

MONITORING THE PRODUCTION OF STATISTICS INDICATORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA ~ MALAYSIA'S EXPERIENCE ~

I. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

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

The data provided by DOSM will:

- i. provide information on Malaysia's economic performance vis-à-vis the rest of the world;
- ii. assist in policy formulation and economic analysis by government agencies, such as Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Ministry of Finance, Malaysia (MOF), Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia (MITI) and The Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) for Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) as well as market analyst, researchers and other users; and
- iii. from time to time, DOSM also conducts special survey on ad hoc basis based on the need of Central Agency e.g. Survey of Knowledge Content in Key Economic Sectors (Myke) and National Integrity Survey.

Towards this, in its Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014, DOSM has identified five (5) major roles that include producer of national statistics, coordinator of statistical activities, continuous effort in enhancing data communication, smart networking and strengthening the statistical profession.

Role 1: Producer of National Statistics

- Improvements in the statistical system and procedures encompassing study on products, timeliness and data quality.
- New instruments and indicators, better analysis, continuous updating of business frames, increase usage of administrative data, improvement in data collection tools i.e. e-survey, PDA.
- Develop integrated system of data collection, processing and dissemination using National Enterprise-Wide Statistical Systems (NEWSS).

Role 2: Coordination of Statistical Activities

- Provides technical consultancy e.g. sampling and questionnaires design, data collection and analysis.
- Coordination of statistical activities that covers the activities of harmonisation of codes, classification and definitions used by all agencies through the Inter Agency Technical Committee (IATC).
- Feedback on data requirement – Main user Committee.

Role 3: Continuous Enhancement in Data Communication

- Free downloads of publication on website
 - Currently 78 publications are available for download and will be increased further
 - 2010 : 150,069 hits
 - Jan. – Sept. 2011: 166,496 hits
- Interactive database - External Trade Statistics System – a few in the pipeline
- Extend data delivery to specific target groups – students and researchers
- E-government facilities such as mySMS 15888
- Developed microdata policies

Role 4: Smart Networking

- Smart networking with higher learning institutions and relevant ministries
- Organising and participating in international statistical activities
- Collaboration in data sharing with related government agencies will be enhanced through MoUs – 6 agencies:
 - Bank Negara Malaysia
 - Companies Commission of Malaysia
 - Employees Provident Fund
 - Tourism Malaysia
 - Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission
 - Malaysia Productivity Corporation
- Periodic dialogue sessions with data providers and the private sectors

Role 5: Strengthening Statistical Profession

- Adequate training to develop excellent and versatile individuals.
- Promote professionalism – encourage to conduct research and analysis

2. Does the NSO provide / coordinate the statistics used for monitoring the above programmes?

If not, who does?

Malaysia adopts a centralised statistical system. DOSM is responsible in generating official statistics of the country through censuses/ surveys and compilations of secondary data for most of the indicators. However other ministries/departments/ government agencies may produce statistics according to their requirements such as BNM for financial statistics and Ministry of Human Resources for labour market information such as registration of job seekers, trade disputes, collective agreements, industrial accidents and industrial training.

II. INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

1. Do you find international standards useful and do you try to apply them whenever possible?

If not, indicate why and which areas they are not being applied.

DOSM adheres to international standards in producing statistics. Among the standards adopted include:

- ILO – Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice
- IMF – Balance of Payments Manual 5th Edition
- System of National Accounts (SNA), 1993
- Surveys of economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment: An ILO manual on concepts and methods
- UN – International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
- UN – Central Product Classification
- IMF – Special Data Dissemination Standard

These international standards are very useful in ensuring quality, timely and relevant data are provided to stakeholders and users.

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

To assist DOSM in identifying the needs of users, Main User Committee (MUC) was established in 1988 to determine guidelines, policies and priorities for statistical activities.

