

ALBANIA

Reporting: Prof. Dr. Besa Shahini

Recent initiatives at the Algeria Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)

Official statistics are offered in Albania by INSTAT, the Bank of Albania and the Respective Ministries. Starting in 2020 INSTAT created a separate section on the website, dedicated to Covid-19, where it published the most frequent data, which helped policy makers, analysts and researchers seeking further economic-social analysis regarding the situation created in the country.

http://www.instat.gov.al/en/covid-19-statistics/

INSTAT has the mandate of collecting data for the production of official statistics from institutions, businesses, families. Pursuant to this principle, during 2020 INSTAT conducted 15 surveys of enterprises, surveying about 23,053 enterprises and 8 surveys of households, surveying about 51,302 households, and cooperated with 30 institutions to provide statistical information.

During 2020-2021 and in cooperation with UNICEF, 7 new indicators were produced, which brought the total number to 49 indicators. The new indicators are part of a special publication dedicated to children, adolescents, and young people in Albania http://instat.gov.al/al/sdgs/

A special system, called "Simona" has been made available to researchers to access statistical information remotely, not only because of the Covid-19 situation, but also to respond to those interested as quickly and in the form right.

The National Statistical System has carried out objectively and independently 125 statistical activities out of 131 planned activities, resulting in 6 failures. INSTAT has realized 113 activities: Bank of Albania 10 activities and the Ministry of Finance and Economy 2 activities. The data is made public at the same time to all users, according to the Publications Calendar. The methodology of production of statistical activities and definitions are in accordance with European and international standards, according to the generated model for statistical process management (GSBPM). In 2020, 27 statistical activities were documented / improved according to this model. For the implementation of this standard, training sessions have been conducted at two other statistical agencies.

In the year 2020, through the Time Use System (TUS) and the evaluation of financial resources used, 65 statistical activities were costed. The production of statistics aims to increase trust and satisfaction among users. In the period 2020-2021, user satisfaction increased by 0.5 percentage points, compared to a year ago, while the level of trust in statistics increased by 0.9 percentage points and the level of satisfaction with the INSTAT website, where users can easily consult the statistics, increased by 0.7 percentage points.

INSTAT in the process of statistical production follows scientific criteria for the selection of sources, methods, and procedures. The correct application of these elements has meant that the Error Handling Policy of published statistics is not used in any statistical activity. The number of INSTAT statistical publications went to 162 publications in 2021 from 160 realized in 2019, including statistical publications and books.

INSTAT during 2021 has trained the staff of INSTAT and statistical agencies, regarding the adaptation of the general model of statistical process management otherwise known as GSBPM (Generic Statistics Business Process Model) version 5.1, implemented in many European countries and further. In order to increase public confidence in official statistics, in the framework of statistical quality, for 2021, 40 quality reports have been published, to conduct 2 Self-Assessments and 1 statistical Audit.

New publications

- Accommodation structures (Quarterly publication)
- Gender Equality Index for the Republic of Albania 2020 (Book)

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ARGENTINA

Reporting: Verónica Beritich

The 2022 Census will take place between March 16 and May 18. The novelty of this edition is that it will be possible to autocomplete digitally.

On January 25th, through Decree 42/2022 published in the Official Gazette, it is officially announced that the National Census of Population, Households and Housing of the Argentine Republic will be held on Wednesday, May 18th. For the first time, an online questionnaire in the census web page will enable people to complete it from their homes, if they prefer. It will be accessible from March16th to May18th at 8:00. The Census Day, census takers will visit all the homes in the country on to request census receipts from those who have chosen the digital modality, or to carry out the traditional personal interview for those who have not completed it yet.

People who wish to complete the digital questionnaire will only need to have a computer, tablet or cell phone with internet access. Being an optional tool in the context of the pandemic, the objective of this development is that people, who live in private homes in rural and urban areas, can choose the moment to self-census, optimizing the completion and subsequent processing times of the information.

For the INDEC, private dwellings are those dedicated to the accommodation of one or more households where people live under a family-type regime, whether or not they are relatives.

On the Census Day, more than 600 thousand people will participate, including urban and rural census takers, national and provincial coordinators and other positions that make up the census structure.

Accredited census takers will visit all private homes in the country to carry out face-to-face interviews or, in the case of households that have completed the digital census, request proof of completion. A 6-character alphanumeric code is going to be generated automatically once the census questionnaire is completed. It can be downloaded from any device and, in addition, it is going to be sent to the email declared at the start of the digital census. If there is more than one household in the dwelling, they will all use the same proof of completion.

Between 00:00 and 20:00, the Census Day will be a national holiday. There will be no theatrical performances, film screenings, sports competitions, shows or public gatherings. Nor may clubs and shops selling food items remain open (Law 24,254).

All people who live in the national territory have to answer the questions included in the census questionnaire. It is mandatory. This information is going to be used only for statistical purposes, in accordance with the provisions of article 18 of the aforementioned Decree.

For more information, you can access the website www.censo.gob.ar or follow the official accounts of the 2022 Census on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

BURKINA FASO

Reporting: **Baguinébié Bazongo**

Covid-19 monthly survey

The national statistical office (INSD), in collaboration with the World Bank, conducted covid-19 monthly survey to assess the impact of covid-19 on households living conditions. The sampling frame was a list of 7010 households surveyed during the 2018 Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS). Data about phone numbers were recorded during the LSMS survey to permit the selection of households and to enable phone interviews. The telephone mode was used to collect data because of covid-19 restrictions to conduct face-to-face interviews. A total of 2500 households were selected from the frame, stratified by urban and rural areas. New sampling weights were calculated by multiplying LSMS sampling weights and covid-19 sampling weights to generalize estimations to the target population. The CAPI application was designed using Survey Solutions and installed on enumerators' tablets. Mobile phones were used by enumerators to conduct interviews at home and to record responses in the CAPI application. A total of 7 rounds have been conducted from July 2020 to January 2021 from the same households sampled in the first round. To encourage the participation of households and thereby increase the response rate, the INSD provided a monthly phone credit to each sampled household after each interview. During the first interview, enumerators requested an updated phone number to households to ensure that they could be reached for the next interviews. The challenges during this survey were the displacements of some households from one stratum to another stratum due to insecurity in their region. Some of the households were out of reach because they lost their phone.

