



THE CULTURE OF DATA: WHERE DOES THE CARIBBEAN STAND?

THE STATIN PERSPECTIVE

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Presented by:

Miss Jessica Campbell

Director, RD&E

Statistical Institute of Jamaica



QUALITY DATA

- Quality data is critical to informing evidence-based decision making and to monitoring the performance of countries on various indicators, among other things
- Quality data is characterized by its:
 - Accuracy – is it correct?
 - Completeness – is it comprehensive?
 - Reliability – is it contradictory to other sources?
 - Relevance – is it needed?
 - Timeliness – is it up-to-date?



QUALITY DATA

- Data quality is impacted by statistical capacity
 - Statistical capacity is impacted by various things such as human and financial resources
- To add value, statistical data must be used
 - Use of data is affected by data quality, availability, knowledge of its existence and how to use it, etc.
- Statistical capacity in the Caribbean has been described as low/weak
 - How does STATIN contribute to the culture of data in Caribbean?
 - To answer this, I will tell you what we do at STATIN



STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Background
- Data Produced
- Data Sharing
- Data Usage
- Challenges/Constraints
- Capacity Building
- The Way Forward



BACKGROUND



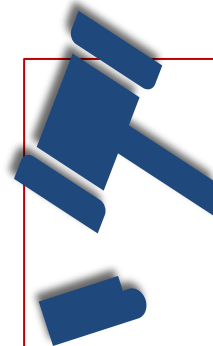
Jamaica's National
Statistics Office (NSO)



collect, compile,
analyze and publish
official statistical data



Statutory body in the
MOFPS



Statistics
(Amendment) Act
1984



BACKGROUND

- The data produced by STATIN adhere to several international standards and guidelines to ensure quality data. These include:
 - the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
 - Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - International Classifications Systems such as ISIV Rev. 4, ISCO 2008, Harmonised System, SITC, etc.
 - IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard
 - Other programme specific recommendations such as the ILO's ICLS for labour market indicators and UN Principles and Recommendations for household surveys.
- Internal statistical and editorial reviews help to ensure quality data is published



BACKGROUND

- STATIN conducts several routine household and economic surveys:
 - Labour Force Survey
 - House Rental Survey
 - Survey of Living Conditions
 - Population and Housing Census
 - Household Expenditure Survey
 - Annual National Income Survey
 - Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours Worked
 - CPI and PPI data collection



BACKGROUND

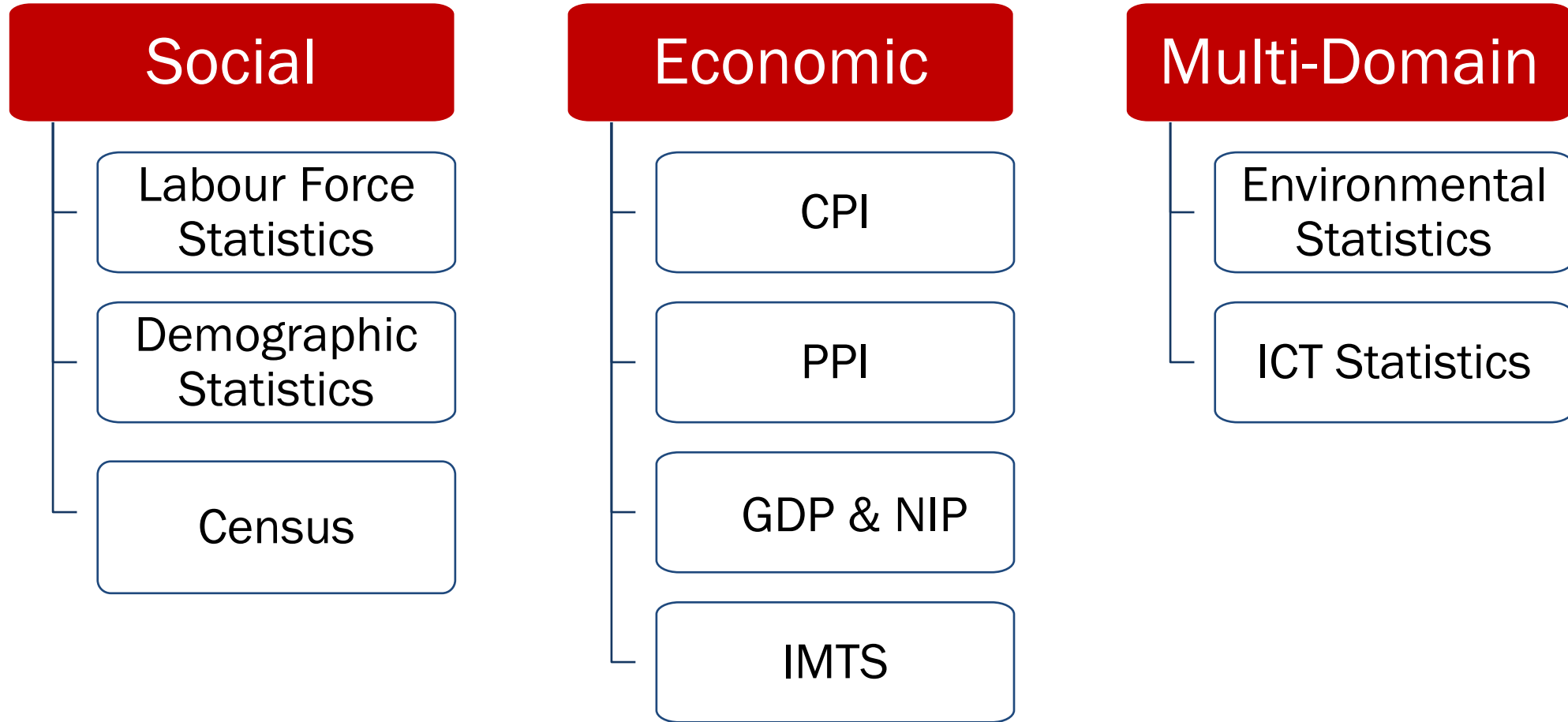
- STATIN conducts ad-hoc surveys on behalf of clients such as:
 - Reproductive Health Survey
 - Jamaica National Crime Victimization Survey
 - Women's Health Survey
 - Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey
 - School-to-work transition Survey
 - Inflation Expectation Survey
 - Jamaica Survey of Establishment Survey
- Data collection is primarily CAPI via the World bank developed Survey Solutions
 - GPS location is a standard question on all questionnaires



