the Makira-Ulawa Platform Movement in April 2018. The dialogue was envisioned to ensure the Movement have clear understanding of the role and activities of the NSO and that would create a common cooperation amongst both parties to allow NSO survey staff (Enumerators) to collect needed data or statistical information from their communities without any interference. Held at the capital, Kirakira on Friday 6 April, the discussions were successful as both parties agreed to work together, with the Movement Leaders on behalf of their followers and communities assured NSO of their support concerning any statistical collection activities that would be carried out in their communities. Mr Kimi said it was a very successful discussion and an achievement for NSO. During the meeting Mr Kimi informed the Platform Leaders of the Statistics Information/data importance, NSO background and roles, Authority and Legislation, the National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) 2015-2035,



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi and the Principal Statistician and Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 Director, Raphael Aipaina in a meeting with the platform leaders in Kirakira, Makira Province.

the NSO challenges and way forward. The Government Statistician also thanked the Minister for the Ministry of Justice & Legal Affairs Hon. MP for West Makira Derrick Manu-

ari who supported NSO in the arrangement of the meetings. Mr Kimi ended his visit on Friday 6 April 2018.



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi and VRS Director Raphael Aipaina after a meeting with various shareholders at Kirakira, Makira.

NEWSFLASH



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi in a meeting with Premier Stanley Siapu his Deputy Premier and the Provincial Secretary.

Premier Siapu, stakeholders informed on NSO’s role

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi has paid a courtesy visit to the Makira-Ulawa Provincial Premier Hon. Stanley Siapu in April 2018. During the meeting which held on Thursday 5 April, Mr Kimi briefed Premier Siapu together with the various government department, stakeholders and community lead-

ers on the National Statistics Office (NSO) roles and its ongoing activities. Accompanied Mr Kimi was the Principal Statistician and the Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 (VRS) Director Raphael Aipaina. The visit was the first of its kind for the Government Statistician to call on the provincial government

for the purpose to officially inform stakeholders of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) role and functions. “The visit was timely and was realised to be very useful to ensure that the province was introduced to the 5 year work plan of the NSO in statistical collection activities to look forward to and the current work

and activities and also in the last five years,” Mr Kimi said. Premier Siapu thanked Mr Kimi for the timely visit and pledged his provincial government support towards the NSO in its ongoing activities through statistical collection undertakings. NSO expects to extend such visit to other provinces as well in the future.



National Stats Office team-up with CFC for statistics collection

The National Statistics Office (NSO) has made another leap in its quest to enhance its statistical collection operations after merging a mutual relationship with the Christian Fellowship Church (CFC) community in the Western Province. This came after a successful negotiation between the NSO and the CFC leaders recently. The joint relation will see two senior females appointed from the CFC community taking part in the current National Village Resource Survey and Household Listing 2017-2018 (VRS) work as part of the NSO preparation leading up to the National Census count in 2019.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said the cordial relationship is not only a success for the NSO but a landmark achievement for the Office as the government statistical agency to ensure -



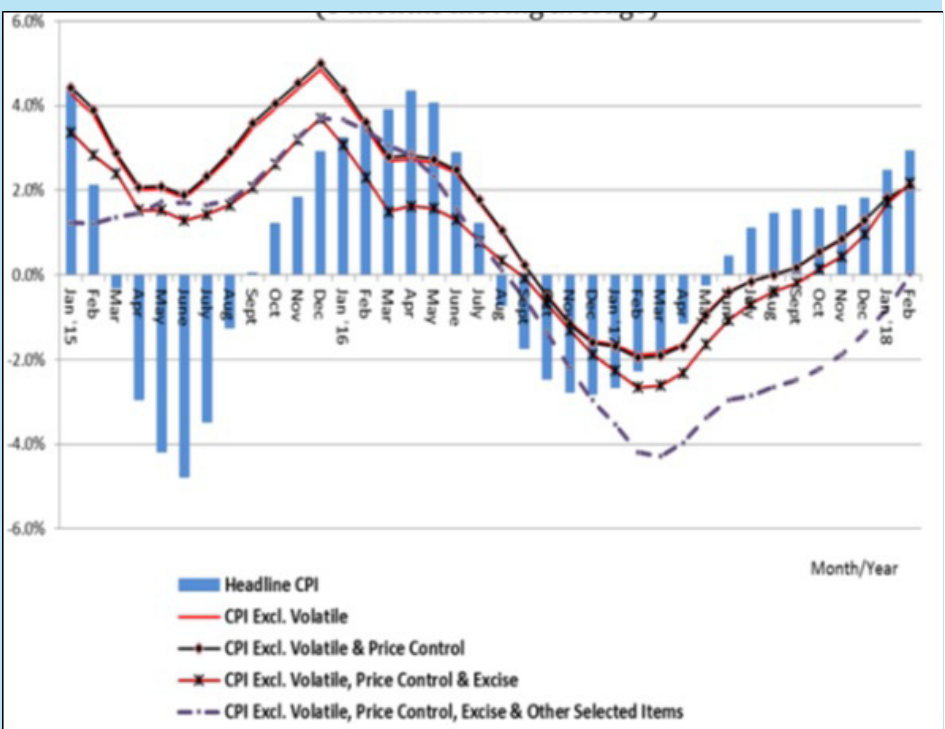
(L-R) VRS Director Raphael Aipaina, Mr Michael Dimola Chief Statistician (acting), NSO Senior Information Officer Joy Talo, CFC member Victoria Oloratovo Loe, Anterlyn Tuzakana Chief Statistician, Social Demography (acting), CFC member Mrs Moana Tuke and the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi after a meeting at the NSO conference room in April, 2018.

