

Statistical Service of Cyprus (CYSTAT)

HISTORY & OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Statistical Service of Cyprus (CYSTAT) is to provide accurate and up-to-date statistical information.

The Statistical Service is the competent authority responsible for the compilation and the publication of most of the official statistical data in Cyprus. CYSTAT (until January 2000 under the name Department of Statistics and Research) 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. CYSTAT was set up in 1950 as a small administrative unit while its real function started after Cyprus became independent, in 1960.

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 assisting both the government and the private sector in policy-making and the planning of their activities. At the same time, CYSTAT acts as a co-ordinator in cases where other institutions (such as the Central Bank, other Ministries and Government Departments and semi-Government organisations) pursue work of a statistical nature for the collection of data of direct interest to the area of their activity.

The objectives of CYSTAT are reflected in the role statistics are designed to play. In recent years, there has been a growing demand for statistics by Government, academia, businessmen, trade unions, international bodies, the press and the general public.

In order to respond to its role, CYSTAT directs its work towards:

- (a) A user orientation, as statistics are not end-products but intermediate products to be used in decision-making and research. In addition, the same set of statistics may have a variety of users and therefore needs to respond to different requirements.
- (b) A need for promoting the timely collection and publication of good quality statistical data.
- (c) A need for maintaining continuity and comparability in the data produced.
- (d) The safeguarding of confidentiality of individual returns, impartiality and objectivity as prerequisites for reliable statistics.
- (e) The application of the most optimal international statistical principles, methods and proceedings.