SINSO NEW

Your monthly guide to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office News, Information and Events • Issue 8 • October-November 2018



...Kanamoli (pictured centre) is the National Statistics Office new Deputy Government Statistician

The Solomon Islands National appointment as GS in early 2011. Statistics Office (NSO) has appointed Samson Kanamoli as its and honored to be given the job. new Deputy Government Statistician (DGS).

Mr. Kanamoli who took up the position after it was left vacant for seven years have performed duties since September, 2018.

The current Government Statistician (GS), Douglas Kimi was the last person to be acting on the position (DGS) from 2009 - 2010 before his Mr. Kanamoli said he was humbled

He (Kanamoli) has been part of the NSO for several years, started work at the office as the Senior Geographic Information System (GIS) Statistician in 2009.

Over the years, he served in several positions within the Census & Survey Section, all the way up to the Senior GIS Statistician.

His most recent appointment at the

(interim) role to the National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) In 2014, he was offered a SIG schol-2015-16 to 2035.

Hailed from Isabel Province, he attended Barasile Primary School at his home village before doing his secondary school education at Allardyce Provincial Secondary School, and continue with the University of the South Pacific (USP) Continue Education Programme at the USP Solomon Islands campus

NSO was for the Project Manager in Honiara until he completed his foundation studies.

> arship to do Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree studies in Statistics and Geospatial Science programme at USP,

He later graduated, returned to the country (Solomon Islands) and employed as a NSDS interim Project Manager at the NSO.

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LETS TALK!

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

NEWSFLASH SINSO Message

On behalf of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO), I take this opportunity to welcome you to the eighth issue of our monthly E-newsletter.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the SIN-SO 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 8th edition thus we're grateful that you're taking your time to read it.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi's welcome message to readers

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 October-November 2018 with general news stories covering the appointment of the new Deputy Government Statistician, staff involvement in various training, NSO preparation towards the 2019 National Census, Headline inflation for September, Trade Surplus for March Quarter 2018, International arrival statistics for the third quarter (September) of this year-2018 and more with accompanying charts and photos.

Now that the internet is increasingly becom-

ing 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 from our website on this address: 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 regarding the NSO's work 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 to establish census office

The National Statistics Office (NSO) will soon establish a separate office to coordinate the 2019 National Population and Housing Census operations.

The office/bureau will be located within the current NSO in Honiara. Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said the new office establishment will involve a lot of administrative activities including secondment and appointment of staff within the NSO as well as other departments within the government to supervise the Census office positions.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kimi said since this is a biggest nationwide census survey envisioned to take in records of every citizens no matter what age category and cultural background, it is important that everyone must

support and collaborate with the NSO and field officers who will be out in the field for data collection.

He said this is a crucial undertak-

He said this is a crucial undertaking to ensure the country have an updated population count thus collaborative effort and support is indeed appreciative in this regard to guarantee a successful census.

Mr. Kimi said unlike other big events in the country like the Election registration which targets only specific age group with other surveys/events, Census is different and the biggest ever occasion as it take record of every individual citizen of a country. The date for the 2019 national census count is yet to be set. The NSO is also calling on development partners and donors to support the coming 2019 Census in

terms of funding and technical assistance.

Also as part of the 2019 census planning and preparatory work, the NSO is currently undertaking the Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 and the Household listing exercise. The VRS has a long history in the NSO

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

number of people per household by gender. This is the basis for Census enumeration areas (EA) demarcation in 2019.

The survey will play the role of assisting the Solomon Islands Government (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 now in its final phase and nears completion.

The VRS and household listing collects information on services to the village including mapping and also collect information on the loca-



Data officers doing data entry for the VRS at the NSO.



Data officer doing data entry for the Village Resource Survey at the NSO.

NSO staff impressed by Census, CSPro training

C taff of the National Statistics Of-Tice (NSO) were awe-struck as they have the opportunity to learn about Census Administration and CSPro software programming.

This came after Dr. Michael Jonathan Levin from the United States of America (U.S.A) facilitated a two weeks of in-depth training on Census Management and CSPro course for staff at the NSO from 8-19 October, 2018.

