



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Statistics Division

Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics
in Asia and the Pacific (RPES)

Report on the region-wide Capacity Screening of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

September 2015

DRAFT REPORT

These Capacity Screening results were completed based on the Capacity Screening Tool and the best possible communication between ESCAP Secretariat and representatives of its member countries. This version is prepared for consultation with the Steering Group members and does not reflect any changes made after 16th September 2015 .

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Executive Summary

The capacity screening, conducted as part of the Implementation Plan of Regional Programme for Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (RPES),¹ was administered to 58 ESCAP member countries in March 2013 and completed by 51 of them. Responses signify that most countries in the region are actively trying to build capacity for economic statistics. Several countries are participating in technical cooperation projects with organizations such as the IMF, UNFPA, ADB, PFTAC, and SPC. Countries, overall, are more interested in receiving technical assistance rather than providing it. This can be attributed in part to the lack of sufficient resources in many of these countries, which are almost exclusively smaller and/or of lower income.

A national statistical strategy has at least reached the planning stages everywhere across the region aside from just six countries, three of which are territories of larger countries. All but one of the respondents have statistical laws in place to specify the distribution of responsibilities in the national statistics system. Moreover, 38 countries reported that plans are in place to improve coordination in producing economic statistics.

Aside from the Maldives, only Pacific island developing states have no publication policies in place and/or do not have contact points publicized for each statistical domain. Pacific island developing states are also far less active in advocating for economic statistics compared to the rest of the region. This also can be partially attributed to a lack of resources. For the number of staff working on economic statistics, 15 countries reported ten people or less. All 15 are Pacific island developing states, and 14 of them reported inadequate human resources for producing and disseminating the Core Set of Economic Statistics. In total, 34 of the 51 respondents feel that their human resources are inadequate for Core Set production, while only 12 respondents feel that their IT systems are inadequate.

All responding countries compile national accounts and all but one produce a population census. Of them 48 also produce balance of payments accounts, 43 countries conduct a labour force survey, 47 countries conduct a household income and expenditure survey and 40 conduct an enterprise/establishment survey. Most of those without some of these key collections are Pacific island developing states. Only 24 of the respondents produce an economic census and those who do not are spread across all sub-regions and economic groupings. The 14 respondents that do not conduct an agricultural census often cited a lack of interest in developing one in the future due to a limited presence of agriculture within the country. In addition to Pacific island developing states, Singapore, Hong Kong SAR China, and Macao SAR China are included in this group.

Implementation of the 2008 SNA is at least planned in 38 of the responding countries. Meanwhile 24 of the responding countries use ISIC Rev. 4 or an equivalent standard for industrial classification in their national accounts compilation and another 19 have plans to update their current standard. For product classification, 14 countries use CPC Version

¹ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/5. Available at <http://www.unescap.org/official-documents/committee-on-statistics/session/2>

2 (or equivalent) and an additional 14 have plans to update to it. For the production of balance of payments 44 responding countries are either coherent with BPM6 or plan to be in the near future.

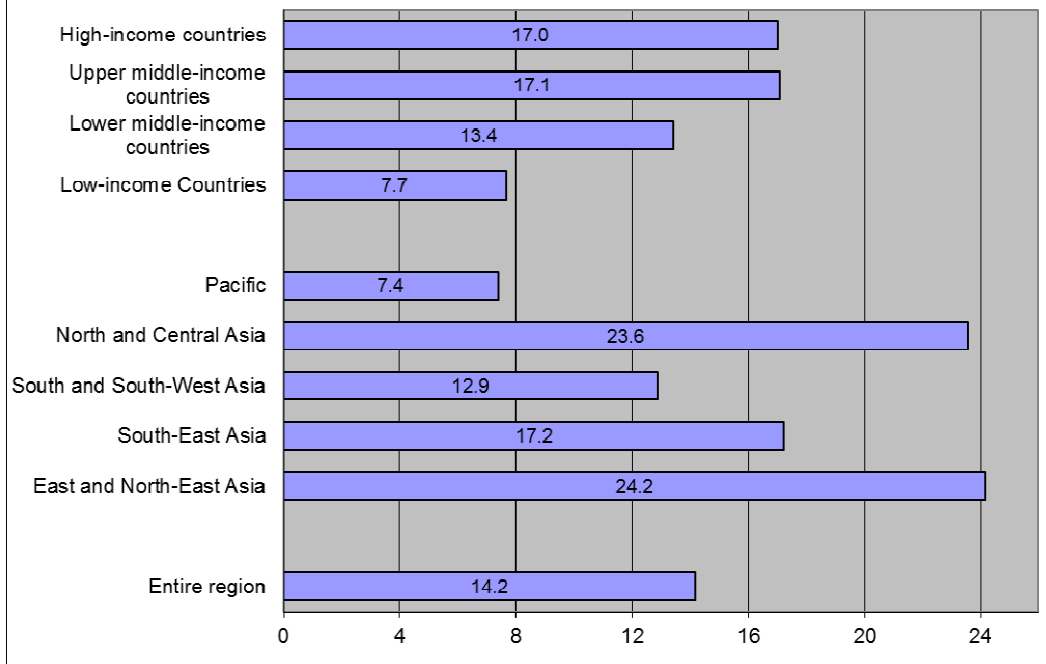
A quality assessment framework (QAF) is used by 26 countries and is planned to be implemented by another eight. 35 countries use a centralized business register while an additional 11 are planning or designing one, and three of the four without plans are Pacific island developing states.

