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Annual Report
of the Official Statistics Authority
2014

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ASP Rapporteur
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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 Yannick Moreau who has succeeded Jean-Pierre Duport.

The Official Statistical Service (SSP) drives conception, production and dissemination of official statistics.

On 31 December 2014, it comprises INSEE and 17 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 2014, the sixth 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 Ecalte, appointed by the First President of the Court of Accounts

Mrs Véronique Hespel, appointed by the Department Head of the General Inspectorate of Finances

Mr Stéphane Paul, appointed by the Head of the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs

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

Official Statistics Authority – Annual Report 2014

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Preface

The past year was the last of my non-renewable six-year term of office and the focus has been on establishing the role of the Official Statistics Authority. We should congratulate ourselves on our excellent relations with INSEE and the CNIS. Without them, the task facing the ASP would have been much more difficult.

When INSEE and the Official Statistical Service (SSP) were first established, in the aftermath of the Second World War, the majority of statistics of public interest were produced by the Official Statistical Service. This is now less often the case and important statistics are produced by bodies that are not part of the Official Statistical Service: social security funds, French notaries, Pôle Emploi, the Banque de France, local authorities and the National Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Observatory (road accidents), etc.

The primary objective of the ASP is to ensure that these statistics, like those produced by the Official Statistical Service, are produced and disseminated in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and are considered as official statistics. Most of those who head the bodies in question were keen for their statistics to be made public, and the quality label process was therefore carried out without too much difficulty at first, via an informal appraisal by the ASP for the simplest cases and, since last year, via an appraisal by a specialised group of the Quality Label Committee, created by Decree no. 2013-34 amending Decree no. 2009-318. In 2014, the Quality Label Committee studied the case of certain statistical series produced by the National Sickness Insurance Fund for Employed Persons (CNAMTS) and the ASP will examine them at its session on 18 March 2015 to determine the conditions under which they could become public statistics.

The second objective relates to the composition of the Official Statistical Service and to compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. The ASP has approved the awarding of Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) status to several bodies. The latest to be created is the Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security (SSMSI) within the Ministry for the Interior. The ASP also intervened successfully when one of the offices within the Official Statistical Service failed to respect some of the criteria of this Code. Finally, the Authority has some concerns over certain MSOs which may not have sufficient resources to fulfil their role. In this respect, the ASP has in fact given its approval for Ministerial Statistical Office status to be withdrawn from the “small” statistical office in the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA). The ASP has also examined the case of the Urban Affairs, Youth and Sport Ministerial Statistical Office, with its Studies, Observation and Statistics Section (MEOS), and has given its approval for MSO status to be maintained for this unit in its current position, directly attached to the Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Associations (DJEPVA). However, if a reorganisation is carried out whereby the MEOS is absorbed into a service with national jurisdiction grouping ministerial offices together, then MSO status will be withdrawn from the MEOS and the newly-created service will under no circumstances be eligible to become an MSO.

During these six years the work of the ASP Board has proved remarkably constructive. It has succeeded in combining the diverse skills of its members, each of whom has brought their own point of view, derived in part from their own particular experience. I thank each of them most sincerely.



Paul CHAMPSAUR
President of the Official Statistics Authority

1. Production of official statistics in France in 2014

While tensions over both human and financial resources have increased over the years, in 2014 the Official Statistical Service was still very much in demand to provide analyses and shed light on the situations and rapid changes in the economy and lifestyles.

Given this very demanding context, the ASP observes that the Official Statistical Service is continuing its best efforts to meet the needs of its users, both nationally and in Europe.

The ASP considers that the performance of the Official Statistical Service in 2014 was positive overall.

It will remain vigilant to ensure that, given the budgetary context, the reduction in the Official Statistical Service's flexibility does not adversely affect the quality of its work.

1.1 Some significant progress and investment

The National Accounts are published using a new base year

The national accounts were published using 2010 as the base year on 15 May 2014. The most significant aspect of Base 2010 is the implementation of a new European System of Accounts (ESA 2010) which incorporates some important conceptual changes. In particular, these changes affect the scope of assets covered, which has now been extended to cover not only intangible assets (database, research and development) but also tangible assets (military equipment).

This expenditure is now classified as investment, which therefore raises the level of GDP.

There are other changes since ESA 2010 is to be implemented in the areas of insurance and international trade.

Overall, GDP increased by 3.2% in 2010, of which 2.4 points can be attributed to ESA 2010 (2.2 points for research and development alone).¹

INSEE stands out by the length of the series of national accounts it has produced (since 1949), longer than any of the other European Union countries.

Note also that since the beginning of 2014, INSEE has published a quarterly public deficit.

Important deadlines were met in dissemination of the population census

Within the framework of the first community regulation on censuses, results from the 2011 population census were provided to Eurostat in March 2014. These results were harmonised in terms of concepts and were made available to the general public at the end of 2014.

With the dissemination of results from the 2011 census in 2014, it was possible for the first time to compare two years of the reformed census (2011 and 2006).

Investment in group profiling and tracking globalisation are continuing

INSEE is continuing its work on group profiling; the aim is to give a better representation of economic reality, by no longer basing business statistics on legal units but on the notion of enterprises in the sense of the 2008 Law on the Modernisation of the Economy (LME). After including the largest groups in the business statistics, INSEE is now working on incorporating small

¹ The remaining 0.8% increase in GDP is due to various methodological improvements that were introduced when the base year changed.

and medium groups into these statistics. The Institute's publications are now starting to distinguish data for legal units, groups and enterprises, in compliance with the LME (see page 30).

INSEE has invested in improving and extending its work on tracking globalisation, especially through publications of the Global Value Chains Survey and the annual OFATS survey of foreign affiliates of French companies. In collaboration with statisticians from Customs and the Banque de France, INSEE is working on pooling data to gain a better understanding of the issues associated with globalisation of trade (foreign trade by groups or enterprises, setting up their affiliates).

INSEE lends support in defining new urban policy priority districts

INSEE provided support for the General Commission for the Equality of Territories in work to reform the geography of priority districts in cities, and this has resulted in new priority districts being established. The definition of the new contours of these districts was based on INSEE's gridded data.² The Institute supplied maps and data on income³ (by income bracket) at grid square level.

The Official Statistical Service is mobilised in the multiannual plan against poverty and promoting social inclusion

To provide information for local stakeholders on social policies on combatting poverty, INSEE and the DREES carried out an important methodological study in 2014 to "territorialise" indicators for tracking the annual plan to combat poverty (Chèreque plan).

1.2 Significant surveys and publications

Innovative surveys in 2014

In 2004, the DREES, in collaboration with INSEE, collected data for the national survey on the resources of young adults (ENRJ). This highly innovative survey is looking at young people aged 18 to 24 and those supporting them. It provides information on their resources in the broadest sense,⁴ their living conditions and their degree of financial and residential autonomy.

In 2014, INSEE carried out a survey that had been long-awaited by associations. The general aim of this new survey was to provide statistical framework data on all associations governed by the Law of 1901 and equivalent, whatever their area of activity and whether or not they had employees. Statistical monitoring proposed in the Law of 31 July 2014 on the Social Economy and Solidarity, will require some amendments to be made to the SIRENE register.

A greater international dimension in Official Statistical Service publications

In collaboration with several Ministerial Statistical Offices, in 2014 INSEE published *Insee Références* "France in the European Union". This work provides the main statistical information so that the economic and social situation in France can be compared with that of its EU partners.

² Gridding is the cutting up of a geographic area into regular squares of a fixed size.

³ The Law of 21 February 2014 introduced the principle of using a single criterion, inhabitants' income, to determine priority districts in a metropolitan area.

⁴ Financial resources or resources in kind through families providing accommodation at no charge or supplying items of everyday consumption at no cost.

A special issue of the *Économie et Statistique* journal was published in July 2014, dedicated to statistics on income, poverty and living conditions, with data measured for the most part by the European SILC⁵ system. A large part of the publication covers comparisons between European countries, especially wage inequalities between men and women and differences in standards of living between working and retired people.

INSEE also published a study on international sub-contracting and another on French multinational groups.

The DEPP continued its series of international studies on education. Results from TALIS (Teaching And Learning International Survey), an international survey in conjunction with the OECD, were published in 2014. The aim of this survey is to collect data in 34 countries on the teaching environment and working conditions for teachers in lower secondary education establishments (“*collège*” in France).

Three publications were produced by the Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) for Immigration-Integration aimed at ensuring that the immigration debate should be based on information that is as objective as possible. The topics covered were global migration, foreign presence in Europe, based on data from the UN, the OECD and Eurostat, and the foreign population in France from the 2010 census returns.

INSEE also published an *INSEE Première* in 2014 on recent immigrants to France based on population census data.

The SOeS published a European comparison of road transport of merchandise, based on Eurostat data.

More publications on regional aspects

The publication of national results is now regularly coordinated with the publication of regional results (see page 24). In 2014, this was the case for the 2011 census results, for growth in the regions and for the results of the Community Innovation Survey (CIS).

The latest edition of “France, A Social Portrait” dealt with the geography of income across the territory, and was accompanied by eight regional studies.

Other regional aspects have been the subject of publications in 2014, in particular the upheaval in territorial production logics, groupings with own-source tax income and syndicates, health and social portraits of each region, accessibility of establishments offering accommodation for the elderly, tourist spending in France.

Initial results from surveys on long-awaited subjects

In 2014, the DREES published the first results from the national survey of hospital emergency structures showing that half of patients were in the emergency department for less than two hours, except for those kept under observation.

In 2014, the DARES published the first studies on the new employment policy measures, “Future Jobs” and “Generation Contracts”.

⁵ European Union - Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

The REPONSE survey on professional relationships and business negotiations gave rise to five new publications in 2014, covering business negotiations, wage practices in companies, and employee representatives.

In collaboration with the DREES and the MSO for the Civil Service, the DARES published the first results of the Working Conditions Survey. The publication headlined the upswing in employees' work intensification.

The SOeS survey on the energy performance of housing and household energy equipment, needs and uses, known as the "Phébus" survey produced its first results in July 2014 on housing energy performance in Metropolitan France.

1.3 Review by the Authority of the production of official statistics in 2014

The ASP notes the progress and investment by the Official Statistical Service in 2014 to inform public debate, especially on European and international comparisons, knowledge of territories and topical subjects.

Faced with the many issues and changes that will have an impact on statistical production in the years to come, the ASP highlights the efforts made by the Official Statistical Service to improve and innovate in statistical, technological and methodological areas. The main subjects are modernising the population census, restructuring information systems on employment and wages, developing online modes of survey data collection, profiling groups, disseminating data at more detailed geographic levels using gridded data, experimenting with using data of a private nature, etc.

However, the Official Statistical Service is finding it more and more difficult to fulfil its tasks. These difficulties are due mainly to budget constraints but also to other external constraints such as the increased burden represented by the Metz statistics centre or the new terms of employment for investigators. The Official Statistical Service has therefore had to make some trade-offs on a certain number of projects, on the calendar of household surveys and on sample sizes.

The ASP is well aware that the Official Statistical Service's room for manoeuvre is much reduced, but will nevertheless be vigilant to ensure that any trade-offs are not detrimental to the quality of its work.

There will be more and more trade-offs in future. The Official Statistical Service must therefore make some headway upstream in prioritising the requests that it receives and downstream in establishing negative priorities.

2. Official statistical governance and compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice

2.1 Official statistical governance in Europe and France

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

Revision of Regulation 223/2009, fixing the European Statistical Law, is in the final phase of adoption

The culmination of the work put in by 6 successive presidencies, Regulation 223/2009 fixing the European Statistical Law was finally endorsed by the COREPER⁶ on 19 December 2014, after receiving the approval of the European Parliament and the Commission. The final readings before the Commission and the European Parliament should not modify the content to any great extent.

The Regulation will be published in the Official Journal during H1 2015.

The main points are as follows:

1. The Regulation strengthens the professional independence of statisticians and provides a definition.
The procedures for recruiting, appointing and dismissing Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes and the heads of other national authorities producing European statistics must be transparent; the reasons for their dismissal must not conflict with professional independence.
2. The role of institutions such as the ASP, as guarantors of professional independence, is recognised at European level. The creation of such bodies remains optional, however.
3. The Regulation strengthens the coordination of the entire national statistical system through the head of the National Statistical Institute (NSI).
4. The Regulation requires Member States to take the necessary steps to maintain confidence in European statistics. Implementing the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice remains the guarantee of this confidence. In the case of France, the creation of the ASP could be considered, according to this text, as a commitment by France to its confidence in European statistics.

A second peer review of national statistical systems is underway

Six years after the first European quality audit of European statistical institutes by Eurostat, a second round of so-called “peer reviews”, was launched in 2014.

The purpose of this review, carried out as a private audit, is to verify that institutes are respecting the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) and to identify areas where improvements can be made.

An assessment is also carried out of the coordination of official statistics at national level.⁷ The level of integration achieved in the European Statistical System and cooperation with European partners are also dealt with.

After the audit is completed and the findings debated, a report will be drawn up by Eurostat and submitted to the European Commission and the European Parliament. This report will be made public. It will contain the final recommendations of the peer reviewers and the action plans for improvements in quality implemented in each country. This action plan will be binding upon the entire Official Statistical Service. It will extend until 2017 at the latest.

⁶ COREPER is the Committee of Permanent Representatives from each Member State of the European Union.

⁷ For France, this is statistical coordination between INSEE and the Ministerial Statistical Offices.

This second round of peer reviews is open for the first time to national authorities other than the NSI. In France, INSEE and two Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSO for Sustainable Development and MSO for Agriculture) were audited between 8 and 12 December 2014.

Reflection continues on restructuring the vision of the European Statistical System for the next decade.

Work is continuing on building a vision for the future of European statistics in the medium term which is better balanced between Eurostat and the NSIs. Agreement was reached around the framework of a new vision, called “Vision 2020”, on ways of managing European projects which will strengthen the efficiency of statistical production.

“Vision 2020” will require strategic commitment from a majority of NSIs towards greater European integration.

In the area of business statistics, the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) has adopted a set of medium-term directions. These include the introduction of new statistical units, provided that they are justified on a cost-effectiveness basis, improvement in the coherence of business statistics and the development of statistics in relation to globalisation. These directions should be incorporated into the project on the new *Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics* (FRIBS).

The role of the ESBRS project to develop a *European System of Interoperable Business Registers*, coordinated by France with Austria and the Netherlands, is confirmed, especially regarding the establishment of European group profiling and sharing best practice on this subject.

Discussions are also continuing on the feasibility of an intra-community trade system (*SIMSTAT* project). The aim is to put in place exchanges of individual data between Member States to give a one-way flow of information where each Member State measures only its exports and relies on partner countries for imports.

