

NSO releases 2018 - 2020 GDP numbers p3



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Let's talk :

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Hello and welcome to the 16th edition of our quarterly newsletter.

Work has slowly picked up after the corona pandemic (COVID-19) and gaining momentum in the NSO office.

We are continuing to progress the 2019 Census analysis with almost all our staff involved.

In the month of May we released the new 2018 - 2020 Gross Domestic Product, GDP numbers.

We have also embarked on another of our major projects, HIES. We met with development donor partner representatives in the country and look forward to starting the project later this year.

In this issue we also have the usual Consumer Price Index bulletins for the months of January to April this year, plus the International Visitor Arrivals bulletins.

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 and recently on a quarterly frequency depending on the periodic accumulation of statistical news and events.

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 releases 2018-2020 GDP numbers

The National Statistics Office released the new 2018-2020 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures through it's Statistical Bulletin on 5th May 2022.

This statistical bulletin (5/2022) presents the GDP estimates from 2003-2020 with updated estimates, and new estimates from 2018 to 2020, the latter being the focus of the report.

The estimates record the progress of economic development during the pre-Covid19 pandemic period and the current pandemic phase as observed from the 2020 provisional estimates.

According to the report and reiterated by the Government Statistician, Mr. Douglas Kimi, mentioned that:

“users of the GDP information should note that whilst other government ministries and agencies (e.g., Ministry of Finance and Treasury, and the Central Bank) also compile key GDP aggregates on a more frequent basis for their own internal use such as for forecasting purposes, 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 stakeholders with respect to data sharing and meeting statistical requirements.”

The bulletin mentioned that real GDP growth from 2018 to 2020 regressed from a +2.7 percent growth in 2018 to a contraction of -3.4 percent in 2020.

Although real GDP at 2012 prices rose in levels from SBD\$10.6 billion to SBD\$10.7 billion by 2019, its value declined to SBD\$10.4 billion in 2020 overshadowed by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. In nominal terms, GDP reached a high of SBD\$13.2 billion in 2019 and declined to SBD\$12.6 billion in 2020, recording a -4.7 percent growth rate.

Economic growth disaggregated by economic activity from 2018 to 2019 showed mixed performances compared to 2020 where a majority of industries experienced varying negative growths.

The report showed that the Forestry and Logging industry experienced mixed growth phases of -0.8 percent in 2018, rebounding to +1.0 percent in 2019 and dropping back further to -11.4 percent in 2020.

Whilst moderate growth was experienced in the Fishing industry with an average of +3.5 percent, this was reversed by a deeper contraction of -16.6 percent in 2020. On the upside, the Agriculture industry rebounded from a negative growth of -1.1 percent in 2019 to a positive growth of +2.6 percent.

cont.p4



NSO staff with officers from the Central Bank of Solomon Islands and the Economic Reform Unit within the Ministry of Finance.

The bulletin also reported that the Manufacturing, Utilities (Electricity and Water) and Construction apart from Mining and Quarry experienced moderate to strong progress since 2018. However, these gains were reversed in 2020 with contractions of -3.2, -1.1 and -4.8 percentages respectively.

In the services sector, the Hotels and Restaurant industry was the most severely affected in extent of a -31.5 percent contraction, indicating declines in demand on international travelers and tourism.

Moreover, albeit a strong rebounding of the Wholesale and Retail industry from a contraction in 2017 and progress in 2018, the industry withstood further contractions with a relatively slow downturn of -0.5 percent.

By expenditure components, real growth from 2018 to 2019 show expansions in Final Consumption Expenditure (FCE, +9.7 percent; +3.6 percent) driven predominantly by demands in Household and Government Consumption.

However, as consumption declined, FCE contracted to a -13.8 percent in 2020. Even with strong performances observed for Gross Fixed Capital Formation, by 2020 growth in GFCF contracted by -12.6 percent.

Moreover, Imports and Exports of Goods and Services were worst affected in 2020 (-37.1 percent; -21.8 percent) coupled with a massive decline in export of services (-61.3 percent).