The innovation of this survey was the use of an existing frame that contained household phone numbers to conduct the survey by telephone and leading to generalizing the estimations at the country level. This approach solved the incompleteness of a sampling frame that does not have a phone number.

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CAMEROON

Reporting: Symplice Ngah Ngah

New methodology to estimate household consumption in Cameroon

To monitor the living conditions of households in general, and analyze issues relating to poverty in particular, the National Institute of Statistics carries out on average every 5 years a survey called the CAMEROON HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (ECAM). Unlike the four previous editions of the ECAM, the methodology of ECAM5 is modeled on that of the Harmonized Household Survey on Living Conditions carried out in many West African countries and in Chad.

Among the limits of the previous approach, we note:

i. the indicator of well-being was consumption expenditure; however, this does not contribute directly to meeting the needs of the household; a household can acquire food and give it as a gift to another household, or store it for consumption much late;

- ii. the failure to take seasonality into account; and consequently
- iii. the difficult comparability with other country's indicators because of methodological differences.

In the new methodology, household consumption is the main ingredient for constructing a welfare indicator, rather than income. This choice is justified by two main reasons: (i) consumption is less subject to collection errors than income; (ii) consumption is less sensitive to exogenous shocks than income and therefore better reflects the real standard of living of the household over the long term [*A. Deaton (2002), Guidelines for constructing consumption aggregate, LSMS working paper 135. The World Bank, Washington, D.C.*]. Given on the one hand seasonal variations in consumption, and on the other hand the fact that a large number of goods and services are consumed on an annual basis, the practice is to collect consumption data on an annual basis. Consumption variables are classified into two main categories: non-food goods and services, and food products. Data collection of non-food goods and services is generally done retrospectively over 7 days, 1, 3, 6 or 12 months depending on the assumed frequency of use of these goods and services.

The valuation of consumption (especially self-consumption and donations) requires the conversion of non-standard units (heap, bowl, basket, etc.) into standard units on the one hand and monetary values on the other. To this end, a survey of non-standard units was carried out prior to the main survey.

To take seasonality into account, this survey will be conducted in three waves according to the four agro-ecological zones of Cameroon.

- The first wave will cover the period from the end of September to mid-December 2021;
- The second wave will run from the end of January to mid-April 2022 (the cropping season);
- The third wave will cover the period from late May to mid-August 2022 (the harvest period).

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CANADA

Reporting: Michelle Simard and Christos Sarakinos

Two successful machine learning applications in the 2021 Canadian Census

In Canada, the census is conducted every five years, the latest cycle being in 2021. In every cycle, some aspects are improved and modernised from previous cycles. In 2021, one of the modernisation activities was the implementation of machine learning algorithms. These efforts were completed to reduce costs and significantly decrease the processing time while keeping the same level of high-quality data. The first activity was to code and classify open-ended questions and the second was to code and classify the comments left by the respondents.

The 2021 Canadian Census long-form questionnaire, sent to about 3.7 million dwellings, contains more than 30 questions that have the possibility of a write-in response that does not correspond to one of a few "check-box" options provided to the respondent to select. Respondents are not bound in how they may respond to any such question. Their responses are likely to include any number of different spellings or even responses completely unrelated to the question at hand. Adding to this, the number of responses requiring coding ranges from approximately 2,000 to 23,000,000 depending on the variable being coded. While Statistics Canada has experienced coders working for various programs, due to the sheer volume of census data, and the length of time between cycles, each cycle Statistics Canada is required to hire hundreds of temporary employees who spend

approximately 10 months completing this step. These factors make the coding process an extremely large undertaking which takes approximately 10 months to complete. Due to this complexity, Statistics Canada made the decision to augment its coding process with machine learning applications for the 2021 census cycle.

After an initial exploration period it was determined that the "fastText" algorithm would be the algorithm of choice for the 2021 Census. FastText is a natural language processing algorithm developed by Facebook within the past ten years. It uses a neural network to transform an input string into a "word embedding", that is, a numerical vector representation of the string that can then be transformed into class probabilities. The algorithm is embedded in Statistics Canada's generalized coding system, G-CODE.

In the end about 40 variable fields were processed containing more than 85 million write-ins. There were many challenges in integrating this new method in the complex census processing system, but machine learning algorithms were successfully integrated within the coding steps for almost all variables; the Place of Work variable was one of the most difficult one to code. This innovation let to reducing significantly the number of coders needed to be hired. Further improvements are planned for use with the 2026 Census of Population.

In addition, in an effort to improve the analysis of the respondent comments received on the 2021 Census of Population, Statistics Canada used machine learning techniques to quickly and objectively classify census respondent comments. As part of the project, analysts identified seventeen possible comment classes and provided previous census comments labelled with one or more of these classes. These seventeen classes included the census subject areas, such as: demography, labour, education, sex and gender, etc., as well as other general census themes, such as "experience with the electronic questionnaire", "burden of response", "positive census experience" and comments "unrelated to the census". Four different text classification algorithms were compared: SVM, CNN, semi-supervised temperature-scaled BiLSTM and transformers. Following the evaluation, a bilingual multi-label transformers model was successfully implemented in production. Incoming comments from Canada's 2021 Census of Population were objectively categorized, achieving a high accuracy of 90%. In addition to the ML model, a simple mapping technique was also used to assign classes based on respondents' explicit references to specific question or page numbers. As a result of this successful project, feedback from respondents was quickly directed to the appropriate subject matter analysts during collection for their information.