Within the framework of implementing Vision 2020, a European group made up of heads of resources was created in 2014. This group is responsible for studying human resources and institutional frameworks for financing European operations. Notably, the group will decide on the method of assessing cost-benefit which will be used when selecting European projects that are to be launched.

- **At national level, significant changes in the governance of the Official Statistical Service**

The Decree on access to fiscal data has been published

The Decree implementing the law of 2013 on allowing researchers access to individual fiscal data was published on 23 August 2014 (see Annexe 2).

The Council of State wanted this decree to stipulate explicitly that such access should be *via* the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD) of the GENES to ensure the secure use of individual data. The first requests were considered and agreed to by the Confidentiality Committee.

A new Ministerial Statistical Office for the Ministry for the Interior

In June 2014, the ASP approved the creation of a new statistical office at the Ministry for the Interior, covering issues of delinquency and internal security (see page 41).

The Decree establishing the creation of this new office appeared on 8 October 2014 (see Annexe 4).

The Official Statistics Authority withdraws its approval from the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture

After the hearing on 29 October 2014 where the ASP met representatives from the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture to discuss the activities of this department, the Authority decided not to maintain the status of Ministerial Statistical Office for the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture (see page 36 and Annexe 5)

Discussion is underway on making the legal framework secure for access to private business data

INSEE is continuing its discussions on the subject of private business data and its use for statistical purposes. Experiments are currently in progress on using scanner data from hypermarkets and supermarkets to construct the price index. A second experiment could cover using mobile phone data to produce statistics on tourism and travel.

The Law of 1951 does not cover the use of private data. It therefore has to be amended in order to allow secure access to this data. Amending the legal framework will also ensure that participation in this data collection becomes compulsory for all companies and that the data they provide is not used for any purposes other than official statistics.

The Director General of INSEE and the President of the CNIS decided to form a working group to bring all stakeholders together to discuss the nature of the legal changes that need to be made.

New simplification measures for companies are presented in the framework of a normative streamlining policy

In October 2014, the Council for Business Simplification presented a progress report on their “simplification shock” along with fifty new measures to streamline procedures for companies. Two of these measures are of direct concern for official statistics and are to be implemented from 2015.

The first measure is not to approach companies of fewer than ten employees more than once in the same year for compulsory surveys that are not linked with a European regulation, excluding the INSEE survey on enterprise creation. This measure, which INSEE is already trying to put into practice, should not jeopardise statistical precision.

Next, INSEE will produce an annual report of costs to companies as a result of responding to compulsory surveys not linked with a European regulation. This is to check that these costs remain reasonable from one year to the next, and any significant increase noted in one year must be compensated for by a corresponding decrease the next year.

2.2 Compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice⁸

The Authority is very vigilant in ensuring that the French Official Statistical Service implements the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Principle 1: Professional independence

In 2014, the Authority observed no breaches of the principle of professional independence by the Official Statistical Service.

⁸ The present report mentions only those principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice which required particular attention on the part of the ASP in 2014.

Principle 3: Adequacy of resources

In 2015, INSEE continues to contribute to improving productivity. However, the Institute pointed out to the budget authorities that the increased burden of the Metz statistics centre caused some “duplication” during the transition period.

Spending on total payroll is tightening.

INSEE’s operating budget, excluding payroll, should be sufficient for the Institute to fulfil all its missions, however budgetary tensions have increased over the years, and more and more often INSEE is obliged to reduce the scope of certain statistical studies and to refuse new requests.

INSEE’s difficulties are linked with the establishment in 2013 of the new terms of employment for investigators, and these continued in 2014. Collection rates for household surveys rose again in 2014 compared with 2013 for some surveys, although they have not reached previous levels and this improvement was not seen in all surveys (see page 29).

Some tensions can be felt in some of the Ministerial Statistical Offices as they are worried that they will not be able to reproduce some of their more ambitious surveys.

Principle 4: Commitment to quality

The INSEE Quality Plan in 2014

INSEE’s 2014 Quality Plan includes 7 actions that appeared in previous plans and 6 new actions. There still remains one action from the 2007 plan on online collection of census data. This action is being monitored by Eurostat.

The 2014 plan covers 5 structural computer technology projects for the activities of INSEE, including two major projects on online data collection, the first for the population census, another for business surveys and one project to modernise the organisation of statistics production.

Since 2013, the Quality Plan has also included actions carried out by cross-cutting units but which impact on various departments. In particular, the INSEE Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate continues to work on the methodological framework in order to manage any risk involved in the production processes, especially when validating results, and it collaborates with the General Secretariat of INSEE to develop a system to measure the costs of processes. The General Secretariat has also started a quality procedure on Human Resource processes.

The Dissemination and Regional Action Directorate of INSEE is also continuing its work on responding to and analysing the needs of the main users of INSEE data as part of an action that has been ongoing since 2010.

All these actions followed their course as planned in 2014.

Ministerial Statistical Office Quality Plan in 2014

The new European peer review in 2014, unlike that of 2007, also covered the Ministerial Statistical Offices, and it was the Department for Statistics and Forward Studies (MSO for Agriculture) and the Department for Observation and Statistics (MSO for Sustainable Development), the largest producers of European statistics, that completed the self-assessment questionnaire in spring 2014 and met with their peers in December. From the end of 2014, INSEE began to complete the work done at European

level through internal consultation within the Official Statistical Service with the MSOs that had not been audited, in order to identify needs and set out the main direction of the quality procedure in the Official Statistical Service for the coming years. These directions will result in quality actions from 2015.

In the same context, no new action was required of the MSOs for the 2014 Quality Action Plan, which therefore includes only actions carried over from previous plans that have not yet been completed.

It therefore consists of 25 actions and still concerns nine Ministerial Statistical Offices: 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” (11 actions), Principles 9 “Non-excessive burden on respondents” and 15 “Accessibility and Clarity” (8 actions each) and Principles 4 “Commitment to Quality” and 8 “Appropriate Statistical Procedures” (6 actions each). These actions are following their course as planned.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

The Authority examines embargo breaches by persons in positions of political responsibility. In 2014, within the Official Statistical Service, no embargo breach was observed by a member of the Government.

However, two breaches occurred, originating with the audiovisual press.

The first related to figures for jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi.

On Wednesday 24 September 2014, in their 1pm news bulletin, *France 2* gave the August figures for the number of Category A jobseekers (unemployed) before the embargo deadline, which was at 6pm. The ASP approached Pôle Emploi and the DARES, jointly responsible for releasing these figures, to remind them of the rules regarding dissemination to journalists and the need to respect the embargo on the dissemination of this statistic which has been quality labelled since the beginning of 2014 (see Annexes 7 and 8).

The second embargo breach happened on Monday 15 December and concerned agricultural income, which was disseminated by the *Le Monde* newspaper before the time for the embargo to be lifted (5pm). It was not possible to identify who was responsible and the ASP did not intervene. The paper probably received this information after the meeting of the Agriculture Audit Board which was held on the morning of 15 December.

The ASP will closely monitor discussion by the Official Statistical Service concerning its policy on embargoes with the aim of ensuring equal treatment of the different information media.

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

Principle 9: Non-excessive burden on respondents

In 2014, studies to assess then reduce the burden on respondents continued in the Official Statistical Service. For the most part, the outcome of this work was to use files of existing data as far as possible (statistical data, administrative data, data from management software).

The restructured version of the annual health establishment survey (SAE), produced by the DREES reduces the response burden for establishments, as data from the medico-administrative PMSI

(Programme to Medicalise Information Systems) can be used for matters relating to health establishment activity (number of hospital stays). In addition, the introduction of a filter in the restructured SAE is another innovation to relieve the burden of data collection as the filter ensures that each health establishment is offered only the modules relevant to it.

The Workforce Movement Declaration (DMMO), which is collected and analysed by the DARES, was the first declaration to be replaced by the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) introduced by the Warsmann Law of 22 March 2012 concerning the simplification of legal provisions and a reduction in administrative procedures. From now on, establishments that submit a DSN no longer have to make a workforce movement declaration (DMMO) or reply to the survey on workforce movements (EMMO). Use of the DSN should be generalised in 2016.

An online procedure was put in place for the SOeS survey on the use of road transport vehicles for merchandise. A company can now reply to the survey without re-entering data when they use their own fleet software. In this way the burden of survey data collection is lessened for respondents and the quality of collected data is improved.

In this same Ministerial Statistical Office, significant reductions in survey questionnaires have been achieved: these concern the FFA questionnaires (monthly surveys of combustible solid minerals and an annual survey of “combustible and non-electrical energy consumption”) and the questionnaires of the five energy surveys.

The five-year Transit survey has been removed. It has been replaced by specifically exploiting Road Freight Transport surveys (European RFT).

The ESANE system (Elaboration of Annual Business Statistics) has resulted in a considerable reduction in the burden on companies as the information available in tax files (annual declarations of profit) and social files (annual declarations of social data) are no longer required in business surveys. INSEE is now assessing the use of administrative sources on self-employment and temporary employment.

Principle 10: Cost effectiveness

INSEE action plan on the population census

Actions have been put in place at INSEE to improve the quality of the population census, while at the same time reducing costs. In 2015, online data collection of census information will be rolled out to all municipalities. Everyone included in the census⁹ will be able to respond online.

This change means that tools for monitoring data collection and questionnaire reception and checking must be modernised. This modernisation will lead to a reduction in costs, improvements in the quality of data collection, and will reduce managing and monitoring operations.

Added to this, the purpose behind the current renovation of the Identified Building Register (RIL), which forms the basis for collecting data and calculating the legal population in large municipalities, is to make better use of existing administrative and map sources.

Studies were also begun in 2014 on the quality of census data collection, involving comparing the census data with data from tax sources.

⁹ With the exception of people living in communities in the sense of the census (workers' hostels, retirement homes, university halls of residence, remand establishments, etc.)

Online data collection continues to be rolled out in the Official Statistical Service

In the 2014 census, the possibility of online data collection was extended to cover 412 municipalities, or 240,000 households, of which almost 30% chose to reply online.

The DEPP survey on the integration of apprentices into the world of work (IPA) has been restructured in order to diversify data collection modes. Until now, data was collected using paper methods and the telephone. In future, young people have the possibility of responding to the survey online via a website.

The SIES (MSO for Higher Education and Research) launched a new survey of a panel of students in higher education who graduated from high school in 2014; this takes over from the DEPP survey of a panel of pupils who began secondary education in 2007. This survey uses a multimodal data collection system and young people can reply online, and also by tablet or smartphone. This is a step up from the previous survey of a panel of 2008 high school graduates (traditional multimodal collection). Given the specific features of the population surveyed in terms of age, an improvement in the online response rate is expected.

At INSEE, the COLTRANE project (transverse data collection for business surveys) will eventually provide a set of data collection services for all business surveys carried out by the Official Statistical Service. Businesses will still be able to choose whether to reply online or on paper. The advantage for businesses lies mainly in the reliability and security of replying online. A respondent may, if he wishes, have a single dedicated login account to reply to all surveys.

The project will also improve the quality of survey documentation. It will automatically generate all data collection instruments, such as different types of letter (survey announcement and reminder in paper or e-mail format) and questionnaires (paper or online or downloadable), and will ensure standardisation. This automation will mean that the response formats that companies receive can be more personalised.

Within the framework of the COLTRANE project, preparatory studies have been carried out by the DREES on opening up online data collection for the quarterly ACEMO surveys (labour activity and employment status).

Administrative data used to improve information systems

In the context of the DREES surveys of the elderly (Care), a great amount of administrative data is mobilised, including tax and social data, data from departmental councils and from SNIIRAM (health insurance). Using these data sources all those in the category of dependent elderly people can be covered.

In 2014, the survey of allowable living expenses and consumption habits of those receiving statutory minimum benefits, compiled with data collected by the DREES in 2012, was for the first time matched with tax and social data. From this matching it is now possible to obtain the fine detail of the different types of income this population receives and comparisons can now be made with INSEE statistics.

The DEPP continues to consolidate its observation methods using the management databases of the French Ministry of Education and external sources, especially the System for information on Civil Servants (SIASP). These various data sources have resulted in the production of new information in 2014, especially on the pay that teachers really receive.

At INSEE, the audit process is continuing

As in 2013, the INSEE General Inspectorate also carried out many assessments and audits in 2014. One area that is likely to develop is that of auditing strategic operations or measures for efficiency, with the aim of improving quality or effectiveness. Given the difficulties encountered in collecting household data, the General Inspectorate carried out an efficiency audit on these surveys.

Another audit looked at the organisation of the statistical service in the area of housing.

Implementation of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission recommendations is also the subject of a mission.

Strategic reflection on INSEE in 2025

At the request of the Director General, in 2014 INSEE began discussions on the strategic approach to 2025.

The aim of these discussions is to define the main strategic directions that INSEE's actions will take in the next ten years, in a context of budget constraints and high staff turnover.

Principle 11: Relevance

- **The CNIS**

See Annexe 10 for the detailed review of the CNIS for 2014

- **Satisfaction surveys**

In 2014, INSEE carried out eight satisfaction surveys.

Visitors to the "[le recensement et moi.fr](#)" website were mainly asked about the educational aspects of the site. Respondents appreciated the different sections and the accompanying videos, for those who watched them.

One survey covered the vocabulary the Institute uses in its publications. It targeted about twenty words from the [Definitions](#) section and approached members of the general public on the one hand, and Internet users on the other. It was apparent that users did not appreciate equations and jargon. They suggested offering two reading levels, one accessible to everyone to give an overall idea of the subject and another, more detailed, aimed at specialists.

Face-to-face interviews were carried out to refine the contents of the new [Services](#) section on the INSEE website (see Principle 15).

The website "[Apprendre avec les données de l'Insee](#)" ("Learn with INSEE data"), a collaboration with the French Ministry for Education and CANOPE (formerly the CNDP, National Commission for Public Debate) was assessed. Visitors were questioned on the ergonomics of the site – room for improvement – and the content – widely appreciated.

Regional studies in partnership and a project to test layouts for a restructuring of the INSEE website (Web 4G) completed this programme.

As has been done every year since 2009, two surveys were carried out to see the image that people have of INSEE. Two types of public were questioned: general public and INSEE website users.

The results were very similar to those of last year: 90% of website users and three quarters of the general public have a good opinion of INSEE. The Institute is considered to be useful and it produces "reliable" and "essential" information. However, there are still points where progress can be made: the image that the general public have of statistical indicators is still poor and the Institute does not provide enough information about the work it does. Some website users would encourage INSEE to communicate *directly* through the media.