The training was successfully concluded with certificate presentation on Friday 19 at the NSO Conference room.

Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said the training was an eye opener for many staff.

"The NSO is making history to have this important training before the 2019 Census," Mr. Kimi said.

He said the training is a progressive way forward for the office to ensure its staff are instilled with essential knowledge and skills concerning Census Management and CSPro software programming.

"These two (Census management and CSPro) are critical tools, taking into account any census operation and processes.

"Ensuring staff familiarity with the mechanisms are paramount as the office is preparing to conduct the country's population count next year (2019)," Mr. Kimi emphasised.



(Front row, L-R): Facilitator, Dr. Michael Jonathan Levin, Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi and former Government Statistician, Joseph Naesol, NSO Advisor, Dr. Willie Lahari and Senior Principal Statistician, Andrew Kakate together with NSO staff that participated in the training with their certificates of participation.

Meanwhile, Deputy Government Statistician, Samson Kanamoli said the training was a bonus for the of-

"...the training is important and beneficial as it up-skill individual staff capability," Mr. Kanamoli said. He said as staff continue to endeavour together in fulfilling national duties, safeguarding a high standard proficiency through staff capacity improvement is vital.

Mr. Kanamoli said grooming staff with critical expertise is utmost at this time to guarantee self-confidence in preparation for National Censuses and Household surveys that normally occurs every 10 years and five years.

Speaking on-behalf of the par-

ticipants, Senior Statistician, Anna Pitaboe said the training was a huge leap for them as it prepare them for such national undertakings like the 2019 census.

"...some of us are first timers, thus, such training is an advantage as we are preparing for the 2019 census.

makes us have a sense of how closer the event (census) is and how prepared we are," Ms. Pitaboe said.

She said the Census Management course was an important juncture as it taught staff the understanding on how to properly handle all census logistic like field data collection from all the provinces to the NSO and the monitoring of the data quality. "A gap of weakness along

this process will truly slow down the census results."

On the CSPro, Ms. Pitaboe said the training enabled staff to get on the use of the software, starting from creating forms, data entry, and tabulation.

Ms. Pitaboe then thanked the NSO "We learn a lot from the training. It management for making the training available and also recognised the facilitator Dr. Michael Jonathan Levin for his time in ensuring the training successfully held.

> Facilitator, Dr. Levin is an Anthropologist, a Demographer, Subject Matter Specialist and a Computer programmer. With 45 years of experience, he has been engaged to work on census edits by different countries around the world.

NSO staff honored with certificates

Staff of the National Statistics Of-fice (NSO) were honored on Friday 19 for their participation during the two weeks of in-depth training on Census Management and CSPro. Commenced on 8 October, the training concluded with certificate presentation on Friday 19 October,

"The training is a massive leap for the NSO staff," Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said.

It was envisioned to prepare and equip staff with crucial proficiency regarding staff involvement in different levels of census management and operational activities and also impart officers with procedures into editing census data.

Mr. Kimi said equipping staff with essential expertise ahead of the 2019 population census is vital.

"Since the census project involves



Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi, Statistician, Clera Sa'ohu with her certificate and Dr. Michael Jonathan Levin.

huge operations and the information to be collected will be used and useful in the next ten years, it is important that proper management of census activities, processes together with monitoring/evaluation

are being implemented to control and guarantee management of data quality and to complete the Census count," Mr. Kimi emphasised.

Mr. Kimi thanked his staff for their patience and cooperation throughout the course of the training and also acknowledged the training facilitator Dr. Michael Jonathan Levin for his time and service.

He said the teamwork essence and serenity displayed by participants (staff) has ensued in the training success.

The training was the first of its kind for the NSO and the presentation contents are similar to the recommended UN revised Population handbook together with the approved international standards, classifications and definitions.

Meanwhile, participants thanked the NSO management for making the training accessible and pledged to put into practice what has been learned.

For more photos on the training, see page 7

NSO engages Youth@Work interns in statistical work

total of nine interns from the Youth@Work in Honiara are currently involved in data entry work at the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (NSO).