Statistics Canada's largest and most visible statistical program has been modernising its methods for many cycles and will continue the automation of its processes and usage of leading-edge technologies and techniques for future cycles.

CROATIA

Reporting: Lidija Gligorova

Using administrative data in the Croatian CBS

In the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia, usage of administrative data sources is increasing progressively. For purposes of this report, Mr. Hrvoje Žagmeštar (zagmestarh@dzs.hr), Head of the Living Conditions Statistics Unit, described actions that have already been taken as well as future actions planned in regards to usage of administrative data in the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Ms. Josipa Kalčić Ivanić (kalcicj@dzs.hr), Head of Service Statistics Department, described actions planned in regards to the usage of administrative data in the Monthly Retail Report.

Administrative Data used with the Survey on Income and Living Conditions

In the next period, the Survey on Income and Living Conditions will be prepared by obtaining data from administrative sources in order to significantly reduce the burden on interviewers themselves and on respondents as well as to shorten time needed for data processing after the fieldwork in the Living Conditions Statistics Unit. The Unit will need to provide microdata in the same year in which the fieldwork was conducted, in line with the new Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

In the next phases of introducing the mentioned data into the Survey, the Living Conditions Statistics Unit will use the following administrative sources:

- 'JOPPD' administrative base of the Tax Administration it will be used to obtain data on gross and net income, obligatory contributions from the income as well as on income tax and surtax of natural persons included in the Survey on Income and Living Conditions;
- Administrative base of the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy it will be used to obtain data on social benefits of natural persons included in the Survey on Income and Living Conditions, which are under the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy;
- Administrative base of the Ministry of the Interior it will be used to obtain personal identification numbers (OIBs) of natural persons included in the Survey on Income and Living Conditions;
- Administrative base of the Croatian Pension Insurance Institute (HZMO) it will be used to obtain codes of occupations and activities of employed natural persons included in the Survey (ISCO-08 and NACE Rev. 2).

Administrative data used with the Monthly Retail Report

The CBS carries out monthly calculations and publication of turnover index in retail trade. Retail trade index is calculated based on the data collected by means of regular statistical survey Monthly retail report.

Development and quality improvement by using fiscalization data began in 2020 in the scope of one of the Eurostat projects. Specific objectives for work area included: general quality improvements and in particular reductions of the revisions of the first releases of the national indicators, improved information on the retail trade via Internet and burden reductions for reporting units.

Two data sources were analysed at the first stage of the project. The first source consists of the data from the VAT database from Tax Authorities. The second source consists of the data that are obtained from the Tax Office and are primarily intended for the Fiscalization declarations (hereinafter Fiscalization data). After extensive analysis of all possible sources, the CBS staff decided that data from the fiscalization process is the best source because of timely availability.

From the beginning of 2021 fiscalization data are used in the production process as a supplement to existing business survey data for micro and medium size units (business entities employing fewer than 10 persons selected by using the random sample method).

Reporting: Joakim Schollert Larsen

Collecting data with a paper-based questionnaire – The European Social Survey

Introduction

The following is a presentation of the method used for the data collection to the European Social Survey round 10 (ESSr10). The subject for the survey is the living conditions in Denmark. Statistics Denmark had the main responsibility for the data collection in close co-operation with VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research. The data collection strictly followed a data protocol given by ESS.

Since the previous round in 2017, the data collection has changed from a physical face-to-face interview to a web-based and a paper-based questionnaire. This is due to covid-19, during which personal interviews have not been possible. The paper-based questionnaire in itself is not a new way of collecting data at Statistics Denmark, but a questionnaire of this magnitude has only been used to a small extend: Each of the paper-based and the web-based questionnaire takes about 45 minutes to answer and are about 30 pages long.

Collecting the data

The data collection lasted from November 2021 to April 2022. 8000 people from the age of 15 and up comprised the sample. Of these 6000 people, who did not respond on the first invitation, received a paper-based questionnaire. After receiving and answering the questionnaire, the respondents returned it to Statistics Denmark. Answers from every single returned paper-based questionnaire were typed in manually in the web-based questionnaire. More than 800 questionnaires were returned which made this process quite extensive and also very educative. It surprised us that so many chose to use this mode, which we thought was outdated.

Things to consider

So, what is the broader potential application and interest of this? Though the use of paper-based questionnaires is not revolutionary, it has led to a broader discussion of its more frequent use in future data collections; considerations include the do's and don'ts when dealing with an international study and paper-based questionnaire in this particular context. Regarding the application and interest, the use of a paper-based questionnaire potentially opens the door to a specific segment in the sample who would otherwise not have answered, given that they may not have direct access to the web-based questionnaire via the internet. Analysis shows, not surprisingly, that a majority of elderly among the respondents chose the paper-based questionnaire. Lastly, an important point in this matter is the trade-off between collecting answers from this segment by means of a paper-based questionnaire and the amount of resources needed setting up the scheme (hence it is relatively expensive compared to a web-based questionnaire). Given this fact, reflecting upon this trade-off is of high importance when considering the application of paper-based questionnaires in a study.

ETHIOPIA

Reporting: Aberash Tariku

1 The 30th Annual Conference of the Ethiopian Statistical Association (ESA)

The 30^{th} Annual Conference of the Ethiopian Statistical Association (ESA) was held on May 21 - 22, 2022 with a theme of "The Role of Statistics for National Development in the Past, Present and in

the Future Perspective of Ethiopia" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For information please contact the ESA at ethstat@gmail.com.

2 The first Gender Asset Gap survey report is finalized

The main purpose of the survey was to estimate the gender gap in asset ownership, the wealth gap and to analyse intra-household dynamics of asset ownership and wealth in Ethiopia.

