

SINSO NEWS

Your monthly guide to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office News, Information and Events • Issue 13 • January - March. 2020



MoFT Human Resource Manager, Tozen Belden hands over the newly launched Corporate Plan document to the Finance Permanent Secretary, McKinnie Dentana.

MOFT'S ROAD MAP

...New Corporate Plan sets out MoFT's priorities for next three years

The Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT) has launched a new corporate plan which sets out its priorities over the next three years. Permanent Secretary McKinnie Dentana launched the 3 year roadmap document (2020-2022 Corporate Plan) on-behalf of the MoFT Minister on Wednesday 4th March at the Ministry's compound under the theme "Institutional Strengthening".

Senior government officials, representatives from development partners, government officers from line Ministries, distinguish guest and staff of the Ministry observed the ceremony. The document (Corporate Plan) outlines the Ministry's mission, its core businesses, key priorities and how a range of policy objectives and initiatives will be undertaken over the next 3 years.

"This plan plays an important role in assisting the Government to provide essential services to the people of the Solomon Islands," MoFT PS, Dentana said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dentana urged the executive and staff to formulate an Institutional Strengthening program to operationalise the Corporate Plan that would enable the ministry to continuously monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the valuable document.

He said that since the roadmap document now officially launched, the next step that his ministry will focus on now is to establish a reporting framework so that the achievements, challenges and way forward will be reported against regularly at different reporting periods.

PS McKinnie said that there will be no more business as usual for his Ministry as he urges all staff to (must) work hard every single day to make the changes necessary and to achieve the ministry's vision.

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GDP grows by 5.3% in 2017

LET'S TALK!

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Census quality checks over, data entry work nears completion

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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 January to March 2020 with the launch of the MoFT's 3 year new corporate plan, articles on the country's new Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Inflation stories, general news stories with pictures highlighting the MoFT new corporate plan launching event and more with accompanying charts and 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 from the SIG online portal on this address/link under documents & links: <https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-finance-and-treasury/solomon-islands-national-statistics-office/>.

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.

On behalf of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO), I take this opportunity to welcome you to the 13th 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 13th edition thus we're grateful that you're taking your time to read it.

From page 1

New Corporate Plan sets out MoFT's priorities for next three years

"As we go forward, we must stand proud and take ownership within whatever role we play, as we all are a part of achieving this Corporate Plan."

Mr. McKinnie also thanked his executive members, staff and everyone who turned up for the very important occasion on Wednesday and for making sure the event was successfully organised.

The Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT) is one of the government organisation that has the responsibility to provide strategic advice, leadership and reporting on economic reforms, monetary, budget and fiscal policy to the Solomon Islands Government. Across the public service, the Ministry is responsible for financial reporting,

MoFT MISSION is to aim to be a vibrant and recognised leader in delivering high quality financial related administrative services to the wider community.

Its VISION is to become a vibrant and recognised lead Ministry that provides credible and reliable economic and financial leadership for a stable fiscal situation, financial and economic reforms, and border control initiatives that improves the lives of all Solomon Islanders.

and preparing and managing the annual recurrent budget.

Its Mission is to aim to be a vibrant and recognised leader in delivering high quality financial related administrative services to the wider community. This is achieved through sound financial management advice and policies, good governance, creating economic stability and growth, along with border control initiatives that improves the lives of all Solomon Islanders.

The MoFT Vision is to become a vibrant and recognised lead Ministry that provides credible and reliable economic and financial leadership for a stable fiscal situation, financial and economic reforms, and border control initiatives that improves the lives of all Solomon Islanders.



MoFT Undersecretary, Margaret Moveni looks on as Permanent Secretary for the Ministry Culture and Tourism, Andrew Nihopara and Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Forestry and Research, Dr. Vaeno Vigulu gets copy of the document.



The document finally launched and attendees have the chance to get copies. The plan plays an important role in assisting the Government to provide essential services to the people of the Solomon Islands.

Gross Domestic Product rises 30% after rebasing

The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has noted an increase of 30 per cent in value after the government statistical agency, Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) rebased this core indicator that measures (our) the economy. Similar magnitude of increases is also seen in per capita terms.

SINSO in the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT) has engaged in the rebasing work based on the 2004 base year to the new 2012 base year.

The new updated estimates of GDP from 2003-2017 was released on 23rd March.