The intern's involvement is part of their 15 weeks (3 months) of internship training at the workplace.

They are assisting the NSO officers with data entry effort for the Village Resource Survey (VRS) project. Other responsibilities as assigned to them involve supporting the Consumer Price Index (CPI) - price collection and VRS field work - data collection.

Prior to performing actual work, the interns has go through an extensive



Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi, left, Village Resource Survey project, Director, Raphael Aipaina looking from the back and former Government Statistician, Joseph Naesol right end with the nine Youth@Work interns at the NSO.

NSO uses for data entry work.

training on CSPro software that the Welcoming the interns, Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said the NSO will forever obliged and value the intern's input to the office.

"Your engagement with the NSO is timely since we have data entry work in progress regarding the Village Resource Survey.

"These are very important information that will help the government scheme policies for the betterment of our society/country.

"...your assistance will boost data entry exertion to ensure they (data) are analysed for final report compilation," he said.

Mr. Kimi told the youths to make use of the golden opportunity and learn from it as much as possible.

Youth@Work interns inspired

overnment Statistician, Doug-Ilas Kimi has encouraged the nine Youth@Work interns that are currently doing data entry work at the National Statistics Office (NSO) to make use of the opportunity and endeavor for better in life.

Mr. Kimi uttered the sentiment when he met with the interns on Friday 5 October, 2018 at the NSO. "The NSO is privilege to have you,"

Mr. Kimi said.

He assured the interns that whatever knowledge and skills attained will guarantee 'job experience' that will surely open doors of oportunities for the young aspiring and job pursuing youths.

"The experience and knowledge that you will get here will push you straight on to golden job opportunities to support you and your family

in the future.

"So, make the most of this internship training," Mr. Kimi said. Meanwhile, he told the interns that

they are doing a national service and a work that will help policy-makers map better policies for the country reliant on the data from the NSO.

"The work that you are doing now is not only for the NSO but for the nation.

"These information that you are now entering will help the government plot policies/strategies for the betterment of our country," Mr. Kimi added.

Mr. Kimi then thanked the Youth@ Work office in Honiara for the relationship to ensure the interns develop their job experience at the NSO.



Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi meet the interns and formally welcome them into office.



Some of the Youth@Work interns doing data entry at the National Statistics Office in Honiara.



A male officer doing data entry for the VRS 2017



A female officer doing data entry work for the VRS 2017/18.

Slight inflation rise in Honiara for August

Annual headline inflation for Honiara has indicated a slight surge of 0.3 per cent in August, 2018.

This means only a 0.1 per cent points increase was recorded compared to the previous month (July) inflation of 0.2 per cent.

Releasing the Honiara Consumer Price Index (CPI) statistical report for the month August, Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said:

"Through the year to August 2018, the Honiara CPI increased by 3.2 per cent." He said food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 0.9 per cent with the main contributors to the movement in the group were Vegetables +6.6 per cent, Potato and Tuber +17.0 per cent, Fresh Fruits +4.9 per cent, and Fish and Sea Food +1.7 per cent at the Honiara Central Market.

"Other contributors include Oils and Fats +2.7 per cent and Non-Alcoholic Beverages +0.8 per cent at retail outlets. These outweighed

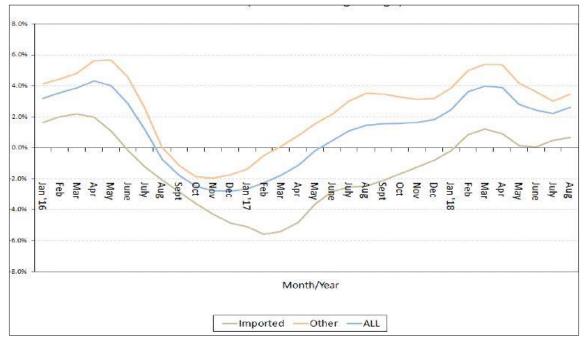


Chart shows Honiara annual inflation rates from January 2016-August 2018.

declines in Bread and Cereals -1.1 per cent, particularly rice -0.6 per cent," Mr. Kimi stated.

