

Palau

Table C. Data Integrity and Access by the Public

This table should be prepared, as appropriate, for each agency disseminating data covered by the GDDS.

AGENCY:

National Statistical Office

(Select from drop down list)

Agency Name:

Statistics Office, Ministry of Administration

Sequence Number:

(For internal IMF use only)

CONTACT PERSON(S):

(Enter the contact information of a person in the following order on separate lines:

Name, Title, Agency, Address, Telephone, Fax, E-mail Address

Leave a blank line between two persons' information.)

Contact Persons:

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Date : November 2002

DATE METADATA UPDATED:

November 2002

I. Data Produced and Disseminated

a. Comprehensive Frameworks:

The agency is responsible for production and dissemination of comprehensive frameworks in the following areas (check boxes as appropriate):

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. National Accounts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 3. Depository Corporations Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Central Government Operations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4. Balance of Payments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

b. Data Categories:

The agency is responsible for production and dissemination of the following data categories (check

boxes as appropriate):

Real sector

- National accounts aggregates
- Production index/indices
- Price indices
- Labor market indicators

Financial sector

- Broad money and credit aggregates
- Central bank aggregates
- Interest rates
- Stock market

Fiscal sector

- Central government aggregates
- Central government debt

External sector

- Balance of payments aggregates
- External debt and debt service
- International reserves
- Merchandise trade
- Exchange rates

Socio-Demographic Data

- Population
- Health
- Education
- Poverty

II. Data Integrity

a. Terms and Conditions Under Which Data are Produced and Disseminated:

Identify any applicable statistical laws, charters, or codes of conduct; procedures and processes related to the confidentiality of individual responses; and whether the laws, charters, codes, etc. are available to the public.

In December 2001, responsibility for statistical production in Palau was consolidated with the creation of the Statistics and Planning sub-division within the Bureau of Budget and Planning. Authority for statistical operations is vested in an Executive Order, but a draft Statistics Act has been submitted and is currently under consideration by the Congress.

Statistics Office staff are required to take an oath of confidentiality as an assurance to data providers that information given will be held in confidentiality. Furthermore, codes of conduct applying to all civil service employees must be adhered to.

b. Identification of Internal Government Access to Data Before Release:

List persons or officials holding designated positions within the government, but outside the agency producing the data, who have pre-release access to the data and the schedule according to which they receive access.

None.

c. Identification of Ministerial Commentary on the Occasion of Statistical Releases:

Describe the general procedures applicable and note any different practices that may apply to individual data categories.

None.

d. Provision of Information about Revisions and Advance Notice of Major Changes in Methodology:

Describe existing policy about revisions and procedures for providing advance notice of major changes in methodology. Describe any plans for changing these policies and procedures.

Most data released are provisional. Data on the macroeconomic and financial sectors may be revised as updated data become available, but socio-demographic data are only revised in exceptional circumstances.

For instance, after population census surveys are conducted, results enumerated and results are taken to the United States Census Bureau for processing and analysis. Validity checks are done during the surveys and enumeration process because once the data are taken to Washington DC for analysis and publication, results very seldom change.

<p>III. Access to Data by the Public</p> <p>a. Simultaneous Release to the Public <i>Please describe the procedures that ensure simultaneous release; variations among data categories should be noted.</i> Data are released simultaneously to all interested parties through the issuance of the “Statistical Yearbook” and CPI press releases.</p> <p>b. Advance Release Calendars <i>Identify whether advance release calendars are publicly available. If so, describe where they are disseminated, for what period (e.g., one quarter, one year); how often they are updated; and how well the actual release dates match the calendar.</i> Advance release calendars are not disseminated but dates of publications are consistent.</p>

<p>IV. Plans for Improvement <i>Describe short-term (in the next year) and medium-term (2-5 years) plans for making improvements in practices with respect to the integrity and access dimensions of the GDDS and any planned improvements of an institutional or legislative nature by the agency. Note any improvements that have been implemented in the past two years. Technical or other assistance needs that may be required for implementing these plans should also be noted, if applicable. If it has been determined that there are no shortcomings that need to be addressed, this determination should be explicitly stated.</i></p>
<p>Recent Improvements: The Office of Statistics has recently been moved to the Ministry of Administration (from the Office of the President) and is now focusing increased attention on data compilation and dissemination rather than planning. Work conducted by a temporary UNDP team on expanding data production has been handed to local counterparts. The Office of Statistics also recently hired new staff.</p>
<p>Short-Term Plans: Hire additional staff with college degrees. Promote and publicize statistical act once passed Improve on publication timeliness and frequency.</p>
<p>Medium-Term Plans: Conduct a labor force survey.</p>
<p>Technical Assistance/Financing Needs/Other Prerequisites:</p>
<p>Short-Term:</p>
<p>Medium-Term:</p>