Government Statistician and Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi when releasing the new GDP estimates said rebasing is a normal statistical practice as recommended by the United Nations and therefore undertaken periodically to enable the updating of GDP-national accounts statistics to reflect a more accurate economic picture of the country.

"The impact of rebasing GDP from 2004 constant prices to 2012 prices on the structure and growth of the economy is reflected in the upward adjustment to the benchmark estimates."

"GDP rebasing informs policy formulation and decision making by

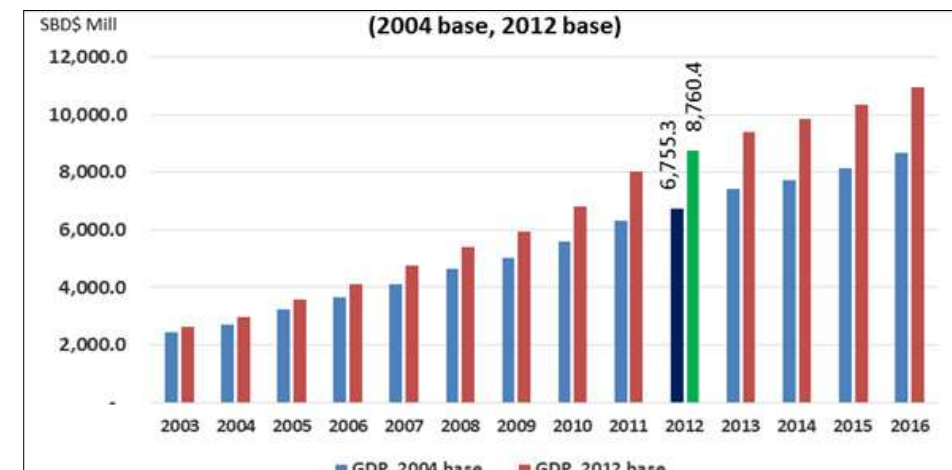


Chart shows impact of the updated new GDP levels in nominal terms based on the 2012 base and the pre-rebase GDP series based on the 2004 base.

providing up-to-date economic indicators reflecting a more realistic state of the country's economic performance.

"The exercise captures new economic activities previously excluded whilst also accounting for recent developments in certain sectors such as information and communication technologies, and emerging business services to better reflect the structure and growth of the economy."

"Revised estimates enable the government and development partners' understanding of the changes in the economy leading to effective allocation of resources and investment."

"In the Solomon Islands recent rebasing history, the first rebasing exercise undertaken after the eth-

nic tensions fixed the base year in 2004. The current rebasing of GDP to 2012 constant prices spaces the base periods apart by 8 years. The recommendation is for rebasing to be undertaken within at least 5 year intervals.

"During the rebasing process specific updates to the GDP-national accounts compilation system had been reviewed resulting in overall improvements to methodologies, data sources, concepts and revisions to benchmark estimates," Mr. Kimi stated.

The key improvements to the overall compiling framework involved the following:

- Updating the base year for constant price estimates from 2004 to 2012;

- Revising estimates based on the 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) especially household final consumption (HFCE) and informal sector estimates;

- Applying the new National CPI (2017=100), replacing the older Honiara CPI; applying specific conceptual adjustments closer towards consistency with the 2008 SNA;

- Updating and estimating the informal sector; updating and estimating the financial services activity, drawing from updated data sources;

- Updating and estimating government expenditure and tax revenue; estimating changes in inventories from 2012 onwards.

Mr. Kimi said that although the rebasing exercise resulted in a sudden upward adjustment in GDP, this does not necessarily change the development outlook (e.g., poverty, employment etc.) of the country, but instead show that prior to rebasing, the GDP-national accounts system relied on outdated figures that no longer accurately reflect the composition and size of the economy.

"The GDP compilation system has been drastically enhanced as on-going development work continues to further strengthen the system into becoming more robust in absorbing and reflecting future changes in the economy."

Rebased GDP data unlikely to change SI's economic outlook

Adjustment made to the new set of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates referenced to the new 2012 base year is unlikely to bring changes to the country's economic outlook says the government statistics agency, National Statistics Office.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi when releasing the rebased GDP on Monday 23 March said it should be noted that the sudden upward adjustment in GDP does not necessarily change the development outlook (e.g., poverty, employment etc.) of the country but instead showed that prior to rebasing, the GDP-national accounts system relied on outdated figures that no

longer accurately reflect the composition and size of the economy.