2.1 Estimating Gender Asset Gap

One of the objectives of the survey is to explore gender parity in asset ownership among households with couples. The United Nations guideline recommends to measure the gender asset gap primarily using two indicators, namely, the prevalence of asset ownership among women and men, and the share/ratio of women and men owning assets. While the prevalence indicator measures the percentage of women and men who own a given type of asset from the total population of each respective gender, the ratio indicator measures whether women and men are equally represented among the owners of a given asset type.

The survey also explores the different modes of asset acquisition, forms of ownership, and alienation rights by different forms of assets and socioeconomic characteristics, sex being one of the primary dimensions of interest.

2.2 Estimating Gender Wealth Gap

The gender wealth gap shows the disparity between the value of assets owned by women and men. While the gender asset gap tells us whether women and men have equal rights to own assets, the gender wealth gap provides further information about the composition, quantities and the relative values of women's and men's assets.

2.3 Intra-Household Analysis and Decision Making

The third main objective of the survey is uncovering the intra-household dynamics of asset ownership and wealth within couples or between spouses. The survey also looks into the dynamics of intrahousehold decision making and its association with asset ownership and wealth.

2.4 Association between asset ownership and gender-based violence

The survey provides analysis of the relationship between asset ownership and wealth on the one hand and experience of and attitude towards spousal physical violence against women and men. Asset ownership might affect the [in]dependence, self-esteem and bargaining power of women, thereby their experience of and attitude towards violence.

2.5 Asset ownership and Covid-19 Pandemic

The sale of assets to cope with the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic is also covered in the survey. Assets may serve as an insurance against shocks, such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

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FIJI

Reporting: M.G.M. Khan

Recent developments at the Fiji Bureau of Statistics

Seasonal adjustment of time-series data

The Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS) is producing seasonally adjusted series for high seasonal series since 2016. The "*Introductory Guide on Seasonal Adjustment of Time Series Data*" was published

by the department in March 2022 to educate and guide compilers internally on how a Seasonally Adjusted Series is compiled. Formulation of the *JDemetra Guide* is also in progress. The guide will provide detailed step by step instructions on using JDemetra software [developed by National Bank of Belgium and provided by Eurostat] and Fiji-based series for seasonal adjustment. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides technical support and expert advice on all seasonal adjustment works.

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Fiji Standard Classification of Occupations (FISCO) Upgrade

The department is working to concord the Fiji Standard Classification of Occupations (FISCO 2007) to the Pacific Standard Classification of Occupations (PACSCO 2016) for the compilation of Employment Statistics.

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Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Rebase

Fiji's current GDP base year is 2014. With the increase in demand for a recent base year, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics is working on a GDP rebase for the year 2019. Though rebasing will take place in 2024, preparations such as rebasing the indicators and deflators used for GDP estimation mainly of the Industrial Production Index, Consumer Price Index, Import & Export Price Index, Producer Price Index and Building Material Price Index are in progress. The Supply and Use table is also in the finalizing stage. These are important development works to update Fiji's GDP by production, expenditure and income approach.

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High Frequency Phone Survey – World Bank

FBoS is currently preparing for High Frequency Phone Survey. The World Bank is monitoring the crisis and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 through a series of high-frequency phone surveys, as countries move through the pandemic and into economic recovery. In-person surveys are often impossible due to social distancing, making phone surveys an attractive option given its track record for successfully collecting timely data to inform evidence during crisis. The survey will be conducted using random digit dialing with a target sample size of 2,500 respondents. The survey will collect data on the following:

- 1. Behavioral change in response to COVID-19.
- 2. Vaccine reluctance
- 3. Unemployment
- 4. Income
- 5. Food Security
- 6. Coping Strategies
- 7. A general snapshot of Fiji's condition

Contact person: Avineshwar Prasad avineshwarp@statsfiji.gov.fj

Vital Statistics, Demography & GIS

The Fiji Bureau of Statistics is working with Vital Strategies, an International Vital Statistics expert organization based at the United States of America to address issues concerning backlog of Birth,

Death and Marriage Data Collecting Activities. With the support of Vital Strategies, FBoS is currently conducting the project "Developing Vital Statistics Indicators and Assessing Completeness and Inequalities in the Registration of Births and Deaths." The project is expected to complete by end of the year – 2022.

Subsequently, the VDG Unit is also running Fiji Civil Registration & Vital Statistics (CRVS) Inequality Assessment Project with the UNESCAP. The project will build on an initiative implemented by ESCAP at the beginning of 2021 "Inequalities in CRVS: Let's really get everyone in the picture!" where experts from national governments, academia and development partners come together to develop guidelines and technical support for Fiji to assess inequalities by evaluating and using secondary data sources and indirect demographic methods for estimating vital events.

In addition, the department in collaboration with the Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI), is now utilizing the demographic tool (license) which gives a more visual representation of information.

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FRANCE

Reporting: Philippe Brion

The development of mixed-mode collections for the production of the French Official Statistics

With the introduction of the Internet as a new data collection mode and the increasing difficulties in contacting households (and also enterprises), the evolution of surveys towards mixed-mode protocols has become a strong strategic orientation for official statistical offices. The recent Covid crisis has been an additional reason to accelerate this evolution.

Many mixed-mode protocols can be used, making it possible to take advantage of the benefits of each collection mode, depending on the constraints, the survey topic and the target populations. However, such protocols lead to a more complex survey process. Adaptations are necessary to guarantee the quality of the results: firstly, the questionnaire and its duration, then the definition of the collection protocol and finally the statistical processing of the data after collection.

The French Statistical Authorities, under the umbrella of INSEE, have implemented an overall approach to this issue during the last ten years: first for business surveys, then for household surveys.

