



STATISTICAL SERVICE OF CYPRUS

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- ***Mission of the NSI***

The mission of the Statistical Service of Cyprus (CYSTAT) is to produce and publish accurate, timely and comprehensive statistical information. CYSTAT is mainly concerned with the initiation, organisation and carrying out of various censuses, surveys and statistical enquiries of an economic, social or environmental content and the publication of the results with the intention of satisfying the needs of the government and the private sector in Cyprus as well as the European Union and international organisations.

- ***Status of the NSI in public administration system of the country***

The Statistical Service of Cyprus is the competent authority responsible for the compilation and the publication of most of the official statistical data in Cyprus. CYSTAT functions under the Ministry of Finance; however, the Statistical Service maintains its autonomy in technical matters and has exclusive responsibility for the choice of methodology, technique, definitions and procedures for the realization of the programmes of statistical activities, as well as for the publication of the statistical data produced. At the same time, CYSTAT acts as a coordinator in cases where other institutions (such as the Central Bank, other Ministries and Government Departments) pursue work of a statistical nature for the collection of data of direct interest to the area of their activity.

- ***Procedure of appointment of Director-General of the NSI***

The procedure for the appointment of the Director of CYSTAT is the same for all professional public personnel. The vacant position is published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Cyprus (Gazette) by the Public Service Commission (the independent body responsible for all appointments in the government). All applicants fulfilling the requirements of the Director's post are called for an interview by the Public Service Commission. The Director remains to that position until retirement.

- ***Location of seat of the NSI, regional offices***

The headquarters of CYSTAT are in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. CYSTAT has also small offices in Limassol, Larnaka and Pafos engaged mainly in the collection of data. The staff of CYSTAT comprises 145 permanent employees and a number of casual staff mainly enumerators for field work.

- ***Organisational structure of the NSI***

CYSTAT is organised by subject matter on the basis of 7 main Divisions and 4 supporting Sections. The main statistical Divisions are:

- National Accounts and Foreign Trade
- Industry, Construction, Distributive Trade, Services, Environment
- Labour force, Wages and Salaries, Prices
- Demography, Health, Education
- Social Statistics
- Agricultural Statistics
- Transport Statistics

The supporting sections pertain to the following:

- Statistical Information and ICT surveys
- Data processing and technical support
- Registry
- Accounts

- **Main legal act**

The legal basis for the collection and publication of official statistics in Cyprus is provided by the Statistics Law No. 15(I) of 2000. This Law is fully harmonised with the relevant statistical acquis and the patterns of European Statistical Laws. It forms the legal basis for the collection, production and dissemination of statistical information and includes general provisions governing the statistical system in Cyprus. It also specifies the tasks of the Statistical Service and redefines its role and function as the agency responsible for the production of official statistics. In addition, the Statistics Law provides for the carrying out of statistical enquiries decided upon by the EU and the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to Eurostat.

- **Statistical programmes**

Subject to the provisions of the Statistics Law, CYSTAT compiles a five-year programme of statistical activities, which includes the surveys or work which will be carried out during this period and is submitted to the Statistical Council for comments and to the Council of Ministers for approval. CYSTAT also prepares an annual programme of statistical activities which includes the surveys or the work referred to in the five-year programme which will be carried out during the year under reference.

II. SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN THE COUNTRY

- **The role of the NSI in the system, other major players.**

Though the Statistical Service of Cyprus compiles most of the national official statistics for Cyprus, some other government departments/bodies also produce statistics. For example the Central Bank of Cyprus, which compiles statistics on the Balance of Payments, the Ministry of Agriculture, which carries out censuses of animals and maintains registers for various types of products and the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, which compiles data on registered unemployed.

III. STATISTICAL COUNCIL

- **Composition, main tasks.**

Subject to the provisions of the Statistics Law, an 11-member Statistical Council exists. It is an advisory body and comprises the following persons:

- (a) the Director-General of the Ministry of Finance or his representative (as Chairman);
- (b) the Director-General of the Planning Bureau or his representative;
- (c) the Director-General of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance or his representative;
- (d) the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment or his representative;
- (e) the Director of the Statistical Service;
- (f) a representative of the Central Bank;
- (g) two representatives of the employers' associations;
- (h) two representatives of the trade union associations;
- (i) an academic representative of the University of Cyprus.

The term of office of the members of the Statistical Council, with the exception of ex officio members, is five years and starts as from their appointment, but they may be reappointed immediately after the expiry of this period.

The Statistical Council provides advice with regard to the preparation and implementation of the programmes of statistical activities. Specifically, it gives its opinion and submits suggestions during the preparation of the programmes of statistical activities, evaluates the implementation of the programmes and gives advice in relation thereto and submits suggestions in relation to the further development of the programmes of statistical activities.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

The results of the various censuses and surveys that CYSTAT carries out are published in special thematic publications that are available for sale by the Government Printing Office and by CYSTAT. Each year more than 50 reports (annual, quarterly, monthly) are issued. Almost all CYSTAT's publications are available in both printed and electronic form and are bilingual (Greek and English).

Electronic publications are available on the website and can be downloaded free of charge. Users are informed about the availability of new publications through Press Releases, the "Alert" service and with letters to registered subscribers. A List of Main Publications is printed on the back cover of each publication. CYSTAT also issues the Publications catalogue which contains all publications since CYSTAT's establishment in 1950. The catalogue is available for downloading on the website.

For more information:

<http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/>