

# Experience from the 2021 ICP cycle and challenges for the 2024 ICP cycle

REGIONAL STATISTICS  
CARICOM SECRETARIAT



YEAR  
OF  
STATISTICS  
2024-2025

(IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH STATISTICS)  
STRENGTHENING AND INNOVATING TOGETHER

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Experience from 2021 cycle
  - Participating countries
  - Data Sources
  - Challenges
  - Best Practices/Benefits
- Challenges and Recommendations for 2024 cycle

# EXPERIENCE FROM 2021 CYCLE

## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

17 countries of the CARICOM Region participated in the 2021 cycle as follows:-

### Member States

- ☐ Antigua and Barbuda
- ☐ Belize
- ☐ Dominica
- ☐ Grenada
- ☐ Guyana
- ☐ Jamaica
- ☐ Montserrat
- ☐ St. Kitts and Nevis
- ☐ Saint Lucia
- ☐ St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- ☐ Suriname
- ☐ Trinidad and Tobago

### Associate Members

- ☐ Anguilla
- ☐ Bermuda
- ☐ British Virgin Islands
- ☐ Curacao
- ☐ Turks and Caicos

# EXPERIENCE FROM 2021 CYCLE

## DATA SOURCES FOR ICP

### Household Consumption Survey



For most member countries, prices were mainly extracted from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket but additional data collection was done for items for not found in CPI basket to ensure comprehensive coverage in few cases while others could only provide data from the CPI basket that coincided with ICP products.

At least two Member countries conducted a separate price collection for the ICP. Feedback received indicated that it was because items listed in the CPI basket varies from that of the ICP, specifically because the CPI specifications did not match the specifications in the ICP catalogue



Prices were collected via face to face interviews, telephone interviews and the internet from supermarkets, markets, pharmacies and retails stores.

# EXPERIENCE FROM 2021 CYCLE DATA SOURCES FOR ICP

## Special Surveys/MORES



**Housing Rental Survey** - Data collected from landlords, real estate companies, government agencies via websites and telephone interviews. Other sources used included Census data (outdated in some cases) and labour force survey

**Machinery and Equipment** - Data collected directly from companies for some countries. Others used trade data applying specific adjustments to these data with assumptions based on consumption patterns of specific product groups.

**Construction** - Data collected from companies via website, telephone interviews. Limited to mainly major construction companies due to limited resources in some countries.

**Government – Administrative sources** such as Budget Division, Ministry of Finance

**Private Education** - Collected from Private Schools via websites, telephone interviews

**\*\* However, many countries just submitted data from ICP basket where available.\*\***

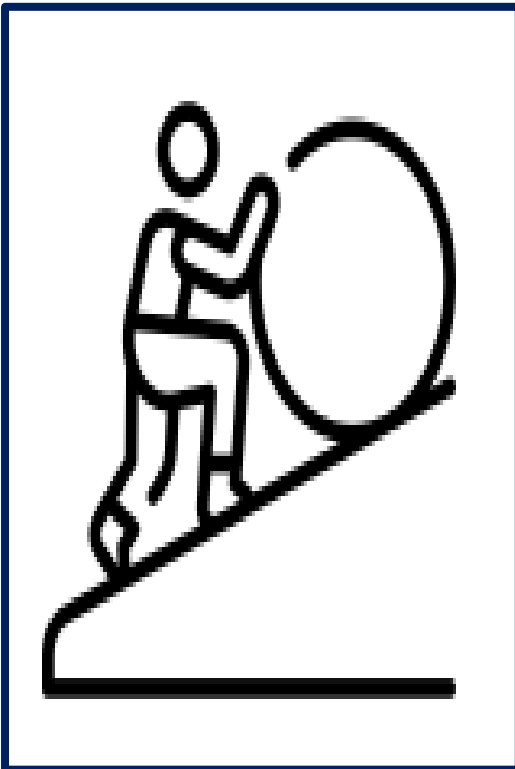


**National Accounts/MORES** – Data collected from Household Budget Survey (HBS), National Accounts and External and Real Sector Statistics.

For other Member countries, in the absence of an HBS/Survey of Living Conditions, administrative data were used including Merchandise trade statistics.

