

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



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Annual Report of the Official Statistics Authority 2013

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Institutional Framework and Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

The institutional framework of official statistics in France was modified by the Law on Modernisation of the Economy (LME) of 4 August 2008.

It is based on three pillars.

The National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) provides a forum for users and producers of official statistics. It highlights new needs for information, guides programming of official statistical work and suggests ways to ensure that these statistics correspond as closely as possible to the questions of society.

The CNIS is chaired by Jean-Pierre Duport.

The official statistical service (SSP) drives conception, production and dissemination of official statistics.

It comprises INSEE and 16 Ministerial Statistical Offices. It is coordinated by INSEE.

INSEE is headed by Jean-Luc Tavernier.

The Official Statistics Authority (ASP) ensures that official statistics are prepared in all professional independence and according to the fundamental principles in the “European Statistics Code of Practice”: impartiality, objectivity, relevance and data quality.

One of its missions is to write an annual report on official statistical activity. This report is handed in to Parliament and made public.

This report covers 2013, the fifth year of existence of the Authority.

Decree n° 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority sets out its missions.

Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

(notice published in Official Journal n° 0121 of 27 May 2009):

Mr Paul Champsaur, President, appointed by a decree of the Council of Ministers of 25 March 2009

Mr Francis Mer, appointed by the President of the National Assembly

Mr Yves Fréville, Vice-President, appointed by the President of the Senate

Mr Philippe Le Clézio, appointed by the President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council

Mr Jean Gaeremynck, President of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee, appointed by the Vice-President of the Council of State

Mr François Ecalle, appointed by the First President of the Court of Accounts

Mr Philip Dane, appointed by the Department Head of the General Inspectorate of Finances, replaced in November 2013 by Ms Véronique Hespel, Inspector General of Finances

Mr Pascal Penaud, appointed by the Head of the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs, replaced in November 2013 by Mr Stéphane Paul, Inspector General of Social Affairs

M. Bruno Durieux, appointed by the Minister for the Economy, Industry and Employment

Official Statistics Authority – Annual Report 2012

Contents

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND COMPOSITION OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY	3
PREFACE	7
1. PRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN FRANCE IN 2013.....	9
1.1 <i>Some significant progress</i>	10
1.2 <i>New surveys and publications on topical subjects</i>	11
1.3 <i>Implementation of the Stiglitz report: French initiatives are being taken up and circulated</i>	12
1.4 <i>Review by the Authority of the production of official statistics in 2013</i>	13
2. OFFICIAL STATISTICAL GOVERNANCE AND ITS CONFORMITY TO THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE.....	14
2.1 <i>Official statistical governance in Europe and in France</i>	15
2.2 <i>Compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice</i>	18
3. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY.....	26
3.1 <i>Actions to be carried out to halt the decline in quality of data collection for household and price surveys</i>	27
3.2 <i>Applying new company categories across the entire statistical system on companies</i>	27
4. FOLLOW UP OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 2012 REPORT OF THE AUTHORITY	28
4.1 <i>Greater banking system transparency</i>	29
4.2 <i>Significant progress in housing statistics</i>	30
4.3 <i>Minimum standards to allow more effective comparisons between the statistical data produced by local authorities</i>	31
5. ACTIVITY OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY IN 2013	35
5.1 <i>Sessions of the Authority in 2013</i>	36
5.2 <i>Hearings of official statistics producers</i>	37
5.3 <i>Other hearings</i>	38
5.4 <i>Quality labelling of statistics from administrative sources</i>	38
5.5 <i>Other activities</i>	42
5.6 <i>Communication of the Authority</i>	42
ANNEXES	44
ANNEXE 1	45
RECIPIENTS OF THE REPORT.....	45
ANNEXE 2	46
DECREE N° 2013-34 OF 10 JANUARY 2013 AMENDING DECREE N° 2009-250 OF 3 MARCH 2009 ON THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY AND THE STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY COMMITTEE	46
ANNEXE 3	47
OPINION N° 2013-01 OF 26 MARCH 2013 OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY ON THE DRAFT RULING ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS QUALITY LABEL COMMITTEE.....	47
ANNEXE 4	48
RULING OF 2 MAY 2013 ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS QUALITY LABEL COMMITTEE.....	48
ANNEXE 5	49
OPINION N° 2013-02 OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY DATED 4 JUNE 2013 ON QUALITY LABELLING OF THE ROAD ACCIDENT STATISTICS PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL INTER-MINISTERIAL ROAD SAFETY OBSERVATORY (ONISR) LISTED IN THE ANNEXE.....	49
ANNEXE 6	50
OPINION N° 2013-03 OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY DATED 4 JUNE 2013 ON THE QUALITY LABELLING OF THE STATISTICS PRODUCED BY THE AGRICULTURAL MUTUAL SOCIAL FUND (MSA) AND LISTED IN THE ANNEXE.....	50
ANNEXE 7	51
OPINION N° 2013-04 OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY OF 18 DECEMBER 2013 ON THE QUALITY LABELLING OF THE MAIN STATISTICAL SERIES PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL OLD AGE INSURANCE FUND (CNAV)	51
NOR: EFIS1331893V	51
ANNEXE 8	52
OPINION N° 2013-05 OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY OF 18 DECEMBER 2013 ON THE QUALITY LABELLING OF THE QUARTERLY SERIES ON PRIVATE SECTOR PAYROLL AND THE MONTHLY AND QUARTERLY SERIES ON RECRUITMENTS	52

UNDER THE GENERAL SOCIAL SECURITY REGIME ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL PRODUCED BY THE CENTRAL AGENCY OF SOCIAL SECURITY ORGANISATIONS (ACOSS)	52
ANNEXE 9	53
DISSEMINATION RULES FOR THE MAIN INDICATORS	53
ANNEXE 10	54
ANNEXE 11	55
ANNEXE 12	55
CNIS: REVIEW OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS PROGRAMME 2009-2013	56
ANNEXE 13	62
EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM COMMITTEE ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2011	62
FOR THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY STATISTICAL AUTHORITIES	62
ANNEXE 14	69
MINISTERIAL STATISTICAL OFFICES ON 31 DECEMBER 2013	69
ANNEXE 15	71
ACRONYMS USED	71

Preface

This document presents the main themes to which the Official Statistics Authority devoted time in 2013. Only those subjects that were relatively new are mentioned.

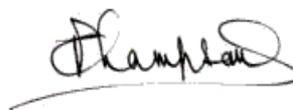
Two missions in 2012 and 2013 on delinquency statistics recommended the creation of a ministerial statistical office, agreeing with the position of the ASP. The Interior Minister followed this recommendation and, in the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 3 July 2013, announced the creation of a new department dedicated to delinquency statistics and separate from the existing ONDRP (National Observatory for Delinquency and the Criminal Response), an inter-ministerial body. The ONDRP should now be able to return its focus to its role of studying and coordinating the statistics of the Interior Ministry recording offences and those from the Ministry for Justice on the judicial response.

In the course of 2014, the Authority will be asked for its opinion on the draft ruling recognising this new department of the Interior Ministry as a “Ministerial Statistical Office”. In 2014 and 2015, the ASP will also be monitoring the efforts of the Interior Ministry and the Ministry for Justice to ensure an effective fit between the statistics they each produce.

Statistical governance was reinforced by a decree published in early 2013 organising the quality labelling of statistical processes based on administrative data. Previously, the Quality Label Committee of the CNIS (National Council for Statistical Information) only examined survey data. Henceforth, it will also be able to examine data from administrative files. The ASP will base its appraisal for quality labelling of statistical series produced by bodies that do not belong to the official statistical service on this examination by the Quality Label Committee. The Quality Label Committee is currently examining quality labelling of the statistics produced by the CNAM.

This new procedure will replace the more informal appraisal conducted for quality labelling of the statistical series of the ACOSS, CNAF, CNAV, MSA and ONISR, etc... or that based on examinations by the General Inspectorates (IGF, IGAS, INSEE) which can be used by the Authority (jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi).

New dissemination calendars were published online in 2013 at INSEE, in the Ministerial Statistical Offices and in the bodies whose statistical series have received quality labelling from the ASP. The extension of the provisional calendar will provide greater legibility of the work done by statisticians.



Paul CHAMPSAUR
President of the Official Statistics Authority

1. Production of official statistics in France in 2013

In a context where staff reductions are becoming more and more untenable and while at the same time demands at both European and national levels continue to increase, the official statistical service is doing its utmost to define and analyse economic and social change in France.

Projects have been launched to explore ways of improving productivity and becoming more efficient. Despite some incidents in 2013, the Authority considers that the performance of official statistics in 2013 was positive overall.

1.1 Some significant progress

Application of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) from 2013

The Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) is a single, simplified, monthly declaration and will replace virtually all social contribution declarations by employers by 2016. It will be scaled up in several phases, so that at each stage the number of declarations and the number of companies concerned will be gradually increased.

Since May 2013, companies have been able to file a DSN if they wish, which replaces a number of separate declarations,¹ notably in relation to official statistics, the Workforce Movement Declaration (DMMO) collected by the Department for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES). Once a company files a DSN, the DARES will no longer collect the DMMO.

On 1st January 2016, the DSN will come into force for all companies with employees, excluding the civil service, and will replace the Summary Contributions Statements (BRC) and Annual Declarations of Social Data (DADS). The DSN will therefore replace the sources used to prepare short-term and structural statistics on salaried employment.

Profiling studies in 2013 on large French groups

INSEE has negotiated agreements to profile 80 of the largest groups in France.² It will look at the survey statistics of the companies profiled in the ESANE system,³ and define economically relevant units, which will replace the legal units that had been considered previously.

Thanks to the profiling work carried out in 2013, 101 companies profiled in 42 groups will be surveyed as companies in the course of 2014. Definitive results for 2013 (which will be published in Q1 2015) will be based on these 101 companies.

Profiling will continue with the other groups.

Single national “pupil” identity number to analyse educational progress

¹ The declarations concerned are the following:

- Monthly Workforce Movement Declaration (DMMO). Every month, companies with at least 50 employees must submit a Monthly Workforce Movement Declaration (DMMO), indicating any employment contracts that have been signed or terminated in the course of the previous month.
- declarations of employee termination for group top-up cover policies (covering employee benefits, pensions and health insurance), and later:
- wage certificates so that sickness benefits, maternity and paternity allowances can be paid for the CNAM and the MSA,
- employer’s certificates for the Pôle Emploi (AE)

² Profiling a group of companies consists in defining the structure of the statistical observation of the group which seems most appropriate for observing “real” economic activity. The aim is to define intermediate statistical units, which may be different from the group and which may be “operational divisions” of the group, or sub-groups, or ad hoc divisions defined in collaboration with the group itself.

³ ESANE combines administrative data (from annual declarations of profits that companies submit to the tax authorities, and from annual social data which provide information on employees) and data from a sample of companies surveyed using a specific questionnaire to produce structural business statistics.

The CNIL authorised the Department for Evaluation, Forward Planning and Performance (DEPP-MSO for National Education) to provide a registration service issuing every young person in school their own unique number, the national pupil identity number. Processing of this information is covered by the inter-ministerial decree of 16 February 2012. Using this number, and in the strictest confidentiality, the DEPP will be able to monitor cohorts of young people, the purpose being to analyse and evaluate the educational system.

A change in the base for national accounting

The national accounts to be published in May 2014 will use 2010 as their base year. This change in base is a result of the application of the latest revision of the European System of National and Regional Accounts, ESA 2010. There will be important conceptual changes, especially concerning the scope of investment expenditure covered, which will now extend to research and development and to defence expenditure.⁴ There are other changes, since ESA 2010 is to be implemented in the areas of insurance and international trade.

1.2 New surveys and publications on topical subjects

The objective of the Grenelle law was “*to reduce energy consumption in existing buildings by at least 38% by 2020*”. This was also a recommendation of the report produced by the International Energy Agency. The Phébus survey carried out in 2013 by the Department for Observation and Statistics (SOeS- MSO for Sustainable Development) will provide information on the ***energy performance of housing and the energy behaviour of households*** as well as on all aspects of energy precariousness (housing and transport).

A survey of structures of agricultural holdings, defined according to a European framework, was carried out in 2013 by the Department for Statistics and Forward Studies (SSP-MSO for Agriculture) in 60,000 farms. Its purpose was to update the results of the 2010 Agriculture Census and take stock of the demography of farms and their means of production. For the first time, farms that were surveyed on their accounting results in the context of the network of agricultural accounting information (RICA) were incorporated into the sample, which will go towards enhancing analyses.

A survey of emergency structures and their patients carried out in 2013 by the Department for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES) was able to characterise patient pathologies and the reasons for their visits to the emergency department. This survey was prompted by increasing use of emergency structures.

Another survey by the DREES in 2013 ***into childcare and childminding facilities*** revealed that a wide range of childcare solutions are adopted by parents; this will help to understand the choices they make and will measure the excess cost that remains to be paid by families.

A new annual publication by INSEE on enterprises was launched in October 2013. It gives a detailed overview of the system of production in France and is topic-based by activity sector and enterprise size. The publication also covers the internationalisation of companies (especially in the service sector) and of the French economy, business productivity, the regulated professions and corporate social responsibility.

Provisional results were published by the Department of Studies and Statistics (DES-MSO for Civil Service) on ***employment in the civil service*** on 31 December 2011, for the first time providing a

⁴ The defence expenditure that will now be included in investment is that which relates to capital goods: ships, submarines, aeroplanes, armoured vehicles and some missiles capable of a high level of destruction (e.g. nuclear deterrent) used to equip the armed forces. Other expenditure relates to intermediate consumption.

standard monitoring system, without double counting, of employment and wages in the three branches that make up the civil service.

The first publication to come out of the *global value chains* (GVS) survey by INSEE covered relocations by French companies with more than 50 employees.

A quarterly indicator chart for the *green economy*⁵ was set up by the SOeS from Q2 2013 onwards.

Results from three surveys were published in 2013 on our knowledge of the skill levels of adults and pupils

The “information exchange and daily life” (IVQ) survey resulted in a study of how fundamental skills are not mastered, linking this to integration into the job market.

Results from the PIAAC survey (Programme for the International Assessment for Adult Competencies) were disseminated by INSEE in collaboration with the DEPP and the DARES on the same day that the OECD published results from the 24 participating countries.

The results of the international PISA survey on student assessment were covered in two publications by the DEPP at the end of 2013.

