



جهاز التخطيط والإحصاء
Planning and Statistics Authority

Official Statistics Dissemination Policy



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Foreword



The Official Statistics Dissemination Policy in the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) revolves mainly around meeting the needs of users of such statistics in the State of Qatar, especially decision-makers, researchers, academics, investors, those involved in public affairs and others. The pillars of the aforementioned policy take into account adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by UN General Assembly in 2014, as well as the Open Data Strategy adopted by the State of Qatar in 2014.

PSA's website is considered the official platform for disseminating all kinds of statistical data, supported by data and metadata related to the concepts and definitions used in the processes of data collection, classification, processing and inclusiveness. It should be noted that PSA is still producing limited quantities of paper publications and distributing them for free to users who use them in order to meet their data needs.

In the field of official statistics dissemination, we seek to keep abreast of technological developments at the international level so as to make use of them in order to deliver our products to all users in accessible and usable way. Moreover, this document can be updated according to the developments in the statistical publishing process.

In this context, I would like to thank all users of PSA data, and the national partners in the Official Statistics System for providing us with the data.

Dr. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Nabit
President of the Planning and Statistics Authority



Introduction

Day in and day out, the role of official statistics in the State of Qatar is growing, particularly when Qatar began to adopt the result-based strategic planning approach, and to use such statistics in formulating successive national development strategies, since the need for it arose greatly when analyzing the current situation related to the performance of the economic, social and environmental aspects of the Qatari society and the necessary interventions, especially the formulation of macro and sectoral policies that form the aforementioned national development strategies. In addition, the State of Qatar has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since 2015, and has used the approved indicators in measuring the progress the country is making in achieving its developmental goals and evidence-based decision-making, and in moving forward in the collection and publication of approved indicators for various strategic sectors, each of which was developed according to general and detailed objectives set forth in the Qatar National Vision 2030, in order to measure progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As agreed, official statistics should be made available to users at the national and international levels in multiple and simplified forms in a timely manner. The official statistics data dissemination policy revolves mainly around disseminating statistical information on a large scale with transparency to all categories of users.



Determinants of Statistical

Data Dissemination Policy

With regard to Official Statistics Dissemination Policy, the State of Qatar relies on many determinants, represented in the Emiri Decree No. (70) of 2018 establishing the Planning and Statistics Authority, Law No. 2 of 2011 on Official Statistics, and the «Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics» adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 January 2014. In the official statistics system, PSA takes into account the guidance of the following guidelines:

- **Relevance:** PSA works to provide official statistics related to national, regional and international needs and the requirements of beneficiaries that are identified through various communication channels. Moreover, the statistics produced are as comprehensive and detailed as possible, while taking into account the quality restrictions and the confidentiality of individual data.
- **Professional Independence:** PSA works with complete independence to ensure that official statistics are trusted by all users, regardless of their type, orientations and interests, through the enforcement of the Official Statistics Law and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations.
- **Impartiality and Objectivity:** PSA deals with the beneficiaries of official statistics on a basis of complete equality, as official statistics are published on an impartial basis and according to a prior calendar for the publication of statistics, places and means of publication.

- **Accuracy and Transparency:** PSA publishes the applied methodologies and means of processing statistical products, along with all metadata and equations used in calculating indicators for all publications according to the previously announced publications calendar.
- **Quality and Consistency:** PSA works according to stable and reliable professional and technical quality standards, through its commitment to applying the National Framework for Official Statistics Quality, which emanates from the Statistical Quality Framework issued by the United Nations. It is characterized by high reliability in the process of decision-making, policymaking and comparability in space-time series.
- **User-Oriented Approach:** PSA publishes all statistics in a user-oriented manner to meet their requirements, whereby satisfying users' needs is a priority in the dissemination policy.
- **Free Publication:** PSA provides official statistics and makes them available to all users through various means of publication for free.
- **Misuse Avoidance:** PSA will comment and respond to any misinterpretation or incorrect use of official statistics.
- **International Cooperation:** PSA stresses the importance of strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of statistics to improve official statistics systems across all countries.
- **Confidentiality:** PSA is committed to implementing Law No. 2 of 2011 on Official Statistics, which stipulates that all data related to the names and identities of establishments and individuals shall be confidential including, but not limited to, (name, personal card number, address, residence, phone numbers, other family information, establishment profits, establishment accounts). PSA will not disclose such data in displaying the results of censuses or surveys. They are dealt with in aggregate in the formation of general results and official statistical data related to censuses or surveys. Therefore, such information will only be used for statistical purposes, pursuant to the provision of Article (7) of the Official Statistics Law, which states: " All data related to the names and identities of establishments and individuals shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed to other than those authorized to review such data unless by written approval of the concerned person, nor shall such data be used for non-statistical purposes. Without prejudice to the confidentiality of the statistical data, the bodies that participate in gathering statistical data may exchange such data between them. »

Further, the second paragraph of Article (13) thereof also stipulated that: «Without prejudice to any greater penalty provided for by another law, any person convicted of any of the following acts shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or to a fine not exceeding ten thousand (QR 10,000): (2) Intentionally publishing or assisting in publishing false information related to statistics, census or statistical survey.»