Other major changes in other sub-index include:

Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics +3.2 per cent

The main contributor to this group was narcotics +50.2 per cent, particularly betel nut +64.5 per cent. This outweighed falls in tobacco by -7.6 per cent.

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels by -1.6 per cent

The main contributor to the fall in this group was electricity charges -7.7 per cent, kerosene -1.4 per cent and diesel by -2.1 per cent.

Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Mainte-

The main contributor to the decline in this group was Glassware, Tableware and Household utensils -14.8

nance by -2.1 per cent

per cent especially plastic utensils -21.0 per cent and cooking pots -27.1 per cent. These outweighed price rises in household appliances +2.5 per cent and tools and

equipment by +0.1 per cent. • Transport -0.3 per cent

The main contributor to the fall in transport group was operations of personal transport equipment -0.9 per cent, predominantly fuel and lubricants by -0.9 per cent.

Mr. Kimi added that apart from the above, price movements elsewhere in the consumption basket were insignificant.

"The overall annual headline inflation rate for the month of August 2018 calculated on a 3 months moving average basis was 2.6 per cent, up 0.4 percentage points from 2.2 per cent the previous month. The corresponding inflation rates for imported and other items were 0.7 per cent and 3.5 per cent, respectively."

Mr. Kimi added that the main underlying rates of inflation based on a 3 months moving average for the month of August 2018 were observed between -0.2 per cent and 1.0 per cent while the headline inflation rate was at 2.6 per cent.

Training upskill staff capability

The new Deputy Government Statistician (DGS), Samson Kanamoli says the Census Management and CSPro training that the National Statistics Office (NSO) staff have undertook in October was meant to upskill staff capability.

...the training is important and useful as it upskill individual staff capability," Mr. Kanamoli said.

He said as staff continue to endeavour together in executing national duties, maintaining a high standard and capacity coaching is significant. Meanwhile, Mr. Kanamoli said the training comes in with no doubt as the NSO is preparing to conduct the National Census in 2019.

He said grooming staff with critical



Deputy Government Statistician, Samson Kanamoli.

knowledge and skills is paramount at this time.

"The training is very useful for the NSO staff and the National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) project staff in preparation for National Censuses and Household surveys

that normally occurs every 10 years and five years," the DGS added.

He told the participants to apply the knowledge and skills acquired from the training in their daily statistical process and procedures and keep future careers that they may pursue. Commenced on Monday 8 October, 2018 the training envisioned to prepare and equip staff with essential knowledge and skills regarding staff involvement in different levels of census management and operational activities.

The training also include a refresher course on CSPro 7.1 programme, a software that the NSO used to process the 2009 census data. The same software will be again used for the 2019 census data processing.

The refresher course aims to impart staff with procedures into editing census data.

the skills for their career not only Dr. Michael Jonathan Levin from in the statistics office but also other the United States of America (U.S.A) facilitate the training.

> Dr. Levin is an Anthropologist, a Demographer, Subject Matter Specialist and a Computer programmer. With 45 years of experience, he has been engaged to work on census edits by different countries around the world.

> The training ended with certificates presentation on Friday 19 October,

See related reports on pg. 3





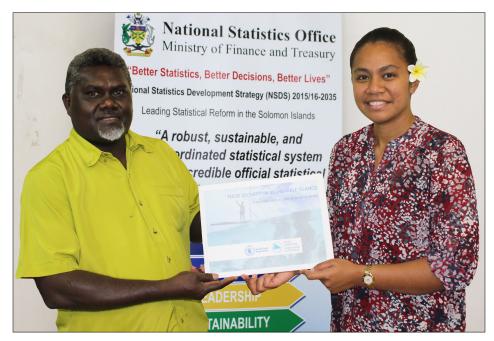
National Statistics Office appreciates Food Atlas

he National Statistics Office (NSO) has thanked the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the work of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for the mutual relationship and sharing of information.

Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi highlighted this when handed a copy of the 2018 Regional Food Security Atlas of the Pacific by the SPC.

