

# The CBS Vision

The Right Information - at the Right Time!

## Mission

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), a professional organization responsible for the official statistics of the State of Israel, is committed to providing updated, qualitative and independent statistical information, for a wide variety of users in Israel and abroad.

## Guiding Principles

1. Acts by legal authority to collect and disseminate official data on the society and economy of Israel.
2. Is sovereign and independent.
3. Leads the national statistical system.
4. Provides information that addresses the needs of a wide variety of users.
5. Seeks to broaden the use of statistical data.
6. Produces statistical information while scrupulously ensuring its high quality.
7. Works towards continuously improving the quality of data and the processes of its production.
8. Works towards the enrichment of the organization's human capital, and the continuous improvement of its organizational and technological infrastructure.
9. Works towards reducing the public's response burden, and achieving the cooperation of data providers.
10. Adheres to the principles of protecting the confidentiality of the data collected.

## Detailed Guiding Principles

### **1. Acts by legal authority to collect and disseminate official data on the society and economy of Israel**

- 1.1. CBS operations are carried out according to the Statistics Ordinance, which has been changed and updated over the years according to developments and changes that have occurred in society.
- 1.2. The Statistics Ordinance defines the roles of the Government Statistician, the functions of the CBS and the role of the Public Council for Statistics, as well as the public's duty to provide details as required and to cooperate with the CBS.
- 1.3. The CBS has the legal authority to collect data from the population of households, businesses and any other party, as well as to use administrative records, for performing statistical operations.
- 1.4. The CBS policy of publication of statistical information is based on the principle of freedom of information.
- 1.5. Publication of data under the Statistics Ordinance is subject to safeguarding confidentiality, and any other law, such as the Privacy Protection Act and its associated regulations.

### **2. Is sovereign and independent**

- 2.1. A unit affiliated with the Prime Minister's office, which operates independently and according to scientific principles.
- 2.2. Decisions relating to statistical methodology, work processes, dissemination of information and the dates of its presentation to the public are made according to professional criteria and accepted standards
- 2.3. An advance release calendar for publication of data ensures that the information distributed by the CBS is accessible to the entire public at one and the same time.

### **3. Leads the national statistical system**

- 3.1. The CBS is the main producer of official statistics in the country. It collaborates with government agencies and local authorities who, under the Statistics Ordinance, are also authorized to produce official statistics.
- 3.2. The CBS leads the statistical system and consolidates the majority of official statistics in various fields.
- 3.3. The Government Statistician, who heads the CBS, advises on the performance of statistical acts by government ministries and other government agencies that collect and publish statistical information.
- 3.4. The CBS coordinates the transfer of statistical data from the entire statistical system to international organizations, in accordance with agreed-upon standards.

#### **4. Provides information that addresses the needs of a wide variety of users**

The CBS assesses the needs of information users, as follows:

- 4.1. The Public Council for Statistics meets on a regular basis, and advises the Government Statistician and the CBS on matters relating to statistical acts, as well as representing the institutions and bodies that use their data.
- 4.2. The CBS conducts ongoing professional consultation with users in various fields.
- 4.3. The CBS involves users in the process of making decisions about responses to their needs.

#### **5. Seeks to broaden the use of statistical data**

- 5.1. Publishes data that allow for information-based decisions.
- 5.2. Strives to provide data that can be used to conduct productive and efficient research.
- 5.3. Strives to expand the variety of products and their modes of dissemination, as well as the services provided to users.
- 5.4. Strives to bring different population groups closer to statistical information.
- 5.5. Strives to develop, update and improve the CBS website and facilitate access to the information published therein.
- 5.6. Maintains ongoing contact with users, and notifies them about new or updated information.

#### **6. Produces statistical information while scrupulously ensuring its quality**

The CBS is working towards producing statistical information whose quality is measured by accepted indicators (EUROSTAT<sup>1</sup>):

- 6.1. Relevance – the information is adapted to the needs of existing and potential users.
- 6.2. Accuracy – The information reflects, as much as possible, the real characteristics of the population.
- 6.3. Timeliness, timing, and punctuality – Information published as close as possible to the reference period measured, and disseminated according to predetermined schedules.
- 6.4. Accessibility and clarity – Creating physical conditions for access to data, and presenting all of the relevant information required to understand it.
- 6.5. Comparability – Providing uniform definitions of data,, which allow for comparisons over time and among geographic regions, population groups, and countries.
- 6.6. Coherence – Harmonization and standardization of information that is obtained from various sources and used for different purposes.
- 6.7. Transparency – Making information about the production of official statistics accessible, in accordance with professional standards and accepted ethical principles, so that the public will have confidence in the objectivity of the official statistics.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/quality/documents/ess%20quality%20definition.pdf>

**7. Works toward continuously improving the quality of data and the processes of its production**

- 7.1. Shares knowledge and experience with professionals outside of Israel, including international organizations and other statistical bureaus worldwide.
- 7.2. Strives to improve and expand the means and processes of information production, in cooperation with the scientific community and the Public Advisory Committee for Statistics.
- 7.3. Performs ongoing process control.

**8. Works toward the enrichment of the organization's human capital, and the continuous improvement of its organizational and technological infrastructure**

- 8.1. Examines the organizational structure of the CBS and adapts it in order to achieve its goals and objectives.
- 8.2. Establishes and operates designated committees to increase its work efficiency.
- 8.3. Engages in ongoing training and enrichment of its employees through assigned programs in Israel and abroad.
- 8.4. Examines procedures and tasks in order to adapt them to changes that occur inside the CBS and outside it.
- 8.5. Assimilates a quality management system based on designated quality frames.
- 8.6. Develops and assimilates tools for management and preservation of knowledge.
- 8.7. Develops and assimilates advanced technological tools for collecting, processing, and disseminating data.

**9. Works toward reducing the public's response burden, and achieving the cooperation of data providers**

- 9.1. Strives to broaden the use of administrative files, in order to reduce the need for direct data collection.
- 9.2. Strives to develop questionnaires that are clear and user-friendly to respondents and interviewers.
- 9.3. Strives to reduce the public's response burden in various surveys.
- 9.4. Makes continuous efforts to improve the skills of interviewers working on behalf of the organization.

**10. Adheres to the principles of protecting the confidentiality of the data collected**

- 10.1 The CBS and its employees are obligated to maintain the confidentiality of information under the Statistics Ordinance.
- 10.2 Strives to secure the confidentiality of information at various levels of security.
- 10.3 Strives to reduce its employees' access to files that include data with individual identifiers.
- 10.4 Allows access to detailed information only for authorized personnel.