

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0723)**

Head: (26) Census and Statistics Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) General Statistical Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Leo YU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) will continue to use modern technologies in the dissemination of statistical information and enhance its website to make it more convenient for users to obtain statistical information. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the specific modern technologies referred to? What are the changes to be brought about by the enhanced data dissemination channels? What is the expenditure involved?
2. What are the plan and contents in respect of C&SD's website enhancement? What are the expected manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) mainly disseminates statistical information through its website, facilitating the public to conveniently obtain official statistics anytime and anywhere. To meet users' needs, the C&SD has launched in recent years new statistical products on its website which are customisable and easy-to-use.

In March 2023, the C&SD adopted Web Tables (i.e. tables in the form of webpages) to replace most of the original statistical tables in spreadsheet format for displaying detailed statistical data which covers longer periods of time. Users can customise the content and layout of statistical data in Web Tables, and download their customised statistical data in various machine-readable formats for further processing and analysis. Furthermore, the C&SD will roll out Web Reports (i.e. reports in the form of webpages) progressively from April 2023 to replace most of the traditional statistical reports in PDF format. In addition to using desktop computers, users can also browse Web Reports on mobile devices. Web Reports provide concise and comprehensible statistical analysis of the latest social and economic trends, complemented with interactive statistical charts and tables, allowing users to easily grasp key statistical information. The above statistical products are part of the project deliverables of

an outsourced computer system development project with a total project sum of \$7.86 million. The project was managed by existing staff of the C&SD.

Moreover, the C&SD plans to develop an online Interactive Data Dissemination Service (IDDS) to provide a single interface for users to browse various social and economic statistics on its website. Users will be able to produce and download statistical tables and charts according to their own needs in the system. The system will also provide an Application Programming Interface (API) function to facilitate other online application developers to perform direct data queries. Compared with the traditional practice of pre-building a large number of statistical tables, the IDDS is a more convenient and flexible way for users to obtain their required statistics in detail. The C&SD plans to commence an outsourced computer system project, covering the development of the IDDS and enhancement of other computer systems in 2023-24. The preliminary estimate of the total project expenditure is \$14 million. The project will be managed by existing staff of the C&SD.

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