



Statistics Division



Assessment of the capacity of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Statistical System to produce the core set of economic statistics

July 2011

DRAFT

Contents

Foreword.....	4
List of abbreviations and acronyms	5
I. Executive summary	6
II. Background	9
III. Objective	9
IV. Methodology	10
A. Scope.....	10
B. Structure	10
C. Limitations of the assessment	11
V. Results of the assessment of the capacity of Lao PDR to produce the core set of economic statistics.....	12
A. Assessment by individual economic statistic.....	12
B. Assessment of infrastructure and institutional setting.....	18
VI. Constraints, needs for capacity development and recommendations.....	18
VII. Assessment Summary.....	18
VIII. References	18

DRAFT

Foreword

The assessment of the capacity of Lao PDR to produce the core set of economic statistics was a joint effort by the ESCAP Statistics Division and the Lao Department of Statistics (DoS) of the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The assessment was conducted under the leadership of Ms Fu, Chief of the ESCAP Statistics Division and Dr. Samaychanh Boupha, Director General, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI).

ESCAP Statistic Division and DoS would like to thank all the staff interviewed during the assessment for their openness and support; this included staff from:

- Administration and Cooperation Division, DoS, MPI
- Economic Statistics Division, DoS, MPI
- Survey Division, DoS, MPI
- Monetary Policy Department, Bank of Lao PDR (BoL)
- Cabinet, Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC)
- Department of Planning, National Authority of Post and Communication (NAPC)
- Department of Monetary Policy, Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- Department of Planning and Cooperation, Lao National Tourism Administration
- Department of Planning, MPI
- Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF)

We would also like to thank the participants of the National consultative meeting on the status of core economic statistics in Lao PDR for their participation to the assessment.

Mr Artur Andrysiak, Statistician, Statistics Development and Analysis Section and Ms Jillian Campbell, Statistician, Statistics Information Services Section from ESCAP; and Ms. Phetsamone Sone, Deputy Director, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning and Investment and Dr. Samaychanh Boupha, Director, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning and Investment were responsible for organising the assessment and generating this report.

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

A - Annual
ADB - Asian Development Bank
BOP - Balance of payments
BoL – Bank of Lao PDR
BPM - Balance of Payments Manual
CIF - Cost, Insurance and Freight
COICOP - Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
CPI - Consumer price index
ESCAP - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FOB - Free On Board
GDSD - General Data Dissemination System
GDI - Gross Domestic Income
GDP - Gross Domestic Product
GDP(E) – GDP expenditure
GDP(I) – GDP income
GDP(P) - GDP production
GFS - Government Finance Statistics
GNI- Gross national income
GNP - Gross National Product
ICLS - International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICP - International Comparison Program
IIP - International Investment Position
ILO - International Labour Organization
IMF - International Monetary Fund
Lao PDR – Lao People’s Democratic Republic
LECS – Lao Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey
LSS – Lao PDR Statistical System
M - Monthly
MoAF – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MoF – Ministry of Finance
MoIC – Ministry of Industry and Commerce
MPI – Ministry of Planning and Investment
SD NSS – Strategy for the Development of National Statistics System
OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPI - Producer price index
PPPs - Purchasing power parities
Q - Quarterly
ROSC - Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes
SDDS - Special Data Dissemination Standard
SIAP – Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SIDA – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNA - System of National Accounts
STI - Short term indicators/statistics
UN - United Nations
W - Weekly

I. Executive summary

1. The assessment of the capacity of Lao PDR to produce the core set of economic statistics was conducted to ensure relevance and guide identification of priorities for the ESCAP regional programme on economic statistics and as a national capacity assessment tool for Lao PDR for furthering the national strategy on economic statistics. The assessment aimed to cover all aspects of Lao PDR Statistical System (LSS) involved in the production of the core set of economic statistics; including collection and processing; compilation, analysis and dissemination; statistical infrastructure (classifications, standards, frameworks, registers, IT infrastructure); human resources; and relationships between data providers, producers and users. The assessment identifies the main areas for capacity development needed for Lao PDR to produce the core set.
2. The assessment consisted of 4 components: pre-mission analysis; in-country interviews; national consultative meeting; and research and reporting. As the LSS is a highly decentralized system, the interviews covered 10 different offices from 8 organisations, including the Lao Department of Statistics (DoS) which is the head of the Lao PDR statistical system (LSS), the Bank of Lao PDR (BoL) and line ministry offices (as detailed in Section IV of the report). The interviews were conducted on April 5-7, 2011 and the national consultative meeting was on 8 April 2011.
3. Based on this assessment, Lao PDR is able to produce 15 of the 32 statistics in the core set of economic statistics at the required frequency. The assessment found that availability, periodicity, timeliness, scope and quality of the core set need to be further developed for policy makers to be able to use core economic statistics to develop and monitor economic policy. Specifically, development and improvement of prices, national accounts and labour statistics are urgently needed for the LSS to support policy makers.
4. Limited human resources (with respect to staff numbers, training and expertise); lack of statistical infrastructure; limited available data sources; and poor coordination present the major obstacles in improving the periodicity, timeliness and quality of currently produced economic statistics. Further statistical advocacy and statistical coordination present additional hurdles in producing additional elements of the core set. (Note that the Strategy for the Development of National Statistics System 2010-2020 (SD NSS) includes the improvement and further development of many elements of the core set and has mandated DoS as the head of the LSS, which allows for more effective statistical coordination).
5. In terms of capacity development, the LSS provides an excellent example of successful inter-regional staff exchanges, the development of a detailed strategic plan, and active engagement of government to obtain a commitment to statistics through law and support of the SDNSS. However, Lao PDR faces a variety of obstacles in metadata compilation and dissemination; coordination; IT resources; weak data sources; training and expertise; information sharing; quality assurance; statistical infrastructure; as well as other areas. Capacity development to enhance skills, build statistical infrastructure, improve transparency, and boost advocacy are vital for Lao PDR to have the capacity to compile high quality core economic statistics at the required frequency.

6. Staff skills and training are a vital component of producing high quality statistics. In Lao PDR, DoS and BoL staff receive international training, have access to inter-ASEAN staff exchange, build expertise through learning from visiting experts, and proficiency in English enables self-training; however, line ministry and local staff statistical training and expertise is limited. Line ministries and local staff are rarely invited to international statistical training and may have limited proficiency in English which further constricts access to international training, staff exchange and online learning. The statistical expertise of LSS staff would benefit from coordinated national training programmes in the Lao language. International training targeted at training of “trainers”, where the “trainers” then train other LSS staff may be especially beneficial. Increasing opportunities staff exchange within the LSS (between DoS and line ministries or DoS and regional offices) would also help develop the expertise of statistical staff outside of the DoS.

7. Coordination is mandated by law, but in practice personal relationships are the mechanism of coordination. Coordination to reduce duplication of work and resolve discrepancies between agencies is necessary to ensure data quality and methodological transparency.

8. The statistical infrastructure of Lao PDR could be boosted through subscribing to the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) or General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS), developing data sources, improving the business register and developing IT infrastructure. Subscription to the SDDS would help Lao PDR in achieving methodological transparency and disseminated data. Currently, a national data dissemination platform that disseminates data across the LSS and supports dissemination of metadata is not available and is urgently needed. The lack of metadata across the LSS restricts the use of statistics and impacts the perception of data quality. The availability of source data is probably the greatest weakness of the LSS, too few census, surveys and administrative sources are available; securing financial and human resources, and improving IT infrastructure are necessary for the development of source data. As data sources are further developed, a comprehensive business register will be necessary to conduct efficient, high quality and high coverage surveys. Improving the IT infrastructure in Lao PDR would result in greater efficiency, higher quality (with data editing and quality assessments as an element of IT infrastructure), more interactive data dissemination, improved metadata compilation and more timely data.

9. To ensure the sustainability of the LSS in producing the core set of economic statistics, statistical advocacy must be maintained. LSS has shown tremendous strides in getting the statistical law enacted and developing a SD NSS. To continue to develop economic statistics in Lao PDR, coordinated advocacy which promotes the importance of the core set of economic statistics for policy making; addresses the value of using good practices for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics; demonstrates the necessity of building data sources; and boosts the general understanding of economic statistics are essential.

10. Coordinated capacity building that addresses the various needs of Lao PDR would have the maximum impact. LSS members and international organisations should carefully consider how capacity building initiatives will improve the long-term viability of the core set of economic statistics, as opposed to only accomplishing a short-term output.

11. The regional programme on economic statistics aims to have maximum impact in building capacity by targeting common obstacles. This work will help provide Lao PDR with additional opportunities for capacity building which is coordinated across international organizations to meet specific gaps in the compilation of the core set, which will boost the potential of Lao PDR in accomplishing their national strategy and in producing the core set of economic statistics.

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II. Background

12. Many developing countries in the region lack the capacity to produce and disseminate relevant economic statistics for short and long-term economic analysis and decision-making by government and non-governmental agencies and organizations. The recent global financial and economic crises further highlighted the importance of timely, reliable, and comparable economic statistics for monitoring financial and economic changes. Recognizing that economic statistics are fundamental for managing economic development and that there is an urgent need to improve economic statistics in the Asia-Pacific region, the Committee on Statistics¹ at its second session in December 2010 made a number of strategic decisions².

13. The Committee endorsed a core set of economic statistics³ as a guideline for developing the capacity of national statistical systems. The Committee recommended that the core set be used as a framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building.

14. The Committee also endorsed a proposed regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific⁴. The programme will serve as a roadmap until 2020 for the region to address the constraints related to producing the core set of economic statistics. The programme will facilitate the provision of technical assistance and advice in critical technical areas and will serve as an advocacy platform for national statistical systems to make a strong case for improving the fundamentals of economic statistics. The Committee encouraged ESCAP member States and development partners to actively support its implementation.

15. ESCAP is developing a detailed implementation plan for the regional programme in close consultation with member states and development partners. The implementation plan will be based, among others, on the results of a 2009 region-wide assessment⁵ of the capacity of member States to produce basic economic statistics and detailed country assessments. Detailed country assessments of national statistical systems in the region (including the Lao PDR assessment) will serve as additional input for better understanding the statistical process and the specific obstacles that countries are facing with respect to the core set.

III. Objective

16. The objective of the assessment is to assess the capacity of Lao PDR to produce the core set of economic statistics.

¹ More information about the Committee on Statistics is available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/index.asp>

² Decisions of the Committee are contained in the report of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics on its second session, which is available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/index.asp>.

³ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4 “Proposed core set of economic statistics”, available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-4E.pdf>.

⁴ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/5 “Proposed regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific”, available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-5E.pdf>.

⁵ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/9 “Report on the ESCAP region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics”, available at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-INF9.pdf>.

17. The assessment of Lao PDR will provide the ESCAP Secretariat, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics (and its Bureau), the ESCAP Steering Group on Economic Statistics, and other international and regional partners with input for the further development of the implementation plan for the regional programme on economic statistics.

18. The assessment will further the Lao PDR national strategy for economic statistics, by helping to focus capacity building assistance which is coordinated across international organizations to meet specific gaps in the compilation of the core set.

IV. Methodology

A. Scope

19. The assessment of the capacity of Lao PDR to produce the core set of economic statistics covers all aspects of LSS involved in the production of the core set of economic statistics. This includes collection and processing of data; compilation, analysis and dissemination of economic statistics; statistical infrastructure (classifications, standards, frameworks, registers, IT infrastructure); human resources; and the relationship between data providers and producers of statistics. (Please note that while the scope of the assessment is quite broad, the assessment had a number of limitations mentioned below.)

B. Structure

20. The assessment consisted of 4 components:

1) Pre-mission assessment

21. Prior to the in-country interviews, information related to the LSS and the activity of international agencies in Lao PDR was reviewed. Using the results of the 2009 *ESCAP region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics*⁶ as a basis, the review included the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Lao PDR, publications by DoS, IMF country reports on Lao PDR, and other information related to the LSS. The objective of the pre-mission assessment of the LSS was to obtain basic information about the Lao PDR statistical system; economic statistics compilation and dissemination practices; data sources; and statistical infrastructure that could help guide the questions in the in-country interviews.

2) In-country interviews

22. The in-country interviews were conducted during the period 5 to 7 April 2010. Staff involved in producing the core set of economic statistics were interviewed. The interviews included questions regarding the current availability, periodicity and timeliness of the core set of economic statistics; availability of data sources; coordination with data providers; current compilation, analysis and dissemination practices; staff expertise and training; existing statistical infrastructure; and national priorities.

23. The following offices were interviewed:

⁶ More information available from document E/ESCAP/CST(2)/INF/9 at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-INF9.pdf>

- Administration and Cooperation Division, DoS, MPI
- Economic Statistics Division, DoS, MPI
- Survey Division, DoS, MPI
- Monetary Policy Department, Bank of Lao PDR (BoL)
- Cabinet, Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC)
- Department of Planning, National Authority of Post and Communication (NAPC)
- Department of Monetary Policy, Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- Department of Planning and Cooperation, Lao National Tourism Administration
- Department of Planning, MPI
- Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF)

3) National consultative meeting

24. The national consultative meeting on the capacity of NSS to collect, compile and disseminate the core economic statistics was held on 8 April 2011, following the in-country interviews. The meeting was attended by representatives of units/organizations involved in all stages of the production of the core set from main data providers to those responsible for compilation and dissemination of the economic statistics (within the core set); and users of economic statistics. These participants included representatives of the offices interviewed and other government offices involved in economic statistics.

25. During the meeting the participants discussed:
- Preliminary analysis of the in-country interviews;
 - main issues and constraints faced by the LSS in producing the core set from the data providers' and users' perspective;
 - key priorities, commitments and recommendations on improving statistical infrastructure, economic statistics, and statistics as a whole.

4) Research and reporting

26. This assessment of the capacity of the LSS to produce core economic statistics incorporates information from the pre-mission assessment, in-country needs assessment, consultative meeting and research on the LSS (see a list References in Section VIII). The report has been jointly produced and approved by the ESCAP Statistics Division and the Lao PDR DoS.

C. Limitations of the assessment

27. A fully, comprehensive understanding of the Lao PDR statistical system would require more than three-days of interviews, a national consultative meeting and a review of available published documents.

28. The LSS is highly decentralized and thus the period was not enough to visit all the ministries involved in the production of economic statistics. Additionally, none of the provincial or district offices were interviewed. This limits the understanding of the interaction between the headquarters and provincial offices.

29. The interviews and consultative meeting were conducted in English. While many staff interviewed were proficient in English, the discussion was limited due language in some cases. Many of the participants of the national consultative meeting did not speak English and while the DoS provided translation, the discussion was restricted.

30. The desk-review for this report was based on documents published in English. Very little metadata and documentation on economic statistics in Lao PDR is available, with even less information available in English. The lack of information on methods/practices inhibits a full understanding of compilation methods.

V. Results of the assessment of the capacity of Lao PDR to produce the core set of economic statistics

A. Assessment by individual economic statistic

31. This section describes the Lao PDR statistical system with respect to the core set of economic statistics. (An overview of the statistical system is provided in Appendix I.) The current status of the production of the core set, an assessment of capacity development needs, and planned improvements to the LSS are presented.

32. Note that the LSS is highly decentralized and there are five primary organizations involved in disseminating the core set of economic statistics: DoS (Lao Department of Statistics, to be renamed Lao Statistics Bureau); BoL (Bank of Lao PDR); MoF (Ministry of Finance); MoIC (Ministry of Industry and Commerce); and MoLSW (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare). Additionally, line ministries produce statistical publications related to their mandate, for example, tourism, telecom services, trade, and agriculture publications.

33. The remainder of this chapter provides an overview of the capacity of Lao PDR with respect to the core set of economic statistics⁷.

34. In the following tables, the summary of each statistic of the core set includes: (1) a summary of compilation and dissemination practices; (2) an assessment of capacity issues; and (3) an overview of planned improvements relevant to that statistic.

⁷ The core set of economic statistics, as approved by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, is in Appendix II.

Prices and costs		
Consumer price index (CPI)	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: DoS and provincial statistical offices	
	Frequency: M	
	Recommended frequency: Q	
	Timeliness: 2 weeks after the reference period	
	Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National, provincial (for 12 or 17 provinces), regional (north, south, centre) CPI General, food and non-food CPI 	
	Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPI follows relevant standards (Laspeyres method estimation, 12 COICOP classifications) National CPI is based on the CPI/ product prices as received from provincial offices Lao PDR Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS) is used for revising the basket of goods and determining proportion of expenditure Published online in English and Lao 	
	Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Component indices covering major expenditure groups are not available CPI covers major markets in each province (no rural/urban breakdown) Base year December 2005 is outdated Basket of goods and services (181 items) is used National estimate is based on 12 of 17 provinces 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of training, especially of provincial staff DoS human resources are limited (2 price staff) Provincial human resources are limited 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT infrastructure: no central data repository (data transmitted via excel or fax) and lack of IT software A framework for data checking does not exist. Coordination with provincial offices could be improved
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metadata is not disseminated Online data dissemination is not updated regularly A release calendar is based on Statistics Year Book 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoS has noted a demand for a rural/urban breakdown which should be further advocated. Statistical advocacy related; statistical training); achieving methodological transparency; developing IT infrastructure; and improving data quality are needed.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving to December 2010 base year during 2011 Small basket of goods moving to 245 items during 2011 All 17 provinces will be covered by 2015 Additional COICOP categories will be added Staff numbers will increase during 2010-2020 	
	Overall Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS has the capacity to produce CPI at a frequency and timeliness that are suitable for use by policy makers and other users. However, the capacity to improve the scope, coverage and methods is limited. 	

Prices and costs		
Producer price index (PPI)	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: DoS (coordination with other offices)	
	Frequency: none	Recommended frequency: Q
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: None	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of training and expertise Human resources are limited 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a comprehensive business register for PPI survey (economic census and list of licenses from Ministry of Industry and Commerce is available)
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of PPI by DoS is recognized (and in SD NSS); however, currently PPI is not produced. Further advocacy will help production of PPI become reality – including advocacy/training with enterprises to be in PPI surveys
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoS plans to publish PPI estimates by 2012 (PPI was published prior to 2004) Staff numbers will increase during 2010-2020 	
	Overall Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS currently does not have the capacity to produce PPI; however, there is a noted demand and the LSS plans to develop capacity in this area. 	
	Commodity price index	Summary of practices:
		Responsible agency: DoS (coordination with other offices)
Frequency: M		Recommended frequency: Q
Timeliness: not published		
Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly, construction material price index for Vientiane, not published Quarterly agricultural prices, not published 		
Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not published only used for estimation by DoS (for implicit price deflators) 		
Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction material price index only covers Vientiane Commodity prices of other important industries 		
Capacity assessment:		
Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of training and expertise Human resources are limited 		Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient source data available – additional surveys would be needed
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data is not disseminated 		Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These statistics are not in the SD NSS and further advocacy is needed
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction material price index for additional cities 		
Overall Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The capacity to produce these statistics is very limited and produced only for internal use; however, there is a noted demand for construction statistics and the LSS has plans to further develop capacity in this area. 		

Prices and costs		
External merchandise trade price indexes	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: DoS (coordination with other offices)	
	Frequency: none	Recommended frequency: M
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: None	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of training and expertise Human resources are limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient source data available – additional surveys would be needed
	Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The knowledge of the use and methodology for these statistics could be improved.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS currently does not have the capacity to produce these indexes; and they are not included in the SD NSS or other strategic plan. 		
Wages / Earnings data AND Labour costs index/ Wage index	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: MoLSW (with DoS support)	
	Frequency: A	Recommended frequency: Q
	Timeliness: Not clearly defined	
	Statistics available: Average wage for government employees	
	Methodology notes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoF provides government employee wage data The establishment survey provides some private sector data that is not published 	
	Quality issues:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage – only covers government employee average wage Disaggregated data is not available by gender, age or other groupings 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoLSW does not have statistical expertise and has not been involved in producing statistics in the past 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination between MoLSW and DoS could be improved and MoLSW receive more technical assistance. IT infrastructure for regularizing labour force survey and allowing DoS and MoLSW to share data does not currently exist.
	Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for labour statistics and for building expertise in labour statistics is needed
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Lao PDR Labour Force Survey (2010) will develop statistics such as wages/earnings. 		
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS is in the process of developing the capacity to produce labour statistics; the capacity to produce labour statistics has been lacking in Lao PDR, but with the 2010 Labour Force Survey, Lao PDR has greatly improved their national capacity. 		

Prices and costs		
Exchange rates	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: BoL	
	Frequency: D	Recommended frequency: D
	Timeliness: daily	
	Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial bank and real rate • Covers major currencies 	
	Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows standard banking procedures 	
	Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None noted 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources are sufficient. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure is adequate for exchange rates.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is disseminated online daily and without apparent transparency issues. 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific advocacy is needed for exchange rates.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
	Overall Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to produce these statistics at the recommended scope, frequency, timeliness and quality. 	
	Purchasing power parities (PPPs)	Summary of practices:
		Responsible agency: DoS
Frequency: ad hoc		Recommended frequency: ad hoc
Timeliness: NA		
Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPP 		
Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR participated in 2005 ICP, the 2009 revision and is in the 2011 ICP round • More than 350 commodities will be included in the 2011 ICP round 		
Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basket of commodities is only a third of the global ICP basket. 		
Capacity assessment:		
Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao receives technical support from ADB on the ICP – human resources are sufficient for ICP • (for additional information see CPI) 		Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current infrastructure is sufficient for the ICP • (for additional information see CPI)
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology is transparent and follows the ICP guidelines. • (for additional information see CPI) 		Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy on the importance of the ICP round may increase the quality. • (for additional information see CPI)
Summary of practices:		
Responsible agency: DoS		
Overall Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to produces PPPs; however, The LSS faces constraints in increasing the coverage and basket of goods and services. 		

Demand and output	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (production) (P) nominal and real	Summary of practices:
	Responsible agency: : DoS (coordination with other offices)
	Frequency: A Recommended frequency: Q
	Timeliness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary annual projection of GDP by production in May (7 months before the end of the reference period) • Revised preliminary annual projection of GDP by production in November (1 months before the end of the reference period) • Final estimate of GDP by production in May (5 months after reference period)
	Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual current and constant GDP by major economic activity • GDP per capita
Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP by production follows ISIC rev. 3.1 and is in the process of moving to rev. 4 (some surveys use rev. 4 currently) – 1 digit level is published and 4 digit level is compiled for analysis purposes • Mostly compliant with the SNA 1993 (Practicing since 1997, but implemented in 2002) • Constant price data with 2002 base year • The consumer price index is used as the primary means for deflating data. • Data is disseminated online and in print, in Lao and English • Census and survey sources include: Economic census conducted every 5 years; Agricultural and population censuses conducted every 10 years; Lao Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS) conducted every 5 years; Establishment survey conducted annually • Administrative data sources include: BoL and line ministries • <u>Agriculture:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crops: Quantity of production of crops, fruits, and vegetables by district are available from MoAF. These data are compiled at the district level by the MoAF on the basis of reports from Village Heads and observations by District Offices. ○ Livestock: Stocks of animals are compiled by District Offices of the MoAF based on reports from Village Veterinary Workers. ○ Forestry: Quantities of timbers and logs are estimated by MoAF. ○ Agriculture production is recorded according to harvest basis. • <u>Mining and quarrying; manufacturing and electricity:</u> District offices of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Ministry of emerging and Mines collects quantity of production from large, medium and small enterprises. In general, large and medium size enterprises a report; responses from small enterprise (employing less than 10 persons) are very poor. Data are collected on a fiscal year basis. • <u>Construction:</u> No data exist on construction activity. Government capital expenditures are used as a proxy. • <u>Transport, communication, and postal services:</u> The Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction (MCTPC) collect data on physical volumes - mostly from transport association. • <u>Wholesale and retail trade:</u> Agriculture production, manufacturing production, and imports are used as proxies for measuring the contribution of wholesale and retail trade. • <u>Banking:</u> The Bank of Lao P.D.R. compiles data on income and expenditure. • <u>Ownership of dwelling:</u> Benchmark estimate is extrapolated using construction growth rates. • <u>Public administration:</u> Data on wages and salaries from the MoF are used as the basis. • <u>Non-profit institutions:</u> No data are available. Inflow of foreign transfers under technical assistance is used as a basis for estimating value added. 	