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

In 2014, these survey results were published for the first time on the INSEE website. The main results of the survey on INSEE's image and that of the indicators can be found at <http://www.insee.fr/fr/insee-statistique-publique/default.asp?page=enquetes/enquetes-satisfaction.htm>

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

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

Many initiatives for dissemination and making results available for better communication with users

In February 2014, INSEE launched a new digital collection, called *Insee Focus*. This publication provides interactive figures and comments, and short descriptive summaries of the main data on the topic covered, with some aspects highlighted.

A new section called “Services” was created on [insee.fr](http://www.insee.fr), the INSEE website.

All services and assistance that INSEE provides for website users are now grouped together downstream, upstream or “around” its statistical production activities.

A major overhaul of regional publications was completed in 2014. Regional publications are now harmonised to improve their visibility and impact in terms of INSEE's reputation. The new publications now include four harmonised collections, identical in all regions.

A new product, the economic outlook chart, offers a composite selection of INSEE's 15 main outlook indicators, in web format with animated graphics, updated in real time.

INSEE has widened its range of educational tools with a new animated video for understanding INSEE statistics (“*Pour comprendre les statistiques de l’Insee*”), available at [Insee.fr](http://www.insee.fr) and [dailymotion](http://www.dailymotion.com).

The Institute has also put new information tools online on the website on measuring poverty. An educational kit is available including a video, a copy of *Insee en Bref* and a quiz.

The presentation of results on the website has been altered to highlight comparisons that are now possible for the first time between two cycles of the new census (2006 and 2011).

INSEE's new document portal for web users opened on 12 May 2014¹⁰. It provides access to [Aladin](#), the INSEE catalogue, available for the first time on the internet, and to the digital library of French official statistics, [Epsilon](#).

INSEE also opened a second Twitter account in May 2014 in English, for publications translated into English.

The ASP notes with satisfaction that work on communication and pedagogy aimed at users is continuing.

¹⁰ It can be accessed at www.bibliotheque.insee.net

It asks that these efforts should continue, as the image of indicators in the eyes of the general public remains uncertain and information on INSEE's activities is sometimes seen as insufficient.

The ASP commends the fact that, for the first time in 2014, results of the survey on the image of INSEE and its indicators have been put online. It asks that the results of more satisfaction surveys should be published on the INSEE website.

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

Progress via the secure data access centre (CASD) in making new data sources available

The CASD has highly secure facilities providing researchers with remote access to detailed individual databases.

Following the publication of Decree no. 2014-950 of 21 August 2014 on access to tax information for scientific research, the first researchers were given access to fiscal data in Q4 2014. As stipulated in the decree, this access is via the CASD.

An agreement was signed between the CASD and the Ministry for Justice at the beginning of 2014.

Agreements were also signed with the Ministry for National Education and the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture).

However, the agreements with the DARES and the SOeS are still awaiting signature.

There were many meetings between the CASD and INSERM in the course of 2014. For example, an experiment was carried out in September 2014 on access to data from the "CKD-Rein" cohort study (follow-up of 4,000 patients with kidney disease). The CASD will also start an experiment in 2015 to make data from the MEMENTO cohort (follow-up of 4,000 patients with Alzheimer's disease) available to researchers. Eventually there are plans for the CASD to host medical imaging and genomic data for this cohort. Data from the CONSTANCES cohort (200,000 people aged 18 to 39) should also become available on the CASD in 2015.

In 2014, the Public Investment Bank (BPI) decided to make its confidential data available on the CASD. The aim will be to allow researchers to work on data on financing innovation and enterprise creation. The first projects to have access to these data will be effective in H1 2015 through a call for research projects organised in 2014.

The ASP notes the progress made in making individual data available to researchers, especially fiscal data.

Nevertheless, the Authority observes that some Ministerial Statistical Offices and bodies whose statistics have been quality labelled have not yet implemented the ASP's recommendation to make their individual data available on the CASD.

The ASP will check that this is in fact carried out in 2015.

3. Recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority

3.1 Statistical coordination of the Official Statistical Service is more operational

Official statistics are experiencing severe budgetary constraints, which will become even tighter in future, raising questions about opportunities and trade-offs.

The ruling on the organisation of the Head Office of INSEE made on 30 July 2012 created a new structure, the Statistical Programmes Committee (CPS). Chaired by the Director General of INSEE, the committee brings together all producers of statistics in the Official Statistical Service. It liaises with existing coordination and programming bodies. In particular, it must ensure that common positions are defined and adopted by members on sharing the work of producing official statistics and determining priorities for statistical operations.

The ASP lauded the creation of the CPS in its last report.

Given that budgetary constraints are increasing over the years, it recommends that this body reinforce its role by developing its ability to arbitrate over the programming of all the work of the Official Statistical Service.

3.2 Vigilance when using new data sources for official statistics

With the emergence of Big Data, new sources of data, either public or private, represent potential for official statistics. However, at international level, this gives rise to considerable debate about the opportunities and the risks that these data sources can present.

In 2014, on the question of Big Data, INSEE decided to set up a working group responsible for initiatives at INSEE and in some of the Ministerial Statistical Offices.

At the end of 2014, concerning the use of new sources of private data, the Director General of INSEE and the President of the CNIS decided to create a working group under their joint supervision, to study the legal framework necessary to authorise the use of raw private data in the production of official statistics.

The ASP will follow the progress of this work with interest.

The Authority asks that as far as possible the working groups should include concerns regarding conditions of access to this data from the technical, financial and legal standpoints, and in particular concerns over private data regarding the durability of the data production.

4. Follow-up of recommendations in the 2013 annual report of the Authority

In its 2013 Annual Report, the Authority made two recommendations:

- *Carrying out actions to halt the decline in quality of data collection for household and price surveys*
- *Applying new company categories (small, medium or large) across the entire statistical system on companies*

The ASP also added a third recommendation originally made in the report of the previous year:

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

The Authority also followed up on a recommendation from the 2012 report on housing statistics, having noted that these statistics were old and insufficient. While recognising the efforts made by the Official Statistical Service to improve statistical information on housing, it nevertheless considered that insufficient progress had been made in 2013 and recommended further efforts.

Between now and 2016 the ASP will follow this recommendation carefully.

As every year, the ASP analyses the extent to which, and the way in which the official statistical system has taken the above-mentioned recommendations into consideration.

Since 2011, the Authority has also monitored the enhancement of the pre-announced indicator publication calendar.

4.1 Carrying out actions to halt the decline in quality of data collection for household and price surveys

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2013 Annual Report:

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, 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.

Over the last three years, INSEE has carried out efficiency audits to measure the quality of its statistical productions while at the same time monitoring cost. An efficiency audit was carried out in 2014 on household surveys. This audit produced a review of staff numbers, costs and revenue involved for INSEE as a result of all these activities, and how these had changed in the last five years. Several avenues and recommendations were also identified which could improve efficiency in the short and medium terms.

First of all, this report showed the predominant place held by household surveys at INSEE (€47.3 M of direct costs in 2013) and among these, European surveys predominated. Their full cost (i.e. including operating costs and support functions) represented 16.4% of INSEE's budget in 2012. The review also highlighted the significant increase in direct costs in 5 years (+32% from 2008 to 2013). This growth, which has in no way been matched in INSEE's budget, is mainly due to the increased

sample size in the continuous employment survey in 2009 and 2010 and the introduction of new terms of employment for investigators in 2013. Concerning structure, the main observation is the preponderance of steering and management activities in the Regional Directorates, which alone represent 42% of direct costs, ahead of spending on investigators' salaries (32%).

The average annual cost of a successful address file (which forms the basis for long-term surveys, i.e. produced every year) increased at a steady but moderate rate of 1.2% per year from 2008 to 2012, but then increased by more than 22% in 2013, as a result of the combined effect of an increase in collection charges and a drop in success rates during the first year that the new terms of employment were introduced for investigators.

INSEE points out that it will be at least the end of 2014 before these temporary and structural elements can be assessed in relation to this drop in success rates. An improvement has already been noted across the country in 2014, except in Île-de-France where the turnover of investigators is still high.

Overall response rate decreased by 6% to 7% in 2013, which is not a serious fall and is still an acceptable average compared with INSEE's European partners. The problem lies more in the unevenness of this decrease across all the INSEE Regional Directorates and in some of them in particular.

INSEE has therefore decided on the following measures:

- To launch discussion on the organisation and staffing levels of the household survey divisions in the Regional Directorates.
- To strengthen the roles of the different bodies that play a proactive part in the survey decision process and to improve their cohesion so as to be in a better position to decide in good time on survey opportunities, calibration and programming.
- To improve the standardisation of survey protocols and ensure that they are simplified further for better control over operational costs. This effort should cover the different phases of introducing development tools and monitoring data collection.
- Concerning data collection methods, to consider telephone interviews and improving remote monitoring when face-to-face interviews prove too difficult or too costly, to extend online collection experiments using questionnaires designed specifically for this mode of questioning and paying particular attention to the issue of processing any breaks in series that may result.
- Finally, to carry out a cross-cutting re-examination of the content of the main surveys on the basis of quality of expected results, giving consideration to data available from other sources. This exercise should be in association with the Ministerial Statistical Offices concerned and should also be in line with the project to modernise the system of social surveys currently being carried out by Eurostat, the aim being to introduce a framework regulation on household surveys at European level by 2018.

4.2 Applying new company categories (small, medium or large) across the entire statistical system on companies

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2013 Annual Report:

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)¹¹ to which the legal units in the directory belong. In addition, the annual statistics structure is now

¹¹ In accordance with the decree below (made under the authority of the LME):
<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000019961059>

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.).

Work to comply with this recommendation is underway at INSEE.

Taking into account the “enterprise” unit in the sense of the LME is being introduced gradually.

Some initial items have been put onto the INSEE website on the distribution of some variables (turnover, value added, salaried employees, number of enterprises, etc.) according to the different enterprise categories. The notion of “enterprise” is still rather approximate because in this case it relates either to the legal unit, when this corresponds to an independent legal entity, or to an entire group.

The 2014 ESANE (Elaboration of Annual Business Statistics) campaign, relating to data from 2013, will be able to consider data from the 42 groups that were profiled, representing about one hundred companies in the results to be published at the end of H1 2015.

This will lead to a revision of the structural statistics that are disseminated and these will be accompanied by explanatory notes on the subject.

The follow-up to this recommendation will be covered in more detail in the ASP 2015 Annual report.

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

Extracts from the recommendation in the ASP 2012 and 2013 Annual Reports

“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 were contacted by the President of the ASP but they have not replied. This recommendation has been renewed.

4.4 Additions to the dissemination calendar of pre-announced indicators

The public display of the main indicators or publications disseminated by the official statistical service in the months, quarters or years to come represents a major commitment on the part of statisticians to the users.

It represents a guarantee that due dates will be respected and thus provides a way for the Official Statistics Authority to reinforce the professional independence of producers.

INSEE and the majority of Ministerial Statistical Offices have now followed the ASP's recommendation to make the dissemination calendars of pre-announced indicators available on their websites.

All these calendars are now included in the annual calendar of official statistics, which can be seen on the INSEE website at:

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

Mention is only made below of those offices whose calendars had still not been published by the end of 2013.

Under-Directorate for Syntheses and Office for Statistical Studies on School Pupils (DEPP-MSO for National Education)

DEPP's programme of activity for 2015 was published in the Official Bulletin for National Education on 5 February 2015. It is available to the general public via the Ministry website. This programme contains the provisional calendar for the publication of all the *Notes d'Information* planned for 2015. It also announces the publication of three works on statistics: *Filles et garçons sur le chemin de l'égalité* (publication date 8 March), *Repères et références statistiques* (publication end of August) and *Etat de l'Ecole* (publication in October). Lastly, in addition to these publications, four "announced indicators" are published every year on set dates: two-year projections of pupil numbers (April); percentage of pupils with a high-school diploma in a generation (July); domestic expenditure on education (November); actual pupil numbers (December).

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

In 2015, the SIES hopes to be able to present a calendar for the main statistical data on higher education and research. This data covers expenditure on research and development, student numbers in higher education and success indicators. In a second phase, a provisional programme for all publications (statistical data and studies) will be disseminated.

The ASP is pleased to note the publication of the provisional calendar by the DEPP. It will be monitoring closely the improvements announced by the SIES for 2015.

In 2012 and 2013, the ASP requested that dissemination calendars should be made more accessible on the INSEE website. The Authority notes that this accessibility has now increased slightly, with the calendars now appearing in the newly-created section on the insee.fr website, which brings together all the services and assistance provided to internet users in relation to the Institute's activities.

However, in order to track any punctuality issues between the announced and effective dates of publication, the ASP makes a renewed request for a management chart to be created.

5. Activity of the Official Statistics Authority in 2014

5.1 Sessions of the Authority in 2014

The Official Statistics Authority met four times in 2014.

26 March 2014

- Quality labelling of the monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi: hearing of members of the three General Inspectorates in charge of the quality labelling mission, Baudouin SEYS, INSEE Inspector General, Yves BONNET, Inspector General of Finances, Anne FLIPO, member of the General Inspectorate for Social Affairs;
- Quality labelling of the monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi: hearing of Jean BASSÈRES, Pôle Emploi Director General, and Françoise BOUYGARD, Director of the DARES;
- Presentation of the Authority's 2013 Annual Report by Claudine GASNIER, ASP Rapporteur.

18 June 2014

- Application for Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) status by the department of the Ministry for the Interior in charge of statistics on delinquency and public security: hearing of François CLANCHÈ, in charge of setting up the department;
- Presentation of the state of progress on the work carried out by the Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies at the DGFIP since its recognition in 2011 as a Ministerial Statistical Office: hearing of Catherine BRIGANT, Under-Director for "Property, Taxation of Assets and Statistics" within the DGFIP, and Lorraine AEBERHARDT, Head of the Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies (MSO DGFIP)

29 October 2014

- Presentation of the activities, resources and position within the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy of the Ministerial Statistical Office on Fishing and Aquaculture (MSO Fisheries): hearing of Pierre VERDIER, Head of the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture;
- Presentation of the activities, resources and position within the Ministry for the City, Youth and Sport of the Ministerial Statistical Office for Youth and Sport: hearing of Brahim LAOUISSET, Head of the Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit (MEOS);
- Review of the audit conducted by the INSEE General Inspectorate on household surveys

17 December 2014

- Hearing of Chantal MADINIER, President of the Quality Label Committee, accompanied by Marc CHRISTINE, Rapporteur, on the project for quality labelling of the statistical series of the CNAMTS
- Hearing of Yannick MOREAU, President of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)
- Hearing of Jean-Luc TAVERNIER, INSEE Director General.

5.2 Hearings of official statistics producers

In 2014, the Authority held hearings of three Ministerial Statistical Offices: the Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies (MSO DGFIP), the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture (MSO Fisheries) and the Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit (MSO Youth and Sport).

