



جهاز التخطيط والإحصاء
Planning and Statistics Authority
دولة قطر • State of Qatar



Regional Workshop on the Changing Role of Official Statistics in the State of Qatar: Why Data Culture Matters

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Pullman Hotel, Al Thuraya Ballroom - West Bay

ورشة العمل الإقليمية حول الدور المتغير للإحصاءات الرسمية في دولة قطر: ثقافة البيانات مهمة

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The Changing Role of Official Statistics – The Canadian Experience and the Role of the UN Network of Economic Statisticians

Presentation to Regional Workshop on the Changing Role of Official Statistics
in Qatar

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The Nature of Official Statistics is Changing

Traditional Model

- National Statistical Offices are the main source of data on economic and social data
- A “monopoly” type structure because of a high cost of entry (infrastructure and costs of data acquisition)

In the past decade

- Computing costs have dropped significantly
- Data is seen as a strategic asset in the public and private sectors
- Good quality, real time information can be produced outside of NSOs
- Increased risks: privacy, confidentiality, cybersecurity
- Interoperability of data is important

New model

- National Statistical offices as a trusted partner to integrate data from various sources
- New stewardship activities include:
 - Conceptual standards and frameworks
 - Frameworks for privacy and confidentiality
 - Trusted “third partner”
 - Integrator

Examples from Statistics Canada

Canadian Centre for Energy Information

- Energy statistics in Canada are produced by:
 - Statistics Canada
 - Federal and provincial ministries of natural resources and environment
 - Federal and provincial regulators
- Statistics Canada houses a pan-Canadian energy portal that also coordinates data standards, quality, interoperability
- Data extend beyond the traditional statistics on energy production, distribution and consumption, but draw links to economic growth and environmental impact



[Get started : Canadian Centre for Energy Information \(canada.ca\)](https://www.ccei.ca)

Examples from Statistics Canada

- Business Data Lab
 - At the start of the pandemic, Statistics Canada started to work with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce on a business conditions survey
 - Access and publication of privately held real time data seen as a gap
 - Statistics Canada and the Chamber are working on the creation of a Business Data Lab that will access this private sector data – better serving Canadian businesses



Business
Data Lab

Laboratoire de données
sur les entreprises

Examples from Statistics Canada

- **Quality of Life Framework**

- Includes: prosperity, health, society, the environment and good governance. In addition, the indicators of life satisfaction and sense of meaning and purpose are included as overall measures of quality of life.
- Statistics Canada coordinates the measurement framework



United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians – an introduction

- Established by the 52nd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission to:
 - facilitate networking, co-ordination and communication on new innovations, experiments, and best practices for the purpose of making progress on priorities to keep economic statistics relevant.
 - operate under a clearly defined mandate to provide a transparent and collaborative horizontal co-ordination mechanism for all existing statistical committees and groups
 - co-ordinate with statistical committees and groups, as appropriate, for the purpose of measuring the multidimensional relationships between the economy, environment and society of the 2030 Agenda

The Network operates through thematic sprints that seek to achieve defined outcomes



These thematic sprints support the evolving role of official statistics – example: Beyond GDP

Traditional Model

- Economic and social statistics developed in a siloed fashion, all with unique frameworks
- Economic statistics centred on GDP as the core measure

In the past decade

- Push to understand better the linkages between economic growth, social development and inclusion as well as environmental sustainability
- The 2025 revision to the SNA will push economic statistics in this direction

Possible future

- National Statistical offices as a trusted partner to integrate data from various sources
- Focus on stewardship activities include:
 - Conceptual standards and frameworks
 - Moving to a “System of Systems”

These thematic sprints support the evolving role of official statistics – example: GVC

Traditional Model

- National Statistical Offices have traditionally based economic statistics on data obtained through direct collection
 - Surveys
 - Administrative data

In the past decade

- The private sector has growing data holdings that could better inform economic statistics (i.e. Global Value Chains)
- Through the COVID pandemic, a better understanding of global value chains has been highlighted as a challenge by many countries

Possible future

- Better international collaboration in the acquisition of Global Value Chain Data from MNEs
- Drawing links between statistical groups extending conceptual frameworks (UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics) and methods (UN Expert Group on Big Data)
- Work to continue on GVCs related to: E-commerce, Horticulture, semiconductors, retail, and tourism
- Pillars: user needs, capacity building, principles, and methods

Framing the future

- Many economic statistical bodies and organizations are focused on recent or forthcoming updates to various standards (e.g. SEEA, SNA, manuals on international trade statistics, ISIC, CPC, and National Transfer Accounts (NTA))
- There is a need to reflect on the landscape beyond these updates and consider what opportunities new development will present
- The development of a more integrated framework needs to be undertaken in a more multidisciplinary way
- Ultimately this requires a 'system of systems' which gives clarity around how the range of statistical standards and outputs can be utilised to give a comprehensive picture of the modern world, and delivers a coherent framework within which users can utilise different data in varied ways to meet complex policy questions

Concluding thoughts

- Various communities are engaged in different initiatives
- Progress requires a team approach. Cooperation is required between National Statistical Offices, international organizations, academia, business and civil society – breaking down barriers between economic, population and environment statistics
- Development needs to be inclusive of global perspectives