<p>Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (production) (P) nominal and real (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel and Restaurant: Data from the balance of payment on receipts from travel service are used as one indicator for estimating value added. • Other service: The benchmark estimate is extrapolated using hotels and restaurants and non-profit institutions. 	
	<p>Quality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data revision policy does not exist – annual data are not typically revised after the final estimate is produced in May (5 months after reference period); however, historic data is revised during a benchmark year. • Deflation based primarily on CPI and main prices from construction and agriculture • FISIM data from BoL is collected whole, not distributed • The enterprise survey is conducted annually but with limited coverage and low response rates (the survey is based on a subset of the economic census and only includes enterprises with more than 5 people) • GDP is published only for the entire country – regional estimates are not published • Many estimates are made using proxies. • Some transactions are recorded on an accrual basis; however, government operation (administrative data), are on a cash basis (no adjustments are made). 	
	<p>Capacity assessment:</p>	
<p>Human resource skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resource numbers are limited with only 3 DoS staff involved with national accounts. • Statistical staff numbers in line ministries are lacking and line ministries are not receiving sufficient statistics training. • DoS staff do participate in inter-ASEAN staff exchanges and international trainings; however, line ministries have very limited access to international statistical training and staff exchanges • The SNA 1993 (and many other standards) have not been translated into Lao and language limits the potential for self-training 	<p>Statistical infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sources are weak in terms of availability and quality – additional surveys and improved administrative sources are needed. • Lack of a comprehensive business register • The Lao fiscal year is from Oct.-Sept. while GDP is published for the calendar year with some fiscal year estimations. This mis-match creates inconsistent data sources and resources are not utilized efficiently (publication of quarterly accounts would allow calendar and fiscal year estimations to be done easily and would only require estimation of GDP an additional two times per year) • Coordination between DoS and data providers is covered in the Statistics Law; however, obtaining data is primarily based on personal relationships • Lack of a central data repository (data obtained via excel or fax) which involves manual data entry (note that some of the data providers do not have consistent email access) • Excel is the primary software used in compilation and dissemination of national accounts – Lao PDR is in need of a better platform. • FDI, retail trade, agricultural field surveys, construction and other surveys are needed. • A data dissemination platform that allows users to easily download data and metadata is not currently available. 	

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (production) (P) nominal and real (continued)		
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An internal national accounts manual does not exist • Documentation on methodology is highly variable for the different agencies which provide data (some have no documentation, while others have strong documentation) • Data revision policy is not clear; however, DoS does conduct a consultation workshop with users when data is revised • Metadata regarding the data sources and methods is not available 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy related to the areas of data use; statistical training (for DoS, for line ministries, for provincial offices and for enumerators); developing sources (including additional surveys); building coordination; achieving methodological transparency; developing IT infrastructure; and improving data quality are needed to continue to increase the governments support of the national accounts programme (both in terms of budgetary support and policy support). • Data users expressed a need for quarterly data, this need should be further advocated. • DoS does not have a mechanism for tracking who accesses the data or how data is being used.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly GDP by 2013 • Provincial and regional GDP estimation • Full implementation of SNA 1993 and willing adapt the SNA 2008 • Improve the data quality • Disseminate metadata and improve data dissemination • Create national accounts manual 	
	Overall Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS does not have the capacity to publish quarterly GDP; however, there is a high expressed demand for quarterly GDP and DoS plans to publish quarterly data by 2013. • There is limited capacity for improving the scope, coverage, methodology employed and metadata. Specifically with respect to, implementing the SNA 1993; improving the data quality through developing sources and data quality assessment; and producing regional GDPs. 	

Demand and output			
GDP (expenditure) (E) nominal and real (including implicit price indexes for GDP(E) and components)	Summary of practices:		
	Responsible agency: : DoS (coordination with other offices)		
	Frequency: Ad hoc Recommended frequency: Q		
	Timeliness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately every five years, annual estimates of GDP by expenditure for the previous five-years are published in May (5 months after reference period) • The five-year benchmark is used as follows: 2005 was used to forward estimate 2006 and 2007 – the 2010 benchmark will be used to estimate data from 2006-2010 and to forward estimate 2011 and 2012. 		
	Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual current and constant GDP by expenditure published every 5 years 		
	Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant prices have 2002 base year • Mostly compliant with the SNA 1993 (since 2002, but practicing since 1997) • The consumer price index is used as the primary means for deflating data. • Census and survey sources include: Economic census conducted every 5 years; Agricultural and population censuses conducted every 10 years; Lao Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS) conducted every 5 years; Establishment survey conducted annually • Administrative data sources include: BoL and line ministries 		
	Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP by expenditure is compiled infrequently • A data revision policy is needed • The enterprise survey is conducted annually but with limited coverage and low response rates (the survey is based on a subset of the economic census and only includes enterprises with more than 5 people) • GDP is published only for the entire country – regional estimates are not published • DoS has had access to tax data in the aggregate level from the MoF (however, some tax information is obtained through the enterprise survey) • Customs data is based on the invoice price and an IMF assessment estimated that trade data is underestimated by 15-20%; however, no adjustments are made to the data • Some transactions are recorded on an accrual basis; however, government operation (administrative data), are on a cash basis (no adjustments are made). • Difficult for DoS to resolve discrepancies between production and expenditure. 		
	Capacity assessment:		
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resource numbers are limited with only 3 DoS staff involved with national accounts. • Statistical staff numbers in line ministries are lacking and line ministries are not receiving sufficient statistics training. • DoS staff do participate in inter-ASEAN staff exchanges and international trainings; however, line ministries have very limited access to international statistical training and staff exchanges • The SNA 1993 (and many other standards) have not been translated into Lao and language limits the potential for self-training • The enumerators are unable to obtain </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sources are weak in terms of availability and quality – additional surveys and improved administrative sources are needed. • Lack of a comprehensive business register for Establishment survey • The Lao fiscal year is from Oct.-Sept. while GDP is published for the calendar year with some fiscal year estimations. This mis-match creates inconsistent data sources and resources are not utilized efficiently (publication of quarterly accounts would allow calendar and fiscal year estimations to be done easily and would only require estimation of GDP an additional two times per year) </td> </tr> </table>	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resource numbers are limited with only 3 DoS staff involved with national accounts. • Statistical staff numbers in line ministries are lacking and line ministries are not receiving sufficient statistics training. • DoS staff do participate in inter-ASEAN staff exchanges and international trainings; however, line ministries have very limited access to international statistical training and staff exchanges • The SNA 1993 (and many other standards) have not been translated into Lao and language limits the potential for self-training • The enumerators are unable to obtain 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sources are weak in terms of availability and quality – additional surveys and improved administrative sources are needed. • Lack of a comprehensive business register for Establishment survey • The Lao fiscal year is from Oct.-Sept. while GDP is published for the calendar year with some fiscal year estimations. This mis-match creates inconsistent data sources and resources are not utilized efficiently (publication of quarterly accounts would allow calendar and fiscal year estimations to be done easily and would only require estimation of GDP an additional two times per year)
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<p>GDP (expenditure) (E) nominal and real (including implicit price indexes for GDP(E) and components)</p> <p>(continued)</p>	<p>responses to some questions (especially in Enterprise survey) due to fear of disclosing confidential information and the fact that enumerators do not have training/knowledge in dispelling this fear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP by expenditure is compiled infrequently and thus development of expertise in this area is challenging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination between DoS and data providers is covered in the Statistics Law; however, obtaining data is primarily based on personal relationships • Lack of a central data repository (data obtained via excel or fax) which involves manual data entry. • Excel is the primary software used in compilation and dissemination of national accounts – Lao PDR is in need of a better platform.
	<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An internal national accounts manual does not exist • Data revision policy is not clear; however, DoS does conduct a consultation workshop with users when data is revised • Metadata regarding the data sources and methods is not available 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy related to the areas of data use; statistical training (for DoS, for line ministries, for provincial offices and for enumerators); developing sources (including additional surveys); building coordination; achieving methodological transparency; developing IT infrastructure; and improving data quality are needed to continue to increase the governments support of the national accounts programme (both in terms of budgetary support and policy support). • DoS does not have a mechanism for tracking who accesses the data or how data is being used.
	<p>Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual publication of GDP by expenditure • Full implementation of SNA 1993 and willing adapt the SNA 2008 • Improve the data quality • Disseminate metadata and improve data dissemination • Create national accounts manual 	
	<p>Overall Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity regularly publish annual GDP by expenditure is limited. Additionally, the LSS faces constraints with respect to the scope, coverage, methodology employed and metadata. 	

Demand and output			
External trade – merchandise	Summary of practices:		
	Responsible agency: BoL, DoS and MoIC		
	Frequency: Q Recommended frequency: M		
	Timeliness: 6-9 months after the reference period		
	Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exports and Imports of Commodities by Broad Economic Categories 		
	Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BoL publishes merchandise trade following BPM5; MoIC publishes trade statistics following HS codes and standard methods; and DoS publishes imports/exports by group commodity. Preliminary customs data is collected from the MoIC, but data collected from the customs department is used to revise data. Aggregate customs data is collected from the customs department with little detail (individual unit records are not available to BoL). Data is also collected from the mining and electric companies on a fiscal year, annual basis. Customs department collects data following HS8; however, HS codes are not maintained in IT system or published by MoIC, DoS or BoL. Customs data is based on the invoice price; and mining and electric data is collected annually on a fiscal year basis. 		
	Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customs data is based on the invoice price and an IMF assessment estimated that trade data is underestimated by 15-20%; however, no adjustments are made to the data Mining and electric data is collected annually on a fiscal year basis – quarterly data is estimated. MoIC and DoS also publishes trade statistics and there are unresolved discrepancies between the MoIC, DoS and the BoL; currently MoIC and BoL are collecting data independently and estimating exports and imports based on the data collected by their respective organization. Customs department collects data using approximately 8,000 HS4 codes; however, only the IT system only accommodates 1,000 codes. Source data timeliness is too long and inconsistent. 		
	Capacity assessment:		
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The import/export data is collected by Customs personnel that lack training on HS code and statistics. Manuals, handbooks and other international documents have not been translated into Lao which amplifies the need for training in MoIC and the Customs department. Human resources are limited; in MoIC none of the import/export positions are dedicated as statistician. BoL has a training strategy with staff attending international training and the opportunity for inter-ASEAN staff exchange; however, MoIC and Customs staff do not receive adequate training. Data suppliers do not currently understand the importance of the data. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of coordination and duplication of work between MoIC, DoS and BoL. The IT system used by the Customs department is unable to capture the necessary level of detail. Statistical law outlines clear responsibly and mandate of organizations, but the law is not yet effective in practice. Lack of a central database results in different agencies supplying data in different formats (including hard copy) and duplication of work; also, data dissemination is not coordinated. Much compilation is manual. Use of surveys should be further developed. Some of the data collected is fiscal </td> </tr> </table>	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The import/export data is collected by Customs personnel that lack training on HS code and statistics. Manuals, handbooks and other international documents have not been translated into Lao which amplifies the need for training in MoIC and the Customs department. Human resources are limited; in MoIC none of the import/export positions are dedicated as statistician. BoL has a training strategy with staff attending international training and the opportunity for inter-ASEAN staff exchange; however, MoIC and Customs staff do not receive adequate training. Data suppliers do not currently understand the importance of the data. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of coordination and duplication of work between MoIC, DoS and BoL. The IT system used by the Customs department is unable to capture the necessary level of detail. Statistical law outlines clear responsibly and mandate of organizations, but the law is not yet effective in practice. Lack of a central database results in different agencies supplying data in different formats (including hard copy) and duplication of work; also, data dissemination is not coordinated. Much compilation is manual. Use of surveys should be further developed. Some of the data collected is fiscal
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The import/export data is collected by Customs personnel that lack training on HS code and statistics. Manuals, handbooks and other international documents have not been translated into Lao which amplifies the need for training in MoIC and the Customs department. Human resources are limited; in MoIC none of the import/export positions are dedicated as statistician. BoL has a training strategy with staff attending international training and the opportunity for inter-ASEAN staff exchange; however, MoIC and Customs staff do not receive adequate training. Data suppliers do not currently understand the importance of the data. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of coordination and duplication of work between MoIC, DoS and BoL. The IT system used by the Customs department is unable to capture the necessary level of detail. Statistical law outlines clear responsibly and mandate of organizations, but the law is not yet effective in practice. Lack of a central database results in different agencies supplying data in different formats (including hard copy) and duplication of work; also, data dissemination is not coordinated. Much compilation is manual. Use of surveys should be further developed. Some of the data collected is fiscal 	

External trade – merchandise		year while the primary publication is for the calendar year.
(continued)	<p>Methodological transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little metadata is published. • The discrepancies between MoIC, DoS and BoL are not documented or resolved. • BoL has internal manual, but other organizations involved in import/export lack documentation on internal methodology and practices. • Release calendar and revision policy are not clearly defined. 	<p>Statistical advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy related to the areas of; statistical training (especially for Customs and MoIC personnel); developing sources (including surveys); building coordination; achieving methodological transparency; developing IT infrastructure; and improving data quality are needed. • Implementing the Statistical Law is necessary.
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscribing to GDDS. • Dividing the statistics division into two divisions: BoP and monetary statistics division, and hiring staff to enhance the scope of work. 		
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has limited capacity to produce external merchandise trade; there are constraints in the coordination of the agencies. Specifically, the DoS, MoIC and BoL do not ensure the alignment of their statistics and the national statistics are not always aligned with regionally published statistics. • There are also constraints in improving quality as based on the methodology employed, the dissemination of metadata, the scope, the availability of data sources and the timeliness. 		

