



ARGENTINA

Reporting: **Verónica Beritich**

INDEC starts the National Survey on Time Use

The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) reports that from October until December 2021, the National Time Use Survey (ENUT) will be carried out. This statistical survey will enable the lives of people of various ages to be characterized, as well to understand the time they allocate to the activities performed inside and outside their home.

The ENUT 2021 target is to meet the new demands for information from the population and expanding the statistical map to other dimensions of daily life and people's well-being. Once data are obtained, an exhaustive analysis will be carried out to know the balance between people's life and work and to know the amount of time they dedicate to reading, studying, caring for other people, doing housework, and participating in recreational and cultural activities among other topics.

This survey will interview 28,520 selected dwellings from urban areas throughout the country. It will inquire about paid work, domestic tasks and caring for other members of the households, and personal activities. In addition, it will be possible to know the contribution to GDP of unpaid work, and to monitor the commitments assumed by Argentina in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

The operation will be accomplished in person by means of a questionnaire in two blocks of questions, one about households and the other about people. For the first time, an activity diary will be introduced which will include the tasks that people had inside and outside their homes during the 24 hours of the day prior to the date of the interview. Recording multitasking will be permitted with up to three simultaneous activities in each of the 10-minute segments presented in the diary.

The data provided by those who participate in the survey are strictly confidential and protected by statistical secrecy, in accordance with the provisions of Law 17,622 and Decree 3,110 / 70.

The institutional video of the operation is available at the following link:
<https://youtu.be/0OHHbzEF73I>

General information can be found at www.indec.gob.ar.

For further information, please contact ces@indec.gob.ar.

BRAZIL

Reporting: **Dr. Andrea Diniz da Silva**

Regional Hub for Big Data in Brazil

Since April 2021, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) is hosting the United Nations Global Platform Regional Hub for Big Data. The Regional Hub supports projects in the use of Big Data and data science for official statistics and SDG indicators in Latin America and the

Caribbean region. Cooperation, training, research, and conferences are the four workstreams of the Regional Hub to leverage sharing of knowledge on newly developed methods, algorithms and tools. The Regional Hub is a milestone for the region and can improve statistical production enhancing the use of Big Data, in complement to the surveys and census, for official and experiential statistics. Preliminary results of a consultation on the use of Big Data for official statistics with the national statistical offices revealed that in several countries in the region experimental statistics as well as studies are already in course, nevertheless such a practice is not yet imbedded into the regular production processes. Ongoing activities can be followed at <https://hub.ibge.gov.br>.

CANADA

Reporting: **Steve Matthews**

Statistics Canada is pushing the envelope to provide more timely information on the Canadian economy

Statistics Canada delivers high quality statistics on various components of the Canadian economy to enable evidence-based decision making by our data users. High quality information historically comes at a cost in timeliness – it takes time to apply the many steps required to produce traditional statistical estimates, ranging from sampling and data collection, through to analysis and dissemination. In recent years, the agency has been exploring methods to publish more timely economic information, and the COVID-19 pandemic increased the urgency of this initiative. Beginning in the spring of 2020, *flash estimation* methods were used to publish early indicators of key economic measures including monthly gross domestic product, and monthly retail sales which received increasing attention from data users. What is a flash estimate? At Statistics Canada the term *flash estimate* refers to an indicator that is available earlier than the official statistic, and is produced by applying traditional methodological approaches to a partial information set (e.g. survey responses received early in data collection). This approach has provided early indicators that, despite being available up to one month in advance, have predicted the economic indicators very closely. Unfortunately, this approach is not effective for all indicators and further gains in timeliness are increasingly difficult.

With this in mind, methods based on statistical models, called *nowcasting* methods, have been studied to further advance the timeliness of information, and harness the predictive power of the ever-growing body of available data sources. What is a nowcast? At Statistics Canada, the term nowcast refers to an estimate of an indicator made available soon after the reference month, produced by building and applying statistical models to predict the indicator of interest. Statistical agencies are well positioned to apply nowcasting; the approach based on statistical models makes it possible to include information beyond the confidential data available internally (e.g. survey responses or administrative sources). Gains in accuracy and timeliness are also possible by introducing data from social media, big data sources, and other information that may be publicly available. Based on this data, statistical modelling techniques using time series, machine learning, or classical statistics can be applied to nowcast a given indicator of interest. Ideally, many data sources for the reference period that we aim to predict are already available, which makes the nowcast more robust to unexpected shocks and distinguishes nowcasting from classical forecasting. In comparison to flash estimation, nowcasting increases the potential for timeliness gains without imposing additional burden on respondents to provide timely data.

