

# Statistical Dissemination Policy

National Directorate of Dissemination and Communication



First edition  
October 2018



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# Statistical Dissemination Policy

National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC)

First edition. October 2018

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## INDEC publications

Publications edited by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina may be consulted at [www.indec.gov.ar](http://www.indec.gov.ar) and at the Statistical Services Centre, at Av. Presidente Julio A. Roca 609 C1067ABB, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9:30 to 16:00.

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Advance release calendar: [www.indec.gov.ar/calendario.asp](http://www.indec.gov.ar/calendario.asp)

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## Preliminary note

The dissemination policy described below comprises all official statistics produced under the responsibility of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of the Republic of Argentina.

Official statistics are a public good and, as such, they must be sufficiently accessible and be presented in such a manner that results are understood without the need for specialised knowledge.

Data dissemination, the last step in statistical production, gives visibility to compliance with national legislation and international good practice, taking as a first reference the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*, established by the United Nations in 1994: technical independence, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and accessibility.

This publication does not describe issues related to revision policy, quality control, statistical confidentiality and the delegation of tasks within the National Statistical System, which, although not within the scope of the dissemination policy, may share some aspects with it and, at times, be associated to it. These topics are covered by specific protocols in other INDEC areas.

Neither does it refer to the strategic planning, design and execution of awareness campaigns of the National Directorate of Dissemination and Communication for the various statistical infrastructure development and update tasks.

The edition and release of this document rectifies a debt of the official statistics service of Argentina. It presents, in the year of INDEC's fiftieth anniversary, the procedures, tasks, scope and responsibilities of the work team dedicated to honest and open communication with the general community and, essentially, to the satisfaction of the numerous needs of statistical data users.

**National Directorate of Dissemination and Communication**  
**October 2018**

# I. Introduction

The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC, in its Spanish acronym) is the public body, of a technical nature, which runs all the official statistical activities carried out in Argentina's National Statistical System (NSS). It is a deconcentrated agency within the scope of the Ministry of Treasury. Argentine 1968 [Law 17622](#), executive orders [3110/70](#), [1831/93](#), and sections 5 and 10 of Annex I, Provision 011/88 (ratified and updated by [Provision 176/99](#)) on Statistical Secrecy, establish the creation and operation of INDEC.

In Section 5, item f, the law entrusts the Institute with “promoting the proper dissemination of all the statistical information to the Ministries, Commanders in Chief, State Secretariats, provincial and local governments, public and private organisations, and the population at large”, to fulfil its role as head of the NSS.

As a result of this legal mandate, INDEC publishes relevant demographic, social and economic information in order to promote a more open and participatory society; educate to better train and inform citizens; drive well-founded State policies; and foster effective and responsible decision-making. INDEC makes its statistical production available in different release formats and plans its dissemination actions to expand knowledge and proper use of information based on empirical evidence.

On this basis, the function of the National Directorate of Dissemination and Communication (DNDC, in its Spanish acronym), created by INDEC Administrative Order [305/2017](#), is to publish the Institute's production and communicate in an open, transparent and professional manner on matters related to this task, in compliance with the right to access public information of the community in general, and the statistical data users in particular.

## II. Adherence to international recommendations

INDEC recognises the *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*, originally developed by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 1992 and later taken on by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), which establish as a first principle that “official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation.”

Additionally, Argentina was included, in August mid-2017, as adherent to the [Recommendation of the OECD Council on Good Statistical Practice](#), by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCDE), which, for statistical dissemination and communication purposes, entails:

- *ensure the impartiality, objectivity and transparency of official statistics, through the development, production and dissemination by the National Statistical Authorities of statistics respecting scientific independence put in place in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. Equitable treatment implies in particular equal access to data by all users; and*
- *ensure user-friendly data access and dissemination, so that statistics are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, including in machine-readable form ('open data'), can be found easily, and are available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance. This also entails a commitment to respond to major misinterpretations of data by users.*

Finally, INDEC subscribes since 1996 to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) [Special Data Dissemination Standard](#) (SDDS), an initiative to improve data transparency and promote the development of sound statistical systems in adhering countries. Adherence to standard dissemination practice, together with the standardisation of statistical methodologies, allows real comparability analysis among countries.

