

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM  
OF ANGUILLA

2005 – 9

Chapter 3 Demand for Statistics

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## 3 Demand for Statistics

### ***3.1 Historical Use of Statistics***

Until the nineties, Regional Organisations such as the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and International Organisations such as the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO) were the primary users of statistics produced by the Anguilla Statistics Office. In addition, the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), a regional organisation under the World Health Organisation (WHO) were the primary requesters of Health data and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) were the primary requesters of education data. As a result, the statistics produced were those requested by these organisations, which tend to be defined at the international level for large countries and are not so relevant for use by those in Anguilla.

### ***3.2 Present Use of Statistics***

In recent years, Anguilla has put more focus on the need for planning and development, both economic and social. If programmes and policies are to be developed that are relevant to the present and future needs of Anguilla's development, then it is essential to have a broad range of accurate statistics that meet Anguilla's needs. Forecasts, projections and allocation of funds can only be done if relevant, timely and accurate statistics are available for planners and policy-makers to use.

Records of data requests have been kept since January 2002. These records are only for statistics requested by visitors, over the phone or by e-mail. They show that the demand for statistics by these means has been declining as more data users obtain their data from the Statistics web site. The Government of Anguilla makes up about a third of data users, the private sector of Anguilla makes up a half and the remaining requests come from organisations or people overseas.

The most requested data has been that available from the census. Teachers and students, those working in social and health programming and International Organisations have used census data. The census data has been most used in Anguilla by those working on the health and education sectoral plans. While those doing labour and immigration planning could have used the economic activity and immigration data, this has not been the case.

The tourism and trade data, which is produced monthly, is also used regularly. Both data sets are timely and give a good indication of economic activity. The Anguilla Tourist Board is probably the heaviest user of tourism data. Potential investors, in evaluating tourism projects, have also used the tourism data.

Trade data, as well as being a good leading and coincident indicator of economic activity, is used in estimating some of the sectors in the Gross Domestic Product table of the National Accounts and to measure domestic markets for goods. These users include the ECCB and domestic banks.

Economic data such as the National Accounts, Balance of Payments and Consumer Price Index data is mostly used by the ECCB. There is very little demand for this data within Anguilla. Even the commercial banks do not request this data and those who do request the data usually need it to complete reports requested by others. There is a great potential for the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to make use of economic data in producing economic and sectoral plans as well as in fiscal planning.

While the availability of health statistics is sparse, the little that is available is in much demand. This is partly due to the amount of research that is being done in social and health programming.

The other statistics that have been requested include some education statistics and more recently there has been an increased demand for crime and justice statistics. This is probably due to the increase in profile of violent crime in Anguilla.

### ***3.3 Future Demand for Statistics***

Clearly there is a great need to expose potential statistical users to the usefulness of statistics. This is especially the case in Anguilla both by government and the private sector. There will not be a genuine demand for statistics until more people are knowledgeable in how they can and should be used.

In addition the good will of respondents is critical to the success of surveys. This requires an increase in general of the knowledge of the usefulness of statistics by business owners and the public in general

There are few people in either the public or private sector who are accustomed to using statistics for analysis or research. People are

more accustomed to oral communication and discussion to find solutions to problems.

While there has been some use of statistics by those working in the Government of Anguilla in developing programmes, more planning work has been done in the social field than the economic field. Sectoral plans exist for education and health and the social development plan is in progress. In Anguilla, there are no sectoral plans for transportation, land use or for any of the industry sectors such as financial services, e-commerce and tourism. Building and work permits are granted without reference to a long-term plan for the economic development of the country. No manpower planning strategy exists and as a result there is no immigration strategy. There does appear to be an increased appreciation for the need for analysis and planning in some areas of the Government. This is likely to result in an increased demand for statistics and it is important that the Statistical System plan to meet this potential increased demand.

The private sector should be encouraged to make better and more use of statistics. Historically Anguilla's entrepreneurs have financed their ventures themselves and the financial institutions have not been heavily involved. This is changing and the banks do ask for business plans when evaluating loans. The quality of the market research needs to improve and is likely to, as banks put more stringent demands on borrowers to write better quality business plans when evaluating loan applications. This will result in an increased demand for economic statistics.

The Statistics Department has an important role to play in assisting potential users to understand how best to use statistics. In addition the Department of Statistics should be playing a more active role in promoting the use of statistics through, public relations, workshops and other forms of training.

There is a debate as to the extent that a Statistics Department should be doing research and analysis using their statistics. In the case of Anguilla where there are no universities or research institutions, it is probably appropriate for the Statistics Department to be doing some analysis. This would not only provide an opportunity for verification of the quality of statistics but also encourage more discussion on the findings of statistics produced and also given potential users more ideas and examples of how statistics can be used.

In summary, there is likely to be an increased demand for statistics in the future but this will need to be encouraged by the Statistics Department through education, producing analytical products and public communications programmes.

### ***3.4 Dissemination of Statistics and Statistical products***

Statistics were disseminated in a number of publications until the move to dissemination via the web at the beginning of 2003. The publications, however, have determined the organisation of statistics on the web. They were:

- Annual compendium of statistics
- Quarterly abstract of statistics
- Annual Trade report
- Annual Tourism report
- Annual National Accounts

In addition since 2001 monthly press releases giving a brief analysis have been produced for the visitor and trade data.

The web pages are being reorganised so that it will be easier for users to find statistical series. However, there is a need to produce more analysis of the data. Most people are not comfortable looking through statistical tables and have asked that more textual analysis be presented. The radio media have also asked for shorter press releases without tables.

The web, as the primary means of dissemination, will continue as it has been very well received, however, there should be more public friendly products produced.

### ***3.5 Recommendations to Increase the Demand for Statistics***

#### **3.5.1 Training in the use of statistics**

- Work with the Anguilla Development Board to provide a statistics use module in their workshops to small business
- Offer to the Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association, Anguilla Financial Services Association and the Chamber of Commerce to give workshops on using statistics to their members.
- Organise half-day workshops on finding and using statistics, at least once a year, to Government Employees. One session has already been conducted which was well received and the evaluation forms give suggestions for more specialised workshops.

- Offer to give workshops in using statistics to employees at the commercial banks and other major employers such as ANGLEC and Cable and Wireless
- Offer to give presentations to 6<sup>th</sup> form students on what statistics are available and what they mean.

### **3.5.2 Statistical Analytical Products**

1. Compendium publications with textual analysis should be produced. Examples of subjects include youth, women, the elderly, health, tourism based upon visitor and survey data, crime and justice, education and household consumption using both the trade and consumer expenditure data.
2. Quarterly economic analysis. This could be a two-page fact sheet with analysis using the various economic data. It could be circulated to the banks, heads of departments and business associations.

### **3.5.3 Public Communications**

1. Continue press releases but do two versions, a short one aimed at the radio and a second for the print media.
2. Continue the programme to produce fact sheets for general distribution to the public, school children and survey respondents.
3. Produce a fact book for potential investors, visiting dignitaries and travel agents. The printing should be of good quality and the contents should include textual analysis and charts as well as figures.
4. Produce community fact sheets for publication in the newspapers using the census data.
5. Work with the radio stations on open line programmes giving examples of how statistics can be used
6. Produce a video for use on Television that shows how statistics can be used.