Nowcasting methods have recently been applied to a number of Statistics Canada's indicators to evaluate their potential and have shown promise. Current work is focussed on Canada's monthly Gross Domestic Product – a key indicator used heavily in economic policy, and represents a challenge for nowcasting as it encompasses all sectors of the Canadian economy. Providing early

indicators along with the existing GDP release (two month lag) would provide users with much more up-to-date economic information. In particular we aim to produce estimates based on flash estimation or nowcasting methods extending as close as possible to real-time, with quality sufficient to meet user needs. This ongoing work is also expected to evolve to potentially target more granular industrial and geographic domains, and higher-frequency economic indicators which could completely change the information that we offer on the current economic situation in Canada.

JAPAN

Reporting: **Dr. Ryozo Yoshino**

Recent developments in the Japanese data archives, and newly released results of the Japanese National Character Survey

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the National Institute of Informatics (NII) have released the “Japanese Data Catalogue for the Humanities and Social Sciences” (JDCat), a system for searching research data in the humanities and social sciences. JDCat is a cross-disciplinary search system for research data currently maintained by five research institutes selected by the JSPS through an open call for proposals as part of the JSPS’s “Program for Building a Data Infrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences.” The five research institutions are Hitotsubashi University’s Institute of Economic Research, the University of Tokyo’s Institute of Social Science’s Center for Social Research and Data Archives, Keio University’s Panel Data Research Center, Osaka University of Commerce’s JGSS Research Center, and the University of Tokyo’s Institute of Archives and History. The current release targets research data in the social sciences, but it is planned to add research data in the humanities around October this year. (For more information on JDCat please see

[https://www.jspss.go.jp/english/edi/data/JDCat_NII_20210716_en .pdf](https://www.jspss.go.jp/english/edi/data/JDCat_NII_20210716_en.pdf)).

In addition, the Institute of Statistical Mathematics has released the outline and basic tabulation of the survey results of the 14th “Japanese National Character Survey” (2018), which has been conducted every five years for about 70 years since 1953: https://www.ism.ac.jp/survey/index_ks14.html (in Japanese). The results of the 1st to 13th surveys (1953 to 2013) are available at the following website: https://www.ism.ac.jp/kokuminsei/en/index_e.html (in English). For an overview of the history and data analysis of this survey and related international comparative surveys, please refer to the recently published “Cultural Manifold Analysis on National Character” [Yoshino, 2021] and its references (<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-16-1673-0>). For a series of related international comparative studies, please refer to the following: https://www.ism.ac.jp/~yoshino/index_e.html/.

NEW ZEALAND

Reporting: **Dr. Hannes Diener**

An experimental Administrative Population Census

In what will sound very familiar to many national statistics offices, Stats NZ is looking into moving towards an administrative-first census approach supported by surveys. Stats NZ’s census transformation programme (CT) has been investigating alternative census models since 2012. This August, we have released the first iteration of the experimental Administrative Population Census

(APC). The APC is an instrument for us to engage with our customers and treaty partners and invite their feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of moving to an administrative-first census.

Much like a full field enumeration census, the goal of the APC is to provide fine-grained population, social, and economic statistics for small areas and communities. Unlike a fully enumerated census that happens in the field, the enumeration happens in linked administrative data. The APC is built using Stats NZ's integrated data infrastructure (IDI). The IDI provides researchers with de-identified and linked unit-record information. The IDI data-holdings includes tax, border movements, birth and death registrations, health service provider data, educational enrolments, and more. The production of the APC also built on years of CT research and the practical experience of admin enumeration used in the 2018 Census to compensate for a low field response rate. The APC is an annual time series from 2006–2020. It includes an admin NZ resident population and a selection of demographic and identity variables: age, sex, geography, ethnicity, Māori descent, birthplace, and years since arrival in NZ. While analysis and development are ongoing, advantages of an administrative-first census over a full field enumeration one are discernible:

- it can be produced more frequently and reduce respondent burden;
- it can provide more accurate responses such as determining income from tax data versus self-reported income band;
- It can be a longitudinal time series. This allows for cohort analysis. For example, it is possible to follow annual population flows between lower geographics which usually cancel out on an aggregate level.