Common tools have been developed, by first splitting the production process in phases. This work needed efforts of standardisation and simplification: in particular with the introduction of self-administered sequences, this evolution towards mixed-mode surveys constitutes a real paradigm shift for household surveys.

More details (in French) can be found in the two first articles of N°7 of French « Courrier des Statistiques »: https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/6035950.

Reporting: David I. Ojakaa

Improvements to the sample design of the Demographic and Health Survey

On-going between February and July of 2022, the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) counts as the most significant of national sample surveys currently being undertaken in Kenya by the Government's Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)¹. Part of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) programme conducted recurringly five years in at least 90 developing countries, the KDHS collects and shares accurate data on fertility, family planning, maternal and child health, gender, malaria, and nutrition.

It is in three areas that the 2022 KDHS is innovative compared to previous survey rounds. First, with the promulgation of the new Constitution in Kenya in 2010 that mandated the creation of the second and lower tier of Government after the national Government – the 48 Counties – and therefore the increased demand for data in these counties, the sample size for the 2022 KDHS is significantly augmented. Thus, compared to the 2008 KDHS whose sample of women of reproductive age (WRA) comprised only 8,444 cases and the 2014 KDHS sample size of 31,079, the 2014 KDHS sample is 397.7% higher than the 2008 survey and 35% more than that of 2014, at 42,025 WRA. The second innovation is the cause of the first above. To alleviate the burden of respondent fatigue and survey management arising from the significantly increased sample sizes, the short questionnaire which collects priority information is administered in half of all the households selected; these data can be used for county-level estimates. Data collected in the full questionnaire are however used for national estimates. Lastly, a number of new themes have been added to the 2022 survey in addition to those prior. These include questions on mental health, and COVID-19 coverage.

More information on the survey can be obtained from: directorgeneral@knbs.or.ke; archive@dhsprogram.com

MALAYSIA

Reporting: Mahmod Othman

Flood Disaster Impact Assessment Survey

Malaysia has been affected by the worst flood in the country history resulting from a tropical depression made landfall on the eastern coat of Peninsular Malaysia which brought torrential downpours throughout the peninsula for three days. Eight out of 16 states and federal territories was affected by flood, causing more than 71,000 residents to be displaced from their homes and affected more than 125,000 people as a whole.

A survey has been carried out to have an overall assessment on the impact of the flood on the affected states. In early assessment, the loss of houses and vehicles damaged due to flood is predicted to be RM1.4 billion and RM1.33 billion respectively. The loss faced by the manufacturing sector is predicted amounted to RM1 billion, RM600 million damages to business premises and RM49.9 million loss in agricultural sector. Further assessment will be carried out to help the authority to have a better understanding of the aftereffect of this flood; and to have a better contingency plan to face this kind of disaster on national level.

National Covid19 Statistic

¹ The views expressed here are those of the author solely and not of KNBS nor those of the DHS programme.

Up until 24th January 2022, Malaysia's National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) has administered a total of more than 62 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine, with at least 26 million people has received at least one dose of the vaccine. In addition, the third dose, known as the booster dose, has been administered to at least 10 million people when it first started on September 2021. Statistic shows that 97.9% of the adult population and 88.3% of the adolescents aged 12 - 17 years old has been vaccinated with two doses.

In the meantime, the vaccination programme is expected to initiate the vaccine administration to kids aged 5 - 11 years old. This is after the Drug Control Authority (DCA) of Malaysia has approved the use of vaccine on this category of population. Ministry of Health Malaysia targeted to administer first vaccine dose to at least 70% of the kids in the first two months of the programme, and to have at least 80% of them with complete vaccination in 6 months.

63rd ISI WSC 2021

The International Statistical Institute's 'World Statistics Congress 2021 - The Hague' was held virtually on 11-16 July 2021 due to COVID-19. Previously, Malaysia hosted the 62nd ISI WSC 2019 and for this latest edition, about 40 delegates from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) led by the Chief Statistician Malaysia supported the event as the participants and presenters to experience the inspiring lessons and the culture of the other countries.

NETHERLANDS

Reporting: **Deirdre Giesen**

Improving data collection and redesigning the Labour Force Survey at Statistics Netherlands

Statistics Netherlands successfully updates application landscape for data collection with Phoenix Program

Until recently Statistics Netherlands used numerous, interwoven systems for data collection that did not optimally facilitate the ever-increasing need for flexibility (e.g., switching modes). In 2015, the Phoenix program started to work step-by-step towards a completely new application landscape for data collection. The main aims of Phoenix were to be able to perform all surveys more efficiently and to ensure business continuity.

The architecture is set up in such a way that potential new forms of data collection, such as apps, can be easily implemented in a plug-and-play manner. In addition, parts of the IT landscape can be renewed over time without too much effect on other parts. This sizeable IT project was characterized by incremental delivery of production capabilities, with more and more statistics being transferred to the new applications as the project progressed. The transfer of the last survey was completed on 31 December 2021.

For more information see CBS successfully updates application landscape with Phoenix or contact Joost Huurman jwf.huurman@cbs.nl (Director Research & Development, former program manager Phoenix).

Redesign of the Dutch Labour Force Survey

Based on a Eurostat regulation, a redesign of the Dutch Labour Force Survey (LFS) is implemented in 2021 with the purpose to increase comparability of labour force data between European Member States. Statistics Netherlands has seized this opportunity to introduce additional changes in the datagathering and derivations of the LFS to further improve data quality. A redesign of a survey process generally changes non-sampling errors that occur in the various steps of a survey, in particular during the data collection phase. This results in systematic differences in the outcomes of a survey, which are often referred to as discontinuities. To avoid that systematic differences in measurement errors and selection bias are incorrectly interpreted as period-to-period changes of the parameters of interest, it is important to quantify discontinuities that are the result of a survey process redesign.