For the latter two departments, the purpose of the hearing was to assess whether they should keep their status as Ministerial Statistical Offices in the light of their positioning, activities and resources.

- **Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies (MSO DGFIP)**

At its session of 14 December 2011, the Authority officialised an opinion in favour of the application by the Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies of the DGFIP for MSO status. The 2014 hearing provided an opportunity to conduct an interim review of the commitments given by the DGFIP at the 2011 session and, more generally, of the activity of the Office in order to identify any difficulties and, most importantly, any points for improvement to allow the Office to play its role in the official statistical system.

The provision of fiscal data to researchers is one of the priorities of the Office and has represented a considerable workload since 2012.

After being deleted from the Draft Finance Law for 2013 by the Constitutional Council, the amendment of Article L135D of the Book of Fiscal Procedures authorising the opening up of fiscal data was finally included in Article 104 of Law n°2013-660 of 22 July 2013 on higher education and research.

In order to inform the research community as a whole of the procedure for access to fiscal data, the DGFIP has drafted an implementing decree relative to this article.¹²

Regarding publications on the *impôts.gouv* website, efforts have been made but there is still room for progress. Since the Office was granted MSO status, a new publication has been added to the documentation: the *Atlas Fiscal* providing detailed figures on a large number of taxes with commentaries, graphs and maps. The data is from 2010 and the *Atlas Fiscal* 2011 and 2012 had not yet been published by the end of 2014.

A statistical directory is also online, with the most recent year being 2012.

This directory has been considerably redesigned to take account of changes to tax legislation and of requests for customisable tables.

The effort to make regular publications is hindered by the number of requests received by the Office relating to tax reforms. The number of such requests, given the modest workforce of the Office, makes it difficult to make the necessary resources available for quicker online publication.

The Office was also heavily solicited further to the creation of the State's single portal for public information (*data.gouv.fr*), entrusted to the ETALAB mission.

The Office also plays its full role in tax simulations, notably within the framework of impact studies in preparation for Draft Finance Laws. It takes part in preparing tax revenue forecasts and conducts many calculations of tax expenditure that are then presented in Volume II of the "*Voies et Moyens*" publication annexed to the Draft Finance Law.

These budget documents are not statistical production as such, but do represent an additional means of disseminating information in fiscal matters. They are also featured on the "*Forum de la Performance*" website, known mainly among professionals and to which access should be improved.

¹² The Decree on access to fiscal information for scientific research purposes was finally published on 21 August 2014 (see Annexe 2)

The Office is also much solicited by Parliament and the Court of Auditors. It thus makes an ongoing contribution to public debate on taxation.

Further to this hearing and with reference to the recommendations made by the Official Statistics Authority to the representatives of the DGFIP at its session of 29 September 2011, the members of the Official Statistics Authority considered that the provision of fiscal data to researchers was a major step forward.

The Authority asked to conduct a further hearing of the MSO in 2016 to review the other progress expected, notably concerning the dissemination of more data and more recent data.

- **Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture (MSO Fisheries)**

Context and framework of the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture (BSPA)

Pierre VERDIER, Head of the BSPA, indicated that the MSO for Fishing and Aquaculture, the smallest of the Ministerial Statistical Offices, is part of the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA). The latter has a workforce of less than 80 people but has full responsibility for fishing and aquaculture policy. For many years, the DPMA was part of the Ministry for Agriculture. It was placed under the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy in 2012, without any modifications being made to its structure or scope of activity.

The BSPA – MSO Fisheries – reports directly to the Directorate. Its role consists in producing and disseminating statistics on the areas of competency of the DPMA. The integration of the BSPA into this Directorate was requested by successive Directors for Fisheries who were keen to have the data required for steering their policies in as reliable and impartial a manner as possible.

Several European regulations govern the production and dissemination of statistical data on fisheries and aquaculture. In particular, they define reporting obligations to the European Commission. These regulations are not all statistical regulations, but there are statistical regulations governing the annual disclosure of statistics on fishing and aquaculture to Eurostat. There is also the so-called DCF (Data Collection Framework) Regulation establishing a European framework for the collection, management and use of data for the purposes of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Three sets of operations

A first set of operations handled by the BSPA concerns production of data on fishing activities and in particular maritime fisheries production (measurement of catches and landings of fishing products). These are not statistical data. The BSPA does strive, however, to produce this data by applying the same strict methodological criteria to ensure that it is of the highest possible standard. It also plays a role in data validation and processing with a view to meeting the State's reporting obligations to the European Commission and Eurostat.

With the scientific and technical support of IFREMER, the BSPA has set up a data cross-checking system to enhance its (formerly variable) quality. Quality problems do still remain, however, and are being examined attentively by the European Commission. Further to an audit by the Commission, an action plan has been defined to make improvements to the whole data collection, checks and quality system. The DPMA is implementing this plan to contribute to improving data quality, without losing sight of compliance with the reporting obligations defined on the European level. The data produced by the BSPA is also used by the operational units to conduct fish quota monitoring among other things.

The two other types of operations are of a more strictly statistical nature. The BSPA produces data to comply with the European regulation requiring collection of economic data.

On this subject, the BSPA works with two partners, IFREMER and the Economics and Management Laboratory of Nantes University (LEMNA). The BSPA has made an application to the CNIS and the Quality Label Committee to bring this operation within the scope of official statistics and obtain its quality labelling. The European Regulation contains requirements in terms of the provision of indicators and the supply of data to users.

Given the reluctance of professional fishermen to provide economic data, for example about their income and costs structure, the BSPA has sought to raise their awareness of its work and to reassure them that it is surrounded by all necessary guarantees of confidentiality. Award of the quality label took a long time as the system was initially quite a long way from the methodological standards defined by the Quality Label Committee. Considerable changes had to be made to the breakdown of work between the BSPA and its partners (IFREMER and LEMNA) and to the methodology of the operation. The label of general interest and statistical quality was finally awarded in 2012 and then renewed in 2014. The next renewal is scheduled for 2019. This data serves to meet the requirements of a European regulation and, more generally, to produce economic indicators to assess the economic parameters of fishing fleet activity.

The third component of the BSPA's activity concerns aquaculture, for which the European regulations require annual production of data by a quality-labelled statistical survey conducted each year. Until its most recent edition, this was published in a "hard copy" format, but should be published online from next year. The BSPA is entirely responsible for organising this survey and producing the data. It also produces economic data on aquaculture to meet the requirements of the same European regulation as for fishing (DCF). To do so, it works with the Economics and Management Laboratory of Nantes University which is also its partner in fishing. This data collection was introduced more recently in aquaculture than in fishing, as the European requirement was only extended to aquaculture by the second regulation introduced in 2009. The collection itself began in 2011.

Dissemination

Pierre VERDIER indicated that he is aware that dissemination of data relating to fishing and aquaculture statistics is a weak point. The DPMA would also like to use and disseminate this data more effectively. Further to its change of Ministry, the Directorate stopped publishing its data in documents of the Ministry for Agriculture, pending confirmation of its transfer to the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (which was indeed the case in the two successive reshuffles).

The DPMA now has the priority of developing dissemination of the data it produces. It has contacted the SOeS to establish collaboration with a view to disseminating statistics on fishing and aquaculture nationally. There are already European publications, notably the Annual Economic Report published by the European Commission (with one document on fishing and another for aquaculture). These reports are drawn up using economic data provided by the Member States, among others. The Quality Label Committee has also asked the BSPA to develop dissemination of its data and the Directorate sees this as a priority for the coming months. The BSPA is going to strive to develop dissemination of its data, despite its limited resources, and to publish it in SOeS documents, in particular.

The BSPA has three people from the INSEE. It makes every effort to work in compliance with the principles of official and European statistics. Pierre VERDIER also testified that the professional independence of the BSPA is respected.

Laure TOURJANSKY, Deputy Director of the DPMA, added that there is also an IT unit working under the DPMA, a point of some importance given the IT processing required for the data that is produced, and that there are close relations between the two. For example, the DPMA draws much-needed benefit from the know-how of the BSPA for its statistical mission and also for discussions

with different partners over the production of data (concerning quotas, for example). It is important to have the confidence of professionals, on the one hand, and also to work effectively with the Commission. Laure TOURJANSKY stated that when he mentioned data quality, Pierre Verdier was referring for example to the “paper” forms the fishermen must hand in when they disembark. These forms are filled out more or less completely and it is better to entrust processing of these sources to experts.

In the light of its activities, the majority of which are not statistical, and of its limited resources, the members of the ASP decided not to maintain the Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) status of the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture of the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA), in the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

Notice of this opinion was served to the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy and published in the Official Journal.

- **Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit (MEOS – MSO Youth and Sport)**

Brahim LAOUISSET, head of the MEOS, explained that the Minister for Sport and Youth decided in 1998 to set up a statistical office to coordinate its production which hitherto had been divided between different offices. A mission was entrusted to an INSEE Inspector General who made a number of recommendations. The MSO for “Youth and Sport” was created in 1999. Its missions were defined by Article 10 of the Ruling of 21 September 1999.

In 2006, the “Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit” (MEOS) – MSO Youth and Sport – was placed under the Directorate for Associations, Employment and Training (DVAEF), whose missions were cross-sectoral. This Directorate was abolished in September 2008 and since that date the MEOS has been part of a new operational directorate, the Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Associations (DJEPVA), itself under the authority of the Ministry for the City, Youth and Sport since 26 August 2014.

Organisation and resources

The MEOS has 7 members of staff (including the head of the MSO and their assistant), including 5 grade A managers (4 from the INSEE plus a mathematics professor on secondment from the Ministry for National Education). The MEOS budget is very modest (€60K per year) and covers publication costs plus the cost of a contract with the CEREQ to carry out a three-yearly survey of the professional integration of graduates in the sport and community education sector. However, large-scale operations, such as the national survey of sports practices in France, are financed directly on the budget of the Ministry.

Institutional positioning

The head of the MSO reports directly to the Director of the DJEPVA (Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Associations). A monthly meeting is also organised with the Director for Sport to review progress on the annual work programme. On account of its MSO status, the MEOS enjoys genuine independence from the DJEPVA and the Sport Directorate above it. Brahim LAOUISSET indicated that he had never faced pressure to modify the results of any study or change the content of any analysis.

Work programme

The MEOS defines an annual work programme which is submitted for approval to the Director for Sport at the end of the previous year, bearing in mind that a large part of the work of the MSO is recurring. With the Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Associations, the protocol is less formal, although all the work to be carried out with the offices of this directorate is listed precisely.

Position of the MSO in the official statistical system

The MEOS transmits its pre-programme and final statistical work programme each year to the statistical authorities and submits its survey projects to the CNIS. It collaborates with the other members of the Official Statistical Service, beginning by the INSEE. There is a contract between the MEOS and INSEE for licence file geolocation work and access to the Labour Force survey. Another contract has been signed with the DARES for access to data on subsidised contracts in sectors of relevance to the Ministry. On the European level, the MEOS represents France on the working group of the European Commission to set up satellite accounts for sport. It was also the representative of France in the European group to determine common youth indicators for the introduction of a European dashboard.

The MEOS created a “Definitions and Methods” section on the website of the Ministry for Youth and Sports.

Some of its personnel also monitored the sessions on European rules of practice to pass on this information to other MSO personnel.

The MEOS also develops online surveys and supports correspondents of decentralised services in this form of collection.

In-house statistical production

The MEOS produces a national census of sports licences. Each year, all the sports federations send it a detailed file, licence by licence. Once anonymised, the results of this census are placed online on the website of the Ministry. They give rise to an annual publication on sports licences and clubs. Geolocation work is also conducted in parallel by the INSEE to mark the licences with a “ZUS” (Sensitive Urban Zone) indicator when they are in deprived areas. This information is then used by the MEOS to feed a territorialised database into an online mapping system in the Ministry database. The decentralised services and central government can then conduct territorial queries down to the geographical level of the municipality.

Another three-yearly survey is carried out on the professional integration of “sports and social education” graduates. It is based on an extension of the “Generation” survey of the CEREQ, and questions an additional sample of “sports and social education” graduates along with two specific questionnaires in addition to the simplified questionnaire of the CEREQ survey. This operation is accompanied by the publication of a study on the ministerial website (“access to first employment among sports and social education graduates”) and drafting of a publication presenting detailed results.

The MEOS also produces national statistics on occupancy of collective education centres for minors. This work was entrusted to it three years ago by the DJEPVA. It is based on processing of administrative data from the mandatory declarations submitted by organisers of stays for minors. A study presents the main results for stays with accommodation (“collective education centres for minors with accommodation”). More recently, detailed tables per type of stay (region, department, age of participants, etc.) have been published online on the Ministry’s “youth” website.

In addition to this regular output, the MEOS takes part occasionally in national operations, such as the national survey of sports activities in France, carried out in 2010 in collaboration with the INSEP.

Three studies have already been published (“first results”, “different sports disciplines” and “accidentology in sport”) and a complete publication is set to come out soon.

The MSO strives to provide researchers with certain detailed databases at its disposal. For example, data tables from the national survey of sports activity were made available in 2013 on the Maurice Halbwachs website, along with all the technical information (weightings in particular) and methodology.

Ongoing reorganisation within the Ministry

Finally, Brahim LAOUISSET mentioned the reorganisation currently underway within the Ministry. This reorganisation, within the same scope of activity as far as the Sport Directorate is concerned, was decided on in May 2012 by Valérie Fourneyron, Minister for Sport, Youth and Associations at the time. As far as youth is concerned, no organisation chart has been officially approved yet. However, this reorganisation is likely to consist in the merger of the MEOS with the INJEP (National Institute for Youth and Popular Education), itself a part of the DJEPVA, with the status of a department with national jurisdiction and the prospect of the INJEP being awarded MSO status.

Catherine LAPOIX emphasised that the work undertaken over the past two years is in line with the demands of the SG-MAP seeking to reduce the number of different operators, especially for those with small headcounts (within the meaning of the LOLF, as is the case of the two operators taking part in programme 163, which is to say the Civilian Service Agency and the National Institute for Youth and Popular Education). In the light of this, the creation of an observation and research department is being envisaged within the Directorate, comprising the INJEP, the MEOS and the current Youth Experimentation Fund unit. This project is scheduled for presentation to the minister, Patrick Kanner, in the very near future. The new entity would have the status of a department with national jurisdiction reporting to the Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Youth, and also MSO status. In other words, the MEOS would become part of a national department for observation and research comprising the observatory unit of the INJEP and the evaluation unit of the Youth Experimentation Fund (FEJ) unit.

The members of the ASP decided to maintain the Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) status of the Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit (MEOS) in its current position, reporting directly to the Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Associations (DJEPVA) of the Ministry for the City, Youth and Sport.