The 2013 edition of “*France Portrait Social*” on the social situation in France shed some light on the question of infertility, reoffending by prisoners and the profile of “dropouts” from the educational system.

The first results from the *homeless* survey carried out at the beginning of 2012 were published in June 2013 and highlighted the fact that this population had increased by 50% since 2001, the date of the previous survey.

1.3 Implementation of the Stiglitz report: French initiatives are being taken up and circulated

Many innovative and ground-breaking initiatives have emerged in France following on from the publication of the report on the measurement of economic and social progress (Stiglitz report).

In 2013, these studies were developed further at INSEE and the methods used have now been rolled out internationally.

At national level, results from the new survey on well-being carried out by INSEE in 2011 were published at the beginning of 2013 and presented at international conferences, in particular at ISI 2013 (International Statistical Institute). Through this survey it was possible for the first time to analyse the drivers of well-being. What was studied in particular were aspects of quality of life other than monetary, together with lower levels of satisfaction, related to the weakness of social ties or stress in daily life.

Work is currently underway at INSEE to compile an exhaustive file which will include the tax revenue and social income for every household in France (FILOSOFI project). This will make it possible to analyse the upper income brackets in greater depth and to define indicators of inequality in standards of living to a very fine geographic level.

⁵ The green economy is economic activity that results in improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and scarcities of resources. Within this green economy, eco-activities consist of all activities that are directly linked with environmental protection. For example, this may be sectors involved with waste and water management, air quality, energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions or renewable energies.

At international level, the working group under the aegis of the OECD and Eurostat reported in 2013. It had been asked to examine how to roll out INSEE's work into the breakdown of household accounts by household category.

In 2013, the European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) included a section on measuring subjective well-being, which was formulated largely thanks to the experience of the French contributors. This survey will for the first time provide standardised statistics for well-being across EU-28.

Finally, bolstered by the experience of implementing the Stiglitz Commission recommendations, France (INSEE) is co-chairing with India a working group that was set up at the meeting of the UN Statistical Commission in 2013. The task that this group of 22 countries has been set is to monitor discussions on defining a post-2015 development agenda, taking questions of sustainability into account. They must put some broader measures towards progress before the UN Statistical Commission at the 2015 meeting.

1.4 Review by the Authority of the production of official statistics in 2013

In a context where the official statistical service must fulfil the ever-increasing demands of its users, not only for more data but for more detailed data, the Authority considers that overall the service has successfully fulfilled user expectations. The observation of social issues plays a large part in studies carried out by the service in 2013.

The ASP commends the dissemination at international level of work by INSEE inspired by the implementation of the Stiglitz report.

In a context where resources are scarce, the ASP is pleased to note that considerable investment has been put into restructuring information systems, employment, wages and social benefits, restructuring business statistics, modernising the population census, reorganising branch surveys and business outlook surveys, using cash data from the major retail distribution brands as a cheaper method of price collection, etc. all of which will generate productivity gains in the longer term.

The ASP recommends that in managing these projects the official statistical service also takes care to prioritise its work and ensure that quality is maintained.

2. Official statistical governance and its conformity to the European statistics Code of Practice

2.1 Official statistical governance in Europe and in France

- **Measures at European level to strengthen economic and statistical governance**

Eurostat is preparing a draft regulation to confirm the prescriptive role and the quality of indicators of “macroeconomic imbalance”⁶ used in the new European procedure for economic governance. The institutes and central banks are very reticent on this project, as Eurostat has drawn up a regulation that is every bit as demanding in terms of controls as the current rules on deficit and public debt. Member States regret Eurostat’s decision to duplicate the “EDP” regulation and are concerned about the consequences in terms of the administrative burden involved.

Revision of Regulation 223/2009, on European statistics, is still under discussion.

There remain three main points of disagreement:

- ✓ the transparency of conditions relating to the appointment and dismissal of the Eurostat Director General and NSI heads.
- ✓ the role of the NSI as coordinator of the entire official statistics system, especially when the statistical system of a Member State is a federal system. Member States approve the principle of strengthening coordination but they also want a degree of subsidiarity.
- ✓ commitments to be made by heads of government to provide official statistics institutes with the means to enable them to function; this project has been approved by the Commission, but rejected by the Council and made optional by the European Parliament.

Adopting a new regulation to allow researchers access to confidential European data

The Committee of the European Statistical System (ESS) has adopted the new regulation revising the rules allowing researchers access to individual data. Previously, access was limited to the Eurostat premises but may now be extended to all NSIs or other national statistical authorities and could take the form of physical or remote access, according to the provisions that remain to be determined.

To protect data, especially when it is being accessed remotely, France proposed an amendment to strengthen sanctions in cases where confidentiality is breached. This amendment was favourably received by the three European bodies (European Commission, Council and Parliament) on its first reading.

This year, 2013, was the fourth and last year of the European **ESSnet Profiling** working group. A European profiling method has been defined. Its validity has been tested by the common profiling of about a hundred large groups present in Europe. From April 2014, and with the agreement of the European Statistical System Committee, Eurostat will undertake a project in two stages, from 2014-15 and 2016-17, called ESBRS and which will develop a European System of Business Registers. It will have full “interoperability” and will take over publication of the current EuroGroups Register (or EGR) and put the profiling in place. The ESBRS project represents a cornerstone of the **new Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics “FRIBS”** which is in preparation. Its aim is to improve the coherence of different business statistics⁷. All existing regulations on enterprises, of which there are about a dozen, are to be combined into a single regulation.

In the area of foreign trade, the statistics used at present in the framework of the European Intrastat system form part of the European obligations that are considered by the European Commission to be too costly for responding businesses. Eurostat wants to simplify European requirements in order to

⁶ The 11 indicators of macroeconomic imbalance concern unemployment, the current account balance, the real exchange rate, private debt of households and companies.

⁷ This should improve coherence between different fields, not only from the point of view of variables but also in relation to statistical units, rules of confidentiality, lack of coordination between countries regarding surveys, use of administrative sources, which is inadequate from the point of view of Eurostat, exchange of individual data between countries, etc.

reduce the burden on responding businesses, while still allowing each Member State to be responsible for maintaining the present system in place on the basis of national law. The aim of the **Simstat project** is to put in place exchanges of individual data to give a one-way flow of information, where each Member State measures only its exports and relies on partner countries for imports.

For the time being, Member States feel it is necessary to carry out statistical feasibility and quality tests before committing to the project.

The Simstat project falls within the framework of the European Commission Communication on implementing **Eurostat's "Vision"** for the future of the European Statistical System. This "Vision" is presented as a means of obtaining economies of scale between countries and to meet increasing demands with depleting resources.

This vision does not meet with universal approval within the European Statistical System. Member States will endeavour to redefine a new vision by spring of 2014 through a working group which includes a dozen countries, including France.

A new series of **audits on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice** has been in preparation since early 2013. These audits will have to be more stringent than those of 2007 because they will cover all the principles of the European Code and will apply not only to NSI but also to other national authorities. In France the bodies that will mainly be concerned are INSEE, the MSO for Agriculture and the MSO for Sustainable Development.

These audits will take place between April 2014 and March 2015. They will be carried out on a self-assessment basis by the bodies concerned.

- **At national level**

Publication of the "Governance" decree

Decree n° 2013-34 published in the Official Journal of 12 January 2013, and known as the "Governance" decree, amended the ASP decree by enabling statistical processes applied to administrative data to be given the "quality label" and also modified the CNIS decree to allow statistics produced by private bodies to be given the quality label, under certain conditions. Instead of the "Quality Label Committee" it will now be called the "Official Statistics Quality Label Committee" and will be autonomous from the CNIS. The decree also modifies the structure of the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality and breaks off its links with the CNIS.

A new MSO at the Ministry for the Interior covering crime statistics

When it met on 18 July 2012, the Law Commission of the National Assembly decided to create a fact-finding mission on the statistical measurement of crime and its consequences, chaired by Jean-Yves Le Bouillonnet.⁸ This mission reported its findings in April 2013, having interviewed, among others, the Director of the ASP, two ASP members and a spokesperson.

A mission looking into the recording of complaints by internal security forces was appointed by the Minister for the Interior in February 2013. This mission was headed by a member of the General Inspectorate of the Administration (IGA) and included representatives from the General Inspectorates of the National Police (IGPN) and the National Gendarmerie (IGGN) and in addition, since it was discussing statistics and methodology, the INSEE General Inspectorate. The conclusions reached in relation to statistical matters were put before the ASP on 18 June 2013. They confirmed the existence

⁸ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/rap-info/i0988.asp>

of a statistical breach in 2012 concerning crime data recorded by the Gendarmerie, which was linked with a new tool being used for recording complaints. The committee estimated the scale of this breach and observed that a similar breach would be seen in the next few years for data recorded by the Police.

Both missions recommended the creation of a Ministerial Statistical Office to cover crime, which is in agreement with the stance taken by the Director of the Authority.

At the Council of Ministers on 3 July, the Minister for the Interior announced that a new Ministerial Statistical Office would be created to cover crime statistics; it will be separate from the present ONDRP (National Supervisory Body on Crime and Punishment), in order to guarantee the quality of statistics produced by the Ministry.

The ONDRP will maintain its present study role and will coordinate statistics from the Ministry for the Interior on the recording of crime and those from the Ministry of Justice on the judicial response.

Restructuring the Ministerial Statistical Office for Justice

At the beginning of 2013, the Ministry for Justice launched a project to create a data warehouse to follow the entire criminal justice process, from the committing of criminal acts to the punishment given and also the carrying out of the sentence, where appropriate (imprisonment, suspended sentence with community service, fines, etc.).

This project is included in the multi-annual programme (2013-2015) of the Ministry for Justice. It will be a way of gradually introducing the production of statistics combining security/justice.

It will also provide the answers to frequently asked questions on what becomes of those who are charged by the Police and the Gendarmerie (for what types of offence, what is the response of the justice system and what is the time lag, etc.).

Measures to simplify governance

Inter-ministerial circulars concerning the limiting of obligations as applied to companies were published in 2013.

These general circulars are not intended to apply to official statistics. The 1951 laws and the decree of 2009 were aimed specifically at limiting the burden on companies due to surveys for official statistical purposes. A procedure is in place for this very purpose, managed by the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) and based especially on the Quality Label Committee. The Official Statistical System has decided, however, to ensure that the Government Secretariat General should be able to check that the proper procedure for official statistics complies with the spirit of these circulars.

A three-month grace period is planned after the inclusion of a survey in the official statistics programme and before questionnaires are sent out.

These new measures should help the statistical service to plan more effectively when proposing surveys for consideration and when putting them before the Quality Label Committee. They should also encourage the service to be more selective in these proposals.

In addition, the Secretariat General for Government Modernisation (SGMAP), as part of their “Tell us just once” programme, is focusing on not asking companies several times for the same information. Discussions are underway between INSEE, the DGFIP and the Directorate for Social Security (DSS) on exchanges between bodies administering accounting and social data relating to companies in order to avoid excessive data collection.

The SGMAP recommends setting up a platform to be shared by administrations and using a single company identifier based on INSEE’s business register, SIRENE.

2.2 Compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice

The Authority ensures that the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice are being implemented effectively by the French Official Statistical Service.

Principle 1: Professional independence

As a general rule, and when and if required, the Official Statistical Service must express itself publicly on statistical issues, including any criticisms (and abusive uses) of official statistics, according to Article 1.7 of the Code of Practice.

Explanations needed about the quarterly employment and unemployment statistics

On 6 June 2013, as announced beforehand in a press release on 3 June, INSEE was not in a position to publish the *Informations Rapides* for Q1 2013 on employment and unemployment statistics in the sense of the ILO. The only published indicator referred to an estimate of the overall change in unemployment rate in the sense of the ILO. Two factors had affected the Labour Force survey results, although first checks did not suggest that they had any impact on the difficulties encountered: the introduction of new conditions of employment for the INSEE survey investigators on 1st January 2013 which affected the smooth running of the survey, and the restructuring of the survey questionnaire.

As promised, on 5 September INSEE reported the results of the methodology studies carried out on the Labour Force Survey,⁹ focusing especially on the restructuring of the questionnaire which changed the behavioural response of a small proportion of the population surveyed. Despite these explanations, some articles in the press were nevertheless critical, and to all intents and purposes suspected INSEE of having caused unemployment to fall by modifying their questionnaires.¹⁰ The ASP considers that these suspicions are groundless.

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources

When new terms of employment were introduced for investigators from 1st January 2013 this resulted in the inclusion of more than 900 investigators in the maximum number of jobs in the “Statistics and economic studies” programme, or almost 700 full time equivalents.

This situation created major difficulties in 2013. In the 2012 annual report, the ASP speculated on the consequences of this new system for carrying out surveys. It has to be said that many problems with data collection were noted in the course of 2013 in surveys carried out in households (Housing, Living Environment and Security, Labour Force, etc.) and in some price collection.

The operating budgets for 2013 and 2014 are stable and will ensure that the Institute’s essential work is carried out. In addition to this budget is the investment budget which is needed in order to continue with the increased burden that the Metz statistics centre represents.

The reduction in staff numbers continues at an average rate of about 2% per year. This reduction is difficult to bear in the medium term, it causes tensions and the scope of some statistical studies has to be reviewed and priorities defined in a context where external demand is steadily increasing.

⁹ http://www.insee.fr/fr/ppp/comm_presse/comm/CP_chomage_050913.pdf

¹⁰ Article in *Le Monde* on 5 September 2013

Given the drop in survey data collection rates that has been recorded, the ASP will monitor closely the results of INSEE's decision to ensure that quality remains at the heart of their work by reviving specific actions.

Faced with a budget that is becoming tighter and tighter, the ASP insists that the Official Statistical Service should define priorities, whether positive or negative.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality

A review of the implementation of the Code of Practice at INSEE was carried out by the INSEE General Inspectorate.

The aim of the mission was to assess the situation regarding the production of statistics for each principle in the Code by showing what progress had been achieved since the last peer review (2007) and to prepare for the next review, planned for 2014. The mission demonstrated that INSEE broadly fulfilled the requirements of the Code and that the main inadequacies observed in 2007 had been brought under control or were in the process of being dealt with (professional independence is now enshrined in law, more extensive use of administrative sources, etc.).

However, it was noted that some progress still needed to be made, especially in terms of quality: development, organisation and managing of good practices already tested, more processes to be documented, and improved transparency and visibility of this documentation on the INSEE website.

