

Description of the National Statistical System



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

Statistical Office of Portugal

Brief Description

I. General Information

Statistics Portugal mission

The mission of Statistics Portugal is to produce and disseminate, in an effective, efficient and independent manner, high-quality official statistical information relevant for the whole society.

Statistics Portugal status in public administration system of the country

Statistics Portugal is a public institution integrated within indirect State administration, endowed with administrative autonomy.

In its capacity as statistical authority, Statistics Portugal may undertake surveys and request the necessary data for the production of official statistics, excluding sensitive personal data, from all public or private entities and individuals; the provision of such data is mandatory, and subject to fine on refusal.

With a view to performing its tasks, Statistics Portugal may delegate some functions, such as notation, collection and coordination of statistical data to other public services, after having obtained the favourable opinion of the Statistical Council. This delegation takes the form of a joint decision taken by the Ministers responsible for the respective areas and by the Minister responsible for Statistics Portugal.

Statistics Portugal Director-General procedure of appointment

Administrative appointment: by the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for the Council of Ministers - Minister for the Presidency.

Statistics Portugal location of seat (head office, delegations and Autonomous Regions)

Statistics Portugal was created in 1935 and has its headquarters in Lisbon. Delegations have been established in Porto, Coimbra, Évora and Faro.

The Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira and the Regional Statistical Office of Azores act as central bodies for regional statistics and as delegations of Statistics Portugal for national statistics. They further ensure, in their respective regions, the dissemination of information produced by Statistics Portugal.

Statistics Portugal Organisational structure

Statistics Portugal is organised by executive order in three hierarchical levels: departments, units and sections. This executive order also defines the areas of intervention of 1st level departments as well as their powers. Project teams can also be created with specific multidisciplinary objectives across different areas of intervention.

Main legal act(s)

The statistical activity is ruled by the following legislation: Law N° 6/89, (*Official newspaper* N° 88, Series I of 15 April 1989). However, a new law for the National Statistical System is currently under consideration in the Parliament with a view to approval.

Statistical programme(s)

The strategic planning of the national statistical activity is conducted on a five-year basis, in line with the planning cycle of the European Statistical System. Therefore, in the course of 2007 a new planning cycle was prepared and approved, to be implemented throughout the period 2008-2012.

The Community Statistical Programme, together with the major guidelines established at the national level, has enabled the outline of the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity and relevant priorities for 2008-2012. All entities involved in the production of national statistics, participated in the preparation of this document, and it is incumbent on Statistics Portugal to ensure the necessary interlinking and consistency among the various contributions.

On a yearly basis a plan is prepared by Statistics Portugal, which comprises the activity for the whole national statistical activity, therefore includes the activity of other National Producers.

The annual plan presents the milestones of each year activity, and describes the major foreseen developments in the areas of statistical production, data collection, statistical methodology and dissemination.

II. System of official statistics in the country

The **Portuguese National Statistical System** comprises the Statistical Council, a State entity that monitors and coordinates the system, and the National Statistical Institute, Statistics Portugal, which exclusively carries out the tasks entrusted to it – rating, compilation, coordination and dissemination of official statistical data – enjoying full technical autonomy and independence for that purpose.

III. Advisory body/Statistical Council

The **Statistical Council**, set up by Law No 6/89 of 15 April, is the State entity that monitors and coordinates the National Statistical System. It is chaired by the Minister responsible for Statistics Portugal, presently the Minister for the Presidency. Its Vice-Chair person is the President of Statistics Portugal.

The Statistical Council is a wider forum of producers and users of statistical information, which contributes to:

- a) provide an accurate, high-quality and updated "picture" of society, at the economic and social level, aimed at supporting procedures to formulate and monitor public policies in the different domains, ensuring access by private entities, particularly enterprises, to data allowing for a more efficient intervention in the respective areas of interest, and providing data to researchers, analysts and other interested parties permitting them to accomplish their objectives;
- b) promote initiatives ensuring compliance with Portugal's international commitments in terms of availability of official statistics, particularly within the framework of the European Union and guarantee national and international comparability of statistics;
- c) ensure confidence in the National Statistical System.

Composition: 28 members representing: Statistics Portugal, public services; Regional governments; Banco de Portugal; Employers' Confederations; Union Confederations; Association of Municipalities; Consumer protection; Universities; Higher Institute of Statistics and Information Management (ISEGI).

IV. Publications

Statistical results are made available in different ways – according to the pre-announced Calendar – particularly in the "Press Releases" sent to the media and simultaneously released on the website and to on-line subscribers.

Most of the information released by Statistics Portugal is available on-line. Part of it is also issued in publications.

Dissemination depends on the frequency of the statistical operations: monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, yearly, five-yearly, ten-yearly or occasionally in the case of studies.

For more information: www.ine.pt