Demand and output		
External trade - services	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: BoL, DoS, and LNTA (also published by MoIC)	
	Frequency: Q Recommended frequency: Q	
	Timeliness: 6-9 months after the reference period	
	Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net exports and imports of services 	
	Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BoL publishes net exports and imports following BPM5. • Data on tourism is collected from the Lao National Tourism Administration; transport data from the national travel agency; and insurance directly from insurance companies. 	
	Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only net exports and imports of services is published, no detailed information is available. • Little source data on services is available. 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of staff dedicated to services. • Development of expertise is needed; the current compilation of services has limited scope. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently no surveys are used. • Source data could be further developed.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little metadata is published. • Release calendar and revision policy are not clearly defined. 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy related to the importance of external trade services is needed.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscribing to GDDS. • Dividing the statistics division into two divisions: BoP and monetary statistics division, and hiring staff to enhance the scope of work. 	
	Overall Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the limited capacity to produce external services trade; there are constraints in improving quality as based on the methodology employed, the dissemination of metadata, the scope, the availability of data sources and the timeliness. 	

Demand and output		
Short term indicator (STI) – Industry output	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: MoIC	
	Frequency: Q	Recommended frequency: Q
	Timeliness: variable	
	Statistics available:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly and monthly industrial statistics are collected from the district, provincial and line ministry offices. • Number of businesses, turnover, number of employees, and business size classifications are compiled 	
	Methodology notes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is reported quarterly to DoS and published in newspaper. • Information is collected by MoIC at the time of registration and through an annual questionnaire. • A fiscal year is used. 	
	Quality issues:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses Lao SIC at least (a translated version of ISIC Rev.4). • Questionnaire is only disseminated annually. 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of statistical training in the MoIC (little training from DoS) • Industrial statistics human resources are limited with only 1 person at the MoIC. • Provincial human resources are limited (less than 5 staff per district) 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved IT infrastructure could increase efficiency in dealing with provincial data. • Lack of quarterly data sources.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metadata is not disseminated 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy on the importance and use of industrial statistics.
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase to quarterly questionnaire. • Estimate production. 		
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to meet the frequency required for policy makers and other analysts; however, the timeliness is variable and additional data sources would improve the quality. 		

Demand and output					
Short term indicator (STI) – consumer demand ⁸	Summary of practices:				
	Responsible agency: MoIC				
	Frequency: Q (not published) Recommended frequency: Q				
	Timeliness: NA				
	Statistics available:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wholesale and retail trade 				
	Methodology notes:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data is collected by quarterly questionnaire from businesses using the registration of enterprises. Staff visit businesses to increase survey compliance. Uses Lao SIC (a translated version of ISIC translated to the 5th digit). 				
	Quality issues:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a business register. The lack of staff knowledge impacts quality of these statistics. 				
	Capacity assessment:				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff turnover created a loss of knowledge due to no internal manual or mechanism for knowledge transfer. Human resources are limited to 1 MoIC staff with limited expertise. </td> <td> Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive business register would improve efficiency and the data coverage and quality. IT infrastructure that reduces manual data entry would increase efficiency. </td> </tr> <tr> <td> Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An internal or external manual on methods and procedures does not exist. Metadata is not disseminated. </td> <td> Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical advocacy to businesses on the importance of statistics would that limits staff visits to businesses; and on data use and the importance of timely data is needed. </td> </tr> </table>	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff turnover created a loss of knowledge due to no internal manual or mechanism for knowledge transfer. Human resources are limited to 1 MoIC staff with limited expertise. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive business register would improve efficiency and the data coverage and quality. IT infrastructure that reduces manual data entry would increase efficiency. 	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An internal or external manual on methods and procedures does not exist. Metadata is not disseminated. 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical advocacy to businesses on the importance of statistics would that limits staff visits to businesses; and on data use and the importance of timely data is needed.
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff turnover created a loss of knowledge due to no internal manual or mechanism for knowledge transfer. Human resources are limited to 1 MoIC staff with limited expertise. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive business register would improve efficiency and the data coverage and quality. IT infrastructure that reduces manual data entry would increase efficiency. 			
Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An internal or external manual on methods and procedures does not exist. Metadata is not disseminated. 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical advocacy to businesses on the importance of statistics would that limits staff visits to businesses; and on data use and the importance of timely data is needed. 				
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to disseminate quarterly data. 					
Overall Assessment					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS does not have the capacity to publish short-term indicators on consumer demand. 					

⁸ Some retail trade and investment statistics are published annually; however, STIs are defined as statistics that are compiled with a frequency less than annually.

Demand and output		
Short term indicator (STI) – fixed investment	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: Lao PDR Department of Domestic and Foreign Investment (DDFI)	
	Frequency: Q (not published) Recommended frequency: Q	
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: Not published	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources for investment were not assessed. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further incorporation of the DDFI within the LSS.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy to help policy makers better understand the importance of these statistics.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
	Overall Assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS does not have the capacity to publish short-term indicators on fixed investment. 	
Short term indicator (STI) – inventories	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: Unknown	
	Frequency: None Recommended frequency: Q	
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: None	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human resources to work on inventories need to be established. 	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human resources to work on inventories need to be established.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
	Overall Assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS does not have the capacity to publish short-term indicators on inventories. 	

Demand and output		
Economy structure statistics	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: DoS	
	Frequency: ad hoc	Recommended frequency: 5-year
	Timeliness: timeliness varies	
	Statistics available:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply-use tables 	
	Methodology notes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply-use tables were compiled in 2005 with assistance from SIDA 	
	Quality issues:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of available source data 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS has limited expertise in compiling economy structure statistics. • Human resource for surveys and data compilation. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is not collected with detailed information that would support the production of economy structure statistics
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SU tables produced using methodology of SIDA; however, DoS staff did not obtain a detailed knowledge regarding these methods. 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy may help policy makers better understand the importance of these statistics.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to produce limited economic structural statistics, but faces constraints with respect to the scope and quality. • The LSS does not currently have the capacity to produce supply-use tables; however, these statistics were compiled in 2005 with assistance from SIDA. 		
Productivity	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: DoS	
	Frequency: Not available	Frequency: Not available
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: None	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the statistical capacity of the MoLSW is necessary for these statistics to be produced. 	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the statistical capacity of the MoLSW is necessary for these statistics to be produced.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
	Overall Assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS does not have the capacity to publish productivity statistics. 	

Demand and output		
Integrated national accounts for the total economy	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: : DoS (coordination with other offices)	
	Frequency: A Recommended frequency: A	
	Timeliness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary annual projection of GDP by production in May (7 months before the end of the reference period) • Revised preliminary annual projection of GDP by production in November (1 months before the end of the reference period) • Final estimate of GDP by production in May (5 months after reference period) • GDP by expenditure every five years, annual estimates of GDP by expenditure for the previous five-years are published in May (5 months after reference period) 	
	Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual current and constant GDP by expenditure published every 5 years • Annual current and constant GDP by production • GDP per capita 	
	Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the sections for GDP by production and GDP by expenditure 	
	Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the sections for GDP by production and GDP by expenditure • The scope of national accounts is very limited: GNI is not compiled, GDP by income is not compiled, and GDP by expenditure is published infrequently 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the sections for GDP by production and GDP by expenditure 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the sections for GDP by production and GDP by expenditure
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the sections for GDP by production and GDP by expenditure 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the sections for GDP by production and GDP by expenditure • Advocacy for expanding the national account programme at DoS may help policy makers better understand the importance of these statistics.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the sections for GDP by production and GDP by expenditure. • No mention to improving economy structure statistics outside of GDP(E) and GDP(P) is planned in the SD NSS. 	
	Overall Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the limited capacity to produce integrated national accounts for the total economy and faces constraints with respect to the scope and quality. 	

Demand and output		
Institutional sector accounts	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: : DoS (coordination with other offices)	
	Frequency: Not available	Recommended frequency: A
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: None	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoS staff has some experience with institutional sector accounts as household, government, private corporations and rest-of-the-world was published in 2002 and 2005 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although no institutional sector accounts are compiled, sections for GDP by production and GDP by expenditure have infrastructure for national accounts.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for expanding the national account programme may help policy makers better understand the importance of these statistics.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to publish household, government, private corporations and rest-of-the-world 	
	Overall Assessment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS does not have the capacity to publish institutional sector statistics, but the LSS is in the process of developing capacity in this area. 		

Demand and output		
Balance of payments	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: BoL	
	Frequency: Q	Recommended frequency: Q
	Timeliness: 6-9 months after the reference period	
	Statistics available:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All components of BOP are compiled: including current account, capital account, financial account and net errors and omissions. National BOP statistics are published 	
	Methodology notes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers the full range of activities following BPM5 Administrative data sources include: MoIC, Customs, other line ministries and companies: <u>Trade</u> (as described in sections on external trade – merchandise and services); <u>Tourism</u> from the Lao National Tourism Administration; <u>Transport</u> from Ministry of Public work and transportation; <u>Insurance</u> from insurance companies; <u>Mining, quarrying and electricity</u> reported directly by companies; enterprise survey. (Additionally see the sections on external trade – merchandise and services) 	
	Quality issues:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source data timeliness is too long and inconsistent (international trade statistics have 5-6 months time lag) Additional surveys are needed. Data reliability and coverage are limited; and there are low survey response rates A discrepancy between the Thai and Lao PDR trade data of 20% was observed. Some of the suppliers of source data lack statistical knowledge and training therefore the data provided to BoL may not follow standard definitions. (Additionally see the sections on external trade – merchandise and services) 	
Capacity assessment:		
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human resources are limited. BoL has a training strategy with staff attending international training and the opportunity for inter-ASEAN staff exchange; however, data suppliers do not receive adequate training. Data suppliers do not currently understand the importance of the data. (Additionally see the sections on external trade – merchandise and services) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a central database results in different agencies supplying data in different formats (including hard copy) and duplication of work; also, data dissemination is not coordinated. Much compilation is manual. Some of the data collected is fiscal year while the primary publication is for the calendar year. (Additionally see the sections on external trade – merchandise and services) 	
Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little metadata is published. BoL has internal BoL manual and sufficient documentation. Release calendar and revision policy are not clearly defined. (Additionally see the sections on external trade – merchandise and services) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical advocacy related to the areas of; statistical training of data providers; developing sources (including surveys); building coordination; achieving methodological transparency; developing IT infrastructure; improving data quality; and making data suppliers aware of data use are needed. (Additionally see the sections on external trade – merchandise and services) 	

Balance of payments (continued)	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to BPM6 by 2013. • Subscribing to GDDS. • Dividing the statistics division into two divisions: BoP and monetary statistics division, and hiring staff to enhance the scope of work. • Produce provincial, sector and local level data. • Improve statistical capacity through human resources and improved data management. • Improve data on exports and develop the database • Adopt ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature – 8 digits. • See the sections on external trade – merchandise and services
	Overall Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to publish BoP statistics which meet the frequency and scope recommended, but constraints in BoP data sources, methodological transparency and quality assurance measures exist.