However, if the reorganisation consisting in merging the MEOS within a national department grouping together a number of services of the Ministry does go ahead, MSO status would be withdrawn from the MEOS and the new department that is created could in no case obtain MSO status.

5.3 Hearings for applications for Ministerial Statistical Office status

- **Application for Ministerial Statistical Office status for the new SSMSI Department of the Ministry for the Interior**

In its remit in public security and combatting delinquency, the Ministry for the Interior is one of the last major ministries not to have an MSO. However, the subjects of insecurity and delinquency are the focus of public debate in which a quantitative approach could be meaningful. Internally, the departments make widespread use of statistics to define strategies, allocate resources, steer operations and manage activities.

Delinquency is an area in which figures are much sought after and many numbers are in circulation, but also one in which there is little in the way of a framework or controls for the production and

dissemination of such data, at least not nearly enough to comply with the criteria of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

In the early 2000s, the choice was made to create an independent inter-ministerial observatory, the National Delinquency Observatory (OND), fulfilling the role traditionally held by an MSO for several years.

The OND (now the ONDRP, National Observatory for Delinquency and the Criminal Response) has brought greater independence in the dissemination of figures, reduced the number of errors in the use of statistics on offences and contributed to raising the profile of victimisation studies in the statistical landscape. However, this observatory is not a part for the Ministry for the Interior, nor of the Official Statistical Service (SSP).

In late 2012 - early 2013, two missions proposed the creation of an MSO in their respective reports (parliamentary information report of the National Assembly on the measurement of delinquency and its consequences (Le Bouillonnet, Quentin, April 2013), and the report of the general inspectorates of the administration, the police, the gendarmerie and INSEE (Rouzeau et alii, June 2013) on “recording of complaints by internal security forces”).

The decision was made to create this office in spring 2013 and announced at the Council of Ministers on 3 July 2013.

This decision was made for several reasons. One of these was the analysis and communication difficulties surrounding the statistical impact of changes to the National Gendarmerie information system demonstrated the contribution that could have been made by the presence of “professional” statisticians in the departments. More generally, the management within the Ministry no doubt wanted to put an end to a way of producing and using statistics that was no longer satisfactory and was causing a loss of credibility. Finally, modernisation of the information systems of the National Gendarmerie (GN) and National Police (PN) provided an opportunity to gain better knowledge, provided that the systems were used more effectively.

The choice of “SSMSI” as the name of the office has a dual aim: to assert the inter-departmental nature of the office and emphasise the fact it is aligned with the standards of the other ministries.

It is placed under the joint functional authority of the Director General of the National Police and the Director General of the National Gendarmerie, and under the line management authority of the Central Director of the Judicial Police.

The missions of the department consist in centralising, checking, processing and disseminating data on crime and delinquency recorded by the police and gendarmerie.

The SSMSI “compiles, analyses and presents useful data for defining, contextualising, territorialising, managing and assessing security policies.”

In the organisation chart, the SSMSI will be part of the DCPJ which is a directorate of the National Police.

The department will enjoy the professional independence provided by the European Statistics Code of Practice.

This professional independence will be guaranteed by a separation between the upstream decision to produce statistics regularly and disseminate them, which will be made in agreement with the line management of the Ministry, and the actual production and dissemination which will be under the sole responsibility of the head of the department.

Strategically, one of the basic reasons that convinced the Ministry of the need to create the department and entrust responsibility for it to professional statisticians was the wish to contribute recognised, “undisputed” statistics to the public debate.

The SSMSI will play its role in user dialogue processes under the aegis of the CNIS and in the construction of the statistical programme with INSEE and the other MSOs. It will have more particular relations with the MSO of the Ministry for Justice to improve consistency between the figures, classifications and sources produced by the two institutions, thus contributing to a better

understanding of the “security-justice continuum”.¹³ It will also work in close relation with the ONDRP. A part of the initial remit of the ONDRP will be transferred to the SSMSI: disseminating statistics on reported offences and representing France in international bodies. The SSMSI will also have a place in ordering and disseminating victimisation studies, and in particular the Living Environment and Safety survey.

However, the role of the ONDRP, an inter-ministerial body that is largely independent in its positions and expertise, will remain, in particular in studies providing information on the interfaces between security and justice and in promoting statistical knowledge throughout the criminal justice chain.

The department’s first mission will be to construct official statistics on the basis of the procedures applied by the police and gendarmerie: statements of crimes or offences. Data from this source does already exist and has done for a long time: these are the so-called “4001 report” statistics. These statistics date back to 1972 and have changed very little since then.

Since 2007, these statistics have been published by the ONDRP. However, the latter does not have the resources to carry out checks on the production process.

The data will be the subject of in-depth statistical processing by the SSMSI, notably adjustments for seasonal variations and business days, and correction of any breaks in the series for technical reasons (changes in software, notably).

The data defined in this way will be disseminated by the SSMSI in accordance with the Code of Practice: publication calendar announced in advance, publication on internet at set times, communication to the Minister’s cabinet the day before publication.

This dissemination cannot begin before spring 2015.

The new software programmes that have been introduced, which will initially generate interruptions in the series, will clearly have a positive impact on the quality and depth of the available data. They are designed in such a way as to make it impossible for any information to disappear when the statistics are prepared (which was not the case beforehand). The dissemination system will therefore need to be changed and developed over time, with the publication of more and richer indicators.

Since the end of the 1990s, INSEE has carried out victimisation surveys among households. At present, it is the ONDRP that designs, partially finances and largely utilises the survey which has been annual since 2007. This survey is one of the pillars of official statistics on security and delinquency. The Ministry will contribute from 2015 to its financing, and the SSMSI to its management and operation, in collaboration with the ONDRP and INSEE.

On its website, the MSO will disseminate the essential results in the form of “key figures” whose meaning will be explained as a complement to the figures on reported delinquency. An effort will be made on clarity and there will be systematic links to studies published by the ONDRP.

In collaboration with INSEE and the ONDRP, the SSMSI will ensure that publication of the first results of the survey is compliant with the European Statistics Code of Practice, in particular with the publication calendar being announced in advance.

The statistical measurement of delinquency and public security cannot be limited to the two sources above. Road delinquency is not covered, while tax delinquency, some financial delinquency and offences against labour or anti-trust law are not addressed because they are not known to police and gendarmerie. It will be the role of the SSMSI to analyse them and, provided the quantity is sufficient, to provide documentation and regular dissemination with the agreement of the producers.

Their methodological soundness should therefore be checked and every effort made to ensure that this information is understood as being on public action and not on delinquency itself. In many cases, especially concerning direct victims, the administrative data only concerns offences detected at the initiative of the administrations with responsibility for them, and therefore represent only a part of the offences actually committed. In these situations, it must be clearly explained that changes in the

¹³ The objective is that any individual moving from the Interior Ministry to the Ministry for Justice should be followed up and that information about them from the two ministries can be linked together.

figures tend to be more a reflection of the intensity of public enforcement action than of delinquency itself.

The SSMSI will draft studies to inform the Ministry in its work to design, steer, territorialise and assess security policies. Given the urgent requirements in production and methodology, this work will not be prioritised. The focus will be in particular on short formats, reviewing fundamental issues or going in detail into topical themes. Some of these studies will be published with the approval of the Minister's cabinet.

The provision of basic data to researchers is a clear mid-term objective of the MSO. Renovation of the information systems opens up the possibility of making "detailed files" available to the scientific community (which is not possible today).

Once the quality of the data on recorded offences properly formatted (and harmonised between the police and gendarmerie) and all legal guarantees provided, the SSMSI will construct a non-nominative statistical source on reported offences. This source will be the subject of standardised products that will be supplied, according to the level of detail of the information, either via the Quetelet network in the form of production and research files, or via the Secure Remote Access Centre (CASD) if there are risks of any breaches of confidentiality of research.

When it is created, the department will comprise 14 agents (including 8 of category A), some from the Ministry for the Interior (police and gendarmerie in equal numbers) and some from INSEE (6 managers, including the manager and two office heads).

The MSO will be organised in two offices: the office for statistical production and dissemination will be responsible for repetitive or relatively systematic ("front office" and short-term) operations and the methodology and statistical studies office will handle investment or "long-term" work.

An internet space will be created on the Ministry website with a clear visual identity that will set it apart from any operational or political messages. Within this space, the SSMSI will be autonomous in its publications and management of embargos.

The presentation ended by indicating that in a recent letter to the President of the Official Statistics Authority, the Directors General of the PN and GN applied for an opinion of the ASP for the new department to be included, by a ruling of the Minister for the Economy, on the list of MSOs within the meaning of the law of 1951.

After a debate, the members of the Official Statistics Authority issued an opinion in favour of the award by the Minister for the Economy, Industrial Renewal and Digital Technologies of Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) status to the SSMSI department reporting to the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police and placed under the joint functional authority of the National Police Directorate and that of the National Gendarmerie, within the Interior Ministry. This positive opinion comes with a clause to review the department in autumn 2015.

The Authority also requested that the positioning of the department should be studied in time to target a "higher" position in the Ministry for the Interior organisation chart.

The Authority also requests that in the texts defining their missions, the distribution of roles should be clarified between the ONDRP and the SSMSI.

This opinion was submitted to the Ministry for the Interior and also sent for information to the INSEE Director General. It is mentioned in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

5.4 Quality labelling of statistics from administrative sources

- **Quality labelling of the monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi was granted by the Authority in 2014**

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

At the request of the President of the Authority, the Ministers for the Economy and Finance, for Social Affairs and for Health, and the INSEE Director General, gave their agreement for the creation of a joint mission of the three general inspectorates to examine the question of compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice in the production by Pôle Emploi of statistics on the number of jobseekers registered at the end of the month.

The members of the mission, the Director General of Pôle Emploi and the Director of the DARES were also heard at the session of the Authority on 26 March 2014.

The rapporteurs of the mission pointed out that its goal was to check compliance of the national monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi at the end of the month with the criteria of the European Statistics Code of Practice. The mission restricted its examination to the national statistics on jobseekers, without taking account of jobs vacant, of jobseekers receiving unemployment benefit or those receiving the Active Solidarity Income (RSA) allowance.

In terms of the independence of the office and its technical independence in its choice of sources, all the criteria are fulfilled on the whole.

Methods were the subject of a more attentive examination than in 2011 when the quality labelling process was initiated, when the INSEE General Inspectorate had adapted the criteria of the Code of Practice and tested some statistical sources, including that of jobseekers at the end of the month. On this occasion, the production of the statistics on jobseekers at the end of the month had raised some reservations as to their opaque methods, dissemination and leaks.

The mission studied the production of the statistics and noted considerable progress. On the whole, the mission concluded that the method was satisfactory, but noted that some modifications were possible.

The series published each month track the vision of jobseekers on the 12th working day of the following month. However, there are some retroactive effects which give rise to differences of a few thousand between the published figures and the actual observations of the same month made at a later date, differences which can become relatively significant from one month to another. The mission examined the entry and exit processes and noted that differences of between 1,000 and 30,000 can appear between the published series and revised series. The mission therefore recommended publishing revised series each year to highlight these differences.

In the event of changes in procedure, Pôle Emploi and the DARES have ensured that statisticians are properly informed of the changes being considered to the procedure. However, the Code of Practice provides that *“for all changes, a retropolation of the series applying the new practice over a reasonable period of time must be prepared promptly”*. In practice, however, only information on orders of magnitude is provided, without any retropolation. The mission therefore recommends that this retropolation should be implemented.

During the mission, a management accident (“SFR bug”) occurred which demonstrated, according to the inspectors, the quality of management of the statistical process and dissemination of the statistics for jobseekers at the end of the month. This incident showed the effective working of the committee procedures and systems within which the statisticians of Pôle Emploi work, and the quality of relations between Pôle Emploi and the DARES.

All the criteria relating to dissemination (equality in the face of statistical information, date and time announced in advance, etc.) are perfectly respected. Only the Minister is informed 24 hours in advance, according to the information on the DARES website.

The documentation is now available online. The mission did note, however, that the monthly publication places the emphasis on changes in stocks and flows from one month to the next, a trend that should be examined with caution. The mission considers that it would be more prudent and more in line with the nature of the jobseekers at the end of the month statistics, to highlight the trend variations over several months or over several quarters on a sliding basis, rather than from one month to the next.

The mission proposed to the Official Statistics Authority to grant the quality label to the statistics for the number of jobseekers at the end of the month, as it had detected no major problem in the application of the Code of Practice. It accompanied this proposal with recommendations that it should be possible to implement within a relatively short timescale.

All in all, the Director General of Pôle Emploi agreed with the mission's recommendations (see mission report).¹⁴ He saw no difficulty in publishing revised series on an accruals basis, the subject of the first recommendation, but notes that a delay of one month would not bring a significant improvement, given the small scale of the differences. It could be better to carry out this exercise once a year, although it should be taken into consideration that the volatility of the series based on the historic files will remain very high all the same.

Regarding the second recommendation on retroplated series, Pôle Emploi acknowledged the need to correct the statistical errors and take account of the classification changes. However, regarding any wanted or unwanted changes, the Director of Pôle Emploi considers that the appropriate approach is to inform people and to attempt to calculate the figures, with retroplation only being carried out on a case-by-case basis. Retroplation in the case of the SFR bug would have been meaningless.

On the question of series retroplation, he considered that events should not necessarily all give rise to retroplation. Many events have an effect on variability and it is impossible to calculate a representativeness threshold. Although a portion of the volatility is taken into account by the figures adjusted for seasonal variations, it is not possible to determine what that portion is. Pôle Emploi and the DARES have undertaken studies to calculate quarterly variations on a three-month sliding basis and are looking into producing data on flows per reason on a quarterly basis, given their high volatility. However, the Director General rejected the idea of any calculation that might be made on monthly variability thresholds. He also considers that an agreement should be found on indicators to assess the statistical variability of the figures for jobseekers at the end of the month.

The Director of the DARES indicated, as did Pôle Emploi, that readers should be provided with more relevant information, by indicating that the published figures are based on recorded events and not on an accruals basis. Regarding retroplation, the DARES considers that there are cases where it does prove necessary, especially when there are changes of concepts or classifications, but that in other cases, this retroplation would undermine the statistical concept. Regarding the variability of the statistics, she indicated that the mission noted that “*variability in entries and exits is particularly low given the number of jobseekers in categories A, B and C and this would suggest that the statistics for jobseekers at the end of the month are able to serve as an indicator of the labour market*”.

The DARES approved the idea of warning the reader of the low significance of variations from one month to another. It also pointed out that a very clear indication is provided each month in the news release that the notion of jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi differs from that of the unemployed within the meaning of the ILO.

Pôle Emploi and the DARES accepted to add to the monthly information with the publication of sliding three-month averages.