Main User Committee (MUC)

Membership

Chairman : Director General, EPU

Members : Chief Statistician of Malaysia and representatives from:

- MOF

- BNM

- MITI

- Malaysian Administrative Modernization and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU)

Secretariat : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Terms of Reference

- i. Identify and define statistical priorities and requirements in line with the current planning needs;
- ii. Coordinate, at the technical level, the collection and dissemination of statistics by Government agencies; and
- iii. Set up technical working groups for specific statistical activities.

Inter-Agency Technical Committee

The Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC) was established in 2007 and the members consist of representatives from government agencies and statutory bodies that compile statistics.

IATC functions and work scope

- a. Harmonisation of statistical codes, classifications and definitions (CCD) used by all the government agencies provided that the CCD are not duplicating the work scope of Public Sector Data Dictionary under MAMPU;

- b. The one-stop centre for government agencies to obtain statistical CCD;
- c. To review, discuss and approve suggestions given by the government agencies on the CCD concerning with the statistical activities;
- d. To determine the CCD data owner;
- e. To suggest solutions on issues highlighted in implementing the harmonisation of CCD by the government agencies; and
- f. To raise the unresolved issues to MUC.

This is to facilitate the Department of Statistics, Malaysia and other government agencies in sharing information and ensuring comparability of data among different data sources.

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

DOSM would like to have standards in the following areas developed:

- a. Improvement in ISIC sectors such as Biotechnology, Agro based, Handicrafts i.e. areas with 'vague' borderline.
- b. Social Accounting Matrices (SAM)
Currently, there is no international manual on the compilation of SAM. The development of standard in this area would serves as guideline to provide a comparable statistics among countries.
- c. Migration Survey.

**4. 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.**

Malaysia has participated as member of a number of experts groups such as on industrial statistics, manufacturing, consumer price index, distributive trades, System of National Accounts (SNA), industry classifications, certain topics of population etc. that contributed to the formulation of the international standards.

Due to the different level of the development and peculiarities of certain regions of the world, regional consultations would provide better inputs to the formulation of international standards.

III. MICRODATA DISSEMINATION

1. Do you provide the following micro data sets?

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

Globalisation, changes in the economic structure, sophisticated and complex request from users and ICT development have led to high expectations for statistical services, new product as well as request for detailed data.

Thus in 2010, DOSM formulated and introduced Policy on Microdata Dissemination. The policy provides guidelines for micro data as well as detailed data, while safeguarding the confidentiality of data of respondents/ establishments.

The areas covered include prices and expenditure data; population and demography; labour force and migration as well as economic data including manufacturing, distributive trade, economic indicators (e.g. Input – Output), merchandise trade, microdata on households and establishments frames; agriculture and environment statistics.

a) Population Censuses:

A sample of two percent (2%) of person records is available for census 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000

b) i. Household surveys - HIS and HES:

- 30% of the number of households with all variables; or
- 30% of the number of variables with all households.

Year of survey, the number of variables and households which can be supplied are as follows:

Name of survey	Year of survey	Number of Variables	Number of households
HIS	2007	22	12,137
HIS	2009	22	13,742
HES	1998/99	27	9,198
HES	2004/05	31	14,084
HES	2009/10	32	21,641

b) ii. Household Surveys - Labour Force & Migration Survey

35 per cent of the total record of household members in working age 15 to 64 years with no weights up to fourteen variables while for Migration Survey, micro data that can be supplied is the overall record of internal migrants that are no weights up to fifteen variables.

c) Establishment / Enterprise Surveys

Selected items of value of assets; employment; salaries and wages; and income and expenditure as detailed in the Annex of the Policy on Microdata Dissemination.

2. What kind of disclosure control do you employ?

Various disclosure controls are put in place in line with the Sixth Principle of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Amongst the disclosure control implemented are as follows:

- a. Anonymised data sets – without ID;

Establishment

- b. Less than three (3) establishment not disclosed;
- c. Individual data such as strategic industry and monopoly not released; and
- d. Only individual data of industry at three (3) digit level or less will be released.

**3. Do you have microdata dissemination policy?
(If yes, specify)**

DOSM introduced Policy on Microdata Dissemination in 2010

(Note: As explained in III (1))