He waka eke noa

Tefua 'a Vaka Lautala

Population estimates specifications template

Dimension	Specification	Published outputs (if different)
Concept	Who is included	
Granularity	Demographic detail	
Geography	Geographic detail	
Inputs	Components	
Reference date	Time of the year	
Periodicity	Monthly, quarterly, annual, etc	
Frequency of update	How often the estimates are updated	
Timeliness	Time between reference date and publication date	
Revision cycle	If and when revisions are made	

Possible Tonga population estimates specifications: Initial

Dimension	Specification	Published outputs (if different)
Concept	Resident (people living in Tonga)	
Granularity	By sex and SYOA (0, 1, 2, …84, 85+)	
Geography	National	
Inputs	Live births (estimated occurrences in Tonga – YE June) Deaths by sex and SYOA (estimated occurrences in Tonga – YE June) Air arrivals and departures by sex and age (monthly)	
Reference date	30 June	
Periodicity	Annual estimates	
Frequency of update	Annual update (once a year)	
Timeliness	Publishing ~5 months after reference date	
Revision cycle	Post-censal estimates revised annually Intercensal estimates revised after each census	

Population projections specifications template

Dimension	Specification	Published outputs (if different)
Concept	Who is included	
Granularity	Demographic detail	
Geography	Geographic detail	
Base population	Starting point	
Periodicity	Quarterly, annual, 5-yearly, etc	
Horizon	End point	
Series	Number of different projections	
Frequency of update	How often the projections are updated	

Possible Tonga population projections specifications: Initial

Dimension	Specification	Published outputs (if different)
Concept	Resident (people living in Tonga)	
Granularity	By sex and SYOA (0, 1, 2, …84, 85+)	By sex and five-year age groups (0-4, 5-9, … 70-74, 75+)
Geography	National-level	
Base population	Estimate at 30 June 2021	
Periodicity	Annual (projections for each year from base to horizon)	
Horizon	30 years (2051)	
Series	Low, **medium** and high growth	
Frequency of update	5-yearly (once every 5 years)	

A good population projection is not defined by whether or not it matches reality.

It is defined by whether it was plausible and useful to policy-makers at the time the projection was created.

Patrice Dion, Statistics Canada

Future developments

- Data supply
  - More regular, granular, timely data

- Digital forms
  - More accurate and timely data (less processing)

- YQOB rather than 'age'
  - Avoids imprecision of attributing age to birth cohorts

- Census coverage evaluation
  - No census is perfect

- Demographic estimates
  - Value of population estimates built independently of census

- Engagement with customers
  - Meeting current and emerging customer needs

Final thoughts

- Data/information is tāonga

- Statistical agencies are agnostic

- Simple and sustainable

- International networks for support

- Team effort