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Income and wealth		
International Investment Position (IIP)	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: : BoL	
	Frequency: None	Recommended frequency: Q
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: None	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No human resources dedicated to IIP. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of available source data (specifically FDI).
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for IIP would be needed for it to be included in the work programme.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
	Overall Assessment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS does not have the capacity to publish IIP statistics. 		
External debt	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: BoL	
	Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: Q
	Timeliness: 2-3 months after the reference period	
	Statistics available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> External public debt 	
	Methodology notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data is provided by the MoF. Only publicly held debt is published. 	
	Quality issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private debt is not included. Source data on FDI is weak. Detailed statistics are not available. 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of staff dedicated to debt statistics. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently only public sector debt is collected, the statistical infrastructure supports the collection of public debt; however, additional data collection methods are needed for expanding the scope. FDI surveys are needed.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little metadata is published. Monthly data is not available online. 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical advocacy for the development of a clear mandate for external debt statistics.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
	Overall Assessment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS has the capacity to produce external public debt on a monthly basis; however, faces constraints with respect to publishing private debt. FDI surveys and other private debt data are not conducted. 		

Income and wealth		
Income distribution	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: DOS	
	Frequency: 5-year	Recommended frequency: 5-year
	Timeliness: less than 1 year after reference period	
	Statistics available:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of the Lao Expenditure and Consumption of Households Survey (LECS) 	
	Methodology notes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LECS records both the expenditure and consumption of households simultaneously. Data are recorded on paper form and then electronically scanned. 	
	Quality issues:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metadata is not published 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilized efficiently by having a single survey for expenditure and consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The collection and processing of the LECS survey is efficient.
Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income distribution metadata is not published. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical advocacy for the use of income distribution statistics for decision makers and researchers; and for development of detailed income distribution. 	
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 		
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS has the capacity to produce income distribution and to conduct a 5-yearly Lao Expenditure and Consumption of Households Survey (LECS) which is processed efficiently and income distribution are available less than 1 year after the survey. 		

Money and banking		
Assets/ liabilities of depository corporations	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: : BoL	
	Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: M
	Timeliness: 1-month after the reference period	
	Statistics available:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial balance sheet • Annual banking deposits and credits 	
	Methodology notes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual (MFSM) 1998 • Complies monetary aggregate at M2 level 	
	Quality issues:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BoL has not yet moved to the MSFM 2008 • Based on administrative data. 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources and expertise are limited; BoL has high number of new staff. • BoL has a training strategy with staff attending international training and the opportunity for inter-ASEAN staff exchange; however, data suppliers do not receive adequate training. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of a central database and data dissemination platform. • Currently no surveys are used.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little metadata is disseminated, but the data is published using the IMF format. 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy may help expand the scope of money and banking statistics.
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2008 • Planning to compile M3. • Subscribing to GDDS. • Dividing the statistics division into two divisions: BoP and monetary statistics division, and hiring staff to enhance the scope of work. 		
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to produce assets/liabilities of depository corporations monthly at the M2 level using MFSM 1998, and plans to improve the capacity to expand the scope and quality of money and banking statistics. 		

Money and banking		
Broad money and credit aggregates	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: : BoL	
	Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: M
	Timeliness: 1-month after the reference period	
	Statistics available:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad and narrow money • Monetary base 	
	Methodology notes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 1998 • Complies monetary aggregate at M2 level • Based on administrative data. 	
	Quality issues:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BoL has not yet moved to the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2008 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources and expertise are limited; BoL has high number of new staff. • BoL has a training strategy with staff attending international training and the opportunity for inter-ASEAN staff exchange; however, data suppliers do not receive adequate training. 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of a central database and data dissemination platform. • Currently no surveys are used.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little metadata is disseminated, but the data is published using the IMF format. 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy may help expand the scope of money and banking statistics.
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2008 • Planning to compile M3. • Subscribing to GDDS. • Dividing the statistics division into two divisions: BoP and monetary statistics division, and hiring staff to enhance the scope of work. 		
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to produce broad money and credit aggregates monthly at the M2 level using MFSM 1998, and plans to improve the capacity to expand the scope and quality of money and banking statistics. 		

Money and banking		
Interest rate statistics	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: BoL	
	Frequency: M	Recommended frequency: M
	Timeliness: 1-month after the reference period	
	Statistics available:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term and short-term rates • Treasury bill rates • BoL and Commercial bank interest rates 	
	Methodology notes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 1998 	
	Quality issues:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BoL has not yet moved to the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2008 	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources for interest rates are sufficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data dissemination platform would increase the usability of the data.
Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little metadata is published; but the rates follow standard definitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy specifically on interest rate statistics was not identified as a priority. 	
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2008 		
Overall Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to produce interest rate statistics monthly using MFSM 1998. 		

Government					
General government operations	Summary of practices:				
	Responsible agency: : MoF				
	Frequency: A Recommended frequency: Q				
	Timeliness: 1-month after the reference period				
AND	Statistics available:				
General government debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government finance statistics at an aggregate level • Debt repayment (principle) • Both revenue and expenditure 				
	Methodology notes:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiled on a fiscal year from Oct-Sept. (Monthly/quarterly data are collected but not disseminated) • Compiled using GFSM 1986. • All transactions are compiled on a cash basis. • Data is compiled and published at an aggregate level. • Data sources include: revenue data, import/export data, tax profits, state assess and state owned enterprises (state owned enterprises are reported separately). 				
	Quality issues:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is on cash basis instead of accrual. • MoF has not moved to GFSM 2001. • Limited scope of data. • Monthly data is available but only annual is published. • Data discrepancies between central and local offices are not resolved. 				
	Capacity assessment:				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Human resource skills:</td> <td>Statistical infrastructure:</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical training and expertise of provincial office staff is lacking. • Human resource numbers at MoF is limited with only 2 people responsible for compilation. • MoF has a training unit for central staff and staff attend international IMF training; however, regular training to provincial staff is not provided. • Efficiency is decreased by manually entering data and collecting data hard copies. </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoF staffs at central office do not have internet connectivity at their work station. • Lack of a central database results in different agencies supplying data in different formats (including hard copy) and duplication of work; also, data dissemination is not coordinated. • Much compilation is manual. • A system for data checking does not exist. </td> </tr> </table>	Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical training and expertise of provincial office staff is lacking. • Human resource numbers at MoF is limited with only 2 people responsible for compilation. • MoF has a training unit for central staff and staff attend international IMF training; however, regular training to provincial staff is not provided. • Efficiency is decreased by manually entering data and collecting data hard copies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoF staffs at central office do not have internet connectivity at their work station. • Lack of a central database results in different agencies supplying data in different formats (including hard copy) and duplication of work; also, data dissemination is not coordinated. • Much compilation is manual. • A system for data checking does not exist.
Human resource skills:	Statistical infrastructure:				
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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Methodological transparency:</td> <td>Statistical advocacy:</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metadata is not disseminated. • MoF data is not easily accessible online. • Little internal documentations. • Discrepancies between central and local offices are not documented. </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy related to the areas of; statistical training of central and local staff; building coordination; achieving methodological transparency; developing IT infrastructure; and improving data quality. </td> </tr> </table>	Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metadata is not disseminated. • MoF data is not easily accessible online. • Little internal documentations. • Discrepancies between central and local offices are not documented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy related to the areas of; statistical training of central and local staff; building coordination; achieving methodological transparency; developing IT infrastructure; and improving data quality.
Methodological transparency:	Statistical advocacy:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metadata is not disseminated. • MoF data is not easily accessible online. • Little internal documentations. • Discrepancies between central and local offices are not documented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical advocacy related to the areas of; statistical training of central and local staff; building coordination; achieving methodological transparency; developing IT infrastructure; and improving data quality. 				
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased training on GFSM 2001. 				
	Overall Assessment				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LSS has the capacity to compile government finance statistics annually (using GFSM 1986 on a cash basis). The LSS faces constraints in improving the scope and quality – data discrepancies between the local and central offices are not resolved. The IT infrastructure of the MoF is limited for supporting more frequent, high quality data production. 				

Labour market		
Labour supply and demand	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: MoLSW (with support from DoS)	
	Frequency: None Recommended frequency: Q	
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: None	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoLSW does not have statistical expertise and has not been involved in producing statistics in the past 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoLSW collects some information from companies but a processing and dissemination has not been developed. Some data from the population and economic census is available but only utilized by DoS.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for labour statistics and for building expertise in labour statistics is needed The uses of labour statistics in Lao PDR are not well known.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoLSW completed the first Lao PDR Labour Force Survey in 2010 	
	Overall Assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS is in the process of developing the capacity to produce labour statistics; the capacity to produce labour statistics has been lacking in Lao PDR, but with the 2010 Labour Force Survey, Lao PDR has greatly improved their national capacity. 	
Hours worked	Summary of practices:	
	Responsible agency: MoLSW (with support from DoS)	
	Frequency: None Recommended frequency: Q	
	Timeliness: NA	
	Statistics available: None	
	Methodology notes: NA	
	Quality issues: NA	
	Capacity assessment:	
	Human resource skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoLSW does not have statistical expertise and has not been involved in producing statistics in the past 	Statistical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoLSW collects some information from companies but a processing and dissemination has not been developed. Some data from the population and economic census is available but only utilized by DoS.
	Methodological transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	Statistical advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for labour statistics and for building expertise in labour statistics is needed The uses of labour statistics in Lao PDR are not well known.
	Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoLSW completed the first Lao PDR Labour Force Survey in 2010 	
	Overall Assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LSS is in the process of developing the capacity to produce labour statistics; through conducting the 2010 Labour Force Survey. 	

Government	
Natural resources	Summary of practices:
	Responsible agency: : DoS and MoAF (with National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute)
	Frequency: A
	Frequency: A
	Timeliness: not defined
	Statistics available:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water availability and use
	Methodology notes:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resource statistics are in a research and pilot stage
	Quality issues:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resource statistics are a new area of work since 2008.
	Capacity assessment:
	Human resource skills:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources need to be further developed in this area.
Human resource skills:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources need to be further developed in this area. 	
Methodological transparency:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods and documentation need development. 	
Methodological transparency:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods and documentation need development. 	
Planned improvements (as per SD NSS or interviews):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resource statistics will be expanded. 	
Overall Assessment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR has the capacity to publish water availability and use statistics on an annual basis and plans to further develop natural resource statistics. 	

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B. Assessment of infrastructure and institutional setting

35. The LSS is a highly decentralized statistical system. The DoS is responsible for coordinating statistical activities. However, many other ministries, ministry-equivalent organizations (such as the Bank of Lao PDR), and local offices are involved in the production of economic statistics.

36. The government has recently passed a Statistics Law and developed a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (SD NSS). The institutional setting and the LSS are currently under transition. This annex provides a brief overview of the statistical infrastructure and setting in Lao PDR.

Legal Mandate

37. In June 2010, Lao PDR enacted the Statistics Law which gives the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), line ministries and local offices a strong, well-defined statistical mandate. Under the new law the DoS will be converted to the Lao Statistics Bureau (a change that is currently ongoing). The Lao Statistics Bureau will have the status of sub-ministry and have mandate over the entire LSS. The Statistics Law will be implemented in 2011-2012.

