

Introducing the 2015 pocket statistical summary and Vanuatu hybrid survey happiness fact sheet

2015 pocket statistical summary

Our 2015 pocket statistical summary has arrived, providing a quick overview of statistics for the people and economies of the Pacific Community's (SPC's) member countries.

The summary, which updates the 2013 version, and was produced by SPC's Statistics for Development Division (SDD), allows users to find national population estimates and annual growth rates, as well as urban growth rates. Basic demographic statistics are covered, including age dependency and sex ratios, birth and death, and key demographic indicators, such as fertility and mortality. On the economic side, the pocket statistical summary includes gross domestic product (GDP), consumer price index, international merchandise trade and overseas visitors. Government expenditures are also listed. Users can compare data to see countries' relative performance and their relative contributions to the Pacific region.

Additional data, such as education, fisheries and aquaculture, can be found on SPC's National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) sites:

www.spc.int/nmdi



http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/SDD/Pocket_Summary/Pocket_Statistical_Summary_15.pdf

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http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/SDD/Fact_Sheet/FS_Vanuatu_happiness_12.pdf

Vanuatu hybrid survey happiness fact sheet

In 2010 Vanuatu became the first Pacific Island country to measure subjective well-being and happiness, in order to understand why Vanuatu – an impoverished 'least developed country' according to the United Nations definition – had been identified in at least two international assessments as the 'happiest country in the world'. Vanuatu piloted an alternative set of well-being indicators designed to capture the wealth of Vanuatu's 'traditional economy'. Vanuatu was the first Pacific Island country to move beyond GDP in measuring development progress.

The pilot study, released in 2012, identified the significant contribution made to quality of life in Vanuatu of factors such as natural resource access, traditional knowledge and practice, and community vitality – none of which had previously featured in national statistics in the Pacific.

The Government of Vanuatu, with support from civil society, cultural institutions and the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO), has continued this initiative, by incorporating these new measures into the National Sustainable Development Plan, which will be released shortly, and will be used in assessing national development progress through to 2030. The Vanuatu government plans to create a comprehensive baseline for well-being in 2016.

VNSO and SDD have created the fact sheet from the 2012 Vanuatu hybrid survey, to provide easy, finger-tip access to well-being and happiness statistical data.