NSO prepares for next major project, HIES

The HIES 2023/24 final report is expected to be released by June 2024; to be followed by the poverty analysis/report.

The National Statistics Office, NSO, on behalf of the government is planning to conduct the next Household Income Expenditure Survey, HIES, 2023/2024.

The HIES is NSO's next major project after the 2019 Census Project.

Speaking at a presentation to donor partners at the Heritage Park Hotel on Wednesday 15th June 2022, the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi announced the proposed pre-numeration work can begin around the fourth quarter of 2022.

"Resource mobilization efforts have begun", he said.

"The timing is appropriate as the 2019 Census Analysis is planned for release by August 2022, and the NSO staff will be fully available by then to engage in the project."



A donor representative asking a question.

period", he said.

"It will be implemented by about 18 teams comprising of more than 80 field officers.

"The field enumeration is expected to start in mid-March 2023 and end in mid-March 2024."

The HIES 2023/24 final report is expected to be released by June 2024; to be followed by the poverty analysis/report.

The final work-plan schedule is subject to finalisation and endorsement with the development partner.



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi speaking to the donors.

Mr. Kimi said the fourth quarter efforts will focus on preparations for office setup, recruitment of project staff, and the appointment of a HIES Director and the project team.

NSO meets with donor partners for HIES partnership



UNICEF's Pacific's Chief of Solomon Islands Field Office, Dr. Zelalem Taffesse speaking with the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi after the presentation.

The National Statistics Office has met with donor partners to discuss possible partnerships towards the 2003/24 Household Income Expenditure Survey, HIES, where preparatory work is expected to begin later this year.

The Government through the Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination (MNPDC) coordinated the meeting chaired by Mr Roy Mae, Deputy Secretary, MNPDC.

The Government Statistician Douglas Kimi with a team from the NSO made a presentation to the donors at the Heritage Park Hotel on Wednesday 15th June 2022 about the project.

Donor and development partners in the country including UNICEF, Australia DFAT, Government of Japan and JICA, New Zealand High Commission, Asian Development Bank, UN Capital Development Fund, United Nations, US Embassy attended the presentation with others joining in by zoom.

The proposed total funding required for the HIES project over 2.5 years (2022-2024) is around 3.8 million US dollars.

The Government of Solomon Islands, through the NSO development budget annual ceiling, plans to meet about 27% of the total amount which is around 1 million US dollars **cont.p7**

while the Development partners are expected to provide the additional 73% of the total amount which is around 2.8 million dollars.

Mr Kimi explained the primary objective of the survey is to update the weights of the current basket of commodities of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as to capture the changing behavior of households and also modernize the official measure of inflation.

“The HIES is also a key data source for updating the country’s national accounts estimates, especially the household final consumption expenditure and informal sector components of the GDP”, he said.

Mr Kimi highlighted that it is timely that the current poverty incidence be updated with new data from the 2023/24 HIES.

“The HIES data is the source of the country’s official poverty indicators and is a requirement of the Sustainable Development Goal 1.”

The development partners asked questions about the survey after the presentation and re-assured the NSO of the importance of the HIES and their consideration towards supporting the HIES project.

UNICEF Pacific’s Chief of Solomon Islands Field Office, Dr. Zelalem Taffesse said they will contact NSO within the coming days to further explore the types of support that can be provided.

“Thank you very much for the presentation. We will be contacting you soon to further discuss our support.”



Statistics Advisor Dr. Willie Lahari answering questions from the donors.

Consumer Price Index Releases from January to April 2022



CPI was stable in January 2022 compared to previous month

The National Consumer Price Index (CPI) was stable at 107.8 in January 2022 compared to the previous month.

The latest CPI bulletin was released by the National Statistics Office on Monday 4th January 2022.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said through the year, compared to the same month in 2021, the National CPI rose 1.0 percent.

Mr Kimi said the most significant changes by major expenditure groups from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.2%),
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-0.8%),
- Clothing & Footwear: (-7.3%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+1.0%),
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (+0.1%)

“The Solomon Islands inflation rate for the month of January 2022 calculated on a 3-months moving average basis was +2.1%,” Mr Kimi said.