38. The Statistics Law provides LSB the authority to conduct censuses and surveys. It also specifies that the line ministries and province, municipality, district and sub-district offices can conduct sample surveys after receiving technical approval for the LSB. The Statistics Law states the mechanism by which administrative data must be reported to LSB (from line ministries and province, municipality, district, sub-district and village offices). The generation, maintenance and reporting of administrative data and metadata by province, municipality, district, sub-district and village offices is compulsorily. Although, the Statistics Law is less than a year old, the DoS was previously obtaining, producing and publishing data under Decree Number 140/PM. The Statistics Law provides a clearer mandate and establishes the LSB as a clearing house for surveys and statistics.

39. The line ministries and BoL are covered by the statistical law, which gives the authority to produce and disseminate data for their respective sector in accordance with their mandate (and with the endorsement of the LSB). However, some of the organizations involved in the production of economic statistics are also covered by other legal mandates, for example: the BoL has ministerial regulations and commercial banks have a legal obligation to report to the BoL; the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has a decree of responsibility which includes the responsibility for fiscal data; the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) has a law covering the collection of import/export information; and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) has a regulation on data which is closely related to the new Statistics Law.

40. Despite the Statistics Law and the Statistics Decree (No.140/PM), there are still some data discrepancies across the departments which are not resolved; and while coordination among DoS and line ministries is mandated it is not a seamless process.

Statistical System Mandates and Coordination

41. There are five primary organizations involved in disseminating the core set of economic statistics:

- DoS (to be renamed LSB): national accounts, prices,
- BoL: Balance of Payments, monetary and finance
- MoF: Government finance statistics
- MoIC: External trade, retail trade and industrial statistics
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare: labour statistics are not currently disseminated

42. In addition to these organizations, line ministries produce statistical publications related to their mandate, for example, tourism, telecom services, trade, and agriculture publications. The data contained in the line ministries' publications forms the basis for national accounts, balance of payments and other economic statistics. The provincial and district statistical offices publish data for their jurisdiction. The aggregated provincial data is used by the DoS to develop the country wide data estimates. The Statistical Law defines the coordination among the ministries as "horizontal" and with the local offices as "vertical".

43. The DoS hosts coordination meetings and trainings on statistics. Many members of the LSS have good personal relationships and work cooperatively. However, currently coordination is built primarily on relationships and is not supported by organizational structure.

44. Data is typically communicated from one individual to another. The individual interested in obtaining data must first identify the person who has the data. Due to staff turnover and organizational structures within the line ministries, it may be difficult to find this person. Once communication has been established the data is typically communicated in excel soft-copy, pdf soft-copy or hard copy via email, fax or in-person. Not all offices have access to the internet, therefore in some cases, to obtain data staff physically visit offices to obtain hard copies of statistical publications. The data is then manually re-entered at DoS.

Strategic Planning

45. The SD NSS developed by the DoS in consultation with the other organizations in the LSS provides an ambitious plan for the LSS until 2020. The SD NSS includes four strategies: (1) Improving regulation and institutional frameworks; (2) developing statistical infrastructure; (3) management and development of data; and (4) ensuring statistical activities.

46. The SD NSS takes note of the staff shortages across the entire LSS (not only in DoS) and proposes to increase the staff in the LSS to 1,400 by 2020. This includes:

- DoS staff increase from 59 to 200;
- 6-10 statistical staff in each ministry;
- 6-10 statistical staff at provincial level;
- 4-6 statistical staff at district level.

47. The inclusion of statistical staff outside the DoS in the strategic plan is an excellent strength in developing the LSS.

48. The implications of the SD NSS on the budget are nearly 30 million USD (roughly 70 per cent of the budget is for additional surveys) and about half of the funding will need to come from donor support. The LSS is currently the recipient of financial assistance from a variety of different international and bilateral donors, including JICA, FAO, ADB, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and others; however, financial assistance will need to be further increased to fulfil the SD NSS budget.

49. Many of the ministries also have strategic plans. For example, the BoL is going to expand the current statistics division and split it into two divisions: (1) BoP division and (2) Monetary division. The Ministry of Finance is currently involved in a JICA programme to develop statistical methodology.

50. This is a very exciting time for the LSS as it is currently undergoing many changes. However, many of the proposed changes are subject to budget constraints and the LSS is currently trying to identify funding for the SD NSS priorities.

Current human resources

51. Currently 65 staffs work in DoS and only 10 in the economic statistics division. At the BoL 13 staffs are currently working in the statistics department. There are 4 statistics staff at the MoF. The statistical staff are lacking across the local offices and line ministries.

52. Although, the proposed staff numbers in the SD NSS will greatly enhance the capacity of the LSS to compile statistics, statistical expertise and efficiency could also be increased. Better cooperation and IT infrastructure could save many additional man-hours.

53. Knowledge transfer is not adequate and many organizations in the LSS do not have clear documentation to ensure continuity of work in the eventuality of staff turnover (note that some organizations, such as the Lao PDR National Tourism Association, do have good documentation). The availability of international guidelines, handbooks and manuals is limited by the difficulty in translating documents into the Lao language.

54. Training and education are key for developing the substantive knowledge of staff. Staff training is essential for any office, and the fact that none of the universities in Lao PDR provide a programme in statistics compounds the need for strategic training.

55. Both DoS and BoL are actively involved in inter-ASEAN staff exchange. Additionally, DoS and BoL have the opportunity for staff to attend international training; receive technical assistance; and are able to use international standards, handbooks and other materials for self-learning as most staff are moderately proficient in English. The line ministries receive very little international training, do not participate in staff exchanges, have limited opportunities for national training from DoS and are, in general, less fluent in English. At the provincial and local level the statistical training opportunities are even more limited. The distance from the DoS reduces the potential of conducting frequent statistical training and the use of English is also less. A strategic plan for training that addresses the needs of the whole LSS is needed. The SD NSS recognizes this need; however, the implementation of the SD NSS in this area will need to be carefully considered.

Statistical infrastructure

56. DoS, BoL and most line ministries are using excel as the primary compilation software. Much data is manually entered; however, DoS does have a system for scanning some survey entries. An integrated database management system for compilation, analysis and dissemination is not available. Poor internet connectivity also limits the potential for having an online data interface.

57. None of the components of the LSS have comprehensively planned data validation or data editing. Additionally very little metadata is published by the LSS.

58. Other statistical infrastructure elements, such as a comprehensive data sources, business register, data quality assurance frameworks and metadata compilation are lacking across the LSS.

59. The number and frequency of censuses and surveys is not sufficient for the production of the complete core set of economic statistics. Administrative data sources are currently underutilized.

60. The primary, large-scale surveys and censuses used in the compilation of economic statistics include: population and housing census (ten year); economic census (five year); agricultural census (ten year); household consumption and expenditure survey (five year); household survey (annual); enterprise survey (quarterly); Social Indicator Survey (includes the MICS, five year); and consumer price (monthly). Additional surveys related to PPI, commodity prices, FDI, agriculture, retail trade, construction, labour, external trade and other areas are needed.

61. For some of the surveys, the sample frame of a number of surveys is also an issue. For example, many surveys involving businesses only include registered businesses of a certain size (for example, more than three employees). A business register is available, but it is not comprehensive.

62. Improving the source data is one of the primary elements of the SD NSS (in the SD NSS proposed budget, two-thirds of the 2010-2020 budget is allocated to surveys and censuses). Additionally, the SD NSS proposes to dedicate research to the development of administrative data use and improve the business register.

63. Once data has been obtained from a source, a mechanism for ensuring quality does not exist. The DoS, BoL and other line ministries have internal procedures for reducing errors and editing data. However, the organisations are lacking a policy or internal document on data editing and quality assessment.

Data dissemination and use

64. Data is disseminated by DoS, BoL, MoF, MoIC, other line ministries, provincial and local offices. A central data dissemination platform that provides users a mechanism for

accessing economic data from different sources is not available. Additionally, the ability to download data in a structured, user friendly format is not provided by most organizations. Since little metadata is disseminated users do not know how the data was compiled or the quality of the data. The lack of a clear revision policy or release calendar further limits users.

65. Based on the interviews, none of the LSS track the number or profession of data users. Therefore the concerns and needs of users are not well understood.

VI. Constraints, needs for capacity development and recommendations

66. This assessment has provided valuable knowledge on the capacity of Lao PDR to produce the core set of economic statistics. The LSS provides an excellent example of successful inter-regional staff exchanges, the development of a detailed strategic plan, and active engagement of government to obtain a commitment to statistics through law and support of the SD NSS. This assessment of the LSS also demonstrates specific obstacles experienced by Lao PDR in producing the core set of economic statistics. The identification of obstacles for the LSS is linked directly to capacity development needs. Specifically, capacity development to enhance skills, build infrastructure, improve transparency, and boost advocacy are vital for Lao PDR to have the capacity to compile high quality economic statistics of the core set at the required frequency.

67. Although, DoS and BoL staff have access to international training, this training typically occurs on an ad hoc basis and on a topic chosen by an international training provider, which may not take into account the training needs of Lao PDR. Line ministry and local staff have very limited access to national or international statistical training. The statistical expertise of LSS staff would benefit from coordinated training targeted at: (1) training of trainers that can then train other LSS staff, especially line-ministry and local staff, on statistical concepts in the Lao language; (2) specialised training that addresses gaps in the capacity of the LSS with respect to the core set; and (3) national training that includes participants from line ministries and local offices. In Lao PDR, a university programme on statistics is not available; this amplifies the potential benefit of online courses which would provide students the opportunity to study statistics remotely. Ideally online courses would be translated into Lao, but as this may not be feasible, online courses in English would still benefit some staff.

68. Both DoS and BoL participate in staff exchanges with other ASEAN members. However, opportunities for staff exchange among the line ministries are limited. The LSS would benefit from a mechanism to increase staff exchange; staff exchange between DoS and line ministries or DoS and local offices would be very beneficial in helping to develop the expertise of statistical staff outside of the DoS.

69. Boosting the LSS statistical infrastructure could increase the efficiency of the LSS and result in production of statistics at a higher frequency and higher quality. The LSS does not currently subscribe to the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), although this is a planned improvement to the LSS. Lao PDR would benefit from assistance in implementing the SDDS which would enhance the access of users to timely, transparent statistics and improve quality through the introduction of a quality assessment framework. Lao PDR has a business register; however, the business register is not comprehensive. Training and assistance in improving the business register would improve efficiency and coverage quality.

70. The LSS publishes very little metadata or other documentation. Improving the transparency of methodologies would contribute to the use of statistical data in economic policy making and analysis. The LSS could benefit from capacity development that addresses all aspects of methodological transparency, including: building awareness of the importance of transparency; implementing a mechanism for compilation of methodology and other metadata; sharing of experiences between countries; and developing a LSS data dissemination platform for data and metadata dissemination. The member organisations of the LSS will need to work cooperatively to develop a data dissemination platform that provides users with a means for accessing data and metadata across the LSS.

71. A roster of regional consultants and experts would provide the LSS with experienced resource persons that could offer guidance in developing the statistical infrastructure, in creating a strategy for methodological transparency, and in helping design a data dissemination platform.

72. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the LSS in producing the core set of economic statistics, statistical advocacy must be maintained. LSS has shown tremendous strides in getting the statistical law enacted and developing a SD NSS. To continue to develop economic statistics in Lao PDR, coordinated advocacy which promotes the importance of the core set of economic statistics for policy making; addresses the value of using good practices for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics; and boosts the general understanding of economic statistics are essential.

VII. Assessment Summary

73. Currently, Lao PDR is able to produce 15 of the 32 statistics of the core set of economic statistics. Additionally, of the statistics that are produced the scope, timeliness and quality need to be further developed. Addressing human resources (with respect to staff numbers, training and expertise); statistical infrastructure; and coordination, are, by this assessment, the highest priorities for improving the compilation, production and dissemination of high quality economic statistics.

74. Although, the LSS is not able to produce roughly half of the core set, the capacity to produce the core set is not evenly distributed across the different domains. Almost no labour statistics are currently published in Lao PDR, and historically, the MoLSW has not been actively involved in statistics. The scope of national accounts and price statistics is very limited and the data sources for expanding the scope of statistics are currently very weak. Additionally, national accounts are only compiled annually and there is an expressed need from users for quarterly data. Government finance statistics meet the core set; however, the scope and quality are under-developed. On the other hand, balance of payments; and money and banking statistics are fairly well developed. Agricultural, trade, industrial and other statistics that form the basis for much of the economic core set lack the statistical infrastructure, statistical expertise and personnel for producing accurate and timely data. The source data that feeds into the economic core set is weak: administrative data, business registers and survey instruments need further development. Additionally, disaggregated statistical data is not available for many of the indicators.