Elenoa Diani, Geographic Information System (GIS) Consultant - Pacific: Food Security Analysis (Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) Unit: United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) presented the Atlas to Mr. Kimi on Friday 12th October, 2018 at the NSO.

Acknowledging the SPC, Mr. Kimi said the Atlas will be helpful to the NSO to ensure it guide its effort to collect natural disaster and food security related statistics in the country that can help legislators improve food security and nutritional status



Elenoa Diani, Geographic Information System (GIS) Consultant - Pacific: Food Security Analysis (Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) Unit: United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) presented the copy of the Atlas to the Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi at the National Statistics Office.

of all Solomon Islanders.

The 2018 Atlas provides a spatial overview of the core issues that affect food security across the Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

Divided into nine topical sections, the Atlas provides the reader with information and knowledge on the

causes and outcomes of food security and nutrition in the region.

The Pacific is prone to natural disaster. To be able to respond quickly and effectively after the occurrence of a disaster, accurate and up to date data is essential.

The Regional Food Security Atlas of the Pacific is intended to provide a baseline of statistical information that can be helpful to decision makers to improve food security and the nutritional status of vulnerable people across the Pacific Island Countries. It is hoped that the 2018 Food Security Atlas for the Pacific will contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goal 2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The Food Atlas of the Pacific is a joint publication by the SPC and the WFP. It is generously funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade.

Kanamoli is NSO new deputy GS

From these achievements, work experiences, wealth of knowledge and his Tertiary qualifications, Mr. Kanamoli was then selected as the best candidate for the post, and received his appointment from its 51st /2018 meeting held by the Public Service

From front page.

Commission as the new Deputy Government Statistician for the NSO in August 2018.

Congratulating, Mr. Kanamoli, Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said Mr. Kanamoli's inclusion to the NSO management is a boost and a way forward for the office to ensure it efficiently implement its activities and overall work programs.

For the past seven years, only Mr. Kimi (GS), shouldered the government department (NSO) administration level obligations and with the new DGS, it's another perfection that will see further enrichment to the NSO managing effort.

However, Mr. Kimi thanked the capable NSO staff and the Technical Advisor, Dr. Willie Lahari who supported the NSO programs moving forward over the years.

Mr. Kimi then called on the staff for collaboration and teamwork to assist Mr. Kanamoli to work effec-



Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi (right) congratulates Samson Kanamoli on his recent appointment as the NSO Advisor, Dr. Willie Lahari looks on.

tively in implementing his job description as the DGS.

The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) is a division in the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.

Guided under the Statistics Act 1970 (Amendments 2007), the SIN-SO is mandated for Data Collection, Processing, Analysing and Dissemination of official statistics of the Solomon Islands.

The SINSO serves as the leading

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

source of quality data about the 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, processing, analysing and disseminating information in the various subjects in the different sections.

NEWSFLASH

Pictures: Census management & CSPro training



Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi, Assistant Statistician, Florence Walekwate with her certificate and Dr. Michael Jona-



Statistician, Desmond Papage standing centre with his certificate as flanked by Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi and Dr. Michael Jonathan Levin.



National Statistics Office, Advisor, Dr. Willie Lahari and Principal Statistician and Village Resource Survey, Director, Raphael Aipaina· From the background is Senior Principal Statistician, Andrew Kakate at the training closing ceremony:



Chief Statistician-Social, Anterlyn Tuzakana raising a point during the Census Management and CSPro training while NSO staff, Fredrick Sekamama looks on.



Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi on-behalf of the NSO Part of the National Statistics Office staff that participated presented a traditional crafted Nauzu Nauzu war canoe to Dr. in the two weeks training held at the NSO conference room in Levin as part of NSO's appreciation to Dr· Levin's service·



Honiara from Monday 8 October to Friday 19 October 2018.



Senior Statistician, Anna Pitaboe, speaking on-behalf of the NSO staff that participated in the two weeks of training at its closing ceremony held on Friday 19 October 2018.