“The corresponding inflation rates for imported items was +5.2%, while other (domestic) items inflation rate was +0.9%.

“The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3-months moving average was observed between +1.5% and +1.6% for January 2022.”

Meanwhile, the headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a 3-months moving average basis were: Honiara: (+2.6%); Auki: (+1.0%); Gizo: (+8.9%); and Noro: (-0.8%).

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

Honiara: (+0.9%)

The most significant changes in movements include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.5%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+3.9%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+2.1%)

cont.p9

- Transport: (-1.6%)

Auki: (+0.7%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+1.2%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-0.7%)
- Clothing & Footwear: (-4.7%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+2.0%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.6%)

Gizo: (-2.0%)

The main drivers to these movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (-6.7%) /
- Alcoholic beverages and narcotics: (+7.7%)

- Clothing & Footwear: (-0.6%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+1.3%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+1.5%)

Noro: (0.0%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.2%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-0.6%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+2.1%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.5%)
- Transport: (+0.2%)
- Restaurants & Hotels: (-2.2%)



In Honiara, the most significant changes in movements in January 2022 include food and non-alcoholic beverages: (+0.5%)

CPI drops 0.5 percent in February

The National Consumer Price Index (CPI) dropped 0.5 percent to 107.5 in February 2022.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi released the report on Tuesday 26th April 2022.

Mr Kimi said through the year, compared to the same month in 2021, the National CPI declined by 2.8 percent.

He said the most significant changes by major expenditure groups from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.2%),
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-3.3%),
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (-0.2%)
- Miscellaneous good & services: (+0.1)

At the same time, the Solomon Islands inflation rate for the month of January 2022 calculated on a 3-months moving average basis was +0.6%.

“The corresponding inflation rates for imported items was +5.1%, while other (domestic) items inflation rate was -1.2%,” Mr Kimi said.

“The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3-months moving average was observed between +1.8% and +1.9% for January 2022.

“The headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a

3-months moving average basis were: Honiara: (+1.6%); Auki: (+1.2%); Gizo: (+7.6%); and Noro: (-2.0%).”

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

Honiara: (+1.0%)

The most significant changes in movements include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.7%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+2.0%)
- Clothing & Footwear: (+1.3%)
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (-0.4%)
- Transport: (+4.1%)
- Education: (+6.2%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (-0.5%)

Auki: (+0.4%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.5%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-1.4%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+1.9%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (-0.1%)

Gizo: (+1.4%)

The main drivers to this movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (0.6%)

cont.p11

- Food and non-Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+0.9%)
- Clothing & Footwear: (-0.4%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (-0.2%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (-0.6%)
- Transport: (+8.4%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+2.6%)

Noro: 0.3%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.4%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+0.7%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+0.5%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.5%)
- Transport: (+0.2%)
- Restaurants & Hotels: (-1.6%)

CPI rises 0.03 percent in March

The National Consumer Price Index (CPI) marginally rose 0.03 percent to 109.4 in March 2022.

The National Statistics Office released the latest CPI bulletin on Monday 9th May 2022.

Government Statistician Government Douglas Kimi said through the year, compared to the same month in 2021, the National CPI dropped by 2.7 percent.

He said the most significant changes by major expenditure groups from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+1.7%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-7.9%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels: (-0.3%)
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (+0.6%)
- Health: (-1.0%)
- Transport: (+4.5%)
- Miscellaneous good & services: (+0.1)

Mr Kimi said the Solomon Islands inflation rate for the month of March 2022 calculated on a 3-months moving average basis was -0.6%.

“The corresponding inflation rates for imported items was +6.0%, while other (domestic) items inflation rate was -3.2%.

“The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3-months moving average was observed between +2.5% and +2.8% for March 2022.”

The headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a 3-months moving average basis were:

Honiara: (-0.8%); Auki: (+1.7%); Gizo: (+7.1%); and Noro: (-2.6%).