¹⁴ <http://www.igas.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2013-140R4.pdf>

In addition, mention was made of cross-checking of the files for jobseekers at the end of the month with the Nominative Social Declarations (DSN), which should be carried out as of 2016.

After a debate, the members of the Authority issued an opinion in favour of quality labelling of the monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi.

This decision was accompanied by the following recommendations:

- 1- Publish annually the revised series on an accruals (revised) basis from the statistical history file of jobseekers.**
- 2- Publish on a case-by-case basis the retropolated series taking account of incidents and changes in procedures**
- 3- Add a remark to the publication of the jobseeker statistics emphasising the trend over recent months**
- 4- Draw the attention of readers to the low level of significance of the variation from one month to the next below a certain threshold**
- 5- Publish regular series of indicators to assess the statistical variability of jobseeker stocks and movements.**
- 6- Conduct a preventive analysis of the risks of the production and publication processes and make provision for a crisis management procedure.**

The quality label was granted for a 5-year period with a 2-year review clause, by which date the above recommendations should have been implemented.

Within two years, a cross-check will be conducted between the lists of persons registered with Pôle Emploi and the lists of salaried employment based on the future Nominative Social Declaration (DSN).

This decision has been published in the Official Journal.

Further to the session of the ASP, the CNIS Board, which the DARES and Pôle Emploi wished to involve in studying the practical terms of implementation of the recommendations, set up an advisory group on the reform of the DARES/Pôle Emploi publication. This group will hand in its conclusions in spring 2015.

- One quality label application pending: 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 2009.¹⁵

The hearing of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee and of the representatives of the CNAM will take place at the ASP session of 18 March 2015.

However, the ASP did decide to hear the Quality Label Committee on 17 December 2014, before the session of 18 March 2015, for the Committee to present its quality labelling project.

At its session of 17 December 2014, Quality Label Committee President Chantal MADINIER declared that the Quality Label Committee had met the CNAM on five occasions for technical meetings. It had also consulted users in a series of interviews and via a questionnaire designed to

¹⁵ <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000026929037>

check the usefulness of these statistics, which was sent to the DREES and the Social Security Directorate.

Quality Label Committee Rapporteur Marc CHRISTINE indicated that in its initial request, the CNAM had listed the main series published on its website, ameli.fr. In H1 2014, the Committee studied the available data, and checked its legibility, relevance and usefulness in the light of the user interviews. This appraisal highlighted the need to make a distinction between annual and monthly statistical data. It showed that for this period, quality labelling will concern only the monthly series and the CNAM will have to propose a schedule for labelling of the annual series.

The Quality Label Committee focused its analysis on the monthly expenditure statistics. This data is divided into two different categories: the statistics on the basis of the reimbursement date and statistics based on the date of care.

The statistics based on reimbursement dates are the easiest to obtain. They are available in the month following disbursement and serve as a leading indicator for tracking sickness insurance spending. However, given that a patient may request reimbursement up to 27 months after the healthcare provision itself, for a reimbursement date t , the figures may include reimbursements of expenses in previous months. These statistics therefore provide incomplete information. The data is raw, without any statistical revision or correction and without any procedures to eliminate seasonal variations. For these reasons, statistics based on the date of care would appear preferable.

Date-of-care statistics are conceptually compliant with the national accounts. They are more relevant in economic terms and are a series that has been reworked (and revised on a continuous basis). These statistics do raise three questions of methodology, however. The first relates to their completeness, meaning whether it is possible, at a date t , to estimate an amount of expenditure corresponding to care provided at a set previous date when the reimbursements have not yet all been made, thereby requiring an estimate to be made of the amount remaining to be reimbursed. The second question is that of correction for seasonal, calendar and bank holiday effects. The third question relates to the volume/price split which must take account of different adjustments of prices and reimbursement rates for different items.

These three methodological questions will be the subject of an appraisal.

Other questions emerged in the course of the appraisal, in particular issues of scope, since only the general insurance regime is covered by quality labelling. There are also issues of classification, which are not the same according to whether we are reasoning in terms of date of care or date of reimbursement.

Overall, quality labelling of the series in question can only be proposed by the Committee if the CNAM takes action on a certain number of points. The points to be improved are legibility, the presentation and explanation of the data, the scope covered and exclusion or inclusion conditions. The CNAM will also have to provide documentation on the series to explain the way in which the data is produced. The Committee will propose quality labelling of the raw monthly reimbursement-date statistics and the monthly revised date-of-care statistics. A distinction will need to be made between those that have the quality label and those that do not. Finally, to show the independence of the statistics department, the CNAM will have to give a commitment to a precise dissemination schedule.

- **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.

Since then, the decree implementing the law of March 2011 entrusting the notarial profession with a “public service mission” has been published. If the required quality criteria are guaranteed, this quality labelling can now be envisaged.

➤ ***Local quarterly employment and payroll series produced by the Central Agency of Social Security Organisations (ACOSS)***

The ACOSS has applied for quality labelling of the *local* quarterly employment and payroll series. The Authority awarded the quality label in 2011 to the *national* quarterly employment statistics and in 2013 to the *national* quarterly payroll series in the private sector and the *national* monthly and quarterly series of employment declarations.

5.5 Other activities

- Hearing of the ASP as part of the peer review of compliance of the French Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice

The President and the Rapporteur of the ASP were heard on Tuesday 9 December by the team of peers.

The discussions mainly concerned professional independence and the terms of appointment and dismissal of Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes, and the terms on which the ASP conducts its activities.

5.6 Communication of the Authority

The President of the Official Statistics Authority, accompanied by members and the rapporteur of the ASP, presented the 2013 Annual Report of the Authority to the President of the Republic, the Minister for Finance and Public Accounts, the Department Head of the Inspectorate General for Finances (IGF) and the Head of the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs (IGAS).

The debates concerned the following themes in particular:

- the creation of the statistical office for internal security at the Interior Ministry
- quality labelling of the monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi
- housing statistics
- financial statistics
- local authority statistics.

The 2013 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

Minutes of all the decisions of the sessions of the Authority are also accessible on its website.

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 Finance and Public Accounts
 - Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Technologies
 - 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 Auditors
 - 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° 2014-950 of 21 August on access to fiscal information for scientific research purposes as provided by Article L.135 D of the Book of Tax Procedures

NOR: FCPE1327431D

Persons concerned: persons conducting scientific research, tax administration and secure access centre personnel.

Purpose: to specify the terms of access of third parties, for scientific research purposes, to information from the tax, duty and levy base calculation, control, collection and litigation procedures provided by the General Tax Code pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph III of Article L.135 D of the Book of Fiscal Procedures.

Effective date: the text shall come into force the day after its publication.

Notice: Paragraph III of Article L.135 D of the Book of Tax Procedures makes provision for access by third parties for the purposes of scientific research to the information collected on the occasions of tax, duty and levy base calculation, control, collection and litigation procedures provided by the General Tax Code, by decision of the Minister for the Budget, further to a positive opinion from the Statistical Confidentiality Committee set up by Article 6a of Law no 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on obligations, coordination and confidentiality in statistical matters. The application of the abovementioned provisions requires the creation of a secure remote access centre to guarantee the confidentiality of the data that is transmitted. The Decree sets out the terms of access, and in particular the submission of the access application and the content supplied to the applicant when the Minister for the Budget has accepted its application.

References: article R.135 D-1 of the Book of Fiscal Procedures, introduced by this Decree, may be consulted on the Légifrance website (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>).

The Prime Minister,

Further to a report from the Minister for Finance and Public Accounts and the Minister for the Economy, Industrial Renewal and Digital Technologies,

With regard to the Commercial Code, notably Article R.123-220;

With regard to the Heritage Code, notably Articles L.213-1 and following;

With regard to the Criminal Code, notably Articles 226-13 and 226-14; With regard to the Book of Fiscal Procedures, notably paragraph III of Article L.135 D;

With regard to Law no 51-711 of 7 June 1951 as amended on obligations, coordination and confidentiality in statistical matters; With regard to Law no 78-17 of 6 January 1978 as amended on computer technology, files and individual freedoms;

With regard to Law no 78-753 of 17 July 1978 as amended on various measures to improve relations between the administration and the public and various provisions of an administrative, social and fiscal nature;

With regard to Decree no 2005-1755 of 30 December 2005 as amended on freedom of access to administrative documents and the reuse of public information, issued for the application of Law no 78-753 of 17 July 1978;

With regard to Decree no 2009-318 of 20 March 2009 relating to the National Council for Statistical Information, the Statistical Confidentiality Committee and the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee;

With regard to Decree no 2010-1670 of 28 December 2010 as amended, relating to the Group of National Schools for Economics and Statistics;

The Council of State (Finance Section) having been heard,

Hereby decrees:

Art. 1. – Article 17 of the Decree of 20 March 2009 mentioned above is completed by the following provisions:

“V.– The Statistical Confidentiality Committee also issues opinions, on the terms set out in Paragraph III of Article L.135 D and Article R.135 D-1 of the Book of Fiscal procedures, on applications for access, for purposes of scientific research, to information collected in the tax, duty and levy base calculation, control, collection and litigation procedures provided by the General Tax Code.”

Art. 2. – I. – The title of Paragraph II of Section II of Chapter III of Title II of the second part of the Book of Fiscal Procedures is completed by the words: “for third parties”.

II. – After Article R.* 135 B-4 of the same book, an Article R. 135 D-1 is inserted with the following wording:

“Art. R. 135 D-1. – I. – The individual data to which access is provided in application of Paragraph III of Article L. 135 D, before expiry of the period set out in Article L. 213-2 of the Heritage Code, mentions neither the surname, forename, address or any other item that might allow the direct identification of individuals or companies, except, in the case of companies, for the identification numbers set out in Article R. 123-220 of the Commercial Code.

“The administration which collected this data may enter into a partnership with the applicant allowing the latter to carry out any reprocessing that might be necessary for its utilisation, in compliance with the rules set out above. No data, whether reprocessed or not, may be disclosed or transferred by the applicant, whether free of charge or for payment. The data reused by the latter with a view to its publication must be aggregated or, when it is individualised, must not allow any identification. It must comply with statistical and fiscal confidentiality rules and must mention its source and the date of its most recent update.

“II. – The access application shall be made in writing and sent to the secretariat of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee, and shall comprise:

“1. The name of the applicant and, where applicable, that of the research body to which they belong;

“2. The nature and purpose of their research work;

“3. The nature of the information to which they wish to have access;

“4. The requested duration of access.

“The Statistical Confidentiality Committee may complete or specify the list of information to be provided by the applicant.

“The applicant shall attach the following supporting documents to their application.

“It shall sign a document testifying that it has been informed that it is subject, pursuant to Article L. 113, to professional confidentiality for the information disclosed pursuant to Article L. 135 D, subject to the sanctions set out in Articles 226-13 and 226-14 of the Criminal Code.

“III. – Access to the information mentioned in Paragraph III of Article L. 135 D is made after completing, where applicable, the necessary formalities with the National Commission for Information Technology and Individual Liberties, via the secure remote access centre of the Group of National Schools for Economics and Statistics (GENES) governed by Decree no 2010-1670 of 28 December 2010.”

Art. 3. – The provisions of the Book of Fiscal Procedures introduced or amended by Article 2 may be amended by decree.

Art. 4. – The Minister for Finance and Public Accounts, the Minister for the Economy, Industrial Renewal and Digital Technologies and the Secretary of State for the Budget are each responsible, in their respective domains, for the execution of this Decree which shall be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Issued on 21 August 2014.

By the Prime Minister, MANUEL VALLS

The Minister for Finance and Public Accounts, MICHEL SAPIN

The Minister for the Economy, Industrial Renewal and Digital Technologies, ARNAUD MONTEBOURG

The Secretary of State for the Budget, CHRISTIAN ECKERT

Annexe 3

Ruling of 9 December 2014 amending the list of Ministerial Statistical Offices

MINISTRY FOR FINANCE AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

NOR: FCPO1428378A

The Minister for Finance and Public Accounts and the Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Technologies,
With regard to Law no 51-711 of 7 June 1951 as amended on obligations, coordination and confidentiality in statistical matters; With regard to Decree no 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority;
With regard to the Decree of 25 August 2014 appointing the Prime Minister;
With regard to the Decree of 26 August 2014 on the composition of the Government;
With regard to the opinion of the Official Statistics Authority dated 18 June 2014,

Hereby rule that:

Art. 1. – The list of Ministerial Statistical Offices indicated in the annexe to the abovementioned Decree of 3 March 2009 is replaced, as of the date of its publication, by the list indicated in the annexe to this ruling.

Art. 2. – The Director General of the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies is responsible for the implementation of the present ruling which will be published in the *Official Journal* of the French Republic.

Issued on 9 December 2014.

The Minister for Finance and Public Accounts,
For the Minister by delegation:
The Director General, J.-L. TAVERNIER

The Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Technologies,
For the Minister by delegation:
The Director General, J.-L. TAVERNIER

ANNEXE

The following are regarded as being Ministerial Statistical Offices:

In the services of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development and the Ministry for the Interior:
The Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation of the Directorate General for Foreigners in France.

In the services of the Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy:
The Department for Observation and Statistics in the General Commission for Sustainable Development.
The Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture of the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture.¹⁶

In the services of the Minister for National Education, Higher Education and Research:
The Ministerial Statistical Office -“Education” comprising the Under-Directorate for Studies and the Office of Statistical Studies on school education in the Directorate for Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance.
The Under-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies in the Directorate General for Higher Education and Professional Integration and the Directorate General for Research and Innovation.

In the services of the Minister for Justice:
The Under-Directorate for Statistics and Studies in the General Secretariat.

¹⁶ On 31 December 2014, the ruling withdrawing MSO status from the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture had not yet been published.

In the services of the Minister for Finance and Public Accounts:

The Department for Statistics and Economic Studies in the Directorate General for Customs and Indirect Taxation.
The Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies in the Directorate General for Public Finances.

In the services of the Minister for Finance and Public Accounts, the Minister for Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights and the Minister for Labour, Employment, Professional Training and Social Dialogue:

The Department for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics.

In the services of the Minister for Labour, Employment, Professional Training and Social Dialogue:

The Department for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics.

In the services of the Minister for Defence:

The Economic Observatory for Defence in the Financial Affairs Directorate.

In the services of the Minister for the Interior:

The Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal security placed under the Central Director of the Judicial Police.

In the services of the Minister for the Interior and the Minister for Decentralisation and the Civil Service:

The Department for Local Studies and Statistics in the Directorate General for Local Authorities.

In the services of the Minister for the City, Youth and Sports:

The Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit placed under the Director for Youth, Popular Education and Associations.