"The GDP compilation system has been drastically enhanced where specific updates to system had been reviewed resulting in overall improvements to methodologies, concepts, data sources and revisions to benchmark estimates," he said.

However, he said on-going development work will continue to enable the system to be more robust in absorbing and reflecting current and future changes in the country's economic growth, and in informing policy formulation and decision making.

Mr. Kimi said rebasing is a normal statistical practise as recommended

by the United Nations to be undertaken periodically to ensure that GDP-national accounts statistics continue to show a more accurate economic picture of the country.

"As in previous publications, users of the GDP information should note that whilst other government ministries and agencies such as the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MOFT), and the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) also compile key GDP aggregates on a more frequent basis for their own internal use such as for forecasting purposes and for monetary policy, SINSO remains the central government agency responsible for official statistics and is mandated to compile and

disseminate GDP estimates without due influence from any other agency or person.

"However, the SINSO coordinates with these agencies and other stakeholders with respect to data and statistical requirements."

Mr. Kimi said estimates presented in new GDP series will be revised in the forthcoming releases as improvement work continues.

He then acknowledged the technical support provided by IMF-Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) and the internal statistics advisory support and the support rendered by the NSO economic staff towards the successful release of the new GDP series.

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Timely statistical information vital for effective policymaking: Kimi

The country's Government Statistician Douglas Kimi says timely and accurate statistical information is key for effective national development and policymaking as well as for poverty assessment and monitoring processes.

Mr. Kimi highlighted this as he released the country's rebased Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on Monday 23 March.

Mr. Kimi said during the past years, the National Statistics Office (NSO) has worked closely with the International Monetary Fund- Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) and the internal statistics advisory support to rebase the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) using the production and expenditure approaches.

"GDP rebasing informs policy formulation and decision making by



Government Statistician and Census Commissioner Douglas Kimi, providing up-to-date economic indicators reflecting a more realistic state of the country's economic performance."

He said that the availability of comprehensive, timely and accurate information is a crucial aspect of our socioeconomic and environmental life to ensure policymakers utilise the data or information available in their decision making and policy formulation progressions.

"Good statistics are the foundation upon which scarce resources are allocated to fundamental needs such as health, housing and education."

He said since 2004, the NSO have been using an old base, saying it is internationally recommended that the base should be renewed every five years but due to some challenges, the office could not rebase.

Mr. Kimi said estimates presented in the new GDP series will be revised in the forthcoming releases as improvement work continues.

Gov't sector shrink in GDP share as formal and informal sector picks-up

Government sector has recorded a downturn of 11.6 per cent share in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) while the formal sector and informal sector made significant improvement in 2012.

That's according to the country's latest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) report produced and released by the government Statistical agency, Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) on Monday 23 March. The GDP report revealed that for-

mal sector accounted for 54.3 per cent of GDP, an increase from 32.6 per cent while informal sector increased in share from 29.1 per cent to 34.1 per cent.

"The general government sector (although part of the formal sector has been separated from the formal sector given its institutional status) decreased significantly by three times its previous share, from 38.3 per cent to 11.6 per cent." The government sector was previously the

dominant sector.

Government Statistician and Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi said the new GDP estimates and base year 2012 reflect the updated levels of sectoral production and related components of GDP, including corresponding annual growth rates especially from years after the new base period.

"Overall rebasing exercise has resulted in a significant change in the structure and size of the Solomon

Islands economy over a decade from the previous estimates based on the 2004 base year," he added.

Mr. Kimi said the rebasing is part of SINSO's ongoing development work to enable the system to be more robust in absorbing and reflecting current and future changes in the country's economic growth, and in informing policy formulation and decision making.



INFORMAL SECTOR

Vendors selling their fresh fish, vegetables and bottled coconut oil and produce at the Honiara Central Market.

GDP grows by 5.3 per cent in 2017

The country's new Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown by 5.3 per cent in 2017.

GDP is the country's key official measure of economic growth and development and measures the total value of production of goods and services within the local economy on an annual basis.

The new growth was represented in the latest GDP statistical bulletin released by the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) on Monday 23rd March 2020.