Thus, on the basis of the aforementioned international recommendations and the national legal framework, INDEC commits to producing and disseminating statistics based on the following general principles:

- **Impartiality and objectivity:** impartial and objective dissemination; equal treatment for all users.
- **Accessibility and clarity:** the most appropriate technical means are used to guarantee unlimited, efficient and meaningful access to information.
- **Statistical confidentiality:** data is disseminated in sets, to ensure safeguarded individual information.
- **User-oriented:** meet the information needs and requirements of the public or private sector.
- **Transparency:** methodologies, quality standards, release calendar and fees for special dissemination products are released in advance and clearly.
- **Timeliness:** release of statistics is in accordance with the advance release calendar and simultaneous for all users.
- **Free of charge:** the results of statistical operations in the advance release calendar are disseminated free of charge.

### III. Missions and functions of the DNDC

The main missions of the National Directorate of Dissemination and Communication are to plan and carry out the dissemination programmes for the statistical production of the Institute and the NSS and to design and implement external communication strategies for dissemination and awareness of the national programmes and operations approved by the Director-General of the Institute in the annual work plans.

Additionally, there is the objective of installing an active, effective and efficient communication policy that benefits from the latest information and communication technology (ICT), so that INDEC and NSS information is timely, accessible and equal.

At the same time, this is within the context of the new paradigms which give rise to the management of public services agencies: *open government*. The Inter-American Development Bank defines it as “a new way to articulate the initiatives of transparency, citizen participation and collaboration of different stakeholders to co-produce public value.”<sup>1</sup>

Any policy of INDEC and the agencies of the SEN is to be understood on these terms, to guarantee equal access to statistical data and provide a user need-oriented service.

The main functions of the DNDC are:

**a.** To publish the technical output of the Institute in a timely and appropriate manner, respecting its ethical and professional principles and the norms of statistical good practice. This involves:

- Managing the [dissemination calendar](#) and making it available a year in advance.
- Gathering information from technical production areas.
- Formatting the information in accordance with the [Style Manual](#).
- Develop different dissemination channels.
- Publish the different products in appropriate and accessible formats and channels.
- Procure communication channels for dissemination.
- Manage user and recipient databases.
- Distribute products whenever required.

**b.** Meet and satisfy the demand of the varying public regarding information, enquiries and news, among others, through different channels. This includes:

- Giving support and satisfying the demands of the varying public according to their characteristics, needs and access possibilities.
- Managing on-site, digital and personal service and communication channels.
- Developing personalised dissemination products for users who require them (special works for on-demand processing).
- Enabling subscriptions to products and publication acquisition.
- Monitoring and evaluating the quality of service and communication in its different forms.
- Responding to major data misinterpretations by users.

<sup>1</sup> Ramírez-Alujas, A.; Dassen, N. (2014). *Vientos de cambio: el avance de las políticas de gobierno abierto en América Latina y el Caribe* [The winds of change: the developments in government policy in Latin America and the Caribbean]. IDB.

c. Boosting access to statistical data by encouraging the active promotion of such information, generating more accessible and meaningful content, and facilitating access channels. This involves INDEC's awareness of the different user groups in order to adjust and channel information according to their needs and interests, and producing dissemination material to spread through mass media channels and promotional activities.

d. Ensuring user information on data localisation by topic, reference period and producing area; methods and procedures to define, obtain, process and develop the various indicators; communicating in a timely manner whenever there are errors in publications; and verified and updated links and search engines.

The DNDC answers to the ever-changing expectations on access to statistical output. The formats, channels, content and supporting material are revised periodically and adjusted to satisfy users' current and future needs.