In the services of the Minister for Decentralisation and the Civil Service:

The Department of Studies and Statistics in the Directorate General for the Administration and Civil Service;

In the services of the Minister for Culture and Communication:

The Department for Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics in the Cultural Policy Coordination and Innovation Department;

In the services of the Minister for Agriculture, Agribusiness and Forests:

The Department of Statistics and Forward Studies in the General Secretariat and the departments specialised in statistical activities in the Regional Directorates for Food, Agriculture and Forests.

Annexe 4

Opinion n° 2014-02 of 18 June 2014 of the Official Statistics Authority on the application for an opinion on the inclusion of the Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security on the list of Ministerial Statistical Offices within the meaning of the Law of 1951

NOR: FCPO1415944V

With regard to the letter of 11 June 2014 from the Prefect, Director General of the National Police and the Army General, Director General of the National Gendarmerie;

With regard to the memo of 5 June 2014 from the person in charge of setting up the Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security; With regard to the minutes of the session of the Official Statistics Authority of 18 June 2014, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority issues an opinion in favour of awarding, by a ruling of the Minister for the Economy, Industrial Renewal and Digital Technologies, Ministerial Statistical Office status to the SSMSI department under the line management of the Central Directorate for the Judicial Police and placed under the functional authority of the Directorate of the National Police and that of the National Gendarmerie within the Ministry for the Interior, within the meaning of the law of 1951.

This positive opinion comes with a clause for a review of the department in autumn 2015.

The Authority also requests that the positioning of the department should be studied in time to seek another position “higher” in the Interior Ministry organisation chart.

The Authority also requests that in the texts defining their missions, the distribution of roles should be clarified between the ONDRP and the SSMSI.

The present opinion will be sent to the Minister for the Economy, Industrial Renewal and Digital Technologies and the Minister for the Interior.

It will be sent for information to the INSEE Director General.

It will be mentioned in the *Official Journal* of the French Republic.

17 July 2014 OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC Text 99 of 119

Annexe 5

Opinion n° 2014-03 of 29 October 2014 of the Official Statistics Authority on the maintenance of the Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) status of the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture in the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA) within the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

NOR : FCPO1428372V

With regard to the “Presentation of the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture” presented by the Head of the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture at the hearing of 29 October 2014,
With regard to the minutes of the Official Statistics Authority session of 29 October 2014, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority decides not to maintain the Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) status of the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture in the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA) within the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

This opinion shall be sent to the Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy on the one hand, and to the INSEE Director General for information, on the other.

It will be mentioned in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Annexe 6

Opinion n° 2014-01 of 26 March 2014 of the Official Statistics Authority on the quality labelling of monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi

NOR: FCPO1411248V

With regard to the request of the President of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) dated 7 November 2012;

With regard to the mission letter signed by the Minister for the Economy and Finance and the Minister for Labour, Employment, Professional Training and Social Dialogue, dated 22 May 2013;

With regard to the minutes of the session of the Official Statistics Authority of 26 March 2014, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority hereby serves notice of the quality labelling of the monthly statistics on jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi.

This decision is accompanied by the following recommendations:

1. Publish annually the revised series on an accruals basis (“revised” series) based on the statistical history file of jobseekers.
2. Publish on a case-by-case basis the retroplated series taking account of incidents and changes in procedures
3. Add a remark emphasising the trend over recent months to the publication of the jobseekers at end of month statistics
4. Draw the attention of readers to the low level of significance of the variation from one month to the next below a certain threshold
5. Publish regularly series of indicators to assess the statistical variability of jobseeker at end of month stocks and movements.
6. Conduct a preventive analysis of the risks of the production and publication processes and make provision for a crisis management procedure.

The quality label is granted for a 5-year period with a 2-year review clause, by which date the above recommendations should have been implemented.

Within that period, a cross-check will be conducted between the lists of persons registered with Pôle Emploi and the lists of salaried employment based on the future Nominative Social Declaration (DSN).

This opinion will be sent to the Minister for the Economy, Industrial Renewal and Digital Technologies, the Minister for Finance and Public Accounts and the Minister for Labour, Employment, Professional Training and Social Dialogue, and will also be sent for information to the Director General of Pôle Emploi.

It will be mentioned in the Official Journal of the French Republic

Annexe 7



The President

Paris, 30 September 2014

Director General,

On Wednesday 24 September last, in its 1pm news programme, France 2 gave the August figures for the number of category A jobseekers (without any activity) before the embargo time.

This is contrary to the European Statistics Code of Practice, PRINCIPLE 6 - point 6.7: Impartiality and Objectivity: “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”.

The Official Statistics Authority reiterates the following dissemination rules in each of its Annual Reports: “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”.

I hereby add that the quality labelling of jobseeker statistics was granted by the Authority subject to these dissemination rules being scrupulously complied with. This compliance with dissemination rules provides users, and in particular institutional users and financial markets, with a guarantee of independence and transparency to back the credibility of the information.

I therefore ask you to stop transmitting the information to the journalists of France 2 for a certain period of time.

I am sending the same request to the Director of the DARES. I also enclose a copy of this letter for information to the Minister for Labour, Employment, Professional Training and Social Dialogue, to the Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Technologies and to the INSEE Director General.

Yours faithfully

Paul CHAMPSAUR

Mr Jean BASSÈRES, Director General of PÔLE EMPLOI

1, avenue du Docteur GLEY, 75020 PARIS

Copies: Françoise BOUYGARD, Director of the DARES, Members of the Authority

Annexe 8



Ministère du travail, de l'emploi, de la formation professionnelle et du dialogue social

Direction
de l'animation de la recherche,
des études et des statistiques

39-43, quai André Citroën
75902 Paris cedex 15

La directrice

Téléphone : 01 44 38 32 15

Madame Françoise Bouygart,
Directrice de l'animation de la recherche,
des études et des statistiques

à

Monsieur Paul Champsaur,
Président de l'Autorité de la statistique publique
18, bd Adolphe Pinard
75675 Paris cedex 14

Date : 3 octobre 2014

Référence : FB - 152-14

Monsieur le président,

Par lettre du 30 septembre 2014, vous appelez mon attention sur la diffusion des DEFM du mois d'août par France 2 au cours du journal télévisé de 13h.

Je partage votre avis sur la nécessité du respect de l'embargo concernant la diffusion de cette statistique.

Vous me demandez « de ne plus transmettre, pendant un certain temps, l'information aux journalistes de France 2 ». La Dares ne fournit à aucun média les statistiques mensuelles DEFM avant la fin de l'embargo.

Dès réception de votre courrier ce jour, vendredi 3 octobre 2014, j'en ai transmis copie au directeur de cabinet du ministre en charge de l'emploi et à la responsable de la délégation à l'information et à la communication du ministère (DICOM). Les services de la DICOM m'ont informée par retour de mél qu'ils avaient supprimé France 2 de leur liste de diffusion des DEFM.

Je vous de croire, Monsieur le président, en l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

La Directrice de la DARES

Françoise BOUYGARD

Copie à :
Monsieur Jean Bassères, Directeur général de Pôle emploi

Annexe 9

Dissemination rules for the main indicators

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.

Annexe 10

CNIS: Review of the official statistics programme 2009-2014

This 2014 review focuses on the key expectations in matters of statistics as expressed at the 2014-2018 mid-term review in order to list the progress made towards meeting those expectations. Where applicable, this review updates the strategies for 2014-2018 in the light of the state of progress in 2014. **It begins by cross-sectoral subjects and then reviews four domains covering and grouping together the themes of the CNIS commissions:**

The social domain;

The economic and financial domain;

Sustainable development;

Local territories.

I. General review

- **Demand for access to data continues to grow;** figures are increasingly becoming a focus in public debates.

There has been significant progress, such as access for researchers to fiscal data. The President of the Group on “accessibility of banking and financial sector data”, Gunther Capelle-Blancard – who also chairs the “Financial System and Financing of the Economy” Commission – will be handing in his report in spring 2015. In addition to questions of confidentiality, this group is also addressing the insufficient visibility among researchers of the data access procedures available to them.

It is clear that the **question of data confidentiality and anonymisation methods is a major challenge** for official statistics at a time when everyone is talking about “Open Data” or “Big Data”. This is one of the points in which the DREES is currently investing - in collaboration with INSEE – within the framework of the opening up of health data. Without seeking to predict the conclusions of this work, on account of the sensitive nature of health data and the quite considerable risk of re-identification, it is likely that Open Data access will take the form either of a few files of individual data on very aggregate levels containing few variables, or pre-formatted tables. The CNIS will be keeping track of this work.

The context of Open Data within the framework of this access to data **gives rise to another demand, which is quality labelling of official statistics**, i.e. guaranteeing sufficient quality to distinguish them from other figures for which there is not enough transparency regarding the way in which they are calculated to appraise their quality. This was a key demand expressed at the **“Official statistics and democracy, what are the figures for?” conference-debate** (in which the President of the ASP took part, and which was organised by the Economic, Social and Environmental Committee on 30 January 2014).

Also on the subject of access to data, mention should be made of the **INSEE - CNIS working group chaired by Mr Bon** on the subject of **access to data collected by companies to produce official statistics**. This requires a review of the legal framework of the Official Statistical Service and an adaptation of the Law of 1951 which does not make provision for use of private data.

- Interest is growing in European comparisons. At each commission meeting of the CNIS, a review is conducted to the extent possible on the international aspect of the subjects being addressed. **As a partner of European statistics, national statistics also has a role to play in providing information about the different data that is produced.**

- Another medium-term expectation that has been expressed is **to help users gain easier access to figures and make effective use of them by providing pedagogical tools**. In recent times, **official statistics has developed a lot of pedagogical tools** (videos, files, *INSEE en Bref*). New releases and press kits prepared by INSEE and the MSOs are also good way of helping journalists.

- One last expectation among users, as reported by the board members and commission presidents, is the **demand for leading indicators to shorten dissemination lead times for some statistical results** (such as disposable income and poverty rates, for example, which are disseminated with a two-year delay in relation to the year concerned by the measurements). European and French investments have been made on this subject, but they must be pursued to make them more reliable. We will have to return to this subject next year, once the CNIS has made more progress on this aspect of things.

II. Themed review

1. Progress and expectations in the social domain

(“Demographics and Social Issues”, “Employment, Qualifications and Earned Income” and “Public Services and Services for the Public” Commissions and the National Population Census Evaluation Commission)

- Thanks to a large pedagogical effort made in 2014, **the processing difficulties of the Labour Force Survey in 2013 (difference in the unemployment rate and inability to calculate the halo) have been overcome.**¹⁷ The main series on employment, unemployment, the halo and under-employment between 2003 and 2012 have been back-calculated applying the new conventions.

The dialogue established at the CNIS has shown the satisfaction of users: the Labour Force Survey has evolved not only in line with the recommendations of the “Employment-Unemployment” Report by Jean-Baptiste De Foucauld, but also with European harmonisation. In addition to this, the retropolation that has been carried out makes up for breaks in the series and provides a consistent measurement of trends in the main labour market indicators.

Clarification remains necessary of the differences in trends between the level of unemployment within the meaning of the ILO and the number of jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi, which do not describe the same reality, in order to reduce the difficulties users feel they have reconciling the administrative statistics from Pôle Emploi and the unemployment rate provided by the Labour Force Survey. The advisory group launched by the CNIS to follow up the recommendations of the ASP on quality labelling for the monthly jobseeker statistics concerns the reformatting of the monthly DARES/Pôle Emploi publication. The group will be presenting its findings at the next “Employment, Qualifications and Earned Income” Commission meeting in spring 2015.

- **The European Socio-Economic Classification (ESEG)** was constructed within the framework of a group of experts coordinated by France. The classification is based on the two-digit International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO 2008) and on employment status (employee / self-employed). It comprises nine groups (seven for active people) and also a more detailed two-digit level of 42 sub-groups allowing modular aggregations as users require. The grouping together of lower-status occupations, the distinction made between managers and professionals and the absence of identification of farmers in the first level of the ESEG are the main features that distinguish it from the aggregate level of the French PCS classification of professions and socio-professional categories. Both do share the same essential construction criteria, however.

The effective application of this European categorisation of the social positions of individuals has been validated by Eurostat. It still remains for official statistics to **engage in reflection on the use and dissemination of the two co-existing classifications:** the European classification and the French PCS.

- **The study of life trajectories** is taking on growing importance with the acceleration of changes in society, as revealed by the demands expressed at the meeting organised with a view to the medium term on “Lifetime trajectories, the contributions of statistics and upcoming challenges” in October 2013. **Several sources exist or will soon be available, both as regards trajectories** (Family and housing surveys, Survey on Family and Intergenerational Relationship (ERFI), Survey of Individual and Conjugal Trajectories (EPIC), etc.) **and detailed family structures** (panel, the Permanent Demographic Sample (EDP) currently being enriched). But the development and diversity of lifestyles and accelerating change are challenges for studies of trajectories, as these movements make it increasingly complex to collect and process data.

- **For school trajectories, the National Pupil Identifier (INE) is being introduced gradually. For secondary education, it will be in 2016.** As the INE is an indirectly nominative identifier, its use will be regulated by the CNIL. For statistical purposes, the INE will therefore be encrypted by the DEPP. In time, **it will therefore be possible to follow the trajectory of pupils from their entry into the education system through to their departure.**

- The report on “**Gender-based statistical information in official statistics**” essentially concludes that there is a lot of (and sometimes too much) data on inequalities between men and women.

- The MSO for Internal Security was created, further to the positive opinion issued last June by the ASP, with a clause providing for a review in autumn 2015. The CNIS will hear the Head of Department on its missions and work programme at an upcoming meeting of the “Public Services and Services for the Public” Commission. This presentation will be given

¹⁷ The consequences of the modifications made to the questionnaire to adapt it to changes in the labour market, to the needs of users and to European regulations resulted in a half-point reduction in the unemployment rate, but had no impact on its trend after retropolation.

It should be noted that the change to the questionnaire contributed in equal proportions with the change in the concept of the “halo”, to increasing by half the number of people classified in the “halo” around unemployment. The concept of the halo now fits that of Eurostat: the definitions are harmonised for components 1 (persons looking for a job and not available) and 2 (persons who are available and would like to work but not looking for a job). However, the halo published by INSEE also comprises a third component not taken into account by Eurostat (persons wishing to work but not looking for a job and not available).

jointly with the Ministry for Justice to take account of the criminal judicial response and the National Observatory for Delinquency and the Criminal Response (ONDRP).

- The CNIS is aware that the investments made to modernise the collection of the population census (RP), the internet collection project, the renovation of the application comprising the Identified Building Register and the IT transfer operations to Metz are costly for INSEE. Having said that, a certain disappointment must be noted on the part of Mr Frécon, Senator, President of the National Population Census Evaluation Commission, and Mrs Cases, Director of the INED, relating to the fact that the modifications to the questionnaire in the short term have remained very timid.

