

## **Singapore's Statistical Legislation**

### **Statistics Act**

The Statistics Act is the principal piece of legislation governing the collection, compilation and publication of official statistics in Singapore. The Act applies to the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) and gazetted Research and Statistics Units (RSUs) in the public sector.

Under the Statistics Act, the Chief Statistician and directors of gazetted RSUs have the authority to issue requisition for information from any person. In addition, the Chief Statistician is empowered to obtain information from public agencies for statistical purposes.

The Statistics Act assures the integrity of the statistical system through the safeguarding of confidentiality of data in individual returns. Information pertaining to identifiable individual returns cannot be disclosed without the prior written consent of the person, except for the cases listed in the Act such as proceedings for an offence.

The Statistics Act contains several provisions to promote national statistical co-ordination. These pertain to:

- (a) Co-ordination of statistical activities in government departments, ministries and statutory boards, including the allocation of the subject matters in respect of which research and statistics units may exercise their powers under the Statistics Act;
- (b) Provision of advice to government departments, ministries and statutory boards in the gathering, compiling, analysis and utilisation of statistics;
- (c) Development of national statistical standards and standardization of definitions, classifications, terms, procedures and concepts for use in statistical activities;
- (d) Promotion of the observance of approved national statistical standards by government departments, ministries and statutory boards.

### **Other Acts**

Non-gazetted RSUs carry out statistical activities under other legislations and administrative regulations. A number of laws which are enacted for the Ministries, Departments and Statutory Boards to carry out their statutory functions also contain specific provisions for the collection and compilation of statistics.

SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS