

Official Statistics Confidentiality, Quality and Dissemination Policy

Introduction:

The statistical data and information provided by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) are among the most important foundations on which national development strategies and future projects are based in various social, economic and environmental sectors.

In view of the importance of statistical work, HH the Amir issued Law No. (2) of 2011 on Official Statistics, stating that MDPS is the official body in the State mandated with carrying out official statistics processes. The law defines the systems, methods and procedures for the implementation of various official statistical censuses and surveys, as well as definition of confidential data and information.

In 1994, the United Nations adopted ten principles on statistics, called the "Ten Basic Principles of Official Statistics" and encouraged the States to adhere to them in order to ensure the development of high quality statistics and the definition of statistical work ethics.

One of these ten principles is the principle of confidentiality (privacy), where data gathered on individuals by statistical agencies for statistics purposes, whether they are natural persons or legal entities, must be fully confidential and must necessarily be used for statistical purposes only.

MDPS mandates according to Article (15) of Amiri Decree No. (16) of 2014 on the mandates of ministries:

MDPS is mandated with setting and developing the overall vision of the State in cooperation with the concerned authorities, preparing national development strategies and following up on their implementation in coordination with the concerned authorities, preparing studies on these strategies and population policies, supporting the planning process in government agencies, linking the priorities of development with the State budget, following-up on the progress of implementation of plans, establishing an integrated statistical system, conducting, organizing and supervising official statistical processes, implementing various censuses and surveys and disseminating statistical data and products.

Confidentiality in accordance with the law :

Pursuant to the provisions of [Law No. \(2\) of 2011 on Official Statistics](#), the confidential statistical datum is any datum containing personal information of an individual or establishment, including but not limited to (name, ID number, address, location, telephone numbers, etc.). All such data and information of the individual/establishment referred to may not be disclosed by MDPS when publishing/disseminating census or survey results, and will be dealt with as aggregate in the formation of general results of official statistical data and information for the census or survey. Thus, this individual information will be used solely for statistical purposes as stated in the law²

Article(7)	All data relating to the names and identities of individuals/establishments are confidential, and may not be disclosed to unauthorized persons/entities, except with a written consent of the concerned individual/establishment. It is prohibited to use statistical data for non-statistical purposes. Taking into account the confidentiality of statistical data, those involved in the collection of statistical data may exchange them among themselves
Article(8)	Statistical datum may not be used or relied upon in incurring any financial burden against the person who submitted such datum, nor shall it be taken as evidence of a crime or the basis for any legal action, conduct or accountability. However, it may be used as evidence against those who have provided incorrect information in violation of the provisions of this Law
Article (9)	MDPS may not publish any data on the source of the information, and shall take necessary measures and actions to prevent direct or indirect identification of the source of information

Sources of statistical data and information collection:

Statistical data are collected from the following sources

1. Field surveys, questionnaires and population and economic censuses: Data are collected from public or private establishments, households and individuals.
2. Administrative records: Data and information archived in the records of government agencies that produce and export data.

Confidential data and information

Articles (7), (8) and (9) of the law affirms the confidentiality of the data and information collected by MDPS, namely:

S.	Confidential data and information	Restrictions on data and information	Prohibited data and information of individuals	Prohibited data and information of establishment/institution
1	Personal data and information	It is prohibited to publish any data or information in violation of the /privacy of the individual establishment. Such data may not be exchanged or disseminated to anyone	Datum and information of the individual in terms of ,name, nationality, ID number : ,date of birth, academic and ,professional qualifications monthly income, housing unit data and geographical location, private phone numbers and other contact details	Datum and information. of the establishment in terms ,of: commercial name nationality, commercial register content, data on establishment ,address and geographical location ,financial and legal data private phone numbers and other contact details
2	Detailed data and information level of small administrative units (census block)	Tables of data and information collected according to some statistical variables are confidential, and may not be disseminated, except by a formal request from a government or ,semi-government agency provided that a data confidentiality agreement is signed to ensure that such data are not used outside the /framework of the project research for which data is required	,Nationality, sex, age, occupation ,education, health status	Establishments grouped by: nationality, economic activity classified as > 2, number of workers, capital, legal entity and foreign trade data classified as > 1.

¹Ministries, public bodies, institutions and other government agencies and companies in which the State contributes not less than (%51) of its capital.

²Law No. (2) of 2011 on Official Statistics, State of Qatar.

Dissemination of official statistics:

All official statistics are provided to users to serve their needs and in line with the Official Statistics Law mentioned above, Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics is committed to the quality of statistical information which involves :

- Relevant
- Accurate and reliable
- Timely and punctual
- Coherent and comparable
- Accessible and clear

The various statistics are available via electronic and paper dissemination mechanism.

Official statistics shall be announced in various media and advertising means available in accordance with the prevailing regulations and laws without prejudice to the principle of data and information confidentiality.