



The Government Statistician Professor Danny Pfeffermann

Professor Pfeffermann began serving as the Government Statistician of Israel and as the Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) on April 8th 2013. He is Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Professor at the University of Southampton in England, and Consultant to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. As of summer 2013, he serves as President of the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS). His academic research focuses on applied statistics in general and official statistics in particular. Prof. Pfeffermann has undertaken to serve as head of the Israeli CBS and the National Statistical System (NSS) at a time when there is an increasing demand for current and reliable information to be used to formulate social and economic policies.

Technological developments over the past decade have increased the quantity and availability of information, in addition to facilitating its rapid transfer. This presents challenges for Prof. Pfeffermann and for producers of official statistics: What should be defined as statistical information that the NSS, headed by the CBS, is obligated to provide? What criteria for quality are required for the information to be defined as suitable for use? What can be done to enable users to understand the meaning of the information and the limitations of its use?

The NSSs and the national statistical bureaus are part of a global statistical system which functions through international organizations. Decisions about the directions of development and the statistics that are required in order to compare population groups are made in international forums. Therefore, national bureaus of statistics need to develop statistics guided by a national plan and international standards. The budget requirements for this purpose are significantly higher than the existing resources.

Prof. Pfeffermann views these challenges as an opportunity to lead an integrated strategy of infrastructures, organizational settings and budgets, both for the NSS as a whole and for the CBS in particular. Strategic orientation will enable the NSS to address these challenges by functional and discerning use of various data sources employing both current and potential statistical methodologies. Likewise, the Public Council of Statistics plays an essential role in coordinating the work of the NSS as well as in strengthening the status of the CBS in Israel and among international organizations.



The Outgoing Government Statistician Professor Shlomo Yitzhaki

Professor Yitzhaki served as Government Statistician of Israel and Director General of the CBS for about 12 years, from October 2001 until the end of 2012.

During his term of office, the CBS became an active participant in international processes and projects. The CBS takes a more significant part in the activities of the organizations that Israel belongs to, such as the OECD, and the IMF. Israel's statistical methodology met the rigorous standards for joining the OECD, and the national accounts were reviewed and approved by the IMF. In addition, Israel increased its participation in the activities of MEDSTAT, which is the regional statistical co-operation program between the European Union and Mediterranean countries.

The CBS was required to adapt the official statistics it produces to international standards, and as a result, it expanded the scope of its activities. The number of surveys conducted increased, and surveys' topics were added or expanded. For example, new surveys were conducted on the business sector and the environmental statistics sector, as well as an ongoing survey on job vacancies referring to the demand for workers. In addition, the Labour Force Survey was expanded from a quarterly to a monthly survey.

During Prof. Yitzhaki's term of office, the 2008 Population Census was conducted. This Census used a special and efficient methodology, requiring only part of the population to be enumerated. In recent years, Prof. Yitzhaki led an expansion of data collection from administrative files in order to reduce the response burden from households and businesses.

Prof. Yitzhaki holds a doctoral degree in Economics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and was a visiting scholar at Harvard University Department of Economics. He has served in a number of positions, including Visiting Scientist at the National Bureau of Economic Research in the USA. He has held a position at the IMF and served as an advisor to various units of the World Bank. Prof. Yitzhaki has published numerous articles in professional journals in Israel and abroad dealing with economics and applied statistics. His most recent book on statistical methodology, entitled *The Gini Methodology: A Primer on a Statistical Methodology*, was written in collaboration with Prof. Edna Schechtman.

Links to international organization websites

[OECD](#) -



Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

[EU](#) -



European Union



[MEDSTAT](#)



[UNSD](#) -

United Nations Statistics Division

[UNECE](#) -

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



[IMF](#) -

International Monetary Fund

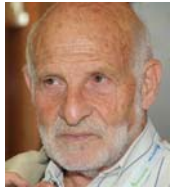


[The World Bank](#)



[ILO](#) -

International Labor Organization



A New Chairman of the Israel Public Council for Statistics

Established at the beginning of 1963, the Israel Public Council for Statistics (PCS) is a central permanent body that brings together producers of statistical data and representatives of statistics users in Israel. The Council holds discussions and provides consultation on issues relating to development of statistics, and coordinates the various parties dealing with official statistics in Israel. The Chairman of the Israel PCS and the members of the council are appointed by the Prime Minister.