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

Honiara: (+0.1%)

cont.p12

The most significant changes in movements include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+1.4%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-7.1%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (-1.0%)
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (+0.6%)
- Health: (-1.1%)
- Transport: (+5.1%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (-0.1%)

Auki: (+1.5%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+3.5%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-0.1%)
- Housing, water, electricity,

gas and other fuels: (-0.2%)

- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+1.9%)

- Restaurants & hotels: (+6.1%)

Gizo: (+1.9%)

The main drivers to this movements were:

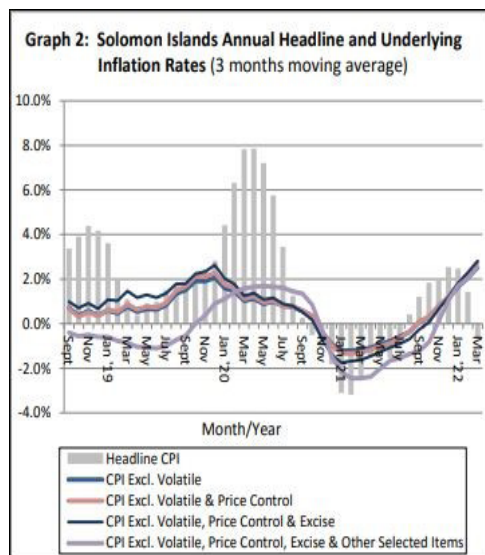
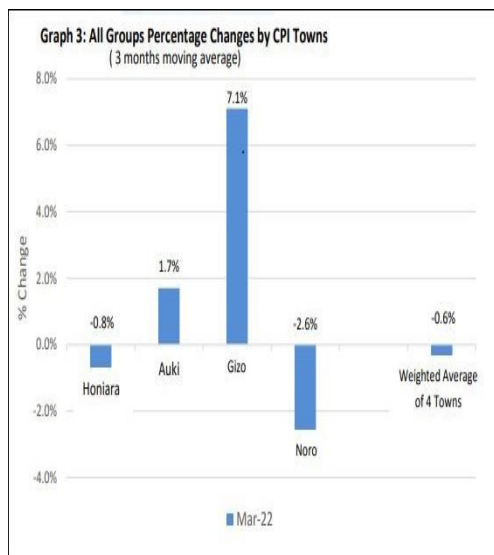
- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+5.4%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-1.0%)
- Clothing & Footwear: (-0.5%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+0.5%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.1%)
- Transport: (-2.5%)
- Miscellaneous goods &

services: (+1.1%)

Noro: (0.7%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+4.7%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-0.1%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (-0.3%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (-0.2%)
- Restaurants & Hotels: (+7.7%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (-0.4%)



CPI Increases by 1.9 percent in April Honiara: (+2.0%)

The National Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.9 percent to 111.5 in April 2022.

The National Statistics Office released the latest bulletin on Monday 20th June 2022.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said through the year, compared to the same month in 2021, the National CPI rose by 1.5 percent.

He said the most significant changes by major expenditure groups from the previous month include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+3.9%),
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-1.6%),
- Clothing & Footwear: (-0.7%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels: (+1.4%)
- Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (+0.4%)
- Transport: (+3.7%)
- Miscellaneous

good & services: (+0.1)

Mr Kimi said the Solomon Islands inflation rate for the month of April 2022 calculated on a 3-months moving average basis was -0.8%.

"The corresponding inflation rates for imported items was +8.0%, while other (domestic) items inflation rate was -4.2%.

"The Solomon Islands underlying rates of inflation based on a 3-months moving average was observed between +2.9% and +3.3% for April 2022."

The headline inflation rates for the respective provincial towns calculated on a 3-months moving average basis were: Honiara: (-0.9%); Auki: (+2.7%); Gizo: (+5.9%); and Noro: (-2.2%).