We are still working our way through to some of the more difficult methodological questions, and there is still a lot more work we need to do before we are confident that we could make a smooth transition to an admin first census. One area that we will be focusing on is to figure out how to collect census information which is not covered in administrative data sources and integrate this data into an administrative census. Most likely this information will come from a regular large-scale (attribute) survey, similar in scale to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

Engagement has been a main element of the APC. A successful transition to an administrative-first census relies on genuine engagement with our customers, stakeholders, and our Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) partners to ensure we get their buy-in, meet their needs, and build their trust and confidence. The iterative design of the APC includes an active engagement plan to seek early feedback, and continually incorporate it into the following releases. We are excited about the possibilities the APC has to offer and are looking forward to adding more puzzle pieces in the upcoming years.

For more details see Stats NZ (2021), Experimental administrative population census: Data sources and methods. For more information on APC, please contact Hannes.Diener@stats.govt.nz.

UNITED STATES

Reporting: **Jeffrey Hill**

U.S. Input to Industry price indexes reflect inflationary pressures facing businesses

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) now publishes a satellite inputs to industry data series. These indexes measure price change for the net inputs consumed by most 3-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industry groups, excluding capital investment and labor. To construct an overall input to industry index, the BLS first calculates two separate indexes, one measuring price change for domestically produced inputs and the other measuring price change for imported inputs. BLS uses its Producer Price Index (PPI) commodity series to construct the domestic portion of the overall index and its Import Price Indexes (MPIs) to construct the imported portion.

The two indexes are then aggregated to an overall price index that measures price change for inputs to the industry sector regardless of their country of origin.

While the most straightforward use of the net inputs to industry price indexes is to measure changes in industry input costs over time, they also provide data users with an opportunity to analyze price transmission between BLS input and output price indexes for industry groups. During this post-2020 recession recovery period, these indexes demonstrate that inflationary pressures facing businesses are continuing as 2021 comes to a close.



The “headline,” or most aggregate MPI, representing all imported goods, and the headline PPI for Final Demand, representing prices received by domestic producers for products sold to end users, fell sharply at the start of the pandemic (February-April 2020) and then began increasing in May 2020 such that by 2021 prices were above pre-pandemic levels. Prices for consumer goods, tracked by the overall CPI for all urban consumers, followed suit.

One explanation for the consumer price change is that producers passed fluctuations in their input costs on to consumers. At the start of the pandemic when many prices were falling, the inputs to industry series reflects that more industry groups experienced lower input costs, with nearly 96% of them seeing falling input prices in April 2020. For example, prices for petroleum products (used as inputs by many industries) declined substantially during the beginning of the pandemic. As prices for imports and prices received by domestic producers increased beginning in May 2020, the series reflects that many industry groups faced higher input costs, with 100% of them seeing increases in costs for January 2021. Examples of rising input costs during this period include lumber purchased by construction industries and furniture manufacturers, organic chemicals purchased by plastics and rubber manufacturers, and wheat purchased by food manufacturers. Industries experiencing decreased costs in the autumn of 2021 were those that faced large price increases earlier and for which prices then significantly fell, as was the case with lumber.

The new satellite series are not official statistics, but the BLS welcomes feedback from data users at Satellite_Series_Feedback@bls.gov as it considers publishing the series as an official data product. More information is available on the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/ppi/input-indexes/home.htm>.