In the case of the Dutch LFS a method to quantify and correct for discontinuities is developed as a part of the transition to the new survey design. The method is based on a time series model that is implemented in 2010 for the production of monthly labour force figures. Discontinuities in the first wave of the Dutch LFS are quantified by collecting data under the old and new design in parallel for a period of nine months where both sample sizes are equal to the sample size of the regular survey. Reliable direct estimates for discontinuities for the first wave are obtained from the data collected during the parallel run. Initially a parallel run with a length of three months was planned for the last quarter of 2020 but due to the COVID crisis, the changeover to the new design was postponed from January 2021 to July 2021. Discontinuities in the four follow-up waves are quantified by extending the time series model with level intervention components that model the moment that the data collection changes from the old to the new design. The information obtained with the parallel run for the first wave is integrated in the time series model and can be used to produce uninterrupted time series. More details about the redesign and transition process can be obtained from the contact persons.

Contact persons : Martijn Souren (mhj.souren@cbs.nl) & Jan van den Brakel (ja.vandenbrakel@cbs.nl)

NEW ZEALAND

Reporting: Penny Barber, Jasmine Ludwig and Keith Lyons

New longitudinal survey to measure poverty persistence

The challenge of how to measure the persistence of poverty is being addressed by a new survey recently started by Stats NZ. 'Living in Aotearoa' will be the largest longitudinal survey to be held in New Zealand, with a panel of 7,200 households increasing up to 25,000 households by 2025 – representing around 1 in every 75 of the nation's households. Covering income, housing costs and material well-being, 'Living in Aotearoa' will survey participants once a year for six years in a row.

Stats NZ is required to report on 10 measures of child poverty under the Child Poverty Reduction Act (2018). While nine of 10 measures can be collected through the Household Economic Survey (HES), the final measure, that of persistent poverty, requires data that follows members of households over an extended period of time. The HES will eventually be replaced by the new longitudinal household survey.

Work and planning for the 'Living in Aotearoa' survey began in mid-2020, with emphasis on improved design, systems and approach to minimize the main challenge of longitudinal surveys: attrition.

Milestones so far include:

- The design of a new longitudinal sample;
- The design of a new questionnaire;
- The introduction of a new survey interviewer user interface system;
- The development of a Relationship Approach for data collection, informed by the Māori worldview (Te Ao Māori).

In addition to the launch of the survey itself, the work that has gone into its development has applications that will benefit the wider organisation. 'Living in Aotearoa' marks a move to a survey user case management application (CMA) in Blaise 5. This was presented at a recent International Blaise User Demonstration meeting, focusing on setup of the CMA, Personal and Demographic questionnaires, and the interactions between these questionnaires and the CMA system.

The Relationship Approach is an important development in the way Stats NZ conduct its social surveys. Research shows some priority groups are at higher risk of attrition than others, leading to a less-representative sample over time, which may jeopardise the validity of the findings generated. Evidence from longitudinal studies shows that establishing and maintaining a meaningful relationship with survey participants is fundamental to achieving high retention rates.

In the Māori worldview, Te Ao Māori, investing in relationships is effective in ensuring Māori have trust and confidence in survey processes and outputs. The relationship approach is designed to develop a sense of collective responsibility, known as a shared *kaupapa*, so that people are more inclined to participate and contribute their information for the 'greater good'.

Stats NZ will produce a newsletter covering the technical aspects of the survey later this year. The participant-facing webpage for 'Living in Aotearoa' is stats.govt.nz/about-the-living-in-aotearoa-survey.

For further information, please contact LivinginAotearoaTeam@stats.govt.nz

POLAND

Reporting: Tomasz Żądło

2021 Census

The National Population and Housing Census was performed in Poland from April to September 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions the initially planned duration of the census was extended by three months. In the 2021 Census, Poland has continued, as it did in the 2011 Census, using administrative registers and non-public data as data sources together with different methods of data collection including CAWI (online self-enumeration), CATI and CAPI. The Census made use of almost 35 registers and information systems including among others the Universal Electronic System for Registration of the Population, the Social Insurance Institution data, the Central Register of Insured Persons, the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons and the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund. What is more, non-administrative data sources were used as well, including data collected by operators of telecommunication networks, electric energy, water, gas and heating energy suppliers. These data sources were used as a direct source of information, a list of population units, to increase the accuracy and for imputation purposes.

The above description is based on

- https://stat.gov.pl/en/national-census/national-population-and-housing-census-2021/national-population-and-housing-census-2021/preliminary-results-of-the-national-population-and-housing-census-2021,1,1.html
- https://stat.gov.pl/en/national-census/national-population-and-housing-census-2021/national-population-and-housing-census-2021/national-population-and-housing-census-2021-research-methodology-and-organization,3,1.html

where more details can be found including the list of questions. Data based on 2021 census will be available in English from September 2022 in the Local Data Bank (https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/BDL/start) and the Geostatistics Portal (https://portal.geo.stat.gov.pl/en/home/).

Reporting: Belen Gonzalez Olmos and Maria Velasco Gimeno

Integration of data sources in Tourism statistics in the Spanish Statistical Office (INE)

In recent years the Spanish NSI has been looking for new sources and new procedures to meet the needs of the users of statistics.

The new strategy involves significant efforts to reach agreements with data owners to work together and to develop methodologies that would allow us to combine the information from these new sources with the traditional ones, while maintaining their quality.

Hereunder, three new experimental statistics are noted. They have been made possible thanks to new data sources and the development of new methodologies and processes.

1. Mobile positioning data for tourism (mobile phone)

The purpose of the study is to obtain aggregate information, through cell phone signalling, by means of active and passive events captured by telephone antennas, on the movements of resident and foreign tourists and excursionists.