- STATIN also collects administrative data to compile economic and demographic statistics
 - Through partnerships with other government agencies such as Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), Registrar General Department (RGD), Jamaica Customs, Tax Administration Jamaica and others



DATA PRODUCED





DATA SHARING



Infographics

Data is shared via infographics to make it more user friendly

Bulletins and press releases are done monthly or quarterly depending on the product

Bulletins & Press Releases



Annual Reports

Annual reports are published for statistical products



DATA SHARING





DATA USAGE

- Various stakeholders use the data published by STATIN including academics, MDAs, IDPs and businesses
- Greater appreciation for data as evidence of the performance of the country
 - Data is used in political discussions, especially with the impending elections in Jamaica. The labour force statistics, CPI and poverty rates are among the most used statistics in political discussions



CHALLENGES/ CONSTRAINTS

- Insufficient staff
- High staff turnover
- Low remuneration (generally and when compared to other government agencies) which affect the ability to attract suitably qualified applicants
 - Restructure STATIN to ensure adequate staff allotment, better remuneration and greater efficiency
 - Capacity building



CAPACITY BUILDING

- Continuous efforts to keep abreast of improvements/revisions and new methodologies and techniques as we adapt to changing times
 - Participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, courses; e.g.:
 - ILO's ICLS meetings
 - Meeting of the Weisbaden Group on Business Register
 - Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians
 - Short courses offered locally e.g. leadership, administration, project management, etc.
- Participation in initiatives developed by organizations such as UNECLAC, World Bank, CARTAC, PRASC, CDB, etc. to build capacity



CAPACITY BUILDING

- Internal capacity building
 - For example, new hires are exposed to the use of SAS and exposed to the work of STATIN
 - Meetings where the work of the technical divisions is broken down and the concepts/procedures etc. are explained to all statisticians
- Internships are offered to students of statistics at Jamaica-based universities



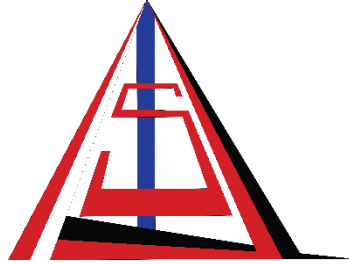
THE WAY FORWARD

- Ensure adequate staffing, compensation and seek to continuously build statistical capacity
- Use techniques such as small area estimation and geospatial data to diversify/expand the data produced
- Be responsive to user needs and provide the data needed in timely manner to encourage use
 - For example, produce business statistics, other indices such as Real Estate and Construction, XMPI, IIP, data on creative industries, etc.



THE WAY FORWARD

- Data is available but public education about its importance and usefulness is needed
 - STATIN takes the opportunity to provide information about our products and services at career fairs, expositions, presentations to schools, colouring and puzzle books for schools, STATIN open day, etc.
- Develop and implement strategies geared at sensitizing the public about the importance and usefulness of data
- Find innovative ways of publishing data so that users can interact independently



STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

(STATIN)

7 CECELIO AVENUE

KINGSTON 10

JAMAICA W.I.

(876) 630-1600

 INFO@STATINJA.GOV.JM |  WWW.STATINJA.GOV.JM

   @STATINJA



**Thank You for Your
Attention**