Some of the National Statistics Office staff/participants during the two weeks of Census Management and CSPro training held at the NSO in Honiara.

SI records trade surplus driven by drop in imports

rop in imports attributed largely to the significant trade surplus recorded for Solomon Islands during the March quarter.

This was after the local economy made a \$142.8 million as trading surplus in the first quarter of this year (2018), an improvement trailed after a deficit of \$334.2 million observed in the final quarter of 2017. The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) disclosed this in its quarterly statistical report on International Merchandise Trade (IMT) made available on Friday 2 November, 2018.

Releasing the report, Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said the extra was strengthened by a significant drop in imports to \$1,075.7m per -28.7 per cent and a rise in exports to \$1,180.6m by 3.8 per cent from the 2017 final quarter.

"The decline in imports derive mainly from falls in food imports, animal and vegetable oils, and machinery and transport equipment, while rises in exports were driven by an upturn in palm oil, logs, fish, and alluvial gold exports. In terms of the corresponding quarter a year ago, this surplus represent an

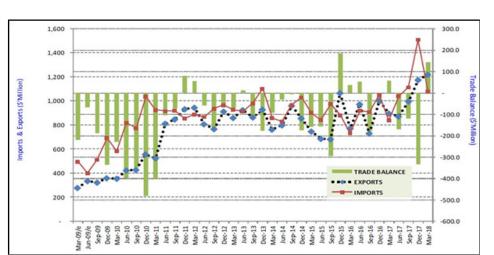


Chart depicting imports, exports and trade balance by quarter from March 2009 to March 2018.

increase of \$85m per 148 per cent over a surplus of \$57.5m in 2017," Mr. Kimi explained.

The movement of goods into and out of the country is an important aspect of the nation's economic development.

On major exports in the first quarter of 2018 compared to the corresponding quarter of 2017, Mr. Kimi stated that round log and sawn timber exports increased by \$373.1m by 66 per cent to \$938.7m while total of fresh/frozen and canned fish increased by \$57.4m per 65 per cent to \$146m.

"Total agricultural products decreased by \$23.6m by 21 per cent to \$90.3m. This was mainly driven by low exports of palm oil thru 15 per cent, palm kernel oil/meal by 74 per cent, copra 25 per cent and cocoa 7.8 per cent. Gold has increased by \$154 through 2 per cent to close to \$8m."

Meanwhile, on major imports the Government Statistician said food imports, which is comprised mostly of rice and canned meat, increased by \$101.3m per 91 per cent to \$213.2m while mineral fuel and lu-

bricant imports increased by \$57.7m per 35 per cent to \$222.6m and machinery and transport equipment increased by \$66.8m per 26 per cent to \$327.1m.

Merchandise trade balance with major trading partners in the March quarter of 2018 compared to the same quarter in 2017 records the following:

- The trade deficit with Singapore, the main source of fuel imports, increased by \$47.2m per 27.1 per cent to \$221.7m.
- The trade deficit with Australia increased by \$50.1m per 37.9 per cent to \$180.4m.
- The trade deficit with Papua New Guinea widened by \$3.6m per 35.1 per cent to \$14m.
- The trade surplus with South Korea decreased by \$2.3m per 150.3 per cent to a deficit of \$0.77m.
- The trade surplus with China, the main destination of exported logs, increased by \$187.4m per 38.1 per cent to \$679m.
- The trade surplus with Italy, the main destination of fish-loin exports, increased by \$17m by 33.3 per cent to close to \$68m.

Inflation reaches 0.8% in September

Monthly headline inflation for Honiara rose by 0.6 per cent points to 0.8 per cent in September, compared to the 0.2 per cent points noted in August, 2018.

The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) revealed it in its Honiara Consumer Price Index (CPI) report made available in the month of November.

Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi, while releasing the statistical report said the increase compared to the same month in the preceding year, the Honiara CPI increased to 4.5 per cent.

Although there was a drop in Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages by 1.0% during the month of September, this was outweighed by the rise in other consumption categories such as Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics that went up by 3.5 per cent and Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels group that went up by 3.4 per cent.