Upcoming IASS-Supported Conferences in 2022



Latest Developments in the Theory and Practice of Sample Surveys and Censuses will be held on 12th March 2022 and followed by a workshop **Utilization of Remote Sensing in Sample Surveys and Censuses** held on 13th March, 2022. Organised by Pak Institute of Statistical Training And Research (PISTAR) Website: <http://pistar.org/>

Other Conferences on survey statistics and related areas

SAE 2022 – The 2022 **Small Area Estimation** international conference will take place at the University of Maryland, College Park, USA campus during May 23-27, 2022. <https://sae2022.org/> In addition to traditional topics in SAE, the conference will cover a few emerging topics in survey and official statistics (e.g., nonprobability sampling, probabilistic record linkage, data fusion, etc.) In principle, this will be an in-person conference following the University of Maryland, College Park, guidelines. However, in view of the on-going pandemic, international participants can join the conference virtually.

ITACOSM2022 – The 7th ITALian Conference on Survey Methodology



The Conference “Survey methods for Data Integration and New Data Sources” will be hosted by the Department of Political Sciences of the University of Perugia (Italy), 8-10 June, 2022. A short course on “Survey Data Integration” will be held in Assisi (Palazzo Bernabei, Italy) on June 7th by Jae-Kwang Kim. <https://meetings3.sis-statistica.org/index.php/ITACOSM2022/ITACOSM2022>

Q2022 – the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics



The conference will be held on 8 to 10 June 2022 in Vilnius, Lithuania <https://q2022.stat.gov.lt/lt/>. The event will focus on the institutional challenges of quality management, quality assurance in the emerging data ecosystem. This conference should also draw the attention of governmental bodies to the importance of high-quality, timely and more detailed statistics, and increase awareness among other stakeholders of the challenges faced by producers of official statistics, especially in times of crisis.

In addition, one-day training courses on quality management, the role of statistics in the era of Big Data and in a future society, innovation and modernisation practices, as well as data journalism and data visualisation.

Workshop on Survey Statistics 2022 of the Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Network on Survey Statistics will be held in Tartu, Estonia, on August 23 to 26, 2022. <https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BNU/Events>.

Writing manuscripts for Official Statistics journals: Guidelines for practitioners and researchers

Under the auspices of the ISI, the *Statistical Journal of the IAOS* (IAOS), *The Survey Statistician* (IASS), *Journal of Official Statistics* (JOS, Statistics Sweden), *Survey Methodology* (SMJ, Statistics Canada), IOS Press and Wiley are organizing a workshop comprising three separate webinars of two hours each. The workshop will be held online February 8, 10, 15, 2022. <https://www.isi-web.org/events/node-1221>.

The objective of this workshop is to prepare Official Statisticians and researchers to draft and submit manuscripts to Official Statistics journals. The workshop focuses on manuscript drafting and structuring skills as well as on anticipating the knowledge level and expectations of the audiences and on organizing and preparing a manuscript for submission to a journal in the field of Official Statistics.

In Other Journals

Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology

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<https://academic.oup.com/jssam/issue/9/3>

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David Dutwin, Trent D Buskirk

Telephone Sample Surveys: Dearly Beloved or Nearly Departed? Trends in Survey Errors in the Era of Declining Response Rates

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An Experimental Evaluation of an Online Interview Scheduler: Effects on Fieldwork Outcomes

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The Relationship Between Interviewer-Respondent Rapport and Data Quality

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Fit for Purpose in Action: Design, Implementation, and Evaluation of the National Internet Flu Survey

Jill A Dever, Ashley Amaya, Anup Srivastav, Peng-Jun Lu, Jessica Roycroft, Marshica Stanley, M Christopher Stringer, Michael G Bostwick, Stacie M Greby, Tammy A Santibanez, Walter W Williams

Exploring Scale Direction Effects and Response Behavior across PC and Smartphone Surveys

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An Evaluation of Mixture Confirmatory Factor Analysis for Detecting Social Desirability Bias

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Synthesizing Geocodes to Facilitate Access to Detailed Geographical Information in Large-Scale Administrative Data

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Combining Multiple Imputation and Hidden Markov Modeling to Obtain Consistent Estimates of Employment Status

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Oversampling of Minority Populations Through Dual-Frame Surveys

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<https://academic.oup.com/jssam/issue/9/4>

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Disentangling Interviewer and Area Effects in Large-Scale Educational Assessments using Cross-Classified Multilevel Item Response Models

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Moving from Face-to-Face to a Web Panel: Impacts on Measurement Quality

