



Anguilla Statistics Department
Ministry of Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism
Government of Anguilla
The Valley, ANGUILLA, B.W.I.



Anguilla Statistics Week October 13 – 18 “Statistics in Every Life – Let us Educate and Appreciate”

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**Statistics Week 2013
Theme: “Statistics in Every Life – Let us Educate and Appreciate”.**

On behalf of the Ministry of Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism I would like to congratulate the Anguilla Statistics Department for its efforts over the years to sensitise the Anguilla public about statistics and the important role they play in everyday life.

Particularly the events slated for Statistics Week 2013, which culminates tomorrow October 18, 2013, under the Theme: “Statistics in Every Life – Let us Educate and Appreciate”. These events are yet again evidence of the various avenues the Statistic Department has employed to engage the general public on the importance of statistics.

The job of a Permanent Secretary often involves analyzing information and statistics in order to inform public policy and plan the delivery of services. In fact, the development and implementation of good public policies and plans are anchored by good research and statistics. These elements are an indispensable part of the policy development process.

In reality government officials use statistics to inform their work in a similar fashion to the householder as he or she manages the finances of the home, or in like fashion to children playing marbles on the field. In both these instances counts are made of the relevant activity that the homeowner or the child is interested in. How many cans of milk I can buy with the money available while having enough left over to purchase bread, sugar or chicken. Or at what time of year do the children drink more water and need refreshments? Is it during the hot summer months or is it December when things tend to be cooler. With regard to children playing marbles I am sure everybody is aware of the importance of keeping count of how many marbles you win from your playmates as opposed to how much you brought to the game; especially if you are playing for “keeps”.

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These are all examples of how we use statistics in our daily lives. Croxton and Crowed said that “Statistics can be defined as the collection, presentation and interpretation of numerical data”. Therefore whether we realize it or not in some way shape or form we are all amateur statisticians.

Statistical modeling can get more complex as we employ different methodologies to difficult national problems. For example what is the prevalence or incidence of certain diseases in the community? What is the age group most impacted by these health issues. How are these diseases impacting the national productivity of the work force? What is causing the diseases? And what are the most cost effective disease control options available that will bring the greatest value for money, and the best public health impact.

Another example of the use of statistics in the development of good public policy relates to the tourism sector. No one can argue that tourism is the main stay of the Anguilla economy. It has been that way for the last three decades. The Government spends millions of dollars on a yearly basis in the sector to market and promote Anguilla internationally, as well as provide funding for staffing and other related activities.

It is important then for the Government to measure the impact of its expenditure to ascertain the returns it gets from investing in the promotions and marketing of Anguilla. This is normally done, in part, through analyzing exit surveys conducted at the ports, as well as information provided on immigration and customs forms. To this end the Government is in the process of revising immigration and customs entry forms so that more pertinent information can be gleaned. It is hoped that this new initiative will be in place later this year.

Through the analysis of tourism data we can ascertain where our best source markets are, determine where to place resources, and research emerging markets with the view of tapping visitors from non-traditional source countries. In fact through this type of research the Government and the ATB have identified South America as a region that promises to be a good source market for Anguilla.

Additionally, the development of a Tourism Policy for Anguilla which, will soon be the subject of public consultations, will again open up the discussion with regard to Anguilla staying the course of High Value Low Volume Tourism or branching out into mass tourism I am sure. The direction Anguilla takes in the future must be based on hard research and analysis as opposed to anecdotal information.

As you are aware once a decade the government conducts a national census that is designed to provide extremely pertinent information on the populace. This information coupled with that from other surveys such as Poverty Assessment, Workforce and Labour force is used to plan the delivery of health, education, employment and other social services. It is therefore important that all Anguillians participate in these surveys as they are the main mechanism designed to plan services for all sectors of the populations in all age groups.

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) has been of great assistance to the Government of Anguilla with regard to the collection, analysis and dissemination of economic statistics. The Statistics Department works very closely with the ECCB throughout the year produce economic data in order to ensure that the government, international agencies and other international governments have access to timely economic statistics. Anguilla’s economic indices are monitored by donor agencies, the financial sector, local and international lending institutions, rating agencies and investors to ensure that the country has a stable economic climate and a sustained growth path. The current global economic crisis has

hampered our economic development over the last five years as borne out in our current economic indices.

It is obvious that there is a need to have highly trained personnel in the Statistics Department to provide the Government with foundation information for the development of policies and programmes. The government of Anguilla has invested in the training of individuals who are working hard to ensure that there is a robust Statistics Department in Anguilla. However, one of the main challenges in the cooperation from the business sector and the general public at large with regard to providing information and the completion of surveys.

Rest assured that the Anguilla Statistics Department by law cannot use the information for nefarious purposes and does not release information which would allow for the identification of any individual or business. It also does not and cannot share specific identifying information; not even with Permanent Secretaries or other government departments. The operations of the department are highly confidential.

Planning the provision and delivery of services to the public, the development of good public policies, the provision of economic data, the publication of trade data, the ability of the government to compete on the world market for funding and grants, and the general development trajectory of Anguilla on a whole is dependent on the availability of valid statistics. These can only be made available if everybody gets involve at the individual, household, business and national levels to provide information when requested. Because as you know: “Statistics in Every Life – Let us Educate and Appreciate”.

**I thank you.
October 17, 2013**