In the Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages group, the main contrib-



Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi.

utors to marginal decline during the month were vegetables by -8.5 per cent particularly potato and tuber per -3.8 per cent, and fresh fruits -2.7 per cent at the Honiara Central

Mr Kimi said the fall is partially offset by rises in bread and cereals by +0.5 per cent especially rice +1.1per cent, fish and seafood by +0.8 per cent, and oils and fats by +0.2

The major changes in other sub-indexes include:

Narcotics by +3.5 per cent.

The main contributor to the rise in this group is narcotics per +17.2 per cent, particularly betel nut by +20.2 per cent outweighing marginal drop in tobacco -0.5 per cent.

• Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels +3.4 per cent.

The main contributor to the rise in this group is electricity charges, particularly electricity bills +11.6 per cent and cash power bills by +20.7 per cent.

• Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance +0.2 per cent.

The main contributor to the marginal rise in this group is tools and equipment for house and garden by +0.1 per cent particularly motorized tools and goods and services for routine household maintenance +0.5 per cent.

• Transport +0.1 per cent.

• Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and The main contributor to the slight rise in transport group is operations of personal transport equipment +0.5 per cent, predominantly fuel and lubricants +0.5 per cent.

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

> "The overall annual headline inflation rate for the month of September 2018 calculated on a 3 months moving average basis was 3.3 per cent, up by 0.7 percentage points from 2.6 per cent the previous month. The corresponding inflation rates for imported and other items were 0.3 per cent and 4.7 per cent, respectively.

> "The main underlying rates of inflation based on a 3 months moving average for the month of September 2018 were observed between -0.3 per cent and 1.1 per cent while the headline inflation rate was at 3.3 per cent," Mr. Kimi said.

Training enhanced NSO staff expertise



Standing left, back-row is Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi and Deputy Government Statistician, Samson Kanamoli, far right front-row with the CPI officers.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) economic staff responsible for collecting the country's Consumer Price Index (CPI) have their capability boosted ahead of the CPI far-reaching rollout to the wider country.

This was made possible through the two weeks of comprehensive training held at the NSO from Monday 5 to Friday 16 November, 2018.

The training was intended to polish and perfect staff knowledge on item specifications, pricing sheets and data entry practices.

Also, it was purposely for the implementation of the series 3 of the CPI - a new inflation series for tracking consumer level price information

The series which has a new base period of 2017=100 covers Honiara, Auki, Gizo and Noro to present a better picture of the price behaviour at the consumer level.

"This is part and work progress to integrating the regional/provincial offices and the beginning of the rollout of the CPI to the wider Solomon Islands," Senior Statistician, Anna Luvu explained.

She added that the training which was the first of its kind was not only for the new base year but for the new system as well.

The series 3 have new indices avail-

launched by the NSO in September, able in 12 major groups which include: Food and non-alcoholic beverages; Alcoholic beverages, tofootwear; Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels; Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance; Health; Transport; Communication; Recreation and culture; Education; Restaurants and hotels; Miscellaneous goods and services.

> Both Honiara based and Provincial based (Auki, Noro & Gizo) CPI officers including three Youth@Work interns attended the important training.

> Meanwhile, Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi was pleased

with the training saying it contribute significantly towards staff capacity development.

bacco and narcotics; Clothing and He affirmed that the training was important since it will equipped staff with price collection talent with regards to CPI in their own regions/provincial centres - Auki, Noro & Gizo.

> CPI is a measure of changes, over time, in prices of a fixed basket of goods and services representative of the consumption pattern of resident households in the economy. The basket of goods chosen represents the spending behaviour of resident homes and the resulting CPI is used to calculate inflation.



NCPI officers during the two weeks of training at the NSO.



Senior Statistician, Anna Luvu facilitating the training.



What is Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the change over time in the general price level of goods and services that households acquire for the purpose of consumption.

CPI is used mainly to:

- Assess changes in living standards and
- Measure inflation or changes in the purchasing power of money

Visitor arrivals notches significant growth here

International arrivals into Solomon Islands has scored an earnest surge of 1.1 per cent during the September quarter.