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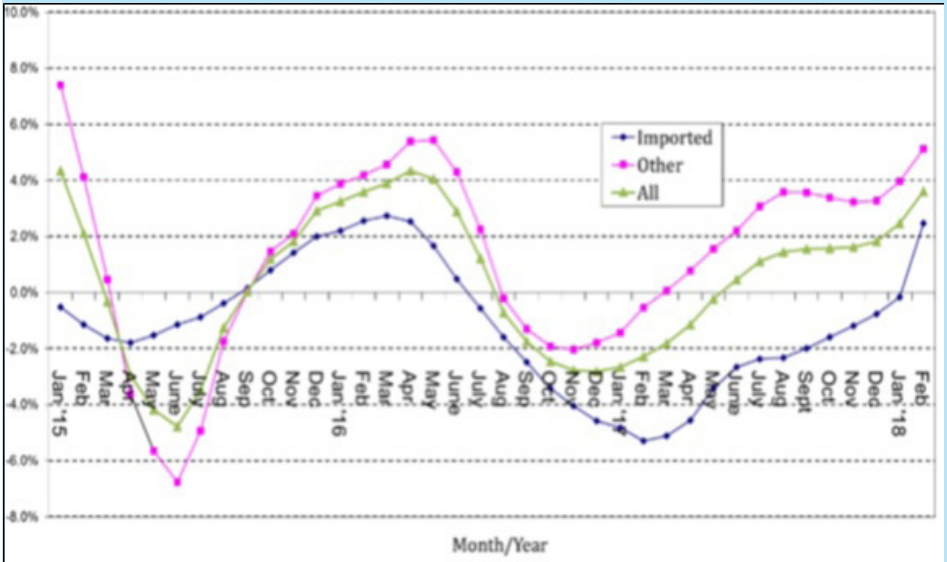
Soaring food prices drive up inflation in Honiara

Sharp increase in food prices in Honiara have pushed up Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation higher to 2.1 per cent in February 2018. This is the highest recorded since June 2016. CPI is a monthly indicator of the variation in prices for retail goods and other items. The basket of goods chosen represents the spending behaviour of the population of Honiara and the resulting CPI is used to calculate inflation. “The 2.1 per cent increase from 191.1 the previous month to 195.1 was predominantly driven by price increases in the Food, and Transport and Communication sub-sections of the index,” Government Statistician (GS) Douglas Kimi said while releasing the official statistics produced by the National Statistics

Office (NSO) on Wednesday 4 April for the month of February 2018. “The Food sub-index increased during the month by 5.1% to 180.7. “This was mainly driven by price rises in eggs (9.4%), powdered milk (1.1%), sugar (1.4%), non-alcoholic beverages (0.1%) and fresh fruits and vegetables sold at the Honiara market; most notable were bush cabbage (76.0%), melon (57.7%), green bean (50.8%), spring onion (39.2%), chinese cabbage (38.5%), tomatoes (35.3%), cucumber (30.0%), pawpaw (22.2%), cassava (9.0%), green pepper (111.6%), cooking banana (8.1%) and kumara heaps (2.0%). These outweighed price drops in green and dry coconuts (28.3% and 3.9%, respectively), ripe banana (2.7%), bush lime (25.9%) and fern (10.6%) to result in the rise of the overall food sub-index,” he added. Other major changes in other sub-



Graph shows the Honiara annual headline and underlying inflation rates from January 2015 to February 2018.



Graph shows the Honiara annual inflation rates from January 2015 to February 2018.

indexes include; Drinks and Tobacco fell 0.6% driven by a 2.5% price drop in betel nut offsetting a 0.3% rise in tobacco. Housing and Utilities went up 0.3% due to increases of 0.9% and 5.3% in electricity and kerosene prices, respectively. Household Operations rose 0.2% driven by price increases in household supplies such as bar soap (3.1%) and bleach (4.0%). Transport and Communications rose 0.7% on account of price rises in petrol and diesel by 3.9% and 7.1%, respectively. Mr. Kimi said apart from the above, price movements elsewhere in the consumption basket were negligible.

“The overall annual headline inflation rate for the month of February 2018 calculated on a 3 months moving average basis was 3.6%, up 1.1 percentage points from 2.5% the previous month. The February inflation rate is the highest recorded since June 2016. “The corresponding inflation rates for imported and other items were 2.5% and 5.1%, respectively,” he said. At the same time Mr Kimi said that the main underlying rates of inflation based on a 3 months moving average for the month of February 2018 were observed between 0.0% and 2.6% while the headline inflation rate was at 3.6%.