## IV. Public and dissemination supports and content

INDEC identifies the different types of public as recipients of the statistical service it provides:

- **Citizens in general:** all persons who require statistics.
- **Government agencies:** representatives and officials at the three levels of administration (national, provincial and municipal) and from the three State powers (executive, judiciary and legislative).
- **Media:** journalists, communicators and correspondents specialising in economics, politics, society and other topics linked to INDEC's statistical output, working in the main provincial, national and international media and agencies (print and digital).
- **Private sector:** members of organisations in the private sector throughout the country resorting to INDEC statistics for planning, decision-making and procedures in general. Includes domestic and foreign trade, industrial and agricultural activities, service enterprises and tourism. Members of private consulting companies specialised in economics, macroeconomics, marketing, political communication and others, dedicated to the measurement, monitoring or control of topics linked to INDEC statistics.
- **Statistical services:** staff of units of the National Statistical System, where some type of statistical activity is carried out, including INDEC.
- **Educators and researchers:** scientists at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas) and other public and private national universities throughout the country; teachers, graduates and students of public and private national and international universities using INDEC statistics.

- **Non-government agencies:** representatives of national or international foundations, associations and non-government organisations using INDEC statistical data for the attainment or monitoring of their goals.
- **Students:** students at all levels of Argentina’s official education programme.
- **International organisations:** specialised in statistics, with which INDEC maintains bilateral and multilateral relations.

To ensure access to official statistics in an equal, timely and simultaneous manner for all of the public, the DNDC manages different dissemination supports to present results, such as:

- **Website:** virtual platform that centralises INDEC’s output in an open and free manner: short-term reports, periodical publications, databases, tables and statistical series in different formats, methodological documents, metadata and other specific publications, according to the [work programme approved by the Institute](#). Additionally, it includes institutional news, information on statistical operations and on the legal framework for the Institute’s activities and its administrative organisation.
- **Social media:** the official INDEC accounts on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Youtube](#) are used to disseminate short-term indicators and other statistical and institutional information of interest, by means of graphical and audio-visual material produced by the Directorate of Communication with specific [usage policy](#) for these channels. Additionally, users’ enquiries are answered through these channels.
- **Release calendar:** the Institute presents indicator release dates every month and a year in advance (each month, the schedule for the same month of the following year is presented). It is updated on INDEC’s website and posted on social media.
- **Technical Reports:** this series officially presents the various short-term socio-economic indicators as established in the release calendar. It is published on INDEC’s website and disseminated via social media, email and messaging apps for users subscribed through the Statistical Services Centre and the Institutional Press Office.
- **Metadata:** INDEC releases results with their corresponding conceptual and methodological references: [definitions glossary](#), [classifications](#), coverage, periodicity, practices and procedures for collection, compiling, exploitation, survey questionnaires and relevant supplementary documentation. A summary of this information can be found in technical reports and other statistical publications, and is published in detail in the [methodology](#) section of the web page and in the subsections of each indicator. In [Main indicators](#) there are data sheets that synthesise how the Technical Reports results are developed, including the intellectually responsible and producing areas, a description of the topics, periodicity, geographical coverage, study universe, collection method, main variables studied and location in the Institute’s web page. Additionally, there is a [bilingual glossary](#) that helps compare concepts with international indicators; and in the “Field surveys” section there is information on INDEC operations, with a detail of goals, periodicity and topics.

- **Periodical publications:** includes the series *INDEC Informa*, *Industrial Products Statistics (EPI)*, *Statistical Overview of the Republic of Argentina* and *Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Argentina*. Published in paper and in digital form on the website.
- **Collections and case studies:** deal with methodological issues and specific surveys. Published in paper and in digital form on the website.
- **Publication catalogue:** presents editorial news and all publications available for purchase.
- **Press releases:** published on INDEC's website and on social media and sent to media subscribed by email and mobile apps.
- **School visits:** the project INDEC Educa is aimed at statistical literacy and dissemination of the technical work of the Institute, for students at different levels of the education system. This project is organised by the [services area](#) of the DNDC, in collaboration with the Directorate of Training and Personnel Development. The visits are specially planned around different themes, taking into account the needs and interests of students and in accordance with the education programme contents.
- **Bibliographical documentation centre:** INDEC's statistical library has historical censuses, periodical publications, collections, census questionnaires, field manuals and guides and awareness material, among other material produced by the Institute in its more than 50 years. After the Institute's information digitalisation process, a new [digital library](#) was created to enable and expand access to the material and, at the same time, preserve it, since it dates from the 19th century, which makes it historical heritage.