Emiri Decree No. (70) of 2018 Establishing the Planning and Statistics Authority: PSA is the official source for official statistics in Qatar in accordance with the provision of Article (5) of Emiri Decree No. (70) of 2018, which stipulates that "PSA shall be the official source for all official statistical data and processes in the country."

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/FP-New-A.pdf>



Open Data

The State of Qatar adopted an open data policy in 2014², according to which information and data are made available for everyone to access, reuse, and redistribute without any restrictions and for free. In this regard, it was noted that it is necessary to present high-quality open data sets in a format capable of automated processing, using applications commonly used at the local and international levels. The Planning and Statistics Authority attaches great importance to the Open Data Policy in publishing various statistical outputs while maintaining the confidentiality of all individual data related to the names and identities of establishments and individuals, in accordance with Law No. (2) of 2011 on Official Statistics.

² <https://www.motc.gov.qa/ar/10322431node11946>



Micro Data Dissemination

PSA at the forefront, data producers from all countries are facing a growing demand for individual Micro data from researchers and academics working in universities and research centers who wish to obtain micro data of the results of household surveys and economic establishments surveys, seeking to delve into data analysis and identify the links between variables and their implications. This challenge is technical in nature, as this process requires the development of specific procedures for data documentation, indexing, classification, dissemination, publication and provision.

The Planning and Statistics Authority is fully aware of the importance of micro data, and is cognizant of the importance of balance between the demand for the mentioned data by researchers and academics, and the need to secure the confidentiality of information provided by household heads and company managers in the public and private sectors. The national trends and legislation related to the statistical process also support information confidentiality protected by the statistics law mentioned in this document. This constitutes a commitment towards respondents during the processes of collecting or obtaining data through multiple sources.

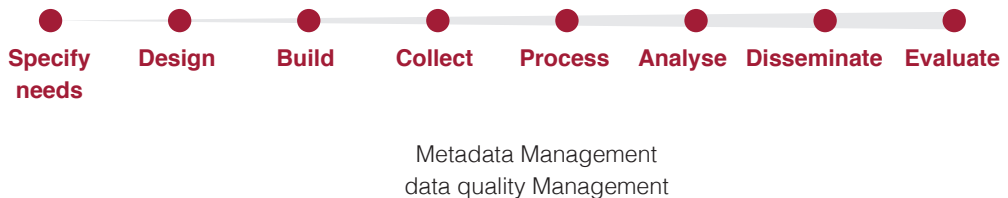


Metadata

Information that sets the definitions of statistical variables and indicators and classifications used throughout the statistical process, and in their presentation and provision to data users in order to facilitate the users' understanding of those variables included in the statistical outputs, and to determine suitability for their projects.

To maximize the benefit of metadata, it is necessary to unify the form and location of its presentation, so that it is published on the Web in a logical path, and this will enable the user to easily refer to it when needed. The Generic Statistical Business Model (GSBPM) issued by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; Version 5.1, indicates the necessity of efficient operation of metadata management in statistical operations in every phase, either created, updated or carried forward from a previous phase, or reused from a previous process. The Planning and Statistics Authority has been preparing and publishing metadata for household surveys, economic and environmental establishments surveys and censuses in all stages of the statistical process, from the first phase related to identifying users' needs from the statistical process, up to the final evaluation phase of the product according to the model of statistical work procedures. See Figure (1).

Figure 1: The Generic Statistical Business Model (GSBPM)



Statistical Product Quality Assurance

The products of the Planning and Statistics Authority are subject to the National Quality Assurance Framework of Official Statistics prepared and approved in the state of Qatar, so that they meet and suit the needs of users, according to the following stages:

- Ensuring accuracy and reliability of published data.
- Ensuring timeliness in publishing the outputs and making them available for users as quickly as possible.
- Ensuring accessibility and clarity, so that the applications necessary for publication are developed in a way that data and products can be easily accessed for use.
- Ensuring consistency and comparability, by ensuring the consistency of data over time, especially ensuring that are comparable at the international level through the use of internationally agreed standards, concepts and classifications.
- Managing the metadata related to the content, structure and design of statistical data and processes from the preparation stage to the process of data collection, classification and dissemination.

Data Visualization and Infographics

Data visualization refers to techniques used to communicate insights from data through visual representation. Its main goal is to distill large datasets into visual graphics to allow for easy understanding of complex relationships within the data. Data visualization is often used interchangeably with terms such as infographics, statistical graphics, and information visualization. These areas are practical steps from modern data science that contribute to making informed decisions in a short time and allows users to discover and identify data in a self-service manner.

