

Historical Overview of the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS)

The year 1962 witnessed the creation of the first official central statistical unit in Lebanon when the Ministry of Public Planning was regulated pursuant to the Law issued on June 12, 1962. The Ministry included, among others, a directorate called “Central Directorate of Statistics” which is concerned with gathering statistical information, producing and coordinating statistics at the national level, and publishing statistics. The work of this Directorate was outstanding in terms of performance and production until it was forced to suspend its work upon the outbreak of war in Lebanon in 1975. In wartime, the Ministry of Public Planning was cancelled and a public administration, called “Central Administration of Statistics” (CAS) was established at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in February 1979. The decree regulating the CAS was issued in February 1980, but the CAS did not effectively initiate its work until early 1994 when a fixed headquarters was created to replace the old headquarters that caught fire at war. The CAS archives were completely destroyed due to fire, therefore obliging the CAS to resume the statistical work from scratch. Hence, the full Census of Buildings and Dwellings and Establishments was conducted in 1996, thereby laying the first foundation to the statistical studies following it, such as the survey on the Living Conditions of Households in 1997, and the survey on the situation of children in Lebanon in 2000. In the year 2004, the CAS conducted a new Census of Buildings and Dwellings and Establishments in Lebanon, and updated the database which served as a basis to the national Living Conditions and Household Budget Surveys in 2004. As a result of that study, a high number of social and educational indicators were provided. In 2007, a new Survey on the Living Conditions was conducted, and preparations were made to update the Consumer Price Index by adopting a new consumer basket based on the Household Budget Survey issued in 2004. The new CPI began to be monthly issued as of March 2008 and published in the first working day after the 20th of each month, after it used to be quarterly issued since 1999.

Furthermore, since the year 2000, the CAS has developed its monthly bulletin published after resuming its work, and in 2006, the CAS re-issued the Annual Statistical Year Book for the first time since its regulation. The Year Book encompassed statistical data and time sequences starting from the year 2000.

In addition, the CAS issued several statistical reports and publications in many social, economic and environmental fields.

Besides, the CAS has built bridges of cooperation with several producers and users of statistical data, and has shown great openness to the international and regional statistical community since 2004 through the intensive participation in the meetings, workshops and training sessions organized to develop the human and technical statistical capacities.