



# 8<sup>th</sup> IMF Statistical Forum: Measuring the Economics of a Pandemic

Virtual Forum

November 17–19, 2020  
Washington D.C. time (EST)

## Agenda

November 17, 2020	
8:00 a.m.	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <b>Louis Marc Ducharme</b> , Chief Statistician and Data Officer, and Director, Statistics Department, IMF
8:05 a.m.	<b>Introduction to the Forum</b> <b>Tao Zhang</b> , Deputy Managing Director, IMF
<b>Session 1: The Economics of a Pandemic: What are the Data Needs?</b> <i>Historically, crises have shown the importance of data that allow detection of vulnerabilities, assessment of their impact, and implementation of timely and targeted corrective measures. This time, the COVID-19 pandemic has abruptly transformed the economic environment and created unprecedented needs for more timely and granular data, including on socio-economic disruptions linked to the pandemic. This session will consider some emerging data needs for understanding economic and financial developments and vulnerabilities exposed by the pandemic and present examples of new approaches to meeting those data needs.</i>	
8:15 a.m.	Introduction by the Chair, <b>Louis Marc Ducharme</b> , Chief Statistician and Data Officer, and Director, Statistics Department, IMF
8:20 a.m.	<b>Juan Daniel Oviedo</b> , Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), <i>DANE's- Block-by-block Vulnerability Index</i>
8:35 a.m.	<b>Silvia Arini</b> and <b>Rendra Putra</b> , Statistics Indonesia, <i>How People Mobility depict Economics? An Evidence of People's Mobility Data towards Economic Activities</i>
8:50 a.m.	Questions from the audience
9:05 a.m.	<i>Break</i>
9:15 a.m.	<b>Bruno Tissot</b> and <b>Barend De Beer</b> , Bank for International Settlements, Irving Fisher Committee and South African Reserve Bank, <i>Implications of COVID-19 for Official Statistics: A Central Banking Perspective</i>
9:30 a.m.	<b>Giovanni Veronese</b> , <b>Claudia Biancotti</b> , <b>Alfonso Rosolia</b> , <b>Robert Kirchner</b> , and <b>Francois Mouriaux</b> , Banca d'Italia, Deutsche Bundesbank and Banque de France, <i>COVID-19 and Official Statistics: A Wakeup Call?</i>
9:45 a.m.	Questions from the audience

**November 18, 2020**

**Session 2: Weathering the Storm: Statistics at the Time of a Pandemic**

National statistical offices have previously confronted pandemics (e.g., SARS in 2002 and N1H1 in 2009) and natural disasters that disrupted statistical operations and challenged them to respond to new data needs. However, the disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic are more profound and will likely be longer lasting. At the same time, the pandemic has created opportunities for innovation. How have data compilers overcome the challenges? This session will discuss innovative surveys and techniques for producing and communicating timely and relevant statistics during the pandemic.

8:00 a.m.	Introduction by the Chair, <b>Ceda Ogada</b> , Secretary of the IMF
8:05 a.m.	<b>Craig McLaren</b> , The United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics, <i>The United Kingdom experience: The Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey</i>
8:20 a.m.	<b>Ibrahima Tall</b> , Senegal's National Agency of Statistics and Demography, <i>Innovative Collection Methods During the COVID-19 Period</i>
8:35 a.m.	Questions from the audience
8:50 a.m.	Break
9:00 a.m.	<b>Susana Cordeiro Guerra</b> , Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, <i>Sustaining and Modernizing Statistical Production during the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>
9:15 a.m.	<b>Michael Levi</b> and <b>Emily Liddel</b> , U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <i>Communicating the Accuracy and Relevance of Statistical Data during a Pandemic: A practitioners' Report</i>
9:30 a.m.	Questions from the audience
9:45 a.m.	Break

**Special Event: Celebrating the Third World Statistics Day**

The World Statistics Day is celebrated on October 20 every five years. Created by the United Nations Statistical Commission, it was first celebrated on October 20, 2010.

10:00 a.m.	<b>Panel Discussion: Celebrating Statistics: The Science and the Art of Making Numbers Talk</b> <b>Moderator: Louis Marc Ducharme</b> , Chief Statistician and Data Officer, and Director, Statistics Department, IMF <b>Panelists:</b> <b>Ola Awad</b> , President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics <b>Rashad Cassim</b> , Deputy Governor of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB); Chair of the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics <b>Henry Curr</b> , Journalist, lead writer on economics, <i>The Economist</i> <b>Susana Cordeiro Guerra</b> , President of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics <b>Tim Harford</b> , Author "How to Make the World Add Up" & FT Senior Columnist
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11:15 a.m.	Questions from the audience
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November 19, 2020	
<b>Session 3: How Well Statistics are Weathering the Pandemic? Some Examples</b>	
<i>This session will provide examples of measuring some key macroeconomic implications of COVID-19 and supplemental indicators that fill gaps in the data needed in light of the pandemic</i>	
8:30 a.m.	Introduction by the Chair, <b>Kalpna Kochhar</b> , Director of the Human Resources Department, IMF
8:35 a.m.	<b>Alberto Cavallo</b> , Harvard Business School and NBER, <i>Inflation with COVID-19 Consumption Baskets</i>
8:50 a.m.	<b>Marshall Reinsdorf</b> , IMF Statistics Department, <i>COVID-19 and the Weights of the CPI: Is Inflation Underestimated?</i>
9:05 a.m.	<b>Vivek Pandya</b> and <b>Costa Lasiy</b> , Adobe, <i>Tracking the Impact of COVID-19 on the Online Economy in Real-Time</i>
9:20 a.m.	Questions from the audience
9:35 a.m.	Break
<b>Special invited speaker</b>	
9:45 a.m.	Introduction by <b>Louis Marc Ducharme</b> , Chief Statistician and Data Officer, and Director, Statistics Department, IMF
	<b>Nouriel Roubini</b> , New York University's Stern School of Business, <i>Pandemics: Financial Markets versus the Real Economy and the Need for New Data</i>
10:20 a.m.	Questions from the audience
10:35 a.m.	Break
<b>Session 4: Panel with Forum's speakers on Q&amp;A</b>	
<i>This session will set up a panel with the speakers. It will wrap up taking questions that have been put forward before or during the Forum, either by emailing them to <a href="mailto:STAForum@imf.org">STAForum@imf.org</a>, or through the chat function.</i>	
10:45 a.m.	<b>Moderator: Gabriel Quirós-Romero</b> , Deputy Director, Statistics Department, IMF
12:15 p.m.	Break
<b>Session 5: Keynote speech and one-on-one between Ian Goldin and IMF Managing Director</b>	
12:30 p.m.	<b>Moderator: Gerry Rice</b> , Director of the Communications Department, IMF <b>Keynote Speech: Ian Goldin</b> , Professor of Globalization and Development, Oxford University, <i>Economics, Institutions, and Multilateralism: Lessons from COVID-19</i>
1:00 p.m.	<b>One-on-one discussion</b> <b>Ian Goldin</b> , Professor of Globalization and Development, Oxford University <b>Kristalina Georgieva</b> , Managing Director, IMF
1:45 p.m.	<b>Closure</b>

ORGANIZERS: **Gabriel Quirós-Romero** and **Nabila Akhazzan**

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