In this regard, PSA uses Data visualization means and infographics in many of the statistical outputs that are published on PSA website, especially paper publications, such as Qatar in Figures, Monthly Statistics, and a separate bulletin entitled "Qatar; Monthly Statistics".³

³ <https://www.motc.gov.qa/ar/10322431node11946>

Advance Release Calendar

The Advance Release Calendar of PSA's statistical products ⁴ is a schedule that includes the release dates of publications issues by PSA as per prior notice, specifying the publication date and periodicity, whether it is weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. This calendar is disseminated to users on the PSA's website. The aforementioned calendar is one of the requirements of the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They are published online on the International Monetary Fund's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB). It should be noted that PSA publishes all its outputs on its website transparently, and also publishes limited paper publications. (For the aforementioned release calendar, please visit the link: <https://www.psa.gov.qa/en/statistics1/StatisticsSite/pages/calendar.aspx>)

Disseminating Data Using Social Media

Social media is of great value in disseminating official statistics, since it contributes to understanding the social and economic characteristics of society and helps identify the needs and requirements of the population and their interaction with social and economic challenges, particularly living, educational and cultural challenges. PSA spares no effort in using the aforementioned methods to collect data using these means, such as opinion polls that it carries out from time to time, publishing their outputs and disseminating information about them to the public using those means. For instance, we mention:

PSA Twitter:(@psa_qatar)

PSA Instagram:(@psa_qatar)

In the field of communication and interaction with data users about its publications and information about the events it organizes, PSA uses a large database that includes the names and addresses of many users who receive notifications and information on a regular basis. This is in addition to the text messages that PSA sends continuously. PSA uses the aforementioned means of communication to answer users' questions regarding statistical data.

⁴ <https://www.psa.gov.qa/en/statistics1/StatisticsSite/pages/calendar.aspx>

Data Electronic Release

The Planning and Statistics Authority website (www.psa.gov.qa) is the main platform for disseminating electronic outputs in its various forms. These outputs are distributed among the branches of official statistics related to economic, social and environmental statistics, and metadata such as methodologies, definitions and related classifications. Press releases, proceedings of meetings, workshops ⁵, submitted papers, presentations, and abstracts are also published on this website. The results of household surveys of all kinds and economic establishments surveys are also published on this website, especially the outputs of administrative records received from ministries and government agencies. Some data are published as preliminary, to be finalized at a later time, which is an internationally recognized procedure. The foreign trade portal is the main source for knowing the volume, types, and source of trade exchange between Qatar and the world. ⁶

Through its website, PSA provides a data request service through which statistical data can be provided to its applicants.

PSA website also includes Qatar Development Atlas ⁷, which contains a number of thematic maps representing the Four Pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030. The aforementioned Atlas maps are primarily based on the information gathered through population, housing and establishments censuses in their successive sessions. The aforementioned atlas is updated periodically whenever new data becomes available.

In terms of electronic applications, PSA's website also incorporates "Qatar Statistics» app, which is an application that can be used on Apple and Android devices, as it enables the browser to access monthly statistics of all kinds such as population, social and economic statistics, foreign trade data, and to several aforementioned thematic maps.

Targeted Groups

The official statistics dissemination process is considered a continuous and available to all segments of society. Modern statistical data is an important and necessary tool in the process of decision-making, policymaking and plans and programs preparation. Accordingly, the benefited groups may be classified in the statistical data as follows:

- **Governmental Agencies:** include all ministries, government entities, institutions and agencies.
- **Business Sector:** include the semi-governmental sector institutions, the private sector and educational institutions.
- **Individuals:** include community members such as researchers, academics, students, investors, and entrepreneurs ... etc.

⁵ <https://www.psa.gov.qa/en/Pages/default.aspx>

⁶ <https://www.psa.gov.qa/en/statistics1/StatisticsSite/pages/calendar.aspx>

⁷ <https://www.psa.gov.qa/ar/media1/events/Pages/Statistics2019.aspx>

Statistical Data Collection Sources:

There are many sources from which PSA derives its data, the most important of which are:

- Censuses of all kinds.
- Household surveys, economic establishments surveys and opinion polls.
- Administrative records, databases, and others.
- Big data that are among the promising sources that PSA seeks to employ in official statistics.

Copyright policy and quotation requirements

Information about official statistics results is considered public information and may be used and disseminated by other organizations, companies or individuals.

Disclaimer

PSA shall not be liable in any way towards the users of its data and information or any other party, for any loss or damage, consequential or otherwise, including - but not limited to - time, money or reputation arising from the use, operation or modification of data.

User Satisfaction Survey

In order to obtain an appropriate view of the needs and satisfaction of users of statistical products and services, PSA performs the following activities:

User satisfaction survey and its implementation on a regular basis once a year, and its results are announced on the website and social networking sites.

Comments Record made by users on social networks.

Comments Record received through the official e-mail of the PSA website.

Sources

- United Nations, General Assembly, Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics - 29 January 2014
- Law No. (2) of 2011 on Official Statistics
- Law No. (13) of 2016 on the Protection of Privacy and Personal Data.
- Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Open Data Policy, State of Qatar, Doha - November 2014.