# EXPERIENCE FROM 2021 CYCLE CHALLENGES

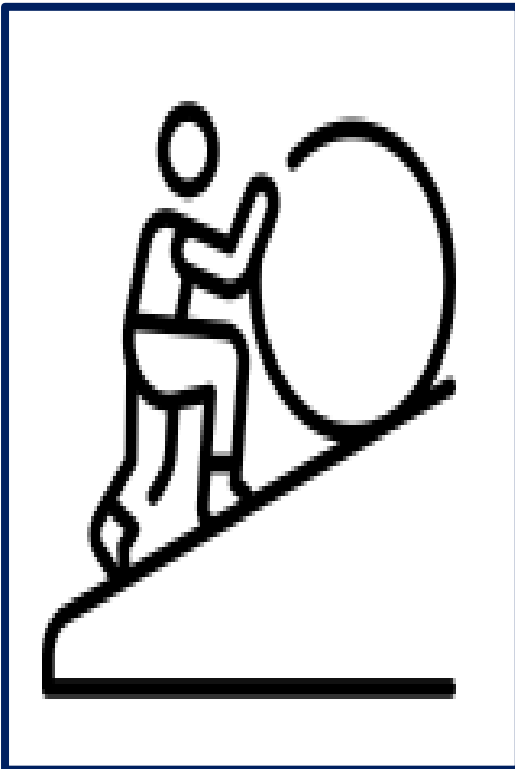
## Household Consumption Survey



- ☐ *Lack of cooperation* by retailers to provide data, some refused to participate or declined to provide prices for specific items.
- ☐ Due to the *large number of items* and the *detailed specifications*, in some cases field officers had to visit *a significant number* of retailers in order to collect prices for all the items on the list.
- ☐ The *absence of a number of items* on the local market as specified in the catalogue.
- ☐ Products constantly changed or were sometimes out of stock at the outlets.
- ☐ Many brands *were not available* and had to be substituted with other ‘well known’ brands from the same outlets.
- ☐ Conversion of units of measurement for some items. Some units of measurement required by ICP are either too large or too small, e.g. canned and packet items require different measurements.
- ☐ For those countries submitting data only from their CPI basket, the items did not necessarily cover every area in ICP.

# EXPERIENCE FROM 2021 CYCLE CHALLENGES

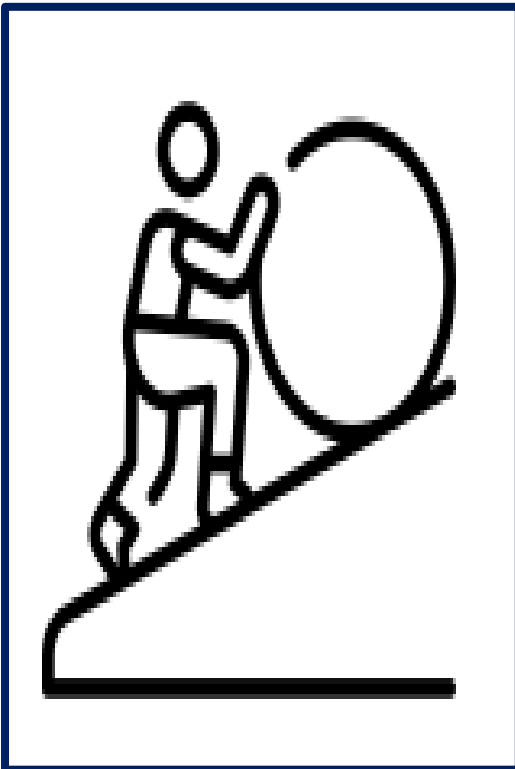
## Special Surveys



- In relation to the **Construction survey**, some items were not locally available (e.g Common bricks, Clay roof tiles). Also some of the specifications for some items were not available on the local market.
- In relation to the **Machinery and Equipment survey**, for some countries, there were no enterprises having rented machines without operator.
- In relation to **Government compensation**, there were countries where it became evident that certain requested indicators were not compatible with the specific economic and administrative context of the country/island and thus proxies were selected that best reflected the unique circumstances and data landscape of the country/island.
- In relation to **Housing rental**, while the survey requires rent to be collected by size of the unit, rent is priced mainly by location and number of rooms.
- In general, for all **Special surveys**, additional challenges included the unwillingness of some data providers to provide information for certain special surveys, the surveys were very time-consuming and lack of man power to conduct these surveys. Some countries therefore **ONLY** provide data for Household consumption survey.