The INSEE Quality Plan in 2013

The 2013 Quality action plan includes 21 actions, ten of which were included in the 2012 plan and eleven are new. The choice of new actions was guided by the recommendations in the General Inspectorate report on the implementation of the Code of Practice within the Institute, the aim being to deal with any major shortcomings before the next peer review.

Notably, one of these new actions is the preparation of an INSEE quality assurance framework which will be valid not only for household surveys but also for business surveys and administrative sources, for estimating the costs of statistical operations and for developing validation procedures before delivery. These wide-ranging actions were started successfully in 2013 and should be completed, as planned, in 2014 or 2015.

The restructuring of training in the European Statistics Code of Practice was also included in the actions for 2013. This objective was achieved at the end of 2013 with the delivery of a new, more comprehensive "quality assurance training module", which will be rolled out from September 2014 as soon as the trainers have themselves been trained.

Actions from the 2012 Quality Plan have followed their course as planned, and most have achieved their goals. Given their relevance in the longer term, three of these will be continued in a modified form in 2014: follow-up action plans as a result of satisfaction surveys, setting up a long-term measure for responding to and analysing the needs of the main users, and putting in place the new information system for inter-departmental human resource management (SIRHIUS).

Ministerial Statistical Office Quality Plan in 2013

The MSO Quality Action Plan contains 15 actions carried over from the 2012 plan and adds 16 new ones. It concerns nine ministerial statistical offices which are producers of European statistics: Agriculture, Sustainable Development, Customs, Education, the Civil Service, Immigration, Justice, Health, and Labour.

The principles of the Code to which the actions mainly refer are: Principle 10 "Cost effectiveness" (12 actions concerned), Principle 15 "Accessibility and clarity" (10 actions concerned) and Principles 4 "Commitment to quality", 8 "Appropriate statistical procedures" and 9 "Non-excessive burden on respondents" each of which concerns 9 quality actions.

Principle 5: Statistical confidentiality

Following articles in the press suggesting that there was a problem with confidentiality, on 27 February 2013 INSEE decided to suspend dissemination of databases which did not systematically respect statistical confidentiality. These were data that were “gridded”, i.e. the information was based on squares with sides of 200 metres (especially data on income). They had been made available on the website on 28 January 2013. A notice was published on insee.fr explaining that discussions were ongoing to analyse and correct any malfunctions that were observed, and a contact form was provided for users to give more details.

New corrected gridded data taken from Localised Tax Revenues 2010 were put online on 20 November 2013. These data covered 18 variables related to household structure by age of individuals, characteristics of households (tenant/owner, etc.) and income on 31 December 2010.

This incident challenging data confidentiality is certainly regrettable. However, the Institute has produced a new methodology which will ensure that in future, statistical and fiscal confidentiality will be entirely respected.

The Director General of INSEE informed the Minister for the Economy and Finance of this situation in two letters, on 8 March and 14 November 2013.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

- **Great vigilance against embargo breaches**

See Annexe 9 on the rules for dissemination of outlook indicators on the INSEE website and the MSO websites.

The Authority is particularly vigilant regarding embargo breaches by persons in positions of political or ministerial responsibility.

In 2013, the Authority observed two breaches of the principle of impartiality and objectivity.

The ASP consequently sent a letter to the Minister for Foreign Trade after his interview in the middle of the year for the *Les Echos* newspaper. This interview was published in the issue for 7 August 2013. The paper published on the basis of this interview before the embargo time (see Annexe 10).

The ASP also intervened with the Director General of INSEE following the announcement of the Business Climate indicator on 24 September by the Minister for the Economy and Finance twelve hours before INSEE, on the France 2 news programme (see Annexe 11).

Principle 9: Non-excessive burden on respondents

Since 2013, the statistical directory of companies (SIRUS) has been available to all departments responsible for producing company-related statistics. It monitors the burden placed on companies, something which was not easy to do previously.

At the beginning of 2013, the survey of social housing organisations carried out by INSEE replaced the Rent and Expenses Survey in the social sector. This new system for collecting rental information reduces the response burden on households. It now consists of a survey of households in the private rental sector and a survey of housing organisations in the social sector.

Since May 2013, because of the introduction of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) which companies may complete if they wish, they no longer need to complete the Workforce Movement

Declaration (DMMO) or to reply to the EMMO survey produced by the DARES.¹¹ For companies with between 1 and 49 employees, this survey complements the information obtained from the DMMO, which all companies with 50 employees or more must comply with, in accordance with the Labour Code.

By transferring the task of calculating the price index for home repairs and improvement from SOeS to INSEE this has resulted in a reduction of the sample by a third. In this same Ministerial Statistical Office, work is currently underway to reduce the size of the questionnaires for the FFA surveys (monthly surveys of combustible solid minerals and an annual survey of “combustible and non-electrical energy consumption”) and replace the five-year Transit survey by specifically exploiting Road Freight Transport surveys (European RFT).

The mobilisation of administrative data to complement surveys has continued in the official statistical service (MSO for Agriculture). In addition to the regular use now made of CAP fact sheets on wine-growing and organic farming data, data in the Land Registry plans have now been used to lighten the burden of the TERUTI survey on land use.

The annual health establishment statistics (SAE) produced by the DREES have been restructured, with the aim of reducing the response burden for establishments by about 25% from 2014. Data on activity in establishments will now be recovered as part of the programme to medicalise information systems (PMSI) in hospitals and clinics run by the Technical Agency for Information on Hospitalisation (AITH). In addition, information on authorisations for care activities by establishments will be pre-filled based on data to be found in the FINESS directory (national file of social and health establishments).

Principle 10: Cost effectiveness

Efforts to encourage online data collection continued in 2013 in the official statistical service

In the 2013 census, experimental online data collection continued. The inhabitants of 46 municipalities located across all metropolitan regions were able to complete their census questionnaire online. More than one third of households took up this option.

When collecting survey information from households, the “multimodal” method is going to be used more and more often, i.e. the partial use of online collection, while stressing the need to perfect new methodologies and to capitalise on results about the quality of the data thus obtained.

For these surveys, policy consists of defining an experimental protocol covering several years to deal with all subjects considered “tricky”. Every new survey, and gradually all ongoing surveys, will include an experimental section using online collection.

For surveys of companies, the possibility of responding to the Annual Sectoral Survey (ESA) online has been available since the beginning of 2013.

A great deal of work is currently underway in the official statistical service (MSO for Agriculture) on introducing electronic data collection for surveys. In 2013, electronic filing was extended, with data from 17 annual branch surveys being collected online.

The DEPP experimented in 2013 with putting a multimodal system in place for its survey on school leavers entering working life (IVA). If they wish, young people surveyed can now reply online. This system will be extended to the survey on the integration of apprentices into the world of work (IPA).

¹¹ see page 10 of the report

In 2013, the DARES, in collaboration with INSEE, carried out an online survey on Quality of Employment, which aimed to test the effects of data collection mode (online versus face to face) on answers to questions on employment conditions.

At INSEE, the audit process is expanding

The INSEE General Inspectorate continued to carry out many audits in 2013: audit on the efficiency of SIRENE, audit on the organisation of local data dissemination, on the sampling service provided by INSEE, on access to individual data, on the coordination of the statistical service in the regions, between the regional divisions of INSEE and the administration departments which include services that fall within the functional competency of an MSO.

The purpose of the audit procedure is to optimise the use of resources in a context where budgets are limited and to provide guidance for decision making.

To improve efficiency, a new coordination body has been created

After the restructuring of the governance of official statistics in 2008/2009 which confirmed the role of INSEE as the coordinator of the Official Statistical Service, a Statistics Programme Committee (CPS) was set up, and two meetings were held in 2013.

The CPS is a body that can help define and adopt common positions between members in order to launch collaborative projects and share out the work of producing official statistics. Chaired by the Director General of INSEE, the committee works hard to coordinate the programming of statistical work between the Official Statistical Service members and is able to define priorities jointly between statistical operations (surveys, use of administrative files).

The ASP approves the strengthening of the coordination of the Official Statistical Service work schedules by putting in place the Statistics Programme Committee. It hopes that this body can be the place where investment priorities are decided, after the CNIS has given its opinion.

Principle 11: Relevance

- **The CNIS**

See Annexe 12 for the detailed review of the CNIS for 2013

- **Satisfaction surveys**

In 2013, INSEE carried out ten satisfaction surveys: these were conducted among users to verify that the statistics it offers are useful and that what they supply matches demand, and also among the general public to find out what image people had of the Institute and the economic indicators that INSEE produces.

Three surveys were directly relevant for the restructuring of the INSEE website. They concerned the *Insee Résultats* publication, on-screen reading practices and in particular the use of pdf or html formats, and searching for regional data on insee.fr.

The survey on the image of INSEE with the general public served to strengthen the opinion that French people have of INSEE: eight out of ten people have a “fairly good” or “very good” opinion of the Institute and think that it is useful.

However, the credibility of the indicators is in decline. This is particularly the case for the economic growth rate: 37% of French people say that it reflects reality, whereas this figure was 50% in 2010.

The mistrust felt by the general public in relation to indicators that are close to their daily reality remains high.

The image that website users have of INSEE remained at a high level.

Some weak points still remain, however: the Institute does not provide enough information about the work it does.

The other surveys covered the layout of the INSEE collections, statistical and economic vocabulary, regional studies in partnership and the electronic newsletter.

After each of these surveys, INSEE produced an action plan with the aim of improving results.

The ASP suggests that in order to preserve its credibility, INSEE should attempt to be more instructive when communicating on the work it carries out.

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

- ✓ *Statistics are presented in a form that facilitates their proper interpretation (indicator 15.1)*

A strategic project by INSEE (called Web4G) is in progress; its objective is to incorporate in the same site all of the free dissemination systems available on Internet (insee.fr, Macroeconomic data bank (BDM), data base for structural enterprise statistics (Alisse/BDSE), and the local implantation diagnostic tool (ODIL)).

Its main goals are to improve the service provided to users, to ensure that site content is reliable and rational, and especially to put in place intermediate dissemination bases, with a site architecture that ensures adaptability. As a result of the significant improvements in the ergonomics of the website a complete revision of the metadata is now necessary.

At the same time, operations are ongoing to modernise and strengthen the image of INSEE: a more modern logo, changes to the publications, production of dynamic graphs and use of updated communication methods via Twitter, Slideshare and Dailymotion.

- ✓ *Access to microdata can be allowed for research purposes (indicator 15-4).*

Access for researchers to individual tax data

The law on higher education and research amending Article L135D of the register of tax procedures was voted in July 2013. It specifies the conditions under which researchers may be given access to tax data. These data from the tax administration on households and companies will complement information on populations and economic players, while respecting confidentiality (after an opinion from the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality).

Two implementation orders should soon be published in the Official Journal.

Eventually, new sources of individual data will be made available to researchers in the secure remote data access centre (CASD)

The ASP is pleased to observe that the CASD is continuing its policy of enriching its sources of data, especially from the MSOs. The CASD facilities are highly secure and researchers are able to work

remotely on detailed individual databases. Approval from the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality is first required and the CNIL requirements must be adhered to.

The first researchers should have access to tax data in the course of Q1 2014.

Contacts have been made with the National Family Benefits Fund (CNAF) to make data available to researchers.

An agreement is being finalised between the CASD and the Ministry for Justice on ways to make data available via the CASD. The first data sources should be available on CASD in the course of 2014.

An agreement is also under development between the CASD and the Ministry for Higher Education and Research. The decision will be made known at the beginning of 2014.

An agreement with the SOeS has been submitted to their executive committee for a decision.

In the IGAS report on “The governance and use of health data”, submitted to the Minister for Social Affairs and Health on 3 October 2013, the CASD was mentioned as a facility that could be used to make health data available to researchers in a secure environment. A mission to study the information system managing these data will be carried out in 2014 by the Ministry for Health.

Efforts also made to reduce access times

The Authority noted in its report for 2012 that it would be keeping a close eye on the new file appraisal procedure introduced at the end of 2012 by the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality which was intended to reduce the time delay before researchers were allowed access to very detailed individual data.

In 2013, almost half the application files put before the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality were submitted for consultation electronically. Most were from researchers who had already received approval from the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality on a previous occasion. Requests sent by e-mail are dealt with on a continuous basis whereas all other requests have to go before a Committee session (4 times a year).

In the same vein, the CASD published a calendar of training sessions on its website. A training session must be completed before access is possible. All dates for 2013 were shown (at least one date per month).

Researchers can book ahead for these sessions, after approval by the Committee, and thus reduce the time between submitting their application and gaining effective access to the CASD, especially now that the procedure is in place to submit applications electronically.

In 2013, the CASD was used as a trusted third party¹² by the INSEE delegation and after authorisation from the CNIL, for the survey on health and health care insurance (ESPS) requested by the IRDES (Institute for Research and Information in Health economics).

The Official Statistics Authority encourages the CASD to continue with its policy of enriching its data sources. It notes the efforts being made to reduce the time required for researchers to gain access to confidential data.

¹² “In order to match up data from databases run by different agents, while at the same time ensuring that each one’s confidentiality is respected, a body called the “Trusted Third Party” (TDC) is used which is responsible for keeping confidential any elements identifying specific individuals. This is a key stage in setting up projects (...)” where such matching is necessary. This definition is taken from the draft guidance to help define a Trusted Third Party in the area of public health studies and research, published by the IDS (Institute for Social Data).

3. Recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority

3.1 Actions to be carried out to halt the decline in quality of data collection for household and price surveys

Like many other national statistics institutes, INSEE has to contend with a decline in the quality of survey data collection, especially in relation to surveys of households, due to the fall in response rates. The effect of this has been magnified even further in France because of the new terms of employment introduced for investigators.

Although INSEE has already taken a certain number of positive measures to counteract this decline (increased use of administrative sources, use of multimodal data collection method, or all online data collection, etc.), the ASP asks INSEE to continue these ongoing actions throughout 2014 and if they prove to be insufficient, to consider implementing new actions to put a halt to the decline in survey quality, while at the same time monitoring both costs and response burden.

3.2 Applying new company categories across the entire statistical system on companies

In its 2012 report ASP praised the progress made by INSEE in implementing RESANE, and in particular the setting up of the statistical directory of companies (SIRUS). With this directory all available company information can be centralised, based on “enterprise” units, which differ from legal units. It will also be possible to calculate the enterprise categories (small, medium or large)¹³ to which the legal units in the directory belong. In addition, the annual statistics structure is now based on tax and social sources and less complex surveys. This was the first phase of the RESANE project, which has now been completed.