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

The most significant changes in movements include:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+4.1%)
 - Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-1.7%)
 - Clothing & Footwear: (-0.8%)
 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+1.6%)
 - Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance: (+0.2%)
 - Transport: (+3.8%)
- Auki: (+1.7%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+2.7%)
 - Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-2.3%)
 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+1.3%)
 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+5.4%)
 - Transport: (+4.2%)
- Gizo: (0.0%)

The main drivers that stabilized the change in move-

ment were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (1.9%)
 - Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (-10.2%)
 - Clothing & Footwear: (+0.4%)
 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+2.1%)
 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (+0.8%)
 - Miscellaneous goods & services: (+0.8%)
- Noro: (0.6%)

The main contributors to the movements were:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages: (+0.3%)
- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics: (+3.8%)
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: (+1.9%)
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance: (-0.1%)
- Transport: (+1.3%)
- Restaurants & Hotels: (+8.3%)
- Miscellaneous goods & services: (+2.7%)

Returning Arrivals form more than half of International Arrivals in 2021 as declining trend continues



There were no visitors from Germany, Canada, Hong Kong, Netherlands and Italy to the Solomon Islands in 2021.

The total visitor arrivals to Solomon Islands over the past years shows an increasing trend up till 2019 with 28,930 visitors, but significantly declined towards 2021 with 737 visitors due to COVID restriction and measures imposed by Solomon Island Government.

The National Statistics Office released the latest International Arrivals Statistical bulletin on Thursday 5th May 2022.

Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said a decrease of 83.4% of visitors to 737 was recorded in 2021 compared to 2020 with 4,440

visitors.

“Returning residents account for more than half (72.2%) of the total arrivals in 2021.

“This is followed by Visitor Arrivals with 26.2% and Intending Residents with more than 1% of the arrivals.”

Mr Kimi said arrivals by category shows that Returning residents and Visitors make up the largest proportion of all arrivals, increasing from 97.3% in 2016 to 99.1% in 2019.

“A drastic decline of both categories was shown in 2020 and 2021 figures despite accounting for highest proportion of

arrivals,” he said.

“Intending residents have declined from 2.7% of all arrivals in 2016 to 1.6% in 2021

“A decrease in Visitor arrivals was evident for all countries of residence in 2021 compared to 2020 arrivals.”

Meanwhile a significant decline was recorded for the following markets:

Other Pacific (99.1%), other Europe (99.0%), United Kingdom (98.6%), Vanuatu (97.9%), United States of America (96.7%) France (96.6%).

There were no

visitors from Germany, Canada, Hong Kong, Netherlands and Italy who visited Solomon Islands in 2021.

Australians remain the largest group of visitors (45.7%) to the Solomon Islands with a figure of 337 in 2021 although in absolute terms this was a substantial decrease compared to 2020 figure of 1,814.

Year	Returning Resident	Intending Resident	Visitors	Total
2016	22,298	1,256	23,194	46,748
2017	26,408	706	25,709	52,823
2018	28,227	945	27,866	56,438
2019	26,774	360	28,930	56,064
2020	6,202	93	4,440	10,734
2021	2,030	44	737	2,811
Percentage Change (%)				
2015-2016	15.9	-57.5	7.3	6.7
2016-2017	18.4	-43.8	10.8	13.0
2017-2018	6.9	-51.1	8.4	6.8
2018-2019	-5.1	4.3	3.8	-0.7
2019-2020	-76.8	-74.2	-84.7	-80.9
2020-2021	-67.3	-52.7	-83.4	-73.8

Country records 1044 international visitors in first quarter

There were 1044 international arrivals into the country in the first quarter of 2022.

The National Statistics Office released the first quarter of International Arrivals statistics for this year on Wednesday 25th May 2022.

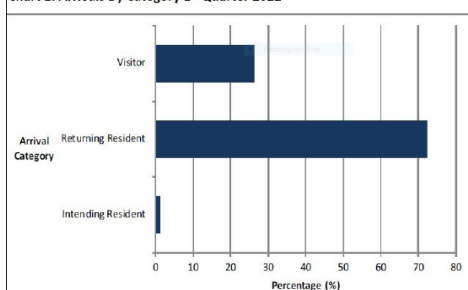
Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said the 1044 total arrivals recorded in the first quarter is a decrease of 11.1% compared to the previous quarter (4th quarter 2021).