In 2015, the changes to the questionnaire concern the ties between the couple, qualifications, the main mode of transport (adding the bicycle) and the year of arrival in France. It should be noted, however, that INSEE is going to work now to enhance knowledge of family ties between all the members of the household, two by two, which was one of the two key recommendations in the report by the CNIS (collection of ties within the household on the “home” census sheet and the perceived state of health on the “individual” census sheet).

- One year on from the quality labelling of road accident statistics produced by the National Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Observatory (ONISR), the CNIS decided to organise a discussion on **road safety statistics and compensation of bodily injury**. On account of the very considerable media coverage of the accidentology indicators produced by the ONISR, the “Public Services and Services for the Public” Commission recommended that extensive information should be provided about the monthly and annual indicator calculation methods, in order to inform users as effectively as possible, depending on their objectives. Although there is transparency and the calculation methods do indeed feature on the dissemination website, they are not sufficiently included in the communication of the results.

The Commission also asked that the various producers concerned should coordinate more closely their information systems and the results on road-safety related phenomena (accidentality, compensation, criminal response and permanent sequelae) and prepare series tracking their trends.

- **Finally, the launch of a working group on new forms of employment is close.** The President of the CNIS has just met the President of the group, Bernard Gazier, with the President of the commission in question, Jean-Christophe Sciberras. This group will base itself on the recent report by the Employment Advisory Council dedicated to changes in forms of employment. In particular, its missions will include specifying the outline of the forms of employment to be studied, reviewing the way in which the statistical system responds to them and making recommendations to improve the measurement of particular forms of employment, by determining the new processing operations of existing sources on the one hand, and the possibility of completing the existing information collection. The group will also seek to know how these forms of employment are taken into account in statistical observation systems in some other countries and their impacts on welfare protection levels. The report is scheduled to be submitted before the end of 2015.

More generally, the CNIS intends to invest in several subjects in the domain of employment, in particular on gaining better awareness of undeclared labour. It will have to prioritise its own actions.

2. Progress and expectations in the economic and financial domain (“Enterprises and Market Strategies” and “Financial System and Financing of the Economy” Commissions)

- The CNIS is following with interest **progress in implementation of the unique identifier of entities that are parties to financial transactions further to the creation of the LEI** (Legal Entity Identifier). This unique identifier will facilitate management and risk control, both for the private sector and public authorities.

In addition to open data access to a worldwide register (which contained 250,000 entities in May 2014), the LEI will make it possible to produce statistics on declarants and counterparties, to conduct mapping of groups and the links between units and, in time, to analyse the working of the financial market more effectively and anticipate risks better.

Two points are worthy of particular attention:

- First, the Banque de France has expressed the **wish that statisticians should be more present in the bodies handling governance** of the implementation of the LEI;
- Next, the CNIS board meeting in December strongly emphasised **the interest of phase 2 of LEI implementation which concerns the identification of groups**. It is of great importance that data should be available on the relations within and between legal entities.

- In addition, **the CNIS considers the investment in the different registers as an important step forward.** SIRUS, the statistical register of companies, is in general use throughout official statistics. It contains the legal entities, groups, enterprises and all statistical units that are surveyed. In addition to the calculation of categories, it will allow official statistics – within the framework of simplification measures – to measure and track the response burden of companies and to introduce negatively-coordinated sample draws to avoid surveying the same companies too often.

The Statistical Road Vehicle Directory of the SOeS will be reformed to include roadworthiness tests.

Responses are being put in place on the European level. The ESBRs (*European System of Interoperable Business Registers*) project aims to establish communication between all the statistical registers in the European countries so as to be able to exchange notably information about multinational groups instead of questioning them through surveys. It would appear that France, which is coordinating the work to elaborate the European register of groups and company profiling, wishes to gather together all its forces to this effect. **The CNIS is convinced of the great potential of this project and will examine the support it can provide.**

- **Simstat**, the project initially aiming, among other things, to set up an exchange system for data on intra-EU exports, has been mentioned again at the CNIS. **Originally, the Eurostat project's objective was to reduce the response burden of companies by half while preserving collection quality:** in this system, each receiving country would have reconstructed its imports by "aggregating" the export flows to it from other Member States (MS). Eurostat has modified its initial project but the CNIS board, in the opinion it issued on the subject, has nonetheless recommended vigilance as long as the possibility of reconstituting import figures with sufficient quality from MS exports has not been demonstrated by the tests underway.

- Mention should also be made here of the **working group mentioned earlier on access to the data of the banking and financial sector**, which is responding to the wish expressed by the CNIS for better knowledge of banking sector activity, while complying with banking secrecy obligations.

- **Another working group is that on the cost of capital:** this group was set up further to the report by Jean-Philippe Cotis on the share of added value and to a request from the CGT trade union, relayed by the CNIS Board, to study the cost of capital in the same way that the cost of labour is studied. The objective is to gain a better understanding of this complex subject (notably to be pedagogical and to analyse reasons for changes in this cost). **The aim is to carry out statistical work** (defining the different components of the cost of capital and understanding the different indicators, and possibly their use) **and not to determine the right level of return on capital.**

The group has held six meetings. Several studies have been presented based on national accounts data (hearings of the CLERSE, the Lille Centre for Sociology and Economics Studies and Research, of the OFCE, of the Directorate General of the Treasury and of the OECD) and on corporate data. The impact of the change in the base of the national accounts is particularly important in the evaluation of the dividends paid out by non-financial corporations (SNF), due to the adjustment of the whole of the series to ESANE data (INSEE) and corrections of provisional data for recent years. **Submission of the report is scheduled for spring 2015.** The last meeting, in addition to a presentation of asset accounts and the articulation between stocks and financial flows, was dedicated to the structure of the report.

- Finally, a new accounts base should be mentioned, which will be referred to in the report of the INSEE Director General.

To summarise, in the economic and financial domain, user dissatisfaction mainly concerns the difficulty of access to banking and financial data. When such data is accessible, it is usually in "PDF" formats that prevent its use in databases. It cannot but be noted that the banking sector is opaque to a certain extent and that this has been reinforced by the crisis, according to certain experts. At the autumn meeting of the "Financial System and Financing of the Economy" Commission, the presentations given on shadow banking - as stressed by President Gunther Capelle-Blancard - lacked any quantitative data allowing a response to be provided to simple but essential questions on the weight of the shadow banking sector, its share in financing of the real economy and the share of securitised assets, etc.

The responses provided by various participants revealed great inconsistencies as to the amounts outstanding in the shadow banking system.

3. Progress and expectations in territorial aspects

("Territories" Commission)

In the follow-up of the recommendations made in the reports of the CNIS, a particular review is required of the follow-up of the recommendations in the report of September 2009 "Statistics and new trends in locating populations and activities in the territory".

- One of the first steps forward was **the provision of gridded data** that can be used to complete the indicators that were available hitherto on an administrative zoning basis. This is **considered a very important contribution by users.**

- This report also recommended an improvement to territorial observation by including various degrees of urbanisation, given that the zoning approaches based on urban areas (ZAU) and urban units are not sufficient in that they categorise notions of rural, urban and areas of influence without overcoming the urban/rural dichotomy. Based on work by the European Commission proposing three population density levels (dense, intermediate and low) on the basis of gridded observation, INSEE has developed a method to define a fourth densification level: "very low density". This new analysis grid, based only on the population and density per grid square, will make it possible, thanks to studies including access to services and employment for example, to categorise territories according to different approaches: enclaves, isolated rural,

etc. The other advantage is that this grid opens up the possibility of choosing the desired geographical scale (municipality, department, urban area, etc.) by aggregating municipal gridded data. The typology will be available at the end of 2014.

- The fruitful collaboration between INSEE and the General Commission for the Equality of Territories (CGET) has made it possible to **complete work reforming the geography of the priority districts of the city**.

- **More generally, a lot of work has been done in partnership to make indicators available:** indicators of sustainable development (INSEE, SOeS), departmental social indicators (DREES,¹⁸ INSEE, AdF),¹⁹ Quality of life indicators (INSEE, CGET), indicators of social inclusion (INSEE, DREES). Most recently, the **report of the working group on the territorialisation of indicators for monitoring the multi-year plan against poverty and for social integration** was handed in by the INSEE Director General and the Director of the DREES to François Chèreque, Inspector General for Social Affairs (IGAS).

- Finally, mention should be made of **timid but genuine progress in the territorialisation of public expenditure per sector of intervention**. This is a subject mentioned to the ASP on many occasions by Jean-Pierre Duport, former President of the CNIS, and on which he regretted the lack of progress, despite several interventions by the Council. Progress has been made since then and the DGFIP and INSEE presented an update of progress on the file and on knowledge in this area. The following are now available:

- Provision by the DGFIP to the Regional Prefects (*via* the DRFIPs) of State expenditure per region and per department of origin of the expenditure, for 2011, 2012 and 2013;
- Provision by the DGFIP to INSEE of a region-level file of State expenditure per mission in the general budget and of the earmarked accounts for sections II (personnel), III (operating), V (investment) and VI (intervention) for 2013;
- Two experiments by the DGFIP that showed the reliability of the changes observed in the figures from 2011 onwards in a given programme (131 – Culture), with a breakdown of 2013 expenditure per budget section and per department, plus the breakdown of State expenditure in 2013 per region, per section and per mission;
- Two experiments by the DRFIP / INSEE Regional Directorates in the Nord - Pas-de-Calais and PACA regions to define, in addition to knowledge of territorialised State expenditure, an experimental module for all the regions on complementary expenditure (social expenditure in the form of allocations, subsidies and tax expenditure).

It is now up to the CNIS to re-launch the DGFIP / INSEE / CNIS working group in order to include the Overseas Departments in State expenditure, before determining the priorities of other work (welfare organisation and local authority expenditure). **One point remains on which vigilance is required:** the CNIS has been alerted indirectly to a **possible risk linked with the current renovation of the Chorus information system. This renovation could result in deleting location variables or making their entry optional.**

4. Progress and expectations on the environment and sustainable development (“Environment and Sustainable Development” Commission)

Official statistics has made great efforts on the production of sustainable development indicators. **The major concern in sustainable development, and also regarding the sustainability of growth, is to avoid a proliferation of indicators without any coordination** of the various entities concerned. As indicated by the President of the CNIS to the October board meeting, **this subject merits regular exchanges within the Council regarding its two dimensions – the relevance and follow-up of indicators and the conditions and frameworks within which they are used.** This monitoring is carried out primarily in the “Environment and Sustainable Development” Commission and the Board will be kept informed regularly.

- In more concrete terms, regarding national sustainable development strategy, there are 15 key indicators and 35 second-level indicators. These are completed by 4 indicators of the economic and social context. The CNIS reiterated its request for an annual update and dissemination of the core indicators for national sustainable development strategy defined in the 2010 consultation coordinated by the CESE and CNIS. It is indispensable that the French efforts should coordinate their work with international efforts as indicator tables are now becoming more generalised: they were almost inexistent in 1995 and have now been adopted by 24 countries out of 28 on the European level, further to various stages of harmonisation (Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission, European regulations, UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)-OCDE-Eurostat working group). A lot of demands are arriving, notably expectations in terms of monitoring indicators for the Post-2015 Development Agenda or the revision of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2015.

¹⁸ Department for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics

¹⁹ Assembly of French Departments

- The commission in charge of determining **monitoring indicators for the national strategy for ecological transition to sustainable development** (SNTEDD) has selected **71 indicators**; they are comparable internationally and can be adapted to the local level. **They will be completed by a dozen indicators that require new investments by official statistics.** Among these 71 indicators, **20 are in common with the national strategy for sustainable development, SNDD.**

- Looking more precisely at **indicators as a complement to GDP for the purpose of defining the right dashboard to measure sustainable growth**, once again a number of different initiatives have emerged, raising fears that the **multiplication of indicators or their frequent changes might result in GDP remaining the sole reference for wealth, at a time when a need for indicators measuring the progress of society towards sustainable development is increasingly being expressed.**

The goal is therefore to determine how to develop good-quality communication using a limited number of indicators. The President of the CNIS has not yet taken a position on the subject. It is also an issue that reveals the difference between the “political timescale” and the “official statistics timescale”.

- **Regarding carbon footprints**, the Council notes at this stage that their measurement is complex and that there are currently three methods. The method used by France produces results that are close to those of the OECD, while the Eurostat method gives lower results. The CNIS asks that **in any future work an effort should be made to ensure methodological consistency between national and international approaches.** Also with a view to obtaining indicators more quickly (lead times for the results are currently three years), the possibility of using provisional data to estimate carbon footprints has been raised in commission meetings.

- Looking to the upcoming 2015 Climate Conference (COP21) and at a time when there are several international and national climate change initiatives seeking to stabilise or reduce various atmospheric emissions, the CNIS also reviewed the statistics measuring and assessing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to advocating harmonisation of the methods so that regions can be compared with each other, the question of the many different regional indicators was also raised, on account of the difficulty of using and updating them.

- Finally, mention should be made of the increasing investments in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), a subject in which there is growing interest:

- with the decision by INSEE to carry out its CSR survey again in 2016, **with a more detailed approach** to certain questions, such as relations between clients and suppliers, environmental aspects and governance;
- with the experience of the SoeS which explores the mass of information contained in CSR reports for statistical purposes in order to limit, whenever possible, surveys on this subject and therefore the burden on companies. This exploration reveals possibilities for statistical processing and studies, but also prospects that imply certain limits for official statistics.

Annexe 11

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 System²⁰

“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”.²¹

Statistical authorities,²² comprising the Commission (Eurostat), National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics,²³ 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.

²⁰ Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009, Article 4.

²¹ Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009, Article 12.

²² Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009, Articles 4 and 5.

²³ Regulation (EC) 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 12

Ministerial Statistical Offices on 31 December 2014

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 Directorate General for Foreigners in France Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation
Sport and Youth	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
Fishing ²⁴	Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture
Internal security	Ministry for the Interior Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal security under the Central Director of the Judicial Police

²⁴ On 31 December 2014, the ruling withdrawing MSO status from the Office for Statistics on Fishing and Aquaculture had not yet been published.

Annexe 13

Acronyms used

ACEMO: Labour Activity and Employment Conditions

BPI: Public Investment Bank

BRC: Summary Contributions Statement

DADS: Annual Declaration of Social Data

DMMO: Monthly Workforce Movement Declaration

DSN: Nominative Social Declaration

EMMO: Workforce Movement Survey

ESA: Annual Sectoral Survey

ESA: European System of Accounts

ESANE: Elaboration of Annual Business Statistics

PMSI: Information Systems Medicalisation Programme

RESANE: Restructuring of Annual Business Statistics

RFT: Road Freight Transport

RIL: Identified Building Register

SIASP: Information System on Public Service Agents

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