This was after a total of 14,812 tourist visited the country in the third quarter of 2018.

Compared to the same quarter a year ago, an increase of 8.6 per cent was recorded, the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) revealed.

Releasing the statistical report for the quarter on Thursday 8 Nov. Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said 53 per cent of the arrivals were from visitors followed by returning residents by 47 per cent and the remaining less than 1 per cent were from intending residents.

"Visitor arrivals for the third quarter improved by 11.6 per cent to 7,838 visitors, compared to the 7,021 visitors noted in the second quarter of 2018.

"Also, there was a 7.7 per cent increase in visitors' arrivals from third quarter 2017 to third quarter 2018," Mr. Kimi stated.

Meanwhile, on arrivals by country of residence, Mr. Kimi said Australians remain the largest group of visitors to the Solomon Islands notching 36.9 per cent.

"There was a 17.1 per cent increase to 2,892 in Australian visitors compared to the second quarter of 2018

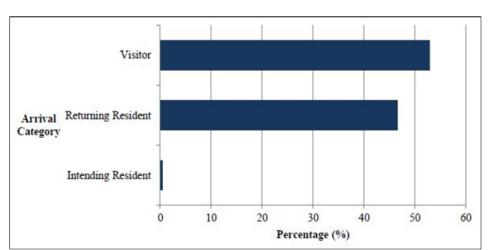


Chart shows arrival by category in the third quarter, 2018.

figure 2,469.

"The next largest group of visitors were from Other Asia by 12.1 per cent, followed by New Zealand with 7.4 per cent, Papua New Guinea 6.5 per cent, United States of America 6.2 per cent, Fiji 5.8 per cent, and Other Pacific 5.4 per cent."

On visitor arrivals by month, Mr. Kimi said the month of July recorded the highest number of arrivals with 2,862 visitors followed by September with a total of 2,663 visitors and August the least with 2,313 visitors.

"A total of 2,849 tourists were recorded during the quarter and they spent an average of 12.8 days in the country. Australian residents still made up the highest proportion of tourists with 40.7 per cent and stayed in the country for an average of 11.8 days. Residents from the United States of America made up the next largest group of tourists with 10.0 per cent, followed by Other Asia with 8.5 per cent, New Zealand 6.3 per cent, Other Europe 4.7 per cent, Japan 4.5 per cent, China 4.0 per cent, Other Pacific 3.8 per cent and Papua New Guinea by 3.3 per cent."

Mr. Kimi said the most common reason for visitors visiting the country during the quarter was for holiday and vocation which scored 34.6 per cent followed by Business and Conference by 25.2 per cent, visiting for other reason 23.7 per cent, visiting friends and relatives 14.8 per cent and transit & stop over 1.7 per cent.

On visitors by age group for the quarter showed that 72.7 per cent

of visitors were in the 25 years to 64 years age range.

"The youngest age group, 0 -14 years, represented 4.1 per cent of the arrivals while the oldest age group, 65 years and over made up 10.5 per cent of total visitor arrivals. The remaining 2.8 per cent were visitors who did not state their age. Male visitors represented more than half of the total visitors' arrivals by 66.6 per cent and female visitors made up 33.4 per cent of arrivals.

"Visitor by occupation showed that the "Professional and Technical" category made up the largest percentage of occupations by 34.8 per cent during the quarter followed by visitors who stated their occupation as Other occupation group with 30.4 per cent), Administration and managerial position 12.1 per cent), No work 11.1 per cent, and Clerical and related workers 3.6 per cent.

"The most popular carriers during the quarter were Solomon Airlines who carried 43.0 per cent of total visitors, followed by Fiji Airways by 29.6 per cent and Virgin Australia 19.3 per cent," Mr. Kimi stated.



The Solomon Islands best mix of timeliness, 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

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

·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

- Supervisors and Enumerators told to uphold work ethics.
- SI recods \$128m trade deficit in September Quarter.
- Inflation drops by 0.2% in October.
- And more stories on the NSDS projects that the National Statistics Office is implementing.



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