Core Set

For each of the 31 statistics in the Core Set, a recommended frequency of production was specified by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics as a guideline. Figure 1 summarizes the average number of recommended frequencies met out of the 31 for all responding countries in the region, disaggregated by economic grouping as well as by sub-region.

Economic groupings had very little relationship with the trends of countries meeting guidelines in the Core Set, although there were some trends related to sub-regional groupings. The guidelines for most of the 31 statistics in the Core Set were met by East and North-East Asian countries such as China (26), Hong Kong SAR China (24), Japan (26), Mongolia (24) and Republic of Korea (24). The same applies to Central Asian countries such as Armenia (29), Azerbaijan (24), Kazakhstan (24), and Kyrgyzstan (21). The average number of core economic statistics met by countries in the Pacific sub-region was just over seven, and that drops to less than five and a half if Australia and New Zealand are not included.

**Figure 1:
Average number of core statistics meeting recommendations**



Aside from the CPI, all statistics in the *Prices and Cost* sub-section of the Core Set are either unavailable or produced less frequently than the stated guidelines in at least 20 countries. GDP (p) is produced at the recommended frequency (quarterly) in only 23 countries. The remaining 28 compile this indicator annually. GDP (e), on the other hand, is produced quarterly by 21 countries and annually by another 20. Consistent reporting of external trade statistics for services is a bigger challenge than that of merchandise for the region. Merchandise trade statistics are reported quarterly or annually by 16 countries in addition to the 33 reporting them at the recommended frequency (monthly). Meanwhile 28 countries meet the recommended quarterly frequency of services trade reports and another five report them annually. In the remainder of the *Demand and Output* sub-section only one of the five short-term indicators (Economy structure statistics) is produced at the recommended frequency (quarterly) by 24 respondent countries.

Balance of Payments (BoP) is compiled at the recommended quarterly frequency by 34 countries. 13 other countries produce annual BoP. As for the rest of the *Income and Wealth* statistics, the number of countries reporting that an item is not produced reaches double digits. Nearly half of the respondents (25) do not produce institutional sector accounts, while another three did not respond to the question.

The *Money and Banking* sub-section displays a wide range of responses, with interest rate statistics having the highest number (32) of countries meeting the recommended frequency of production. The two *Government* statistics (general government operations and general government debt) have a large number of respondents producing statistics annually, but the guideline for both is set at quarterly. The number of countries not

producing labour market statistics is high, with 21 not reporting labour supply and demand and 18 not reporting hours worked.

The *Natural resources* and commodity price index statistics are both unavailable in the systems of 37 and 34 countries, respectively, while another 14 of the core statistics are either unavailable or were left blank in the survey by 20 or more countries.

Introduction

One of the first activities in the Implementation Plan of RPES was to conduct a capacity screening of national statistics systems with the objective of providing a baseline for the implementation of the Core Set of Economic Statistics.²

The Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics³ developed a questionnaire for Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) member countries, which was administered to 58 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region in March 2013 and completed by 51 countries.

The 51 countries that responded to the screening make up more than 95% of the ESCAP population and over 98% of the total regional GDP, they are listed below.⁴

Responding Countries:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Afghanistan | Guam | Federated States of Micronesia | Singapore |
| American Samoa | Hong Kong SAR China | Mongolia | Solomon Islands |
| Armenia | India | Nauru | Tajikistan |
| Australia | Indonesia | New Caledonia | Thailand |
| Azerbaijan | Japan | Nepal | Tonga |
| Bangladesh | Kazakhstan | New Zealand | Turkey |
| Bhutan | Kiribati | Niue | Tuvalu |
| Brunei Darussalam | Republic of Korea | Northern Mariana Islands | Vanuatu |
| Cambodia | Kyrgyzstan | Pakistan | Viet Nam |
| China | Lao PDR | Palau | |
| Cook Islands | Macao SAR China | Papua New Guinea | |
| Fiji | Malaysia | Philippines | |
| French Polynesia | Maldives | Russian Federation | |
| Georgia | Marshall Islands | Samoa | |

The seven countries which did not respond to the survey account for less than 5% of the population and only 2% of the total regional GDP.⁴ The list of non-responding countries is given below.

Non-responding Countries:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Sri Lanka | Turkmenistan |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Timor-Leste | Uzbekistan |
| Myanmar | | |

² E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4. Available at <http://www.unescap.org/official-documents/committee-on-statistics/session/2>

³ <http://www.unescap.org/events/steering-group-regional-programme-economic-statistics>

⁴ ESCAP Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2014 <http://www.unescap.org/resources/statistical-yearbook-asia-and-pacific-2014>

The population and GDP of each individual country in the region, as well as economic classifications can be found in Annex 1. Of the 51 respondents, three countries are classified as low-income, 18 lower middle-income, 14 upper middle-income, and 13 high-income.

The capacity screening questionnaire has five sections: technical cooperation, institutional setting, IT and human resources, (statistical) infrastructure, and the Core Set of Economic Statistics. This report summarizes the 51 responses received.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_4026