After first looking at the structuring of companies into groups to form “enterprises” by profiling groups of companies, the aim of the second phase of RESANE is to replace results calculated for legal units by results based on the new definition of enterprises, in the sense of the Law on the Modernisation of the Economy (LME).

The ASP asks that particular attention be paid to ensure that these new categories of enterprises should be used across the entire statistical system related to companies (other structural or outlook surveys, demographics, foreign trade, national accounting, etc.).

¹³ In application of the decree below (taken in application of the Law on the Modernisation of the Economy (LME)):
<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000019961059>

4. Follow up of the recommendations in the 2012 report of the Authority

In its 2012 Annual Report, the Authority made three recommendations:

- ***Greater banking system transparency***
- ***Significant progress in housing statistics***
- ***Minimum standards to allow more effective comparisons between the statistical data produced by local authorities***

The Authority is also monitoring the enhancement of the pre-announced indicator publication calendar.

As every year, the Authority analyses the extent to which, and the way in which the official statistical system has taken its recommendations into consideration.

4.1 Greater banking system transparency

Excerpts from the recommendation in the ASP 2012 Annual Report:

“The Official Statistics Authority takes due note of the report on banking business lines in 2012 by the specialised working group of the CNIS. This report makes cautious recommendations to improve statistical information about the activity of the banking system.

The ASP will be monitoring the following recommendation more particularly: given that only retail banking activities in France have a precisely-defined geographical perimeter, it is proposed that the Banque de France and INSEE examine the possibility of collecting the information required to develop an account for retail banking activities in France.

The “Banking Business Lines” working group noted that the “retail banking” business line is the only one to provide detailed information, in particular broken down by geographical area, in the annual reports of the banks. This observation led the working group to recommend studying “*the possibility of producing a retail banking activity account*”, given that the national accounts for the financial sector propose a sector breakdown by type of licence and not by business line. The credit institutions sector therefore includes not only retail banking activities, but also investment banking activities.

The General Directorate for Statistics of the Banque de France studied the financial reports of five major French banking groups representing a total of 80% of the loans and deposits of the banking sector. Various restatements and estimates were made to define a harmonised “retail banking activity” for all the institutions, limited to resident activity. This data was then compared with that in the central national accounts framework for the four main items: bank production, added value, operating income and financing balance.

This study shows that the retail banking activities of the five main banking groups represent 87% of banking sector production, 86% of its added value, 129% of its operating income and 91% of its financing balance. This estimate of the weight of retail banking is significantly higher than that found in the data published in the groups’ reports. According to them, retail banking contributes an average of 76% to total income on national territory.

This difference can be explained by four factors. First, the very concept of banking production in the national accounts excludes a large part of the income generated by investment banking, and in particular real-estate income or capital gains or losses (the national accounts record these valuation items in a special account affecting assets only). In addition to this, the poor robustness of these results can be explained by the difficulty of converting the banks’ accounting data to the national accounts format. Also, the geographical breakdown has to be estimated to define a resident perimeter.

Finally, these results were calculated using consolidated accounts, while the national accounts use the corporate accounts.

In conclusion, to define a more robust sector account for retail banking activities, it is indispensable that further information be obtained from the banks on this business line (commissions received and other operating income for invoiced production, interest received and paid out and outstanding deposits and lending for production, commissions paid and other operating expenses for intermediate consumption, wages and contributions for operating income and, finally, GFCF for the financing balance). Implementation of this additional collection of data from banks will require one practical difficulty to be overcome: it would mean defining a harmonised definition of the scope of retail banking that might not match the operational organisation of each company.

4.2 Significant progress in housing statistics

Excerpts from the recommendation in the ASP 2012 Annual Report:

“Age and insufficiency of housing statistics: It would seem that the next Housing Survey has finally been scheduled for 2013, although the previous survey took place in 2006.

In addition, the decree implementing the Law of March 2011, which is to regulate the supply of old housing prices by notaries, is still awaited. The notarial source of housing prices in the provinces is therefore still not available.

Apart from the file of the DGFIP (FILOCOM file), the data of which refers to concepts that correspond to fiscal imperatives, statistical information on housing is therefore old and incomplete. Significant progress must be made in the course of 2013.”

- **Progress in 2013.....**

- Creation of a new house price index since 1st January 2013

Since January 2013, INSEE has published a new house price index (and a new and old house price index). The new house price index is calculated quarterly based on the new house sale price survey carried out by the SOeS (ECLN). It concerns only those houses sold by property developers.

- Two field surveys in 2013: repeat of the Housing Survey and conduct of the Phébus survey

The Housing Survey conducted by INSEE is the basis for information about housing on the national level. The 2013 Housing Survey included a number of regional extensions: Île-De-France and its departments, Nord-Pas-de-Calais and each of the five French Overseas Departments. Data collection for the Housing Survey started in 2013, but given the collection difficulties encountered by all INSEE household surveys in the field, collection for the Housing Survey may continue until June 2014. The results should be available from early 2015.

The SOeS, meanwhile, conducted the Phébus Survey which will provide most of the information on housing energy performance and on the energy consumption behaviour of their occupants.

- Publication in September 2013 of the decree implementing the law of March 2011¹⁴

¹⁴ Law of 28 March 2011: Articles 15 and 16 of this law require notaries to conduct a public service mission consisting in collecting, transmitting, centralising and disseminating information on transfers of buildings in return for payment.

The publication of the decree implementing the law of March 2011 should bring improvements in the coverage of property transactions by the notaries' databases, especially in the regions. The Scientific Council for Notarial-INSEE indices may therefore be able to validate new sub-national old house price indices similar to those already published,¹⁵ provided that they fulfil certain quality criteria concerning coverage rates, the scale of index revisions and the volumes of deeds taken into account, etc...

In addition to this, results are beginning to be provided three months earlier by the notaries of the Île-de-France region, thanks to processing of preliminary contracts.¹⁶

➤ Use of private data

Back in 2000, the Vorms Report¹⁷ on housing statistics recommended implementation of a so-called calibration process, on a voluntary basis, to make better use of housing statistics produced at the initiative of the private sector. The objectives of this procedure are to identify statistics produced by private operators that are of use to public debate and complementary with official statistics in terms of their scope, level of detail or earlier production.

At its board meeting of 28 March 2013, the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) – chaired by the Director General of INSEE – validated the “experimental calibration of the data published” by the Paris Region Rents Observatory (OLAP). In its opinion, the INSEE Director General considered that “this information is rich and the production derived from it is useful and of a high quality standard”, while recommending a certain number of specific improvements, however. A calibration process charter has been drafted.

•and longer-term prospects

Conduct of surveys by internet should make it possible to envisage publication of results on a detailed geographical level, by an increase in the size of samples which are less costly than in face-to-face surveys. INSEE is testing the feasibility of an internet survey of housing rents.

There is considerable room for improvement by seeking easier access to fiscal sources, especially the municipal housing file (Filocom). In the longer term, ISEE and the SOeS will need to coordinate with each other within the framework of the Housing Statistical Registry (RSL) project.¹⁸

The Official Statistics Authority is sensitive to the efforts made by the SSP to improve statistical information on housing. It recommends that further efforts should be made.

The ASP will be keeping a close eye on the calibration procedure. Although private data may not meet the quality criteria usually applied in official statistics in some cases, it is still useful.

4.3 Minimum standards to allow more effective comparisons between the statistical data produced by local authorities

Excerpts from the recommendation in the ASP 2012 Annual Report:

¹⁵ Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Nord-Pas de Calais regions, cities of Lyon, Marseille and Lille.

¹⁶ The current indices are published about eight weeks after the end of the quarter.

¹⁷ Further to the debates in spring 2009 on housing price figures, the Minister for the Economy, Industry and Employment, the Minister for Sustainable Development and the Secretary of State for Housing entrusted the CNIS with a mission to study housing statistics and to produce, among other things, “proposals to improve the statistical quality and dissemination of information on the outlook in the real estate and construction sectors”. To this effect, the CNIS set up a working group which wrote the Vorms Report.

¹⁸ The RSL will provide better knowledge of the system for the population census and the official statistics information system as a whole.

“It appears that the statistical data produced by local authorities is increasingly difficult to compare in time and space.

If the statistical production of local authorities were subject to minimum standards, it would in no way reduce their freedom, but would make it possible to have a better understanding of their operations.

This is a major project for which the Official Statistics Authority is in search of interested partners and with which it might be possible to make proposals to the government.”

This recommendation has not had any effects. A certain number of partners have been contacted but have not yet replied. This recommendation is therefore restated.

4.4 Add to the calendar of pre-announced indicators

The public display of the main indicators or publications provides a way for the Official Statistics Authority to reinforce the professional independence of producers.

Some ministerial statistical offices (DARES, MSO for Justice, MSO for Agriculture) have already followed the recommendation of the ASP to publish their pre-announced indicator publication calendars.

Mention will only be made below of those offices that still have progress to make.

Also, the Department for Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance (DEPP – MSO for Education) considers that it would not gain anything by announcing a calendar of its purely statistical production work. For example, the “Girls and Boys” booklet comes out on Women’s Day and is well established. The statistical directory (*Repères et Références statistiques*) is distributed to all local education authority presidents on the occasion of the start-of-year meeting.

The ASP considers that these publications of purely statistical production must appear in a dissemination calendar published on the website of the Ministry for National Education.

➤ Progress in the publication of dissemination calendars in the official statistical service

- *At INSEE, an annual official statistics calendar has been published since 1st January 2013...*

Since January 2013, INSEE has published the new official statistics calendar at the following address on its website:

<http://www.insee.fr/fr/publics/default.asp?page=presse/calendrier-structurel.htm>

This calendar completes the existing four-quarterly calendar of the main outlook indicators. It contains links towards the calendars on the websites of the MSOs and other bodies, when such calendars exist.

- *... and new MSO dissemination calendars*

General Secretariat of the Ministry for the Interior (DSED, MSO for Immigration and Integration)

Since March 2013, the publication calendar for annual statistics on immigration, residence permits, visas, asylum applications and naturalisations has been online at the following address: <http://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Info-ressources/Documentation/Tableaux-statistiques>

Directorate General for the Administration and the Civil Service (MSO for the Civil Service)

Since Q2 2013, indicators of the level of employment and wages in the three branches of the civil service have been published in accordance with a pre-announced calendar drawn up in collaboration with INSEE. This calendar may be consulted at the following address on the civil service website <http://www.fonction-publique.gouv.fr/statistiques-32>

- *Improvements in the other MSOs*

Department for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES – MSO for Health)

In 2012, the following annual indicators were not included in the calendar of the DREES:

The dates of publication of the following statistics - top-up health insurance contracts, self-employed physician income, state of health of the population and annual health establishment statistics - are now announced in the DREES dissemination calendar on its website at the following address: http://www.drees.sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/calendrier_publications_2013-2014.pdf

Department for Observation and Statistics (SOeS – MSO for Sustainable Development)

The SOeS has announced that it will be adding two new indicators to its list of pre-announced indicators, as of 2014. The indicator of the average price of building land (EPTB) and the indicator of the controlled-rent housing stock will thus be published in November each year.

The SOeS calendar may be consulted at the following address: <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/calendrier-parutions.html>

Under-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies (SIES-MSO for Higher Education and Research)

In the course of 2014, it is planned to display a calendar for data on higher education and research, especially on university student numbers, total numbers in higher education, university pass-rate indicators, internal research and development spending and national research and development spending.

These indicators (except university pass rates) are included in a joint publication with the DEPP entitled “*Repères et références statistiques*” and published in early September.

➤ **Extension to dissemination calendars for quality-labelled statistics from administrative sources**

In its 2012 report, the ASP decided to add to the calendar of pre-announced indicators to take account of the dissemination of quality-labelled statistics from administrative sources, in order to reinforce the professional independence of producers in all areas of official statistics.

Since H2 2013, the dissemination calendars for statistics with ASP quality labelling produced by the CNAF and the MSA are now indicated on their respective websites. They are also featured in the annual official statistics dissemination calendar on the INSEE website.

The ASP notes with satisfaction that significant progress has been made in the publication of dissemination calendars.

It will be keeping a close eye on the improvements announced for 2014.

The ASP had also asked in 2012 that dissemination calendars should be made more accessible on the INSEE website. As this request has not been satisfied, the ASP reasserts that greater accessibility of dissemination calendars should take effect in 2014.

Finally, in order to track any punctuality issues between the announced and effective dates of publication, the ASP joins its voice to the request from the INSEE General Inspectorate recommending the creation of a management chart.¹⁹

¹⁹ INSEE General Inspectorate report n° 36/DG75-B010/RP of 2 April reviewing implementation of the code of practice notes that there is no tracking of any discrepancies in the calendar and that a management chart should be created to track any such discrepancies, even if they do appear to be quite rare.

5. Activity of the Official Statistics Authority in 2013

5.1 Sessions of the Authority in 2013

The Official Statistics Authority met four times in 2013.

18 April 2013

- Presentation by INSEE Director General, Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, on dissemination of gridded data on the insee.fr website;
- Quality-labelling of the road accident data produced by National Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Observatory (ONISR): hearing of Manuelle SALATHE, ONISR Director, accompanied by M. Christophe ROY, Accident Database Administrator;
- Quality-labelling of the statistics produced by the Agricultural Mutual Social Fund (MSA): hearing of Alain PELC, Director of Studies, Registers and Statistics (DERS), accompanied by Ghislaine ROSAY, Head of the Synthesis mission, and Jerihajaso RAFALIARISON, Deputy Head of the Synthesis mission at the DERS;
- Presentation of the Authority's 2012 Annual Report by Claudine GASNIER, ASP Rapporteur.

19 June 2013

- Presentation of the follow-up to the Vorms report on statistical information on housing and construction and of statistical developments by Sylvain MOREAU, Head of the Department for Observation and Statistics (SOeS) and Guillaume HOURIEZ, Under-Director for Housing and Construction Statistics at the SOeS;
- Presentation of the conclusions of the mission on recording of complaints by home security forces by Michel ROUZEAU, Mission Head and a member of the Inspectorate General for the Administration (IGA), accompanied by Isabelle KABLA-LANGLOIS (IG INSEE), Christian LOISEAU (IGPN); Claude LORON (IGGN), Armand SAVIN (IGPN) and Jean-Christophe SINTIVE (IGA);
- Presentation of projects underway to modernise the population census: internet data collection, modifications to the questionnaire, etc. by Fabrice LENGART, head of the Directorate for Demographic and Social Statistics (DSDS) and François CLANCHE, head of the Demography Department at the DSDS.

