



Official Statistics Web Apps.

Sharleen Forbes*

Victoria University, Wellington, Sharleen.forbes@vuw.ac.nz

John Harraway

University of Otago, Dunedin, jharraway@maths.otago.ac.nz

Dominic Martingetti

Plymouth University, Plymouth, dominic.martignetti@plymouth.ac.uk

Kate Richardson

Mathematics in Education and Industry, Trowbridge, katharine.richards@emi.org.uk

Greg Trounson

University of Otago, Dunedin, gregt@maths.otago.ac.nz

Many of the users of official statistics, including government and other public decision makers, have variable knowledge of, and skills in interpreting, these statistics. A small group of New Zealand and United Kingdom statistics educators have created webApps using selected material from the New Zealand National Certificate of Official Statistics. This certificate was originally aimed at policy advisors and has been taught in New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries since 2007. The Web Apps are designed to be used on a variety of IT platforms such as desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones, to be free and easily accessed through the International Statistical Literacy Project website at <http://iase-web.org/islp/Resources.php>. They have interactive content, making them less like static e-books and more like miniature learning environments by including questions with answers and explanations, animations, videos and interactive tables and graphs. The web Apps are based around topics and not techniques with the first three Apps being:

1. “Measuring Price Change” (with a focus on the CPI and its policy users, including construction of simple index numbers, time series and rebasing);
2. “Comparing Populations” (over time discussing population momentum, growth and decline, between countries using age standardisation and between groups within countries using odds ratios, etc.); and
3. “GraphIt in Excel” (which has a slightly different format including downloadable material emphasising data presentation and giving voice over instructions for the creation of simple graphs including boxplots and population pyramids in Excel).

Although the Apps are intended to have an international perspective the majority of the examples are from New Zealand or the United Kingdom. However, other countries could either reproduce similar Apps possibly in conjunction with National Statistics Offices or translate these Apps into their own language. Some guidelines on how this can be done will be given.