Government Statistician and Cen-

sus Commissioner, Douglas Kimi while releasing the new GDP bulletin said the report presents the provisional GDP estimates from 2003-2017 based on a new 2012 base year. "With significant revaluations to GDP, the provisional 2017 GDP estimate at constant 2012 prices was valued at SBD\$10.5 billion, an increase of SBD\$535 million in 2016, representing a growth rate of 5.3 percent, down 0.5 percentage points from the previous year's growth of 5.9 percent. In nominal terms, GDP in 2016 increased from

SBD\$8.7 billion to SBD\$11.0 billion with an additional SBD\$666 million in 2017," Mr. Kimi stated. However, Mr. Kimi said the growth in key sectors driving the annual growth in real terms were in the Agriculture-Fishery-Forestry sector by 9.6 per cent, Industry sector 0.1 per cent and Services sector 9.7 per cent.

Mr Kimi said that while the growth rate of 5.3 per cent may seem a bit high for some people, new data sources and improvements in methodology as a result of the rebasing work now reflect the updated levels

of sectoral production and related components of GDP, including corresponding annual growth rates especially from year's post-rebase period. Mr Kimi asks that users of the GDP data slowly update their own records with the new estimates and make necessary evaluations and forecasts based on this new series going forward into 2018-2020 plus, as SINSO continues to compile and update the coming 2018, and forthcoming annual estimates with the latter planned for release by end of this year.

GDP is the country's key official measure of economic growth and development and measures the total value of production of goods and services within the local economy on an annual basis.



Government Statistician (GS) and Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi (second from left, front row), NSO Advisor Dr. Willie Lahari standing just behind GS Kimi and Deputy Government Statistician Samson Kanamoli far left from back row together with representatives from stakeholders and NSO economic staff before the release of the country's new GDP estimates on Monday 23 March.

Rising demand for betel-nut pushes up inflation

The country's inflation better known as the change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) has rose +5.1 percent to 112.4 in January 2020 with rising demand for betel-nut coupled with a general rise in prices of main goods and services have propelled the upturn.

The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) revealed in its latest statistical report released by the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi this week.

"Compared to the same respective months last year, the National CPI increased 7.6 per cent," Mr. Kimi said according to the report.

The major changes in other expenditure categories from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+1.2%).
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+32.1%).
- Clothing and Footwear: (-0.3%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+0.3%).
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household cleaning maintenance: (+0.4%)
- Health (+9.1%)
- Transport: (+0.2%).

"The main contributors to the national price movement were in Alcoholic Beverages, To-

bacco and Narcotics (+37.8%) and Health (+9.6%) emanating from Honiara.

"The former was driven by a rapid rise in betel nut prices due to poor weather and rising demand, while the latter was due to an upward revision in private consultation fees," Mr. Kimi quoted.

He said the Solomon Islands inflation rates for the months of January 2020 calculated on a 3 months moving average basis was +4.4%, up 1.6 percentage points in December 2019. "The corresponding inflation rates for imported items were -0.1% while other (domestic) items inflation rates was +6.5 %." *Continue page 7*

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Rebased GDP data unlikely to change SI's economic outlook

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. It serves as the leading source of quality data about the population and the economy.

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 over 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.

Auki & Gizo inflation drops as price drop for utilities

Two provincial towns has noted a drop in inflation in January with utilities being the main influencer to the fall.

In its latest statistical report, the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) revealed that Auki town in Malaita and Gizo in the Western Province are the two towns.

The main contributors to the fall in Auki and Gizo were Housing, Water, Electricity and Gas.

The main percentage changes in index by CPI town from the previous month include:

Honiara: (+6.2%)

The Honiara CPI rose +6.2% to 114.2 in January 2020. The largest contributor to the price rise was Alcohol Beverages, Tobacco and

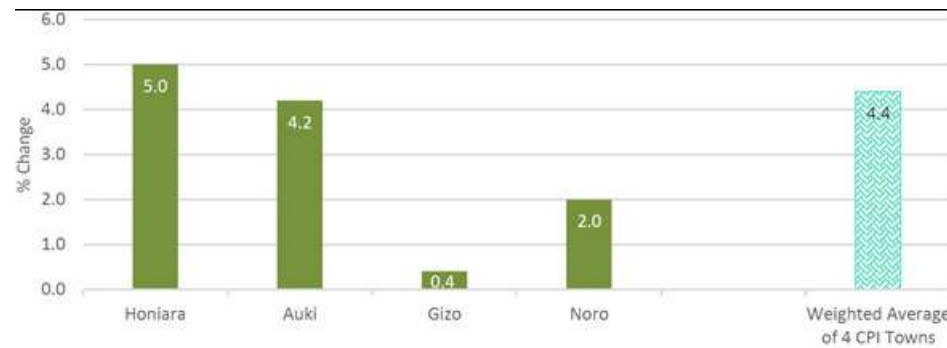


Chart shows National Consumer Price Index (CPI) percentage changes by CPI towns.

