

Policy on Data Dissemination National Statistics Institute (INE-CHILE)

INE's National Directorate Corporate Image Department Communications Office Santiago, March 2009



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Introduction

As the lead agency for national statistics, the National Statistics Institute (INE-Chile) is subject of particular public attention and therefore its accountability is highly sensitive

Studies in economic, social, demographic, environmental and census have a decisive impact on public and private decisions. INE's work is always focus of the media, economists, analysts, as well as public and private authorities.

It is therefore necessary to define mechanisms for internal and public dissemination of the statistics, as well as for implementing quality and transparency standards comparable to the best practices of countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

With this in mind and as a mean of communication to support the work of the central and regional directorates, this manual provides the guidelines to address the dissemination of public statistics. It includes the principles of institutional accountability, as well as procedures to create efficient communications with opinion leaders and the media.

An homologated procedure to approach the different issues, as well as established, clear procedures about INE's actions not only provide a guide towards transparency and technical independence, but also allows the different actors and advanced users of statistics to know in advance the criteria for distribution and dissemination.



Code of good practices for Chilean Statistics

In early 2009, INE-Chile published the Code of Good Practices of Statistics on its website, based on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission of the European Communities (2005).

This code is based in fifteen principles that our institution is committed to respect, among them the independence and accountability of national statistical authorities. The general principles are as follows:

- 1. Professional Independence
- 2. Legal mandate survey data
- 3. Adequacy of resources
- 4. Commitment to quality
- 5. Statistical confidentiality
- 6. Impartiality and objectivity
- 7. Solid methodology
- 8. Appropriate statistical procedures
- 9. Reasonable workload for data providers (sources)
- 10. Reasonable cost-efficiency
- 11. Pertinence
- 12. Accuracy and reliability
- 13. Timeliness and punctuality
- 14. Consistency and comparability
- 15. Accessibility and clarity

Concerning diffusion, this manual deepens in those principles that are relevant to the communication process.

Communications policy

According to INE's mission, the production, analysis and dissemination of Chilean official and public statistics, developed by NE, must be done in a transparent and accessible way.

This principle is based on the certainty that public and private agencies, researchers and citizens should make informed decisions, thus strengthening an open and democratic society.

As such, INE provides economic, social, demographic, environmental and census information through the different means made available for this purpose:

- Institutional website
- 14 regional websites
- Monthly bulletins



- Statistical reports
- Press releases
- Emails

All this is supported by a solid relationship with the media, which are the main distributors of public statistics to the general public. In this way, the information is available to all at the same time, without privileged accesses.

The Communications Office, part of Corporate Image Department, is responsible for the relationship between INE-Chile and the media. This unit organizes and coordinates press conferences, interviews with experts, requests from journalists and other requirements.

According to this line of action, relations and acts with the media, their professionals and representatives, must aim to:

- Promote an open relationship
- Mutual professional respect
- Meet their needs
- Treat journalists as legitimate representatives of the public
- Provide information as quickly and complete as possible, in a truthful and responsible manner in line with INE's interests.

Knowing the journalistic task leads us to establish that normally journalists do not have much time, so we must respect their needs and respond appropriately. We shall always grant access to reliable sources within the organization. Out of respect for the press, we do not speculate on unknown information.

Statistical secrecy

By law, the National Institute of Statistics has not disseminated, sell and publish information on a particular home or enterprise. It can only disseminate data at the level of households in case of blocks and company only where there three or more stores. None complied with the terms; those responsible will be punished by the penal code. This is referred to in Articles 29 and 30 of Law No. 17,734.

"Article 29°- INE, fiscal and semifiscal entities and state-run companies, and each one of their officials, cannot reveal facts related to people or given entities, which had come to their knowledge during the performance of their duties.

The strict maintenance of these reserves constitutes the "Statistical Secrecy". The violation of the statistical secrecy by any person subject



to this obligation will become liable for the fault considered and punished by article 247 of Chile's Penal Code, and in any case imprisonment should be applied.

Article 30°. Statistical data with clear reference to persons and entities, directly or indirectly, cannot be published or disseminated, if a prohibition stands".

INE has developed an institutional link in ine.cl and INE's regional websites regarding the protection of confidentiality in processing and disseminating statistics, devoted to the statistical secrecy.



Dissemination Manual

Preparation and distribution of monthly bulletins

INE, as a national statistics authority, has the mission to make available economic statistics that are essential to the country's development. The Corporate Image Department, through the Communications Office, is responsible for conducting the process of designing and editing the material (information) of statistical bulletins.

Monthly bulletins are mainly targeted to the media, authorities, specialists and the community.

Six indicators stand out within the dissemination process:

National Employment Survey: It delivers information by mobile quarters, reporting on the unemployment rate, labour force, and number of employed persons by sex, industry and occupational group, among others.

Economic Sectors Indicators: This indicator shows the monthly evolution of the manufacturing industry production and sales, authorized construction, mining production, electricity (generation and demand), electricity, gas and water index (distribution), retail sales index and supermarkets sales. This bulletin also encompasses a business services sales index on a quarterly basis.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): This bulletin shows the percentage change underwent by prices of products and services of a given basket. It also provides information about the producer price index (PPI). The wholesale price index is also delivered through the website, and data series.

Earnings Index and Labour Cost Index: These report on the nominal evolution of these indicators, by occupational group and industry. This bulletin provides data on average earnings and labour costs in Chilean pesos.

Transportation Cost Index: This index records monthly variations reported by costs of freight transport companies nationwide. This indicator, which was first published in February 3, 2009, is made available through the website and newsletters, with the corresponding explanation of major changes reported by group.