75. The government of Lao PDR has recognized the importance of statistics, including economic statistics, and has committed to building the LSS. The Statistics Law (enacted in June 2010) and a National Strategy for the Dissemination of Statistics 2010-2020 (SD NSS) are evidence of the commitment of the government to improve statistics in Lao PDR. The government of Lao PDR and members of the LSS affirm that there is an urgent need for timely, high quality, high frequency economic statistics. The institutional setting and the entire LSS is currently under transition. One of the biggest changes will be the conversion of the DoS to the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB). In addition to a name change, the new department will be upgraded to the status of sub-ministry and have authority and mandate over the entire LSS.

76. The SD NSS developed by DoS in consultation with the other organizations in the LSS provides an ambitious plan for the LSS until 2020. The SD NSS includes four strategies: (1) Improving regulation and institutional frameworks; (2) developing statistical infrastructure; (3) management and development of data; and (4) ensuring statistical activities. Additionally, the SD NSS proposes more than doubling the LSS staff to 1,400 by 2020. The SD NSS addresses many areas relevant to the core set, including, statistics related to national accounts, agriculture, industry, investment, trade, BoP, finance, money, tourism, communication, prices, labour and environment; and building the statistical infrastructure.

77. There are five primary organizations involved in disseminating the core set of economic statistics: (1) DoS (to be renamed LSB); (2) BoL; (3) MoF; (4) MoIC; and (5) MoLSW. In addition to these organizations, line ministries and local offices provide statistics and produce statistical publications related to their mandate. The DoS is responsible for coordination, statistical clearance and organizing training of the LSS.

78. Although, coordination is mandated by law; coordination is built primarily on personal relationships and not supported by organizational structure. Data is communicated from one individual to another. Individuals interested in obtaining data must first identify the person who has the data; obtain a soft-copy or hard copy via email, fax or in-person; and manually re-enter data. In some cases lack of coordination is resulting in a duplication of effort and discrepancies between agencies (this is highlighted by the unclear mandate for external merchandise trade which is currently being produced by DoS, BoL and MoIC).

79. Currently, the statistical system has financial and human resource shortages across the board. The human resource shortages are clearly tackled in the SD NSS but are subject to the availability of financial resources. In addition to staff shortages, there is a clear need to increase the knowledge and skill of those involved in the LSS.

80. The LSS receives financial assistance from many different international and bilateral donors, and is highly dependent on international support for completing their programme of work. For example, about half of the funding for the SD NSS will need to come from donor support. The LSS also receives technical support from many agencies; often the technical knowledge leaves with the supporting organization and is not transferred to the local staff.

81. The proposed staff increases in the SD NSS will greatly enhance the capacity of the LSS to compile statistics. Additionally, better cooperation and IT infrastructure would save many additional man-hours. However, staff man-hours will not completely address the human resource constraints. Upgrading knowledge and competency is also necessary. The deficiency in

staff knowledge can be attributed to a lack of documentation; a lack of training; and lack of experience. The availability of international guidelines, handbooks and manuals is limited by the difficulty in translating documents into the Lao language. There is an obvious need for increased internal documentation in the Lao language, which for many organisations does not exist.

82. Training for DoS and BoL staff are available from international agencies and other organizations with priority given to mid- and junior-level staff. However, statistical training of line ministry and local staff is deficient. The lack of internal documentation or international documentation in Lao limits the opportunity for self-training. Additionally, both DoS and BoL are excellent examples of successful inter-ASEAN staff exchange. On the other hand, the line ministries and provincial offices very rarely, if ever, attend international training, and are, in general, less fluent in English. DoS provides statistical training to the LSS; however, with a low frequency of training. The SD NSS recognizes training needs; however, a strategic plan for training is needed.

83. Career development programmes and hiring practices could also be improved to hire and retain highly qualified staff. The salaries of members of the LSS are low as compared to private sector employees and career development is not an integral part of the institutional setting.

84. Further development of infrastructure system in Lao PDR is also needed. The use of more developed classifications, standards, frameworks and registers would improve data quality.

85. The primary data sources for the core set of economic statistics include surveys and censuses; and administrative data. The current census and survey data collection is not sufficient for the production of the complete core set of economic statistics. Administrative data sources are currently underutilized. The sample frame of a number of surveys is also an issue. In particular, many of surveys involving businesses only include registered businesses of a certain size (for example, more than three employees). Improving the business register to be more up-to-date and comprehensive business register would improve the quality of business surveys. The SD NSS recognises the lack in source data and proposes many additional surveys and censuses; dedicating research to the development of administrative data; and improving the business register.

86. In terms of IT infrastructure, excel is the primary compilation software; much data is manually entered; and internet access is limited for some offices. A mechanism for ensuring quality does not exist. The DoS, BoL and other line ministries have internal procedures for reducing errors and editing data. However, the organisations are lacking system for data editing and quality assessment. An integrated database management system for compilation, analysis and dissemination of data across the LSS is not available. None of the components of the LSS have comprehensively planned data validation or data editing. Additionally very little metadata is published by the LSS.

87. Data is disseminated by many components of the LSS separately (DoS, BoL, MoF, MoIC, other line ministries, provincial and local offices). A central data dissemination platform that provides users a mechanism for accessing economic data from different sources would be beneficial. Additionally, the ability to download data in a structured, user friendly format is needed.

88. Improving metadata (including a release calendar, methodology and a revision policy) dissemination so that users know how the data was compiled and have an indication of the quality of the data is needed. The use of data is not well-understood and thus concerns and needs of users out-side of government, are also not well understood.

89. Statistical advocacy on data use for policy making has been successfully utilized for the adoption of the Statistics Law and the SD NSS. Further statistical advocacy could reinforce the importance of statistics and expand the data clientele.

VIII. References

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BoL – Bank of Lao PDR (<http://www.bol.gov.la/>)

DoS – Lao PDR Department of Statistics (<http://www.nsc.gov.la/>)

IMF – Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (<http://dsbb.imf.org>)

Lao Customs Department (<http://laocustoms.laopdr.net>)

MoAF - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (www.maf.gov.la/)

MoF – Ministry of Finance (www.mof.gov.la/)

MoIC – Ministry of Industry and Commerce (www.moc.gov.la/)

National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (www.nafri.org.la/)

Annex I. Proposed core set of economic statistics

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
Prices and costs				
Consumer price index (CPI)	Q	Y	The scope of the regimen should cover the goods and services that private households acquire. The index should, as far as possible, measure price movements that are representative for the whole country, ie the geographic coverage and reference population should be as wide as possible. However, practical (and utility) considerations may limit coverage to specified regions and population groups, eg private urban households. Component indexes covering major expenditure groups are recommended, and the wider uses of the CPI subindexes for deflation of national accounts flows should be considered in the CPI design. International Comparison Program (ICP) requirements should also be considered in CPI design.	ILO Resolution concerning CPI (17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2003); Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice (ILO, 2004); Practical Guide to Producing Consumer Price Indices. A Supplementary handbook to the Consumer Price Index Manual (UNECE 2009) [Knowledge Base]
Producer price index (PPI)	Q	Y	The PPIs – and related commodity price indexes – can differ across countries in terms of industry and/or commodity coverage, and valuation point. What are required are indexes that track the prices of a wide range of market goods over	Producer Price Index Manual – 2004 [Knowledge Base]

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>time. Such indexes will cover intermediate and final goods and services, including fixed assets, and will facilitate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the monitoring of inflation at different stages of the product supply chain; ii) price changes of key export and import commodities; and iii) the deflation of national accounts variables, both industry outputs/inputs and final demand categories. <p>The range of industry / commodity indexes chosen will be country specific, but their scope should cover the above uses. Efforts should be made to ensure that at the very least key services are covered.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to producing residential and commercial property indexes given the key role such assets have in influencing investment and saving behaviour.</p>	
Commodity price index	M	N	Covered above. Only required for key commodities in the production process (inputs and outputs) and only if similar indexes are not already included in the PPI.	

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
External merchandise trade price indexes	M	Y	<p>The price indexes of goods and materials imported and exported complement the PPIs and their uses noted above. The total scope should match that of merchandise trade itself, although the range of commodity subindexes produced is country specific.</p> <p>The external merchandise trade price indexes are used to calculate the terms of trade index, which is derived as the export price index / import price index. A terms of trade index shows the relationship between the prices at which a country sells its exports and the prices it pays for its imports. If the prices of a country's exports rise relative to the prices of its imports, its terms of trade are said to have moved in a favourable direction, because, in effect, it now receives more imports for each unit it exports. The terms of trade index is a useful summary statistic for those country's vulnerable to changes that are occurring in its trading environment.</p>	Export and Import Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice, 2009 (IMF)
Wages / Earnings data	Q	Y	Nominal wages and/or earnings data for a specified time period, allowing average hourly or weekly series to be derived. Industry, occupation or gender breakdowns to be determined by country.	ILO Resolution concerning an integrated system of wages statistics (12 th ICLS, 1973)
Labour costs index / Wage index	Q	Y	The cost pressure arising from paid employment is measured by a labour cost or wage index. While the labour cost index will have a wider scope, covering all items in compensation of employees, an index confined to wages may suffice. As with the wages data itself, industry breakdowns can be	Resolution concerning the measurement of employment-related income (17 th ICLS, 1998) ILO Resolution concerning

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			determined by country need.	statistics of labour cost (11 th ICLS, 1966)
Exchange rates	D	Y	<p>The daily exchange rates data should cover both spot and forward exchange rates for major currencies with respect to the national currency. For monitoring purposes, exchange rates based on monthly averages and end-month rates should be calculated.</p> <p>In addition, nominal and real effective exchange rates should be calculated monthly. A nominal effective exchange rate is the exchange rate of the domestic currency vis-à-vis other currencies weighted by their share in the country's international trade. Real effective exchange rates take account of price level differences between trading partners. Movements in real effective exchange rates provide an indication of the evolution of a country's aggregate external price competitiveness.</p>	
Purchasing power parities (PPPs)	Ad hoc	N	<p>While PPPs are not produced directly by NSOs, it is strongly recommended that countries join the ICP programme. The tasks of providing price and expenditure data for the ICP programme may be reduced if these requirements are considered at the same time that related domestic statistical outputs are designed.</p> <p>PPPs statistics are also needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	International Comparison Program - Methodological Handbook 2005 [Knowledge Base]

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
Demand and output				
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (production) (P) nominal and real	Q	Y	The national accounts provide the comprehensive statistical framework to study the relationships between key macroeconomic variables.	System of National Accounts 1993 [Knowledge Base]
GDP (expenditure) (E) nominal and real (including implicit price indexes for GDP(E) and components)	Q	Y	<p>Included here is quarterly GDP in nominal and volume terms, disaggregated by :</p> <p>i) Major expenditure components; and</p> <p>ii) By industry. The level of industry detail is not prescribed and is country specific.</p> <p>In place of a nominal GDP(P) by industry series, or in addition to it, countries are encouraged to produce quarterly value-added by income component, along with quarterly GNI and Saving series.</p> <p>The production of GDP(E) and its components in nominal and volume terms allows the calculation of the associated implicit price deflators.</p> <p>ICP requirements should be taken into account when determining the expenditure components of GDP to be produced.</p>	<p>System of National Accounts 2008</p> <p>Quarterly National Accounts Manual: Concepts, data Sources and Compilation, 2001 (IMF)</p>
External trade – merchandise	M	Y	Exports and imports of goods, in nominal values (national currency) and in volume terms (ie volume indexes). Commodity detail is country specific. The values, volume	International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, Revision 2