Narcotics +37.8% due to a short supply of betel nut as a result of bad weather. Other contributors include: Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages +1.4%; Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels +1.2%; Health +9.6% and Transport +0.2%, offsetting Clothing and Footwear

-0.4%. The rise in Health was attributed to an upward revision in private consultation fees.

Auki: (-0.2%)

The main contributor to the fall in Auki was Housing, Water, Electricity and Gas and Other Fuels -1.2% partially offsetting rises in Food and

Non-alcoholic Beverages +0.1%, Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance +0.1% and Transport +0.1%.

Gizo: (-0.1%)

The main driver to the fall in Gizo was Housing, Water, Electricity and Gas and Other Fuels -0.9%. This was partially offset by Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages +0.1% and transport +0.3%.

Noro: (-0.5%) The main contributors to the movement in Noro was Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages -1.6% and Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance -0.3%. These were partially offset by Alcohol Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics +0.4% and Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels +1.5%.

Census quality checks over, data

Data entry/recording work of the 2019 Population and Housing Census is reaching completion after all data Quality Check (QC) and Coding job has completed lately.

This was after all the census filled forms from all the provinces were collected and registered by the census office over the past months.

The census office has recruited Quality Checkers and Coders on short-term contract basis and now they have completed the work with only data entry work is being progressed and nears completion.

The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, despite, the Covid-19 challenges continue with official duties to guarantee preliminary count of the 2019 National Population census is ready for releasing. Government Statistician and Census Commissioner Douglas Kimi said these are crucial aspects in any census major operation to make sure information that will be provided in the final report is of eminence.

“No matter how well a census or a survey is organized, it is challeng-



Some of the Census data quality checkers and Coders at work at the National Statistics Office - May 2020.

ing to assure that quality data is collected. Therefore, it is very important to arrange various data checks before data are prepared for final report analysis and disseminated to the public.

“There is no perfect census in this world but we have committed our time and efforts to produce data/information that is of quality and trustworthy so that government can

aligned with its policies,” Mr. Kimi said.

He said that preliminary result will come out in due course after all data entry and cleaning processes is done.

Mr. Kimi then thanked those who have been part of the Census project since its initial stage in 2019 and those who involved in the data cleaning processes.

The Solomon Islands 2019 National Population and Housing Census was conducted from 4th November to 8th December last year.

It was the biggest ever census operation with about 3,000 field officers (enumerators and supervisors) being recruited by the Census Office and carried out the data collection across the country compared to previous censuses, and in a short period of time.

Also, it is the biggest-ever census attempted in our development history in terms of the scope and nature of questions being asked from the current population. These include questions about the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of individuals within private households and non-private dwellings such as age, gender, religion, occupation, education, disability, economic activity financial inclusion, natural disaster and even a question on the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was asked.

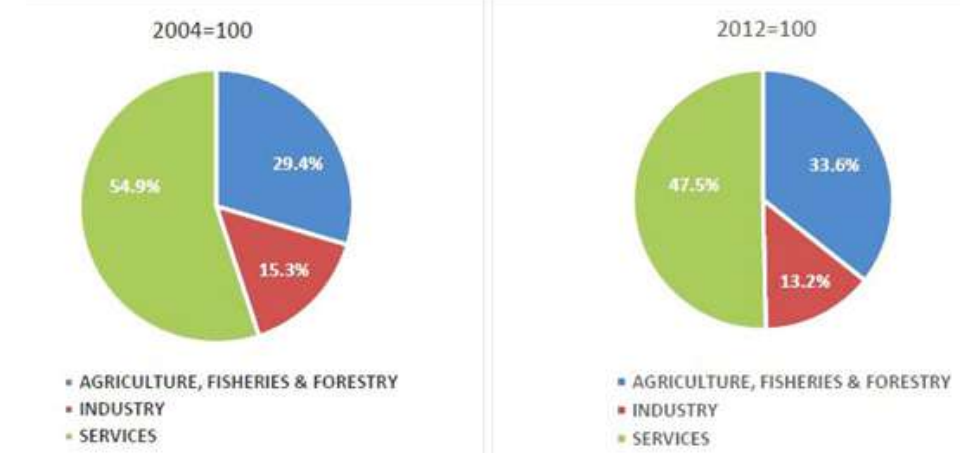
Solomon Islands have its first census count in 1970, the second was in 1976, and again in 1986, 1999, 2009 and the latest and the sixth one in

Primary sector contributes to GDP

The primary sector that comprises of the Agriculture, fishery and forestry-logging sector has expanded its sectoral contribution towards the local economy after the rebasing of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2004 constant prices to 2012 constant prices.