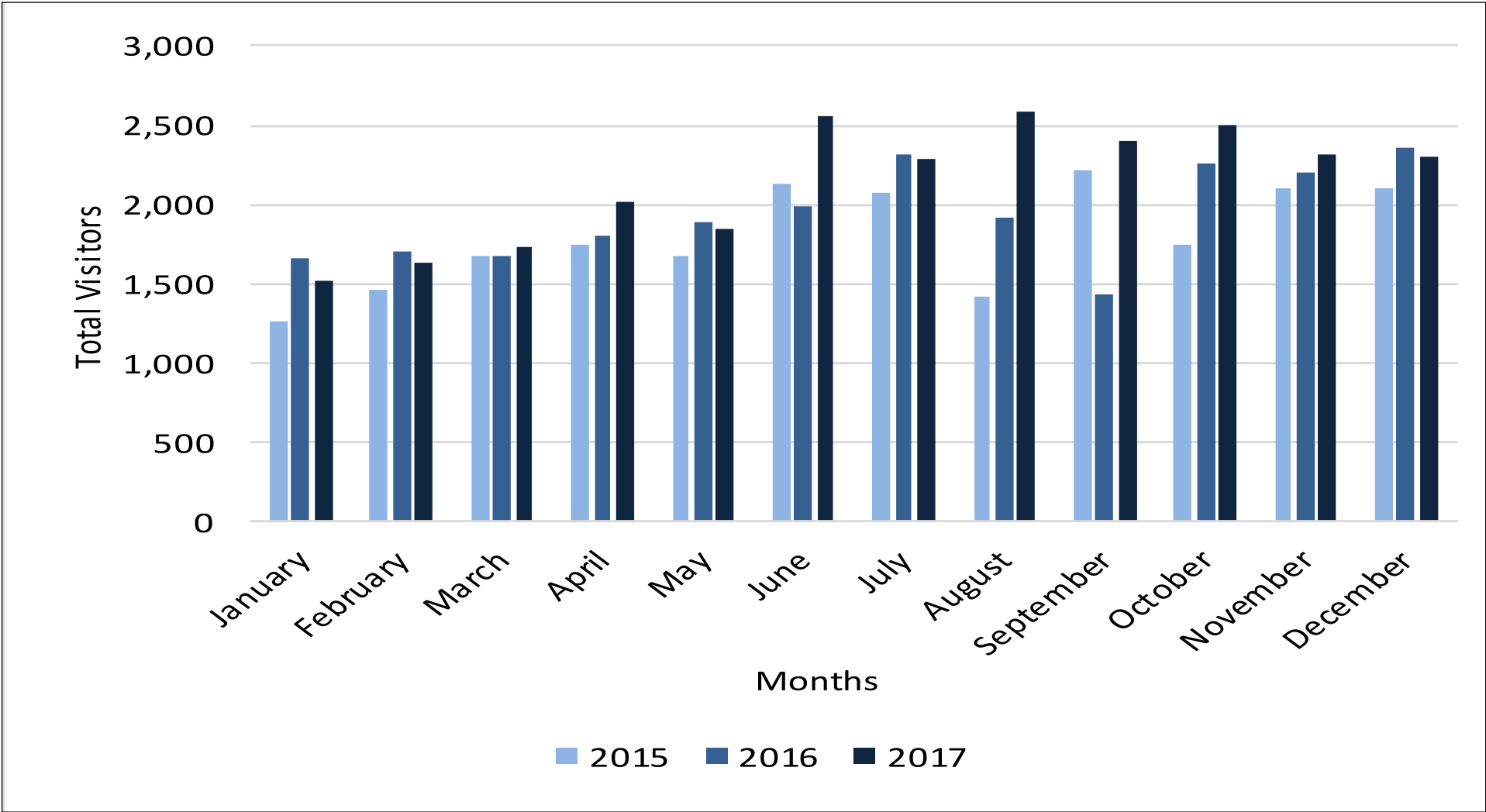
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reliable and accurate data are collected and also to guarantee smooth flow in statistical survey operations that to be conducted in the CFC communities and elsewhere in the country. He said this is one of the accomplishments the NSO have reached following a similar understanding being sealed with the Makira-Ulawa Province Platform leaders and communities in early April 2018. Mr Kimi said in order to ensure reliability, accuracy and harmony in data collection, there is need to establish relationship with the lowest unit of collection whether it be by province, community or individual. He added that NSO will continue to take such non- statistical approaches like this by setting relationships and cooperation with communities or individuals to warrant enumerators collect statistical data under the harmonious environment. “The response by the CFC leaders to the NSO official request by appointing two senior la-

dies from the community to take part in the VRS work is timely and NSO commended the leaders in that regard. This is the outcome of a fruitful negotiation and understanding shared for the importance of Statistics in this country (Solomon Islands),” Mr Kimi said. “The next level is the setting of this cordial relationship with all communities, meaning the NSO work together and take ownership of the data to be collected. Our stakeholders will support the work of NSO (including Development Partner/Donors) because all will confirm through these non- statistical approaches. “The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office nature of operations and activities are more on national interest and overarching or cross-cutting in nature through all sectors. “The mandate of the NSO is to collect, process, analyse and disseminate core official statistics for the purposes of policy and planning, decision making and public debate. “Therefore guided under the Statistics Act 1970 (Amendments 2007), the Census Act 1959 set out the legality of the activities that empowers the Government