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>indexes and price indexes (refer above)/unit value indices for merchandise trade are to have consistent coverage and presentation, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of external trade.</p> <p>The merchandise trade data also provide a more timely indicator of developments in the current account of the balance of payments.</p>	(1998) [Knowledge Base]
External trade - services	Q	N	<p>Exports and imports of services analysed by product, in nominal values (national currency). While these aggregate series are required to compile the quarterly Balance of Payments, if trade-in-services are important for the quarterly monitoring of an economy, it is recommended that detailed series be compiled. Product detail is country specific.</p> <p>[Also refer to the Short term indicator section below.]</p>	Manual on Statistics of international trade in services (2002) [Knowledge Base]
Short term indicator (STI) - industry output	Q	Y	<p>STI can cover a wide range of statistics, in terms of both their coverage (industry, product) and their statistical form (current or constant dollars, volume indexes). The purpose of the STI is to provide an important insight into a specific aspect of the real or financial economy. They complement GDP by being more timely and, although less comprehensive in coverage, STI serve as leading indicators of GDP. Accordingly, STI need to be produced ahead of quarterly GDP itself, preferably monthly. However, for the core set, a quarterly frequency is specified.</p>	<p>International Recommendations for the Index of Industrial Production, 2010 (UNSD)</p> <p>Manual for an Index of Services Production, 2007 (OECD)</p>
STI - consumer demand	Q	N		
STI - fixed investment	Q	N		
STI - inventories	Q	N		

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>The STI included here are mainly backward-looking, ie they record events that have already happened. This does not rule out the production of forward-looking STI such as new orders or investment intentions, although these would be additional to the core set recommendations.</p> <p>The choice of indicator depends on a country's economic structure. Recommended in the core set are STI that cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry production, which may take an industry or product dimension. The key industries / products to be covered are country specific and may need to distinguish between industries / products that respond differently to changes in internal or external demand. Monitoring key export industries and/or products may be critical. The term "industry" is used broadly and embraces primary and secondary goods producing industries and services industries. Efforts should be made to ensure that at the very least key services are covered. • Consumer demand. Retail sales volumes indicators are traditionally produced, but with services making up a significant and growing proportion of household spending, additional STI for expenditure on services may be required. For countries with important tourism industries, STI covering inbound tourist numbers, accommodation occupancy rates etc. may be needed. • Investment, both in fixed assets and inventories. The 	<p>International Recommendations for Distributive Trade Statistics 2008 (Statistical papers, Series M, No. 89) [Knowledge Base]</p> <p>Short Term Economic Statistics Timeliness framework (OECD)</p>

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>fixed asset STI should cover the key components of gross fixed capital formation, especially building construction. Changes in inventory levels can be a useful leading indicator of economic fluctuations at both national and industry level. The STI for inventories should cover all major raw material and finished goods inventories.</p>	
Economy structure statistics	5-yearly or at regular intervals	N	<p>Periodic industry censuses / surveys provide the detailed structural data needed for a wide range of economic statistical outputs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry value-added by component series needed to benchmark GDP. • Supply-Use Tables and Industry / product weights for producer price indexes (assuming product breakdowns of gross output and intermediate consumption are also collected). • Detailed financial data needed to analyse and monitor the economic performance of key or complex industries. <p>Included in this category are censuses / surveys that collect either financial data (sales, costs, profits, investment, assets and liabilities) or non-financial data (such as surveys of agriculture production, forestry and fishing activity, mining etc.).</p> <p>The conduct of the census/survey requires an up-to-date Business Frame of business enterprises, appropriately</p>	International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics (IRIS) 2008

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>classified.</p> <p>The coverage, frequency and type of census/survey is not specified in the core set and will be country specific. Obtaining the economic data required for the above indicative uses can be obtained in a number of different ways using a range of collection vehicles, eg full census or sample survey; economy wide coverage or key industries only; annual, periodic or irregular frequency; collection of data via a questionnaire, use of administrative data or a combination of both; etc.</p>	
Productivity	A	N	<p>Included are labour productivity measures only. While Multifactor Productivity (MFP) measures are desired, they are not included in the core set recommendations.</p> <p>For an economy-wide labour productivity measure, GDP per hour worked is recommended, although, if hours worked data is not available, then GDP per full-time equivalent employed person or job is an alternative.</p> <p>While economy-wide measures are recommended, it is accepted that non-market measurement issues may need to restrict the scope to market industries and/or the business sector.</p> <p>Needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>ICLS Resolution concerning the measurement of working time, 2008</p> <p>Measuring Capital – OECD Manual</p> <p>Measuring Productivity – OECD Manual</p>

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
Income and Wealth				
Integrated national accounts for the total economy	A	N	<p>Included here is the sequence of accounts for the total economy excluding the Financial Account and Balance Sheet, but including a Rest of the World Account.</p> <p>This is the minimum set of accounts needed to measure GNI, saving and net lending with the rest of the world. These accounts also provide an annual GDP(I) measure to cross-check with the GDP(P) and GDP(E) series, for those countries not yet producing quarterly series of nominal value-added by income component.</p> <p>Needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>System of National Accounts 1993 [Knowledge Base]</p> <p>System of National Accounts 2008</p>
Institutional sector accounts	A	N	<p>The same range of accounts listed above for the total economy but for the key institutional sectors.</p> <p>The sectors should, at a minimum, separately identify business enterprises, general government and households.</p> <p>For the sector accounts, it is highly recommended that financial accounts and balance sheets, along with the supporting revaluation and other volume change accounts, are also produced.</p>	
Balance of payments (BOP)	Q	Y	The BOP and the IIP represent the comprehensive statistical frameworks for the external sector. They enable the monitoring of a country's international economic	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual - Sixth

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
International Investment Position (IIP)	A	Y	<p>performance, exchange rate policy, reserves and external debt management.</p> <p>Included in the BOP are the external transaction covering: goods and services; incomes; transfers; capital and financial account items; and reserves. The detail provided on these items is country specific although it is highly recommended that the breakdowns set out in the SDDS be adopted as a minimum.</p>	<p>Edition (BPM6) [Knowledge Base]</p>
External debt	Q	Y	<p>The IIP shows a country's financial claims on, and liabilities to, the rest of the world. In line with the SDDS, an annual IIP is recommended although quarterly series are encouraged. As with the BOP statement, the SDDS IIP breakdowns by major component (foreign direct investment, portfolio investment, reserve assets) further disaggregated by instrument and sector, are recommended.</p> <p>In addition to the IIP statement, separate statistics on the external debt are included in the core set. For analytical purposes, gross external debt is shown by sector (government, monetary authorities, banks and other) and by maturity. Supplementary statistics on the debt-servicing payments schedule are recommended.</p> <p>BOP and external debts statistics are needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users (IMF)</p>

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
Income distribution	5 yearly	N	<p>Measuring the distribution of material well-being is important, and distribution statistics are included in the core set recommendations. Specifically, periodic statistics on the income distribution of individuals / households, distinguishing between key groups of households as required for country-specific studies (eg between urban / rural households, by households grouped by source of income or by participation in the formal / informal economy).</p> <p>Alternative distribution studies that may include wealth along with income, and/or focus on consumption levels, may also be considered.</p> <p>More frequent income distribution studies are recommended, but it is recognised that, in most cases, they need to be tied in to the frequency of source data, such as a periodic Household Income and Expenditure Survey.</p> <p>Needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>ICLS Resolution concerning household income and expenditure statistics, 2003</p> <p>ICLS Resolution concerning the measurement of employment-related income, 1998</p> <p>Expert Group on Household Income Statistics, Final Report and Recommendations of the Canberra Group, 2001</p>
Money and Banking				
Assets/liabilities of depository corporations	M	Y	<p>Statistics on the financial assets and liabilities of depository corporations, including the central bank, provide the money and credit aggregates needed for both monetary and other macroeconomic policies. The balance sheet format shows the broad-money liabilities of the depository corporations and</p>	<p>Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2008 (IMF) [Knowledge Base]</p>
Broad money and credit	M	Y		

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
aggregates			<p>the domestic and foreign asset counterparts of those liabilities. It is recommended that the sector breakdown of claims “encouraged” in the SDDS be adopted.</p> <p>The monetary aggregates produced should be the broadest measure used by countries, allowing narrower measures to be compiled if relevant.</p>	
Interest rate statistics	M	Y	It is recommended that a range of representative interest rates be produced. For example, monthly averages of day-to-day money market interest rates, short and long-term deposit and lending rates, short and long term government security rates, the central bank lending rate etc.	
Government				
General government operations	Q	Y	<p>Financial statistics on government operations enable analysts to study and monitor the financial performance, financial position and liquidity situation of general government. The statistics should be presented within the GFS framework, and should cover revenue, expenses, investment, borrowing and lending. The transaction detail is country specific, although that set out in the SDDS is recommended.</p> <p>Central government statistics should be produced quarterly. Statistics on the financial operations of other levels of government (state, regional or local) are produced annually, along with consolidated General Government statistics.</p>	Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 [Knowledge Base]

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			However, if lower levels of government are significant, a quarterly frequency for all series is strongly recommended.	
General government debt	Q	Y	<p>It is recommended that quarterly statistics on central government debt are produced. These should detail all debt liabilities, in the form of securities, loans and deposits, and be further classified by domestic / foreign currency, instrument and maturity. Statistics on non-central government debt guaranteed by central government should also be produced.</p> <p>Debt statistics for other levels of government should be produced annually. Any debt breakdown by sector of lender, maturity etc. is country specific.</p>	
Labour Market				
Labour supply and demand	A / Q	Y (part)	<p>Labour market statistics meet a wide range of economic and social policy needs. The core set focuses on labour utilisation statistics, and includes short term indicators and annual structural statistics, covering both labour supply and labour demand perspectives.</p> <p>Labour force statistics provide information on the supply of labour. Statistics that measure changes in the working age population and its characteristics, and its partition into those employed, unemployed or not in the labour force are recommended. Relevant characteristics include age, gender,</p>	<p>ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, 1982</p> <p>Survey of economically active population, employment and underemployment: An ILO manual on concepts and</p>

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			<p>occupation or skill level, education, geographical area, residency status etc. For many countries, the measurement of under-employment may be important, as might labour migration, ie the number of international migrant workers.</p> <p>Labour demand statistics provide further information on employment and vacancies, and may refer to persons or jobs depending on the source data. Summary statistics should be broken down by relevant characteristics such as status in employment, branch of economic activity, geographical area, full-time or part –time status, gender etc. For some countries, employment analysed by the formal/informal and/or rural/non-rural sectors may be important.</p> <p>Aggregate statistics on the working age population and labour force (employment, unemployment) are required quarterly, while the detailed structural statistics may need to be compiled less frequently.</p> <p>Labour market statistics are also needed for deriving Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>methods, ILO 1990</p> <p>Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations (16th ICLS, 1998)</p> <p>Resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector (15th ICLS, 1993)</p> <p>ILO Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment (17th ICLS, 2003)</p>
Hours worked	Q	N	Hours worked statistics complement employment counts and provide a more precise measure of labour input. The data should preferably be collected with earnings data, allowing consistent statistics on labour input costs/earnings and volumes to be produced. The hours worked breakdowns that are needed are similar to those given above for employment.	ICLS Resolution concerning the measurement of working time, 2008

Category of statistic	Frequency	In GDDS / SDDS?	Comments	Relevant international standard / guideline (including classification(s))
			Hours worked statistics are a key input for labour productivity measures.	
Natural Resources and the Environment				
Natural resources	A	N	<p>Statistics that measure the economy – environment interrelationships are beyond the scope of the core set. However, the growing concerns about the sustainability of economic growth indicate that the core set needs to include a limited range of statistics that begin to address this issue. Accordingly, it is recommended that the core set include statistics that measure the discovery, depletion and degradation of those natural resources that fall within the SNA asset boundary. The SNA records these changes in the “Other changes in assets” account and while they affect net wealth positions they do not affect GDP. Producing these statistics is consistent with the SNA coverage, yet also allows users to derive alternative GDP measures that may be considered to better account for depletion and discovery.</p> <p>The choice of natural assets to be covered will be determined by individual countries, but it is expected that key resources at risk will be included. Annual statistics on the volume and value of stock levels and the additions /deductions from stock levels are recommended.</p>	<p>Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA)</p> <p>System of National Accounts 1993 [Knowledge Base]</p> <p>System of National Accounts 2008</p>

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