The new GDP statistical report referenced to 2012 and released by the Government Statistical agency, Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) on Monday this week shown that agriculture, fishery and forestry and logging sector made an eloquent share of contribution of 33.6 per cent in 2012, an improvement from 29.4 per cent noted in 2004.

Government Statistician and Census Commissioner, Douglas Kimi said the per cent facts show that sector composition (agriculture, fishery and forestry and logging) has contributed vividly towards the local economy over the years.



Pie chart showing Nominal GDP Economic Activity Sector Contributions in 2012 during the two different base years (2004 base year & 2012 base year).

However, he said that according to the new GDP statistical report, industry and services sectors also contributed to the economy but with lesser shares in terms of the comparison to the previous GDP shares during the pre-rebase period, as the report shown a decline in the sectors (industry and services) share to the economy.

“Industry and services sectors narrowing from 15.3 per cent to 13.2 per cent, and from 54.9 per cent to 47.5 per cent, respectively. This outcome reflects broadly a more realistic picture of the changing behaviour of economic units and their contributions to the economy,” Mr. Kimi quoted.

The new reference or base year for

the new GDP series is 2012 until a next rebase exercise is undertaken hopefully in the next 5 years. It was released on 23 March.

The new series give a more accurate picture of the size of and conditions within Solomon Islands biggest economy.

Mr. Kimi said the release of the new GDP series is another of the SINSO's landmark achievement in its pursuit to produce accurate and quality data to support policy and decision making of the government. He said the NSO is committed and will continue to produce official information/data about the country's population and economy for its users and for government policy alignment under its National Statistics Development Strategy 2015/16 to 2035 and to guarantee statistics is relevant and meet user's needs, be of good quality, timely and have international comparability.

entry work nears completion

the series was in 2019.

Census is the official count of how many people and dwellings there are in the country (SI). It gives a unique snapshot of our communities. Information from the census helps determine how government funding is spent in the community.

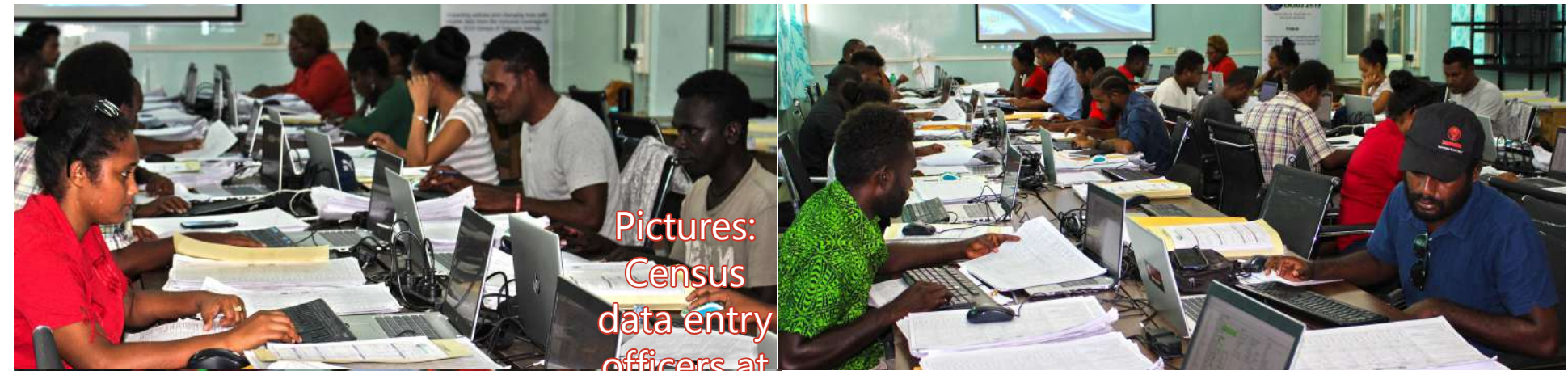
The government uses the data collected during the exercise for planning of development programmes. It is also important for the budget allocation process for the national government, and will be used in future planning, as well as monitor the progress of government devel-

opment programs.