Statistician to collect, process, analyse and disseminate official statistics in that front,” Mr Kimi emphasised. The VRS and Household Listing 2017-2018 is the basis for 2019 Census enumeration areas (EA) demarcation. The survey (VRS) will play the role of assisting the SIG in providing quality data at the village level, which is essential, to see the impact of development, and guide its development efforts and policy – makers in the future, to improve the livelihood and standard of living for all Solomon Islanders. The survey collects information on services to the village and include mapping and also collect information on the location of households by GPS and the number of people per household by gender. The survey now reach the second phase since it was started in October last year (2017) with the Western Province field enumeration is earmarked for the third phase that is set to start soon. The SIG through the Ministry of Finance & Treasury (MoFT) is funding the VRS 2017/18 project.

International arrivals to SI hit 16k in 2017 fourth quota



Graph shows visitor arrivals by month, January 2015 – December 2017.

Solomon Islands International Arrivals in 2017 fourth quarter increased further to 16,216 compared with the 13,639 arrivals recorded in the previous (third) quarter. The total arrivals account for 18.9 per cent growth compared to the 5.4 per cent noted from the previous quarter. The impressive growth indicates a steady upturn in the six month

period (July-December 2017) and that the tourism season in Solomon Islands is growing stronger each year with increasing signs that the country’s tourism spike is growing – as far as international arrivals are concerned. Releasing the official statistics prepared by the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO), Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said the 18.9 per cent increase

compared to the previous quarter (3rd quarter 2017) and also compared to the same quarter a year ago recorded an increase of 10.8 per cent. He said returning residents made up 55 per cent of arrivals for the fourth quarter with 44 per cent of arrivals were visitors and the remaining 1 per cent were intending residents. Mr Kimi said visitor arrivals for the fourth quarter lessened by 2.2

per cent to 7,122 visitors, compared to the third quarter 2017 figure of 7,281 visitors. “Compared to the third quarter of 2017, there was a 4.9 per cent decrease in male visitors and a 3.4 per cent increase in female visitors. There was a 4.5 per cent increase in visitor arrivals from fourth quarter 2016 to fourth quarter 2017,” he said.

The faces of the National Statistics Office



PHOTO OF THE YEAR-2018: Government Statistician Douglas Kimi and the Statistics Office Advisor Willie Lahari (front) with staff of the NSO.

Talk to us on
Telephone : (677)27835/ 23951 Fax : (677)23775
email: sinso@mof.gov.sb
Postal contact
National Statistics Office Ministry of Finance & Treasury P.O. Box G6 Honiara Solomon Islands
website: www.statistics.gov.sb

Australia still tops visitors' record in SI

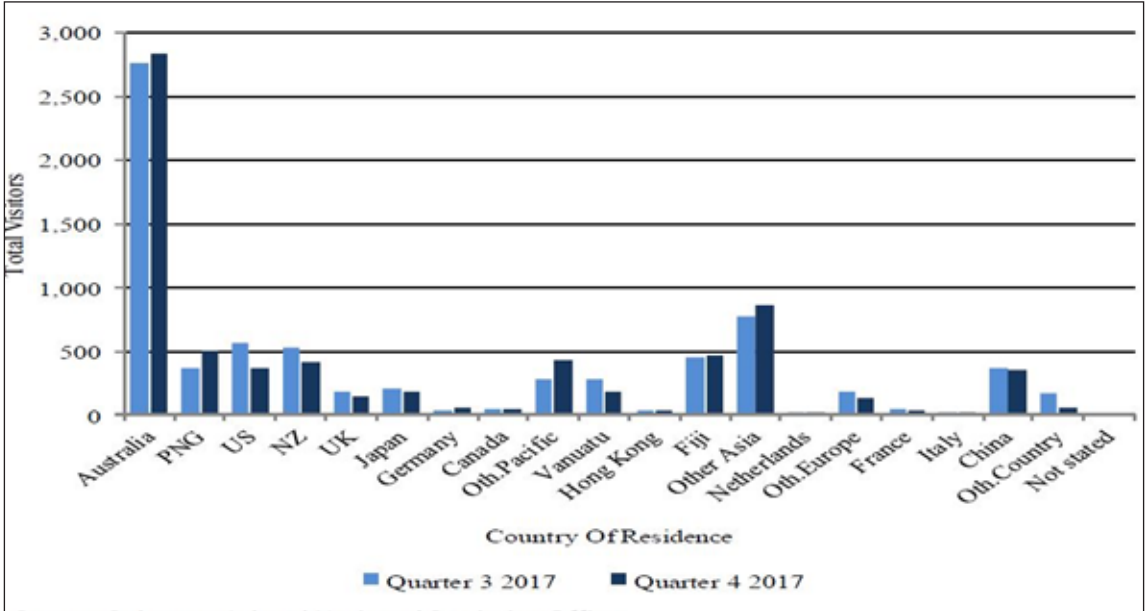
Australia has been recorded as the country that has many of its nationals visiting the Solomon Islands in the fourth quarter of last year. Government Statistician Douglas Kimi revealed this while releasing the visitors statistics produced by the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) in April 2018. The travels were being recorded from visitors by country of residence, visitors by month, tourists, visitors by purpose of visit, visitors by age group, visitors by occupation and visitor by carrier. “Australia continue to dominate the ranks of international arrivals to the Solomon Islands with 39.9 per cent,” Mr Kimi said. “There was a 2.8% increase in Australian visitors compared to the third quarter of 2017,” he added. “The second largest group of visitors were from Other Asia with 7.9 per cent, followed by Papua New Guinea 7.0 per cent, Fiji 6.6 per cent, Other Pacific countries 6.1 per cent, New Zealand 5.8 per cent and the United