The DNDC is in charge of providing, free of charge and in digital format, INDEC's output, via its online platform, [indec.gob.ar](http://indec.gob.ar), to enable access for the greatest number of users and with the highest breakdown possible and allow its reuse, in compliance with the statistical confidentiality set forth in Law 17622.

In this sense, the data released by INDEC can be classified as open data<sup>2</sup>, in line with the global trend towards digitalisation of information and the development of new information and communication technology, and within the framework of the [open data](#) initiative for public services of the Argentine central administration.

Additionally, technical reports, as well as other publications, are released in paper and can be acquired at the Statistical Services Centre (CES), at the Institute's headquarters (Av. Julio Argentino Roca n° 609, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, República Argentina).

At the CES, it is also possible to request historical information and special processing ([ces@indec.gob.ar](mailto:ces@indec.gob.ar)). Certain on-demand processing have a defined cost, which is informed before processing the request. Price setting for publications and special works is ruled by Act 554/2006 and its modification, [Act 21/2017](#).

<sup>2</sup> Open data are those which any person can freely use, reuse, redistribute for any purpose. For more information on the difference between the principles that rule open data and official statistics, see item 2 of the Annex.

Editorial production is done exclusively at the Institute. All digital and printed publications are edited, designed, outlined and illustrated for dissemination by professionals and technicians at the DNDC's Coordinating Unit for Graphic and Editorial Production.

## V. Communication channels and access to public information

INDEC has a variety communication channels that allow direct contact with the public and satisfaction of specific user needs:

- Website (by [contact form](#)).
- Social media (comments and direct messaging on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#)).
- [Institutional press](#) office.
- On-site assistance centre (consultation room).
- Remote assistance centre ([phone and email](#)).
- [Special works](#) office, for request processing.
- [Electronic Document Management](#) circuit for official letters.
- Access to public information requests by [form on INDEC's website](#) and by the platform [Trámites a Distancia](#).
- [Online user satisfaction survey](#).
- [Survey-taker checking system for field operations](#).
- [Job search system](#).

Within this direct contact framework, INDEC participates in national fairs and shows, and regularly at the [Buenos Aires International Book Fair](#). In this space, it annually offers an educational and interactive experience for the general community to learn and understand basic statistical concepts.

Additionally, INDEC complies with [Law 27275](#)<sup>3</sup>, which aims to guarantee the effective realisation of the right to access public information, promote citizen participation and transparency in public administration. To this end, the DNDC's Coordinating Unit of Information Services has access to coordinate citizen requests.

According to the active transparency standards set forth by Section 32 of the mentioned law, the Institute has an "[Active transparency](#)" section in its website. This section, which answers to a standardised structure for all Argentine government agencies, presents information on authorities, personnel, budget and hiring, among others. According to regulation, these data should be disseminated regularly and actively, and ensuring that information is accessible and understandable.

<sup>3</sup> Law 27275 Access to public information InfoLEG. Buenos Aires, 29 September 2016. At: <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/verNorma.do?id=265949>

## VI. INDEC's social media policy

The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses' official social media accounts are:

- Twitter: [@INDECArgentina](#)
- Facebook: [INDEC Argentina](#)
- YouTube: [INDEC Argentina](#)
- Instagram: [@indecargentina](#)
- LinkedIn: [INDEC Argentina](#)

The accounts mainly disseminate the following content:

- Reports and results of short-term and structural statistical operations
- Publications
- Information on field operations
- Announcements related to the dissemination calendar
- Institutional news and events
- Dissemination and statistical literacy material
- New website content
- Archival material or from INDEC's library
- Statistical events
- Job offers (LinkedIn)
- Errata

Posts from these accounts are exclusively written and disseminated by the National Directorate of Dissemination and Communication team and no automatic systems are used for content generation. In exceptional cases, when it is considered relevant to dissemination goals, certain information of interest from other public or private, national or international, agencies is shared or re-posted, which does not imply any kind of endorsement.

The comments on social networks are of public domain. However, they are moderated to avoid offensive, abusive or threatening language, personal attacks or of any kind to any person or group, non-relevant issues, advertising and personal data. INDEC may receive or answer any comment, suggestion or question via private message or comment, but it must be noted that these channels are not conceived as a means to answer statistical information questions. The recommendation for these enquiries is to fill out the [website form](#).