25 November 2013

- Quality labelling of the statistics of the National Old Age Insurance Fund (CNAV): hearing of Pierre MAYEUR, Director General, accompanied by Vincent POUBELLE, Director of Statistics, Forward Studies and Research.
- Quality labelling of ACOSS statistics on payroll and the Single Employment Declaration: hearing of Alain GUBIAN, Director of the Finance Directorate of the ACOSS, accompanied by Emmanuelle WALRAET, head of the Statistical Studies and Network Coordination Department;

18 December 2013

- Hearing of Jean-Pierre DUPORT, President of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)
- Hearing of Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, INSEE General Director.

The minutes of the decisions of these sessions are accessible on the website of the Official Statistics Authority at the following address: <http://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/>

5.2 Hearings of official statistics producers

In 2013, the Authority heard the INSEE Director General, at his request, on the dissemination on 23 January 2013 of gridded data on the insee.fr website, the SOeS on statistical information on housing and the INSEE Directorate of Demographic and Social Statistics (DSDS) on projects underway to modernise the population census.

- **Presentation by the INSEE Director General on the dissemination of gridded data on the insee.fr website**

The INSEE Director General wished to present the members of the ASP with the facts and the measures he intended to take to avoid any incidents occurring in the publication of gridded data: no statistical information disseminated for grid squares of less than 11 households, specific processing of income variables to avoid any risk of breaches of confidentiality.²⁰

- **Department for Observation and Statistics (SOeS)**

The members of the Authority focused particularly on the sharing of work between the SOeS and the Directorate for Housing, Urbanism and Landscapes (DHUP), on the public policy evaluation capacities of the SOeS in housing matters and the desirable level of decentralisation in housing statistics.

On the sharing of work between the SOeS and the DHUP, the SOeS announced the launch of a mission by the INSEE General Directorate and the General Commission for Sustainable Development (CGDD) on housing and construction statistics to address this point.

On the evaluation of public housing policies, a working group has been instructed by the Commission for Housing Accounts to work on trends in house prices and, in particular, to compare such trends with those in other countries. The SOeS pointed out that evaluation of public policies was conducted essentially by the Department for the Economy, Evaluation and Integration of Sustainable Development (SEEIDD).

On the subject of decentralisation in housing statistics, the SOeS indicated that a large part of production had been centralised to have sufficiently large teams to stabilise data collection activities. Local rent observatories have been set up as a result of local initiatives. Statistical units in the Regional Directorates for the Environment, Development and Housing (DREAL) produce studies on housing.

Further to this hearing, the Official Statistics Authority asked the SOeS to send the Ministry the following proposal, and stated that it would support and back it: endow the SOeS with the resources to enable it to conduct studies of a synthetic nature on the working of housing and thereby facilitate international comparisons with a view to evaluating public policies.

- **INSEE, Directorate for Demographic and Social Statistics (DSDS)**

The DSDS presented the members of the ASP with two projects underway to modernise the population census, by collecting data via internet on the one hand and making modifications to the population census questionnaire on the other.

²⁰ See Principle 5: Statistical confidentiality

The members of the Authority mainly focused their attention on the possible modifications to the questions, notably on employment.

Knowing that fiscal databases contain a lot of information on the home, they also addressed possible redundancy with the data requested on the same theme in the census questionnaire.

The renovated questionnaire, the introduction date of which had not yet been set, should not contain any changes to the questions on employment. Users of the census insisted that the continuity of the series should be preserved, as should their complementary nature, notably with those of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The aim of avoiding redundancy between the data requested in the census survey and that contained in other sources is being monitored particularly in the work of the National Population Census Evaluation Commission (CNERP). The DSDS gave the example of the link made in the population census between the home and its occupants, which is not indicated in the fiscal sources. It added that it was considering collecting those variables that might be collected more effectively from fiscal sources rather than the census from the fiscal files.

5.3 Other hearings

Within the framework of the reform of delinquency statistics,²¹ the Authority heard Michel ROUZEAU, a member of the Inspectorate General for the Administration (IGA) in his capacity as head of the mission on the recording of complaints by home security forces. At the ASP session of 19 June 2013, he presented the conclusions of his mission to the members of the ASP.

5.4 Quality labelling of statistics from administrative sources

The process for quality labelling by the Authority of statistics from administrative sources, already well underway in 2012, reached a steady state in 2013 further to the publication on 10 January 2013 of the so-called “Governance” decree and that of the Ruling of 2 May 2013 on the organisation of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee.²²

- **Quality labelling awarded by the Authority in 2013**

- *Quality labelling of the statistics produced by the Agricultural Mutual Social Fund (MSA)*

The application for quality labelling made by the MSA in 2013 strengthened its determination to take up a lasting place in official statistics and confirmed its wish to obtain recognition for its statistical practices to ensure and guarantee the quality of its statistical output.

The MSA manages welfare cover for all those in the agricultural sector and taking part in its development: farmers and farm workers (production, cooperative transformation and distribution entities, services to businesses and individuals in the agricultural world), their families and pensioners.

The MSA manages their welfare protection globally, pays them the benefits they are entitled to (family and health benefits, retirement pensions) and collects the personal contributions of farmers

²¹ See page 17 of this report for the paragraph on the creation of a new MSO on delinquency statistics

²² The Ruling of 2 May 2013 on the organisation of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee includes a commission with powers to issue opinions resulting from the appraisal, on behalf and at the request of the Official Statistics Authority, of the processing and dissemination of administrative data. These opinions are transmitted to the President of the Official Statistics Authority who may award those processes that have been examined a label of general interest and statistical quality in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

and those due by companies subject to the agricultural welfare protection system. The number of people receiving at least one benefit from the MSA is 5.5 million.

The statistical work of the MSA falls within the framework of the Contracts of Agreed Objectives and Management (COG) signed between the State and the CCMSA.

The statistics of the Directorate of Studies, Registers and Statistics (DERS) are used within the framework of the demographic compensation between the social security systems in the financing of retirement welfare benefits. As such, they are subject to audits and regular inspection by the Court of Accounts. The last audit was in 2011. Each year, the DERS presents income and expenditure forecasts relating to the financing of welfare cover for the agricultural population. The results are included in the report by the Social Security Accounts Commission in September.

At the session of 18 April 2013, the missions, organisation chart, statistical output, quality process and publications of the DERS in the MSA were presented to the members of the ASP.

The statistics on sickness benefits were not proposed by the DERS for quality labelling. According to the DERS, quality-labelling of sickness statistics must cover those sickness statistics for all the systems contributing to the National Inter-Regional Sickness Insurance System (SNIRAM).

The members of the Authority issued a positive opinion on quality labelling of the MSA statistics indicated in the following list:

- employment statistics on salaried and non-salaried agricultural workers
- statistics on family benefit recipients
- statistics on pension recipients for salaried and non-salaried agricultural workers
- statistics on occupational accidents and illnesses of salaried and non-salaried agricultural workers.

➤ ***Quality labelling of road accident statistics produced by the National Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Observatory (ONISR)***

The ONISR, whose remit is governed by Decree n°75-360 of 15 May 1975 as amended on the Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Committee, manages the national road accidents file, the BAAC (Bodily Injury Accidents Analysis Bulletins).

All road accidents with bodily injury occurring on the road network open to public vehicle traffic and involving at least one vehicle are the subject of a BAAC entered by the law enforcement agencies.

The main indicators in the BAAC file are the number of accidents involving bodily injury, the number of injured, the number of injured admitted to hospital and the number of persons killed.

In order to facilitate international comparisons, in France, the Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Committee of 7 July 2004 adopted the principle of harmonising the definitions of these main indicators with those used by our main European neighbours. The ONISR is the supplier of this data to Eurostat and other international bodies (OECD, WHO).

A Committee of Experts conducts surveillance of the design, production and dissemination of the statistics of the ONISR. The members of this committee are renowned experts in accidentology and related disciplines, elected by the National Road Safety Council.

At the session of 18 April, the members of the Authority issued a positive opinion on the quality labelling of annual and monthly accident statistics and of the behavioural statistics listed in Annexe 5.

This opinion was accompanied by a recommendation to be implemented. The ASP asked the ONISR to improve its governance to provide more effective evidence of its professional independence and the quality of its work.

➤ ***Quality labelling of statistical series on existing and newly-retired pensioners in the general retirement pensions system produced by the National Old Age Insurance Fund (CNAV)***

The CNAV is a public body with a public service mission and is the main retirement pension system in France. It manages the basic pensions of the general retirement system (18.3 million people paying contributions and 13.2 million pensioners in 2012) and paid out almost €100 billion in pension benefits in 2012.

At the session of the Authority on 26 November 2013, the organisation of the statistical function of the CNAV, the main missions of the Statistics, Forward Studies and Research Directorate (DSPR) and the publications produced and disseminated by this directorate were presented to the members of the ASP.

Since summer 2013, a specific website has been opened with statistical information and studies and with the results of research (www.statistiques-recherches.cnav.fr).

The DSPR feeds the “retirement” volume of the “Quality-Efficiency” Programme (annexe to the Law on social security financing) by producing or contributing to 10 of the 30 “retirement” indicators in accordance with the precise statistical standards and methods demanded for this annual exercise.

The CNAV has been subject to an accounts certification process by the Court of Accounts since 2006.

The choice of the list of series submitted for quality labelling was explained. The production methods and quality of production of these series upstream and downstream were presented to the members of the ASP.

At the session of the Authority on 26 November 2013, the members of the Authority issued a unanimous positive opinion on the quality labelling of the following two types of statistical series:

- ✓ series concerning the total population of pensioners under the general system receiving benefits payments on 31 December of the year in question (known as the “stock” series)
- ✓ series concerning new pensioners under the general system in the course of the year (known as the “incoming” series)

However, the ASP made two requests to the CNAV:

- to improve the accounts data certified by the Court of Accounts subject to a number of reservations.
- to extend access to its individual data files via a secure access centre which could be the Secure Remote Access Centre (CASD) of the GENES.

The ASP will be hearing the CNAV again at a date to be announced at a later date.

➤ ***Quality labelling of the quarterly series of the Central Agency of Social Security Organisations (ACOSS) on private sector payroll and the monthly and quarterly series of the ACOSS on single employment declarations under the general social security regime on the national level***

Since 2002, the ACOSS has had a statistical directorate, one of whose main missions is to make use of the information in its possession through its collection activities and coming from the declaration system or from management operations: BRC (Summary Contributions Statements), DPAE (Pre-employment Declarations), DADS (Annual Declarations of Social Data) in the private and public sectors and for the self-employed.

This statistical mission is clearly identified in the Contract of Agreed Objectives and Management (COG) between the State and the ACOSS since 2002. In the current COG 2010-2013, statistics is presented as an activity in its own right and not as a support function.

The organisation within the ACOSS allows statistical work to be carried out in compliance with the Code of Practice with a clear focus on the production of short-term outlook statistics.

Priority has been given to the production of information on social contributions, on payroll in the private sector and its breakdown between salaried employment, and on mean wages per head. This data is the flagship data of the ACOSS and is keenly awaited, with private sector payroll being the benchmark for social security income and being extensively used in drafts for the Law on social security financing and for forecasting exercises.

The “payroll” data comes directly from the BRCs produced by companies monthly or quarterly. This statistical series based on these forms has no equivalent.

In addition to data relating to its collection activities, the ACOSS also receives declarations from companies relating to new recruitments in the DPAE database. This source has been used for statistical analyses since 2005.

The conditions in which the two payroll and DPAE series are produced and disseminated were presented at the session of the ASP. They are produced in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The dissemination conditions are currently the following: the quarterly payroll series is disseminated to everyone at the same time, which is to say at 7.30am, having been sent to the cabinet the day before at 6pm.

For the quarterly and monthly dissemination of the DPAE, the publication is sent to the cabinet on D-2 at 6pm, to the press on D-1 at 12 noon and is published on D0 at 0.01am.

At the session of 26 November 2013, the members of the Authority issued a unanimous positive opinion on the quality labelling of the following two types of statistical series:

- ✓ quarterly series on payroll in the private sector on the national level
- ✓ monthly and quarterly series on employment declarations under the general social security system on the national level

The ASP reminded the ACOSS to place full documentation of the data processing chains online on its website, notably with a view to implementing the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN).

It also asked that the series of single employment declarations should be disseminated in the same conditions as those of the salaried workforce and payroll series.

The ASP will be hearing the ACOSS again at a date to be announced later.

- **Quality labelling applications underway**

- *Monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi*

At its hearing of 3 October 2012, the Director General of Pôle Emploi announced that it accepted to commence the quality labelling process for the monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi.

At the request of the President of the Authority, the Minister for the Economy and Finance, the Minister for Social Affairs and Health and the Director General of INSEE have given their agreement for the creation of a joint mission by their three General Inspectorates to appraise the question of compliance of the production by Pôle Emploi of statistics on the number of jobseekers at the end of the month with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The members of the mission, and then the Director General of Pôle Emploi and the Director of the DARES, will be heard at the Session of the Authority on 26 March 2014.

- *Quality labelling of the statistical series produced by the National Sickness Insurance Fund (CNAM)*

The President of the Authority entrusted the appraisal of quality labelling of the statistical series produced by the CNAM to the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, set up by Chapter IV of Decree n° 2013-34 of 10 January 2013 amending Decree n° 2009-318 of 20 March 2009.²³

- **Other quality labelling under consideration**

- *Quarterly house price indices for the provinces from the notarial databases of notaries in the provinces*

The quarterly house price indices in the Paris Ile-de France region received quality labelling from the Authority in 2011. The High Council of Notaries has also applied for quality labelling of the indices for the provinces.

In 2012, the ASP chose to postpone quality labelling of the house price indices from the notarial databases of notaries in the provinces. Given that the decree implementing the law of March 2011 entrusting the notarial profession with a “public service mission” has been published, this quality labelling can now be envisaged.

5.5 Other activities

- **Meeting of 2 December 2013 in Brussels, organised by Thomas Wieser, President of the ESGAB (European Statistical Governance Advisory Board) in the presence of the Presidents of the Authorities of France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Greece and Malta**

The discussions touched upon statistical governance standards in Europe and the question of the statistics produced by the Administration.

5.6 Communication of the Authority

The President of the Official Statistics Authority, accompanied by members and the rapporteur of the ASP, presented the 2012 Annual Report of the Authority to the President of the Republic, the Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry, the First President of the Court of Accounts, the Deputy Director of the cabinet of the Prime Minister, the Department Head of the Inspectorate General for Finances (IGF) and the head of the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs (IGAS).