The data is also used by National and International agencies to inform critical decisions on diverse issues.

A preliminary count of the 2019 National Population census is anticipated to be released by third quar-

ter this year 2020 while the comprehensive national analysis report is planned for release mid next year, 2021 to be followed by specialised policy-demanded topical analysis such as gender, fertility etc.



Pictures: Census data entry officers at work.

Rising demand for betel-nut pushes up inflation

“The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3 months moving average for the month was observed between +1.1% and +2.0%.”
 “The headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a 3 months moving average basis were:
 Honiara: (+5.0%) up +2.0 percentage points: Auki: +4.2%, rose +0.5 percentage points; Gizo: (+0.4%), up +0.1 percentage points and Noro: (+2.0%) dropped -0.8 percentage points.”

MoFT's new corporate plan launching in pictures



NSDS-Revitalising the National Statistics System (NSS)

In the modern, globalised world, statistical information is becoming a critical factor in supporting the national and international development agenda. Official statistics are the cornerstones of good government, and support public confidence in good government. They support evidence based planning and policy formulation, and monitoring and evaluation processes. Providing credible official statistical information for the benefit of Solomon Islands is critical to support development aspirations of the government, institutions, and meet users demand. With the ever growing demand for statistics, the National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) 2015–2035 is established. NSDS now in its sixth years of implementation after Cabinet endorsed it in mid-2014.

What is the NSDS?

NSDS is a National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) endorsed by Cabinet in mid-2014. It's a 20 year road map (NSDS 2015 to 2035) and the first ever strategy aimed to revitalise the Solomon Islands National Statistics System (NSS). Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and the Australian Govern-

ment through its DFAT Aid programme supported the National Statistics Office within the Ministry of Finance & Treasury and developed the strategy with the objective to provide relevant and timely statistics for the next 20 years. The formulation process use the framework and tools developed by PARIS21 (or the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century). The PARIS21 model has been used in many countries, including Samoa and Tonga.

Why do we need a National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS)?

Official national statistics (statistics produced by Government) are the cornerstones of good government, and support public confidence in good government. National statistics are important indicators for the Government, business community and individuals in supporting rational and evidence-based decision-making in economic activities, investment and in involvement with society. It is a government responsibility to provide these statistics and to maintain their long-term sustainability within a well-organised statistical system. The NSDS will ensure that needed

statistics and related information are provided on a regular basis to shape evidenced based decision making, policy development and planning in the Solomon Islands. The Strategy aims to lay out the path for development of statistics across the national statistics system (NSS) to achieve a vision that by 2035 there will be a robust, sustainable, and well-coordinated statistical system providing credible official statistical information for the benefit of Solomon Islands.

What the NSDS do?

The NSDS involve all Solomon Islands' statistics users and producers. It aims to revitalise and strengthen the national statistics system (NSS) so that it will generate a regular and consistent supply of statistics, data and information. The NSDS team usually meet with statistics users and producers to discuss their current production and use of statistics, identify problems and gaps, and determine future needs. Information inside the NSDS master plan (NSDS 2015-2035), a strategic document set out the vision and goals for the NSS, outlining the kinds of statistics it will produce in order to meet the present and future needs of Solomon Islands society. The NSDS 2015-2035 build on what already exist and address legal and insti-

tutional issues, including the coordination of the national statistical system, identify technical assistance and training needs, estimate the cost of implementing the strategy, and explain how costs will be financed. The NSDS 2015-2035 strategic master document can be obtained at the NSDS secretariat office at the National Statistics Office (NSO) or downloaded on this link: <file:///C:/Users/ICTSU/Downloads/Solomon-Islands-NSDS-2015-16-to-2035.pdf>

Statistical projects that are under the NSDS umbrella and support include:

- 2019 National Population and Housing Census
- Household Income & Expenditure Survey (HIES) – Extended for National Consumer Price Index project and Gross Domestic Product (ongoing activities)
- Demographic & Health Survey (DHS) (ongoing activities)
- Village Resource Survey (VRS) (ongoing)
- Coming Labour Force Survey (LFS) (new/ongoing)
- 2017 National Agriculture Survey Project (NASP) (ongoing)

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

- Tourist arrivals fall 48.6% due to Covid-19
- Update on the upcoming Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Inflation bulletins
- And more stories on the NSDS projects that the National Statistics Office is implementing.



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