States of America with 5.1 per cent.” On visitor arrivals by month, Mr Kimi said the month of October recorded the highest number of arrivals in the fourth quarter of 2017 with 2,500 visitors. “This was followed by month of November with a total of 2,317 visitors and December the least with 2,305 visitors. “This is a slight down turn from a record high of 2,589 visitors in August 2017,” he stated. On tourist, Mr Kimi said the fourth quarter 2017 recorded the highest number of tourists with 2,947

visitors compared to the previous quarters of 2017 and their average length of stay was nearly 15 days. “Australian residents still made up the highest proportion of tourists with 41.6 per cent for the quarter and stayed in the country for an average of 12.7 days. “Residents from the United States of America made up the next largest group of tourists with 8.4 per cent, followed by Other Asia 8.2 per cent, Papua New Guinea 6.8 per cent, China 5.0 per cent, Fiji and Other Pacific Countries with 4.8 per cent.” Mr Kimi added that the

most common reason for visitors visiting the Solomon Islands during the quarter was for a holiday or vacation by 38.4 per cent. “This was followed by visiting for business or a conference 22.9 per cent, other reasons 18.7 per cent, visiting friends and relatives 17 per cent and transit & stop over 3 per cent. “The distribution of visitor

cent of the arrivals while the oldest age group, 65 years and over made up 8.4 per cent of total visitor arrivals. The remaining 4.1 per cent were visitors who did not state their age. “Male visitors represented more than half of the total visitors arrivals by 65.5 per cent and female visitors made up 34.5 per cent of arrivals this quarter,” Mr Kimi explained. He said visitor by occupation showed that the “other occupation” category made up the largest percentage of occupations of 37 per cent during the quarter. “This was followed by visitors who stated their occupation was from the professional and technical group by 31.3 per cent, no work 11.5 per cent, administration & managerial positions 10.3 per cent and production and related workers make up 3.3 per cent. “The most popular carriers during the quarter were Solomon Airlines who carried 43.6 per cent of total visitors, followed by Air Niu Guinea 29.5 per cent and Virgin Australia 18 per cent,” Mr Kimi said.



Graph shows visitor arrivals by country of residence from 3rd Quarter 2017 to 4th Quarter 2017.

Embargo and Dissemination Procedures Training



Erica Tolcvay, Data Dissemination Policy & Communication Officer facilitating the training.

On the 2nd and 3rd May 2018 the National Statistics Office (NSO) staff participated in training on Embargo and Dissemination procedures. The NSO has been implementing these procedures with every release of official statistics, culminating in formal training for all staff. Embargo means that access to data or statistics is limited to those that need to use the data to produce statistics. Statistics or data are under embargo from the point in time where data enters NSO possession to the point in time when the Government Statistician releases the statistics. Ms Erica Tolcvay, Data Dissemination Policy and Communication Officer, said, “These procedures are very important for the operation of a transparent and impartial National Statistics Office. They ensure that the independence of the NSO is maintained and ensure access for all who might want to use the statistics.” “It is also important to limit access to statistics before publication because the statistics are still in production and are not final.” Anna Pitaboe and Erica Tolcvay prepared and presented the training.



National Statistics Office staff that were part of the embargo and dissemination procedures training.



Anna Pitaboe doing a presentation on Embargo during the training.

NEWSFLASH

Kimi attends workshop to strengthen data collection



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi fifth from right in the front row with officials and participants that attended the week-long workshop in Nadi, Fiji. Photo: Supplied/UNICEF.

The country's Government Statistician Douglas Kimi has joined representatives from nine other Pacific countries at a workshop to strengthen data collection and planning processes throughout the Pacific in Nadi, Fiji.