These interviews gave rise to rich debates in particular on the following themes:

- the problem of embargo breaches
- the reform of delinquency statistics,
- reporting of statistics by local authorities

²³ See note 20

- the conditions in which individual data may be made more accessible to the users of statistics while preserving confidentiality and reassuring the persons concerned as to the use of this data
- the quality-labelling process for statistical processing from administrative sources.

The 2012 Report was widely disseminated.

(See Annexe 1 for the list of recipients).

All the annual reports of the Authority since its creation are accessible in French and in English on the website of the Authority www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr

ANNEXES

Annexe 1

Recipients of the Report

“This report is submitted to Parliament and made public” (Article 2 of the Decree of 3 March on the Official Statistics Authority)

As in 2009, this report shall be submitted:

- *to Parliament:* to the Presidents of the National Assembly, the Senate and their commissions
- *to the representatives of the Nation*
 - President of the Republic
 - President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council
 - Prime Minister
 - Minister for the Economy, Industry and Employment
 - Ministries responsible for the Ministerial Statistical Offices
- *to the major French State bodies*
 - Vice-President of the Council of State
 - First President of the Court of Accounts
 - Head of the General Inspectorate of Finances
 - Head of the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs
- *to the representatives of French official statistics*
 - President of the CNIS
 - INSEE Director General, heads of the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSO), INSEE Regional Directors
 - Banque de France and other producers
 - Members of the INSEE board
- *to the representatives of European official statistics*
 - President of the ESGAB (European Statistical Governance Advisory Board).
 - Members of the ESGAB
 - Eurostat
 - European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC)

Annexe 2

Decree n° 2013-34 of 10 January 2013 amending Decree n° 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority and the Statistical Confidentiality Committee

NOR: EFIS1124652D

OJFR n°0010 of 12 January 2013 page 888

text n° 34

Relevant audience: any person likely to use official statistics results or to respond to official statistics survey questionnaires.

Purpose: modification of the governance rules of the main official statistics institutions, which is to say the Official Statistics Authority, the National Council for Statistical Information, the Statistical Confidentiality Committee and the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee.

Entry into force: the text shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following that of its publication.

Notice: the purpose of this decree is to enable the Official Statistics Authority to mobilise the skills and resources of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee in order to ensure compliance with the principles of official statistics (professional independence, objectiveness, impartiality, data relevance and quality) in the design, production and dissemination of statistics from processing of administrative sources and to award a label of general interest and statistical quality to such output. It allows the National Council for Statistical Information to issue an opinion, with the assistance of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, on the quality of the statistics produced by private bodies and of use in the general interest, when such bodies make a request to this effect. Finally, the decree modernises the procedure in front of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee by merging the two sections that currently exist and cutting its ties with the National Council for Statistical Information.

References: the text as amended by this decree may be consulted in its modified wording on the Légifrance website (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>).

Annexe 3

Opinion n° 2013-01 of 26 March 2013 of the Official Statistics Authority on the draft ruling on the organisation of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee

OJFR n°0079 of 4 April 2013 page 5638

text n° 121 NOR: EFIS1308162V

With regard to Decree n° 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority, notably Article 1, Point 3;

With regard to the application of 18 March 2013 from the INSEE Director General for the opinion of the President of the Official Statistics Authority on the draft ruling on the organisation of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, the Official Statistics Authority issues a positive opinion on the draft ruling on the organisation of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee.

This opinion will be transmitted to the INSEE Director General. It will be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Annexe 4

Ruling of 2 May 2013 on the organisation of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee

OJRF n°0113 of 17 May 2013 page 8184

text n° 3 NOR: EFIS1311311A

The Minister for the Economy and Finances,

With regard to [Law n° 51-711 of 7 June 1951](#) as amended on the obligations, coordination and confidentiality in statistical matters;

With regard to le [Decree n° 2009-318 of 20 March 2009](#) on the National Council for Statistical Information, the Statistical Confidentiality Committee and the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, notably its Chapter IV;

With regard to the opinion of the Official Statistics Authority dated 26 March 2013;

With regard to the opinion of the National Council for Statistical Information dated 23 Avril 2013, Rules as follows:

I. — The President of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee is appointed for a three-year term. This term may be renewed once.

A rapporteur of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee appointed by the Director General of the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies prepares the appraisal of the application files submitted to the Committee.

II. – The Official Statistics Quality Label Committee comprises three commissions with powers to examine projects involving information collection via statistical surveys concerning, respectively:

1. Enterprises, national public bodies and their establishments, the professions, local authorities or public local establishments;

2. Households or natural persons;

3. Agricultural holding and farmers.

The President may decide to entrust appraisal of an application simultaneously to several competent commissions.

In the event of a positive evaluation of the project, the compliance opinion awarded to the survey by the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee and the opinion on its mandatory nature are transmitted to the President of the National Council for Statistical Information. The latter may issue a label of general interest and statistical quality. It transmits these opinions to the ministers concerned, who may issue the approval provided in [Article 2 of the law of 7 June 1951 mentioned above](#) and pronounce a decision on the mandatory nature of the survey.

III. – It comprises a commission with powers to issue opinions resulting from the appraisal:
— either, on behalf of the National Council for Statistical Information and at the request of the latter, statistics produced by private bodies; in this case, these opinions are transmitted to the President of the National Council for Statistical Information which assesses their contribution to the general interest;
— or, on behalf of the Official Statistics Authority and at the request of the latter, processing and dissemination for general information purposes of data collected by administrations, public bodies and private bodies with a public service mission. In the latter case, these opinions are transmitted to the President of the Official Statistics Authority which may issue the processes it examines a label of general interest and statistical quality, in reference to the European Statistics Code of Good Practice.

.....

Annexe 5

Opinion n° 2013-02 of the Official Statistics Authority dated 4 June 2013 on quality labelling of the road accident statistics produced by the National Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Observatory (ONISR) listed in the annexe

OJFR n°0139 of 18 June 2013 page 10116

text n° 178

NOR: EFIS1314572V

With regard to the request of 6 March 2013 of the Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Road Safety,

With regard to the minutes of the session of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 April 2013, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority:

— hereby serves notice of the quality labelling as official statistics of the road accident statistics produced by the National Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Observatory (ONISR), for a period of five years;
— asks the ONISR to improve its governance to provide more effective account of its professional independence and the quality of its work.

This opinion will be mentioned in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

A N N E X E

LIST OF THE QUALITY LABEL STATISTICAL INDICATORS FROM THE BAAC FILES OF THE NATIONAL INTER-MINISTERIAL ROAD SAFETY OBSERVATORY (ONISR)

Annual accident indicators

Annual number of accidents with bodily injury (AC).

Annual number of fatal accidents (AM).

Annual number of persons killed (T).

Annual number of persons injured (B).

Annual number of injured persons admitted to hospital for over 24 hours (BH).

These annual indicators are distinguished as follows:

- as a ratio to the number of inhabitants;
- as a ratio to the number of kilometres covered;
- per department;
- per region;
- per calendar;
- per atmospheric conditions;
- per location (urban, open country, motorways);
- per type of collision;
- per user category;
- per main manoeuvre before the accident;
- per age group;
- per gender;
- per place in the vehicle (driver, passenger);
- per number of years with driving licence;
- presence of at least one driver with an alcohol level exceeding the legal limit.

Monthly accident indicators

Monthly number of accidents with bodily injury (AC).

Monthly number of persons killed (T).

Monthly number of persons injured (B).

Monthly number of injured persons admitted to hospital for over 24 hours (BH).

These monthly indicators are distinguished as follows:

- per user category;
- per age group.

Behavioural indicators

The annual breakdown of drivers presumed responsible in accidents with bodily injury.

The annual breakdown of drivers presumed responsible in fatal accidents.

These indicators are distinguished as follows:

- per age group;
- per gender;
- per number of years with driving licence.

Annexe 6

Opinion n° 2013-03 of the Official Statistics Authority dated 4 June 2013 on the quality labelling of the statistics produced by the Agricultural Mutual Social Fund (MSA) and listed in the annexe

OJFR n°0139 of 18 June 2013 page 10116

text n° 179

NOR: EFIS1314574V

With regard to the application of 12 February 2013 from the Director General of the Agricultural Mutual Social Fund;

With regard to the minutes of the session of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 April 2013 as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority serves notice of the quality labelling as official statistics of the statistics produced by the Agricultural Mutual Social Fund, the list of which is indicated in the annexe, for a period of five years.

This opinion will be mentioned in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

A N N E X E

LIST OF STATISTICAL SERIES PUT FORWARD FOR QUALITY LABELLING

Employment statistics on salaried and non-salaried agricultural workers

Statistics on family benefit recipients

Statistics on pension recipients for salaried and non-salaried agricultural workers

Statistics on occupational accidents and illnesses of salaried and non-salaried agricultural workers.

Annexe 7

Opinion n° 2013-04 of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 December 2013 on the quality labelling of the main statistical series produced by the National Old Age Insurance Fund (CNAV)

NOR: EFIS1331893V

With regard to the application of 18 February 2013 from the Director of the National Old Age Insurance Fund;

With regard to the minutes of the session of the Official Statistics Authority of 26 November 2013, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority serves notice of the quality labelling as official statistics of the following two types of statistical series produced by the National Old Age Insurance Fund, for a period of five years:

- series concerning the total population of pensioners under the general system receiving benefits payments on 31 December of the year in question (known as the “stock” series);
- series concerning new pensioners under the general system in the course of the year (known as the “incoming” series).

The Official Statistics Authority asks the CNAV:

- to extend access to its individual data files via a secure access centre which could be the Secure Remote Access Centre (CASD) of the GENES;
- to improve the quality of the accounts data.

Annexe 8

Opinion n° 2013-05 of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 December 2013 on the quality labelling of the quarterly series on private sector payroll and the monthly and quarterly series on recruitments under the general social security regime on the national level produced by the Central Agency of Social Security Organisations (ACOSS)

NOR: EFIS1331894V

With regard to the application of 14 November 2013 from the Director of the Central Agency of Social Security Organisations (ACOSS);

With regard to the minutes of the session of the Official Statistics Authority of 26 November 2013, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority serves notice of the quality labelling as official statistics of the following two types of statistical series produced by the Central Agency of Social Security Organisations (ACOSS), for a period of five years:

- quarterly series on private sector payroll on the national level;
- monthly and quarterly series on recruitments under the general social security regime on the national level.

The Official Statistics Authority asks the ACOSS:

- to disseminate the series on single employment declarations in the same conditions as those of the workforce and payroll series

Annexe 9

Dissemination rules for the main indicators

A - Dissemination rules for the main outlook indicators on www.insee.fr

Motivations of the dissemination rules

Observing dissemination rules is a way of providing users, and particularly institutional users and financial markets, with a guarantee of independence and transparency that is essential to ensure that the information has credibility. These rules also guarantee equal access to information for all users.

The dissemination framework

It is based on two essential rules: announcing the dates and times of publication of macroeconomic information in advance and treating all users equally, which is achieved by embargo procedures for some information.

Among the international standards, the SDDS (Special Data Dissemination Standard) standard of the International Monetary Fund is among the most widely used. France (like all the industrialised countries) adhered to this standard in 1996. In particular, it requires that countries supply a description of the conditions in which the data was constructed and disseminated and prepare a publication schedule for the coming four months. The methods and sources used by INSEE are described in the Definitions and Methods section. The SDDS standard also fixes data dissemination deadlines. The data dissemination schedule and monitoring of compliance with this standard are accessible (in English) on the IMF website.

European Regulations or gentlemen's agreements, especially on short-term statistics, set dates for mandatory transmission of most data to Eurostat with a view to publishing the corresponding European information. Finally, the European Statistics Code of Practice establishes principles of professional independence, impartiality and objectivity (principle 1 and principle 6), among other things.

Practical dissemination rules

The dates and times of publication of the main economic indicators and the outlook reports and reviews are announced in the four-month schedule disseminated and published online at the end of each month (on the 25th) by the INSEE Press Office. The dates for the first month in the schedule are firm, while the dates in the following three months may be modified in the schedule sent the following month.

The consumer price index, quarterly national accounts (first results and detailed results), unemployment in the sense of the ILO and paid employment are published at 7.30 am. The other main indicators published in the *Informations Rapides* collection are disseminated at 8.45pm. Economic indicators are supplied under embargo at 6.00 pm on the day before their publication to the cabinets of the President of the Republic, Prime Minister and Minister for the Economy.

In order to guarantee perfectly equal treatment in access to information for all the audiences of the INSEE, the main indicators are disseminated mainly via the www.insee.fr website at the exact time when the embargo is lifted. This measure guarantees that the information is made available to all users at the same time. Only press agency journalists receive the information that is under embargo 15 minutes before its publication, by fax and e-mail. Journalists of the audiovisual and written press receive it by e-mail at the time when the embargo is lifted. These principles also apply to the other indicators (non-main indicators), for which dissemination is set for 12 noon. For the latter, only press agency journalists receive the information by fax and e-mail in advance, subject to the embargo, at 11.45 am.

The President

Paris, 12 November 2013

Minister,

You gave an interview on the mid-year foreign trade deficit to *Les Echos* newspaper, which was published in the issue dated 7 August 2013. The newspaper in question communicated on the subject of your interview before the end of the embargo, set for 8.45am on 7 August. This is contrary to the principles of the European Statistics Code of Good Practice, and notably its Principle 6: “*All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality*”.

It does not appear that the media response to your analysis would have been less if *Les Echos* had settled for publishing your interview after the figures had been made public by Customs. Your interview should therefore only have been given to the newspaper on the condition that the latter give an undertaking to observe the embargo.

I hereby ask you to respect the rules of the European Statistics Code of Good Practice in the future. If this should not be the case, I would be obliged to ask the head of the Customs Statistical Department not to provide you with the foreign trade statistical information the day before. This is the position decided upon by the Official Statistics Authority at its session of 7 March 2013 and transmitted to the head of Ministerial Statistical Office for Customs (copy enclosed: letter of 25 April 2013 for the attention of Lefebvre) replaced since that date by Jean-François Loué.

Yours faithfully



Paul CHAMPSAUR

Copy to:
Minister for the Economy and Finance
INSEE Director General
Members of the Authority
Head of the MSO for Customs

Nicole BRICQ
Minister for Foreign Trade
TELEDOC 151
139, rue de Berçy
75012 PARIS

Annexe 11



The President

Paris, 3 October 2013

Director General,

On Tuesday 24 September last, the Minister for the Economy and Finance, Pierre Moscovici, was a guest on the France 2 news and announced, twelve hours before INSEE, a “substantial” improvement in the business climate in September, adding that the turning point indicator had reversed for the first time since early 2011.