INDEC Argentina does not endorse the opinions expressed in posts by its followers and in no way does it verify or confirm their accuracy. Additionally, INDEC Argentina's decision to follow an account in particular does not imply any kind of endorsement. Similarly, INDEC Argentina does not endorse its followers in any way. INDEC follows the accounts of public agencies or other statistical organisations that publish information relevant to its dissemination goals.

Publications in INDEC Argentina accounts may include links to websites that are not managed under the responsibility of the National Directorate of Dissemination and Communication. INDEC is not responsible for the accuracy, currency, prevalence or reliability of their content and does not endorse the sites or content in any way.

More information on the social media communication style may be found in the Institute's [Style Manual](#).

## VII. Dissemination calendar

The release dates for demographic, social, economic and sectoral indicators produced by INDEC are public and announced in advance, so that the release date is not determined by the content of the publication nor any other external factor. This constitutes the core of the integrity and independence of the official statistics system.

INDEC prepares its statistical dissemination [calendar](#) independently and in accordance with the timeliness principle; that is, balancing the fulfilment of technical criteria to guarantee quality and the punctuality of data availability for all users.

Advance release dates are set on working days (Monday through Thursday), to enable regular coverage in print, audio-visual and digital media, and thus expand indirect dissemination. As far as possible, the calendar does not include more than three reports a day.

The Institute presents indicator release dates every month and a year in advance (each month, the schedule for the same month of the following year is presented) in the web page. The time of release is 4pm UTC-3:00 for all statistics in the calendar.

Simultaneously, the indicator schedule is announced monthly and weekly on different channels ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)), according to the described [usage policy](#).

Additionally, [the calendar system](#) helps interested users schedule the release dates and time in their own digital devices and is available in Spanish and in English.

Any addition to the calendar is publicly announced, as well as any discontinuation, either due to a change in name, unification or new presentation.

Whenever there is an exceptional case that does not allow fulfilment of the calendar, it is announced in advance, a public explanation is issued, and a new release date is set for the affected reports.

## VIII. Joint production dissemination within the NSS

In the different stages of statistical production of operations with national coverage, including technical assistance, INDEC works under agreement with different agencies of the National Statistical System (NSS), such as ministries and other bodies of the National Executive Power; the Provincial Statistics Offices of the 23 jurisdictions and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

All institutions and personnel involved in this process are liable to the same obligations as INDEC staff regarding statistical confidentiality, in compliance with Law 17622 and its regulation. This includes cases in which results are shared before official dissemination. The results are under embargo in compliance with the annual release calendar, with periods and objectives made clear in the corresponding agreements.

## IX. Advance release of technical reports

In compliance with international recommendations on good statistical practice, limited and controlled early access to reports may be granted to certain users. This access is justified in the case of certain indicators which, by reason of their nature, scope and analytical complexity, require advance knowledge for the drafting of timely public responses of high-level government officials.

These reports are issued to a limited group, under strict embargo conditions and for information purposes only. Each advance report copy is numbered sequentially, so that any breach of embargo may be linked to a specific data recipient.

The recipients may not make any kind of statement or public use related to the data.

The list of advance recipients may be consulted in the [Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board](#) within the system of the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard, to which INDEC subscribes.

Additionally, due to the fact that some of INDEC's<sup>4</sup> socio-economic reports may affect the behaviour of financial markets, and according to sections 3 and 4 of [Law 26733](#) (which modify sections 306 and 307 of the Penal Code) on the use of privileged information, any person who breaches embargo conditions may be subject to criminal proceedings with up to eight years in prison, fine or professional disqualification. This law considers privileged information to be "all information not available to the public and whose disclosure may have a significant effect on the stock market"

The professional independence of official statistics producers is essential to the production and dissemination of objective statistics. INDEC provides a technical public service and, as such, is independent from other normative, regulatory or administrative agencies or departments, as well as from the private sector.

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<sup>4</sup> It includes macroeconomic aggregates, the economic activity estimator, the wholesale price index, the retail price index and the labour market.