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Viewing Participation in Censuses and Surveys through the Lens of Lifestyle Segments

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CORRIGENDUM TO: Methods for Exploratory Assessment of Consent-To-Link in a Household Survey (JSSM, 2019, 7(1),118-155)

Daniel Yang, Scott Fricker, John Eltinge

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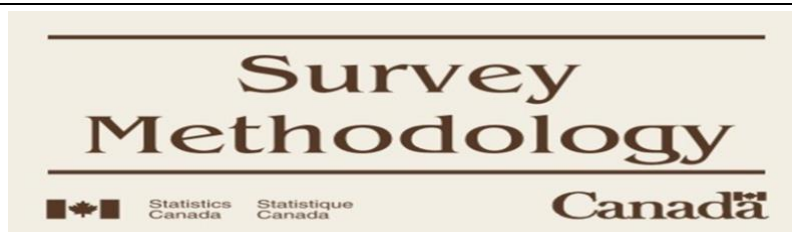
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<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/12-001-x/12-001-x2021002-eng.htm>

Waksberg Invited Paper Series

Multiple-frame surveys for a multiple-data-source world

Sharon L. Lohr

Regular Papers

Replication variance estimation after sample-based calibration

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Two local diagnostics to evaluate the efficiency of the empirical best predictor under the Fay-Herriot model

Éric Lesage, Jean-François Beaumont and Cynthia Bocci

Estimating the false negatives due to blocking in record linkage

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With-replacement bootstrap variance estimation for household surveys Principles, examples and implementation

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Small area estimation using Fay-Herriot area level model with sampling variance smoothing and modeling

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Assessing the coverage of confidence intervals under nonresponse. A case study on income mean and quantiles in some municipalities from the 2015 Mexican Intercensal Survey

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Survey Practice

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Understanding the patterns of mode switching in longitudinal studies

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The Response Entropy Index: Comparative Assessment of Performance and Cultural Bias across Indices of Careless Responding

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Other Journals

- **Statistical Journal of the IAOS**
 - <https://content.iospress.com/journals/statistical-journal-of-the-iaos/>
- **International Statistical Review**
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- **Transactions on Data Privacy**
 - <http://www.tdp.cat/>
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 - <https://rss.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/1467985x>
- **Journal of the American Statistical Association**
 - <https://amstat.tandfonline.com/uasa20>
- **Statistics in Transition**
 - <https://sit.stat.gov.pl>

Welcome New Members!

We are very pleased to welcome the following new IASS members!

PROF.

DR.	Annamaria	Bianchi	Italy
MS	Margaret Beryl-Ann	Clarkson	Grenada
DR.	John Lamont	Eltinge	United States
MR.	Antoine	Simonpietri	France
MS	Katherine Jenny	Thompson	United States
DR.	Arnout	Van Delden	The Netherlands

IASS Executive Committee Members

Executive officers (2022 – 2024)

President:	Monica Pratesi (Italy)	monica.pratesi@unipi.it
President-elect:	Natalie Shlomo (UK)	natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk
Vice-Presidents:		
Scientific Secretary:	M. Giovanna Ranalli (Italy)	maria.ranalli@unipg.it
VP Finance	Jairo Arrow (South Africa)	jairo.arrow@gmail.com
Liaising with ISI EC and ISI PO plus administrative matters	Natalie Shlomo (UK)	natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk
Chair of the Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee and IASS representative on the ISI Awards Committee:	Nikos Tzavidis (UK)	n.tzavidis@soton.ac.uk
IASS representatives on the World Statistics Congress Scientific Programme Committee:	Natalie Shlomo (UK)	natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk
IASS representative on the World Statistics Congress short course committee:	Natalie Shlomo (UK)	natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk
IASS representative on the ISI publications committee	M. Giovanna Ranalli (Italy)	maria.ranalli@unipg.it
IASS Webinars Representatives 2021-2023	Andrea da Silva (Brasil)	andrea.silva@ibge.gov.br
Ex Officio Member:	Ada van Krimpen	an.vankrimpen@cbs.nl

IASS Twitter Account @iass_isi (https://twitter.com/iass_isi)

IASS LinkedIn Account

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-association-of-survey-statisticians-iass>