This declaration, which was taken up immediately by a number of press agencies and online media, constitutes a breach of the embargo and of the European Statistics Code of Good Practice, and notably its Principle 6: *“All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality”*.

In accordance with the decision made by the Official Statistics Authority at its session of 7 March 2012 stipulating that *“in the event of a breach of the embargo, the statistical office issuing the statistic in question shall no longer transmit the information to the Minister in question the day before”*, I hereby ask you not to send the information the day before to the Minister for the Economy and Finance.

Please inform the Minister and the departments in charge of the production and transmission of such information. This measure does not apply, of course, to all the other recipients of this information (Cabinet of the Elysée Palace, Cabinet of the Prime Minister, Cabinet of the Minister in charge of the Budget, Cabinet of the Minister in charge of the Social Economy, Directorate General of the Treasury).

Yours faithfully

Paul CHAMPSAUR

Enc: copy of the memo of 25 April 2012

Copy: Members of the Authority

Mr Jean-Luc TAVERNIER
INSEE Director General,
18, boulevard Adolphe PINARD, 75675 PARIS Cedex 14

Annexe 12

CNIS: Review of the official statistics programme 2009-2013

In order to review the past five years (and outline medium-term prospects through 2014-2018), the process launched in 2012 by the CNIS was based on extensive consultation between producers and users on several levels.

Slightly over 40 people representing the different colleges of users were consulted.

Each of the 7 themed commissions of the CNIS and the specialised commission on the population census devoted a large part of their discussions to this process in 2013.

Three one-day meetings were organised, each of them bringing together users and producers to debate on specific themes: the first was devoted to measuring competitiveness and growth factors, the second to local economic dynamics and the third to individual trajectories.

These themes were chosen by the CNIS Board as embodying the most significant preoccupations noted during these discussions:

- the place of France in the world,
- the role of local territories in economic development,
- and individual trajectories, which are increasingly long and diversified and raise the increasingly acute question of solidarity within the family and the role of public intervention at different times in life.

Other events provided an opportunity for extensive discussions, such as the inter-commission on corporate social responsibility or the seminar organised in October 2013 in partnership with the Ministry for Women's Rights on the theme "Measurement and assessment: a key to genuine gender equality".

There was a high level of participation in this work. The commissions brought together an average of 60 people and the meetings between 100 and 200 people, with over half of them representing the institutions that use statistics, who were keen to express themselves despite the language gap that sometimes exists with statisticians.

The producers, meanwhile, were keen to have more contact with their users and gauge their practice in the light of their practical concerns. They made a considerable contribution to the quality of the discussions.

Although the role of official statistics is not under threat, it must nonetheless be reasserted among political, administrative and institutional authorities, as well as in the media and even the general public.

The CNIS has therefore organised a number of actions, in collaboration with INSEE, to raise the profile of official statistics, under the slogan "Official statistics and democracy, what are the figures for?"

This campaign included a conference-debate at the Economic, Social and Environmental Council on the afternoon of 30 January 2014.

CNIS activity structured around four areas and cross-cutting issues between 2009 and 2013

Four areas and cross-cutting issues have guided the work of the CNIS in recent years. Although significant progress has been made on them, some major expectations remain to be addressed in coming years.²⁴

These areas are the following: the social domain, economics and finance, sustainable development and local territories.

²⁴ It is not possible to mention all the progress and expectations listed during the medium-term process. Only the most essential aspects discussed at the last CNIS Board meeting of 4 December 2013 are presented here.

➤ **The social domain**

▪ ***A more diversified insight into household living conditions***

In recent years, statistics have provided a more diversified insight into the living conditions of households, whether in terms of their purchasing power, consumption or assets, and a better understanding of their quality of life. This medium-term effort has done away with the “tyranny of averages”. Different household profiles are now taken into account in analyses. This owes much to the various working groups of the CNIS, as well as to the work of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi commission and to a genuine change in the approach of statisticians.

▪ ***Greater consistency and precision in information on employment, unemployment and work***

Information on employment, unemployment and work has gained in consistency and precision, although much remains to be done to be able to compare the different spheres of public and private-sector activity more effectively, and possibly to review the dissemination of unemployment data in the light of the review of Pôle Emploi data currently being conducted under the responsibility of the Official Statistics Authority.

The recommendations in the CNIS report chaired by Jean-Baptiste De Foucauld were crucial to this.

▪ ***Many investments in developing information processes to inform public policies and debate in society***

Official statistics has also made considerable investments in recent years in developing information processes capable of informing policies and public debate on the issues of health, retirement, immigration, national education, culture, security and justice.

In this area, a process is underway to create a Ministerial Statistical Office on security within the Interior Ministry. This should provide a way of ensuring compliance with good practice in this area. On two occasions, the “public services and services for the public” commission chaired by Pierre-Yves Geoffard provided a forum for calm, constructive debate on security and justice statistics with all the relevant stakeholders, and it proposes to organise a broad conference on the issue in two years’ time when the statistical processes have evolved.

▪ ***Further statistical insights still expected***

Further statistical insights are still expected on social issues, however, on the one hand to gain a better understanding of the upheaval in our ways of life, whether within the family, at work, in social relations or in consumption trends, and on the other hand to assess the effects in terms of equal opportunities of our ever-changing society demanding mobility, adaptability and flexibility in many different areas.

Inequalities remain an important subject in society and further work should be dedicated to the conclusions of the Freyssinet report ten years after its publication.

In this context, the question of individual trajectories may not be new, but does take on growing importance. The CNIS meeting organised on this theme noted the need to understand trajectories over the whole lifetime, analysing the different factors that influence the dynamics of that life, whether it be income, housing or family environment, and identifying periods of public support more particularly. The need to measure situations of persisting difficulties was emphasised.

In employment, the wish has been expressed that a working group should determine the indicators capable of describing specific forms of employment, such as short-term contracts, people with multiple activities or the self-employed...

The question of the link between lifelong learning and careers is also considered fundamental.

➤ **Economic and financial sphere**

▪ *A description of the corporate world that is closer to economic realities*

Thanks to its progress on the RESANE project and the creation of the statistical register of companies, INSEE has opened up considerable possibilities for understanding the production system on the basis of the new concepts defined by the LME law. The progressive identification of groups of companies is continuing in line with the recommendations of the working group headed by Edouard Salustro.

Several studies have provided information on the process of globalisation of production, such as the “global value chains” survey, the European FATS²⁵ system for tracking foreign affiliates or the direct investment statistics established by the Banque de France.

▪ *Better knowledge of banking activities and certain ways of financing the economy*

The Banque de France contributed to achieving more detailed knowledge of SME financing and microcredit, thanks to the working group on the subject chaired by Pierre Valentin. It also conducted a major study analysing banking business lines within the framework of the working group chaired by Alain Duchâteau, further to the work by Gilles de Margerie on financial groups.

▪ *Expectations of a better understanding of factors in the competitiveness and development of France in the world.*

Increasing globalisation of the economy is creating expectations of in-depth knowledge of the production system to gain a better understanding of its links with the world, innovative sectors in products and services, changes in the links between industry and services, but also to gain knowledge of the corporate world in more detailed categories than we have today in order to analyse their behaviour and respective contributions to development.

It should be noted that there is also strong demand from local territories, and more particularly large cities and regions, for this in-depth knowledge of their production systems. This can pose a problem for statisticians for reasons of costs, but also in terms of information availability. Group profiling could result in a loss of information on the entities that compose them and their geographical location. This question should be the focus of a properly informed study with users.

Economic globalisation also creates expectations regarding the definition of indicators to facilitate the debate on competitiveness in France. The question is not a simple one, as was shown by the meeting organised on the subject.

But it also confirmed the importance of coming to an agreement on the elements by which competitiveness can be measured, for example in the form of a working group.

Finally, greater use and accessibility of available financial data is desirable to enable economists to increase their contribution to analysing relations between the real economy and the financial economy. The Banque de France has already declared that it is ready to accompany this work, steered by the “Financial system and financing of the economy” commission, now chaired by Gunther Capelle Blancard.

➤ **Sustainable development**

Sustainable development concerns first appeared as a major theme among the expectations expressed to the CNIS in 2009. Statisticians have succeeded in adapting to this approach. The national conference on sustainable development held at the CESE in January 2010 gave rise to a large number of initiatives from them, including:

²⁵ Foreign Affiliates Statistics

- significant participation in designing sustainable development indicators from the worldwide to the local scale,
- taking account of environmental issues in surveys of businesses, households and the agricultural sphere,
- work on carbon footprints and studies of the economy and green jobs,
- and more recently, the first statistics on corporate social responsibility.

The White Paper on the energy transition was published on 11 December 2013. This law will be presented in spring to the National Energy Transition Council (CNTE), which will issue an opinion.

Specific demands for statistics will be coming from this Council, especially as it has a specialised commission on ecological transition indicators, chaired by the head of the SOeS, Sylvain Moreau.

Expectations already have already been expressed to the CNIS concerning the development of information on energy efficiency, biodiversity and renewable energies.

The emphasis is also on the need for knowledge of new forms of development, such as the circular economy or the functional economy, as well as on agricultural practices and their effects on the environment and on diet.

➤ **Local territorial information**

Very significant progress has been made in terms of availability of local information since 2009.

▪ *A very sharp increase in available data volumes*

In particular with the annual dissemination of the population census since 2008, that of the general agricultural census in 2011 and the enrichment of the Permanent Amenity Database (BPE).

▪ *Indicator dissemination now regular*

Notably on sustainable development, poverty or “departmental social indicators”, in collaboration with the General Councils.

▪ *Availability of gridded data*

“Gridded” data is now available in line with the recommendations of the report by Francis Cuillier, as was keenly awaited by users wishing to work on tailored geographical zones. The incident that occurred shortly after their dissemination and brought their confidentiality into question is admittedly regrettable, but INSEE responded quickly in consultation with users to determine new ways of maintaining the system and its objectives.

▪ *Progress still to be made on territorial data availability*

Policies are increasingly conducted on the local level. New issues are appearing or reappearing on the role of local territories in economic matters and on the fairness and effectiveness of public action in local territories, notably in those that are the most remote from urban dynamics, such as outlying suburban areas, rural areas and districts with high concentrations of poverty.

The CNIS meeting on the attractiveness and economic dynamics of local territories revealed two important issues:

The first concerns the services and amenities at the disposal of households and businesses. While significant progress has been made in this area, they need to be brought up to date by the introduction of new services, such as “multipoint” and electronic services... and by an indication of their use and quality.

Their second subject relates to the weight of public action in local territories. This must be estimated more effectively, in terms of employment and expenditure. The question of the local expenditure of the State remains outstanding. Faced with the determination of the CNIS, the DGFIP conducted some exploratory studies in 2013. It is clear and regrettable, however, that it is refusing to give this matter any kind of priority.

Another crucial subject remains that of the market in housing and business premises. The lack of information on this question on the local level is regularly pointed out by the CNIS. In particular, it was the subject of an exchange with Sabine Baietto-Beysson, President of the Paris Region Rents Observatory (OLAP). Progress is expected not only of the OLAP, but also of notaries. The so-called “notaries” decree was issued on 3 September last.²⁶ It will allow more detailed knowledge of property trends on the local level. The implementing rulings are expected for the end of Q1 2014 at the latest.

A detailed review of this question will be conducted by the CNIS in a year or two.

It should also be noted that against a backdrop of budget restrictions, the CNIS cannot accept the principle that local demands, including those from overseas territories, are too often considered to be budget adjustment variables. Other prospects exist for local information, such as increasing use of administrative sources and the increased involvement of local authorities. The aim should be to accelerate the process of pooling and making use of all the public information available at the local level, whether produced by the State, the different levels of local authorities or other operators. There are possibilities for sharing and therefore reducing the overall investment local authorities or public operators devote to statistics. The CNIS would be in favour of a mission on this question, although it remains to be defined under whose responsibility.

➤ **Cross-cutting issues**

Recent years have seen the enriching and rationalisation of the major information systems on businesses, employment and wages, including in the civil service.

They have also seen a considerable effort to ensure quicker, better-documented and more detailed dissemination of the information from population and agriculture surveys and censuses.

Researchers have seen their access to data extended with the creation of the Secure Remote Data Access Centre (CASD) on the one hand and with the law on higher education and research²⁷ in which Article 104 allows access to fiscal data after a positive opinion from the Statistical Confidentiality Committee.

However, the main preoccupation expressed by these users for coming years still concerns data access. On the one hand, many users would like support and enhanced communication, based more systematically on educational tools, increased electronic dialogues in the form of conferences, assistance and online training, for example... and on more elaborate themed research.

In addition to this, the more professional users, like researchers and design offices, would like even more open access to individual data, obviously while respecting confidentiality, especially in the areas of health and financial data. This would imply the development of methods shared by the statisticians, in consultation with the CNIL, based on the introduction of the National Pupil Identifier (INE) and other experiments in using secure individual identifiers.

²⁶ [“Decree on notarial databases on transfers of buildings in return for payment”](#)

²⁷ Law n° 2013-660 of 22 July 2013

Finally, the question of the identification of data from official statistics is also considered a major one, especially in a context of users turning increasingly to open data.²⁸ What is wanted is an increase and better visibility of quality labelling of data from administrative sources, under the responsibility of the Official Statistics Authority and of data from statistics produced within a private framework, under the responsibility of the CNIS. On this point, the CNIS Board recently adopted an evaluation procedure, further to two experiments in real-estate. This will make it possible to examine other files in good conditions.

Mention should also be made of a recent but increasingly frequent remark, on the one hand on the growing tension between the “freshness”, detail and quality of data, and also on the tension between demand for long series and the need to detect trends in society and show their rapidity.

All these preoccupations must be priority issues for producers. They need to be refined and made more concrete, however. They will therefore be the subject initially of an exchange, such as in the form of a one-day meeting focusing on the notion of “statistics quality” from the point of view of users. The CNIS will define what is expected of this event beforehand and the Authority could be an essential stakeholder in this.

Most of these themes also have a point in common: use of the administrative sources of the different ministries concerned.

The use of these administrative sources for statistical purposes still poses problems as to the need to separate their administrative uses from their administrative uses and to adapt these sources for statistical purposes.