Index of Regional Economic Activity (INACER, by its Spanish acronym): This indicator shows the economic development of Chilean regions on a quarterly basis, excluding the Metropolitan area.

Newsletters' objectives

- To reveal indicators that are important for the country's economy
- To disseminate, in a transparent and comprehensible way, the economic statistics structured by INE and its evolution.
- To develop and implement an annual calendar of releases

Target audience

- Journalists from national and regional media
- Economists
- Academics
- International organizations
- Specialists / analysts
- General public

Periodicity

The indicators release date – in printed or digital format – is subject to historic agreements and international recommendations and to their relationship with other economic sectors. For example, the CPI is used to calculate the UF, which is an inflation-indexed monetary unit whose value runs from 9th of every month. This is why this indicator is published prior to that date.

National Employment Survey: This survey is released within the last five days of each month and carries information from the mobile quarter made up by the three previous months.

For example, the survey carrying information of the February- March-April quarter is published within the last five days of May.

Economic sectors: This indicator is published within the last five days of each month.

- Production and physical sales of the manufacturing industry (information from the previous month)
- Authorized construction (building permits issued during the month prior to publication)
- Mining production (information from the previous month)



- Electric power generation and distribution (information from the previous month)
- Electricity, Gas and Water Indicator (information from two months earlier).
- Supermarkets sales (information from the previous month)
- Retail Trade Index
- Services sales index (IVSS) (quarterly data, published in November, February, May and August).

Consumer Price Index (CPI): This index is published within the first eight days of each month, when a new base has been launched according to international recommendations. During normal times, its release takes place within the first five days of each month. The Producer Price Index (PPI) is released together with this indicator.

General Index of Earnings per Hour: This is released within the eight first days of each month (same as the CPI). The General Labour Cost Index is published simultaneously.

Transportation Costs Index: This indicator is released within the first eight days of each month (same as the CPI).

Regional Economic Activity Index: Quarterly, published in November, February, May and August.

Annual release calendar

Indicator release schedule

According to an agreement with the Central Bank of Chile, INE drafts an annual release schedule of economic indicators. This schedule is set in the third quarter of the previous year and promotes and exact release dates and transparency.



Monthly Bulletins Calendar





Special offprints and inserts

Sometimes, routine bulletins require explanatory offprints containing a thorough analysis of some economic data or new methodology.

These offprints have two purposes. When analyzing an indicator's evolution, the goal is to add value to the statistical data and promote the understanding of its impact over the economy.

Offprints with methodological explanations are designed to show, in a transparent manner, the whole statistical process and any change that may influence future figures. This special information is handed one-month before the launch of a new base or the incorporation of a methodological change in any indicator.

Distribution of monthly bulletins

Weekly agenda

Even though an annual release schedule is available, INE sends a weekly agenda to the media every Friday prior to an indicator's release and the day before the official date.

Hardcopy bulletins

Around 40 hardcopies are delivered to authorities, opinion leaders and journalists.

E-mail

An email is sent by prensa.ine@ine.cl, according to an official calendar hours, to a list of media, opinion leaders and parliamentarians. The email contains a summarized article and a link to the website where the newsletter (PDF) can be downloaded to avoid delays or rejections because of emails' capacity.

Web publishing

At the exact date and time, the article is published in the official website with links to download the corresponding PDF. If an offprint is included, a link is also provided.







Policy for correcting misspells and errors

If economic bulletins present errors, the information is fixed as soon as possible and this is communicated to users. Once the problem and its solution have been identified, an erratum is published in the website and sent via email stating the correction made, as well as the date and time of the change.

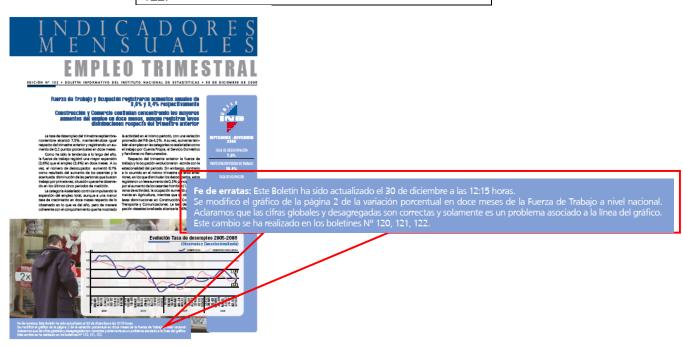
Example:

Fe de erratas:

Este Boletín ha sido actualizado el 30 de diciembre a las 12:15 horas.

Se modificó el gráfico de la página 2 de variación porcentual en doce meses de la Fuerza de Trabajo a nivel nacional. Aclaramos que las cifras globales y desagregadas son correctas y solamente es un problema asociado a la línea del gráfico.

Este cambio se ha realizado en los boletines Nº 120, 121, 122.





Special bulletins

Objectives

The main purpose of these publications is to report in detail on topics that contribute to the statistical analysis of social or cultural matters.

Usually, they include up-to-date information, even though the primary source may be from an older date, such as population censuses. This material is analyzed and used to show trends or information that is consulted by users regularly.

These special bulletins are also designed to explain the trajectory of major economic indicators.

Target

- Journalists from national and regional media.
- Economists
- Academics
- International organizations
- Specialists / analysts
- General public



Website updating

INE's official website is the main source of information for users in all areas and levels, it is a permanent tool for institutional dissemination and requires continuous updating of all its channels.

Objectives

Communicate statistics structured by (INE) to public and private users, in a clear, accurate and accessible way.

Target

- · Journalists from national and regional media.
- Economists
- Academics
- International organizations
- Specialists / analysts
- General public