Institutional Members

International organisations:

- Eurostat (European Statistical Office)

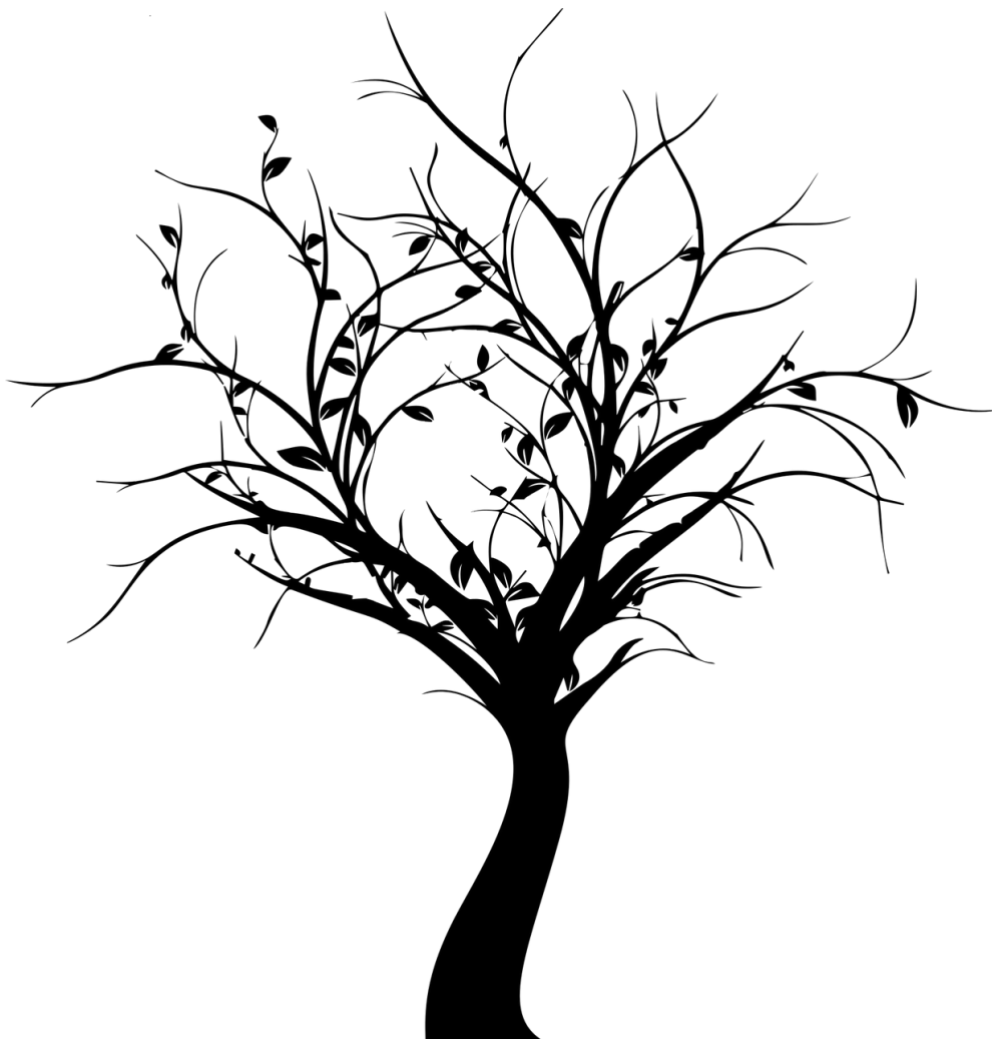
National statistical offices:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australia
- Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), Brazil
- Statistics Canada, Canada
- Statistics Denmark, Denmark
- Statistics Finland, Finland
- Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), Germany
- Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel
- Istituto nazionale di statistica (Istat), Italy
- Statistics Korea, Republic of Korea
- Direcção dos Serviços de Estatística e Censos (DSEC), Macao, SAR China
- Statistics Mauritius, Mauritius
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), Mexico
- Statistics New Zealand, New Zealand
- Statistics Norway, Norway
- Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), Portugal
- Statistics Sweden, Sweden
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), United States
- National Center of Health Statistics (NCHS), United States

Private companies:

- Westat, United States

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