The Spanish NSI has signed an agreement with the 3 most important mobile operators to carry out this project, extracting information from their databases and implementing the definitions and methodology design by the NSI.

This new source of information provides much more detailed, disaggregated and timely indicators.

2. <u>Distribution of the expenditure made by foreign visitors on visits to Spain with credit and debit</u> <u>card</u>

In this experimental statistic, information from a traditional survey (inbound tourism expenditure-EGATUR) and data from an auxiliary source (bank transactions by credit and debit cards of foreigners in Spain) are integrated.

These bank transactions include transactions made through a card in person (payments made through the Point of Sale or POS Terminal), as well as cash withdrawals at ATMs. Combining both sources of information, this statistic provides data on tourist spending by visitors in the destination where the spending was actually made.

The use of bank card data makes it possible to offer a more detailed breakdown by the traveler's country of residence, as well as to identify with greater precision the place where said expenses have been made. This information complements the information currently published in EGATUR, in which the expenditure made by travelers is shown, taking into account the main destination of trips and excursions.

In addition, this experimental statistic provides information on traveler expenditure in autonomous communities that are generally not the main destination of trips or excursions by non-residents and that therefore do not have sufficient sample coverage in EGATUR. These are stopover destinations where tourists have layovers or go to for an excursion.

3. Measurement of the number of tourist dwellings in Spain and their capacity

Traditional accommodation registers normally do not include private dwellings. The approach that the NSI has used for extracting this information is through web scraping techniques, based on computer programs, which go through the webs collecting listings and their features. The biggest challenge to deal with, when web scraping techniques are used, is to unduplicate listings being in several platforms.

With this technique we have managed to draw a map of tourist housing throughout Spain at the census section without disturbing any informant.

UNITED STATES

Reporting: Andreea L. Erciulescu and Mary Zhulkie

U.S. Agricultural Official Statistics: Measures of uncertainty for end-of-season crop yield estimates

The county-level end-of-season crop estimates of acreage, production, and yield have been used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for programme administration, by a number of federal and state agencies for research and decision making, and by farmers and ranchers for planning and market assessment. Users may access these estimates, as well as many other U.S. agricultural estimates based on data from hundreds of sample surveys and the Census of Agriculture, using the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service's Quick Stats tool. Recent statistical modeling developments have made it possible for the construction of measures of uncertainty for end-of-season crop yield estimates and these quantities started being released in the Quick Stats database in 2020. The table below provides an example of end-of-season corn-for-grain yield estimates, measured in bushels per acre, for Boone county in Iowa, for years 2018-2021.



United States data on COVID-19 infections in the workplace

Nearly 400,000 U.S. private industry workers were out of work for one or more days in 2020 due to a COVID-19 infection contracted as a result of performing their work-related duties, according to results of the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These data, released in late 2021, are the first and most comprehensive look at the effect of COVID-19 in the workplace. Three out of four of these cases occurred among workers in health care and social assistance industries, such as hospitals and nursing homes.

The SOII publishes estimates of incidence rates and counts of workplace injuries and illnesses, and provides details on the injured or ill worker and the circumstances surrounding the event or exposure for cases that involve one or more days away from work and for cases that require days of job transfer and restriction. The program relies on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recordkeeping requirements, which mandate employers record certain work-related injuries and illnesses.

Occupational injuries and illnesses collected in the 2020 SOII include cases of COVID-19 when a worker was infected as a result of performing their work-related duties and met other recordkeeping criteria. In November 2021, the SOII reported that the rate of illness cases increased from 12.4 cases per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers (FTE) in 2019 to 55.9 cases in 2020. This change was driven

by a dramatic increase in the respiratory illness case rate. COVID-19 is considered a respiratory illness under criteria established by OSHA.

The impact of COVID-19 is elsewhere reflected in the SOII through detailed case information for incidences requiring at least one day away from work. While the current version of the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) does not have a unique code for COVID-19, these cases were classified as "other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified" a rarely-used category prior to the pandemic. (For context, the last time this category was publishable was in 2015 when there were 20 cases reported.)

In 2020, private industry employers reported an estimated 390,020 cases of "other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified," with an illness rate of 40.0 cases per 10,000 FTE. These cases made up about one-third of total injuries and illnesses requiring time away from work. Of these, private industry healthcare and social assistance establishments reported 288,890 cases, with a rate of 196.3 cases.

Median days away from work is an indicator of the severity of injuries and illnesses. In 2020, the median number of days away from work for all injury and illness cases was 12 days in the private sector, up from 2019 when median days away from work was 8 days. For "other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified", the median days away from work was 13 days. Manufacturing, accommodation and food services, professional and technical services, and transportation and warehousing each had 14 median days away from work for this category.

Days away from work cases for	Other diseases due to viruses, not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.),
for selected private industries,	2020

Private Industry	Number	Rate ¹	Median Days
All private industries	390,020	40.0	13
Health care and social assistance	288,890	196.3	13
Manufacturing	30,490	25.4	14
Retail trade	19,090	17.5	13
Accommodation and food services	8,640	11.7	14
Wholesale trade	8,600	15.6	12
Administrative and waste services	7,000	13.6	13
Construction	4,690	6.8	12
Professional and technical services	4,370	5.0	14
Transportation and warehousing	3,930	7.6	14

Footnotes

(1) Rates are per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

For more tables reflecting COVID-19 in U.S. workplaces see, Nonfatal illnesses due to novel viruses by industry, Nonfatal illnesses due to novel viruses by occupation and How COVID-19 is reflected in the SOII data.