The low level of consideration given to these two objectives upstream when implementing management systems generates considerable difficulties in their use by Ministerial Statistical Offices in terms of lead times, access and quality. These are sources of information for which our current monitoring and quality labelling methods may not be up to the issues of their use over the medium-term. This is at least what was reported in the various commissions of the CNIS addressing these questions. This is a point to be worked on together to determine the best ways of making progress.

²⁸ Public data that is freely accessible and exploitable.

Annexe 13

European Statistics Code of Good Practice adopted by the European Statistical System Committee on 28 September 2011

FOR THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY STATISTICAL AUTHORITIES

Adopted by the European Statistical System Committee

28 September 2011

Preamble

The vision of the European Statistical System²⁹

“The European Statistical System will be a world leader in statistical information services and the most important information provider for the European Union and its Member States. Based on scientific principles and methods, the European Statistical System will offer and continuously improve a programme of harmonised European statistics that constitutes an essential basis for democratic processes and progress in society.”

The mission of the European Statistical System

“We provide the European Union, the world and the public with independent high quality information on the economy and society on European, national and regional levels and make the information available to everyone for decision-making purposes, research and debate.”

To realize this mission and vision, the members of the European Statistical System strive for joint cooperation and continuous interaction with users according to the Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and general quality management principles including commitment of leadership, partnership, staff satisfaction and continuous improvement, in addition to integration and harmonization.

The European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 15 Principles covering the institutional environment, the statistical production processes and the output of statistics. A set of indicators of good practice for each of the Principles provides a reference for reviewing the implementation of the Code. The quality criteria for European Statistics are defined in “European Statistical Law”.³⁰

Statistical authorities,³¹ comprising the Commission (Eurostat), National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics,³² together with governments, ministries and the European Council, commit themselves to adhere to the Code.

The Principles of the Code of Practice together with the general quality management principles represent a common quality framework in the European Statistical System.

²⁹ Regulation (CE) n° 223/2009, article 4.

³⁰ Regulation (CE) n° 223/2009, article 12.

³¹ Regulation (CE) n° 223/2009, articles 4 and 5.

³² Regulation (CE) n° 223/2009, article 1. In the Code of Practice, “other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics” are referred to as “other statistical authorities.”

European Statistics Code of Good Practice

Institutional Environment

Institutional and organisational factors have a significant influence on the effectiveness and credibility of a statistical authority developing, producing and disseminating European Statistics. The relevant issues are professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality commitment, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity.

Principle 1: Professional independence. Professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European Statistics.

Indicator 1.1. The independence of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat from political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating statistics is specified in law and assured for other statistical authorities.

Indicator 1.2. The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have sufficiently high hierarchical standing to ensure senior level access to policy authorities and administrative public bodies. They are of the highest professional calibre.

Indicator 1.3. The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have responsibility for ensuring that statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner.

Indicator 1.4. The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of statistical releases.

Indicator 1.5. The statistical work programmes are published and periodic reports describe progress made.

Indicator 1.6. Statistical releases are clearly distinguished and issued separately from political/policy statements.

Indicator 1.7. The National Statistical Institute and Eurostat and, where appropriate, other statistical authorities, comment publicly on statistical issues, including criticisms and misuses of statistics as far as considered suitable.

Indicator 1.8. The appointment of the heads of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat and, where appropriate, of other statistical authorities, is based on professional competence only. The reasons on the basis of which the incumbency can be terminated are specified in the legal framework. These cannot include reasons compromising professional or scientific independence.

Principle 2: Mandate for data collection. Statistical authorities have a clear legal mandate to collect information for European statistical purposes. Administrations, enterprises and households, and the public at large may be compelled by law to allow access to or deliver data for European statistical purposes at the request of statistical authorities.

Indicator 2.1. The mandate of the statistical authorities to collect information for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics is specified in law.

Indicator 2.2. The statistical authorities are allowed by law to use administrative data for statistical purposes.

Indicator 2.3. On the basis of a legal act, the statistical authorities may compel response to statistical surveys.

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources. The resources available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European Statistics requirements.

Indicator 3.1. Staff, financial, and computing resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are available to

Indicator 3.2. The scope, detail and cost of statistics are commensurate with needs.

Indicator 3.3. Procedures exist to assess and justify demands for new statistics against their cost.

Indicator 3.4. Procedures exist to assess the continuing need for all statistics, to see if any can be discontinued or curtailed to free up resources.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality. Statistical authorities are committed to quality. They systematically and regularly identify strengths and weaknesses to continuously improve process and product quality.

Indicator 4.1. Quality policy is defined and made available to the public. An organizational structure and tools are in place to deal with quality management.

Indicator 4.2. Procedures are in place to plan and monitor the quality of the statistical production process.

Indicator 4.3. Product quality is regularly monitored, assessed with regard to possible trade-offs, and reported according to the quality criteria for European Statistics.

Indicator 4.4. There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs using also external experts where appropriate.

Principle 5: Statistical confidentiality. The privacy of data providers (households, enterprises, administrations and other respondents), the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes are absolutely guaranteed.

Indicator 5.1. Statistical confidentiality is guaranteed in law.

Indicator 5.2. Staff sign legal confidentiality commitments on appointment.

Indicator 5.3. Penalties are prescribed for any wilful breaches of statistical confidentiality.

Indicator 5.4. Guidelines and instructions are provided to staff on the protection of statistical confidentiality in the production and dissemination processes. The confidentiality policy is made known to the public.

Indicator 5.5. Physical, technological and organisational provisions are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical databases.

Indicator 5.6. Strict protocols apply to external users accessing statistical microdata for research purposes.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity. Statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

Indicator 6.1. Statistics are compiled on an objective basis determined by statistical considerations.

Indicator 6.2. Choices of sources and statistical methods as well as decisions about the dissemination of statistics are informed by statistical considerations.

Indicator 6.3. Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and publicised.

Indicator 6.4. Information on the methods and procedures used is publicly available.

Indicator 6.5. Statistical release dates and times are pre-announced.

Indicator 6.6. Advance notice is given on major revisions or changes in methodologies.

Indicator 6.7. All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

Indicator 6.8. Statistical releases and statements made in press conferences are objective and non-partisan.

Statistical processes

European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices are fully observed in the processes used by the statistical authorities to organise, collect, process and disseminate European Statistics. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for good management and efficiency. The relevant aspects are sound methodology, appropriate statistical procedures, non-excessive burden on respondents and cost effectiveness.

Principle 7: Sound methodology. Sound methodology underpins quality statistics. This requires adequate tools, procedures and expertise.

Indicator 7.1. The overall methodological framework used for European Statistics follows European and other international standards, guidelines, and good practices.

Indicator 7.2. Procedures are in place to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are consistently applied throughout the statistical authority.

Indicator 7.3. The business register and the frame for population surveys are regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality.

Indicator 7.4. Detailed concordance exists between national classifications systems and the corresponding European systems.

Indicator 7.5. Graduates in the relevant academic disciplines are recruited.

Indicator 7.6. Statistical authorities implement a policy of continuous vocational training for their staff.

Indicator 7.7. Co-operation with the scientific community is organised to improve methodology, the effectiveness of the methods implemented and to promote better tools when feasible.

Principle 8: Appropriate statistical procedures. Appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection to data validation, underpin quality statistics.

Indicator 8.1. When European Statistics are based on administrative data, the definitions and concepts used for administrative purposes are a good approximation to those required for statistical purposes.

Indicator 8.2. In the case of statistical surveys, questionnaires are systematically tested prior to the data collection.

Indicator 8.3. Survey designs, sample selections and estimation methods are well based and regularly reviewed and revised as required.

Indicator 8.4. Data collection, data entry, and coding are routinely monitored and revised as required.

Indicator 8.5. Appropriate editing and imputation methods are used and regularly reviewed, revised or updated as required.

Indicator 8.6. Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

Indicator 8.7. Statistical authorities are involved in the design of administrative data in order to make administrative data more suitable for statistical purposes.

Indicator 8.8. Agreements are made with owners of administrative data which set out their shared commitment to the use of these data for statistical purposes.

Indicator 8.9. Statistical authorities co-operate with owners of administrative data in assuring data quality.

Principle 9: Non-excessive burden on respondents. The reporting burden is proportionate to the needs of the users and is not excessive for respondents. The statistical authorities monitor the response burden and set targets for its reduction over time.

Indicator 9.1. The range and detail of European Statistics demands is limited to what is absolutely necessary.

Indicator 9.2. The reporting burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations.

Indicator 9.3. The information sought from businesses is, as far as possible, readily available from their accounts and electronic means are used where possible to facilitate its return.

Indicator 9.4. Administrative sources are used whenever possible to avoid duplicating requests for information.

Indicator 9.5. Data sharing within statistical authorities is generalised in order to avoid multiplication of surveys.

Indicator 9.6. Statistical authorities promote measures that enable the linking of data sources in order to reduce reporting burden.

Principle 10: Cost effectiveness. Resources are used effectively.

Indicator 10.1. Internal and independent external measures monitor the statistical authority's use of resources.

Indicator 10.2. The productivity potential of information and communications technology is being optimised for data collection, processing and dissemination.

Indicator 10.3. Proactive efforts are made to improve the statistical potential of administrative data and to limit recourse to direct surveys.

Indicator 10.4. Statistical authorities promote and implement standardized solutions that increase effectiveness and efficiency.

Statistical output

Available statistics meet users' needs. Statistics comply with the European quality standards and serve the needs of European institutions, governments, research institutions, business concerns and the public generally. The important issues concern the extent to which the statistics are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable across regions and countries, and readily accessible by users.

Principle 11: Relevance. European Statistics meet the needs of users.

Indicator 11.1. Processes are in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and utility of existing statistics in meeting their needs, and consider their emerging needs and priorities.

Indicator 11.2. Priority needs are being met and reflected in the work programme.

Indicator 11.3. User satisfaction is monitored on a regular basis and is systematically followed up.

Principle 12: Accuracy and reliability. European Statistics accurately and reliably portray reality **Principle 12: Accuracy and reliability.** European Statistics accurately and reliably portray reality.

Indicator 12.1. Source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs are regularly assessed and validated.

Indicator 12.2. Sampling errors and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented according to the European standards.

Indicator 12.3. Revisions are regularly analysed in order to improve statistical processes.

Principle 13: Timeliness and punctuality. European Statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner.

Indicator 13.1. Timeliness meets European and other international release standards.

Indicator 13.2. A standard daily time for the release of statistics is made public.

Indicator 13.3. The periodicity of statistics takes into account user requirements as much as possible.

Indicator 13.4. Divergence from the dissemination time schedule is publicised in advance, explained and a new release date set.

Indicator 13.5. Preliminary results of acceptable aggregate accuracy can be released when considered useful.

Principle 14: Coherence and comparability. European Statistics are consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it is possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.

Indicator 14.1. Statistics are internally coherent and consistent (i.e. arithmetic and accounting identities observed).

Indicator 14.2. Statistics are comparable over a reasonable period of time.

Indicator 14.3. Statistics are compiled on the basis of common standards with respect to scope, definitions, units and classifications in the different surveys and sources.

Indicator 14.4. Statistics from the different sources and of different periodicity are compared and reconciled.

Indicator 14.5. Cross-national comparability of the data is ensured within the European Statistical System through periodical exchanges between the European Statistical System and other statistical systems. Methodological studies are carried out in close co-operation between the Member States and Eurostat.

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity. European Statistics are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance.

Indicator 15.1. Statistics and the corresponding metadata are presented, and archived, in a form that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons.

Indicator 15.2. Dissemination services use modern information and communication technology and, if appropriate,

traditional hard copy.

Indicator 15.3. Custom-designed analyses are provided when feasible and the public is informed.

Indicator 15.4. Access to microdata is allowed for research purposes and is subject to specific rules or protocols.

Indicator 15.5. Metadata are documented according to standardised metadata systems.

Indicator 15.6. Users are kept informed about the methodology of statistical processes including the use of administrative data.

Indicator 15.7. Users are kept informed about the quality of statistical outputs with respect to the quality criteria for European Statistics.

Annexe 14

Ministerial Statistical Offices on 31 December 2013

DREES	Ministry for Social Affairs and Health Department for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics
SSP	Ministry for Agriculture, Agribusiness and Forests Department for Statistics and Forward Studies
SOeS	Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy General Commission for Sustainable Development Department for Observation and Statistics
DEPP	Ministry for National Education Department for Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance
SIES	Ministry for Higher Education and Research Directorate General for Higher Education and Professional Integration Directorate General for Research and Innovation Under-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies
DARES	Ministry for Labour, Employment, Professional Training and Social Dialogue Department for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics
Justice	Ministry for Justice Under-Directorate for Statistics and Studies
Local Authorities	Ministry for the Interior Ministry for State Reform, Decentralisation and the Civil Service Directorate General for Local Authorities Department for Local Studies and Statistics
Public Finances	Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Foreign Trade Directorate General for Public Finances Fiscal Management Directorate Under-Directorate for Property, Taxation of Assets and Statistics Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies
Customs	Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Foreign Trade Directorate General for Customs and Indirect Taxation Department for Statistics and Economic Studies
Civil Service	Ministry for State Reform, Decentralisation and the Civil Service Directorate General for the Administration and Civil Service Department of Studies and Statistics
Immigration - Integration	Ministry for the Interior Secretariat General for Immigration and Integration Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation
Sports	Ministry for Sports, Youth, Popular Education and Associations Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Associations Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit
Defence	Ministry for Defence Financial Affairs Directorate Economic Observatory for Defence
Culture	Ministry for Culture and Communication

	Cultural Policy Coordination and Innovation Department Department for Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics
Fisheries	Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture

Annexe 15

Acronyms used

BAAC: Bodily Injury Accidents Analysis Bulletin

BRC: Summary Contributions Statement

DADS: Annual Declaration of Social Data

DMMO: Monthly Workforce Movement Declaration

DPAE: Pre-Employment Declaration

DSN: Nominative Social Declaration

EMMO: Workforce Movement Survey

ESA: Annual Sectoral Survey

ESA: European System of Accounts

ESANE: Elaboration of Annual Business Statistics

FINESS: National Sanitary and Health Establishments File

PMSI: Information Systems Medicalisation Programme

RESANE: Restructuring of Annual Business Statistics

RFT: Road Freight Transport

RICA: Agricultural Accounting Information Network

RSL: Housing Statistical Registry

SAE: Annual Health Establishments Statistics

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