Prof. Reuven Grunau was appointed Chairman of PCS in October 2013, replacing Mr. David Brodet. He is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Economics of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he has served as a teacher and researcher since 1967. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Maurice Falk Institute for Economic Research in Israel and of the Pinhas Sapir Economic Policy Forum. Since October 2011, he has served on the monetary committee of the Bank of Israel.

Twinning Project: Improving the Official Statistics of Israel

A twinning project was launched in May 2013 in an attempt to improve the quality of Israel's official statistics in several key areas. The Statistical Bureau of Denmark, with the support of the statistics offices of the Netherlands and Finland, was chosen to assist the CBS in the development and adjustment of statistics to the new international standards, as well as in improving the international comparability of the data.

The launching event was held on May 28th at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem. It was attended by government officials and representatives of the European Union in Israel, as well as by representatives of the Danish embassy in Israel and senior civil servants, including the Government Statistician Prof. Danny Pfeffermann, the Governor of the Bank of Israel Dr. Karnit Flug, and the Deputy Director General of the Foreign Ministry for European Affairs, Mr. Raphael Schutz.

To date, 15 out of 40 planned activities have taken place. As part of these activities, the management of the CBS has started to design a strategic plan for the development of official statistics. This plan will meet national needs and serve international interests, in addition to promoting evidence-based decision-making in the government, in the Knesset, and in national institutions.

The first phase of the project included the definition and content of official statistics in Israel and the identification of the partners in the NSS who will engage in producing the necessary information. The first major event in the process of improving the coordination and collaboration in the NSS was a seminar held on November 26th. The seminar was attended by representatives of government ministries, local authorities, and national institutions. Twelve high officials presented the broad range of statistical information produced in their organizations. Most government ministries send data to international organizations, and therefore try to adhere to accepted international standards and support the plans for cooperation in light of national and international challenges ahead.

Global Perspective - Generic Statistical Business Process Model

The [GSBPM](#) is a tool to describe and define the processes needed to produce official statistics. The model can be used in processes of assessment and improvement of quality. It can also help organizations dealing with the production of official statistics throughout the world to share uniform terminology. The model was developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Quality Management / Metadata Management							
Specify Needs	Design	Build	Collect	Process	Analyse	Disseminate	Evaluate
1.1 Identify needs	2.1 Design outputs	3.1 Build collection instrument	4.1 Create frame & select sample	5.1 Integrate data	6.1 Prepare draft outputs	7.1 Update output systems	8.1 Gather evaluation inputs
1.2 Consult & confirm needs	2.2 Design variable descriptions	3.2 Build or enhance process components	4.2 Set up collection	5.2 Classify & code	6.2 Validate outputs	7.2 Produce dissemination products	8.2 Conduct evaluation
1.3 Establish output objectives	2.3 Design collection	3.3 Build or enhance dissemination components	4.3 Run collection	5.3 Review & validate	6.3 Interpret & explain outputs	7.3 Manage release of dissemination products	8.3 Agree an action plan
1.4 Identify concepts	2.4 Design frame & sample	3.4 Configure workflows	4.4 Finalise collection	5.4 Edit & impute	6.4 Apply disclosure control	7.4 Promote dissemination products	
1.5 Check data availability	2.5 Design processing & analysis	3.5 Test production system		5.5 Derive new variables & units	6.5 Finalise outputs	7.5 Manage user support	
1.6 Prepare business case	2.6 Design production systems & workflow	3.6 Test statistical business process		5.6 Calculate weights			
		3.7 Finalise production system		5.7 Calculate aggregates			
				5.8 Finalise data files			

Links to international organization websites (cont.)



[WHO](#) - World Health Organization



[UNESCO](#) - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



[FAO](#) - Food and Agriculture Organization



[ITU](#) - International Telecommunication Union

Additional links

[Israel Statistical Profile in OECD](#)