Reporting: Miguel Galmés & Juan Pablo Ferreira

Uruguay adopts new methodology for its Continuous Household Survey (CHS)

Since 1968, the National Statistics Institute (NSI) has been conducting a monthly household survey (CHS) to obtain information on a set of socio-economic variables. During the pandemic (March 2020 - June 2021) the field survey was performed by telephone applying a reduced questionnaire to get the necessary information for continuing the labour market and income indicators monthly. During the health emergency, the CHS became a survey of rotating panels, where households were chosen at random using respondent cases of the CHS 2019 until February 2020; that is, the non-face-to-face CHS used a design in two phases: each rotating panel was a subsample of the households that had responded during in 2019 until February 2020.

Once face-to-face interviews were restarted, in July 2021, the CHS introduced a methodological change: the design used since 2006 (cross-section with monthly and independent random samples) was substituted for a design of rotating panels also with monthly periodicity, but where the one-month sample is composed of six panels or rotation groups (RG) being each RG a representative sample of the population. This implies that a household stays/participates in the CHS during six months. In the first month (implementation) it is visited in person using a form like the CHS 2019 one and using the same sample design as in previous years (random, clustered, stratified and in two stages of selection). Once the home is established, during the remaining 5 months the home is interviewed by telephone to collect labour market information for all the members that make up the working-age population only.

Each RG has an expected sample size of 2,000 households when initiated. This implies that once the rotating panel of the CHS is operational, that is, once the six-month rotation period has elapsed, the sample to estimate parameters of the monthly labour market will be composed (considering the expected attrition) of around 10,500 households. This increase in the monthly sample size² with respect to the previous design; the overlap of approximately 5/6 between the sample of one month and the previous one; and a new estimation method that uses composite regression/calibration estimators (using information from the labour market of the previous month, including the RG leaving the sample) allows an important reduction of sampling errors on level and net change of labour market indicators.

Because of its characteristics, the CHS with its new methodology, CHS can be seen as two different surveys: i) a cross-section multipurpose survey of living conditions and ii) a labour market survey. Because these surveys traditionally in other National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are carried out independently, as a result of the periodicity of the indicators (e.g. labour market monthly and poverty on an annual basis) the NSI of Uruguay, with its new methodology, tries to align with the rest of the NSOs but with a single survey.

For more information: https://www.ine.gub.uy/web/guest/encuesta-continua-de-hogares3

jferreir@ine.gub.uy; mgalmes@hotmail.com;

²Other indicators (e.g. income, poverty, living conditions) are computed using only households/individuals at the time of implantation



Workshop on Survey Statistics 2022

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

ITSEW2022

The International Total Survey Error Workshop 2022 will be held in Manchester, United Kingdom from 31 August 2022 to 2 September 2022. Information is available at:

https://www.manchester.ac.uk/itsew2022

CESS2022 – The Conference of European Statistics Stakeholders 2022

will be held at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" on Oct 20 – 21. Scope of the Conference is to enhance the dialogue between European methodologists, producers, and users of European Statistics identifying the requirements of the users (ESAC), the best practices of the production (EUROSTAT, ECB, ISTAT, Banca d'Italia), with innovative ways of official statistics production based on Statistics, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, and based on new methodological ideas for collecting and analysing data (Accademia via FENStatS).https://cess2022.dss.uniroma1.it/event/3/

2022 International Methodology Symposium

Data Disaggregation: Building a more-representative data portrait of society. Statistics Canada's 2022 International Methodology Symposium "Data Disaggregation: Building a more-representative data portrait of society" will take place virtually from November 2 to November 4, 2022, inclusively. 2022 International Methodology Symposium (statcan.gc.ca)

In Other Journals

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Using American Community Survey Data to Improve Estimates from Smaller U.S. Surveys Through Bivariate Small Area Estimation Models

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Corrigendum to: Using American Community Survey Data to Improve Estimates from Smaller U.S. Surveys Through Bivariate Small Area Estimation Models Carolina Franco, William R Bell

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Special Issue: Privacy, Confidentiality, and Disclosure Protection

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Preface to JSSAM Privacy, Confidentiality, and Disclosure Protection Special Issue

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Accuracy Gains from Privacy Amplification Through Sampling for Differential Privacy Jingchen Hu, Jörg Drechsler, Hang J Kim

Private Tabular Survey Data Products through Synthetic Microdata Generation Jingchen Hu, Terrance D Savitsky, Matthew R Williams

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Postscriptum to "Survey Participation in the Time of Corona" Rolf Becker, Sara Möser, Nora Moser, David Glauser

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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!

Title	First name	Surname	Country
MS	Ana	Abdelbasit	Bosnia and Herzegovina
DR.	Owens	Akpojaro	Nigeria
MR.	Salah	Barnawi	Saudi Arabia
MR.	Jean-François	Beaumont	Canada
DR.	Victor Alfredo	Bustos y de la Tijera	Mexico
DR.	Pablo	Cabrera Álvarez	United Kingdom
MRS	Jennifer	Daniels	United States
DR.	Carolina	Franco	United States
DR.	Alexander	Kowarik	Austria
MS	Leonor	Laguna	Peru
MR.	Clifford	Lesmoras	Philippines
PROF. DR.	Volker	Mammitzsch	Germany
DR.	Amitava	Mukherjee	India
DR.	Faustino	Oguan	Philippines
DR.	Noboru	Ohsumi	Japan
DR.	Walter J.	Radermacher	Germany
MR.	Dušan	Radovanovic	Serbia
MRS	Agbogidi	Rioborue Bess	Nigeria
PROF. DR.	Tobias	Schoch	Switzerland
MR.	Joseph Saidu	Sesay	Sierra Leone
MR.	Antoine	Simonpietri	France
PROF	Catherine	Vermandele	Belgium
PROF	Kirk M.	Wolter	United States
MR.	Leo Chun-keung	Yu	Hong Kong, SAR China

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

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 (Brazil)	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-surveystatisticians-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
- EC Eurostat Unit 01: External & Interinst.
- 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
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• Westat, United States

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