No advance release recipient of main indicators may request or demand changes of any nature to the data presented, including changes to the advance release calendar. The reports are issued no more than 24 hours prior to their official dissemination time and in the same format as officially released.

## X. Press liaison

INDEC's liaison with journalists and media representatives is aimed at the development of an open and permanent relationship to guarantee proper use and interpretation of statistical information by means of satisfaction of needs and enquiries.

The supply of relevant, timely and specific data, in accordance with INDEC's good practice principles to ensure extended dissemination of its official statistical output, is the responsibility of the DNDC's Directorate of Communication (DC). Thus, there is a liaison area for print, audio-visual and digital media that assists this specific sector of users.

An important part of the institutional press office's activities is the regular delivery of direct information to the media and other key recipients (consulting companies, universities, public agencies, non-government organisations). Technical reports are sent at the release time to all users subscribed to the service.

Subscription to the whole set of -or some- indicators is free and open and can be requested from the [Institutional Press Office](#). Additionally, subscribers receive press releases, errata, methodological updates, clarifications on good use of statistical information and multimedia content. This supplementary material is public and can be accessed on the website ("[Press releases](#)" and "[Multimedia](#)" sections), available for free reproduction, provided the source is cited.

Any time new technical reports or methodological updates are to be presented, the DC calls for press conferences and/or sector meetings and coordinates presentations of the technical teams for the full understanding of the information to be released for the first time.

The aim of the press communication channels is purely informative; opinions, analyses and interpretation of the Institute's output are not provided.

The Institutional Press Office regularly monitors reuse of INDEC statistics in provincial, national and international media; in social networks; and in publicly available academic and private-consulting publications. As explained in the section below, it is good statistical practice and is aimed at detecting and warning about possible misinterpretations and/or involuntary confusion.

In parallel, the resulting annual analysis constitutes the basis for the strategic planning to expand the audience and boost statistical literacy.

## XI. Usability of information

The use of INDEC's website is free for all users. Except for specifically indicated content, all material published on INDEC's website is under [Creative Commons](#) (CC). This enables users to copy and redistribute material in any medium or format, as long as the primary source is cited and clear statement of any modification is made.

INDEC is the copyright holder of all publications produced by the Institute, as editor of the works. ISSNs and ISBNs are registered under its name. Whenever it is considered relevant to mention authors or collaborators in special works, they are mentioned in the legal notice page. The motive of these mentions lies in a moral and intellectual acknowledgement, it does not in any way grant the ownership or intellectual property rights to the persons involved.

INDEC is not responsible for misuse of statistical results in any media or format external to the institution. The DNDC reserves the right to publicly correct and clarify, by means of its official communication channels, whenever misuse of information is detected, in order to avoid any misinterpretation that may damage the credibility or the technical quality of official statistics. If any such action or omission should occur, either deliberately or by neglect or ignorance, an official statement shall be issued clarifying the correct use of the published data.

It must be noted that statistical series published before January 2007 and until December 2015 should be considered with caution, except those revised in 2016 and identified as such. INDEC, within the powers granted by decrees 181/2015 and 55/2016, arranged the required investigation to establish the regularity of procedures for data collection and processing, production of indicators and dissemination.

## XII. Annexes

### A. Statistical confidentiality

[Law 17622](#), of 1968, established the creation and operation of INDEC and provided that the Institute is to supply the data required by NSS agencies, headed by INDEC and including the 23 provinces, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and the statistics offices of national, provincial and municipal agencies in the Republic of Argentina.

The production of statistics is based on the capacity to request and obtain data from individual respondents and compile the data. Whatever the nature or condition of the respondent, collaboration lies largely on the trust conveyed by the requester.

For this reason, in all countries, statistics are legally related to two types of duties: a) the respondent's duty to provide truthful information and b) the statistical office's duty to ensure that the individual response is handled with the strictest confidentiality. This is the principle of "statistical confidentiality", that is, the legal protection of any natural or legal person obliged to provide data to the National Statistical System services, against utilisation of said data for non-statistical purposes.