Held from March 19-27, 2018, the Pacific Sustainable Development Social Indicators Survey Design Workshop has brought together national statisticians and experts from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The purpose of the workshop is:

- To improve the quality and standards of household surveys in the Pacific region
- To provide support on how to integrate the collection of data related to women and children in other surveys to ensure monitoring and reporting on the sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- To provide technical advice on how to incorporate complementary questions or modules from demographic health surveys to ensure monitoring and reporting on other key Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators; and
- To provide a platform for technical

support for survey design, undertake a substantive review and discussion with the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) team on the country survey plan, and plan survey content, sample and timelines. The workshop also provides a unique and timely opportunity to ensure that due attention for the health and well-being of women and children will be incorporated as countries across the Pacific take on the important task of monitoring progress toward the SDGs.

It also a necessary initiative towards generating the evidence base to form policy to improve the situa-

tion of children and women in the Pacific region.

MICS is the largest source of household survey data on the situation of children and women worldwide. Through the collection of quality data, decision-makers are able to make positive change by identifying needs and monitoring progress in their countries.

UNICEF Pacific Multi Country Office, UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific, UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office, and Secretariat for Pacific Community organised the workshop.

Inflation slumps as food, fuel and betel nut prices drops in March

Prices in food, fuel and betel nut were down 0.2 per cent in March compared with February 2.1 per cent rise giving some relief to households within the Honiara City.

This is according to the latest Honiara Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2018 released by the National Statistics Office recently.

Releasing the official figures, Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said the March CPI fell 0.2 per cent from 195.1 in February to 194.7.

"This was predominantly driven by price drops in Food, Drinks and Tobacco, and Transport and Communication sub-sections of the index," Mr. Kimi said.

"The Food sub-index dropped dur-

ing the month by 0.2 per cent to 180.3. This was mainly driven by price falls in sugar (-2.8 per cent) and fresh fruits and vegetables sold at the Honiara market; most notable were bush cabbage (-6.5 per cent), melon (-24.0 per cent), Chinese cabbage (-24.1 per cent), cucumber (-25.4 per cent), green bean (-11.3 per cent), pawpaw (-11.2 per cent), spring onion (-8.6 per cent) and green pepper (-40.3 per cent).

"These outweighed price increases in green and dry coconuts (41.9 per cent and 47.9 per cent, respectively), kumara (12.0 per cent), cassava (4.5 per cent), cooking banana (11.1 per cent), tomatoes (10.5 per cent), bush lime (13.7 per cent) and fern cabbage (7.5 per cent) to result

in the fall of the overall food sub-index," Mr. Kimi added.

Other major changes in other sub-indexes include;

Drinks and Tobacco fell 1.7 per cent driven by a 5.7 per cent price drop in betel nut.

Housing and Utilities went up 0.3 per cent due to price increases of 1.2 per cent and 0.9 per cent in electricity and LP gas respectively, outweighing a 1.1 per cent drop in the price of kerosene.

Household Operations rose 0.2 per cent driven by price increases in household cleaning products, notably soap.

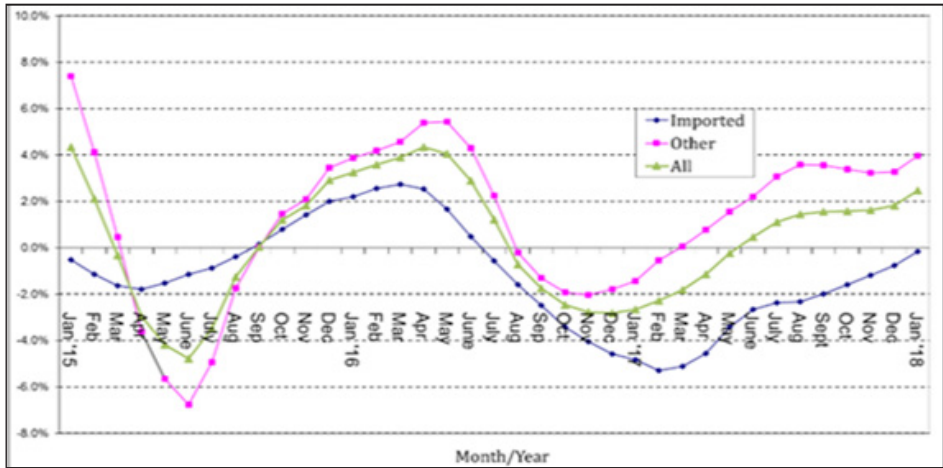
Transport and Communications dropped 0.3 per cent on account of price declines of 1.9 per cent and

2.1 per cent in petrol and diesel respectively.

Mr. Kimi said apart from the above, price movements elsewhere in the consumption basket were negligible. "The overall "annual" headline inflation rate ending March 2018 (calculated on a 3 months moving average) was 4.0 per cent, up 0.4 of a percentage point from 3.6 per cent recording in the previous month ending February (calculated on a 3 months moving average).