But he said compared to the same quarter a year ago, an increase of 28.4% was recorded.

“Returning residents made up 72.5% of arrivals for first quarter 2022.

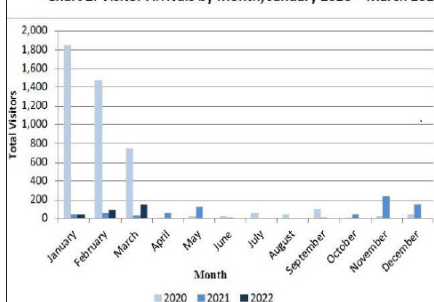
“This was followed by Visitors with 26.3% of arrivals and the remaining 1.0% were Intending residents.”

Chart 1: Arrivals By Category 1st Quarter 2022



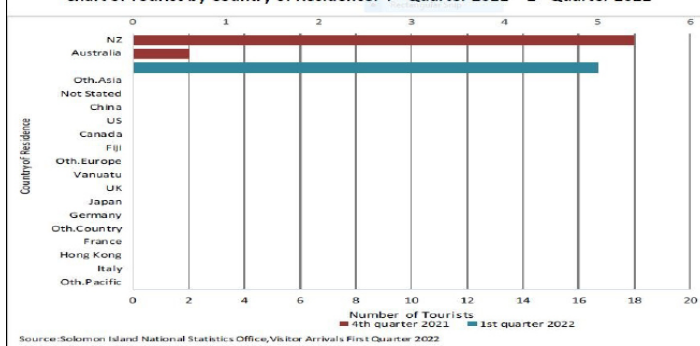
Source: Solomon Island National Statistics Office, Visitors Arrival First Quarter 2022

Chart 2: Visitor Arrivals by Month, January 2020 – March 2022



Source: Solomon Island National Statistics Office, Visitors Arrival First Quarter 2022

Chart 3: Tourist by Country of Residence: 4th Quarter 2021 – 1st Quarter 2022



Source: Solomon Island National Statistics Office, Visitor Arrivals First Quarter 2022

cont.p18

NSO stories in pictures



NSO meeting with ERU Unit of MOFT and CBSI



Swabbing during second wave of COVID-19 story p19



Mr Kimi said visitor arrivals for the first quarter decreased by 34.7% to 275 visitors, compared to the fourth quarter 2021 figure of 421 visitors.

However, there was an increase of 113.2% in visitor arrivals from first quarter 2021 to first quarter 2022. Arrivals by country of residence for the first quarter 2022 showed that Australia (50.0%) recorded the largest group of visitors to the Solomon Islands.

There was an increase 39.6% to 275 Australian visitors compared to the fourth quarter of 2021 figure of 197.

The next largest group of visitors were from Papua New Guinea (32.0%) followed by United States of America (5.6%), United Kingdom (4.0%), Other Country (2.2%), Netherlands (1.8%), Not Stated (1.1%), New Zealand and Germany (0.9%), Japan and Vanuatu (0.4%), and Other Europe, Other Asia, Italy and China (0.2%).

At the same time, visitor arrivals by month showed that March recorded the highest number of arrivals in the first quarter of 2022 with 143 visitors.

This was followed by month of February with a total of 86 visitors and January the

least with 46 visitors.

Total visitor arrivals to Solomon Islands over the past years showed an increasing trend up till end of 2019 when the trend began to decline due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the subsequent travel restrictions imposed by Solomon Island Government in March 2020 onwards.

Recent directives from the government confirm that border restrictions will be lifted and that international and domestic airports will be opened on July 1, 2022 and thus the NSO expects to see the trend in arrivals into the country slowly pick up again.

2021 Christmas committee hosts lunch

On Wednesday 13th April 2022, the NSO staff had a lunch organized by the Christmas committee of 2021. The event saw the staff coming together for food and drinks and some updates.

