



Statistical Centre of Iran

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Country Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran

STATISTICAL CENTRE OF IRAN

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**IN THE NAME OF ALLAH
THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL**

An Introduction to the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI)

The Statistical Centre of Iran, as a governance entity, the apex authority and custodian of the nation's official statistics, is responsible for the production and dissemination of official statistics as well as for leading and supervising the nation's statistical activities through:

- Providing quality and timely statistics and information,
- Planning, leading , supervising, standardizing and integrating of the country's statistical system and activities,
- Organizing and integrating of statistical databases across the country, while prioritizing administrative registers.

The SCI's key strategies

1. Developing production of statistics based on registers,
2. Decentralizing statistics production,
3. Centralizing the country's statistical activities and policy making,
4. Prioritizing provision of statistical needs of development plans,
5. Enhancing statistical awareness and understanding among different walks of society,
6. Giving rise to the quality of statistical products,
7. Encouraging private sector to make contributions to statistical activities,
8. Developing statistical communications at regional and international levels,
9. Benefiting from information technology in production of statistics and data dissemination,
10. Developing human resources in statistical activities,
11. Developing statistical research.

The SCI's Mission

In line with the duties assigned to the SCI by law, its mission could be detailed as follows:

- Providing statistical data needed for realization of the country's development plans from general censuses and sample surveys
- Coordinating and directing statistical activities of the country
- Preparing and updating national and regional accounts as well as prices index
- Statistical information dissemination
- Research and training activities
- Preparing statistical definitions, concepts, standards and classifications

Monitoring the production of Statistical Indicators for the Development Agenda

I. National and International development agenda

Q1. What role statistics play in monitoring the achievement of your country's development programmes?

The Five-Year Development Plan of the I.R.Iran (2011-2015) was approved on the basis of existing statistics and information by the Islamic Consultative Assembly. This Plan has been prepared and formulated according to the Nation's 20-Year Vision. This Vision was notified to all government agencies by the Great Leader of I.R. Iran, based on which all agencies are bound to implement the Fifth Development Plan. According to the Article 213 of the Plan, in order for the Plan to be implemented well and the progress to be evaluated within the general policies of the Plan, all government agencies are bound to provide their annual performance report on the related cases of the previous year. The report would show that to what extent the objectives specified in the Plan have been realized. For example, according to the paragraph "d" in the Article 234 of the Plan, taking necessary measures for reduction of unemployment rate to 7 percent at the end of the Plan is essential. The performance report mentioned in the Para. "d" is provided according to the Labour Force Survey conducted by the Statistical Centre of Iran.

Moreover, according to the Article 68 of the Law of the Fifth Development Plan, some indicators such as assessment of performance of the Plan, assessment of the Nation's 20-Year Vision, national productivity, etc. were approved for monitoring macro programmes and policies of the country

Q.2 Does the NSO provide/coordinate the statistics used for monitoring the above programmes? If not, what does?.

Yes. According to the Article 54 of the Five-Year Development Plan, in order to integrate and organize statistical activities and remove any duplicate work in the national statistical system,

- a. Statistical Centre of Iran is the focal point for preparation, proclamation and dissemination of official statistics of the country.*

- b. Statistical Centre of Iran, in collaboration with government agencies, shall prepare National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS, also known as Nation Statistics Plan) based on the state-of-the-art technologies, establish administrative registers system and develop and feed a statistical information base while observing standards and regulations of official statistics production and dissemination. This Plan shall be indispensable for all government agencies after approval of High Council of Statistics suggested by the SCI.*
- c. The government agencies are authorized to produce their own specialized statistics based on their legal duties and regulations and standards approved by High Council of Statistics. The Vice Presidency for Strategic Planning and Supervision is responsible for monitoring the good performance of the Article. In case of vesting the virtue of the authority, the Head of the Statistical Centre of Iran acting as Deputy for the Vice Presidency shall be responsible for this affair.*
- d. Moreover, Statistical Centre of Iran, in collaboration with other government agencies, is bound to calculate the indicators mentioned in the Article 68.*

II. International Standards

Q1. Do you find international standards useful and do you try to apply them whenever possible? If not, please indicate why, and in which areas they are not being applied?

