

Co-ordination of Statistical Activities

With the adoption of a decentralised statistical system in the public sector, there is a need for a strong, central co-ordinating agency. Co-ordination is essential to minimise duplication of efforts in data collection, facilitate optimal allocation of resources, ensure a high standard of statistical work and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical activities and projects. As the national statistical co-ordinator designated under the Statistics Act, the Singapore Department of Statistics achieves these objectives in several ways.

Discussion with Research and Statistics Units

The Department holds meetings and discussions with relevant Research and Statistics Units (RSUs) on various issues and statistical matters. These include better co-ordination of statistical inquiries launched by different organisations, provision of advisory services on survey process and methodology, evaluation of the techniques used in compilation and quality of the data compiled, and the provision of statistics for regional policy-making.

Dissemination of Statistical News

Through the half-yearly news bulletin, the Statistics Singapore Newsletter, the Department provides readers in both the public and private sectors with news of recent survey findings and the latest statistical activities in the Singapore statistical service.

Promotion of National Statistical Standards

As part of the concerted efforts to ensure integrity and comparability of data and facilitate data sharing in the public sector, various steps are taken to develop national statistical standards and promote the adoption of such standards. Singapore's national statistical standards conform to the basic principles and guidelines provided in international frameworks and conventions.

The Singapore Department of Statistics publishes the following statistical standards and classifications :

- Singapore Standard Industrial Classification
- Singapore Standard Occupational Classification
- Singapore Standard Educational Classification
- Singapore Statistical Standard for Age

The first three classifications are updated periodically to take into account changes in Singapore's economic structure, developments in the workforce, and changes in the education system.