



DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS (STAT)

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Press release

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STAT begins Pilot Economic Census

The Department of Statistics is preparing field operations for an Economic Census, scheduled to start in just over one month's time. This upcoming research activity will involve a count of economic units actively operating on Dutch St. Maarten, and collection of general characteristics and financial data from these entities.

Ahead of the full count, STAT will start today with its Pilot Economic Census, to test and evaluate several aspects of the statistical survey namely, organization, questionnaires, interviewers' workload, response/cooperation and data quality. A sample of mainly businesses and foundations spread across the island have been selected to participate in the pilot exercise over the next three weeks.

STAT is teaming up with local Chamber of Commerce & Industry to increase awareness among the business community about the project, as it will take a strong public & private sector effort to successfully gather critical baseline data on the current state within the business sector, particularly in this post hurricane Irma period.

Now more than ever, our country requires up-to-date, accurate statistics for recovery and development planning. As such STAT is depending on the full cooperation of all entities approached in both this initial piloting phase as well as in the main survey, to supply STAT with as much data as possible, to enable the department to report on market indicators such as number of establishments by type, industry and location, employment by industry along with estimates of economic performance.

STAT concluded on Wednesday, February 14th 2018, an intensive 3-day training for the freelance interviewing team, who is charged with the task of confidentially collecting data from respondents. STAT continues to remind its stakeholders that all data submitted to the department is handled in strict confidence and is published on an aggregate rather than individual level.

For further information regarding this release, contact STAT at telephone number 542-5694, ext. 2734 or the Economic Census Project Leader, Mr. Jason Grant at Jason.Grant@sintmaartengov.org