Yes. According to the Para "V" in Article 3 of the Act of Statistical Centre of Iran, the SCI is responsible for preparation and development of statistical definition, concepts, criteria and standards. In this connection, the latest version of standards is used. The standards are customized at national level, some of which are as follows:

ISIC Rev.4, HS, SICTA2002, ICATUS 2002, ICSE, M49, ISCED 1997, CPC2, ISCO2000, COICOP2002. Statistical Surveys Standard, Questionnaire Formulation Standard, Statistical Data Dissemination Standard, Definition and Concept Standard, Continuous Control and Improvement Standard of Quality

Q2. Do you have an efficiency way of coordinating and imposing standards for statistics within your own country?

Yes. According to the Article 8 of the SCI's Act, all ministries, government and associated government institutes as well as government companies are bound to follow statistical definition, concepts, methodologies, criteria and standards provided by the Statistical Centre of Iran. For this purpose, the Statistical Centre of Iran supervises all conducted statistical surveys based on the set of supervising forms and regulations approved in 2008.

Q3. In what area would you like to have more standards be developed?

Recently, I.R.Iran has embarked on preparing and formulating a set of statistical surveys standards and received a national standard number from Industrial Research and Standard Institute. This collection has been produced from different sources and is mainly based on the experiences of the NSOs of different countries. We suggest that:

- a. A harmonized set of statistical surveys standards be developed so that all stages of the statistical surveys (from the beginning to the end of stages) can be conducted according to this set.*
- b. All standards produced by all countries be integrated and harmonized. SCI has developed "Questionnaire Formulation Standard" and "Continuous Control and Improvement Standard of Quality" based on the experiences of other countries.*
- c. Other standards need to be developed are:*
 - 1. Developing a specific standard for supervising the implementation of statistical surveys, especially technical supervision over work quality.*
 - 2. Developing a specific standard for supervising the process of registers production*
 - 3. Promoting statistical standards among different countries. We suggest that classification and standards customized by Iran be posted in the UNSD's Website, which can be used by the Persian speaking countries.*

Q4 .Do you think the views of developing countries taken sufficiently into account in developing and agreeing on international statistical standards? If not, please suggest a mechanism for improvement.

Yes. UNSD usually sends us draft version of classifications and standards for comments. Up to now the Statistical Centre of Iran has provided UNSD with its comments on draft classifications and standards (SNA2008, International Merchandise Classification, Global Consultation on the revised SEEA, ISIC, etc.). Moreover, our comments have been taken into accounts in the final version of the classifications/ standards.

III Microdata dissemination

Q1. Do you provide the following microdata sets?

- 1) Population censuses*
- 2) Household surveys*
- 3) Establishment/Enterprise surveys*
- 4) (If yes, specify)*

Yes. Statistical Centre of Iran takes national population and housing census, household income and expenditures survey as well as establishment / enterprises survey. The related data are available in the Statistical Centre of Iran. The public can have access to the data. However, individual data collected by our Centre, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, is strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes. Population and housing census, which would be implemented every ten years, is now executed every 5 years according to the Cabinet approval of

2006. Microdata are produced and disseminated in this Centre. For example, raw file of 20 percent of Form 3 of the 2006 Population and Housing Census (sampling form) including one million records were posted in the SCI's site so that the researchers can use them. Regarding income and expenditure survey, two types of summary original file are also released. Of course, in household surveys such as labour force surveys time-use surveys, the microdata are produced and provided to the respective organizations and researchers while necessary measures are taken for preventing disclosure of individual data. Identifiable data of individuals or units are omitted when being provided to the clients. For example, for calculation of poverty line for which the Ministry of Welfare is responsible, the data obtained from the household income and expenditure surveys are used. The microdata of this Survey are provided to the mentioned Ministry after omitting place and identifiable data of households. In surveys such as economic enterprises, the same procedures are employed. Moreover, in other statistical surveys which are implemented upon request of some government agencies, the microdata are provided to them for technical calculation.

Q 2. What kind of disclosure control do you employ?

According to the Act of the SCI " All inhabitants of Iran as well as Iranian nationals residing abroad are bound to provide correct answers to the questionnaires pertaining to censuses and surveys taken by the Statistical Centre of Iran. The information thus collected shall be treated as confidential and must be used for no purposes other than compilation of general and public statistics. Such information shall by no means be used as evidence for presentation to administrative or judiciary courts, or for the purpose of taxation." The information is published as general statistical information so that the identifiable data of households or economic enterprises cannot be disclosed. For example, the information of the statistical blocks in which the number of inhabited households is more than 3 households, is released.

Q 3. Do you have microdata dissemination policy? (if yes, specify)

Yes. According to the microdata dissemination policy in our Centre, the microdata which do not disclose place and identifiable data of individuals are disseminated