Committee Chair person Ian Ghesimate congratulated his committee for a great job since they were elected last year. He said despite their differences, they were able to continue working together and

produced good results. One of those was their success in raising money to pay for the NSO Staff's Christmas Party uniform for 2021. The committee held several fundraising fortnights with card games and contributions. When the NSO Staff went for their annual Christmas party at the MOFT Headquarters December last year, they cut a bright light with their maroon and orange colors. The Government Statistician, the Deputy Government Statistician and the Statistics Advisor also shared their thoughts and acknowledged the committee and the staff for their overall efforts. Dr. Willie Lahari commended everyone for always having a smile on their face even on bad days and being cheerful about their duties. A new committee was proposed to be elected after the lunch and a date was set for the election.



Chairman Ian Ghesimate speaking at the luncheon.

NSO meets ERU and CBSI on 2018-2020 GDP

The National Statistics Office (NSO) met with the Central Bank of Solomon Islands and the Economic Reform Unit within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to discuss the production of the new 2018-2020 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates by the NSO before the official release planned from Tuesday 12 April, 2022.

Chief Statistician Economic Andrew Kakate led the discussions on Monday 11th April 2022 with the support of the NSO Advisor Dr. Willie Lahari at the NSO office that also included the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi.

Those who participated included Economic Statisticians from the Economic Unit, and Economists from the Central Bank of Solomon Islands, CBSI and the Economic Reform Unit within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury who were in attendance.

Mr Kakate said CBSI and ERU also produce their own produce GDP estimates for internal use and mainly for forecasting purposes and for monetary and fiscal policy and that it was useful for NSO to be able to compare its estimates with theirs and also draw from feedback on any economic issues that emanated out of the figures.

“The talks focused mainly on economic growth rates by various industry and whether these figures met with economic expectation and assumptions by the CBSI and the ERU, especially if the movements in growth were within expected directions and magnitudes when looking at the numbers”, he said.

“The discussion was also important to take into account reasons as to why the GDP numbers may appear different or similar especially during the Covid-19 impact in 2020.”

Primula Mua and Kevis Kimasaru from ERU said that ERU’s estimates closely correspond to NSO’s actual GDP figures.

Katie Longeau from CBSI also echoed similar sentiments.

The group wrapped up their meeting with an agreement to jointly collaborate on future projects including the technical assistance on the supply-use tables and input-output tables and also the support for the proposed 2023/4 Household Income and Expenditure Survey to update the GDP household consumption estimates. Overall, it was a successful discussion. NSO released the GDP estimates for 2020 on Tuesday 12 April 2022.

Second wave, more swabs

The second wave of the Corona Virus hit the capital Honiara in April 2022. Following the procedures in place, the NSO staff again made the necessary rounds to the Finance Headquarters for swab tests. Three officers were positive on	the first day of swabbing and had to be transported back home. Others were tested positive the following days. This time around though, the virus was not very strong and most of the staff were able to return to work after only a few days of being sick.
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NSO farewells two late colleagues

The year 2021 has not been very kind to the NSO. The office lost two of their colleagues and their passing was felt greatly.

In July last year, NSO said good bye to late Joana Basi from the Economics Unit.

A Principal Statistician, Ms Basi was the recipient of the NSO Division's award for Most Outstanding officer in 2020.

In the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi's own words she was "a very promising statistician."

In early November, the office again lost another colleague, Raphael Aipaina. He was NSO's longest serving staff.

True to their love and respect for their late colleagues, the NSO officers shouldered their sending off.

They stayed with their families, and took on the responsibility of transporting their bodies from the Central Hospital morgue to their homes, and later to the funeral services.

What came naturally and almost as an unspoken agreement, was for the staff to wear their official uniforms during these sad occasions. It reminded one of soldiers honouring their fallen comrades in full attire.

It showed their sympathy and sorrow, but at the same time unity and strength as they stood together and carried out their duties accordingly.

It is a beautiful culture that upholds the beliefs ingrained within us as humans and co-labourers in this case within the public service, that no matter what, we stand together.

And we honour our fallen comrades even in their deaths.



Late Joana Basi



Carrying late Raphael's casket



Paying their last respects.



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