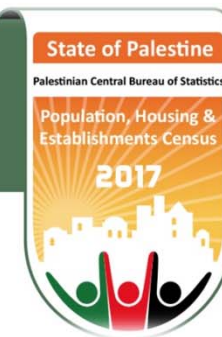




State of Palestine  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics



International Seminar on Open Data for the Sustainable Development Goals

# Balancing Openness with Security and Privacy: Palestine Experience on Data Dissemination

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# Introduction

Statistics data have grown in importance for planning, decision-making and development processes in all sectors. As stated in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, statistical data are a public commodity accessible to all beneficiaries free of charge without any discrimination among them or granting any party time priority over other parties. Therefore, it is necessary to develop new tools and means to openness for available data to society.

This statistics should be freely available for anyone (Individuals or Institutions) to use unless there are compelling privacy, confidentiality or security considerations by statistical offices, some of statistical data are being published on statistical offices websites based on Open Data principles.

# What is Open Data?

Open data is the idea that some data should be freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.

Open Data is generally understood to mean data that are made available to the users free of charge, without registration or restrictive licenses, for any purpose whatsoever (including commercial or non-commercial purposes), in electronic machine-readable formats that are easy to find, download and use.

A key characteristic of Open Data is the potential for reusability, both by data experts and public.

# Benefits of Data Openness for Statistical Offices

- ❖ Increasing the use and re-use of data by users.
- ❖ Reducing costs of data access and dissemination.
- ❖ Meet current and future needs of users.
- ❖ Increasing the users satisfactions rate.
- ❖ Building a knowledge-based society by openness, transparency.
- ❖ Realize Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, by openness on Open Data policy will assist the all countries to attain its national development.

# PCBS data dissemination channels (openness)

## Public use data:

The screenshot shows the website of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). At the top, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, Microdata Catalog, About PCBS, Policies and procedures, Acknowledgements, Strategic objectives, **Public Use Files** (highlighted with a red box and an arrow), and Arabic Surveys. Below the navigation menu, there is a search bar and a 'SHARE' button. The main content area is titled 'Central Data Catalog' and features a search filter on the left. The search filter includes 'Search by Keyword' (with options for 'in study description' and 'in variable description'), 'Filter by Year' (showing studies conducted between 2000 and 2013), 'Filter by Data Access' (with options for 'All', 'Public use data files', 'Licensed data files', 'Data enclave', and 'Data not available'), and 'Filter by Collection' (set to 'All'). The main content area displays a list of datasets under the 'Datasets' tab. The list shows 'Found 193 studies out of 193' and 'Sort results by: Year | Title | Popularity'. The first three datasets listed are: 'Agricultural Census 2010' (2010), 'Agriculture Statistics Survey, 2010/2011' (2012), and 'Business Survey on ICT, 2007' (2008). Each dataset entry includes a database icon, the title, the year, the author (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics - Palestinian National Authority), and the creation and last modified dates, views, and downloads.

# PCBS data dissemination channels (openness)

## Metadata:

### METADATA

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**Central Data Catalog**  
Censuses and Surveys.



**Statistical Classifications**  
The most important standards  
of statistical classifications



**Terminology and Indicators**  
Terminology and Indicators  
Statistical Database



**Statistical Indicators**  
Manual of Statistical Indicators  
Provided by Palestinian Central  
Bureau of Statistics .

# PCBS data dissemination channels (openness)

**Statistical data base:**



# PCBS data dissemination channels (openness)

## Scientific Research Center:



A screenshot of the PCBS State of Palestine website homepage. The header features the PCBS logo and the text "State of Palestine" and "Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics". There are navigation links for "Home", "About PCBS", "Statistics", "Publications", "Press Releases", "Resources", "Indices", "Media Room", "Links", and "News". A prominent red banner on the right side of the header reads "CENSUS 2017". Below the header is a large photograph of a group of people, including Ms. Ola Awad, at the launch of the 2017 census fieldwork. The main content area is divided into three sections: "E-Services" (with a globe icon and the text "CALCULATE CPI, USER SERVICES AND MORE.."), "Indicators" (with a bar chart icon and the text "NATIONAL MAIN STATISTICAL INDICATORS"), and "Catalogue" (with a book icon and the text "STATISTICAL CATALOGUE").



# Main policies that are applied to use data:

- Direct Access: Users are not required to register to access data. Terms of Use require proper citation and respect for copyrights.
- Public Use: Users must first register to gain data access.
- Licensed: Users must request access and receive authorization before accessing dataset.
- Available from Research Center in PCBS: Filling out a form with clear reference to the needed data and the study resulted from the data. Then Processing and approving the user request internally, and the applicant is contacted to sign the agreement and clarify the procedures and terms of use.

For all above, data be used in compliance with the terms of the PCBS Privacy Policy.

# General pillars for data dissemination policy of official statistics

- All individuals have the right to obtain official statistics collected, processed, and disseminated by the Bureau in accordance with the adopted rules and instructions, taking into consideration the honoring of data confidentiality and individuals privacy.
- All individual information and data submitted to the Bureau for statistical purposes shall be treated as confidential and shall not be divulged, in whole or in part, to any individual or to a public or private body, or used for any purpose (article in statistics law).

# General pillars for data dissemination policy of official statistics

- The Statistical offices should adopt all data protection measures to ensure the safety of collected data and store such data in places that meet the general safety and security conditions.
- Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes (Principle 6 from Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics).

# **General pillars for the dissemination policy of official statistics in Palestine:**

The Palestinian official statistics dissemination policy depends on the legal and professional frameworks of production and dissemination of official statistics:

- The Palestinian General Statistics Law (4) for the year 2000 and its executive regulations.
- The Basic Principles of Official Statistics issued by the UN Statistical Committee.
- The Palestinian Official Statistics Code of Practice.
- The National Development Plan and the National Strategy for the development of Official Statistics.
- The Public Service Code of Conduct and Ethics.



*Thank you very much for your  
attention*

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