Individual data protections are included in the current legislation, which includes Law 17622, its regulatory provision (Decree 3110/70) and further supplementary provisions, publicly available at <https://www.indec.gob.ar/el-indec.asp>.

Sections 10, 13 and 17 of Law 17622 establish that any participant at any stage of production of official statistical information has the obligation of maintaining statistical confidentiality, and participating officials and staff are liable to the penalties established in the Argentine Penal Code. The aim of the law is to protect the identity of the primary data unit.

Additionally, it is worth noting that statistical information always refers to a well-defined population and not to an identifiable unit. In this sense, Provision 011/88 established in Section 6 that “it must be understood that the exception provided in Section 10 of Law 17622 regarding economic unit record data refers to the census or general survey rolls encompassing the unit. Under no circumstances will lists of households, of natural or legal persons, or of establishments that comprise the sample be provided.”

For more detail, items 5 and 10 of Annex I, Provision 011/88 (ratified and updated by Provision 176/99), detail that “no information which, as a result of the simultaneous application of various conditioning criteria, corresponds to a limited amount of elements may be provided, since in such a case the units may be easily identified” and “the data are to be published in such a manner that avoids deducing the numerical value corresponding to a certain statistical unit which is known to integrate the universe presented in the table”, respectively.

This means that the databases provided must be unnamed and, in cases in which an economic sector or geographic zone shows less than three (3) records, these units must be grouped in other categories to avoid possible identification or deduction of individual values.

## B. Open data and official statistics<sup>5</sup>

Open data are those which any person can freely use, reuse, redistribute for any purpose. The criteria employed for the definition include:

- **Availability:** the data must be available as a whole at no more than a reasonable reproduction cost. The data must also be available in a convenient and modifiable form.
- **Reuse and redistribution:** the data provider must permit reuse and redistribution including linking with other datasets.
- **Equal access:** everyone must be able to use, reuse and redistribute the data.

Following these criteria, all data released by statistical offices could be classified as open data. However, these principles cannot be directly applied to official statistics, since they must fully comply with the [Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics](#).

<sup>5</sup> Extract from Guidance on common elements of statistical legislation, developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), March 2018, p 108-113. Available at: [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2018/CES\\_6\\_Common\\_elements\\_of\\_statistical\\_legislation\\_Guidance\\_for\\_consultation\\_for\\_upload.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/2018/CES_6_Common_elements_of_statistical_legislation_Guidance_for_consultation_for_upload.pdf)

Below is a list of features of open data and their main differences with **official statistics**:

Features of open data	Principles of official statistics
Data must be complete. All public data are made available as open data.	Official statistics are compiled on priority data needs of society.
Data must be primary. Data are published as collected at the source, with the finest possible level of granularity, and not in aggregate or modified forms.	Primary data collected for official statistics can only be used for statistical purposes and thus published as statistics only.
Data must be timely. Data are made available as quickly as necessary to preserve the value of the data.	Official statistics need to consider the trade-off between quality and timeliness.
Data must be accessible. Data are available to the widest range of users for the widest range of purposes.	Official statistics provide equal and simultaneous access to statistics for all users.
Data must be machine-processable. Data are structured in a manner that they can be processed in an automated way.	Official statistics apply internationally agreed classifications, definitions and methods to ensure wide comparability.
Access must be non-discriminatory. Data are available to anyone, with no registration requirement.	Official statistics are available to all users preventing disclosure of individual data.
Data formats must be non-proprietary. Data are available in a format over which no entity has exclusive control.	Official statistics can be used freely with reference to the producer of the statistics as the source of information.
Data must be license-free. Data are not subject to anyone's copyright, patent, trademark or trade secrets regulation. Reasonable privacy, security and privilege restrictions may be allowed as governed by other statutes.	Official statistics should be available free of restrictions by referring to the statistical office as the source. However, statistical data are subject to strict confidentiality rules that influence their availability.
Permanence refers to the capability of finding information over time.	Official statistics are produced regularly over time.
Usage costs. One of the greatest barriers to access to ostensibly public available information is the cost imposed on the public access	Official statistics cannot be made available at the unit level due to confidentiality constraints and all possible nonconfidential combinations are too costly to produce.