# EXPERIENCE FROM 2021 CYCLE CHALLENGES

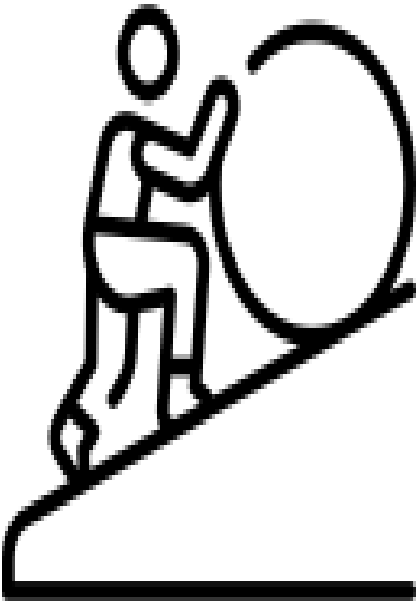
## GDP/MORES



- Some Member countries do not compile GDP by expenditure.
- Others reported unavailability of updated GDP by expenditure and data under the classification of the functions of government (COFOG) resulted in delays for compilation of the MORES.
- Absence of comprehensive data sources and/or outdated data sources in some cases.
- Other regular work demands did not allow sufficient time to be dedicated to the compilation of this table for some countries.

# EXPERIENCE FROM 2021 CYCLE CHALLENGES

## Financial and Human Resources



- Competing priorities with other surveys such as the Household Budget Survey (HBS).
- Statisticians had to assist in the collection of ICP due to lack of price collectors which left them burdened by the amount of work required.
- Time consuming due to method of collection and limited in-house personnel.
- Not enough persons are available to collect the prices and zero funds available to hire additional personnel especially to conduct some of the special surveys.

# EXPERIENCE FROM 2021 CYCLE BEST PRACTICES/BENEFITS



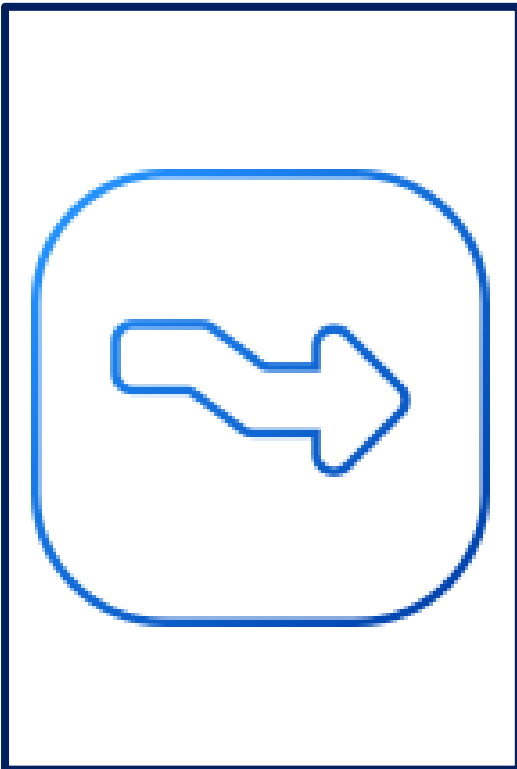
## BEST PRACTICES

- Adaptation of the product descriptions from the ICP as much as possible to the CPI basket.
- Improved specifications and metadata in the CPI which can lead to better data collection for ICP

## BENEFITS

- Staff knowledge was enhanced especially in relation to price statistics specifically product specifications as well as improved understanding of the inter-relatedness between the household surveys and National Accounts.
- ICP Exercise fostered the development of good partnerships/relationships within the CARICOM region especially among the prices statisticians.
- Assisted in the refinement of some of the GDP expenditure estimates produced by some Member States

# CURRENT 2024 CYCLE CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



## Challenges

- All previously mentioned challenges remain the same for this new ICP cycle.
- Some countries will only be able to participate in the Household consumption survey due to the lack of financial and human resources.
- At least two of Member countries will be conducting their population and Housing Census in 2024 which may hamper their ability to participate effectively for rest of this current cycle.

## Recommendations

- Request for a specialist technical support person to work within the region for the duration of the next ICP round.
- Training of trainers programme for experts in the Region to establish capabilities which can lead to the building of Centres of Excellence.

# CURRENT 2024 CYCLE CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



## Request for Support

- Some countries have requested financial support to assist with price collection and data entry for both Household surveys and for the Special surveys.



# THANK YOU

PLEASE CONTACT:

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