"The corresponding inflation rates for imported and other items were 1.1 per cent and 5.5 per cent, respectively," Mr. Kimi said.

Honiara CPI rose 1.7 per cent in January



Graph shows the Honiara annual inflation rates from January 2015 to January 2018.

Honiara Consumer Price Index (CPI) slightly increased by 1.7 per cent in the month of January 2018.

CPI is a monthly indicator of the variation in prices for retail goods and other items.

The basket of goods chosen represents the spending behaviour of the population of Honiara and the resulting CPI is used to calculate inflation.

Government Statistician (GS) Douglas Kimi while releasing the National Statistics Office (NSO) Statistical Bulletin on Wednesday 7 March for the month of January 2018 said the increase was 1.7 per cent from 187.8 the previous month to 191.1.

Mr. Kimi said the upturn was largely driven by price increases in Food, Drinks and Tobacco, Transport and

Communication, and Recreation, Health and Other Service sub-sections of the index.

“The Food sub-index increased during the month by 1.0% to 172.0. This was mainly driven by price rises in coconut biscuits (6.3%), powdered milk (3.5%), rice (0.2%), and fresh fruits and vegetables sold at the Honiara market; most notable include bush cabbage (49.5%), fern (24.1%), green bean (11.4%), chinese cabbage (9.5%), melon (3.0%), pawpaw (7.5%), and green and dry coconuts (8.6% and 2.1%) respectively.

“These outweighed price drops in canned meat (-1.7%), poultry eggs (-7.2%) and certain market produce such as kumara (-9.0%), tomatoes (-4.1%), cooking bananas (-15.1%) and cucumber (-13.7%), to result in the rise of the overall food sub-index,” Mr. Kimi added.



Graph shows the Honiara annual headline and underlying inflation rates from January 2015 to January 2018.

Other major changes in other sub-indexes include;

- Drinks and Tobacco went up 2.1% driven by price rises in tobacco (0.3%) and betel nut (54.2%).
- Clothing and Footwear rose 0.1% on account of a 5.8% price rise in lingerie.
- Housing and Utilities declined 1.2% influenced by a drop of 5.5% in electricity price offsetting a 4.9% rise in price of kerosene.
- Household Operations fell 0.6% driven by price declines in household appliances (-0.4%) especially spoons (-8.5%), and household supplies (-1.2%) such as bar soap (-5.8%) and washing powder (-0.5%).
- Transport and Communications rose 0.3% on account of price rises in petrol and diesel by 1.7% and 2.8% respectively.

• Recreation, Health and Other Services increased 11.0% driven by an increase of 21.5% in school fees and educational books.

Mr. Kimi said apart from the above, price movements elsewhere in the consumption basket were negligible.

“The overall annual headline inflation rate for the month of January 2018 calculated on a 3 months moving average basis was 2.5%, up 0.7 percentage points from previous month. “The corresponding inflation rates for imported and other items were -0.2% and 4.0%, respectively,” he said. At the same time, Mr. Kimi said the main underlying rates of inflation based on a 3 months moving average for the month of January 2018 were observed between -0.8% and 1.8% while the headline inflation rate was at 2.5%.

Big farms census in pictures



Chairman Labuhila coffee farmers association, Mr Liston Veni, inspecting drying coffee



Reuben Sale in his Coffee Farm at Kolokarako ward, Highlands of Guadalcanal Province.



Mathew Aeni picking coffee beans at a coffee farm in the Highlands of Guadalcanal Prov.



Don Bosco students at their rice farm project.



St. Joseph Tenaru School rice farm project.



Agriculture field officers at work.

NEWSFLASH

Village and household listing survey progresses



Martha Kili interviewing a young father at Nine Ridge settlement in Central Honiara.



Jonathan Pitakoe taking record of the GPS readings.

The National Village Resource Survey (VRS) and Household Listing 2017-2018 that the National Statistics Office (NSO) is currently carrying out is progressing well. That's according to the VRS National Project Director Raphael Aipaina. "Everything is progressing well since the survey entered the second phase early this year (2018)," Mr. Aipaina said.

Phase two include;

Honiara City, ward 1-12

Choiseul province, ward 1-14

Makira/Ulawa province, ward 1- 20

Renbel province, ward 6 -10

Malaita province, ward 2 and

Temotu province, ward 1-7, 10 -13 and 16- 17

Mr. Aipaina said so far 37 wards out of the 183 wards are completely enumerated. "These wards include those enumerated in the initial phase and in the second phase. "At the moment a total of 21 field enumerators are on the ground carrying out the VRS second phase," Mr. Aipaina said.

Meanwhile, Government Statistician Douglas Kimi acknowledged the NSO staff and its field enumerators for the untiring work they did in the collection of statistical information since the roll-out of the survey last year.

He said the dedication shown by these officers must be commended and recognised as the nature of the

work (data collection) is not easy considering the country's geographical distribution.

The Village Resource Survey (VRS) has a long history in the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO).

Initiated in the 1980's, it was then conducted in 1995-1996, then in 2007- 2008 but due to resource constraints the results were only used internally in preparation of the past censuses; the present VRS 2017-2018 is the fourth one in the series.

The VRS and household listing collects information on services to the village including mapping and also collect information on the location of households by GPS and the num-

ber of people per household by gender.

This is the basis for Census enumeration areas (EA) demarcation.

The survey will play the role of assisting the SIG in providing quality data at the village level, which is essential, to see the impact of development, and guide its development efforts and policy – makers in the future, to improve the livelihood and standard of living for all Solomon Islanders.

The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) through the Ministry of Finance & Treasury (MoFT) is funding the VRS 2017/18 project.



Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 field enumerators for Honiara City at work.



Houses at Nine Ridge Settlement in Honiara



VRS enumerators Martha Kili and Denise Kaiwori at work.



Enumerators interviewing a mother at Nine Ridge settlement, Honiara.

Census on ‘Big Farms’ underway

The National Statistics Office (NSO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) are currently rolling out the census on ‘big farms’ across the country.

The survey is part of the National Agriculture Survey Project 2017 (NASP) that the NSO piloted since last year under its 20 years National Strategy-National Statistics Development Strategy 2016/17-2035 (NSDS).

The big farms survey is the second component of the NASP currently being undertaken and supplements the data collected from the household based agriculture survey that was completed in October last year and the data currently being analysed.

Government Statistician, Mr. Douglas Kimi is pleased with the current progress so far and has acknowledged the work being progressed by MAL’s Extension Officers and SINSO Headquarter Staff.

National Project Coordinator Charles Oloka said so far four provinces has been completed with the canvassing of ‘big farms’ while others are yet to be canvassed.

The completed provinces include;

- Temotu Province
- Makira Province
- Central Islands Province and
- Isabel Province

Mr. Oloka said canvassing for Guadalcanal Province is currently in progress with 22 ‘big farms’ are still yet to be canvassed since they are located way-up in land and that re-

quires a lot of travelling by boat and walking to the farms sites.

Meanwhile, he said for other provinces including Malaita, Choiseul, Western and Renbel provinces canvassing will start as soon as logistics and funds are available.

The 2017 NASP was the country’s first ever national agriculture survey and thus covers all selected household agricultural holdings.

The survey is intended to assist the government through its responsible ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock (MAL) with planning to improve agriculture production in the country.

The survey will provide benchmark data on land use, type of agriculture and related activities, structure of agricultural holdings and their

main characteristics, to support the strategic plans and programmes of the Solomon Islands on agriculture production and investment as well as to support development of some Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators in the agriculture sector.

The project is supported by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) with the Technical support from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The survey (NASP 2017) results are expected to be released in the second quarter of next year.

See page 8 for more photos.



Pictured is the Tenaru Rice Project farm funded by the Solomon Islands Government and insert are MAL officers conduting the survey.



National Project Coordinator Charles Oloka canvassing Questionnaire with a Coffee farmer at Kolokarako ward in Guadalcanal.

About Us

The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) is a division within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. Guided under the Statistics Act 1970 (Amendments 2007), the Census Act 1959, the SINSO is mandated to compile and disseminate official statistics of the Solomon Islands. The SINSO serves as the leading source of quality data about the population and the economy. We honor privacy, protect confidentiality and conduct our work openly. We are guided on this mission by our strong and capable workforce our readiness to innovate and abiding commitment to our customers. It is our goal to provide the

best mix of timeliness, relevance, quality, and services cost for the data we collect. The Government Statistician (GS) and his Statistics Management team lead the SINSO. The office is made up of four sections; the Economic Statistics Unit, Social and Demography Statistics Unit, Census and Survey Statistics Unit and Executive Management and Support Services Unit. Altogether there are 26 staff (including the GS) in the department carrying out duties ranging from collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating information in the various subjects in the different sections.


Our core functions

As a Central Statistical Agency of the Government guided under the Statistics Act 1970, (Amendments 2007, the Census Act 1959), our role is to:

- Design standardized statistical instruments for producing Solomon Islands’ statistics: harmonized classifications, organizational methods and structures, technical standards.
- Harmonise statistical information: drawing up a set common concepts, languages and tools for producing statistics.
- Produce Solomon Islands’ statistics: consolidate the statistics of the Provinces and ensuring that they are comparable.
- Supply statistical information: identify, analyze and interpret Solomon Islands’ statistical data.
- Disseminate statistical information.
- Coordinate the Solomon Islands Statistical System.
- Advise statistical systems: help to improve the national statistical systems and promote good practice within the Solomon Islands Statistical System.
- Promote research and development: encourage research into techniques and tools for collecting, processing and analyzing data.

Coming up in our next issue

- NSO and the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock discuss proposals for close collaboration.
- NSO farewell Australian Volunteer.
- VRS phase 3 roll out.
- And more stories on the NSDS projects that the National Statistics Office is implementing.



For media inquiries contact National Statistics Office/NSDS Media team on Phone: 23422
E-mail: sdiisango@mof.gov.sb